



Decline in UConn football attendance leads to \$1 million Rentschler Field deficit



The Huskies lose against ECU on Nov. 23, 2019 at Rentschler Field. Because of low attendance to home football games, Rentschler Field is facing a large deficit. PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Ashley Anglisano**
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Rentschler Field is approaching a \$1 million deficit this fiscal year after the University of Connecticut football team has seen a consistent decline in game attendance.

Since 2014, UConn football game attendance has decreased

by 100,000 to almost 59,000, according to the Hartford Courant.

According to Michael W. Freimuth, the executive director of the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA), typical game attendance should average between 20,000 and 25,000, but last season the field saw an average of 9,675 attendees.

Per game at the stadium, UConn pays \$172,000 in rent

plus a \$3-a-ticket surcharge, the Hartford Courant reported. The university is responsible for paying the first \$250,000 of overall operating losses at the stadium, and the state pays for the rest of the money lost. It is predicted that the state will have to pay \$762,000 to cover the balance of the deficit from this fiscal year.

"We certainly acknowledge that declining attendance at

[Rentschler Field] has caused a negative financial impact," Patrick McKenna, spokesperson for UConn Athletics said. "We are working in conjunction with the CRDA to better align our business practices to prioritize an increase in revenue while finding more cost effective ways to operate."

This past fiscal year, the stadium closed the south gate, cutting

costs on lighting and policing along that route in.

The UConn football team has had nine straight seasons with a losing record.

"We are confident that the future of UConn football is bright and equally confident that UConn Nation will come back to [Rentschler Field] as the team continues to show improvement on the field," McKenna said.

Rentschler field is approaching a \$1 million deficit.

Since 2014, UConn football game attendance has decreased by 100,000 to almost 59,000.

HARTFORD COURANT

The typical game attendance should average between 20,000-25,000. Last season, the average was 9,675 attendees.

MICHAEL W. FREIMUTH

UConn dental students to bike across the U.S. for charity



Four University of Connecticut medical and dental students will bike across the country for charity starting in June. They hope to raise over \$15,000 for the Adaptive Sports Program through the Hospital for Special Care. PHOTO COURTESY OF TALIA STAIGER

by **Mike Mavredakis**
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For the 15th year running, a group of first-year UConn medical and dental students will bike approximately 3,500 miles across the continental United States in order to raise money for charity.

A group of four students, Talia Staiger, Mary Kate Kosciusko, Sarah Gans and Kelly Jones, will fly to Seattle,

Washington in early June before riding through the northern portion of the American countryside to raise money for the Adaptive Sports Program through the Hospital for Special Care in New Britain.

"This is a really good way to make a difference, with this charity that we're choosing, so that's really important to us," Staiger said. "Also, we call it our last summer this summer, because the next three years of school are not going to have

the summer [off] and after that we're going to be working. This will be a really meaningful and unique way to spend the last summer we'll have not working."

This program gives children and adults with disabilities a place to play sports and create relationships with others through competition, according to their website. They offer camps, leagues and golf tournaments to those with disabilities, free of charge.

The group of cyclists will do all of their fundraising in the spring semester, prior to the excursion this summer.

"It's going to be a bit of work to organize all of the fundraising stuff over the spring semester while also being students too," Staiger said on the main challenges they face in this process.

The dental students are collecting money through their website, coast2coast2020.travel.blog, where there is a PayPal link for any prospective donations. In the past, groups have collected thousands of dollars for the charities of their choice. They are looking to raise as much as possible, hoping to best last year's group, who raised about \$15,000.

They are holding multiple fundraising events this month in West Hartford, one at Chippotle on the 25th from 5 to 9 p.m. and a spin event at Tribe this Saturday. They are also hosting events alongside the medical and dental schools, including a student silent web auction and a faculty auction.

"It feels very special and I

feel very lucky that a lot of people have paved the way for us, so this is a tradition that we get to take part in and I feel very lucky to be a part of it," Staiger said. "This is an incredible opportunity."

They aim to make the trek in 60 days, so that they can make it back to Connecticut in time for school to start back up in the fall. Staiger said they will be camping quite a bit as well as using the Warm Showers program.

"It will be physically and mentally very hard some days, because it's going to be a lot of mileage and it's going to be very windy," Staiger said. "We're starting off in a kind of mountain range in Washington, so that's going to be a bit of rough start, I think. There's also going to be some bad weather and I think we're going to have a lot of road bumps, and I think getting through all of those will be challenging, but we're going to have to stay flexible and adapt as we go."

This organization is a network of cyclists around the globe who provide rooms in their homes for other cyclists to sleep and shower at while out on their journeys. They will pitch their tents on nights they cannot find a host family.

"I did track at UConn, I just graduated last year, so I have experience running but biking is pretty different," Staiger said on the physical aspect to biking such a distance. "I still think it will be a ton of fun. We're all just trying to get our training in now, get as ready as we can."

Sports:



PHOTO BY KEVIN LINDSTROM, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Check out page 12 for the women's basketball recap

Life:



PHOTO BY AVERY BIKERMAN, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Check out page 5 for an article about R. Crumb's exhibition in the Contemporary Art Gallery

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Ruslan Iskhakov's performance on the team

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Alexa Philippou

@alexaphilippou

Geno post-game: "We're allowed to lose a goddamn game once in a while where the other team plays better than us. So how about you write that somewhere?"

How crucial is New Hampshire win? It depends on whom you ask.

ROCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — In the waning hours before New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary voting begins, Democratic presidential candidates took varied approaches to the expectations game Monday as they look to advance deeper into what could be an extended nominating fight.

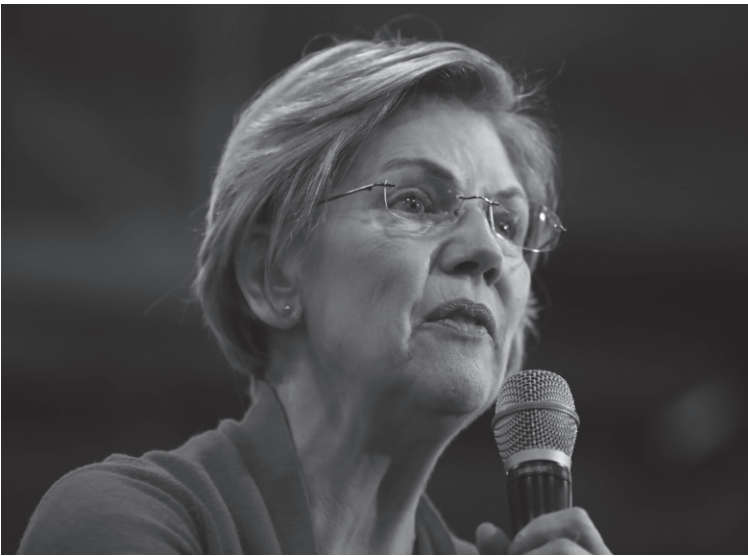
Bernie Sanders showed the same confidence he displayed ahead of last week's Iowa caucuses, which ended with a split decision between the Vermont senator and former Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana. "If we win here tomorrow, I think we've got a path to victory for the Democratic nomination," Sanders declared in Rindge.

Former Vice President Joe Biden, once the national front-runner, tamped down expectations amid prospects of a second consecutive disappointment before the race turns to more racially diverse states he believes can restore his contender status. "This is just getting started," he told CBS.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren fell somewhere between those approaches, vowing to make a comeback but not predicting victory. "Look, I've been counted down and out for much of my life," Warren told reporters. "You get knocked down. You get back up."

Buttigieg and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, the biggest surprises of the 2020 contest so far, looked to extend their rides despite uncertainty about what's ahead for two campaigns with overwhelmingly white bases.

The scramble highlights a perilous point for Democrats as they look for a challenger to President Donald Trump in November. No would-be nominee has yet forged a strong coalition across the party's racial, ethnic and ideological factions. The situation is muddled further



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., speaks during a campaign event at Lebanon High School, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020, in Lebanon, N.H. AP PHOTO/MATT ROURKE

by the vote-tabulation melee in last week's Iowa caucuses that left both Sanders and Buttigieg claiming victory, even as neither reached 30% of the vote in a fractured field.

Trump, meanwhile, is eager to cast a shadow over the entire Democratic slate as he heads to Manchester for a Monday evening rally to continue his victory-and-vengeance tour following Senate votes that acquitted him on two impeachment charges. Trump lost New Hampshire in 2016 by fewer than 3,000 votes out of more than 743,000 cast, and the state is among several his reelection campaign believes it can flip in November.

Trump's supporters began lining up in New Hampshire on Sunday, and the crowd only grew despite freezing, wet weather. The president managed a similar scene in Iowa days ahead of the caucuses, drawing thousands of boisterous supporters who contrasted with a lower-than-expected caucus turnout for Democrats.

Against that backdrop, Biden insisted Monday that he re-

mains well-positioned for the nomination and to defeat Trump in November. He pointed to endorsements from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and Michigan's legislative black caucus that he's gotten since the Iowa caucuses. "I'm still leading nationally," Biden told CBS, referring to months of national polls. It's far from certain, though, that Biden will remain in such a position in the coming weeks.

Biden's fortunes could turn on voters like Pat Barrick, a 70-year-old independent who said she was once solidly with Biden but now is also considering Klobuchar, who finished just behind Biden in Iowa and has since seen a bounce in New Hampshire.

"He matches my values," Barrick said of Biden. "I just don't know if he can win."

Indeed, no Democrats have separated themselves from the pack.

Sanders and Buttigieg want to dent Biden's claims to national support. But Sanders, a democratic socialist, has little support from the party's center-left core, and some establishment figures openly fret about Sanders leading the ticket in November.

Buttigieg draws large crowds with his calls for generational change, but the 38-year-old hasn't demonstrated significant support from African American or Latino voters, who will become significant parts of the Democratic electorate in the states that follow New Hampshire. Several of Buttigieg's rivals, Biden included, have started hammering his comparatively thin resume.

In Plymouth on Monday, a top Buttigieg backer met that criticism directly to open a Buttigieg event. "Pete Buttigieg has more executive experience than Barack Obama did before he was president," said Gary Hirshberg, an influential New Hampshire Democrat who was a key early supporter of Obama's 2008 campaign.



Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden kisses Brayden Harrington, 12, at a campaign stop at Cilford Community Church, Monday, Feb. 10, 2020, in Gilford, N.H. Biden and Harrington have spoken to each other about their stutter they have both struggled with. AP PHOTO/ANDREW HARNIK

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Pentagon: 109 troops suffer brain injuries from Iran strike

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of U.S. service members diagnosed with traumatic brain injuries has shot up to more than 100, the Pentagon said Monday, as more troops suffer the after-effects of the Iranian ballistic missile attack early last month in Iraq.

The department said the latest total is 109 military members who have been treated for mild TBI, a significant increase over the 64 reported a little over a week ago.

The number of injuries has been steadily increasing since the Pentagon began releasing data on the injuries about a week after the Jan. 8 attack at al-Asad Air Base in Iraq. Pentagon officials have warned that the number would continue to change.

The department said 76 of the service members have returned to duty, while 26 are in Germany or the United States for treat-

U.S. service members diagnosed with traumatic brain injuries has shot up to more than 100. According to the Pentagon, the number will continue to change.

ment, and another seven are on their way from Iraq to Germany for evaluation and treatment.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper told Pentagon reporters more than a week ago that the department was studying ways to prevent brain injuries on the battlefield and to improve diagnosis and treatment.

Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said it's possible, in some cases, that symptoms of TBI from the Iranian missile attack won't become apparent for a year or two. He said the Army is in the early stages of diagnosis and therapy for the troops.

In a statement Monday, Pentagon press secretary Alyssa Farah credited medical professionals with provide care "which has enabled nearly 70 percent of those diagnosed to return to duty. We must continue to address physical and mental health together."

AP source: MLB considering expanding playoffs to 14 teams



Washington Nationals starting pitcher Max Scherzer celebrates with the trophy after Game 7 of the baseball World Series against the Houston Astros in Houston. AP PHOTO/DAVID J. PHILLIP, FILE

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball is considering expanding the playoffs to nearly half the 30 teams and allowing higher-seeded wild-card teams to choose opponents.

The playoffs would grow from 10 clubs to 14 under the plan, first reported Monday by the New York Post. There would be four wild cards in each league, up from two.

Details were confirmed by a person familiar with the proposal who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because MLB did not authorize any public comments. Another person, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said MLB has been looking at several plans.

Any proposal would have to be negotiated with the players' association. The current collective bargaining agreement runs through the 2021 season.

"Expanding the playoffs in a sensible way is something worth discussing when part of a much more comprehensive conversation about the current state of our game," union head Tony Clark said in a statement.

Only the division winner with the best regular-season record would advance directly to the Division Series under the plan. The two other division winners and wild-card teams would start in a best-of-three round.

The division winner with the second-best record would choose its opponent from

among the three lowest-seeded wild-card teams. The division winner with the third-best record would then get to pick from among the remaining two wild cards. The top wild card would face whichever team is left over after the division winners make their choices.

The selections would be made on a televised show.

MLB long restricted its post-season to just the pennant winners facing each other in the World Series. Postseason teams doubled to four with the split of each league into two divisions in 1969, then to eight with the realignment to three divisions and the addition of a wild card in 1995, a year later than planned due to a players' strike.

The postseason reached its current 10 with the addition of a second wild card and a wild-card round in 2012.

A postseason of 14 teams would mean 47% of franchises reach the playoffs, which could cause some clubs not to go into rebuilding mode. The players' association has criticized teams for what it calls "tanking."

Twelve of the 32 NFL teams (38%) reach the playoffs, along with 16 of 30 in the NBA (53%) and 16 of 31 in the NHL (52%), which expands to 32 franchises next season.

Expanded playoffs would create more content for broadcasters. MLB's contracts with ESPN and Turner run through 2021 and its deal with Fox goes through 2028.

CONNECTICUT NEWS

College athletes honored with award for overcoming adversity

STORRS, Conn. (AP) — Eastern Connecticut runner Samara Johnson doesn't want people to feel sorry for her.

The 4-foot-8 senior cross-country and track athlete is one of the first six college athletes nominated for the Hartford HealthCare Connecticut Courage Award and would rather be recognized for what what she can do.

The new award will be presented in May to one male and one female athlete from a Connecticut college or university who have demonstrated courage in overcoming a significant personal challenge. Two athletes are nominated for the award each month through April.

Johnson has myriad physical issues — depth perception disorder that prevents her from driving, leg problems that required braces as a youngster, the digestive condition "leaky gut syndrome" and an adrenal gland disorder.

Johnson wants to champion the rights of the disabled, who are more likely to face wage and job discrimination, inaccessible public accommodations and homelessness.

"I don't agree with the term 'overcome disabilities,'" she said. "I feel that my disabilities are a part of me. I was born with that. This is really about breaking down barriers in society."

Other nominees include:

- Taylor Herd, a senior guard on the Quinnipiac University women's basketball team. She tore two ligaments in the same knee during high school. Herd has starred at Quinnipiac while dealing with her father's health. He received an artificial heart transplant in 2017 and awaits organ donation.

- Chris Liggio, a senior running back for the University of New Haven football team, who lost his parents at age 15 to a murder-suicide. He was named a co-captain this past season and rushed for 415 yards and three touchdowns.
- Weyassa "Ace" McAlister, a senior distance runner for Trinity College. He was born in Ethiopia, spent time in an orphanage and for three years ran 6 miles each day to school.

Two other nominees will be recognized Wednesday: Sam Kramer, a senior point guard for Fairfield University's women's basketball team; and Eli Thomas, a senior and a former member of the University of Connecticut football team.

Kramer's father died in December 2018 from a rare immune disease that led to non-Hodgkin T-cell lymphoma. She played the rest of that season and is a captain for the Stags this season.

Thomas had a stroke before a weightlifting session in October 2018. He returned to the team after extensive rehabilitation and had to learn to speak again. He was not cleared to compete but was named a team captain. He won the team's Alumni Award, presented to a senior who is considered the ultimate team player.

Thomas plans to graduate in May and transfer to a school that will let him play football while he works toward a graduate degree in counseling. Even if he can't play again, he hopes his story inspires others.

"I've never been a quitter," he said. "I just feel I'm not done yet. I'm never about quitting. I literally can't."

Woman faces animal cruelty charges after farm animals seized

SUFFIELD, Conn. (AP) — A woman has been charged with multiple counts of animal cruelty after authorities seized nearly 200 neglected animals from Connecticut farms.

Suffield police said Monday that 35-year-old Rachel Kornstein, of Manchester, Connecticut turned herself in for arrest over the weekend.

She faces six counts of cruelty to animals. Kornstein posted \$20,000 bail and is scheduled to appear in Superior Court in Enfield on Feb. 18.

A law firm that had represented Kornstein in a recent civil case didn't respond to a message seeking comment.

Local and state officials say they began investigating Kornstein after receiving

complaints that farm animals under her care were being neglected.

They found cows, dogs and poultry at three area farms that were severely emaciated and sick.

Authorities said the animals had been deprived of food, water and medical attention for untreated wounds and infections. They also found evidence of several dead chickens.

In January, Suffield police and the state Department of Agriculture seized a total of 18 cattle, 137 chickens, 33 ducks and six dogs from farms leased by Kornstein.

Most are now being cared for at a state-run animal rehabilitation center. The state is also seeking permanent custody of the animals.

2 people killed in crash involving 2 vehicles

SHELTON, Conn. (AP) — Two people were killed in a crash involving two cars late Sunday in Connecticut, police said.

The accident happened around 11:30 p.m. near Southbank Park along the Housatonic River in Shelton.

Police say 20-year-old Lily Pirulli, of Monroe, and 31-year-old Adrian Miles, of Ansonia, were killed when the car they were driving in struck an SUV.

Two other occupants were injured and taken to the hospital. One of them has since been released. The other remains in critical condition. The driver of the SUV wasn't injured.

Police haven't said what might have caused the crash. They say the investigation is ongoing.

The crash prompted the road to be shut down for several hours while police investigated. It has since reopened.

Bail hearing postponed in 1987 child abduction case

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Court officials in Canada on Monday postponed a bail hearing for a man accused of abducting his toddler son in Toronto in 1987 and living on the lam in the U.S. for three decades.

The hearing for Allan Mann Jr. was scheduled for Monday in Toronto but was postponed to Wednesday, a court official said. He remains detained.

Police say Mann kidnapped his son during a court-ordered visitation in Toronto in 1987. He fled to the U.S. and obtained fake identities for him and his son, officials say.

Mann was caught in Vernon, Con-

necticut, in October 2018, two years after Toronto police and U.S. marshals launched a new effort to find him. Mann's relatives provided key information, officials said.

He pleaded guilty in August to illegally obtaining U.S. government benefits and was sentenced to 18 months in prison. He was extradited from New York City to Toronto last Wednesday after his prison sentence ended. Toronto police charged him with abduction.

Mann's son, now in his 30s, grew up believing his mother had died shortly after his birth. Mother and son were reunited shortly after Mann's arrest.

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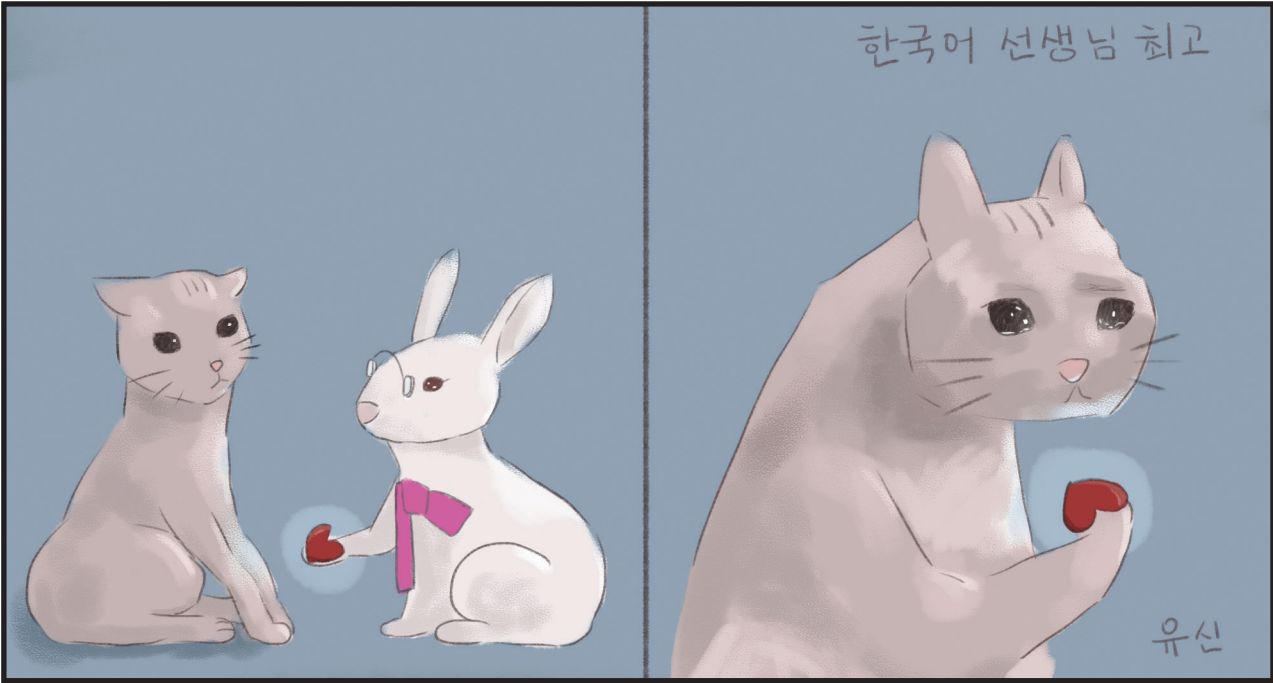
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CARTOON BY EVA KANG, CARTOONIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Coronavirus: More than a threat to human life.

HERE’S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.

by **Austin Fergusson**
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As nearly 1,000 have died and nearly 40,000 people have become infected in China alone with Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia (NCP), tensions between China and the rest of the world are at an all-time high. Any viral infection will have both a public health and sociological effect on an international stage, but the way that bias and racism have taken part in this crisis is unprecedented. While many political and health leaders are quick to respond to the epidemic with egregious claims of Chinas healthcare system failing its people, I think that this crisis is much more than that.

What is Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia? Coronaviruses are known for having crown (corona) shaped envelope glycoproteins, or head of the molecule. 2019-Novel Coronavirus is a specific kind of coronavirus associated with causing symptoms that weaken the body and lead to pneumonia, a condition where the lungs fill with fluid, which is the cause of death for the individuals who have died. Coronaviruses are not always lethal, but SARS-CoV (severe acute respiratory syndrome) and MERS-CoV (Middle East respiratory syndrome) strains have been particularly virulent and noxious.

So, how do these two concepts of disease and social tensions intersect? Columbia University gathered a panel of experts to discuss these very questions.

Dr. David Ho, known for his work on the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s and 1990s, discussed the sheer

number of individuals suffering coronavirus and the specifics of the disease. Specifically, 813 people have died and more than 37,000 cases of infection have occurred, which is nearly 1% of the city of Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. The Ro value, or the number of individuals that can be infected by one person, is 1.5 to 4, depending on the study. Relative to the influenza (Ro = 1.3) this year, NCP is much more contagious without a readily available vaccine. Since coronaviruses are so small, there is little reason to wear a mask for protection. Rather, maintaining a habit of washing hands and not coming in contact with sick individuals is highly advised.

Another panelist, Dr. Wafaa El-Sadr, who is known for her epidemiological and public health work on HIV/AIDS and Ebola, discussed how poorly the world has reacted to NCP outbreak. By emphasizing identification and communication as keys to reducing the virus's impact, she was able to identify flaws in China's response. The facts are clear: China knew about the virus's capability to infect nearly three weeks before it alerted the rest of the world. According to Dr. El-Sadr, this is a complete failure on China's part.

Along with the medical issues itself, the virus has brought forth bias, racism and stigma reminiscent of people of the AIDS epidemic in the '80s. In the United States, the virus has ripped open the stitches from already painful relations. Benjamin Liebman, a Columbia law professor with expertise on Chinese legal studies, discusses how weak primary care, the low trust in medical services,

not enough funding and corruption in the system all contribute to a failure?

In the U.S., we have the same issues as China, people are dying from preventable and curable conditions and disease. But would the United States have reacted any differently? I don't think so. After following physicians at some of the world's top medical institutions on both coasts, I see holes in the systems that are meant to protect people just like they are in China. Overworked, exhausted physicians and overlooked systems of reporting epidemics are among the simpler issues that our healthcare system faces.

So, how can we recover and what can we do to make sure this doesn't happen in the U.S.? I think that communication and transparency is vital to maintaining public health in all aspects. Everyone needs to trust in their physician, and their physician needs to trust in the systems that have been set up by the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization. China had the scientific ability to quickly identify the virus but was too slow and failed to act upon its intuition; the world cannot make this mistake again. We cannot point fingers in the future, it simply wastes time and lets more people die. Rather than pulling people apart because we believe that a group of people caused the virus, be pulled together by the collective loss that people experience and work harder to solve this problem. At the end of the day, are you willing to help that person who you don't even know as much as you're willing to fight for yourself?



HARRY ZEHNER'S
THE GOOD FIGHT

The government created our dysfunctional transportation system. They can get us out of it too.

by **Harry Zehner**
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The private car is a defining feature of modern life. Our lives are built around the personal car, and as a result, there are few alternatives. It is nearly impossible to survive without a car in most of suburban and rural America. Even in cities, it can be a time-consuming hassle to navigate unreliable, patchwork bus systems. As a result, cars are far and away the dominant mode of transport.

This, of course, has repercussions. A car-based transportation system is incredibly inequitable to low-income Americans, as it forces most poor people to live in cities or spend a disproportionate share of income on cars. This mobility gap between poor and rich Americans creates an opportunity gap, as lacking access to a car also deprives poor Americans of access to jobs.

Our car-based system is also fundamentally unsustainable. Transportation recently passed electricity as the most carbon-emitting sector in the United States, and our cars are to blame. The most commonly proposed solution to this problem — mass adoption of electric vehicles — is blind to equity concerns. After all, most working class people cannot afford a Tesla, nor should they have to in order to have the freedom to move.

The common wisdom asserts that America developed this car addiction because there is an overwhelming demand for cars, because Americans love the freedom of the personal car and because Americans love the car culture. Sure, America has undoubtedly fallen in love with cars. But the idea that this is the basis of our addiction, that Americans decided to spontaneously adopt the car en masse, is fiction. America's inequitable, unsustainable transportation system is the result of decades of intentional public policy.

There's enough evidence for this claim to fill books, but I'll sketch out the basics here. For almost a century, the federal government subsidized a specific type of housing, which, by coincidence, is reliant on cars. The federal government spent much of the 20th century heavily incentivizing middle-class whites to move to the suburbs with low-interest, long-term mortgages. Meanwhile, they confined black Americans to cities through redlining, blockbusting and racist standards for loans. The result of this policy effort is a United States in which most white people lived in sprawling suburbs which necessitate private cars to get around.

The effects of this racist and unsustainable housing policy could have been partially ameliorated had the federal government also invested in quality public transportation. But that was not on the agenda.

WILL TRUMP’S PLAN WORK OR IS IT POLITICAL THEATER?

by **Jacob Ningen**
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President Trump announced last week the latest of a series of proposals to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. If it fails, President Trump will join a long list of failed peace negotiators. This comes as we approach the centennials of the San Remo Conference and the Treaty of Sevres, which established Israel, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq.

Trump's plan is overly optimistic. He is neither Rabin, Sadat, Roosevelt, Carter or Olmert, whose land for peace plan backfired with Hamas using Gaza to launch attacks on Israel. It ignores the history of violence in Hebron and Safed against the old Yishuv and the modern state. However, considering the blood shed in those two towns would reopen old wounds and ignite irredentist sentiments that have killed prior peace deals, perhaps ignoring history is prudent and will enable this plan to succeed. In spite of this attempt to minimize irredentism, the plan recognizes that previous attempts to trade land for peace have ended in disaster and has made the statehood of Palestine

conditional on demilitarization, disavowal of BDS and collaboration with their neighbors.

Furthermore, this plan corrects several issues in the previous plans. Firstly, it acknowledges that both sides have legitimate historical claims to the land and requires recognition of both Israel and Palestine. For example, this plan recognizes the 1949 exile of Mizrahi Jews from Iraq, Iran, Syria, Lebanon and Yemen that accompanied the expulsion of Palestinians in 1948. This plan argues for a dissolution of the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East. It will be replaced with integration of the Palestinian diaspora into their host countries, as Israel has done with Russian refuseniks and the Mizrahi of 1949 and the evacuation of Yemen.

To reaffirm the Israeli connection to land, it recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. To justify this proper decision, Trump cites Passover siddurim and Hatikvah, the Israeli national anthem. Furthermore, to deny the government of a country is housed in its capital is outrageous. The Knesset has met in west Jerusalem since the end of the war of independence. Would any other nation allow foreign nations to

name their economic center rather than political center as the capital? Finally, Trump cites the benevolence of mutual worship permitted by the Israeli government in justifying this position.

To demonstrate the mutual legitimate claims, this plan grants the Palestinian state a capital in the Jerusalem suburbs. It also grants them access to tourist revenue in the city of Gold, Jerusalem and the Dead Sea.

Furthermore, it allows for the development of Palestine through a \$50 billion investment in the Palestinian authority. It acknowledges that population transfer would impose undue hardships and proposes infrastructure to connect the enclaves. These economic investments and E.U. style connections would strengthen the peace as the E.U. did in Europe. However a Palestinian-Israeli combined force would be better than the proposed hegemony of the Israeli Defense Forces over the entire airspace, especially as the ties of service together in the armed forces would solidify the peace beyond purely economic incentives.

See **PEACE PLAN**, p. 8

See **TRANSPORTATION**, p. 8

Contemporary Art Galleries

R. CRUMB: DRAWINGS, PRINTS & BOOKS FROM THE COLLECTION OF DALE ROSE

by Hollianne Lao
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The Fine Arts Building isn't just for art students. Housed in the Art Building across from Storrs Center are the Contemporary Art Galleries, which currently feature an exhibition of the work of Robert Crumb, an American cartoonist and musician. The drawings, prints and books from the collection of Dale Rose are on display until March 6.

"I was so alienated when I was young, that drawing was like my only connection to society," Crumb says in a clip from an interview, "A Compulsion to Reveal" by Louisiana Channel. The interview transcript on display talks about Crumb's lack of social skills driving him to invest his time into comic-book art. "That was the only thing that I could see was going to save me from a re-

ally dismal fate of God knows what."

Born in Philadelphia in 1943, Crumb "contributed to many of the seminal works of the underground comix movement in the 1960s," according to the description for the serigraph "The Adventures of R. Crumb Himself." The exhibit is bright and lively with music playing in the background, samples of his colorful comics on display and a video of the artist playing on a television towards the back. Crumb is known for his provocative style of work, featuring sexual themes that often alienated people. His art is quite vibrant and detailed, as well as featuring the typical comic style of overemphasized body parts. It is most known for being "surrealistic" and "psychedelic."

Besides being a founder of the first successful underground comic publication, "Zap Comix," Crumb contributed to other publications like "East Village Other" and introduced original characters like Fritz the Cat and Mr. Natural. A serigraph of "Fritz the Cat" from 2001 was on display to represent the series from the 1960s. The comic strip is set



Robert Crumb's work is currently on display in the Fine Arts Building. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UCONN ART AND ART HISTORY DEPARTMENT



Robert Crumb's artwork on display in Fine Arts PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UCONN ART AND ART HISTORY DEPARTMENT

in a "supercity" of anthropomorphic animals and features Fritz, "a feline con artist who frequently went on wild adventures that sometimes involved sexual escapades," according to the accompanying description.

The magazine-sized comics anthology from the 1980s and early 1990s "Weirdo" was also on display. It "served as a 'low art' counterpoint to its contemporary highbrow 'Raw,'" as described below its display. The anthology had personal touches from Crumb's life, such as his interests in outsider art and fumetti, the use

of speech balloons in a comic or cartoons.

Later on in his career after the decline of the "underground," Crumb adopted a more biographical and autobiographical approach to his work and refined his drawing style with strong cross-hatching with pen-and-ink. This later style was inspired by late 19th- and early 20th-century cartooning, as described in the exhibit.

One of the most interesting items on display was "Introducing Kafka," an illustrated biography of Franz Kafka. Crumb adapts some of the

novelist's most prolific works that UConn students may be familiar with, like "The Metamorphosis," "A Hunger Artist" and "In the Penal Colony." The adaptations accompany a mixed biography of the writer, presented through part illustration, part essay and part sequential comic panels.

"I don't choose to draw, it's not a conscious thing," Crumb says in the interview showing on the television in the exhibit. "Which means that while I'm doing it, I don't know exactly what it's about. You have to have the courage to take that chance."

2020 OSCARS WAS A HISTORIC CEREMONY



by Ian Ward

The 2020 Academy Awards was one for the ages. Nine films were vying for the coveted best picture award while fighting it out in other categories. The only part that was more stunning than the dresses on the red carpet were the surprises in some of the categories.

For Best Editing, "Ford v Ferrari" beat out awards favorites "Parasite" and "Jojo Rabbit" which both won editing awards at the American Cinema Editors Awards. "Ford v Ferrari" also managed to win Best Sound Editing, defeating heavyweights like "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker" and "1917."

Another surprise of the night was the opening song performed by Janelle Monáe. She sang "Won't You Be My Neighbor," the theme song to "Mr. Rogers Neighborhood." On stage were actors dressed up as characters from movies released in 2019 such as "Midsommar," "Dolemite Is My Name" and "Us."

The biggest surprise of the night came from "Parasite." Winning both Best Picture and Best Director, "Parasite" became the first non-English speaking film to win Best Picture in the history of the Academy Awards. Bong Joon-ho also became the first Korean director to win Best Director, along with being one of the first Korean writers to win Best

Picture.

Original Screenplay. "Parasite" became the first Best Picture winner to also receive Best International Film.

A heartwarming moment of the ceremony came when Shia LaBeouf and Zack Gottsagen presented the Best Live Action Short Film. Seeing LaBeouf and Gottsagen present an award together was sweet and gave life to the category. Another touching moment came when Billie Eilish and her brother Finneas performed the song "Yesterday" as part of the In Memoriam section of the ceremony. The vocals were pretty and did not distract from the lives being remembered.

"Parasite" became the first non-English speaking film to win Best Picture in the history of the Academy Awards.

‘PARASITE’ WIN MAKES HISTORY

OSCARS, cont. from p. 5

Joaquin Phoenix won his first Oscar for Best Actor for playing Arthur Fleck from “Joker,” while Renée Zellweger won her first Oscar for Best Actress for portraying Judy Garland in the film “Judy.” A major first-time win came when “Jojo Rabbit” writer and director Taika Waititi was the first person of Maori descent to win an Academy Award.

“I dedicate this to all the indigenous kids in the world who want to do art and dance and write stories,” Waititi said when accepting his award.

One of the more notable speeches came from Brad Pitt, who won Best Supporting Actor for “Once Upon a Time in Hollywood.” His speech attacked the impeachment process of President Trump while also thanking director Quentin Tarantino, his co-

star Leonardo DiCaprio and all the stunt coordinators of the film.

While most studios seemed to win a handful of awards, Netflix went home nearly empty-handed. Besides Laura Dern winning Best Supporting Actress for “Marriage Story” and “American Factory” winning Best Documentary, the streaming giant lost in every other category it was nominated in.

If there had to be a low point of the ceremony, it was Kristen Wiig and Maya Rudolph’s sketch before presenting Best Production Design. They seemed to be stalling the announcement of the nominations. Will Ferrell and Julia Louis-Dreyfus tried to replicate Rudolph and Wiig’s act when introducing Best Cinematography which also fell flat.

Despite the awkward skits and Rebel Wilson and James Corden dressing up as cats to present Best Visual Effects,



Bong Joon-ho receiving two Oscars. PHOTO COURTESY OF AP IMAGES

the 92nd Oscars were a fun show to watch. Seeing Eminem performing “Lose Yourself” was a pleasant surprise. Since he did not get to perform his Oscar-winning song in 2003, the Academy decided to let him perform his song live as a makeup performance.

The final highlight of the ceremony was Chris Rock’s and Steve Martin’s opening monologue. The comedy was sharp, the political commentary was relevant and entertaining - all features that make a great Oscars ceremony.

Open up your watch list to Netflix’s ‘Locke and Key’

by Brandon Barzola
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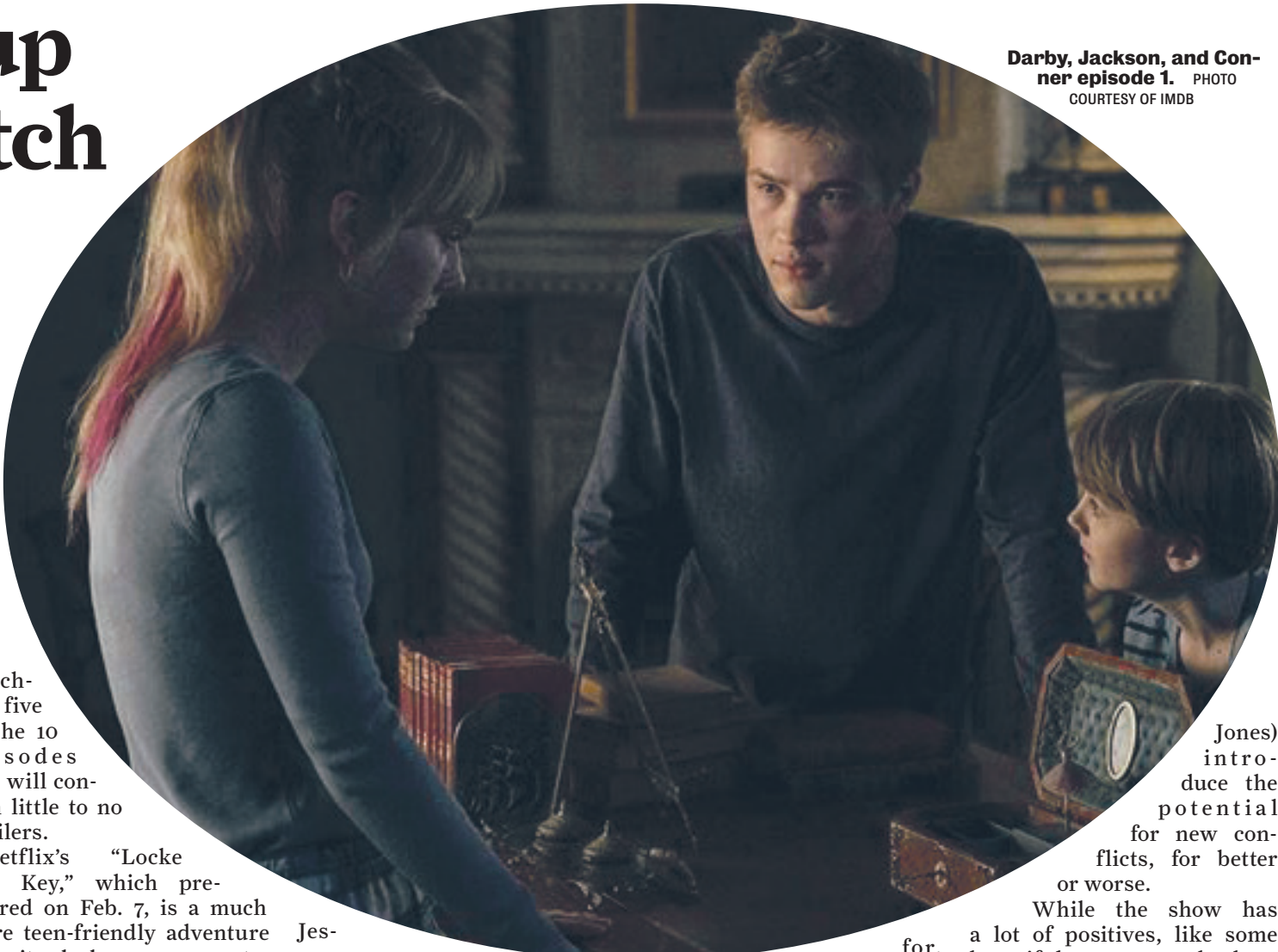
It’s not often that I find myself familiar with the source material for new shows and movies, so I was surprised when I heard about Netflix’s “Locke and Key.” The show is based off the comics by Joe Hill and Gabriel Rodriguez and follows the story of three siblings who move into their father’s childhood home, Keyhouse, in Massachusetts after he’s murdered. At Keyhouse, the siblings find special keys that grant them magical powers and must defend those keys from a mysterious and evil force that’s after them.

This review is written after

watching five of the 10 episodes and will contain little to no spoilers.

Netflix’s “Locke and Key,” which premiered on Feb. 7, is a much more teen-friendly adventure than its darker source material. While the comics carried dark tones and relatively gruesome character deaths throughout its pages, the show tends to lighten up its slower scenes with witty humor and character deaths are rewritten to be less grisly.

At the core of “Locke and Key” are Tyler, Kinsey and Bode Locke, played by Connor



Darby, Jackson, and Connor episode 1. PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

Jessup, Emilia Jones and Jackson Robert Scott, respectively. Each character is represented well through the writing and acting, and it’s obvious to the audience how each sibling is struggling with trauma and loss over the death of their father, Rendell Locke. While Tyler and Kinsey are both in high school, Tyler struggles with his anger and tries to act as an authoritative figure over his siblings in the absence of their father and Kinsey struggles with controlling her fears, leading to overwhelming anxiety. Bode, who is roughly in late elementary or early middle school age, struggles with trying to find all the keys in an effort to protect his family and do whatever he can to see his father again.

On paper, the premise is sad but the show manages to keep things interesting with twists in every episode. On one hand, new keys are always being found, making you wonder what they’re going to be used

for. On the other hand, side characters are constantly revealing more and more of Keyhouse’s and Rendell’s past, leaving viewers to decipher the mystery of what Rendell Locke did with the keys in his youth and why the villain is after them.

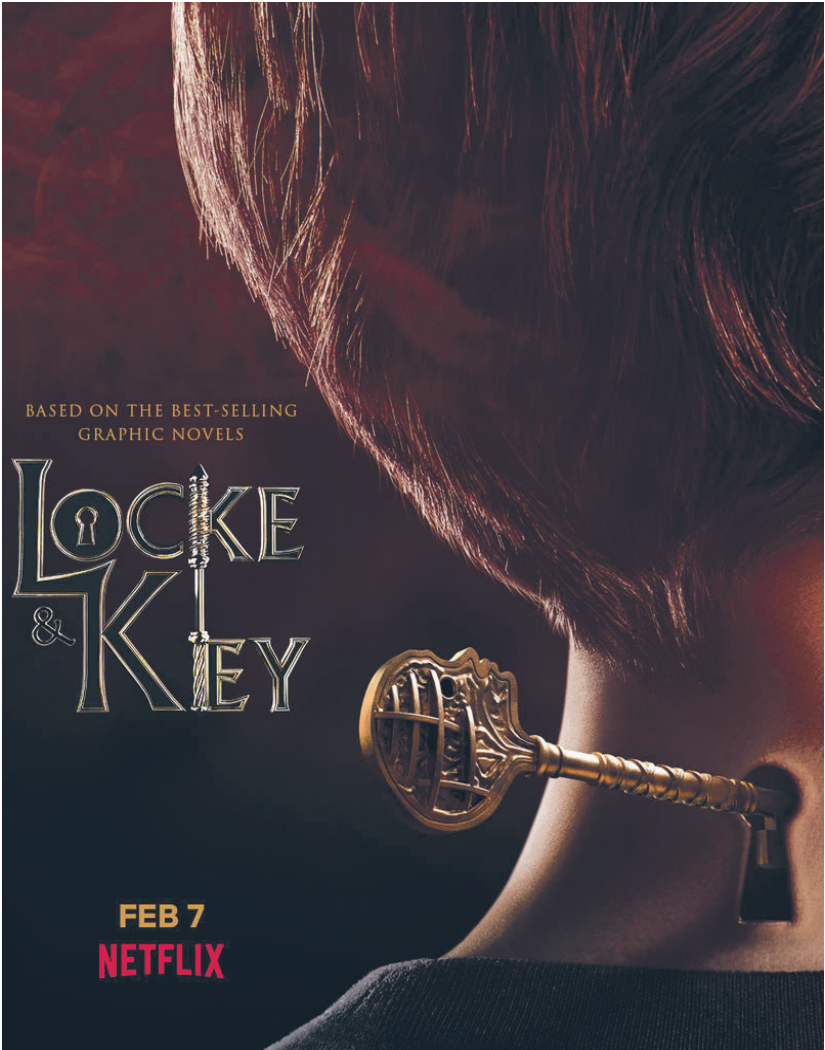
Many of the original side characters were rewritten and tweaked to better fit the format of a television series, and it honestly changes these characters for the better.

While the show has a lot of positives, like some beautiful camerawork here and there, it does fall short in some areas.

While the show has a lot of positives, like some beautiful camerawork here and there, it does fall short in some areas. In the comics, Kinsey is able to eliminate her sense of fear with the help of one of the keys, which serves to make her a stronger character throughout the story. In the show, however, the scenes with a fearless Kinsey are almost hard to watch. Although the high school drama is understandable, it was borderline cringey when she takes revenge on a school bully with the use of one of the keys. There are a few times in the show when characters make outright dumb choices that make the audience do a double take on what they’re watching.

Despite only watching half of the first season, it’s obvious the show is building up to a climactic season finale against the villain and setting itself up for what will probably be an equally entertaining second season. Whether you’re familiar with the graphic novels or are completely new to the story, “Locke and Key” is a worthy addition to Netflix’s long list of originals and something you should add to your watch list.

Rating: 4/5



Locke and Key promotional poster. PHOTO COURTESY OF FILM



When dream pop drifted into the new millenium

YO LA TENGO'S 'AND THEN NOTHING TURNED ITSELF INSIDE-OUT' TURNS 20

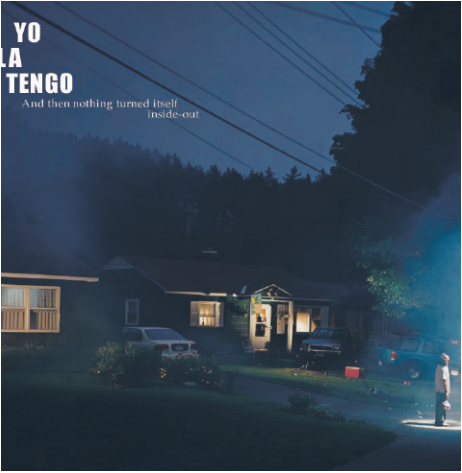
by Daniel Cohn
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“February music” isn’t a thing. It’s about as real and non-sensical a phrase as “fish arms” or “let’s get Husky Pizza for dinner.”

Yo La Tengo’s “And Then Nothing Turned Itself Inside-Out” might fit this elusive term. The prolific New Jersey indie rockers’ ninth project feels like where we’re at right now. Maybe this is coming strictly from a collegiate sense, but February to me feels like you’re floating from place to place, lecture to lecture, cold, wet, dreary, etc. It’s the only academic month that doesn’t seem to have an extracurricular purpose. Valentine’s Day isn’t universal. If you know George Washington’s birthday without looking it up, you’re a nerd. Your friend’s birthday doesn’t count. We’re all buckled in this, looking upwards for snow and forwards for spring.

It makes sense that Yo La Tengo decided to drop this masterpiece when they did. February is infamously known as the month when movie studios slate films expected to bomb. It’s 28 (sometimes 29) days of laziness and cold, but this album exudes that energy. Dream pop in general feels like hazy memories. I don’t mean hazy in the drunk sense, like Roddy Ricch might conjure – no, this feels like things from long ago that you can piece together partially but never all the way. Every track on “Nothing” is layered with these fuzzy, almost ambient soundscapes that feel just like how those memories reveal themselves. I know my column is about describing music, but sometimes how music feels isn’t describable. Not a good thing for a music journalist to admit, but keep reading.

Even with its incredibly consistent track listing, some stand out above oth-



Yo La Tengo's 'And Then Nothing Turned Itself Inside-Out'. PHOTO COURTESY OF PINTEREST

ers. The quirkily titled “Let’s Save Tony Orlando’s House” shakes away the blurry aesthetic of the album for an uptempo jam laced with organ and bass drones that force you to rock your neck. “Tears Are in Your Eyes” is a stunning, emotive work and perhaps my favorite cut on this entire thing. It’s weird to say that about a song evidently about clinical depression. “You tell me that you haven’t/Slept in days/You tell me sleeping only makes you tired/Anyway” is an uncomfortable truth about depression that rarely gets put that plainly into a song, let alone a song in a major key. “Although you don’t believe me, you are strong/Darkness always turns into the dawn” sometimes makes me smile, sometimes, well, puts tears in my eyes. That’s the sign of a powerful lyric. This album isn’t afraid to peel back its guise of haziness to punch you in the gut.

Next time you wake up, look at your schedule and see nothing but classes and space, throw this on your morning commute. It will mesh with said nothing like it was supposed to be there the whole time. “And Then Nothing Turned Itself Inside-Out” is the impossible soundtrack to where our campus is at right now, and I can only imagine the smiles on the class of 2000’s faces when they played it on repeat two decades prior.



Yo La Tengo performers. PHOTO COURTESY OF OPEN SPOTIFY

Melissa’s Menu
Freezer-Friendly
breakfast

Melissa Scrivani

ASSOCIATE LIFE EDITOR

Making time for breakfast can be hard, especially if you have busy mornings. Lately, I find myself barely having time to eat breakfast, let alone cook up something nutritious. I usually fall back on frozen Eggo waffles or instant oatmeal, neither of which is healthy or satisfying. This got me thinking of possible solutions, and I found one that is easy, healthy and delicious: Freezer-friendly breakfast burritos. These can be made in bulk ahead of time and stored in the freezer for up to three months. This recipe is really easy to make and will leave you super satisfied. You can customize your burritos to include different meats, cheeses or veggies than the ones recommended below, or you can make different combinations for each day of the week. All you have to do is pop one in the microwave or oven each morning and you have a tasty on-the-go breakfast.

Ingredients

- 2 medium Yukon gold potatoes, peeled and diced small
- 1 large red bell pepper, seeded and diced
- 1 diced small red onion
- 1 tablespoon of vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon of kosher salt, divided
- 12 large eggs
- 1/4 cup of whole milk
- 2 tablespoons of unsalted butter
- 1 1/2 cups of shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 12 (10- to 12-inch) flour tortillas, at room temperature
- Optional toppings: Cooked sausage, bacon and salsa

Directions

Arrange a rack in the middle of the oven and heat to 400 degrees Fahrenheit. Prepare space in the freezer for a baking sheet. Combine the potatoes, peppers and onions together in a medium bowl. Drizzle with the oil and a half teaspoon of the salt, and toss to coat. Transfer to a baking sheet — spreading veggies in an even layer — and roast for about 20 minutes until the potatoes are tender.

While the veggies roast, whisk together the eggs, milk and remaining half teaspoon of salt until combined. Melt the butter in a 10-inch skillet (cast iron or nonstick would be ideal) over medium heat. Add the eggs and cook, stirring occasionally, until they are mostly set but still moist, which should take about four to five minutes. Remove from the heat.

To assemble the burritos, tear off 12 squares of aluminum foil. Have your cheese and tortillas standing by. Place one tortilla on top of a piece of foil. Sprinkle two tablespoons of cheese onto the tortilla. Top the cheese with 1/4 cup of room-temperature roasted vegetables, followed by two heaping tablespoons of the scrambled eggs, also room-temperature, and any extra toppings. Roll the burrito tightly by folding the sides over the filling, rolling from the bottom up. Wrap the burrito tightly in the aluminum foil and repeat with filling and folding the remaining burritos. Freeze the burritos in a single layer on a baking sheet — they’ll freeze faster and more uniformly this way. Store frozen burritos in a gallon-sized zip-top freezer bag for longer-term freezing. Top with a sprinkle of sesame seeds and sliced green onion. Refrigerate for up to four days. Enjoy!

To eat: Unwrap and microwave on high for one to two minutes, until warmed through, or heat in the oven at 350 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE-ITCHN.COM

Photo of the Day | North Dining Hall (2020)



UConn students enjoy delicious chicken and waffles at the AACC’s showing of “Harriet” on Monday night. PHOTO BY WESLEY NYAMBI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Will Trump succeed in Israel and Palestine?

PEACE PLAN, cont. from p. 4

Despite preserving Israeli sovereignty and establishing a state for both people with a Marshal-style economic plan, this plan has several flaws. Firstly, while it explicitly calls out Palestinian actions, it only implicitly condemns Israel for the isolated cases of Israelis engaging in similar behavior.

The actors in the deal have been here before many times without achieving a peace agreement. Abbas rejects this deal out of hand, partially out of opposition to Trump, a desire for Jerusalem and a desire for a contiguous state. This is despite this plan offering statehood, economic aid, assistance for the Palestinian diaspora and access to Jerusalem. Why let hope for the perfect deal prevent peace?

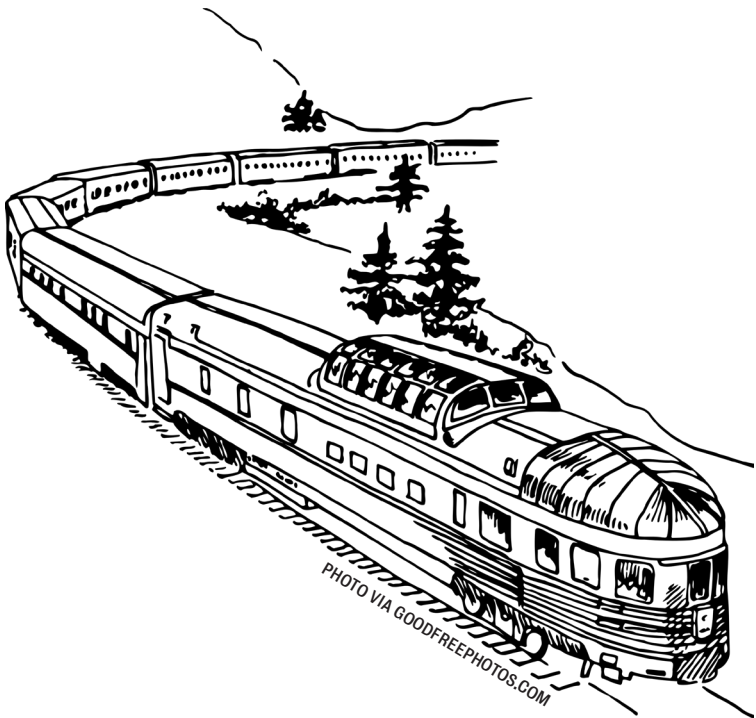
Abbas feels he can wait out this proposal to obtain a better proposal if he rejects this one. He obtains such confidence from statements by Democratic presidential candidacies and Trump’s cancellation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, more commonly known as the Iran Deal. When Trump and Congressional Republicans hinted that such a deal would not be binding to a future United States government, they instigated an erosion of American soft power as belligerent actors feel that they can merely wait for more sympathetic administrations to acquire better deals.

While it explicitly calls out Palestinian actions, it only implicitly condemns Israel for the isolated cases of Israelis engaging in similar behavior.

Such hope is unfounded as all relevant Israeli parties in the upcoming election support the peace plan. While Yisrael Beitanu leader Avigdor Lieberman criticizes the timing of the release, the plan follows his 2004 proposal and the platform of his party. A refusal of an imperfect deal by Abbas may lead hardliners in the Netanyahu government to claim that Arabs desire the destruction of Israel, not statehood and peace. Those hardliners would then call for further annexation and restrictions in the West Bank and make life worse for Palestinians in the region. Furthermore, this plan would nominally aid the Palestinian diaspora, which would not occur without this plan. This plan aids the diaspora, establishes statehood and economic assistance and recognizes the Palestinian cause without endangering Israelis.

I doubt another Likkud government will offer as generous a plan between irredentists in the party, the last decade of constant bombardment from Gaza and the century of rejectionism. As with the JCPOA, the Oslo treaty of 1999, the 2002 Arab plan for Israeli-Palestinian and the Uganda plan of the Sixth Zionist Congress killed by the Russian delegation, this is an imperfect plan respecting the human rights of those involved is better than continual rejectionism.

A CARLESS FUTURE IS POSSIBLE



TRANSPORTATION, cont. from p. 4

In 1956, President Eisenhower signed the Federal Aid Highway Act, which set the United States on a long path of highway expansion and neglect of public transit. These highways were often built directly through low-income, black neighborhoods, decimating and further marginalizing these communities. Today, a vast majority of our transportation spending is still dedicated to maintaining and expanding roads, rather than public transit like rail and buses.

Again, this is a vastly simplified version with leaves out crucial aspects like single-use zoning, the General Motors streetcar conspiracy and state-wide decisions, but the fact remains: The United States’ federal government has been using public policy to promote cars and neglect mass transit for almost a century.

It’s a depressing history, but it’s also a history that can and should inform 21st century public policy. The government has the power to shape our transportation system. We should invest massively in dense, mixed-use, transit-oriented social housing. We should build

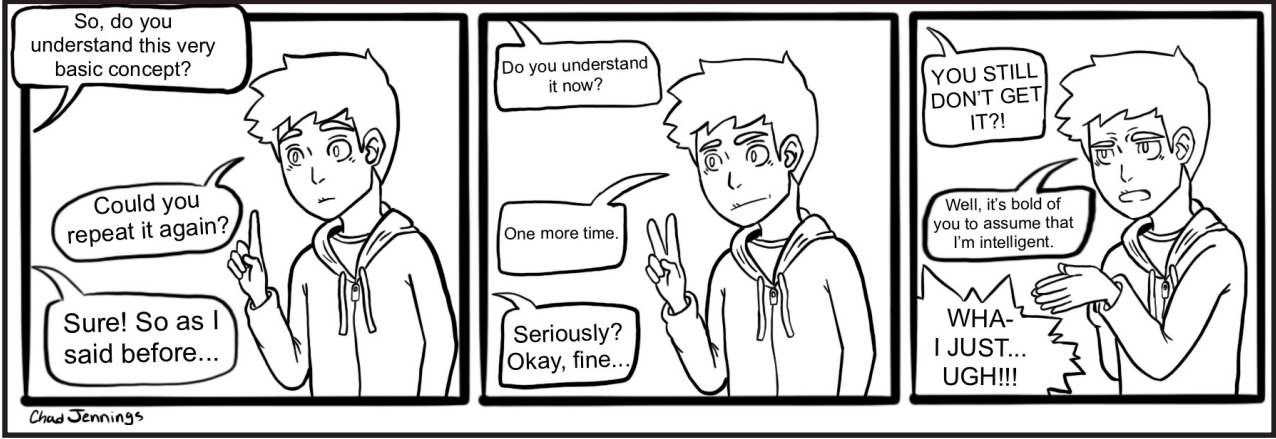
high-speed rail lines to connect cities and regional rail lines to connect suburbs to city centers. We should revamp urban bus systems with dedicated streets, electric buses and expanded service.

We have the power to create a transit system that tackles the dual problems of climate change and inequality. If we don’t, we will continue down a path of climate catastrophe and further stratification of wealth.

Highways and racist suburbs are the past; public transit and dense, inclusionary social housing should be the future.

Highways and racist suburbs are the past; public transit and dense, inclusionary social housing should be the future.

CARTOON BY CHAD JENNINGS, CARTOONIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Ex-Blue Jays reliever sues Astros in sign-stealing scandal



In this Aug. 4, 2017 file photo Toronto Blue Jays relief pitcher Mike Bolsinger walks off the mound as Houston Astros' Marwin Gonzalez rounds the bases after hitting a three-run home run during a game in Houston. PHOTO BY ERIC CHRISTIAN SMITH/AP

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former major league pitcher Mike Bolsinger sued the Houston Astros on Monday, claiming their sign-stealing scheme contributed to a poor relief appearance in August 2017 that essentially ended his big league career.

Bolsinger's suit in Los Angeles County Superior Court seeks unspecified damages for interfering with and harming his career. He's also asking that the Astros forfeit their nearly \$30 million in postseason shares from their 2017 World Series title, with the money going to children's charities in Los Angeles and a fund for needy retired players.

According to the suit, Bolsinger, then a reliever with the Toronto Blue Jays, was put into a game at Houston on Aug. 4, 2017, and allowed four runs, four hits and three walks in one-third of

an inning in a 16-7 loss. The suit said the right-hander "was immediately terminated and cut from the team, never to return to Major League Baseball again."

He was demoted to Triple-A and hasn't pitched in the major leagues since. He was 0-3 with a 6.31 ERA in 11 appearances with Toronto in 2017. The 32-year-old pitched in Japan in 2018-19, and is seeking a job with a big league club for this season.

The Astros didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Commissioner Rob Manfred found the Astros broke rules against electronic sign stealing in 2017, including during the postseason. Manager A.J. Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow were fired last month.

According to MLB's investigation, the Astros used a video feed

to steal opposing teams' signs and then tipped off their batters to off-speed pitches by banging on a garbage can.

According to Bolsinger's lawsuit, graphic designer and web developer Tony Adams wrote a web application to document every instance of banging on a trash can during Astros home games in 2017. He found that the most bangs occurred in that Aug. 4, 2017, game, including on 12 of 29 pitches Bolsinger threw, the lawsuit said.

Hinch told the media that night that it was "not unusual for us to have big nights when we put good at-bats together," according to the lawsuit.

Bolsinger also pitched for the Arizona Diamondbacks and Los Angeles Dodgers in his four-year career, going 8-19 with a 4.92 ERA.

MLB considering expanding playoffs to 14 teams



In this Oct. 30, 2019 file photo, Washington Nationals starting pitcher Max Scherzer celebrates with the World Series trophy after Game 7 against the Houston Astros in Houston. The MLB is considering expanding the playoffs in the future. PHOTO BY DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball is considering expanding the playoffs to nearly half the 30 teams and allowing higher-seeded wild-card teams to choose opponents.

The playoffs would grow from 10 clubs to 14 under the plan, first reported Monday by the New York Post. There would be four wild cards in each league, up from two.

Details were confirmed by a person familiar with the proposal who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because MLB did not authorize any public comments. Another person, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said MLB has been looking at several plans.

Any proposal would have to be negotiated with the players' association. The current collective bargaining agreement runs through the 2021 season.

"Expanding the playoffs in a sensible way is something worth discussing when part of

a much more comprehensive conversation about the current state of our game," union head Tony Clark said in a statement.

Only the division winner with the best regular-season record would advance directly to the Division Series under the plan. The two other division winners and wild-card teams would start in a best-of-three round.

The division winner with the second-best record would choose its opponent from among the three lowest-seeded wild-card teams. The division winner with the third-best record would then get to pick from among the remaining two wild cards. The top wild card would face whichever team is left over after the division winners make their choices.

The selections would be made on a televised show.

MLB long restricted its postseason to just the pennant winners facing each other in the World Series. Postseason teams doubled to four with the

split of each league into two divisions in 1969, then to eight with the realignment to three divisions and the addition of a wild card in 1995, a year later than planned due to a players' strike.

The postseason reached its current 10 with the addition of a second wild card and a wild-card round in 2012.

A postseason of 14 teams would mean 47% of franchises reach the playoffs, which could cause some clubs not to go into rebuilding mode. The players' association has criticized teams for what it calls "tanking."

Twelve of the 32 NFL teams (38%) reach the playoffs, along with 16 of 30 in the NBA (53%) and 16 of 31 in the NHL (52%), which expands to 32 franchises next season.

Expanded playoffs would create more content for broadcasters. MLB's contracts with ESPN and Turner run through 2021 and its deal with Fox goes through 2028.

Finalists announced for USA Basketball 2020 Olympic team



Miami Heat forward Bam Adebayo, left, dunks the ball during a game in Portland, Oregon on Sunday, Feb. 9. Adebayo was one of the chosen finalists for the U.S. Olympic team. PHOTO BY STEVE DYKES/AP

(AP) — LeBron James is considering a return to the Olympics.

James — a two-time gold medalist and three-time Olympian — was among 44 players announced by USA Basketball on Monday as finalists for the team that will play in the Tokyo Games this summer. James played in 2004, 2008 and 2012, helping the U.S. win gold in his most recent two appearances.

The pool includes 19 players who have won a total of 31 gold medals in either Olympic or World Cup competition for the Americans — including nine players who captured the Olympic title for USA Basketball in Rio de Janeiro four years ago.

"I've always maintained that equity is important," USA Basketball managing director Jerry Colangelo told The Associated Press. "And you earn equity by participating. So, we think they've earned the right to be named to the overall roster for USA Basketball. It's pretty elite. It's a tremendous pot and the good news is they've all said they want to play."

James has played in 68 games for the U.S. national team and has said several times over the past year or so that he is thinking about another Olympics — after sitting out the Rio Games for a variety of reasons. Part of the interest in participating this summer is to have the chance to play for U.S. coach Gregg Popovich of the San Antonio Spurs.

"It's a possibility," James said in December.

There will be no tryouts. USA Basketball will pare the list down to a 12-person Olympic team by early June, those decisions to be made by a selection committee — and to be based in part on player availability and health. Training camp will start in early July, potentially as little as two weeks after the end of the NBA Finals. The Olympics start July 24.

"I want to play," said Portland's Damian Lillard, one of the finalists. "I think, looking at my career and all the stuff I want to accomplish before it's over, winning a gold medal at the Olympics is on the list. I was happy to see my name on there, obviously, and hopefully I'll be a part of the team."

USA Basketball officials, including Colangelo and Popovich of the San Antonio Spurs, have met with players in a variety of ways over the past several weeks. Some talks have been directly with players, some with their agents, some with their NBA clubs, sometimes a combination thereof — and, Colangelo noted, there were some instances where players reached out directly to express interest.

If they're on the list, that means USA Basketball is convinced they want to play.

"I feel very good about the response," Colangelo said.

Also included in the pool: 15 of the 16 players from the U.S. who are scheduled to play in Sunday's

NBA All-Star Game, and all 12 members of the team that represented the U.S. at last summer's Sacramento World Cup in China — where the Americans managed only a seventh-place finish after roughly three dozen players who were on the list at some point dropped out along the way.

The nine players still in the mix from the 2016 Olympic team: Sacramento's Harrison Barnes, Miami's Jimmy Butler, San Antonio's DeMar DeRozan, Brooklyn's Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving, the Los Angeles Clippers' Paul George, Golden State's Draymond Green and Klay Thompson, and Toronto's Kyle Lowry.

Back from the 2012 Olympic champion roster: the Los Angeles Lakers' James and Anthony Davis, Durant, Houston's James Harden and Russell Westbrook, Cleveland's Kevin Love and Oklahoma City's Chris Paul. Back from the 2008 gold-medal squad: the Lakers' Dwight Howard.

And those with World Cup or world championship gold medals for USA Basketball, but no Olympic gold to this point: Golden State's Stephen Curry, Cleveland's Andre Drummond and Denver's Mason Plumlee.

James and Paul won Olympic gold at Beijing in 2008, and James was part of the team that won bronze at Athens in 2004. If James joins this team, he will become the second four-time men's basketball Olympian for the U.S. — joining Carmelo Anthony.

"I'm looking forward to coaching the U.S. Olympic Team, and I'm excited about the potential and possibilities this team has," Popovich said.

The Olympics could be a return to the court for players like Durant and Thompson, who have missed the entirety of this NBA season with injuries. Durant's recovery from Achilles' surgery is at the point where he's doing some on-court work and Thompson has said he would like to play if his surgically repaired knee is up to the challenge.

The 25 other players who are finalists for this summer's team but do not yet have Olympic or World Cup gold for the U.S.: Miami's Bam Adebayo, San Antonio's LaMarcus Aldridge, Washington's Bradley Beal, Phoenix's Devin Booker, Indiana's Malcolm Brogdon, Boston's Jaylen Brown, Utah's Mike Conley, the Clippers' Montrezl Harrell, Brooklyn's Joe Harris, Philadelphia's Tobias Harris, Boston's Gordon Hayward, New Orleans' Brandon Ingram, the Lakers' Kyle Kuzma, the Clippers' Kawhi Leonard, Lillard, Milwaukee's Brook Lopez, the Lakers' JaVale McGee, Milwaukee's Khris Middleton, Utah's Donovan Mitchell, Indiana's Victor Oladipo, Boston's Marcus Smart and Jayson Tatum, Indiana's Myles Turner, Boston's Kemba Walker and San Antonio's Derrick White.

Photo of the Day | Jumpman



UConn forward Akok Akok (left) battles for the jumpball against a Cincinnati opponent during a game on Sunday, Feb. 9 at Gampel Pavilion. The Huskies pulled off a 72-71 overtime win.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men’s Ice Hockey Feature: Ruslan Iskhakov



Forward Ruslan Iskhakov celebrates with fans during a Connecticut Ice tournament game on Jan. 23 at Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport.

PHOTO BY MIKE MAVREDAKIS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

ISKHAKOV, cont. from p. 12

Iskhakov has played in 25 games of the 2019-2020 season. His nine goals rank second on the team and are a new career-best mark, thanks in part to a dramatically increased shooting percentage (.150 this year, .111 as a freshman). Iskhakov is also second amongst the Huskies in points with 20, and will likely surpass his rookie mark of 21.

Jonny Evans helped the transition to a more north-south American style of hockey, compared to the east-west style that Iskhakov grew up playing. The pair came to UConn together last year as part of a nationally-ranked recruiting class and have been making “magic” on the ice since.

“Well we didn’t really play together for the first half of the season,” Iskhakov said. “Then after Christmas coach just tried us together and it worked and it’s still working. You just feeling each other, where Jonny’s going to be, where I’m going to be.”

The tandem has pulled off a number of highlight-reel plays together. Last season, Iskhakov found Evans with a between the legs pass, setting up Evans for a

give-and-go goal with fellow freshman Jachym Kondelik. Earlier this season, Evans returned the favor with a between the legs feed of his own to set up a goal for Iskhakov.

“I think they just mesh together organically,” Cavanaugh said. “I don’t think it’s really so much me trying to force that issue. They see the game the same way.”

The two live together in Hilltop apartments this year, along with teammates Brian Rigali and Bradley Stoner. While living together off the ice may help the duo’s chemistry, it builds a stronger relationship with the whole team, Iskhakov says. Whether they’re eating out, at the movies or just watching NHL games at home, spending time with the team is important.

“I would say it’s more helpful, not exactly for the person you play with in the line, it’s probably more helpful for the whole team,” Iskhakov said. “We’re a family.”

As a current sophomore, Iskhakov and his classmates are no longer the youngest guys on the team. A new and possibly more talented group of freshmen has arrived. In that bunch is a pair of recruits from Russia making the same adjustments and living the same experiences Iskhakov went through a sea-

son ago.

“He is certainly a mentor for those two and Ruslan has acclimated himself really well to the culture here at UConn,” Cavanaugh said. “He’s a very strong student and I think he’s providing that type of mentorship for Yan (Kuznetsov) and Vlad (Firstov).”

Being able to look back and reflect on his first year in Storrs, Iskhakov sees parts of himself in the new guys, specifically Vladislav Firstov, and is helping him not make the same mistakes he made.

“I would say it’s kinda similar to what happened with me last year,” Iskhakov said. “He’s sometimes in trouble in school and I mean he’s just going through the hard things that I had last year.”

Like most athletes, Iskhakov has dreams of playing professionally one day. Drafted in the second round of the 2018 NHL draft by the Islanders brought that dream even closer to fruition. But for now, both Iskhakov and Cavanaugh are content with him in Storrs.

“My goal is to win the Hockey East and try to make the Frozen Four tournament,” Iskhakov said. “I just want to do everything I can for the Huskies, for UConn, because I’m here right now.”

Column: Why Lionel Messi shouldn’t (and won’t) leave Barcelona

by David Sandoval
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Things have gotten a bit “Messi” at FC Barcelona. If you’re unaware about what I’m referring to, Lionel Messi put himself in the spotlight again in the world of soccer; but this time it was not for scoring an incredible goal.

Messi posted a Spanish article on his Instagram story where sporting director and former teammate Eric Abidal claimed that many Barcelona players were unhappy and underperforming under former coach Ernesto Valverde. Additionally, Abidal said the Barcelona board started their search for a Valverde replacement after their 0-0 draw in the December Clásico.

“I sincerely don’t like to do these things, but I think that everyone should be responsible of their work and take charge of their decision,” Messi said in Spanish. “The players that play on the field are the first to recognize when we weren’t good. Those responsible in the sporting management area should also take responsibility and over everything take charge of the decisions they take. Lastly, I believe that when you talk about players, you should give names because if not it will make us look dirty and feed things that they say and are not true.”

This is unlike the Argentinian icon, to get himself into conflicts, especially on social media; and against a former teammate truly

shows that he was upset.

But the reason why Messi’s story is a hot topic in the world of soccer is because people believe this will be the starting point of his fallout and eventual exit of the club. Even Manchester City’s coach Pep Guardiola, who also coached Messi when he was at Barcelona, commented on the post and hoped that he will stay at the club.

Messi’s contract ends in summer 2021, however the player has a clause in his contract in which he can leave the club for free at the end of the season.

People shouldn’t worry about this issue because of one thing: Messi isn’t going to leave the Blaugrana. He’s spent his entire career playing at the same club and is decorated with domestic, European and individual trophies because of it. Not only that, but if it weren’t for Barcelona giving him the proper treatment for his growth deficiency there wouldn’t have been a Lionel Messi.

I personally believe Messi was in the wrong about this whole situation. If you’ve watched Barcelona the last two seasons under Valverde they’ve had notable losses, especially in the Champions League, because of his poor coaching abilities.

For instance, last season the Blaugrana found themselves to have the worst winless streak in 18 years of six games. While that may not seem like a big deal, it’s incredibly detrimental for big

clubs, especially in Spain. Many claim that it’s not the coach’s fault but the players’ performance, and to that I simply ask, “Who’s telling the players to perform?”

Moving on to the more obvious defeats under Valverde, the biggest were against Roma in the 2017/18 Champions League quarterfinal and the 2018/19 Champions League semifinal against Liverpool. The reason why I grouped these two together and not discuss them separately is because in both matches, Barcelona had good enough leads in the first legs but completely blew them in the second legs and ruined their chances of lifting the Champions League trophy twice in a row.

Valverde got too confident in the second legs of both matches and it showed. Against Roma, Valverde made substitutions too late into the match when the Giallorossi scored their third goal in the 82nd minute. Against Liverpool, Valverde did not have a good strategy for the second half of the match after his side was unable to score in the first half five times.

As stated earlier, I don’t believe Messi will end up leaving the club because of how long he’s been there and because he’s given so much to them and the fans. This illustrates the club’s questionable season so far, after having a rough start in their domestic league and sometimes problematic performances in the Champions League and Copa del Rey for instance; but that’s a conversation for another day.



Barcelona’s Lionel Messi gestures to fans during La Liga soccer match between Betis and Barcelona at the Benito Villamarín stadium in Seville, Spain on Sunday, Feb. 9.

PHOTO BY MIGUEL MORENATTI/AP

Column: The potential MLB playoff changes are just awful

by **Jorge Eckardt**
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One of the best things about the MLB playoffs is that they're almost exactly the opposite of the NBA playoffs. Only one-third of the teams make it as opposed to one-half, and subsequently, the best teams in each league are rewarded with a bye. This creates a regular season that holds significantly more weight than the NBA regular season, and in turn, creates a playoff that ensures only the best teams compete.

However, the proposed drastic rule changes, reported by Joel Sherman of the New York Post, could ruin all of that.

In this proposed change, instead of five teams making the playoffs from each league it would be seven – three division winners and four wild card teams. The top seed would get a bye, and the bottom six would play each other, with the two other division winners and the first wild card getting home-field advantage in a best-of-three series.

The biggest twist? The teams would get to choose who they want to play, in order of seeding.

There are just so many things wrong with this whole idea, but the one that sticks out to me the most is expanding the playoffs to seven teams apiece. Sure, allowing more teams in would involve more fanbases in the playoffs, but it also clears the way for subpar teams to make the playoffs when they don't deserve to.

Luckily for me, Twitter has already dredged up teams that would have made the playoffs in other years, including the Athletic's Tim Britton.

"Under this system, the 2014 Mets would have been a play-off team — with a 79-83 record," Britton tweeted. "Last

year's Mets, of course, also would have made it."

In case you're thinking that's just an outlier, there's more.

"Under this system, six teams .500 or worse would have made the playoffs in the last seven years," Britton tweeted. "Every team with 86+ wins would have made it."

In most of the recent years, a team that was, at best, exactly average would have made the playoffs.

The 2014 Mets in no way shape or form should have been a playoff team. They didn't have a single qualifying hitter with an OPS over .830, and that was Lucas Duda. They, rightfully so, would have gotten demolished by Yasiel Puig and the Dodgers in the best-of-three series, that is assuming Los Angeles picks them of course.

However, that's not even the most troubling thing to me. It's that with this new system, 86 wins would essentially be an automatic playoff bid. Is that all it's going to take now? Being just barely above mediocre. In a season where you play 162 games, all it takes is for you to win 10 more games than you lose to guarantee a spot in the playoffs?

That's exactly what the Mets did last season, and sure, they were fun to watch and made a valiant effort down the stretch, that team did not deserve to make the playoffs. Not with how many games they let slip away.

Playoff teams are supposed to be great, not just good. The proposed system would not only let virtually all "just good" teams into the playoffs, but open the door for bad teams to get in as well.

Not only that, but it would make the regular season significantly less meaningful, and could potentially lead to an issue of teams resting players for the postseason. Sure,



MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred answers questions at a press conference during the MLB owners meetings on Thursday, Feb. 6 in Orlando, Florida. PHOTO BY JOHN RAOUX/AP

the bye could create a little bit of a fight for the top seed, but teams will pretty early on see the writing on the wall that they're not going to get it and as long as they're comfortably in playoff positioning – which as we've established is just slightly above average – rest anyone important.

Then there's the picking aspect, which is just a blatant money grab. It's one more thing that the MLB can market and sell, I can see it already.

"Welcome to the first annual MLB playoff draft," says Joe Buck. "Tonight, we'll find out if the No. 2 seeded Braves want to play the Reds, Padres or Mets! But first, it's time to go to commercial break one of seven for this half-hour show."

I already want to puke.

The prospect of teams choosing who they want to play is not only just plain stupid but it creates an unnecessary competitive advantage for the top teams.

I'd absolutely hate being in line for the No. 4 seed until the No. 2 seed decides they want to play you because they like that matchup the best. Sure, the No. 2 seed will most likely pick the No. 7 seed to play, but here's a hypothetical, and pretend this is in effect for the 2020 season.

The Dodgers are the No. 1 seed and get the bye, because now with Mookie Betts I don't know how they can't be the early season favorites. The Braves are the No. 2 seed, the Brewers are the No. 3 seed, the Cardinals are the No. 4 seed, the Mets are the No. 5 seed, the Nationals are the No. 6 seed and the Reds are the No. 7 seed.

If they were to seed the playoffs normally, the Braves would play the Reds, the Brewers would play the Nationals and the Cardinals would play the Mets. But, right before the end of the season, Jacob deGrom goes down with a season-ending injury (knock on wood). Not only does this just inher-

ently hurt the Mets' chances, but the Braves could then decide to take advantage of the injury and choose them to play in the first round.

The Mets had a season that should have earned them a game versus the No. 4 seed, but now because the MLB wants to treat the playoffs, as Joel Sherman described it, like reality TV, they are now forced to play the No. 2 seed. The Mets would have to play a theoretically better team than, say, the Reds would, despite winning more games than them in the regular season. On top of losing their best player, they now also have to face a better team than they should have to. How is that fair?

The whole system really is a money grab. More teams in the playoffs equal more games, more games equals larger television deals which equal more money. Who cares if the teams and players get screwed along the way?

NHL Column: Let skill shine



Nashville Predators goalie Juuse Saros (left) makes a save against Edmonton Oilers' Connor McDavid (right) during second-period action in Edmonton, Alberta on Saturday, Feb. 8. McDavid is one of many NHL stars who put on spectacular performances game after game. PHOTO BY JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA AP

by **Dylan Barrett**
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In the NHL, the most talented players in the world dazzle and dangle, yet fail to shine amidst the rest of players in the league. Despite struggling to market its biggest stars, the league has failed to create an environment conducive to showcasing the best talent.

It all begins with gameplay. Regardless of the NHL's off-ice initiatives, stars like Alexander Ovechkin, Connor McDavid and Nathan MacKinnon have the skills to attract attention to the sport. This trio and players alike put electrifying performances on display on a nightly basis. They are so tremendously gifted it is difficult to imagine how great they could be if the league was not holding them back.

Although the game of hockey is evolving in a way that will make the sport safer, the league has yet to allow it to change in a way that would create growth. Dangerous checks have been reduced, but other less compelling types of beatings continue to persist.

The best players in the game

face more abuse in each game than any other player on the ice. The torment includes countless slashes, cross checks and shoves that make most shifts a rough battle. Of course, this is partially just the physical nature of hockey.

But the issue is that these stars deal with greater torment than the average player, and because of their skill are less frequently able to draw penalties from it. McDavid is such an exceptional, dynamic skater that referees will force him to endure numerous slashing and hooking violations before raising their arm to signal a penalty. McDavid is at such an elite level that officials, whether purposely or subconsciously, decide that defenders can do more to deter him. They hold him to a different standard, normalizing his terrific abilities.

Besides making it more difficult for top players to make plays, it also causes them to get beat down during a long season, racking up bruises and other injuries. As tough as players are, they are not going to perform as well when they are dealing with a slew of nagging problems.

The evolution of the game,

including the removal of enforcers from teams' lineups, has provoked this behavior within the game as players are now free to beat up on stars as much as they like. Ironically enough, reducing the quantity of fight-first players has relinquished some of the star players' ability to make plays. Opposing defenders can abuse the McDavids of the league all night and not have to worry about getting a penalty or facing grief from the other team.

The mitigation of some of the physical aspects of hockey should make the game faster, more skillful and offensive. While this has occurred to some extent over the past decade, the league's acceptance of brutality against stars has made these advancements minimal. Fighting and major body checks are an energizing part of the sport for the fans, so if the league wants to reduce those aspects, it needs to allow skill to flourish to its maximum potential.

This is not a cry to bring back more fighting or damaging hits to the head, but rather a call to let the stars take over the game the way they are capable. Hockey has created a culture that celebrates the gritty fourth liner.

In fact, the term "Gritty" itself is synonymous with the sport. As much as hockey's tough nature is an essential component of its identity, it should not be promoted to the level of taking away from the scoring, skating and deking talent that many players readily exhibit.

The love of grit in hockey is overflowing throughout hockey operations departments across the league, causing fringe players to take roster spots over phenomenal young talent. While it is true that teams need players with grit to win championships, players with only grit will get them nowhere. The teams that ultimately win are the ones that have players that display both the hard working, tough to play against mentality as well as skill and speed.

The team-first mentality that is heavily prevalent in the NHL is misconstrued into heightening the importance of low skill players. This mindset is what causes referees to overlook abuse against hockey's best talent, and anchors star players closer to the mean skill level. Hockey will never lose its die-hard fans, but in order to reach the casual audience, it must free its elite talent.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: HUSKIES SUFFER BIG LOSS TO SOUTH CAROLINA

WBB, cont. from p. 12

Though they didn't score, precious time UConn couldn't afford to lose was off the clock.

Walker then hit a jumper on the other end to cut UConn's deficit to 12, and the Huskies forced another miss on defense. Unfortunately for them, they gave up yet another offensive rebound, and Harris hit what was likely the dagger with 1:49 remaining.

The bad news is, this loss gives UConn three losses this season to who are now the top three teams in the country. The Huskies lost to Baylor in January and Oregon last Monday, both in Connecticut.

The good news is, their remaining schedule is solely against American Athletic Conference teams, against which UConn is 130-0 lifetime.

South Carolina played stifling defense, holding the Huskies to 36% from the field and a season-low four 3-pointers. They also handily won the turnover battle 15 to 7.

Their next game isn't for six days, as the Huskies will travel down to Tampa, Fla. to play USF Sunday afternoon. That game will tip off at 2 p.m.



Sports

WBB: South Carolina bigger, faster, stronger



Senior guard Crystal Dangerfield takes the ball down the court during a game against South Carolina on Monday, Feb. 10 in Columbia, South Carolina.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SEAN RAYFORD/AP

by Sean Janos
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South Carolina lived up to their No. 1 ranking, beating UConn 70-52 Monday night in front of a sold out home crowd.

18,000 fans packed into Colonial Life Arena to watch the Gamecocks (23-1) take down No. 5 UConn (20-3) for the first time in the two teams' nine total matchups.

Colonial Life Arena has been a notoriously tough place for opposing teams to play in, with the Gamecocks currently holding a perfect 10-0 mark at home this season. They've had two undefeated seasons at home in the last seven years, and two seasons with just one loss.

At one point, South Carolina's lead grew as large as 21, but a late run by Crystal Dangerfield and Co. helped the Huskies claw their way back into the game. UConn carried momentum from the end of the third quarter into the fourth, cutting the lead as low as 11.

Dangerfield scored a career-high 25 points, shooting an efficient 9-for-18 with three 3-pointers. Despite the career day from their senior point guard, the Huskies weren't able to find much offense elsewhere.

UConn only went six players deep, playing Dangerfield and Megan Walker all 40 minutes. Olivia Nelson-Ododa played 39 minutes before fouling out, Christyn Williams played 37 minutes despite overcoming the flu recently, while freshmen Anna Makurat and Aubrey Griffin played 25 and 19, respectively. Nobody other than Dangerfield scored over 10 points.

South Carolina played stifling defense, holding the Huskies to 36% from the field and a season-low four 3-pointers. They also handily won the turnover battle 15 to 7.

The Gamecocks' intense defense was suffocating right off the tip. UConn shot just 1-for-16 in the first quarter, scoring a grand total of two points. Two points. It was UConn's lowest scoring quar-

ter since women's college basketball moved to quarters in 2015.

Whenever UConn started to work away at the lead South Carolina built early, the Gamecocks were able to respond with a bucket. Tya-sha Harris was a big problem for the Huskies. The guard played the entire game, scoring 19 points on just as many shots and dishing out a game-high 11 assists and zero turnovers.

Harris' partner in the backcourt Zia Cooke fed off the crowd's energy and made electric plays all night. She scored 15, stole the ball three times and made countless hustle plays that don't show up in the box score.

The Gamecocks' ability to shut down UConn's best comeback efforts made them seemingly unbeatable. Following a Dangerfield 3-pointer that cut the lead to 14 with 3:57 left, South Carolina was able to earn extra possessions with two offensive rebounds, running over a minute off the clock.

See WBB, p. 11

Ruslan Iskhakov BEING WHERE YOUR FEET ARE



Sophomore forward Ruslan Iskhakov moves down the ice during a game against Merrimack on Jan. 1 at the XL Center. PHOTO BY KEVIN LINDSTROM, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Kevin Arnold
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Moving from one place to another is uncomfortable for most people. Moving from Russia to the United States at 18 years old? That's a whole other world of uncomfortable.

That's what Ruslan Iskhakov had to do when he committed to play hockey at UConn. A Moscow, Russia native, Iskhakov (is-HOCK-ahv) was thrown into a whole new culture and way of life when he moved across the world in 2018.

"For me, it was a little bit tough in school, first off because of English," Iskhakov said. "I knew like zero English last year. It was pretty hard for me, but the boys on the team, they helped me a lot."

Whether it was in the classroom or on the ice, Iskhakov leaned on

the shoulders of his teammates. Marc Gatcomb, Iskhakov's roommate last year, was one of the biggest sources of support as Iskhakov's "best friend."

Mike Cavanaugh, the team's head coach, has been in Iskhakov's corner since day one. Cavanaugh has helped with both the on and off-ice transitions and says he's seen a big jump in Iskhakov's sophomore season — particularly when he looks to shoot the puck.

"Just trying to be patient with him," Cavanaugh said. "You understand it's a big learning curve, but also relate to him my experience of coaching players who have gone on to the NHL, similar in his size and stature. I've tried to relate to him what made those kids successful and try to implement that into his game."

At 5-foot-7 and 165 pounds, Iskhakov is the smallest player on UConn's roster, just getting edged

out by 5-foot-7 180 pound Carter Turnbull. It hasn't been his own size that's posed a problem, but rather the size of the rink.

In Russia, Iskhakov played on Olympic sized ice, but American hockey uses slightly smaller rinks. This change requires quicker thinking, Iskhakov says, and it was made clear when he suffered a concussion against Quinnipiac last season, the first injury of his hockey career.

"I would say back home you have more time to think about your place, like what you're going to do with the puck," Iskhakov said. "You have a couple more seconds to think about it and here it's more quickly. I was really in trouble last year after I got a concussion and so I had to think about the little details."

See ISKHAKOV, p. 10

PEART AMONG 300-STRONG INVITEES FOR NFL SCOUTING COMBINE



Offensive lineman Matt Peart faces the Houston defensive line during a game on Oct. 19, 2019 at Rentschler Field. Peart will be attending the NFL Combine, starting on Feb. 24. PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Nicholas Martin
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Former UConn football captain Matthew Peart is among 337 NFL prospects invited to this year's NFL Combine. Following his impressive showing at the recently concluded Reese's Senior Bowl in Mobile, Alabama, representing the victorious North Team, Peart has his sights set on Indianapolis for the annual event.

This year's event, set for prime time, will offer prospects a chance to showcase their talent under the watchful guise of NFL coaches,

general managers and scouts. Commending Peart on his latest accomplishment, UConn football head coach Randy Edsall said he is "very deserving" via his Twitter account.

The invite-only event facilitates performances from athletes through both physical and mental tests, and usually has a bearing on their draft status and salary, and ultimately their career. The most high-profile of those tests is the 40-yard dash, which also weighs heavily on their prospective NFL career.

The week-long event is set for Feb. 24 to March 1, at the Lucas Oil Stadium, in Indiana.

THIS WEEK IN UCONN SPORTS

Women's Lacrosse

Wednesday, 3 p.m.
Storrs, Connecticut

Women's Basketball
Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Dallas, Texas

Women's Tennis
Thursday, 10 a.m.
Philadelphia

NUMBER OF THE DAY

100

Lionel Messi has completed 100 dribbles for his 10th straight season, adding to his long list of records.

via @ESPNStatsInfo

TWEETS OF THE DAY

Adam Zagoria
@AdamZagoria

Connecticut, Notre Dame, Southern California, and Vanderbilt will compete in the Legends Classic from November 23-24 at Barclays Center

Dan Madigan
@dmad1433

Kind of a smart move by UConn to save all of their points for the final 3 quarters

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