



UConn Professor wins award for scholarship and mentoring

by Samuel Katz
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On Feb. 25, University of Connecticut professor Etan Markus won the Mary S. Eskine Award for Scholarship and Mentoring at the Northeast Undergraduate Research Organization for Neuroscience, or NEURON, according to the Quinnipiac Chronicle.

Dr. Markus, a professor of psychology and behavioral neuroscience, conducts research with graduate and undergraduate students at the UConn Storrs campus.

The event took place

in North Haven and welcomed neuroscience students and professors from over 30 universities in New England. Students at the event presented research on topics like the effects of stress, Alzheimer's Disease and other neurological diseases in a poster session, according to the article.

The Mary S. Eskine Award was created in honor of a former professor at Boston University who died from breast cancer in 2007 for her work in neuroscience and position as the Director of Under-

graduate Research at Boston University. The award is given to professors nominated by their students for advocating undergraduate research and mentoring.

"I have two PhD students and 13 undergraduate students in my lab and, unknown to me, they and former students nominated me for this award," Dr. Markus said.

Dr. Markus' research focuses on the development of memories using rats. His team monitors the rat's brain cells, or neurons, while at rest and

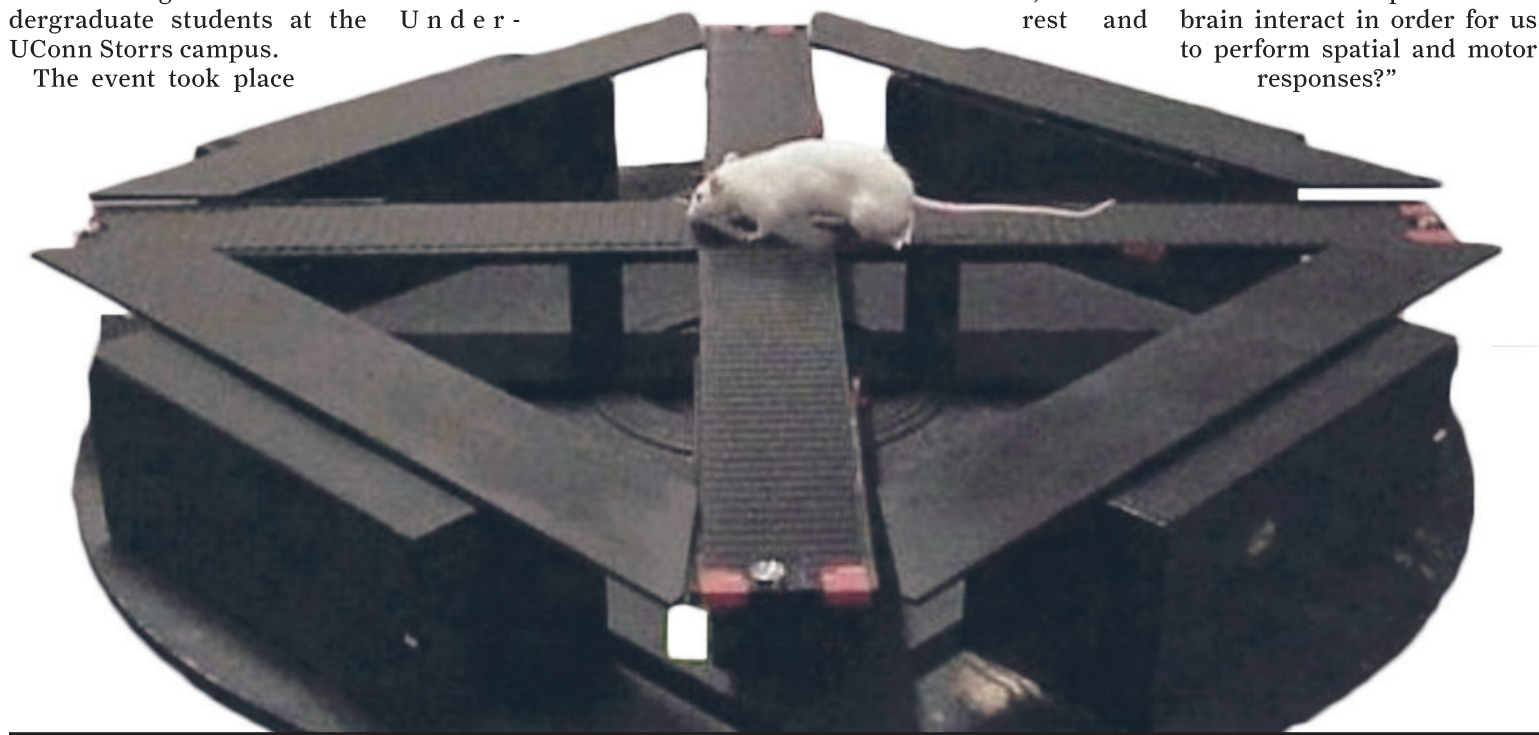
while performing tasks such as running a maze. This data comes from the hippocampus, a region of the brain that is important for memory and spatial awareness.

Thomas Shao, an eighth-semester physiology and neurobiology major who does research with Dr. Markus, summarizes the research as the following, "How do our experiences turn into a memory, what are the [neuronal] processes that go into observational learning and how do the different parts of the brain interact in order for us to perform spatial and motor responses?"



"I have two PhD students and 13 undergraduate students in my lab and, unknown to me, they and former students nominated me for this award."

DR. ETAN MARKUS



Dr. Etan Markus (above) wins the Mary S. Eskine Award for Scholarship and Mentoring at NEURON. Markus' research focuses on the development of memories using rats, with experiments like (left), focusing on testing rats' brain cells while at rest and performing tasks such as running a maze.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF MARKUS LAB

Teams compete to lower student stress in Innovate Wellness Challenge



UConn undergrads present their plan for the Innovate Wellness Challenge. Students studying different ways to promote all kinds of wellness on campus presented their projects in the North Reading Room of Wilbur Cross on Wednesday.

PHOTOGRAPH BY WESLEY NYAMBI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Nick Smith
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Groups of students presented their proposals for lowering student stress on Wednesday as part of the first round of the second annual Innovate Wellness Challenge.

Roughly 40 students, divided into 15 groups of three or fewer, developed and presented original plans for improving the mental health of their peers for the first round of the challenge. During the next two rounds of competition, they will be narrowed down until the three teams with the most promising plans of action present their ideas and prototypes before a panel of judges for the chance to be rewarded up to \$2,250 and the opportunity to work with UConn faculty members to implement their

ideas on campus.

The challenge, which began last year with a focus on community and shared experiences, is a collaborative effort between the UConn Wellness Coalition and Operations and Information Management Innovate.

Johnathan Moore, the management information systems academic director for the UConn School of Business, views the competition as an opportunity for students to impact the world around them while learning valuable skills and potentially building a résumé.

"We want to give students the opportunity to learn through these collaborative curricular challenges, but also allow them to see the real impact they can have on the UConn community," Moore said.

See WELLNESS, p. 2

ConnPIRG in support of state styrofoam ban

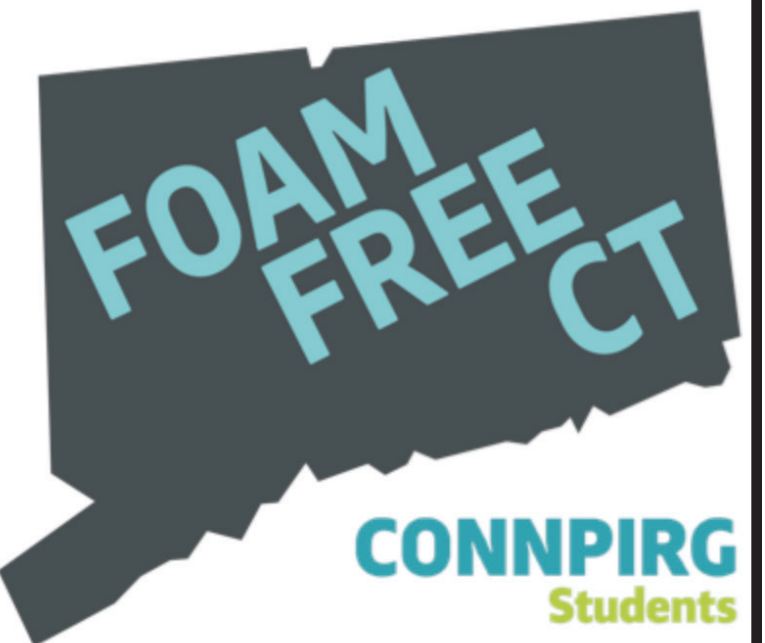
by Rachel Philipson
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The University of Connecticut's chapter of ConnPIRG testified in support of a bill that will ban styrofoam in Connecticut, Dylan Demoura, Zero Waste campaign coordinator and sixth-semester political science and history double major, said.

According to a ConnPIRG press release, the General Assembly's Environment Committee voted in favor to pass SB 99: "An Act Concerning Use and Distribution of Polystyrene Products."

This bill, if passed, would ban foam cups and takeout containers across the state.

Demoura said the bill would focus on banning "expanded polystyrene, colloquially known as styrofoam or foam, as it bans foam takeout containers and school lunch trays."



LOGO COURTESY OF DYLAN DEMOURA

tion signatures signed in agreement to the bill.

Demoura said that combined with students from Trinity Col-

polystyrene currently is too high.

"Foam is awful for the environment because it breaks apart easily and enters our waterways and wildlife but never goes away," he said. "All foam takeout containers ever made or used will be here for hundreds of years."

He said the bill would provide a good solution instead of attempting to recycle or reuse the material.

"These products overload our municipal solid waste streams as there is no way to recycle foam in Connecticut," Demoura said. "Efforts to recycle foam are cost-intensive, energy-intensive and only being done in one state. This is not a practical solution."

According to the ConnPIRG press release, the bill will next go to the floor of the Senate for a vote.

"Foam is awful for the environment because it breaks apart easily and enters our waterways and wildlife but never goes away. All foam takeout containers ever made or used will be here for hundreds of years."

DYLAN DEMOURA

He said testifying for the ban on Feb. 21 while representing ConnPIRG was a great experience.

"It felt amazing to represent students at the Capitol," Demoura said. "We were praised by Sen. Christine Cohen, one of the co-chairs of the environmental committee, who praised young people for speaking up for the environment. Sen. Will Haskell praised us for our work and said it was great to see young people there testifying late on a Friday night."

According to the testimony ConnPIRG presented, 1,658 peti-

lege, there are over 2,000 signatures in support of a foam ban.

"We submitted those to legislators to show that their constituents and students in Connecticut want to protect our future and our waterways before it's too late," he said.

Demoura said the usage of

Demoura said the bill would focus on banning "expanded polystyrene, colloquially known as styrofoam or foam, as it bans foam takeout containers and school lunch trays."

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The 5 stages of a Bernie Sanders implosion

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Students revive movement to establish a new cultural center

MEN'S B-BALL | PAGE 12
Huskies take on No. 21 Cougars on Senior Night

Tweet of the Day

Alisa
@Magowan_24
I'm so excited to take my nana to her first UConn game tomorrow

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT
What happened this week beyond UConn

by **Taylor Harton**
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR
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Nashville Tornado

At least 24 people are dead, including several children, and an unspecified number of others are still missing after an EF-3 tornado ripped through Nashville and several other parts of the state of Tennessee in the early morning hours on Tuesday, according to CNN and the Associated Press. It is not clear the number of tornadoes total that wrecked havoc on a 145-mile stretch across the state. The tornadoes shredded more than 140 buildings and moved so quickly that a large number of the population did not have time to seek safety. Gov. Bill Lee declared a state of emergency, and the National Guard is currently assisting with search and rescue efforts. The White House announced the president had spoken with Gov. Lee and promised federal assistance in the cleanup efforts. Trump plans to visit the sites by Friday.

Michael Bloomberg Campaign Suspended

Former mayor of New York City Michael Bloomberg suspended his campaign for president on Wednesday morning, not long after Super Tuesday polls closed, according to the New York Times. He has since endorsed democratic candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden for president. According to poll results, Bloomberg fell in third or worse in states he had hoped to win. His presidential bid, which started late, cost him more than half a billion dollars in advertisting alone and millions more in various offices across the country staffed with paid campaign workers. His numbers, which were originally moderate, crashed after Elizabeth Warren questioned his conduct towards women in a fiery debate several weeks ago.

James Bond Film Delay

The newest James Bond film, “No Time To Die,” will have its release pushed from April to November due to increasing coronavirus concerns, according to BBC News. The producers said they made the decision after “careful consideration and thorough evaluation of the global theatrical marketplace.” It will now premiere in the United States on Nov. 25 as opposed to its planned April 3 release date. In an open letter, the founders of the James Bond Dossier wrote that having a large group of people together in rooms could open the possibility for several transmissions of the virus unknowingly, and such an event would be not be “the type of publicity anyone wants.” Several movie theaters have already closed in China and around the world over concerns about the virus, closing the second-biggest box office market for what is intended to be one of the biggest movies of the year.

House Coronavirus Bill

On Wednesday, the U.S. House of Representatives passed an \$8.3 billion spending bill focused on coronavirus prevention and treatment efforts, according to Fox News. The bill passed 415-2, and roughly triples the original \$2.5 billion plan President Trump unveiled last week. The legislation is now on the Senate floor and is expected to be voted on on Thursday. More than \$3 billion will be used for research and developing vaccines, an additional \$2 billion to help federal, state and local governments prepare for and control the outbreak and several million dollars for medical supplies and other miscellenaous anticipated costs ahead of the virus’s anticipated spread throughout the United States.

Arizona Transgender Athlete Bill

The Arizona House of Representatives passed a bill that, if signed into law, would ban transgender female athletes from taking part in school sports, according to ABC News. Termed the “Save Women’s Sports Act,” it will require school-sponsored sports in the state to designate sports for girls and boys based on their biological sex. The bill passed along party lines in a vote of 31-29 after hours of emotional, heated debate. It would apply to K-12, community college and university sports teams if passed.

Wellness challenge participants
aim to lower student stress

WELLNESS, cont. from p. 1

Students based their proposals on survey data provided to them by the National College Health Assessment. The data, compiled from the responses of thousands of college students around the country self-reporting their well-being and stress levels, appears to show a higher prevalence of stress and a sense of being overwhelmed among students attending the University of Connecticut.

Proposals shown at the first round were creative and diverse. One plan focused on replacing the harsh, white lighting standard in many UConn dorm rooms with softer, more yellow bulbs. Another suggested the creation of communal music-making rooms

“Especially regarding mental health, it’s so easy to feel alone. It’s so easy to not reach out because you might not feel comfortable talking to your friends, roommate or parents about how you’re feeling.”

PRABHAS KC

where students could borrow a variety of instruments and jam out.

Many groups identified the need to create a community of wellness, in lieu of individualized solutions.

“Especially regarding mental health, it’s so easy to feel alone,” Prabhas KC, a fourth-semester consumer behavior major, said. “It’s so easy to not reach out because you might not feel comfortable talking to your friends, roommate or parents about how you’re feeling.”

KC’s group proposes conducting a campus-wide survey of mental health with the intention of connecting UConn’s most vulnerable students to the services they need. They also propose making a field trip to Student Health and Wellness and Counseling and Mental Health Services a mandatory part of every First Year Experience class’s semester plans.

“A lot of decisions come from the top, but from our perspective it’s going to be a lot more impactful if we hear what the students really want from the students themselves.”

JONATHAN MOORE

“It’s a nice way to get students acquainted with the service — makes it familiar and shows them where it’s located so if they ever do need to go, they know where it is, eliminating the barriers to entry in that respect,” KC said.

Ke’iana Beeson, an eighth-semester psychology major, belongs to a group proposing changes to the basement of Homer Babidge Library. They proposed implementing quiet “siesta rooms” where students can lie on comfy furniture and destress.

“We want to make sure students get the most out of their education through healthy habits and we’re looking to target that through sleep,” Beeson said, alluding to a study showing that 24% of students at UConn have issues getting enough sleep — a figure she believes is conservative.

Other ideas include the creation of a Waze-like app where students can warn their peers if the library is too

“We want to make sure students get the most out of their education through healthy habits, and we’re looking to target that through sleep.”

KE’IANA BEESON

crowded or share their favorite study-spots.

“It requires student participation in the beginning, but after a bit of time we can take that student participation and analyze it and create averages,” Justin Tomano, a fourth-semester management information systems major, said. “Like when you Google a restaurant and it tells you what hours it’s busiest — we want to do that with study spaces.”

Overseeing the proceedings, Moore is optimistic his students will be successful in bringing UConn students’ stress levels closer to the national average.

“A lot of decisions come from the top, but from our perspective it’s going to be a lot more impactful if we hear what the students really want from the students themselves.”



Another project is presented at the Innovate Wellness Challenge on Wednesday. Fifteen groups shared their ideas for promoting wellness on campus.

PHOTOGRAPH BY WESLEY NYAMBI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The Daily Campus

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Corrections and Clarifications:

The March 4 Daily Campus article titled “Women’s Finance Association cultivates leadership in the finance industry” incorrectly stated that WFA has 20 prospective members. WFA has more than 70 prospective members.

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Trump gets desired Democratic foes

WASHINGTON (AP) — While Super Tuesday left the Democrats with a pair of front-runners whom President Donald Trump believes he can define and defeat, there are still some private worries in the White House.

There is concern that the Democrats' messy nomination contest may end up producing an emboldened version of the very man who once worried Trump so much as a foe that it led to the president's impeachment.

That would be Joe Biden.

Still, there was plenty for Trump to like in Tuesday's 14-state round of voting that transformed the Democratic race into a delegate shootout between an avowed proponent of democratic socialism (Bernie Sanders) and a longtime Washington insider (Biden). It banished from the race for-

mer New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg, whose endless millions had gotten under the president's skin, and it pushed aside Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who could have proved to be a formidable rhetorical challenger against Trump.

That sets up Trump to run for reelection on familiar territory and allows him to revive some of the same lines of attack that proved successful in 2016.

The public reaction from Trump and his campaign on Wednesday was gleeful as Biden's remarkable campaign comeback reset the Democratic nomination fight into a two-candidate contest with Sanders.

"Truly is a 'heads we win, tails they lose' situation," said Trump campaign communications director Tim Murtaugh.

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Asian shares rise following surge in US on stimulus measures

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares rose Thursday, taking their cue from a surge on Wall Street as governments and central banks took more aggressive measures to fight the virus outbreak and its effects on the economy.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 rose 0.8% in early trading to 21,264.80. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 added 0.9% to 6,381.50. South Korea's Kospi gained 0.6% to 2,071.99. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was up 0.5% at 26,339.33, while the Shanghai Composite was also up 0.5% at 3,025.23. Shares were also higher in southeast Asia.

The gains on Wall Street more than recouped big losses from a day earlier as wild, virus-fueled swings around the world's markets extend into a third week.

Investors are also anticipating other central banks will follow up on the Federal Reserve's surprise move Tuesday to slash interest rates by half a percentage point in hopes of protecting the economy from the economic fallout of the new coronavirus. Canada's central bank cut rates on Wednesday, also by half a percentage point and citing the virus' effect.

Some measures of fear in the market eased. Treasury yields rose but were still near record

lows in a sign that the bond market remains concerned about the economic pain possible from the fast-spreading virus. Companies around the world are already saying the virus is sapping away earnings due to supply chain disruptions and weaker sales, with General Electric becoming the latest to warn its investors.

Even though many investors say they know lower interest rates will not halt the spread of the virus, they want to see central banks and other authorities do what they can to lessen the damage. The S&P 500 sank 2.8% on Tuesday after a brief relief rally triggered by the Fed's rate cut fizzled.

The Bank of England has a meeting on March 26 on interest rates. The European Central Bank and others have already cut rates below zero, meanwhile, which limits their monetary policy firepower. But economists say they could make other moves, such as freeing up banks to lend more.

An indicator of fear in the market, which measures how much traders are paying to protect themselves from future swings for the S&P 500, sank 14.1%.

Markets have been on edge

for two weeks, with the S&P 500 down 7.6% from its record on Feb. 19, amid worries about how much economic damage the coronavirus will do. The big swings in recent days will likely continue until investors get a sense of what the worst-case scenario really is in the virus outbreak. They need to see the number of new infections at least slow its acceleration, analysts say.

Indexes jumped on Monday, and the Dow had its best day in more than a decade on rising anticipation for coordinated support from the Fed and other central banks. That followed a dismal week that erased gains for 2020.

The S&P 500 rose 126.75 points, or 4.2%, to 3,130.12. The benchmark index has had five days in the last two weeks where it swung by more than 3%. In all of last year, it had just one.

The Dow gained 1,173.45 points to 27,090.86. The Nasdaq climbed 334 points, or 3.8%, to 9,018.09. The index, which is heavily weighted with technology companies, now has a slight gain for the year.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks rose 45.11 points, or 3%, to 1,531.20.

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Three commuters, center, wear masks as they walk through the World Trade Center transportation hub, Wednesday, March 4, 2020, in New York. PHOTO BY MARK LENNIHAN/AP

Feds investigate nursing home as U.S. death toll hits 11

SEATTLE (AP) — The U.S. death toll from the coronavirus climbed to 11 on Wednesday with a patient succumbing in California — the first reported fatality outside Washington state — as federal authorities announced an investigation of the Seattle-area nursing home where most of the victims were stricken.

Officials in California's Placer County, near Sacramento, said an elderly person who tested positive after returning from a San Francisco-to-Mexico cruise had died. The victim had underlying health problems, authorities said.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a statewide emergency. Washington and Florida had already declared emergencies.

Washington also announced another death, bringing its total to 10. Most of those who died were residents of Life Care Center, a nursing home in Kirkland, a suburb east of Seattle. At least 39 cases have been reported in the Seattle area, where researchers say the virus may have been circulating undetected for weeks.

Seema Verma, head of the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said the agency is sending inspectors to Life Care along with experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to figure out what happened and determine whether the nursing home followed guidelines for preventing infections.

Last April, the state fined Life Care \$67,000 over infection-control deficiencies following two flu outbreaks that affected 17 patients and staff. An unannounced follow-up inspection in June determined that Life Care had corrected the problems, Verma said.

Meanwhile, public officials in Washington came under pressure to take more aggressive steps against the outbreak, including closing schools and canceling large events. While the state and Seattle have declared emergencies, giving leaders broad powers to suspend activities, they have not issued any orders to do so.

"We have encouraged people who are responsible for large gatherings to give consideration whether it really makes sense to carry those on right now," Gov.

Jay Inslee said. "Right now, we are deferring to the judgment ... of these organizations."

While some individual schools and businesses have shut down, the governor said large-scale school closings have not been ordered because "there are so many ramifications for families and businesses," especially for health care workers who might not be able to go to work because of child care responsibilities.

Local and state health officials have not recommended school closings unless the schools have had a confirmed case of the disease.

Comic Con's organizer, Reed-pop, announced Wednesday that it would make an exception to its no-refunds policy for those who want their money back, but said it remained committed to holding the event unless local, state or federal officials change their guidance.

Lakshmi Unni said that she was keeping her son, an eighth-grader at Redmond Middle School in Seattle's eastern suburbs, home on Wednesday and that she had urged the school board and principal to close.

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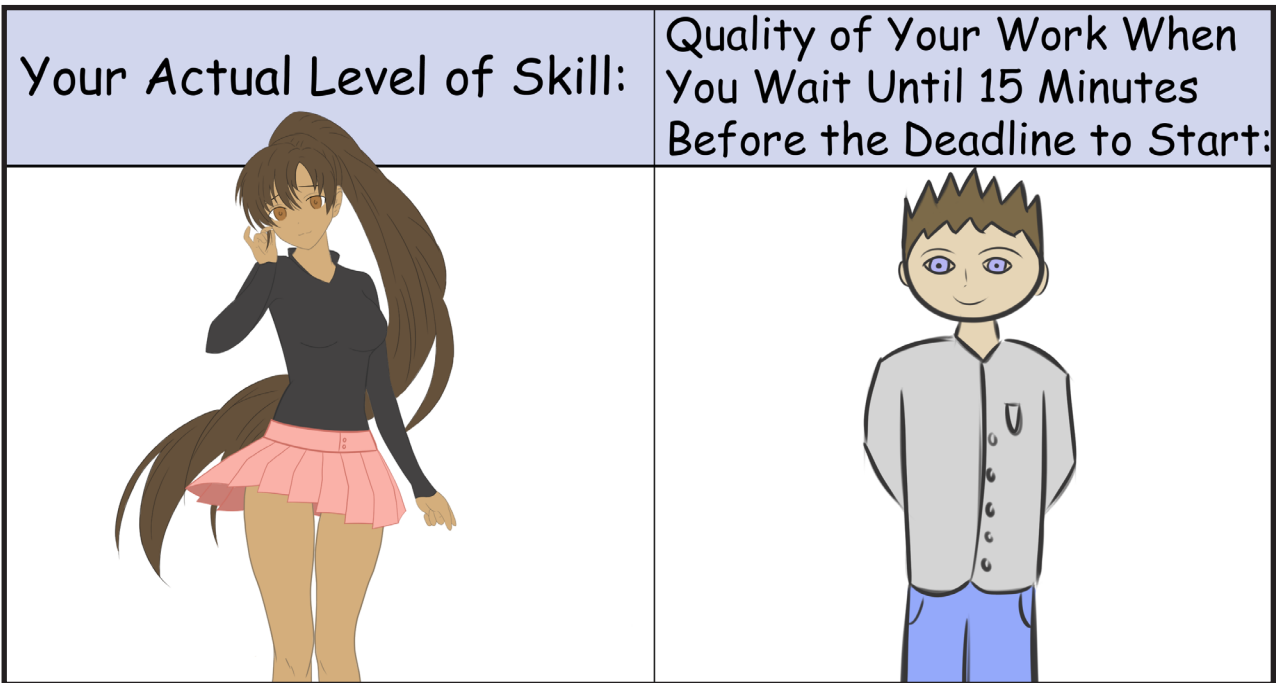
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CARTOON BY ALEC DURANTE, CARTOONIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

► Editorial

Coronavirus is here — stay safe with this advice

Coronavirus will arrive in Connecticut soon enough. Cases have been reported in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York, all of our neighboring states. Just recently, all UConn students studying abroad in Italy were recalled from their trips. As the public’s awareness of the disease continues to rise and panic sets in, it’s important to remember the basics. Here are some tips and tricks for staying safe:

1. Let’s not be racist, folks. Many media outlets have been called out in the past week or two for using images of East Asian — usually Chinese — people wearing masks for their coronavirus stories. In times of crisis, we should be supporting our global brothers and sisters in China, not resorting to crude stereotypes. It shouldn’t have to be said, but don’t be racist! And if you see your friends or peers engaging in this behavior, stand up to them.
2. Wash your hands! The Center for Disease Control advises washing your hands frequently with soap and water for at least twenty seconds.
3. Avoid touching your eyes and mouth.
4. Cover your mouth when you sneeze and cough.
5. If you have the symptoms of coronavirus — primarily fever, cough or shortness of breath — go get tested immediately! We recommend visiting UConn Urgent Care in Storrs Center or UConn Student Health Services.

Stay safe, friends. With community, we will make it through this.

In times of crisis, we should be supporting our global brothers and sisters in China, not resorting to crude stereotypes.



Does protesting work?



A demonstrator has a face painted with 49-3, referring the article 49-3 of the Constitution to force the bill through Parliament without a vote, during a protest against pension law, in Paris, Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

PHOTOGRAPH BY THIBAUT CAMUS/AP PHOTO

by Peter Fenteany
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Climate change. Inequity. Nationalism. These are just a taste of the problems we face in front of us. While some bad actors may insist we can work against these in a civil way, it becomes increasingly apparent that radical action is necessary. But with the stakes and tensions rising, are we any closer to fighting our impending doom using current methods?

More importantly, how do our current methods fare in this fight? Marches have seen much attention in recent years, even in the United States. The women’s marches and climate strikes are two recent examples of this, but large-scale initiatives like Black Lives Matter and the Occupy movement have also made waves in the past decade. Of course, this ignores mass action around the world; we will touch back on that later.

The problem is: Are movements like these sufficient in enacting change?

We live in an age of enforced passivity. It is hard to tell where this began, or where it continues to fester, but it has been visible for a while in the United States. This prevents flash protesting and short-lived movements from

spinning up into actual, systemic change.

The lack of prolonged action in many marches make it harder for real, long-term change to occur. When a demonstration demands a reaction, it is often because it marks a disruption in the regular order. There’s a threat involved. With marches, it is often a case where the powers that be can wait the outburst out. This is not always the case (see Hong Kong, for example, for prolonged protests), but we have definitely seen this problem materialize before.

In addition, modern-day protests are limited at times by their decentralization. Due to social media, many movements have moved away from a central body or leadership organizing them, instead relying on spreading word through the internet. In some ways, this is good! It really puts the focus on signal boosting problems in society. However, it can be harder for a decentralized movement to stay unified in the face of pushback. If a government threatens the protestors, many may leave because they are not tied to it. If a small concession is made, many may leave the movement because they feel their work is done. This prevents the roots of issues from actually getting dealt with.

That’s not to say protesting is for nothing. Protests are good for mobilizing a large amount of people, showing to others a genuine public interest for action. They are good at raising awareness on underrepresented issues and the plight of the many. They can be a key first step to changing the tides of public opinion and, later, policy. But all forms of mass action have their strengths and limits. So, why have marches in particular been able to germinate so well in our society?

I dislike the term “slacktivism,” but the low commitment of marches contribute to this. More importantly, though, our society has been built up in a way to punish any action more radical than this. Think about how scary the threat of arrest is in America. Imprisonment or even fines can really hurt the average person, and anything on the permanent record can mess you up for years in the future. Also, the police are armed here, and any altercation with them may turn violent or even deadly. That’s not to get into the punishments you may face in your job, especially severe when we have so few safety nets in this country for the unemployed. In America, we are pacified under threat by the state, punished further by the corporate structure.

In addition, companies and government officials have co-opted many protesting efforts to remove the blame from them. Look at Justin Trudeau walking with the Montreal climate strike last year. Perhaps his motives are pure, but he is part of the problem. Yes, it’s good for private and public leaders to make a stand, signaling to others of their stance on the issue. But it may also be lip service, a way to fool people into thinking their message is being heard when it’s really falling on deaf ears.

See **PROTEST**, p. 8

DISABILITY DAY OF MOURNING

by Ashton Stansel
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On March 1, thousands of people around the world took a moment to grieve. They took a moment out of their busy lives to mourn for people that most of them have never met. But they’re not victims of a disease, or an illness, not people affected by some specific tragedy or crime. March 1 is the date of the yearly Disability Day of Mourning, the day where we mourn for disabled people killed by their siblings, children, partners, parents or other caregivers.

Shockingly, this is not an uncommon occurrence. According to the Disability Day of Mourning website, over 100 disabled people were murdered by caregivers or similar people in 2019. It’s also important to note, as the website does, that they search in English, so there are likely many more cases that simply didn’t get English news coverage. Many of those murdered in 2018 were elderly, people with dementia or mobility issues whose caregivers simply stopped caring. Others were children, especially autistic children, who committed the crime of not being “normal.”

There was Elvis Dry, a disabled veteran who used a wheelchair. He was murdered by his live-in caregiver, burned to death and left in the backyard. There was Mia Edmundson, who had a cardiac defect and no spleen. Her mother didn’t fill the prescriptions she needed or take the girl to the doctor, and she died of pneumonia. There was Vivek Kakadiya, who The Times of India reported had a learning disability. His murderer, his sister-in-law, reportedly confessed to killing him because “she had felt Vivek to be a burden which she would have to carry for the rest of her life.”

It’s that last case in particular that

outlines the reason that many disabled people are murdered. Looking past the cases of neglect or abuse for a moment and simply at the cases that were intentional, many of them were either supposedly due to some belief that the person was suffering and would be better off dead, or because the person was a burden. This isn’t entirely surprising; society perpetuates the belief that disabled people’s lives are worth less because of their disabilities. Society looks at these cases and finds excuses.

See **DISABILITY**, p. 8

Daily

Life

@dailycampuslife

STUDENTS REVIVE MOVEMENT TO ESTABLISH A MIDDLE EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN CULTURAL CENTER

by Brandon Barzola
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Since its inception, students of the Middle Eastern Student Association (MESA) have been working towards establishing a Middle Eastern and South Asian Cultural Center (MESACC) on campus. Recently, this movement has been revitalized as students have spread a petition to gather support for the implementation of this cultural center.

“We want to get our message out in the best way possible and to as many people as possible,” Noor Taweh, a sixth-semester physiology and neurobiology and human rights major, said. “The beginning stages of any movement boil down to making noise and attracting attention, and that’s exactly what we’re doing.”

As of March 3, there are over 280 signatures on the petition, consisting of undergraduate and graduate students, professional staff and faculty, Taweh said.

MESA is planning a series of events to raise awareness about the petition for the movement, Taweh said. In shaping the movement, Taweh hopes to be as inclusive as possible for anyone who wants to be involved, to reach out to other student organizations and to collaborate with other organi-

zations and cultural centers. However, the students’ movement has been met with its own challenges. One of the biggest issues at the moment is that the fourth floor of the Student Union is full, so students need to find a large-enough space for students that identify with MESACC.

“Based on the experiences of e-board members with [the] UConn administration, the argument made against having [MESACC] is lack of space, budgeting and that we need a private donor,” Nasrin Jabarkhyl, a sixth-semester biological sciences major, said. “Yet, no other cultural center has had these issues. Other cultural centers have continued to support our mission and so far on the students’ end, there have been almost 300 [signatures] in support of MESACC.”

There was a similar movement in 2017 that faced many of the same challenges. The original movement was started by Kassra Farahbakhshian, a class of 2018 graduate. This plan aimed to bring together students from Middle Eastern and North African backgrounds, raise awareness about their culture and engage with the outside community, according to Susan Naseri, an eighth-semester political science and human rights double major.

“In my freshman year, I saw a comment on UConn Buy or Sell by [Farahbakhshian] regarding an organization he was looking to form,” Naseri said. “I messaged him, and we met soon after that. Along with some students who have since graduated, we formed an organization that is now called MESA.”

MESA has since been involved on campus by hosting a fashion show, art bazaar, paint nights and weekly general body meetings. Over the past two years, students from MESA have met with the directors of the cultural centers, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Student Union staff members and other student organizations to raise awareness about their organization and to garner support for the implementation of MESACC.

“We have unique and shared experiences and cultures that should be recognized and celebrated, especially when we contribute to the research, arts and students organizations of UConn,” Naseri said.

Both Taweh and Naseri cited every college student’s struggle with identity and how this especially applies to students of Middle Eastern and South Asian descent. Students from these ethnic groups have suffered from microaggressions and stereotyping for a long time. Apart from this, these students have experienced isolation as a result of not fitting into any of the pre-existing cultural centers. Taweh said that now more than ever, she’s heard students from Middle Eastern and South Asian backgrounds talk about how they wish they had their own cultural space on campus.



sions and stereotyping for a long time. Apart from this, these students have experienced isolation as a result of not fitting into any of the pre-existing cultural centers. Taweh said that now more than ever, she’s heard students from Middle Eastern and South Asian backgrounds talk about how they wish they had their own cultural space on campus.

“Where do you go when you don’t fit into a box? While not all students can empathize with that experience, they can empathize with some iteration of it,” Taweh said. “We’re all just trying to balance our conflicting identities and having people to do it within an adequate space is a natural desire.”

Regardless of their cultural background, any UConn student or staff can support this movement by finding the link to the petition in MESA’s Instagram bio, @uconnmesa.

“We deserve to have our culture shown in a positive light, and we deserve to take control of that narrative, filling and designing this space by the community and for the community,” Naseri said. “Muslims need to be celebrated, Middle Eastern people need to be celebrated and South Asian people need to be celebrated. I want the university to show that they are proud to have students from these communities here and that they stand by those students.”

GATEKEEPING IN GLOBAL HEALTH

3RD ANNUAL GLOBAL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

by Hollianne Lao
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Health care and access to it are universal concerns that UConn’s Global Health Spaces on Campus (GloHSOC) group seeks to address. As their group has grown since its establishment in 2018, they have been able to successfully organize two annual global health conferences, as well as a global health “Hackathon” last fall, all focused on different areas of interest within the field. This weekend will feature the organization’s third annual global health symposium, “VIP Access: Gatekeeping in Global Health.”

“This year’s symposium ... seeks to explore how political, environmental and socioeconomic disparities impact access to quality and affordable health-care, both within the United States and across the globe,” Amisha Paul, a physiology and neurobiology and economics major, said in an email correspondence. She serves as Executive Director of GloHSOC.

“I believe we will provide an opportunity for students to challenge themselves and gain a

greater understanding of global health issues and the impact of one’s individual actions,” Paul said.

The reception on Friday includes a keynote address by Rachel Bridges, the Global Health Communications Manager at the United Nations Foundation and former Public Affairs Advisor for the

U.S. Agency for International Development. On Saturday, the symposium will consist of “exciting breakout sessions, an interactive simulation, a thought-provoking panel on access to healthcare in resource-limited settings” and research

poster presentations, according to Paul and the agenda on the group’s website. Professor Cesar Abadia-Barrero from UConn’s

Human Rights Institute and anthropology department will be providing the symposium’s second keynote address.

“This symposium is open to all students,” Paul said, also mentioning that UConn faculty are also welcome. “Global Health is a field that affects all of our lives, regardless of what future personal or pro-

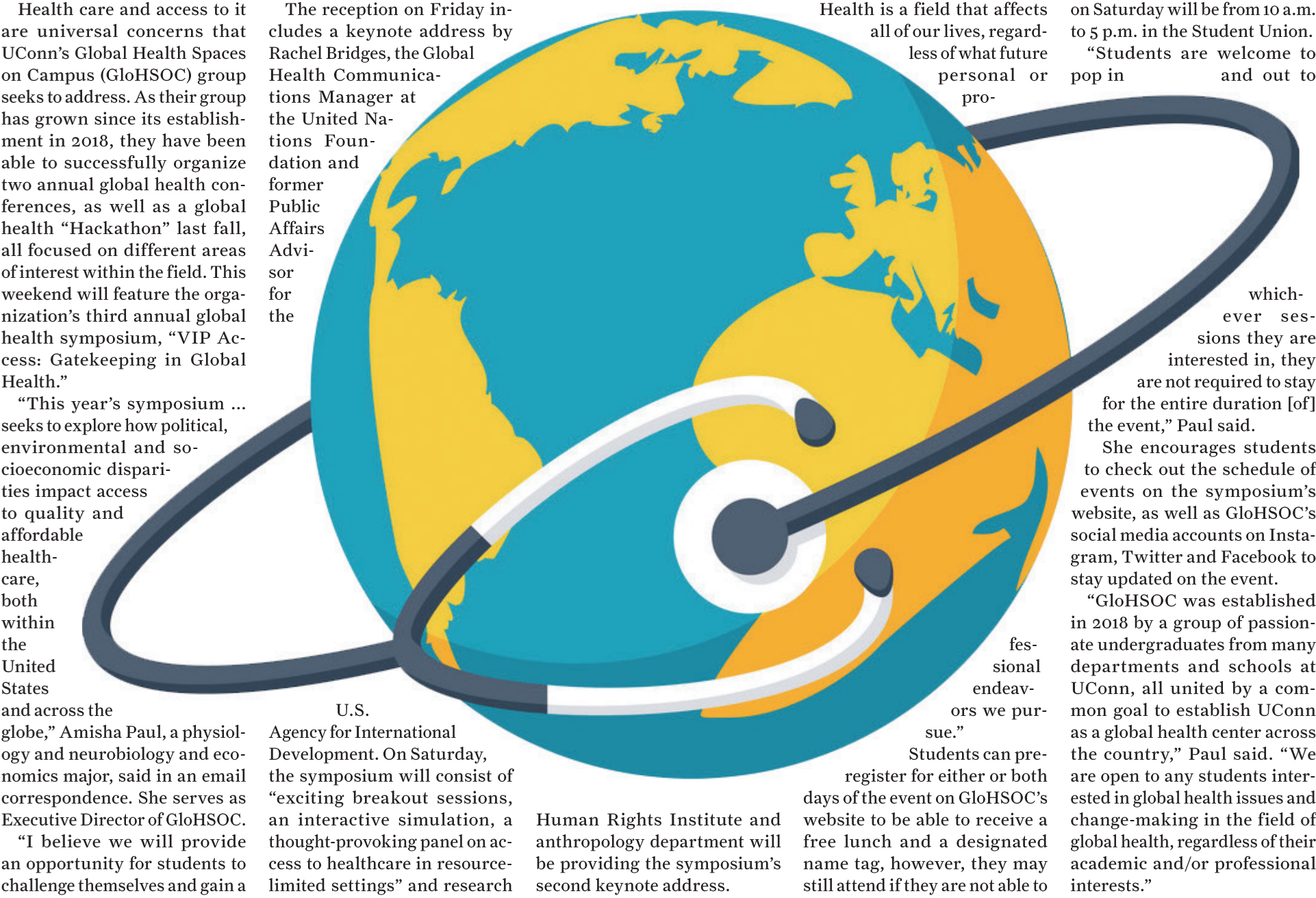
essional endeavors we pursue.” Students can pre-register for either or both days of the event on GloHSOC’s website to be able to receive a free lunch and a designated name tag, however, they may still attend if they are not able to

pre-register. The reception this Friday, March 6, is from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Dodd Center, while the full-day symposium on Saturday will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Student Union.

“Students are welcome to pop in and out to

whichever sessions they are interested in, they are not required to stay for the entire duration [of] the event,” Paul said. She encourages students to check out the schedule of events on the symposium’s website, as well as GloHSOC’s social media accounts on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook to stay updated on the event.

“GloHSOC was established in 2018 by a group of passionate undergraduates from many departments and schools at UConn, all united by a common goal to establish UConn as a global health center across the country,” Paul said. “We are open to any students interested in global health issues and change-making in the field of global health, regardless of their academic and/or professional interests.”



UZI S2N

‘ETERNAL ATAKE’ FINALLY ARRIVES NEXT WEEK

by Daniel Cohn
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It’s finally time. On Jan. 11, 2019, Philly rap superstar Lil Uzi Vert abruptly dropped out of the entire music scene with a post on Instagram stating that he had “deleted everything” and was “done with music.” This shocking announcement came barely a month after his second album, “Eternal Atake” was reported to be finished. Some saw the post as legitimate and the sudden departure of one of modern music’s biggest faces. Others looked at it as an in-the-moment rash of spontaneity. Conspiracy theorists looked at it as a way to drum up hype for the project — a publicity stunt. Months later, Uzi reappeared with two singles, ending the uncertainty around the album. “That’s a Rack” was a traditional (by his standards) club hit custom-made to hit repeat at Ted’s, but the more melodic “Sanguine Paradise” caught attention in the music scene, eventually hitting platinum status by the RIAA. The chorus of “Sanguine” shows Uzi at his prime, riding the piano-laced production with buttery vocals that consistently separate him from his competitors in the relatively new “melodic trap” field.

After another break from putting out singles, causing some fans to raise uncertainty about the project once more, Uzi dropped “Futsal Shuffle 2020” in December. With a TikTok-able dance (sorry), a synth lead straight out of Geometry Wars and samples from Tyler, The Creator and Nardwuar, the single shot up

to No. 5 on the Billboard Hot 100 — and for great reason. I fondly remembering confusingly interlacing the song with my Christmas playlist, permanently and irreversibly associating the explicitly not-wintery song with the season.

This past Friday, Uzi tweeted out that the album would drop in two weeks, signaling the long-awaited release of “Atake” next week on March 13th. Doubts about this date were quelled on Sunday, when Uzi dropped his fourth single of the cycle, “That Way.” Featuring a perfect Backstreet Boys sample, his latest single is one of the best hip-hop tracks of the year. Like many Uzi songs, it can be hard to pin down why. To start, any modern rapper confident enough to incorporate a turn-of-the-century boy band into a major single gets respect from me. On top of that, Uzi’s verses ride the slightly restrained yet on point beat like he didn’t take three years between albums. Uzi has floated that there might be one more single before the big release next week, but I’m not even sure he needs it.

“Second album syndrome” is incredibly real in the music industry. You have an eternity to put together your first album but often no time at all to compose its sequel. Increased pressure can get to an artist, as evidenced by Uzi’s frantic quitting over a year ago. That said, by all indications “Eternal Atake” will fulfill the long drought of even the most fervent Uzi stans. In nine days, hopefully the wait will end — look for my review shortly thereafter!



PHOTO COURTESY
OF RAP-UP

UConn PROJECT FASHION SHOWCASED LOCAL DESIGNERS AT THIRD-EVER POP-UP SHOP



by Caroline LeCour
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Fashion devotees exchanged their love for style as well as design at the University of Connecticut’s Project Fashion Club Wednesday night, featuring a handful of fashion designers, collectors and impassioned wearers.

Vendors included both UConn students and alumni as well as individual business owners, and the club used the space to show the value of being involved in the distribution of vintage clothing, custom pieces and accessories to students and faculty.

Will Garay, a second-semester marketing major, shared his love of fashion and creation at the pop-up with his fashion brand Toad. Garay air-brushes, screen-prints and paints all of his pieces by hand and believes that authenticity is important when it comes to the artistic side of fashion.

“Every single thing here is touched by my hands. Nothing is ordered online. Money is cool, but it’s the art and culture that I really like,” Garay said.

Ryan Sutherland also showcased his fashion brand SKRS Worldwide, which is geared towards racing themes and luxury-car aesthetics — an oxymoron of his company’s mantra, “Speed kills, ride slow.”

“Life is a journey, and that’s pretty much what I put into every design. With the journey, it has ups and downs. There’s always bumps in your road,” Sutherland said. “Either you rush through your journey — you may miss some experiences and get to your destination quicker — but you may not be exactly where you want to be.”

John Bertenshaw, president of Project Fashion, said that although this event aims to fund their organization, the bigger picture is to support local businesses and artists from Connecticut.

“This event acts as a fundraiser for our organization which allows us to host events just like this one. It also serves to promote and assist smaller businesses and organizations just beginning to sell product,” Bertenshaw said. “Hearing from individuals that they were happily surprised by what our vendors had to offer is always a benefit of bringing in various companies and products.”

Bertenshaw said UConn Project Fashion Club’s purpose is to help create a space for students to express themselves and enjoy their love of fashion, which was exactly the tone of the night.

“Fashion is self-expression. It’s your ideas. It’s the first thing people notice about you,” Garay said. “People judge you a lot for what you wear, so why not wear the flyest shit you can?”

Students can view Garay and Sutherland’s work on Instagram @toad.bpt and @skrsworldwide_.

UConn Project Fashion Club meets every other week in ITE room 127 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Individuals are welcomed to attend, and can reach out through social media @uconnpf on Instagram or by email at uconnfashion@gmail.com.



UConn’s Project Fashion club puts on a pop up shop in the Student Union Ballroom on Wednesday, March 4. The shop included vendors selling vintage, re-done, and custom made clothes and accesories.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MAGGIE CHAFOULEAS, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



MARCH MADNESS BEER BRACKET

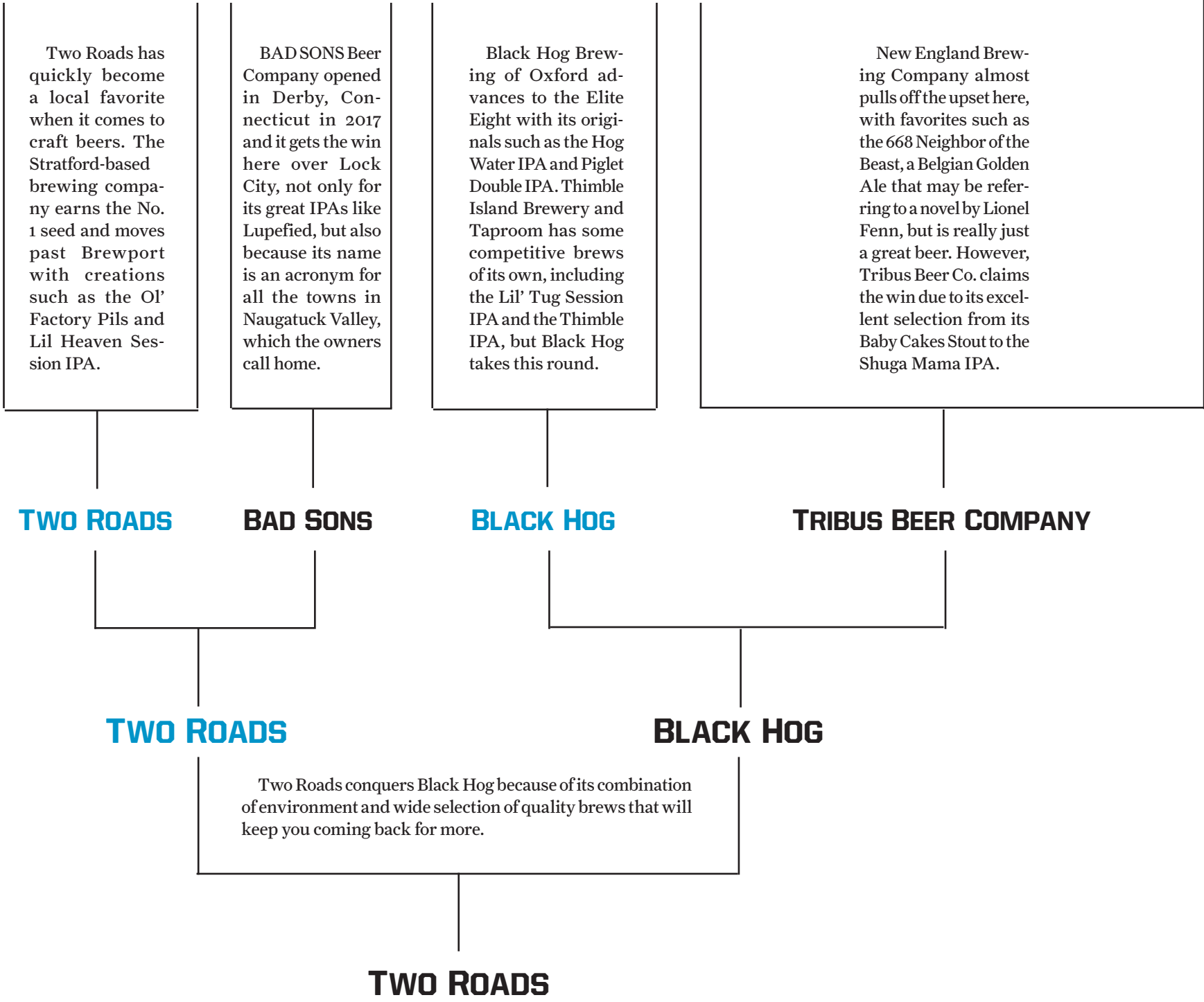
CONNECTICUT CRAFT BREWERIES

by Daily Campus Life Section

As someone who actively tries to avoid watching or participating in any sort of sports-related activity, March Madness has always been fairly meaningless to me. But recently, after seeing a few brackets for movies and music, I realized sports fans aren't the only ones who can get in on the action this month. So I figured I would compile the ultimate Connecticut craft brewery bracket. Featured are 16 local brewing companies that will be going head to head. It might be too early for the NCAA Final Four, but it's never too early for beer.

SOUTHERN CT REGIONAL BRACKET

TWO ROADS BREWPORT BAD SONS LOCK CITY BLACK HOG THIMBLE ISLAND TRIBUS BEER COMPANY NEW ENGLAND BREWING COMPANY



Another tough decision, but ultimately, Alvarium of New Britain wins this edition of CT Brewing Company March Madness because of its solid environment, competitive price points, great beers and central location.

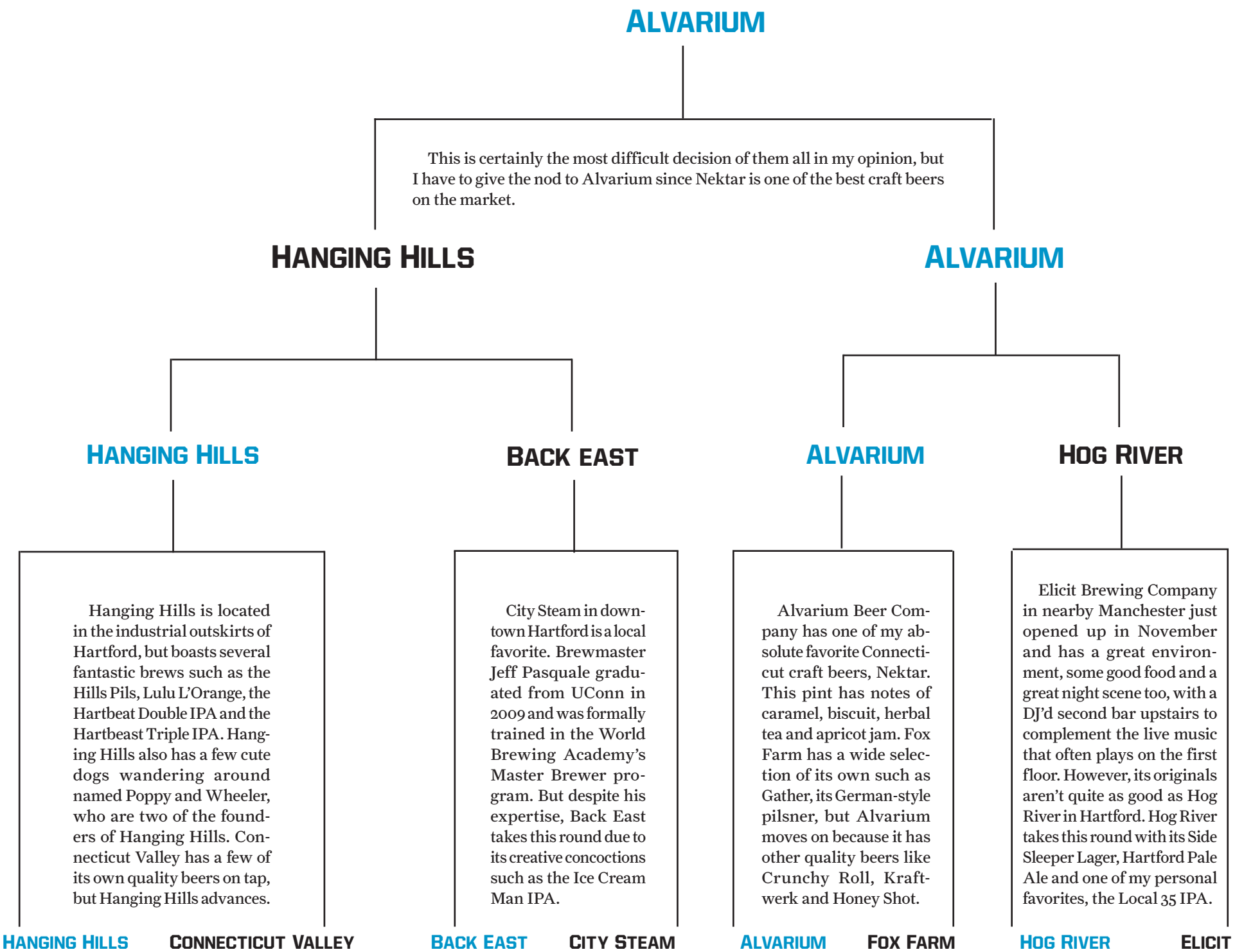


Photo of the Day | The ground is effective study habits for midterms



Students embraced the warm weather to slack line between two trees on the union lawn. PHOTO BY ERIN KNAPP, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PROTEST

Honoring those with disabilities

PROTEST, cont. from p. 4

I will be the first to admit I am not committed to radical action. I have a career plan for myself, and I always feel like I'm on a tight timeline for it. Any delays due to radical action are very hard to justify. They shouldn't stop me, but they do. Look at UC Santa Cruz, where over 50 graduate students were fired for striking for higher pay. Those students are heroes for speaking out, but I'm sure they are very stressed now that they've been, well, fired. Mass action more radical than superficial marching is swiftly punished, and that's scary.

What is the way out of this? I am not sure. Around the world, though, people are increasingly having different

and more radical attitudes than the prevailing thought of America. In Chile, protestors are braving violence and arrests to call out their laissez-faire government. In France, the yellow vest protests against rising cost of living have been pointed and sometimes violent. Civil disobedience in Lebanon has managed to force the prime minister to resign and are still ongoing. Even without making any value judgment on these protests, it can't be denied that the prolonged action in these examples is more radical and effective than some of the efforts we have seen in America.

If the system structurally does not work, it must be reset a good amount to achieve lasting change. At least in America, though, we have yet to learn this lesson.

If the system structurally does not work, it must be reset a good amount to achieve lasting change. At least in America, though, we have yet to learn this lesson.

DISABILITY, cont. from p. 4

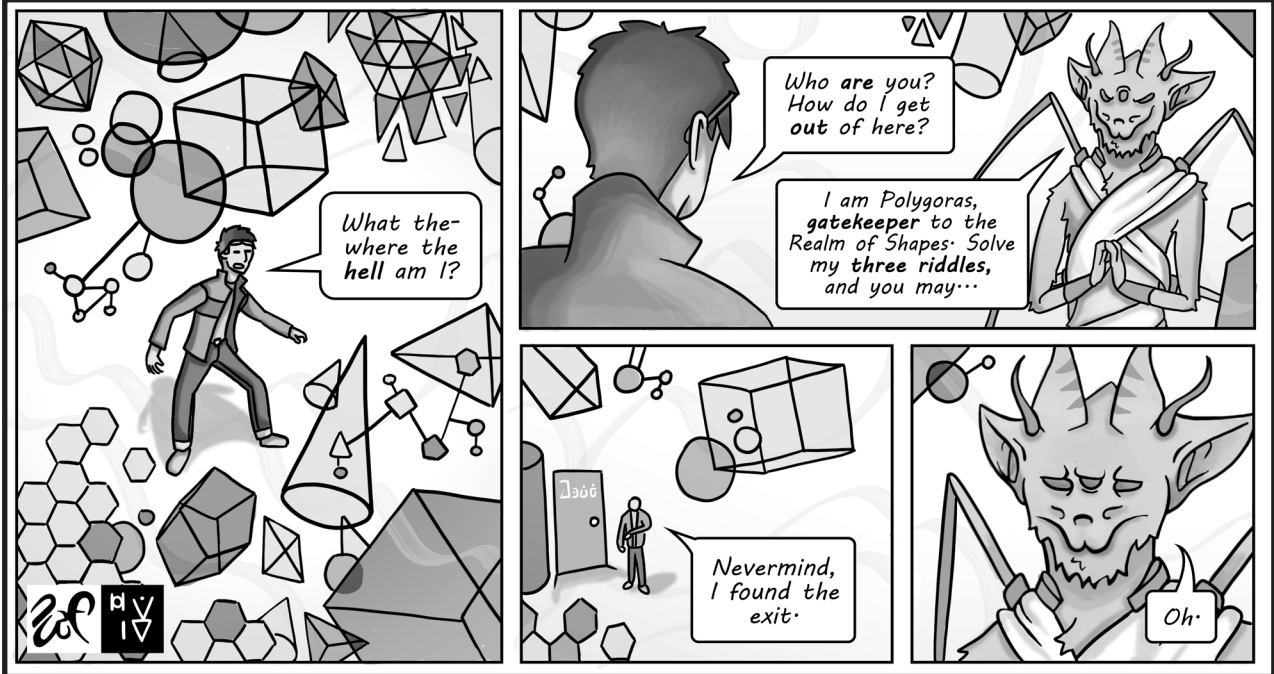
This was never more clear than in a case that happened towards the end of last year. Alma Shaver, a woman who had dementia, was murdered by her husband Richard in what many in the media described as a mercy killing. The New York Times wrote an article effectively romanticizing the murder, talking about how they had been soulmates. They decided that it didn't matter that her husband had murdered her. She was disabled and he was in pain because she was so that made it understandable. That made it somehow more okay than if you or I walked down the street and shot a random person.

Often, the media focuses on the caregivers in these cases. They look at the husbands and the wives and the parents and say oh, but see, it was

so hard to take care of their relative/partner/friend. Look how much of a burden they were on their families, on society, on their friends. They deserved to die for that, see? Society and people say yes. In 2014, Dr. Phil had a guest on his show named Kelli Stapleton. Stapleton attempted to murder her autistic 14-year-old daughter. Dr. Phil recommended "In Kelli's case...I don't think that serving time behind bars is the best solution." For attempting to murder a 14-year-old child, jail was going to be too harsh?

In 2019, 113 people were murdered by their caregivers. At least that many, because there are without question more whose deaths did not get enough media coverage to be noticed. Innocent people, many of whose lives were cut short at least in part because people who were supposed to care about them decided that their lives would be easier if they were dead.

INNOCENT PEOPLE, MANY OF WHOSE LIVES WERE CUT SHORT AT LEAST IN PART BECAUSE PEOPLE WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO CARE ABOUT THEM DECIDED THAT THEIR LIVES WOULD BE EASIER IF THEY WERE DEAD.



CARTOON BY CONNOR RICKERMANN, STAFF CARTOONIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

DYK?

CHEETAHS CAN'T ROAR, BUT THEY CAN MEOW LIKE HOUSE CATS.

FACT VIA /R/ASKREDDIT

Mike'd Up: MLB needs to televise every game

by Mike Mavredakis
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MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred has made it his mission to grow the game and appeal to younger fans. He has introduced new rules to make the pace of play quicker, namely the three-batter minimum for relief pitchers and reduced mound visits.

My question is, why has he spent so much time trying to speed up the game if fans aren't even able to watch their team play all of their games? Fans cannot engage with a sport if they cannot see it.

Nearly every time I go to turn on a spring training baseball game during the week, I land on MLB.com telling me it's only available on the radio unless I pay for an MLB.tv subscription.

Spring twwtraining is the most exciting time for some baseball fans. It's the only time when their otherwise mediocre teams have a chance to win baseball games. Spring baseball is when many fans get their first glimpse at the future, as lineups are rife with prospects getting their first hacks at big league pitching.

Most importantly, spring training is where teams begin to come together. A baseball season is jam-packed with storylines — that's what makes it entertaining. There are young players coming up to put the world on notice — like the Toronto Blue Jays core of young studs on the way — players returning from injury, stars being stars or even failing to live up to their pedigree. There are old veterans, like Hunter Pence, who have a resurgence in their careers, seemingly reviving themselves from baseball death.

Spring training is when all of these things start to unfold. There's a reason players always come to spring in the "best shape" of their lives.



Atlanta Braves' Ronald Acuna Jr., right, and Johan Camargo, left, dance in the dugout as they warm up for a spring training baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays, Tuesday, March 3, 2020, in Venice, Fla. PHOTO BY ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

The spring signifies hope, and not just for the fans.

Not only is spring training really intriguing for the story, it's also a unique time in sports when not much else is going on. The NFL season has already ended and the NBA has hit its lull period before the playoffs. There's no real competition for viewership, so there's no reason why

MLB shouldn't be throwing all of their eggs into the spring training basket.

It is asinine that these games aren't televised. Fans need to see the progress in order to be invested. I understand that there are such things as television broadcast rights and it's not that simple. MLB can and should mandate in all future contracts, however, that

spring training is televised in the future.

If Manfred and co. really cared about inspiring and creating new fans from the younger generation, they would give them every opportunity to stumble upon this great game. I hate to break it to you, Manfred, but no young fan is going to turn on the radio and listen to a game. Not until they are already hooked on the product at least.

Kids are used to seeing content. If you could go out there and find me a kid under 10 years old that listens to podcasts, power to you, but it may take a little while. Rule changes to the game aren't going to attract new fans, you have to give them access to it.

Speaking of, even if a fan has an MLB.tv subscription, there is no guarantee that they'll be able to use it for the games they want. I could not watch a Boston Red Sox game through MLB.tv anyways, because of the blackouts.

Should NESN decide to show something else during the spring, which they routinely do, I'm out of luck. Even during the regular season, a game could be overshadowed by the Boston Bruins.

People cannot become fans of something they can't see. It's time for MLB to stop messing around with minute rule changes and fix the real problems that are causing more and more fans to drop it for other sports.

Nearly every time I bring up baseball to someone who isn't a die-hard fan, I get the "baseball is boring" argument. Maybe it wouldn't be so boring if fans had access to the whole picture. I might finally have the chance to stop wasting my time answering for the sport I love.

It's time for MLB to show people why the game of baseball should command their attention, so their fans don't have to keep doing it for them.

Televisе the damn games and lift the blackouts, it's what's best for baseball.

UConn in the Pros

by Sebastian Garay-Ortega
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Kemba Walker returned to action for the Boston Celtics Monday night as he continues to recover from his left knee injury. In his 23 minutes of action, Walker put up 21 points alongside three assists and three rebounds. Despite his contributions and the Celtics' large lead throughout most of the third quarter, the Brooklyn Nets were able to mount a comeback and defeat the Celtics 129-120 in overtime. Walker will rest on Wednesday as he continues his limited role until his rehab is complete.

"It's going to be tough playing limited minutes," he said via the Celtics Twitter account, "But it's all about the long haul and being healthy when it counts."

Although the Cleveland Cavaliers are set to face the Celtics Monday night, former Husky Andre Drummond will most likely not be suited up as he continues to battle injuries since his move from the Detroit Pistons at the deadline. The last time Drummond was in action was Feb. 29, putting up a double-double with 27 points and 13 boards in a 113-104 loss to the Pacers. As of now, there is no timetable for his return.

Rudy Gay played a big part in the San Antonio Spurs victory over the Charlotte Hornets on Tuesday night. In his 26 minutes of play off the bench, he put up 10 points along with seven rebounds and two assists. Gay and the Spurs will return to action on Friday against the Brooklyn Nets.

Transitioning over to baseball, George Springer and the Houston Astros continued their spring training campaign in a 2-1 defeat to the Miami Marlins on Wednesday. UConn alum George Springer went 1-3 at the plate with an RBI hit. Nick Ahmed and the Arizona Diamondbacks fell to the Cleveland Indians 6-2 in the top of the sixth, with Ahmed going 0-6 at the plate. Anthony Kay took the mound for the Toronto Blue Jays on Wednesday, giving up four in 0.1 innings pitched. Colorado Rockies struck out two and gave up two hits in 0.2 innings pitched versus the Texas Rangers on Wednesday.

Cornerback Jamar Sumners is proving to be a key player for the New York Guardians of the XFL, with a noteworthy fumble return for a touchdown in the league's first week of action against the Tampa Bay Vipers. The Guardians are currently coming off of a 17-14 win over the Los Angeles Wildcats on Feb. 29, and are set to face the Dallas Renegades on Saturday.

Major League Soccer opened up with former UConn goalkeeper Andre Blake in net for the Philadelphia Union. Blake had three saves throughout the match but couldn't keep out the two that would decide the match, with Zdenek Ondrasek and Paxton Pomykal pushing F.C. Dallas to a 2-0 victory.

"It's going to be tough playing limited minutes. But it's all about the long haul and being healthy when it counts."

CELTICS POINT GUARD
KEMBA WALKER

Toppin scores 20, leads No. 3 Dayton to 84-57 win over Rhody

KINGSTON, R.I. (AP) — Obi Toppin scored 20 points and Trey Landers had 14 points and 14 rebounds for No. 3 Dayton on Wednesday night to lead the Flyers to their 19th straight win, 84-57 over Rhode Island.

Dayton (28-2, 17-0 Atlantic 10) matched its 1951-52 team for the school record in wins, and with a victory over George Washington on Saturday it would finish unbeaten in conference play for the first time in program history.

Jeff Dowtin scored 16 points for Rhode Island (20-9, 12-5), which has lost four of six after running off a 10-game winning streak.

Toppin had four dunks, including a windmill slam that made it a 19-point lead with 10 minutes remaining. When the teams met at Dayton on Feb. 11, Toppin had a similar dunk over his brother, Jacob, a Rhode Island freshman.

But the younger sibling got a small bit of payback, blocking one of his brother's dunk attempts (though drawing a foul in the process). Jacob Toppin finished with five points and seven rebounds for the Rams.

BIG PICTURE

Dayton: The Flyers avoided the upsets that have hit many of the top-five teams this season and remain on track for a potential No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

URI: Fell to 0-2 vs. ranked teams this year.

UP NEXT

Dayton: Finishes the regular season at home against George Washington on Saturday.

URI: Plays at Massachusetts on Saturday in the regular-season finale.



Dayton's Trey Landers (3) scores basket past the defense of Rhode Island's Jeff Dowtin (11) during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game Wednesday, March 4, 2020, in Kingston, R.I. PHOTO BY STEW MILNE/AP

Photo of the Day | A senior send off



In the first game of a home-and-home series, the Huskies came from behind to beat UMass in the final minute and a half last Friday on Senior Night PHOTO BY MIKE MAVREDA-KIS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Gilson’s Sports Guide: UConn athletics is entering a new era

by **Conner Gilson**
STAFF WRITER
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For the past 20 years, UConn athletics has been defined by the success of our men’s and women’s basketball programs. The school was so dominant for so long that we have been aptly named the “Basketball Capital of the World,” and a world without at least the women’s team reaching the Final Four has not existed since 2007. But for what seems like the first time in those two decades of dominance, the Huskies’ talents expand beyond the basketball court.

Last semester my colleague Andrew wrote his column about why everyone at UConn should attempt to get to at least one field hockey game, but I’m here to implore you to get to as many sporting events as you possibly can. Along with our ever-impressive basketball teams, the Huskies boast one of the top field hockey programs in the country, two incredibly competitive and entertaining hockey teams and a baseball and softball program that are poised to build off impressive 2019s and turn some heads. These are just a few of the up-and-coming teams that complement our basketball programs, but if simply naming them isn’t enough, here are some reasons why you need to see what else is going on in UConn athletics.

Men’s and Women’s Basketball:

I decided to combine these two because they are the sport everyone knows about and even your grandma talks about. They are what makes UConn UConn, and while they have each found themselves in a bit of a respective rut compared to their normal dominance (especially the women), a new era starts next year for them both.

The men are losing Christian Vital and potentially Alterique Gilbert, the hearts and souls of this team for the past few years, but they should feel comfortable knowing they have guys more than capable of filling their shoes. Along with rising stars James Bouknight, Jalen Gaffney and Akok Akok, the Huskies have four-star recruit Andre Jackson and three-star recruit Javonte Brown-Ferguson coming in to add more depth to an already talented young core. The end of the tunnel is near for the men, as their recent hot streak this year has shown them to be one of the most exciting teams in all of college basketball. They are just a couple pieces away. Make sure you find time to make it out to the games so you can say you were there before they got big again.

The women’s slump doesn’t look like what a normal team would define as such. In fact, 12 straight Final Fours and an undefeated conference record would be incredible for some, but that is not the UConn way. Next year the team will be

without Crystal Dangerfield, Kyla Irwin, Molly Bent, Batouly Camara and Evelyn Adebayo, but with Paige Bueckers, the nation’s No. 1 recruit coming in along with transfer Evina Westbrook and another year of experience for the rest of the Huskies squad don’t expect it to take too long before they cross that final hurdle and get back to the team that we saw in the beginning of the century.

Both of these teams are poised for success, but that’s what everyone expects, so let’s check in elsewhere.

Field Hockey:

Two words: National. Championships. UConn’s field hockey team has won three national titles in the past seven years, and in two of the four years they did not make



The women’s hockey team is improving each season and has an exciting weekend with the conference semifinals. PHOTO BY KEVIN LINDSTROM, STAFF WRITER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

the championship, they were competing in the third-place consolation game. The Huskies’ five titles rank them No. 4 amongst all schools, but their success is more recent and dominant than all but North Carolina. Additionally, UConn has finished atop the Big East Conference in seven of the past eight years while winning the conference tourney in all eight seasons. With a dominant program like this comes equally dominant players to watch, which is exactly the case for the Huskies.

All-American Sophie Hamilton and Big East Conference goalie of the year Cheyenne Sprecher are returning among other big names. Hamilton finished second on the

team in points during her first season and will only improve with the offense revolving around her. Meanwhile on the defensive end, Sprecher led all of college field hockey in save percentage and will likely continue to build off of that heading into her junior year. Success should continue for UConn through these two as well as the whole team, but it comes especially easy when led by the winningest field hockey coach of all time Nancy Stevens.

Home games are played at the Sherman Family Complex. Go see the success for yourself.

Men’s Hockey:

If you asked me even just a year ago if I would give two hoots about what was going on with the men’s hockey team, the answer

programs like women’s basketball and field hockey pride themselves on consistency, but what makes the hockey team so exciting is their unpredictability.

They got off to a rough start this season, sitting at 2-5-1, but they have now won eight of their last 10, including big wins against No. 9 UMass and No. 15 Maine. This will also be the Huskies’ first season with a record of at least .500 since joining Hockey East. This team has proven they can compete with the best, is doing some particularly amazing things as of late and deserves a fanbase that shows that.

Women’s Hockey:

A team that has proven they can handle the spotlight is women’s hockey. The Huskies totaled their

improved arena for the team to compete in to replace their current situation of Mark Freitas.

Baseball:

Coming off back-to-back exits in the Regional Final of the NCAA tournament, UConn’s baseball team entered the 2020 season hungry. After being relatively slept-on for the past several seasons, the Huskies burst onto the scene by winning three out of four games against No. 1 Michigan. That’s right. Three out of four. Against No. 1 Michigan. If that isn’t enough to get you excited as a sports fan, I don’t know what is. When hot, they are one of the best teams in the sport, and with a pretty young core leading the way, they will only get better in the coming seasons.

Also, have you seen Elliot Ballpark? UConn’s brand-new baseball field might be the most beautiful thing I have ever seen and is a major upgrade from the field they were using previously. It is just one feature of the new Rizzo Family Complex that should make the entire experience of the game even better and really bring in the fans to give this team the support they deserve.

Softball:

Last but absolutely not least on this list is the softball team. They don’t have a jaw-dropping field to play on nor do they have any star player that will blow you out of the water, but they are just flat out good. The Huskies are off to an 11-4 start including a six-game win streak in which they outscored opponents 42-9. Their 11 wins thus far are already halfway to their most wins since 2013, and with 37 games left, they are almost sure to reach that benchmark. This is in large part due to their offense looking unstoppable at times, but what really carries the team has been their defense and pitching.

UConn’s fielding percentage and team ERA rank in the top two of the American Athletic Conference with pitchers Megan O’Neil and Marybeth Olson both placing in the top five in individual ERA and Devon Casazza leading the conference in fielding percentage.

Like I said, they are not going to wow you with a particular play, but if you are looking for good sound softball, they are sure to provide. Their games are on campus with the series spanning three to four games over a three-day span, so everyone can and should make it to at least one.

UConn athletics has officially moved past its “Basketball Capital of the World” era into a brand new and exciting one where each sport is achieving its highest potential. I don’t know about the rest of the UConn community, but nothing gets my blood pumping like a good sporting event, so please take advantage while UConn athletics is nearing its peak, and even more importantly, while you still get into the games for free.

The UConn field hockey program has not only established itself as a team on campus, but one of the best programs in the entire country. PHOTO BY KEVIN LINDSTROM, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Huskies to honor seniors

SENIORS, cont. from p. 12

“We have to play incredibly well to beat a team of this caliber,” he added in anticipation of a physical game.

Mills remains the top scorer for Houston with 13.3 points per game. Nate Hinton, a sophomore, grabs a team-best nine rebounds a game while Jarreau’s average of 3.8 assists leads the way.

“Be ourselves,” Vital, the reigning conference Player of the Week, said of Thursday’s gameplan. “Just keep doing what we’ve been doing. Play hard on defense, rebounding, sharing the ball and making shots. That helps.”

Whaley has been heavily relied on since he was inserted into the starting lineup and that will not change come Thurs-

day night. In his four games as a starter, Whaley is averaging 15 points, 9.2 rebounds and 2.3 blocks while shooting 64.7% from the floor.

James Bouknight, the only player not named Vital to average double-digit points (13.0) has been a force of late. He threw down a vicious dunk last time out to complete a freshman-to-freshman alley-oop and is scoring nearly 16 points a game against conference opponents. The Huskies, winners of four of their last five games, seem to be clicking at the right time with the conference tournament just two games away.

“They’re aware that we’re playing in a meaningful game that could get us a better seed in the conference tournament and just continue to build on what’s been a much better season for

this program than we’ve had recently,” Hurley said.

Vital, who is glad a top-25 team will be on the floor for his final home game, still has his sight on a postseason tournament and no, not the NIT.

“Not whatever tournament, the NCAA tournament,” Vital said on his goal. “You don’t play to go to the NIT or anywhere else. It’ll mean everything. I haven’t played there, the school hasn’t been there since I’ve been here, so that’s the way I kinda want to pay back for my time, just help the young guys get to the tournament because I know what it’s like to not be in it.”

The Huskies and Cougars are expected to tip off at 7 p.m. Thursday in front of a near sold-out crowd. The game will be aired on CBS Sports Network.

More mic’d up players, please

MLB, cont. from p. 12

them to ask their parents to sign up for Little League next year.

We often forget that these guys we see on a TV screen or from the stands are real, imperfect human beings. They get lonely in the outfield (shout out Charlie Blackmon’s honesty), misplay fly balls and strike out on pitches right down the middle. For the MLB, which has always struggled to paint their stars as charismatic, lovable human beings, throwing microphones on their jerseys might just be the perfect solution.

Now of course, it’s not perfect. For one, Pete Alonso dropped an f-bomb on live TV on Wednesday. That’s not a great look for ESPN in the moment. However, the general reaction to Alonso’s segment was overwhelmingly positive.

The bigger issue is whether it’s a harmful distraction. Spring training and All-Star games are one thing, regular season and postseason is another. I certainly don’t expect anybody to be mic’d up in the bottom of the ninth in Game 7 of the World Series anytime soon. But in a 162-game regular season? I see absolutely no issue with mic’ing up players in the middle of games.

Only people who don’t understand baseball will tell you that all the fielders do is stand around for three hours. But, as Blackmon humorously acknowledged, there is inevitably a lot of down time. Does having a microphone and earpiece in one ear really distract enough to prevent an outfielder from making a play? I don’t think so.

I will say that mic’d up plate appearances would be significantly tougher to introduce in the regular season. It’s not realistic to expect the pure gold we got from Kris Bryant and Anthony Rizzo on Monday, highlighted by Rizzo jokingly asking some-

one to “bang for him” on a trash can. I mean, one of the best players in baseball taking shots at the Astros, mid at-bat, on live television? That’s simply incredible entertainment.

As much as Rizzo and Bryant absolutely knocked it out of the park, I understand the need to zone out all distractions while in the batter’s box. Maintaining a conversation with the commentators in one moment and hitting a 100 mile-per-hour heater in the next moment probably isn’t going to work.

But it’s absolutely feasible to have mic’d up fielders, and who knows? If a game is a complete blowout and you get a pressure-free, mostly meaningless at-bat late in the game? I think that’s most certainly doable. Bryant himself said after Monday’s mic’d up session that it was “one of the most fun games I’ve ever played,” but he did question its practicality in meaningful games.

“Probably not,” Bryant said, when asked if it could work in the regular season. “I’m just thinking of someone on the infield doing it and they boot a ball and you lose the game. Imagine that. ... As much as it is awesome and the fans would love it, I don’t think it would work.”

Agree to disagree, Mr. Bryant. Of course, it would have to completely be voluntary, and I’m sure some players would object. The fear that it completely takes players out of the game and could result in the sort of catastrophe that Bryant is talking about, is a reasonable reaction to something which, at the moment at least, is so foreign — but it doesn’t have to be.

It seems each day, the future of baseball gets a little murkier. Mic’d up stars is one of the few truly exciting innovations to come out of baseball in the last few years. For my sake, and for baseball’s sake, I really hope we get to hear more of it soon.



With rampant injuries, Brendan Adams has had an important role of late in the Huskies’ four-guard lineups PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Roundtable: Dream sporting event to witness

by DC Sports Staff
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The culmination of March Madness is the Final Four, one of the most sought out sporting events of the year. It joins the likes of the Super Bowl, the World Series, the NBA Finals and the World Cup Final in both its rarity of occurrence and attendance. So this raises the question, what is your ideal sporting event to attend? The DC Sports staff gives its takes on the matter.

In this April 14, 2019, file photo, Tiger Woods reacts as he wins the Masters golf tournament in Augusta, Ga. PHOTO BY DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP



Mike Mavredakis
Staff Writer

Jorge hit the nail on the head with this one. Going to a baseball or softball game and getting to sink into the cold metal bleachers is an other-worldly experience. Your back hurts by the third inning, and your hand starts to hurt, but you can’t tell if it’s from the clapping or the spring chill coursing through your bones. Baseball is so peaceful sometimes, in part because of the downtime. It’s just you, a ball and 30 to 40 thousand of your friends. It’s the ultimate people-watching exercise. You can lock in on and player for the game, and seeing their movements will tell you a story. Whether it’s Dustin Pedroia’s famed pre-pitch jump at second base or just the way teammates tell each other the outs through quirky dance moves — there’s a story. The characters involved are so different from the first pitch to the last, having dealt with the stress of striking out, dropping a key line drive or even trying to calm the ego boost that comes with hitting a home run in the previous at-bat. There are so many ebbs and flows and that’s what makes baseball great. There’s always a story if you just look for it.

Sean Janos
Staff Writer

I think the Daily Campus staff is expecting me to say this, but my dream is to go to a Masters Tournament. The Masters is one of, if not THE, most exclusive events in sports. It is personally my favorite golf event to watch every year and might just objectively be the very best one. Augusta National Golf Club, the perennial host of the Masters, is at the top of my bucket list for golf courses to see for its rich history and breathtaking majesty. The food is notoriously scrumptious, which is rare for a sporting event. Augusta’s concessions are famous for their pimento-cheese sandwich, and in my sports fantasy I am chowing down on one of those, sitting at Amen Corner, surrounded by those beautiful pink azaleas.

Jorge Eckardt
Staff Writer

There is no greater general sporting event in the world than attending a ballgame, so the best of the best is easily a World Series. To get specific: World Series, Game 7, Mets versus Yankees, in Queens. That’s right, I want to go to a winner-takes-all Subway Series, preferably at Citi Field. The Mets versus Yankees rivalry is one of the best in all of sports, and if you’ve ever been to a regular-season Subway Series, you know those are already a great time. Now imagine this time, instead of Mets and Yankees fans talking smack to each other on Twitter, they’re watching side-by-side in a 40,000+ capacity stadium, knowing one of them will go home heartbroken. I know fans got to experience this in 2000, but being one year old at the time, I’m not exactly able to remember it. It’s time for a rematch, and this time I think the Amazins take it.

Ashton Stansel
Campus Correspondent

If I could go to any sporting event, I would probably go to the League of Legends World Championship. It’s without question one of the top three Esports events of the year, the other two being The International for Dota 2 and which-ever Counter Strike major has the more interesting story in the final. While both of those are tempting, I’m unable to get past the sheer atmosphere of the Worlds Finals. Ideally, I would be watching Cloud9 or another North American team dominate, but no matter the teams, there is no sporting event that I would rather experience than that.

Jonathan Synott
Campus Correspondent

In terms of excitement, I look no further than the Winter X Games. Taking all of the greatest events from the Winter Olympics and tacking on other extreme sports, this is the ultimate mixture of danger and skill. New world records for competition are set almost every year, so you are bound to witness history. To those who wonder why I didn’t just choose the Winter Olympics, I say that the overall vibe of the X Games surpasses that of the Olympics. While the latter has its rich history dating back thousands of years, the former is filled with the present and future. Also, you can see as many events as you want, unlike the Olympics. An entire weekend filled with Monster Energy drinks, double McTwists, and concerts headlined by Rae Sremmurd sounds like the overall worthwhile and more “rad” experience.



Sports

Men's Basketball: Huskies take on No. 21 Cougars on Senior Night



Christian Vital will be one of six Huskies honored Thursday night when Houston comes to Storrs. PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Kevin Arnold
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With dreams of the Big East on the horizon, the UConn men will play their final home game in The American when they host No. 21 Houston Thursday on Senior Night.

Though Christian Vital is the only true senior on scholarship, UConn will honor five others alongside The American's all-time leader in made 3-pointers: Redshirt junior Alterique Gilbert, walk-on Temi Aiyegbusi, student assistant coach Mamadou Diarra and team managers Paul Wettmann and Justin Eaddy.

"When we look back down the line here and we're accomplishing great things here, this is the foundation," Dan Hurley said Wednesday afternoon. "These guys laid the foundation; Christian, Alterique if in fact he is not back to play again in a UConn uniform beyond this year, and senior managers. The way that

they've battled the character and the culture that they've helped us establish. Al's a huge part of that, Christian's a huge part of that."

Gilbert's fourth year has not gone as he had planned. After a slow start to the season he lost his starting spot to freshman Jalen Gaffney. Hurley has done nothing but praise the veteran for the way he's handled the situation and remained a leader, but acknowledges Gilbert has a decision to make come season's end, with another year of eligibility remaining.

"He has a number of options at the end of this year and we just wanted to make sure he got the proper send off in case this is his last home game," Hurley said.

Gilbert has been dealing with back spasms since the Huskies' (17-12, 8-8 The American) 21-point rout of the ECU Pirates last weekend, leaving him as a game-time decision after not practicing the last two days. With Sid Wilson out indefinitely due to suspension, UConn very well may take the floor with only

six scholarship players, but that doesn't bother Hurley.

"You have to earn the right to wear a UConn uniform," Hurley said. "To wear that on game night, to represent the state of Connecticut, to represent the storied basketball programs of this place. Just because we may only have six guys if Al can't go, I'm not just throwing Sid Wilson out there or any player. You have to earn the right to wear the uniform at a place like this or any place that I coach."

A short-handed Huskies team may spell trouble against the No. 21 team in the latest AP poll. The Cougars (22-7, 12-4 The American) won by four when they hosted UConn back in January. In the final minutes, Hurley was not allowed to sub in Josh Carlton for Aiyegbusi, who ended up with the ball in his hands for the game-tying shot, which he missed. Hurley said the lack of knowledge of the rule (Carlton should have been allowed to enter the game) left him a bit "bitter," while Aiyegbusi was grate-

ful for the opportunity.

"To be able to say in my four years here I played versus a top 25 team on national television and I was in that position in the first place, like, not too many people in my position are able to say something like that in life," Aiyegbusi said. "So I was very grateful for the experience."

Caleb Mills scored 20 off the bench in that game to help secure Houston's fourth-consecutive win over UConn. DeJon Jarreau tied Isaiah Whaley with 11 rebounds and dished out a game-high eight assists. Since then, the Cougars have won seven of their last 10 and currently sit tied-for-first in the conference standings.

"I don't think it's ever good to play Houston," Hurley said. "They've been the class of the league. They have the type of team and program right now, the way they show up and the type of success they have and what they've put on film, they're the barometer of this conference."

See SENIORS, p. 11

UConn finishes 8th at the Fort Lauderdale Intercollegiate Tournament

by Sebastian Garay-Ortega
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Redshirt senior Drake Hull was able to lead the Huskies to an eighth place finish in the Fort Lauderdale Intercollegiate Tournament. The team shot 5-under par 283 in the second round, and finished Tuesday with a 2-under par 286 to secure their position at eighth.

The Huskies shot an aggregate 7-over, 302-283-286 for a grand total of 871. Hull fired a second consecutive 1-under 71 on Tuesday, finishing with a 1-over, 75-71-71, to finish with 217, tied for 21st place. His performance gave him 10 rounds of par-or-better for the year.

Junior Jack Boulger also finished in a 26th place tie. He shot a 2-over, 76-70-72 to finish at 218. This is his third and fourth rounds this season for par-or-better. Moreover, sophomore Jared Nelson finished four spots below Boulger in a tie for 30th place. Nelson hit a 3-over, 77-71-71 to total 219. As a result, his total of par-or-better rounds was topped to seven for the year.

Another tie for 44th place came when junior Finn Boynton shot a 7-over for the day, 74-77-72 for a total of 223, which included his second round of par-or-better. Redshirt junior Chandler Morris finished in a tie for 59th as he shot a 12-over for the day at 77-71-80, finishing with 228. This gave him a fifth round of par-or-better for the year.

UConn freshman Logan Broyles competed as an individual and finished with a 25-over, 83-81-77 to total 241.

UConn's next tournament is set for March 27 through 29 at the Furman Intercollegiate, with competition taking place at the Furman University Golf Club in Greenville, South Carolina.

Column: We need more mic'd up MLB

by Andrew Morrison
SPORTS EDITOR
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We're used to hearing from professional athletes in certain settings. Namely, before, after and between games. But during the game? That's mostly unheard of.

We're also used to another thing: Major League Baseball seemingly doing everything in its power to drive baseball to obscurity. When Rob Manfred and Co. try to innovate, it's usually some horrendous idea that's immediately met with outrage. And baseball has never been nearly as good as, say, the NBA, in marketing its stars — in fact, it's been downright awful.

But this week, both of those familiar tropes have been challenged, with the return of mic'd up players during spring training. This isn't your typical mic'd up athlete segment, like in the

NFL where a player wears a mic at all times and they chop up the best moments into a montage of sorts. This is live, in real-time, banter from the players at the plate or in the field, chatting it up with commentators and sometimes other teammates or opponents.

MLB has experimented with the format several times in recent years. Remember when, during 2018 spring training, Mookie Betts exclaimed, "I ain't getting this one, boys!" as he chased down a rope into the outfield? I absolutely loved it — and that's saying something, because I hate the Red Sox.

That moment — and a couple others from that year's spring training — brought a rare spotlight to baseball's stars. It's ironic, isn't it, that baseball had more personality and character in March than it did at any point in the regular season.

The mic'd up highlights were even better (and from a business standpoint, more viral) in last year's All-Star game. Freddie Freeman pleading with Justin Verlander to groove a meatball, Christian Yelich and Cody Bellinger admiring each other's phenomenal seasons, a trio of Astros poking fun at each other.

Okay, so maybe that last one didn't age so well. But what's so special about these moments is that we get to see the players as human. Batters guessing about what pitch is next, outfielders admiring their cutoff throws, first basemen wondering if their foot was still on the bag.

This is the type of stuff that young Little Leaguers can watch and be reminded that the pros aren't that different from themselves. And for the kids not in baseball, it might just inspire

Pete Alonso during the second inning of a spring training baseball game Sunday, March 1, 2020. PHOTO BY JEFF ROBERSON/AP



See MLB, p. 11

THIS WEEK IN UCONN SPORTS

Basketball



Gampel Pavilion
7 p.m.



Men's Hockey
Friday @ 7:15 p.m.
Lowell, MA



Baseball
Friday @ 2 pm
PC Baseball Complex

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconn
Thirty-five years ago Geno Auriemma and Chris Dailey '99 MA created a legacy



ryan cordell stan squad (22)
@whutyearisit

I can't believe the mets have a group of players who are talented, personable, likable and genuinely good people all at the same time

UConn is home

@NoEscalators

This Seton Hall - Nova game is awesome. Imagine voluntarily watching two other teams in your conference play? What a world

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