

TAKE OUR VDAY SURVEY ON OUR WEBSITE
COMPLETELY ANONYMOUS!
see results in our VDAY special edition on Feb. 14



BUDGET CUTS A THREAT TO
“EVERY DIMENSION OF OUR WORKPLACE,”
SAY GRADUATE STUDENTS

by John Haslun
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
john.haslun@uconn.edu

A proposal from University of Connecticut administration to slash their operating support budgets for all academic units following a sizable decrease in funding from the Connecticut state government continues to spark outrage and protest from a united front of students and faculty.

Much attention in particular has been paid to the role of the UConn branch of the American Association of University Professors within this coalition, who have organized numerous protests on campus to stop the cuts, including one during a University Senate meeting held on Monday, Feb. 5.

Another important segment of the coalition, one whose role is often downplayed in coverage of the cuts, is the UConn Graduate Employee & Postdoc Union, or GEU. A week before the University Senate meeting on Feb. 5, the GEU delivered an open letter to the president's office signed by nearly 430 graduate students and postdocs at the university.

“As the academic workforce that will feel the brunt of this university policy on the day-to-day level, we are deeply concerned about the impacts this will have



The University Senate Meeting was held in hybrid format Monday, Feb. 5, in Lawrence D. McHugh Hall. Members of the UConn Graduate Employee and Post-Doc Union raised concerns regarding budget cuts and threats to their employment as graduate students.
PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN WELCOME, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

on our ability to teach and work at UConn,” the letter begins.

The letter lists five primary concerns regarding the budget cuts and their aftermath; an increase in class sizes and therefore workload, the loss of UConn's status as an R1 institution, a decrease in

graduate student ability to conduct research, a reduction in opportunities for international students to study and research at UConn, and a harmful effect on the academic atmosphere.

The cuts would produce “larger class sizes, fewer class offerings,

and less instructor attention,” GEU President Grace Easterly said in an interview with the Daily Campus, “The quality of education and research at UConn could dramatically decline.”

The joint letter notes that an increase in graduate student workload, including the numbers of

students in this class and therefore, the number of hours required to grade assignments, would pose a high risk of openly violating their contracted hour amounts.

Professors will face a similar increase in hours, jeopardizing their ability to advise graduate students and be effective mentors in the course of their academic journeys within UConn's Graduate School.

The potential effect on international graduate students and postdocs, the fourth concern in the open letter, is similarly grave. A decline in international student support could weaken the university's ability to attract highly skilled students from abroad and threaten the status of existing students.

International graduate students rely on their assistantships to retain their visas and remain in the United States, and were they to lose their positions, lack alternate employment opportunities in the country, especially during the summer.

In a university Town Hall held on Jan. 24, President Radenka Maric reiterated that layoffs were not in the interest of the university and were not part of the budget cut plans, but, Easterly notes, concerns over the administration's intent remains.

See CUTS, p. 03

UConn RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

by Hallie LeTendre
STAFF WRITER
SHE/HER/HERS
hallie.letendre@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut has received a Carnegie Community Engagement Classification as of late last month.

The classification is a recognition which institutions can earn for having strong commitments to their work with the public.

“The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education is the nation's leading framework for categorizing diverse U.S. higher education institutions,” their website said.

To be considered for this award, a team of faculty at UConn had to apply for recognition by the Carnegie Foundation. This process included presenting documentation which showed UConn's efforts to focus on things like culture, programming, recruitment and improved available activities, as outlined in their elective classifications webpage.

Director of Outreach and Engagement, Rosa E. Raudales, provided

information about UConn's application.

“UConn's Office of Outreach and Engagement submitted the application to the Carnegie Foundation in spring 2023,” Raudales said. “The process required that we conduct a self-study to assess UConn's commitment to community engagement, per the definition and characteristics provided above. We collected information across the campuses, academic units, and offices to understand whether we met the standards of Carnegie Engagement.”

Raudales explained that with UConn being a largely recognizable and flagship university, it was important to apply for the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification.

“By identifying strengths and areas of growth we can focus on work that is important and impactful to society. An application like this is also an opportunity for us to remain accountable to our stakeholders,” Raudales said. “It means that we sustain our role to conduct work that has a direct, positive impact on society.”

The classification is not a competition, Raudales explained.



PHOTO COURTESY OF @UConn ON INSTAGRAM

Institutions either receive the classification based on their application or do not. However, the impact of UConn being one of the institutions that has been recognized, will benefit not only the university, but its students too.

“UConn has intentional efforts to provide students with

high-impact learning opportunities. In the last 10 years, service learning has been a growing method in which students have the opportunity to learn from the community about the subjects they are studying in classes,” Raudales said. “In the process of putting the applica-

tion together, we learned about the curricular and co-curricular activities that are available to students to engage with communities, to do service, and learn more about their potential impact in society. The opportunities are broad and have a high impact.”

win a prize! open from feb. 5th - 29th



WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!
TAKE THE SURVEY ON OUR WEBSITE!

News

GET SEEDED EVENT OFFERS STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PITCH THEIR BUSINESS IDEAS

by **Pierce Colfer** | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/THEY | pierce.colfer@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut’s Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation will be hosting a Pitch Night as part of their Get Seeded program at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 22. Students with an idea for a product can sign up to pitch their idea, and have a chance to earn \$1000 in seed funding to put towards their product.

Students can apply to pitch their ideas on the Get Seeded website. Any level of idea is welcome, though they are encouraged to have both an idea and a business plan, as well as supporting data for both of these. If they are selected, they will give a five-minute “Shark Tank style” pitch on their business idea, and then will have three minutes to answer any questions asked about their product.

Pitches will be held virtually, and are open for anybody to watch. After the pitches conclude, the audience will get to vote on which product they thought was the best, and the top three products will get a prize of either \$1000, \$750 or \$500 to put towards their business idea, respectively. Students are encouraged to come and watch the pitches so that they can vote on whichever product they think should win.

Get Seeded hosts three Pitch Nights per semester. After Feb. 22, the next and final Pitch Night of the semester will be hosted on March 20.

After the final Pitch Night, the top five teams across all six Pitch Nights will be given the opportunity to participate in a Demo Day, where teams will get to further pitch their ideas in front of a panel of judges, who will then grant the top three teams a further \$5000, \$2500 or \$1000, respectively.

A virtual interview was conducted with the CCEI’s Engagement and Outreach Coordinator Michaela Hartl about the event.

“[Get Seeded’s] goal is to give students a platform to showcase their innovation and have the opportunity to win seed funding to further their idea. We pride ourselves on creating programs and atmospheres where students feel inspired, encouraged, and supported to take their ideas to the next level,” Hartl said.

Initially launched in 2018, Get Seeded has seen a large variety of ideas and products. Past pitches have included Reach Bar, a protein bar that is made of freeze-dried vegetables, and The Kona Brand, a clothing company that makes Hawaiian-themed winter apparel.

“[The CCEI is] continually impressed by the extensive ideas we see students apply to pitch with. Students generate products anywhere from food to clothing, and medical devices to educational games. The sky really is the limit with these ideas,” Hartl said.

For more information on Get Seeded, visit their website or contact Michaela Hartl at michaela.hartl@uconn.edu.

Susana Ulloa

BELOVED MEMBER OF THE UCONN COMMUNITY AND DEDICATED ADVOCATE FOR LOW-INCOME, FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS



During her time at the Center for Academic Programs at the University of Connecticut, Susana Ulloa supported many low-income, first-generation students. Ulloa tragically passed away on Feb. 9, 2024 and a wake to celebrate her contributions to the UConn community will be held on Friday, Feb 16, at the Tolland Memorial Funeral Home.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ELISHA BEAL

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Susana Ulloa, a beloved member of the University of Connecticut community and a dedicated advocate for low-income, first-generation college students. Susana departed from this world on Friday, Feb. 9, 2024, leaving behind a legacy of compassion, resilience, and unwavering commitment to empowering others. Susana left behind her husband Joe Caruso, her lovely daughter Elisha Beal who is a 2022 graduate of UConn and her stepdaughter Amber Caruso who is a first-year student at UConn.

For the past 27 years, Susana served as a beacon of hope and guidance in the Center for Academic Programs at UConn, where she tirelessly devoted herself to supporting students from underprivileged backgrounds. She started her time working in the Admissions office and later was the Director of the Upward Bound programs in 1997 and her work was not merely a job, but a calling — one driven by her deep-seated belief in the transformative power of education. Through her mentorship, advocacy and tireless efforts, Susana touched the lives of countless individuals, instilling in them the confidence and determination to pursue their dreams despite the odds stacked against them. She also taught courses in the Political Science Department and was a contributor to the book “The Latinization of U.S. Schools: Successful Teaching and Learning in Shifting Cultural Contexts.”

Beyond her role at UConn, Susana was an active and engaged member of her community, serving on various boards and committees aimed at addressing social inequalities and expanding access to educational opportunities for all. She was an executive board member of the CT Association of Educational Opportunity Programs (CAEOP), CT Association for Latinos in Higher Education (CALAHE), past president of Association for Latinos Faculty and Staff, Windham Regional Attendance Office and

Youth Services, the Windham Area Interfaith Ministry (WAIM), amongst many, many others. She also received many accolades such as the 100 Women of Color, graduate of the Harvard School of Education Executive Leadership Academy, PRLACC Outstanding Staff of the Year and the Women’s Center Women of Color Recognition Award, amongst others. Susana earned her B.A. degree in political science at the University of Massachusetts, an M.A. in political science and her Ph.D. in educational leadership from the UConn. Susana truly believed in the power of education, and she always considered herself a lifelong learner! Her passion for social justice and equity was evident in every aspect of her life, as she worked tirelessly to break down barriers for her students.

Susana will be remembered not only for her professional achievements, but also for the warmth of her spirit, the kindness of her heart and the genuine concern she showed for those around her. She leaves behind a void that cannot be filled, but her legacy will continue to inspire and uplift us all.

Susana’s impact on the lives of others will endure for generations to come, and though she may no longer be with us in body, her spirit will live on in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing her.

To honor Susana and her beautiful life, services will be held for family and friends to share the stories, joy and laughter that she brought into their lives. Flowers and gifts can be sent to the funeral home or you can donate to the Susana M. Ulloa Memorial Scholarship fund by sending a check to CALAHE, P.O. Box 605, Tolland, CT 06084. Please put on the memo line: Susana M. Ulloa Memorial Scholarship. The wake service will be held on Friday, Feb. 16th from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Tolland Memorial Funeral Home, 375 Merrow Rd. (Rte. 195), Tolland. A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 17th at the Tolland Memorial Funeral Home.

The Daily Campus

Printing since 1896, The Daily Campus is the oldest and largest independent student publication at the University of Connecticut. The Daily Campus circulates 5,000 newspapers daily and strives to serve the student body by delivering accurate, relevant and timely news and content, both in print and online at Daily Campus.com. Our staff is comprised entirely of students, with roughly 200 undergraduates gaining professional development while contributing to the daily production of the paper, with positions including writers, photographers, copy editors, page layout designers, graphic designers, advertisement representatives, receptionists, delivery drivers and digital producers. Thanks for reading.

Want to advertise in print or online?
businessmanager@dailycampus.com

Corrections and Clarifications:
Send Corrections to EIC@DailyCampus.com

Monday, February 12, 2024

Copy Editors: Joanna Giano, Rory McCarthy, Sara Bedigian, and Emily Sharkis
News Designer: Aish Benzy & Raquel Montelindo
Life Designer: Pankti Bhagat
Sports Designer: Colbi Lorange
Opinion Designer: Emily O'Bannon
Photo Producer: Elizabeth Farrenkopf

Madeline Papcun, Editor-in-Chief
Raquel Montelindo, Managing Editor
Naiiya Patel, Business Manager
Charlotte Chen, Digital Editor
Emily O'Bannon, Associate Managing Editor
Shannon Hong, Associate Managing Editor
Ky'Lynn Monts, Associate Digital Editor

Colin Piteo
News Editor
Aiza Shaikh
Associate News Editor
Stratton Stave
Sports Editor
Evan Rodriguez
Associate Sports Editor
Skyler Kim
Photo Editor
Jordan Arnold
Associate Photo Editor
Benjamin Lassy
Life Editor
Karla Perez
Associate Life Editor

Nell Srinath
Opinion Editor
Dan Stark
Associate Opinion Editor
Van Nguyen
Artist Editor
Haleigh Schmidt
Associate Artist Editor
Nell Komorowski
Outreach/Social Media Coordinator
Gabriella Margolies
Associate SMOC
Maddie Archambeau
Circulation Manager
The Daily Campus

For more information about getting involved as an editorial, business or digital employee:
Editorial · managingeditor@dailycampus.com
Business · businessmanager@dailycampus.com
Digital · digital@dailycampus.com

Prefer to read our content online?

Check out our newly redesigned website at dailycampus.com and follow us on social media.
Instagram · The_DailyCampus
Facebook · The Daily Campus
Twitter · The_DailyCampus

Want to write or photograph for The Daily Campus ?

The Daily Campus welcomes writers and photographers of all backgrounds, interests, majors and levels of experience. To get involved, it's as easy as attending section meetings on Sunday nights, all at the Daily Campus building, (1266 Storrs Road) or reaching out to an email below:

Opinion (Meetings at 5 p.m.)
opinion@dailycampus.com
News (Meetings at 6 p.m.)
news@dailycampus.com
Life (Meetings at 7 p.m.)
life@dailycampus.com
Sports (Meetings at 8 p.m.)
sports@dailycampus.com
Photo (Meetings at 10 p.m.)
photo@dailycampus.com
Artists (Meetings at 10 p.m. on discord)
artists@dailycampus.com

CUTS, cont. from p. 01

“What we’re hearing is that this could lead to the end of some graduate programs,” Easterly said, “Our concern is that graduate employees are seen as the easiest to cut because we’re considered temporary employees.”

The lack of transparency has also been a common complaint directed at the university from both professors and graduate students.

“We first heard about these budget cuts from the faculty

union, who had heard about it from the provost,” Easterly admitted, “Many graduate students hadn’t heard about it until the Union sent an email about it in January.”

A faculty letter published in the immediate aftermath of the announcement of the budget cuts similarly demands accountability, requesting a “clear account of the budgetary decisions from the last several years” and a “detailed explanation of the university’s prioritization of expenses moving

forward, and an itemized list on university units other than academic departments.”

For Easterly, the fight is not just about professors, postdocs, and graduate students; it’s about uniting for a better UConn for undergraduates as well. Less TAs with larger workloads, increased class sizes, a push for more virtual classes, and a downsizing of academic programs are issues that affect both undergraduate and graduate students on campus.

“It’s a really important opportunity for workers all across the university to come together to advocate together,” Easterly noted, detailing that the loss of undergraduate student services would make UConn “dramatically less equitable” and greatly harm incoming students.

“We encourage everyone: postdocs, graduates, undergraduates to reach out to your legislator” Easterly said, “Graduate employees and postdocs are going to

fight for the resources we deserve, and these budget cuts are threat to our workplace, to every single dimension of the work we do at UConn.”

The first Connecticut legislative session of the year opened on Feb. 7, and Maric and other administrators are expected to bring forth the case for an increase in funding for UConn that would alleviate the worst of the cuts. Labor activists from across the UConn community are ready to join them.

DAILY CAMPUS CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 South African language
- 5 “Uh ... feels wrong”
- 9 Inky smudges
- 14 Iowa State’s town
- 15 Folk artist Joan
- 16 Gracefully limber
- 17 Garment made from goat’s wool
- 20 Roebuck partner
- 21 ___ borealis: colorful sky display
- 22 Put back in the pan
- 24 Big name in SUVs
- 26 GPS display
- 27 Picture that may feature students in height order
- 32 Astern
- 33 “Klutzy me”
- 34 Some Blu-ray players
- 35 Urgent request
- 37 Point value of “eight” in Scrabble
- 39 Be in harmony
- 42 Kia hatchbacks
- 44 Destiny’s Child’s “___ My Name”
- 47 Completely spotless
- 51 Apple CEO Cook
- 52 Point value of “five” or “six” in Scrabble
- 53 Arranges logically
- 54 End of an era?
- 57 Large member of the violin family
- 59 Be generous with one’s good fortune, as depicted by the movement of this puzzle’s circled letters
- 64 Lopsided
- 65 Elton John musical based on a Verdi opera
- 66 Raptor’s weapon
- 67 Workspaces
- 68 “Dark Phoenix” mutants
- 69 Catch sight of

DOWN

- 1 Actor Efron
- 2 Thurman of “Red, White & Royal Blue”

- 3 Heart-healthy phrase
- 4 Helpful theater employees
- 5 Car service app
- 6 “24K Magic” singer Bruno
- 7 Previously named
- 8 Fluid meas. units
- 9 Couleur of the sky
- 10 Pants-on-fire person
- 11 Padded footstool
- 12 Curative treatment
- 13 High-ranking angels
- 18 Baseball Hall of Famer Willie
- 19 City halfway between Dallas and Austin
- 22 Early TV brand
- 23 Tiny toymaker
- 24 RNC group
- 25 VT ski resort with an apt name
- 28 Poet Edgar Allan ___
- 29 All shouted out, maybe
- 30 “Tug of Words” channel
- 31 Caviar

- 35 Podded plant
- 36 Former “Inside the NFL” host Dawson
- 38 “Or so”
- 39 Puts on a frown
- 40 Quick look
- 41 Casual observations
- 43 Actor McKellen
- 44 Ambles
- 45 Key sometimes used with Ctrl
- 46 “You rang?”

- 48 Slightly
- 49 Hebrides landmass
- 50 Comfort during trying times
- 55 Long onion kin
- 56 Rules for society
- 57 Relinquish
- 58 Obi-Wan player
- 60 Line on a receipt
- 61 “That’s the guy!”
- 62 Noisy dance style
- 63 Major rd.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

P	R	O	D		R	E	A	M		A	R	B	O	R
L	O	N	I		E	A	S	E		L	E	A	V	E
A	M	I	D		F	U	N	N	Y	P	A	G	E	S
S	C	O	O	B			E	T	E		P	U	R	
M	O	N	K	E	Y	B	R	E	A	D		E	S	O
A	M	Y		N	O	I		E	R	E	C	T	E	D
				E	E	L	E	R			V	O	T	E
O	P	E	N	F	O	R	B	U	S	I	N	E	S	S
H	I	N	D	I			I	S	L	A	S			
I	N	T	O	T	A	L		E	A	T		O	F	F
O	P	A		S	H	O	W	S	T	O	P	P	E	R
	O	N	A		M	A	E			R	A	T	I	O
B	I	G	S	P	E	N	D	E	R		D	O	G	S
U	N	L	I	T		E	T	N	A		R	U	N	T
S	T	E	P	S		D	O	O	M		E	T	S	Y

02/13/24

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17				18					19					
		20						21						
22	23						24	25			26			
27				28	29				30	31				
32					33				34					
			35	36				37	38					
39	40	41				42	43				44	45	46	
47					48				49	50				
51					52				53					
54			55	56				57	58					
59						60	61						62	63
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

By Zachary David Levy
©2024 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

02/13/24

CLASSIFIEDS

Policy: Classifieds are non-refundable. Credit will be given if an error materially affects the meaning of the ad and only for the first incorrect insertion. Ads will only be printed if they are accompanied by both first and last name as well as telephone number. Names and numbers may be subject to verification. All advertising is subject to acceptance by The Daily Campus, which reserves the right to reject any ad copy at its sole discretion. The Daily Campus does not knowingly accept ads of a fraudulent nature.

PLAY OUR HAND IN

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

Welcome back to The Backlog! For February, we are diving into strategy games. This week, we will be looking at the mysterious roguelike deck-building game of “Inscription.” Published by Devolver Digital and developed by Daniel Mullins Games, “Inscription” was a 2021 hit among YouTube Let’s Players, some as notable as Markiplier. The game also received a few videos by The Game Theorists. Daniel Mullins had previously released other notable indie games like “Pony Island,” which also had a large following on YouTube. “Inscription” has its own creative twists while being similar to games such as “Magic: The Gathering” and incorporates mystery to it.

Besides the point-and-click segments, “Inscription” mainly uses a turn-based card-fighting system. Players can build their decks as they progress through the game and employ their own tactics for defeating enemies. These cards have varying healths, effects and features, not to mention that some of them can talk to you. The beginning segment of the game has a creepy aesthetic and atmosphere. The card game aspect of it resembles sessions of “Dungeons and Dragons,” where the dungeon master portrays various characters that you come across by impersonating voices and using masks. Spoilers for the story of “Inscription” beyond this point! The best way to summarize the story is that the game itself is a puzzle you have to solve. Initially, the game seems straightforward, despite the

fact that you cannot start a new game, but continue, as if “Inscription” has already begun without your knowledge. Moving on from that, the player sits at a table across from an unsettling pair of eyes, ones that teach you how to play the game and essentially act as the game master. As you progress, the game becomes more and more difficult, with harder bosses such as the Angler or the Trapper. You also gain the ability to explore the cabin you are playing in, allowing you to solve puzzles that grant you new cards and items. Yet it becomes obvious that there is more than what’s on the surface; the talking cards, the Stout, Stinkbug and the Stunted Wolf, reluctantly come together to help the player defeat Leshy, the game master we’ve been battling against. Their help is necessary because after each run,



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

‘INSCRIPTION’

if you lose, you are commemorated through a death card, in which the player can choose certain stats from cards in their deck, input their name and their photo is taken by Leshy. During each of your runs, you may find your previous death cards and even some that don't belong to you. Leshy is the final boss of this act, but players might be disappointed to find out that even if they win, their photo is taken with the special camera. Once again, the run begins again.

Throughout the game, you come across various videos of The Lucky Carder, also known as Luke Carder, a content creator who mainly unwraps card packs from a franchise called "Catch Monsters" along with "Inscription." These videos reveal how Carder came into possession of "Inscription," which is on a floppy disk, and the game studio that created it would go through any means necessary to get it back. There are various videos from The Game Theorists and others on the internet who have dissected the story to its fullest. The entire story involves a complex alternate reality game, or ARG, that pushes people in real life to solve the full mystery of "Inscription."

The full story of "Inscription" is far too long and complicated to dive into in this article. Various YouTube videos can explain the story, but I recommend that you play the game for yourself. Leshy's cabin is not the end of the game, there are many more acts and battles to come for the player. Each one reveals more about what "Inscription" truly is and who the talking cards really are. For an indie title, "Inscription" is a wonderfully polished experience. An insane amount of thought and detail is present throughout the game, from minor secrets to full-on ciphers that you can decode. Of course, there are players like me who may fall in love with the simplest yet most complex aspect of the game, the card battles. For those who are like Leshy and want to play the game forever, after beating the main story you are given the opportunity to play through "Kaycee's mod." It expands upon the story for those who have an unyielding thirst for knowledge, but also gives players a chance to endlessly battle against Leshy.

Even though "Inscription" came out in 2021 and has been solved, it remains one of the best games I've ever played. From the simple act of card-dueling to the seemingly endless puzzles, "Inscription" stands out as one of the greatest indie games we've ever covered.

RATING:





Life

@dailycampuslife

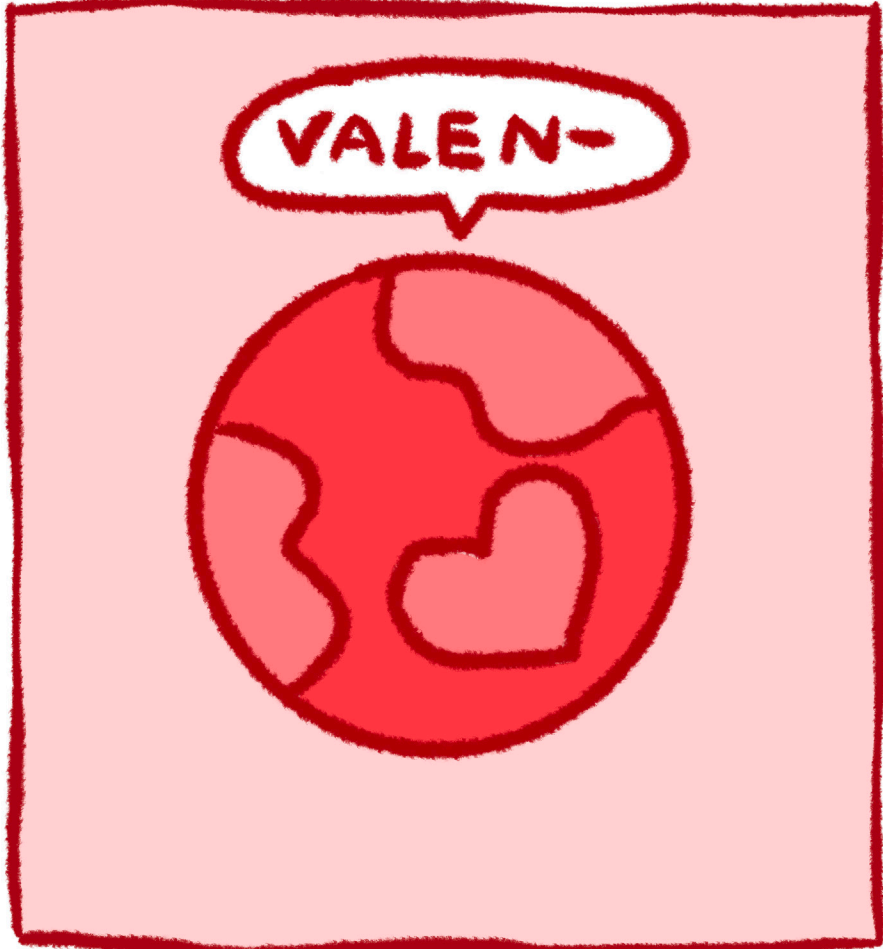
DAILY CAMPUS COMICS



COMIC BY LEE ERNEST, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The Daily Campus

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Madeline Papcun..... EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

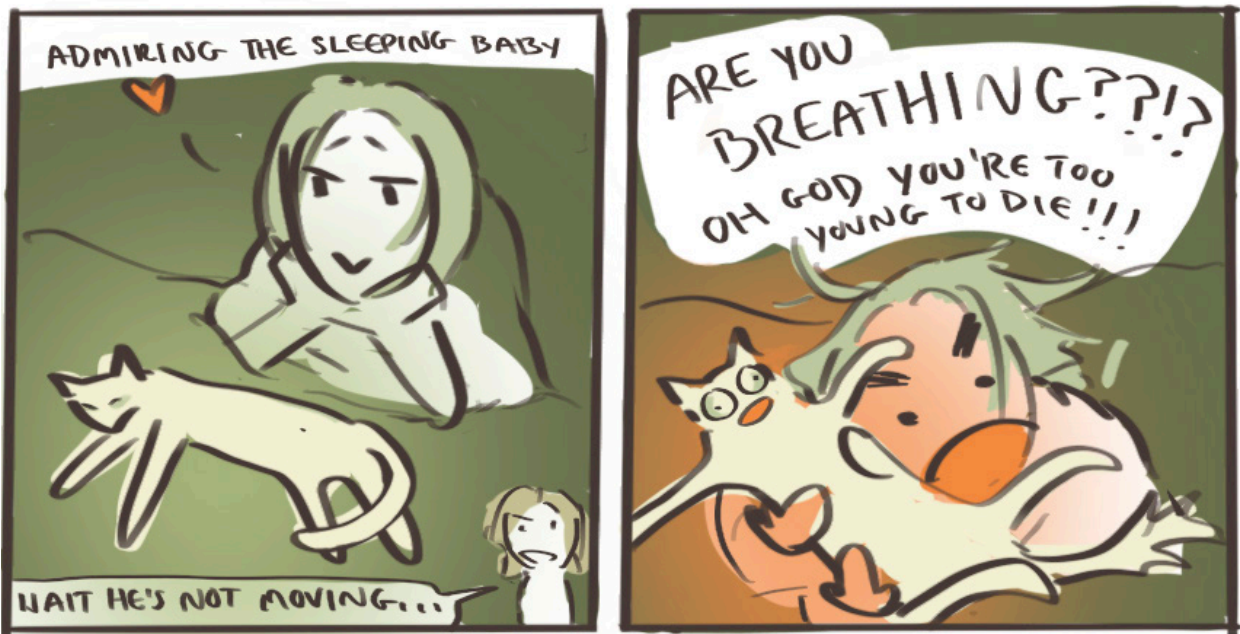
Nell Srinath..... OPINION EDITOR

Dan Stark..... ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

Luke Feeney

Tomas Hinckley..... WEEKLY COLUMNISTS

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed by individual writers in the opinion section do not reflect the views and opinions of The Daily Campus or other staff members. Only articles labeled "Editorial" are the official opinions of The Daily Campus.



COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

HOW TO DESTROY AN ACTIVIST ORGANIZATION IN 3 EASY STEPS

by Nell Srinath | OPINION EDITOR | THEY/THEM/SHE/HER | nell.srinath@uconn.edu

Author's note: This is the second article in a series about the challenges of activism and political organizing

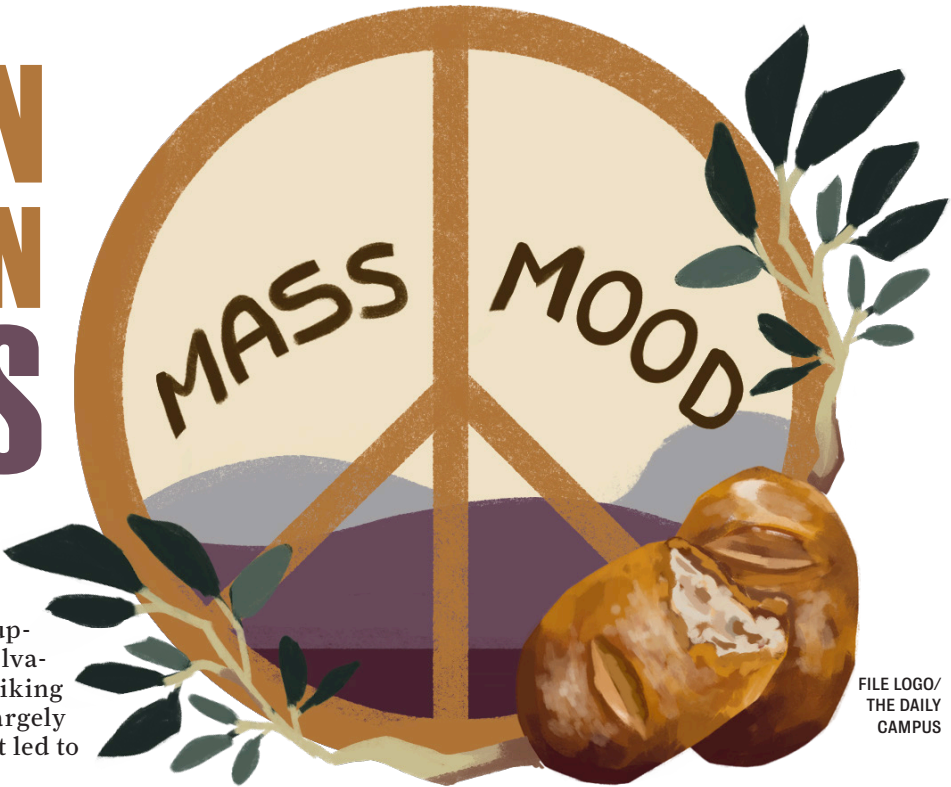
The COVID-19 pandemic and movement for Black lives led to a significant upsurge in grassroots political organizing and changes in the methods used to galvanize people for a cause. As I argued in last week's column, one of the most striking elements of these new initiatives, whether they were community-led or existed largely on social media, were bold, radical visions for combating the societal factors that led to these cataclysmic moments in the first place.

But as of 2024, there are few, if any metrics by which we can consider the explosion of activism over the past four years a success. Culturally, most of the energy that ignited your coworkers, classmates, neighbors and family members in response to systemic racism seems to have dissipated, vanishing as the 2020 protest wave died down or being folded into a heavily pacified non-profit-industrial complex.

A state that imposes violence on poor people of color and unleashes military violence across the world and a global economic system that will extract profits at any planetary cost are, all things considered, high-insurmountable obstacles for small community organizations and national movements alike. What's more, as scholars like John Smith argue, the global capitalist system benefits even low-wage workers in wealthy nations like the United States through the "super exploitation" of even lower-wage workers in poor countries.

It only makes sense, then, that when the going got tough and it became apparent that political organizing is more of a full-time job than a pastime, Americans abandoned on-the-ground initiatives to counter white supremacy and create a more just and egalitarian society. But where material conditions and the relative comfort of many Americans are one explanation for why no sustained, popular movement came out of 2020, strategy and tactics are another. Throughout the late 2010s and 2020s, activists have fallen into numerous formulaic traps for maintaining, growing and mobilizing their organizations, leading to irrelevance and organizational meltdown at worst.

Here's how to kill an activist organization in three easy steps.



1.

OVERLY RELY ON SOCIAL MEDIA
2.

COME UP WITH UNACHEIVABLE, OUT-OF-TOUCH DEMANDS
3.

AVOID STRUCTURE, DISCIPLINE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Social media is useful for spreading an organization's name and messaging, but only if it already has a successful ground game. Ultimately, an organization aims to affect material change in a place, whether that be Washington D.C. or a housing project. No matter how many social media followers an organization has for having all the right takes, that nebulous collection of internet clout is depreciated completely without a real-world presence to give your statements and infographics a tangible effect.

Much has been written about Slacktivism — which refers to a form of advocacy that takes place solely through sharing and engaging with posts on social media — to the point where the Slacktivists know that they're doing Slacktivism. Organizations must challenge themselves to encourage potential Slacktivists in their own communities to show up and engage in initiatives. Flying in public spaces, door-knocking and talking to strangers in parks and at the bus station, holding demonstrations to build a presence and hosting mass meetings to garner feedback from a constituency are all ways for organizations to unchain themselves from the attention sink of social media and build connections with people who are, so to speak, on your block.

Of course, social media is still instrumental for expanding to a wider audience and inspiring people to learn from successful campaigns or even growing your organization across city, state or national lines. However, it should be the last resort for primary outreach, being far less accountable than in-house, direct communications networks. If you want to condemn your organization to internet purgatory, followers matter much more than your neighbors.

As someone with experience in activism and organizing, the second most common cause of burnout is exerting all your energy to move an immovable institution. Furthermore, without friends or fellow organizers to rage against the machine with, the goal of institutional change in any facet of society becomes evermore out of reach. Organizations and activists shouldn't forget the big victories on the horizon — changing laws, uprooting forms of oppression, transforming systems. But they also shouldn't forget that it takes small wins and popular messaging to build that foundation. Political goals and demands need to be crafted, tried and erred in collaboration with members of the community you're actually trying to organize. At the very least, they should be doable. "Abolish private property," for example, isn't going to get very far if you're trying to mobilize tenants against a landlord.

This isn't to say organizers shouldn't try to advance the political consciousness of the people around them. The point of organizing a community is to be among the people, but also to pull them forward when necessary. There's no reason that unionizing factory workers couldn't also avert their attention to local issues like police department funding or international issues like Palestinian liberation. Before this can happen, though, there needs to be a baseline of unity within that organization, allowing members to work out differences and advance as a collective body.

Structure is good. That feels like an overly facile thing to write, but you'd be surprised by how many people are afraid of regimentation and leadership in an organization. Although concerns about power imbalances are reasonable, the accumulation and abuse of power among a small number of people — leaders in all but name — is just as, if not more likely to happen in a group with no governing structure, accountability measures or discipline.

Structure also allows for delegation, which is particularly important because the number one cause of burnout in my experience is concentration of responsibility and work in the hands of one person. Delegation helps prevent a culture of non-delivery and can allow people to be held accountable for shirking duties or not communicating. When these factors combine and tasks are not completed, an organization can risk folding completely.

The point of this article is not to bash activists who tried in earnest to organize but did not succeed — hence any vagueness. Rather, the point is to open up new possibilities for politically active people and give us all the chance to reflect critically on the social media-centric, loosely structured forms of organizing that have dominated our culture for the past decade. Only when we dissect the mistakes of the past can we win successes in the future.

Photo of the Day | There’s snow place like Storrs



Temperatures drop at UConn Storrs as an overnight snowstorm is expected to make its way through campus on Monday, Feb. 12, 2024. Classes are canceled for Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024.

PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

CONGRESSMAN IN HOSPITAL GOWN VOTES “NAY,” SAVES THE DAY

by Noah Saben
CONTRIBUTOR
HE/HIM/HIS
noah.saben@uconn.edu

On Feb. 6, the GOP attempted to do something that had not been done since 1876: to impeach a cabinet secretary. Instead, what occurred in the Capitol was nothing short of an act of political bravery and courage. Rep. Al Green (no, not the singer/songwriter), a Texas Democrat, rolled in on a wheelchair, still dressed in a blue hospital gown, and adamantly voted “nay” to swing an important vote to a final tally of 214-216.

The House vote was an attempt by the GOP to impeach Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas for growing tensions at the Mexican-American border. The GOP appeared to be scapegoating, or at least placing the blame on Mayorkas for the events at the border, where a record number of immigrants are entering the United States from Mexico. Clear political divides persist along party lines, with Rep. Eli Crane, R-Ariz., calling Mayorkas’ actions a “dereliction of duty” and Jim McGovern, D-Mass., calling the impeachment inquiry “a bunch of garbage.”

However, one of the two Republican representatives to vote “nay” on the matter, Ken Buck from Colorado, brought up an important point, stating “... the Constitution is clear that impeachment is reserved for ‘Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.’ Maladministration or incompetence does not rise to what our founders considered an impeachable offense.” Buck demonstrated key bipartisanship, which Congress lacks. Most importantly, he gets at the elephant in the room, which is that an official cannot be impeached simply for being “a bad cabinet member,” as George Washington University professor Jonathan Turley puts plainly. Whether or not Mayorkas fits this description is a matter of political discussion, not of impeachment.

Impeachment of a cabinet secretary is a large accusation, and an uncommon one at that. In fact, it has only occurred once in the nearly 250-year history of the United States. During the “scandal tarnished” Presidency of American Civil War hero Ulysses S. Grant, Secretary of War William Belknap faced the same vote that Mayorkas did on Feb. 6. Belknap was engaged in corruption, extracting funds from the U.S. Military and therefore

from the government. On March 2, 1876, with the impeachment vote looming, “Belknap raced to the White House, handed Grant his resignation, and burst into tears,” as historians described in an official report. Belknap’s obvious and poorly devised crimes against the state resulted in charges of “criminally disregarding his duty as Secretary of War and basely prostituting his high office to his lust for private gain.” Needless to say, there were no actions committed or evidence so unequivocal for Mayorkas to deserve an impeachment inquiry.

However, Americans should not be surprised that outlandish claims continue to be made throughout the sphere of the federal government. In fact, Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga. — who led the impeachment effort and “pushed it to the fore” as put by Lisa Mascaro of the Associated Press — has had more than her fair share of ridiculousness as a member of Congress. In 2022, Greene uttered that women are “...the weaker sex... we are our husband’s wife.” This abomination of speech is one of an abundance of examples that can be traced throughout Greene’s career. Regardless of political views, it goes without saying that such comments are harmful to the nation. In addition, these detrimental remarks represent exactly the opposite of how a United States Representative should render themselves. Our elected Congress members ought to be honorable and heroic, not ludicrous and inept.

Green (not Greene) exemplified the rightful esteem of a United States official in his actions on Feb. 6. At 76 years old, Green was in the emergency room having undergone abdominal surgery, but this did not stop him from exercising the duties he swore to execute and protect. “I had to go to the emergency room and I had to have surgery, so it’s not easy to leave a hospital and get back here ... I always intend to show up” said Green. Congress members need to follow Green’s example and not only show up physically but also intellectually.

He stated humbly that he “had to be” there. “I didn’t come assuming that my vote was going to make a difference, I came because it was personal,” mentioned Green. Now more than ever, we need more government officials like Green whose conduct defines the relentless commitment to maintaining justice — a vital characteristic which will lead to our nation’s success.

SUBMIT TO CULTURE SHOCK



Culture Shock is a column for underrepresented and marginalized UConn students to anonymously discuss their stories and experiences as members of those groups at UConn.

<https://dailycampus.com/culture-shock/>

THE DAILY CAMPUS IS SELLING VALENTINE’S DAY ADS!

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

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

Contact **businessmanager@dailycampus.com** to purchase!



CLIPART COURTESY OF MYCUTEGRAPHICS

The New York Rangers defeat the Chicago Blackhawks on Feb. 9, 2024. The Rangers won by a single point at the United Center in Chicago, Illinois.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @NYRANGERS ON TWITTER



◆◆◆ The Puck Drop: ◆◆◆

Metlife Stadium to host 2024 NHL Stadium Series with four Metropolitan Division teams

by Avery Becker
SHE/HER/HERS
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
avery.becker@uconn.edu

The first NHL Stadium Series was in 2014 and was held at Dodgers Stadium where the Los Angeles Kings and Anaheim Ducks went head-to-head in a class outdoor hockey showdown. The Ducks took the win 3-0, and since then the Stadium Series has been popular among NHL fans as another way to see their team play outdoor hockey, besides the Winter Classic.

This year, for this event's 10-year anniversary, four teams from the Metropolitan Division will face off.

The New Jersey Devils and Philadelphia Flyers are scheduled to face off on Saturday, Feb. 17 with an 8 p.m. scheduled puck drop. New Jersey-natives The Jonas Brothers will also be the headline performers with their concert beginning 2.5 hours before the game and then again during the second intermission.

The New York Rangers and New York Islanders will hit the ice on Sunday, Feb. 18 with a 3 p.m. puck drop. Their headline performers will be pop band AJR, hailing from New York City.

Now that the stage is set, here is my view on how the games will pan out:

New Jersey Devils vs. Philadelphia Flyers

New Jersey Devils fans were not exactly thrilled when it was announced that their team would not play against their biggest rival,

the New York Rangers. Let's not forget though, that their rivalry with the Philadelphia Flyers runs deep too.

The Flyers have slowly flown under the radar this year, exceeding fans' expectations.

The team is currently on a three-game winning streak, after defeating the Seattle Kraken, the Winnipeg Jets and the Florida Panthers. It's also important to note that the Jets and Panthers are ranked eighth and

third in the league, respectively.

Even with the loss of goaltender Carter Hart due to the ongoing 2018 Hockey Canada sexual assault scandal, they have proven to be fine without him. Goaltender Samuel Ersson, in 27 games played, has a 90.3 save percentage, allowing only two goals per game.

Travis Konecny is also having an all-star year for the Flyers. He has notched 24 goals in just 53 games played,

looking like he will exceed his career high of 31 goals he notched last season.

The New Jersey Devils, on the other hand, have been having a rough season. Devils fans are likely to blame this on their lack of goal-tending or

fortunately, the Devils lost both of those games against the Flames and the Hurricanes. This is likely due to the players getting used to being on the ice again. During these games they weren't great at gaining offensive opportunities, not showing the needed aggression.

As things stand, it looks like the Flyers will come out with a win during this game. However, if the Devils are more commanding on the fore-

check and are relentless around the Flyers' net, they could have a good chance as well.

Avery's Score Prediction: 2-1 Flyers in Overtime

New York Rangers vs. New York Islanders

Having these two New York teams face-off against each other will cause an electric outdoor hockey environment.

plethora of recent injuries, both of which are valid.

Luckily, though, star-center Jack Hughes, Tyler Toffoli and Alexander Holtz just returned to the lineup two games after being out with injuries. Un-

Just like with the Devils and Flyers, the rivalry runs deep.

The Rangers are having another star-studded season, as they are now ranked fifth in the league and sit at the top of the Metropolitan Division.

The main reason behind their success this season is goaltender Jonathan Quick. Quick has notched a 91.9% save percentage on the season, only allowing an average of two goals per game.

Forward Artemi Panarin, already has 31 goals, proving himself time and time again as a focal point of Rangers' attack.

The team is currently on a four-game winning streak and it looks like they won't stop there against the 18th ranked Islanders.

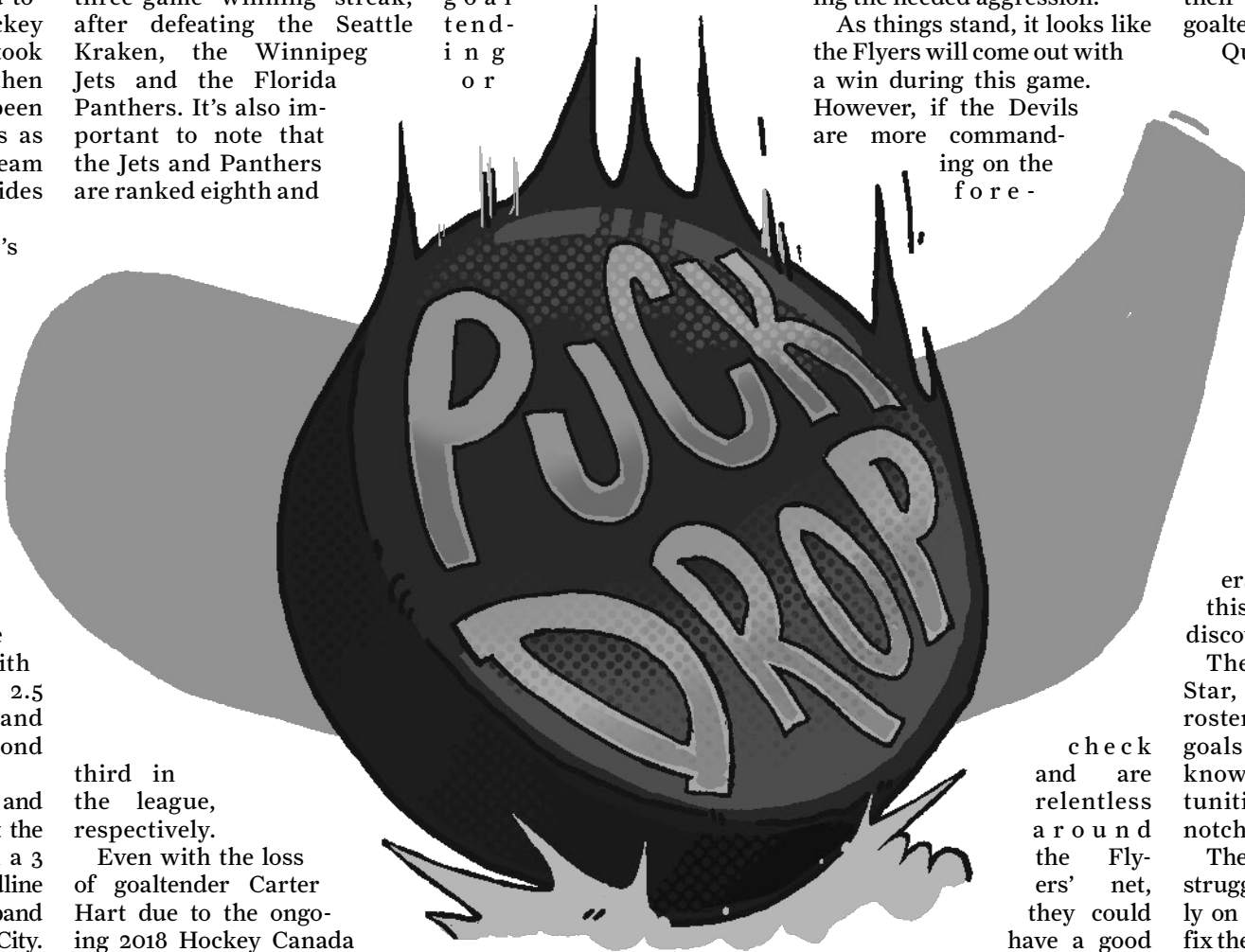
It looks like the Rangers are the favorite to win this matchup, but we can't discount the Islanders.

They have recent NHL All-Star, Mathew Barzal on their roster. He currently has 15 goals on his season, but is known for gaining opportunities for his teammates, notching 40 assists.

The Islanders have been struggling this season, especially on their penalty kill. If they fix these things up and are more commanding on the forecheck, like the Devils need to be, it will be a close game against the fellow New York foes.

Avery's Score Prediction: 5-2 Rangers

All in all, this weekend is set to be a good one. If fans wish to watch, they can stream in on ESPN+ or watch on ABC.



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



The New Jersey Devils faced off against the Carolina Hurricanes on Feb. 10, 2024. The Devils lost, with the final score 0-1.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @NJDEVILS ON TWITTER

Photo of the Day | Women’s swim and dive



UConn women’s swimming lost their home meet against Villanova with a score of 146-154 on Oct. 21, 2023 at the Wolff-Zackin Natatorium in Storrs, Conn. This was their first loss of the season, after securing wins against SCSU and Georgetown.
PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Big East Baller Update No. 9:

Kolek shines as Marquette reaches AP Top 5 status

by Sam Calhoun
HE/HIM/HIS
STAFF WRITER
samuel.calhoun@uconn.edu

Football season is over and all eyes are on the road to March Madness. Marquette, the pre-season favorite to win the Big East, will face No. 1 UConn on Saturday in a massive battle in Hartford. Creighton and Providence battled in the Ocean State on Wednesday night in what turned out to be one of the most thrilling games of the season in the Big East.

As we reach the second full week of February and the Big East Tournament gets closer by the second, let’s recap the last week with another edition of Big East Baller Update.

Player of the Week: Tyler Kolek, G, Marquette (vs. St. John’s: 27 pts, 13 ast, 7 reb, 2 stl, 11-17 FG, 5-8 3pt)

In Saturday’s win over St. John’s, the reigning Big East Player of the Year became the third Division I player in the past 20 years to finish a game with at least 27 points, 13 assists and seven rebounds. Kolek turned it up in the second half against the Red Storm. The Cumberland, R.I. native scored 22 points to rally the Golden Eagles after trailing by nine at halftime.

Freshman of the Week: Stephon Castle, G, UConn (11 PPG, 3 RPG, 58 FG%, 1-1 FT)

Castle looks like he will run away with the Big East Freshman of the Year award, earning his seventh weekly honor with more weeks to play. The five-star freshman passed teammate Alex Karaban as the Huskies’ all-time leader in the honor, as Karaban earned the award six times last year. Castle has scored at least 17 points in the past three games, with a 17-point performance against Georgetown on Saturday. He shot 8-11 from the floor against the Hoyas as UConn continues to have the longest winning streak in the nation.

Top Games
Providence knocks off No. 19 Creighton in OT behind Oduro and Carter, 91-87

Following an 18-point loss at Villanova the week before, Providence head coach Kim English called his team’s effort the worst of the season. On Wednesday night,

the Friars looked the opposite in the Amica Mutual Pavilion, with two double-double performances from Josh Oduro and Devin Carter leading Providence to an upset victory over the Bluejays. Oduro led all scorers with 32 points in

the game following a Dailyn Swain dunk to break a tie at 50. Quincy Olivari led the way with 14 points and eight rebounds in a low-scoring affair. Desmond Claude contributed 11 points, six rebounds and six assists in a cru-

quette. Check out the preview for that game this Friday!

No. 4 Marquette at Butler (6:30 p.m., FS1)

Both teams are in the top half of the Big East standings and aim to improve their tournament re-

are many reasons to fear the Golden Eagles, with a dangerous trio of Kolek, forward Oso Ighodaro and guard Kam Jones. Ighodaro has been terrific in the past ten games for Marquette, averaging 15 points per game.

No. 17 Creighton at Butler (Saturday, 12:30 p.m., FOX)

If one of the top teams in the Big East this week was enough for Butler fans, the Bulldogs also host Creighton on Saturday afternoon. With an impressive starting lineup that includes Kalkbrenner, Baylor Scheierman, Trey Alexander and Steven Ashworth, the Bluejays are not to be trifled with. Ashworth has come up big lately for Creighton, including a 26-point effort against the Bulldogs. Butler wants to claim the season sweep over Greg McDermott’s squad after winning by one point in Omaha 11 days ago.

Seton Hall at St. John’s (Sunday, 5 p.m., FS1)

It’s a battle of the Hudson River as Seton Hall crosses the George Washington Bridge and heads over to Elmont, N.Y. to take on St. John’s at the UBS Arena on Sunday evening. Two of the most exciting players in the Big East face off as Seton Hall guard Kadary Richmond looks to continue an All-Big East caliber season against pre-season All-Big East center Joel Soriano and the Red Storm. It’s a big test for both teams, each with spots on the bubble. It could determine tournament seedings, as two games separate the two schools.



Tyler Kolek, guard for the Marquette Golden Eagles, scored 27 of the team’s 86 points on Feb. 11, 2024. The Golden Eagles earned the win at the Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @MARQUETTEMBB ON TWITTER

addition to his 12 rebounds, while Carter continued his candidacy for Big East Player of the Year with 28 points and 11 rebounds. The former South Carolina Gamecock made five 3-pointers, including one with less than two minutes to play in overtime, followed by a reverse layup by Jayden Pierre, to give Providence an 86-83 lead over Creighton. A traveling violation by Creighton center Ryan Kalkbrenner sealed the win for the Friars, breaking a two-game skid.

Xavier defeats Villanova in battle of bubble teams, 56-53

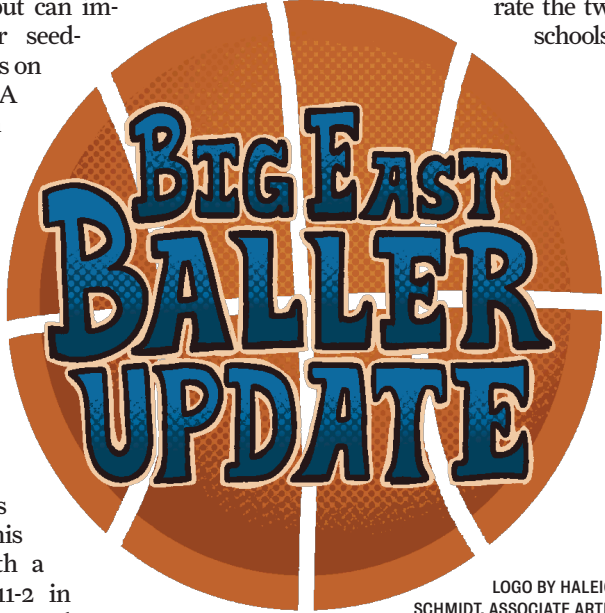
According to ESPN, Villanova and Xavier are in the “Work to do” category of the Bubble Watch. In a battle of two bubble teams, one was bound to improve its resumé. That team was Xavier, as they led the rest of the 4:18 left

cial win for the Musketeers.
Butler gets past Providence, 75-72

It was a thrilling game at historic Hinkle Fieldhouse on Saturday afternoon, as Providence and Butler aimed to improve their NCAA Tournament resúmes. The game went down to the wire, with Butler’s Pierre Brooks knocking down a jump shot with 19 seconds remaining to secure the win for the Bulldogs. DJ Davis led Thad Matta’s team with 20 points and eight rebounds, while Brooks finished with 12 points and seven boards. Former UConn guard Corey Floyd Jr. led the Friars with 20 points, while Carter, the leading scorer in the Big East, put up 18 points.

Upcoming Games (excluding a MASSIVE top-5 showdown between UConn and Mar-

sumes. Marquette looks to be a lock but can improve their seeding. Butler is on the bubble. A Butler win would greatly improve the Bulldogs’ tournament hopes. Playing at home has helped Matta’s team a lot this season, with a record of 11-2 in home games. There



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

The Weekly Reed:

THE LOS ANGELES DODGERS, BASEBALL’S NEXT SUPER TEAM



Shohei “Shotime” Ohtari, pitcher and designated hitter for the Los Angeles Dodgers, practices for the teams first game of 2024. The Dodgers will go up against the San Diego Padres on Feb. 22, 2024.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @DODGERS ON TWITTER

by Noah Reed

HE/HIM/HIS
STAFF WRITER
noah.reed@uconn.edu

Now that football is finally over following the conclusion of the Super Bowl, it’s time for baseball. For those who haven’t been paying attention during the offseason, it’s been rather weird. Some say it’s been eventful; others will point to the talent still left in free agency saying it’s been a slow grind, but the consensus amongst baseball fans is that the Los Angeles Dodgers have gone all in. L.A. went out and signed reigning AL MVP Shohei Ohtani, international star Yoshinobu Yamamoto, Teoscar Hernandez and James Paxton. They also traded for Tyler Glasnow and Manuel Margot, extending Glasnow to a five-year deal soon after he was acquired. In total, the Dodgers have committed to over \$1 billion in payroll with funky deferrals that set the baseball world on fire. Even as spring training starts this week, it’s not crazy to believe that they might not be done adding to their already talented roster.

With all this being said, many have dubbed the Dodgers as the next great “super team” in baseball. “Super team” is a term that has been really popular as of late, especially in other sports like the NBA. Golden State formed a super team when they added Kevin Durant to their core of Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green and went on to win a couple rings. In baseball, that term is usually linked to teams like the late-1920s Yankees, also known as Murder’s Row, with Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig leading a hall of fame filled lineup. New York’s 1927 team is arguably the greatest team of all-time, outscoring opponents by 376 runs with a league-best ERA. The Cincinnati Reds of the 1970s, dubbed the Big Red Machine, also comes to mind, making four World Series in a 10-year span (1970, 1972, 1975 and 1976). These teams featured all-time greats such as Johnny Bench, Joe Morgan, Tony Perez and Pete Rose.

The commonality of these teams is the success that spans across multiple years and a consistent roster. Los Angeles has their core of Mookie Betts, Ohtani and Yamamoto locked in for the next nine seasons, they have plenty of time to find success, but achieving it has proven to be a difficult task. Before all

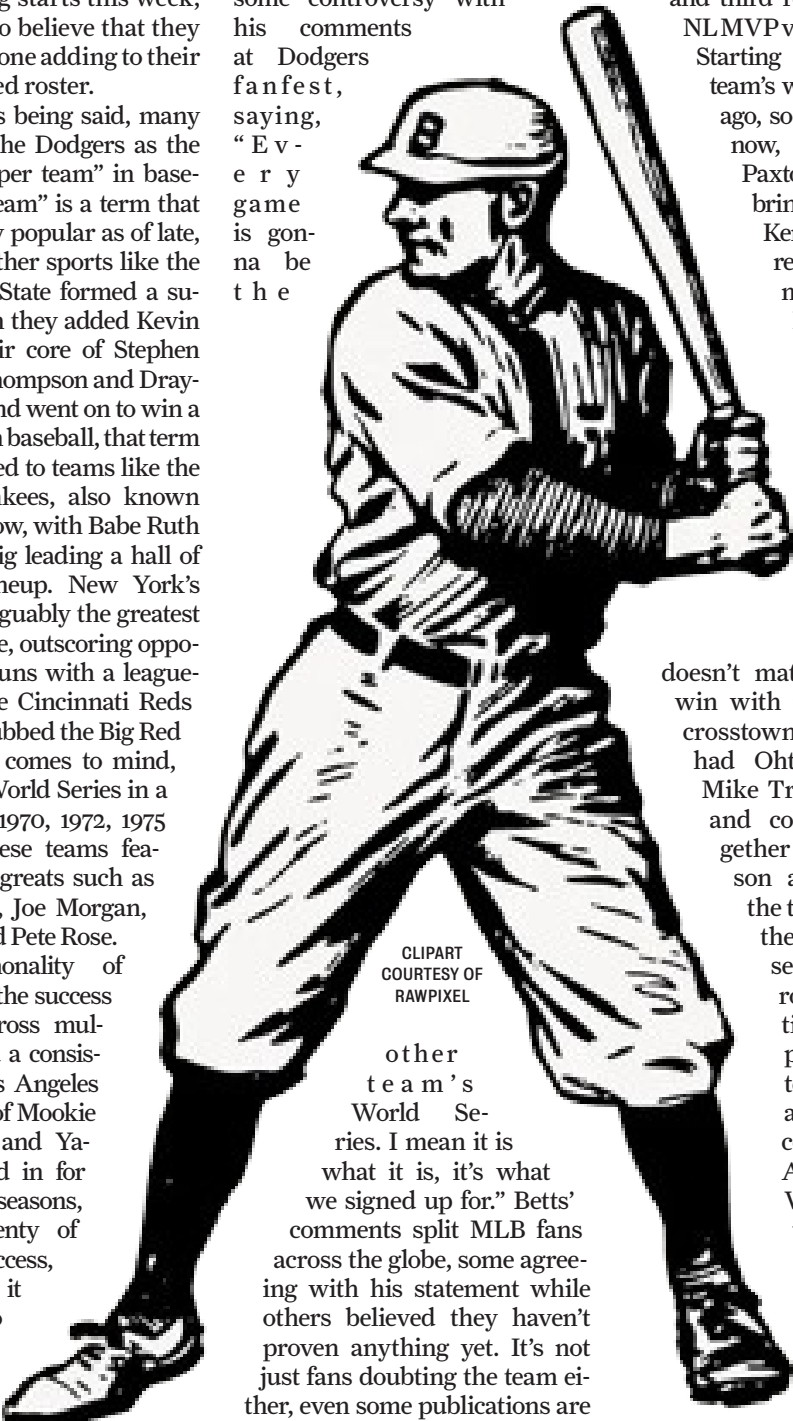
these crazy moves, Los Angeles were finding themselves playing in late-October regularly too, making the World Series in 2017 and 2018 before getting over the hump with a win in 2020. They’ve been a staple in the postseason every year since 2013 but have one ring to show for it. As for their new additions, Ohtani, the best player in baseball, has never played in a postseason game in the entirety of his career. Yamamoto hasn’t even made a single pitch in the MLB yet and he got a \$300 million deal. Glasnow hasn’t made over 22 starts in his eight-year career and has a 5.72 ERA in 10 postseason appearances. The talent is there for the Dodgers, but can they perform when the lights are bright determines if they truly are a super team.

Despite this, Los Angeles seems to be fully embracing the super team moniker they’ve garnered this offseason. Betts, recently moved to second base on the Dodgers, stirred up some controversy with his comments at Dodgers fan fest, saying, “Every game is gonna be the

too. Fangraphs, a popular website among baseball fans, still has the Braves projected to have a better finish in the regular season, projecting Atlanta to finish with 97 wins to the Dodgers’ 92. To be fair too, Atlanta hasn’t slacked off this offseason either. The Braves went out and brought in Chris Sale and Jarred Kelenic to bolster their depth to an already talented roster featuring Ronald Acuña Jr., Ozzie Albies and Matt Olson just to name a few. Their 104 wins was the most in baseball, being just one of four teams with triple digit wins in front of the Orioles (101) and Dodgers (100).

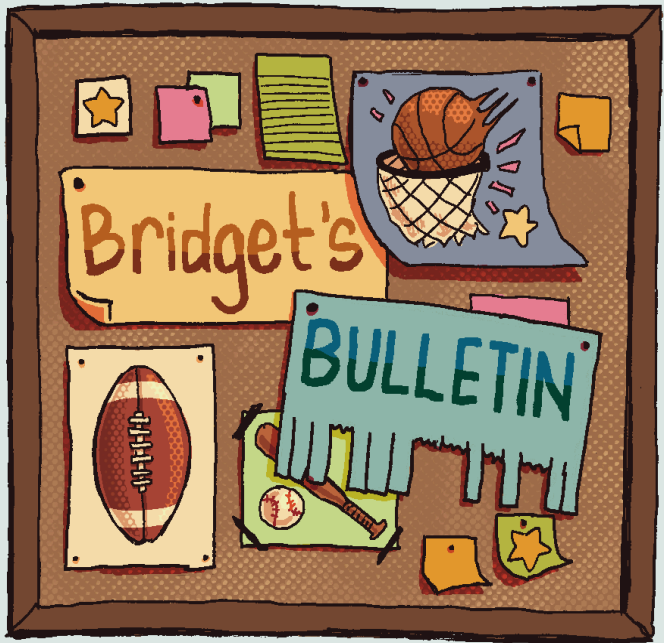
As much as you can doubt the Dodgers, the absurdity is real. Ohtani won the AL MVP with a 184 OPS+, posting a 1.066 OPS in nearly 600 at-bats while throwing 132 innings with an ERA+ of 142. He already has a career WAR of 19.9 in his six seasons with the Angels. You’re adding him to a lineup that already has Betts and Freddie Freeman, who finished second and third respectively in the NL MVP voting a season ago. Starting pitching was the team’s weakness a season ago, so they added Glasnow, Yamamoto and Paxton into the fold, bringing back Clayton Kershaw who should return in the summer while Walker Buehler continues to heal. Los Angeles has been a powerhouse in the league for over a decade, and this is the strongest roster that they’ve ever boasted.

Talent doesn’t matter if you can’t win with it. The Dodgers’ crosstown rival Angels had Ohtani along with Mike Trout for six years and couldn’t piece together a single postseason appearance with the two. That’s where the Dodgers’ post-season streak and roster construction comes into play, because this team is built to go all the way and continue to do so. Anything but a World Series victory is a disappointment. This can be the beginning of an insane baseball dynasty.



CLIPART
COURTESY OF
RAWPIXEL

other team’s World Series. I mean it is what it is, it’s what we signed up for.” Betts’ comments split MLB fans across the globe, some agreeing with his statement while others believed they haven’t proven anything yet. It’s not just fans doubting the team either, even some publications are



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

Track and Field midseason check-in, who to watch and where they’re headed

by Bridget Bronsdon

SHE/HER/HERS
STAFF WRITER
bridget.bronsdon@uconn.edu

With just one weekend standing in between the UConn track and field team and the Big East Championships, the squad has proven themselves a dominant force.

As reigning Big East Champions, the Huskies have made sure not to disappoint for the 2023-2024 indoor season and have consistently smashed record after record.

From the sprints, several Huskies have already put their names in the record books. Just over a month into the season, junior Jailya Ash broke an all-time UConn record in the 60m hurdles. With a time of 8.19, not only did the hurdler take home the gold, but she also earned the fastest time in UConn history. Right behind Ash is A’liyah Thomas. Thomas’ current time in the 60m hurdles, 8.34, is currently the fourth fastest in UConn history.

Sophomore Mia Dansby has also been following in similar footsteps. This past weekend, Dansby shattered a personal record of 7.47 in the 60m, earning herself a second-place finish at the Giegengack Invitational. Freshman sprinter Anna Connors is also showing significant promise for the Huskies as she recently broke a personal record in the 400m with a time of 55.3. With

of her career. With three personal records in the past month, she has proven to be unstoppable and the one to beat. Zydanowicz is currently holding the No. 2 all-time UConn record in the 3000m with a 9:16.04. The 4x400 relay was also largely successful as the lineup of Connors, Jessica Starr, Jalah Cooper and Raquel Rosa took home the silver at the Battle in Beantown, beating out several tough competitors such as Boston University and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Starr and Rosa have historically been powerhouses in the relays and continue to show significant promise.

Junior Travis Martin is yet another competitor to watch. Martin had a dynamic start to the indoor season as he earned back-to-back golds in the 1000m and the mile. In early January, the junior took home a personal record and a first-place finish in the 1000m with an impressive time of 2:22.99 at the Suffolk Ice Breaker. Martin’s counterparts Mahamed Sharif, Samuel Geisler and Kevin Cawley finished right behind him for a sweep.

In the mile, Martin beat out serious competitors from Boston University, Northeastern and UMass Amherst in the Battle of Beantown for a first-place finish and a personal record of 4:01.59, just less than a second away from breaking the four-minute marker, a serious ac-



UConn track and field competes in the UConn Husky Challenge for a two-day event on Thursday, Dec. 7 and Friday Dec. 8, 2023. The team continues to build on past success with team members like Marc Morrison recieving gold finishes.

PHOTO BY MERCER FERGUSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

just one week left in the indoor season, this group of women will be the athletes to watch as the squad moves into the outdoor season.

Equally as impressive are the men of the group who appear to be getting faster each week. Terrell Williams will be the sprinter to keep an eye on as he has consistently appeared at the top of the leaderboard. Week in and week out Williams has found himself at the top of the pack and dominating the track. Just last week the junior broke his previously set school record in the 60m hurdles with a whopping 7.71 time.

Following closely behind Williams is sophomore Damon Simpson. Simpson has been a powerhouse in the 60m consistently finding himself against the best of the best. Despite it only being his sophomore season, Simpson maintains the fastest team time in the 60m with a 6.79. With just one full year under his belt, this sprinter will be the one to watch as the seasons progress.

As for the distance squad, the first-place finishes have been pouring in. Junior Jenna Zydanowicz is having one of the best seasons

complication for any athlete.

While athletes have been roaring down the track, the field competitors have been busy breaking records and earning titles. This past week, Marc Morrison was named Big East Field Athlete of the Week due to his exceptional performance in the long jump at the Crimson Elite meet. Morrison jumped 7.59m and earned a gold finish.

Meanwhile, Jasmine Barrow has consistently been a top performer in the long and triple jump. With routine first and second finishes, the senior has been setting records since her freshman year. Last year, the junior took home the gold in the triple jump and the bronze in the long jump at the Big East Championship. As for the 2024 season, Barrow is on the same path. Currently ranked No. 3 in the UConn records for indoor triple jump, she is on the trajectory to success.

As the outdoor season quickly approaches, the Huskies are looking as sharp as ever. Both on the track and on the field, UConn has set itself up for a fantastic finish to the indoor season and a dynamic start to outdoor.



Sports

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:

What does the loss to No. 1 South Carolina mean for UConn?

by **Stratton Stave**
HE/HIM/HIS
SPORTS EDITOR
stratton@uconn.edu

On Sunday, the No. 15 UConn women's basketball team faced off against top-ranked South Carolina. Few expected it to go well for the Huskies. And it didn't. It's not hard to see why the Huskies were blown out by 18 points (it wasn't even that close). I won't go into detail about the game though. I've already done that. Today's goal is to assess where the Huskies stand after that loss and what it means for the rest of their season.

To set the tone and answer the question that the title poses, the game told us very little about Connecticut. Even with South Carolina's best player, Kamilla Cardoso, out for Olympic qualifiers, UConn still looked outmatched in a way they haven't been in quite some time. It never really felt like they were in position to make a comeback either.

Broadly speaking, it's not fair to ask the Huskies to make a national championship run this year. Their roster is not going to get any healthier. They have nine games left until the NCAA tournament, assuming they win out, and they aren't playing with enough depth that they'll be well-rested for the tournament.

Aubrey Griffin, Azzi Fudd, Caroline Ducharme, Ayanna Patterson and Jana El Alfy are all out for the season. Healthy, that could easily be a starting five for a team in the top 25. But that's the list of who UConn is missing. In lieu of this, coach Geno Auriemma has been forced to give really big minutes to his starting five, while his two primary reserves have provided limited minutes.

For reference, against the Gamecocks, Auriemma used his starters for 178 of the available 200 minutes, good for 89%. Qadence Samuels and Ice Brady played a collective 22 minutes, partially because Edwards was shaken up in the first half.

A national championship team needs depth. When the team's star is off, they need a cast of capable reserves to help out. This year's team does not have that, but it's not their fault. Their forwards not named Aaliyah Edwards aren't developed enough to make an impact. Samuels is young and needs time. She's shown flashes here and there, but wasn't expected to do much heading into the season.

Ice Brady isn't ready either. Once a top five recruit, it was hoped she could anchor UConn's frontcourt alongside Edwards, with her 'old school' game. Brady was forced to sit out last year with a knee injury and has not looked ready to contribute this year. Amari DeBerry appears to be perfectly healthy, but has not found minutes in any of her three years. It's unclear what El Alfy would have brought to the team if she was healthy, but perhaps that would have taken the pressure off Brady. On top of that, having a healthy Griffin and Patterson would have been a nice way to fill in the gaps on the forward slots.

Instead, they're stuck with Edwards, who has been phenome-



UConn women's basketball takes on Seton Hall at the XL Center on Wednesday Feb. 7, 2024.
PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



The UConn Huskies play an intense match against Seton Hall on Feb. 7, 2024. The final score was 67-34, UConn taking home the victory.
PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

nal, and the freshmen. Edwards is producing at a comparable rate to last year's All-American season, but the others either aren't ready or don't have enough talent to sufficiently help out. That frontcourt couldn't contain the Gamecocks. Even missing their star center, South Carolina still managed to outscore them 34-22 in the paint.

The guards have been thin too. Paige Bueckers has been great, but it's becoming easier for opposing defenders to hone in with the fatigue she's experienced along with the lack of threats she has to pass to. It's nearly impossible to ask her to succeed in an environment like this, especially since her game hinges on ball distribution and finding her teammates first.

Nika Muhl has been okay, though has frequently dealt with turnover problems. She hasn't been able to duplicate her efforts from last year when the team had more continuity throughout the season and she didn't have two other ball-dominant guards on the court. Aside from 3-point percentage—which she doesn't shoot many of—most of her key figures have dipped from last year.

KK Arnold and Ashlynn Shade have been great for what they needed to do. Auriemma tends to avoid relying on freshmen, but he's been forced to this year. Sometimes they've looked more ready than other times. The good side of Arnold's Sunday performance was her seven boards and four assists. The bad was her two points and the handful of shots she had swatted. Shade is looking like the frontrunner for Big East freshman of the year, but dropped a 6/19 shooting line Sunday.

None of that was to diss the team. It's more to explain why it is not fair to ask them to do historic things this year. Auriemma's 12th title will have to wait. Nothing is wrong with that. This squad has lost to any team they played ranked No. 14 or above in NET. They've beaten every team opponent below No. 20. On top of that, they haven't had a game decided by single-digits. With that said, they're pretty securely in the No. 15-20 zone.

Given everything they've been through, that's just alright. In a year like this, it's critical to simultaneously accept that it's going to be a year to forget and not be upset by it. A Sweet 16 appearance would be great. If they truly are a borderline top 16 team, hosting the first round is not definite (though it almost certainly will happen because they will likely win out and the teams ranked around them will lose games).

But say they end up as a No. 4 seed, they will easily beat the No. 13 seed. Then they should be able to eke by the five. Come the second weekend, they'll be up against one of the top four teams in the country. If that team is anything like South Carolina, I don't like UConn's chances.

The rest of the Big East season will be enjoyable; they will win games, many by a lot. But trust me: if you watch this season without expectations, it'll be easier on the eyes come the second weekend and late March. Because this team is one of the unluckiest in the sport.

WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

UConn SCOREBOARD



Women's Basketball
Sunday

Upcoming Games



Men's Golf, Today
Humacao, Puerto Rico



WBB, 7 p.m., Wednesday
Cincinnati, Ohio

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconnmbb
Cam gets the @bigeast Weekly Honor Roll nod for the first time this season

TWEETS OF THE DAY



Team of the Century

@HuskyCentury

UConn is ranked #1 in the AP Poll for the 5th week in a row. That is the most consecutive weeks in a row ranked #1 for any school this season... again UConn is THE program in college basketball



@blackoonblack

omg uconn nation fighting on the tl and saying the season over cause we lost to the #1 team in the country on the road? if y'all don't get up!

Follow The Daily Campus @dcsportsdept