



An interview with USG presidential candidate Josh Crow



Josh Crow interviews at The Daily Campus. Last week, the Editorial Board interviewed Crow as part of The Daily Campus's coverage of the USG presidential elections. PHOTO BY KEVIN LINDSTROM, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Last week, the Editorial Board interviewed the two candidates for the USG presidential elections, which will occur from March 3-5. Today, we share with you our interview with Josh Crow, edited for length and clarity. A full transcript can be found online at dailycampus.com.

Daily Campus: What do you see as the current relationship between USG and the administration, and what would you like to change about that relationship?

Josh Crow: I think it depends on what part of administration you look at. We tend to treat administration as a monolith as administration tends to treat the student body as a monolith, but it's not and neither are we ... Something me and Alex are hoping to do is prioritize the good relationships we have, thank those administrators

for the good ones we have, and frankly start calling out the administrators who have bad ones with us, so there starts to be a pressure for us to move towards a system where everyone works with us.

DC: How would you measure and define success in concrete terms for your administration?

JC: We want — this is very ambitious — but we want by the end of next year for everyone to be able to point to something and say USG has done that for me. Right now, we are going around talking to a lot of groups, and the first question we always ask is “What has USG done for you that you can point to?” There hasn't been much of a positive response in that regard. So, focusing on those programs as executives that target the issues students care the most about.

DC: You have more experience in the upper levels of USG than the other candidate. How do you think that's prepared you to take on the presidency?

JC: Most importantly, I know how to deal with student government, as does my running mate Alex. Which sounds like a silly little thing, but for anyone who has any experience with the student government, you know it can be frankly a pain in the ass to work with, and that's a huge learning curve for somebody who has no experience inside the organization to overcome.

Something I hope to do, and Alex hopes to do is we can take our experience to help streamline that process and make it easier to digest for people outside, and that's honestly the biggest place I think [my experience] comes in.

See CROW, p. 4



'Thrive Not Survive'

Students protest for mental health reform at board of trustees meeting

by Mike Mavredakis

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A group of University of Connecticut students protested at the university's board of trustees monthly meeting Wednesday morning to push the board to increase funding for mental health care.

“The most important thing is that students are expressing that they are caring for one another, and they are not feeling that care from the university,” Dean of Students Eleanor JB Daugherty said after the students spoke. “That is a gap that should not be their experience, they should feel welcomed and cherished by everyone. If we are failing to do that, we need to address that.”

The students, led by UConn Coalition for Collaborative Organizing (UCCO) President Katherine Morris, an eight-semester cognitive science, anthropology and master's in public policy student, spoke at the beginning of the meeting for approximately an hour and a half, providing a face and a variety of personal stories for the board to consider in their handling of mental health reform going forward.

“Continuing pressure and making sure that they are actually carrying out things,” Morris said on the path forward. “Avoiding falling into the trap of having a task force and meetings, where you can say that you are doing something but all you're really doing is having these meetings.”

Once the public comment section of the meeting ended, the board swiftly passed all the items on their agenda, according to University Spokeswoman Stephanie Reitz.

Reitz also confirmed that Trustee Scott Cowen had handed Gov. Ned Lamont his letter of resignation after the passing of his wife.

After waiting more than 20 minutes past the listed start time for the meeting to be called to order, the student protestors walked over behind university officials to get right into view of the Board. They remained there for the duration of the testimonials.

“It came out of just wanting to be seen, I think,” Abhishek Gupta, an eighth-semester biology and sociology major, said on moving the protest into view. “The way meetings are structured, they tend to be a little bureaucratic in nature, and it follows a strict ordered setting, but we didn't want to be seen as people on the sidelines.”

“We have a list of questions for the university, but we basically just need more care.”

KATHERINE MORRIS



A student speaks at the Board of Trustees meeting Wednesday. Students interrupted the assembly to protest the state of mental health at UConn.

PHOTO BY WESLEY NYAMBI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Students stand behind administrators at Board of Trustees meeting Wednesday. Students interrupted the assembly to protest the state of mental health at UConn.

PHOTO BY WESLEY NYAMBI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

“The most important thing is that students are expressing that they are caring for one another, and they are not feeling that care from the university.”

ELEANOR DAUGHERTY

Student Mental Health March demands CMHS reform

by Naiela Suleiman

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Students chanting and holding posters took to the University of Connecticut seal Wednesday, demanding better mental health care from the university's Counseling and Mental Health Services (CMHS).

Katherine Morris, founder of UConn Collaborative Organizing (UCCO), put together the demonstration that marched from the seal to the board of trustees meeting in Wilbur Cross.

“We are here because mental health has been an issue my entire time here at UConn, but more prominently the fact that two of our students committed suicide within a month of each other,” Morris said. “That's how we ended last semester and how we started this semester.”

Morris said that many of the problems with CMHS lead back to insufficient funds.

“We have a list of questions for the university, but we basically just need more care,” Morris said. “We need more options available and more equality in those options. We need more diversity and practitioners. We need more funding and more staff to support the students.”

Danny Mitola, a seventh-semester sustainable plant and soil systems and English major, said he was not surprised by the lack of mental healthcare on campus.

“I was not surprised, and that's not a good thing,” Mitola said. “I had a tough time my freshman year, so if there was more support and fewer wait times when getting help for mental health, maybe things would have been different.”

Mitola said the administration is not seeking student input.

“We are here, and we need help and we are asking for help and they should provide that help,” Mitola said.

Students said the administration is not prioritizing mental healthcare the same way they do physical healthcare.

“I really think it's blasphemy, I walk around and I can't even believe this is happening,” Riya Benkat, second-semester marketing major said. “Especially at a university like UConn that prides itself on being supportive of its students, so we are being supported physically but mentally there is just nothing.”

Benkat said her own connections to mental health brought her to the march.

“Mental health is regular health and I think that's important to understand,” Benkat said. “I have personal ties and have seen the effects of mental health up close. You really don't know what it's like 'til you're standing in those shoes so it's important to be here to help people understand the extent of mental health.”

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See MARCH, p. 3

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Vaughn Juan

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Just talked to my baby cousin she's a statistics major at UCONN. I feel old af

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Mid-week sweep for UConn

News

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

What happened this week beyond UConn

by **Taylor Harton**
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Kobe Bryant Wrongful Death Lawsuit

Vanessa Bryant, the widow of Kobe Bryant and mother of Gianna Bryant, who were both killed in a helicopter accident in January, has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the helicopter company, Island Express Helicopters, Inc., according to KTLA 5. The lawsuit alleges that the pilot of the helicopter, Ara Zobayan, was negligent and careless and should have grounded the helicopter until the extremely foggy conditions cleared up. The lawsuit also states that Zobayan failed to properly assess the weather and failed to control the helicopter. It also alleges the operating company was negligent in not installing a terrain awareness mechanism on the helicopter that could have potentially prevented the crash. The lawsuit was filed in Los Angeles Superior Court on the same day as Kobe and Gianna's public memorial service at the Staples Center, where the Lakers play.

Florida Abortion Bill

On Friday, the Florida legislature passed a bill that requires women under 18 years old to be granted parental permission before receiving an abortion, according to NBC News. The House voted 75-43 along party lines in favor of the bill, and Governor Ron DeSantis is expected to sign it in the coming days. The bill includes a provision that would allow girls to receive a waiver from the permission guidelines in the event of abuse, incest or a situation where notifying a parent would be more harmful than going forward with the procedure. "We require parental consent for a minor to get a driving learner's permit because it is common sense. It is not common sense to suggest that getting a learner's permit is a less significant life decision than a child getting an abortion," Rep. Ana Maria Rodriguez said. "A parent guiding their children through major life decisions is a good thing."

Coronavirus Precautions

Several universities in the state of Connecticut are electing to bring students studying abroad home and suspending abroad classes amid growing fears about COVID-19, the deadly strain of coronavirus that originated last year in Wuhan, China, according to WTNH. Fairfield University is currently pulling students out of an abroad program in Italy after confirmed cases were reported there. Florence University of the Arts in Italy is also closing its doors to abroad students and sending several home indefinitely. The University of New Haven is also temporarily suspending classes in Tuscany, Italy, and encouraging all 80 students studying there to come back to Connecticut. University officials said those that are coming back must self-quarantine for two weeks in order to ensure safety and prevent the possible transmission of the virus. Quinnipiac, Southern Connecticut State University and Yale University have yet to make any definite calls on the decisions for students abroad.

Harvey Weinstein Convicted

Former popular film producer Harvey Weinstein was found guilty Monday of third-degree rape and first-degree committing a criminal sexual act nearly two years after allegations against him started the #MeToo movement, according to CNBC. He was acquitted of a majority of charges including first-degree rape and two counts of predatory sexual assault which could have cost him a life sentence. The jury, comprised of seven men and five women, deliberated for 27 hours over a five-day period about the charges. After the trial, Weinstein was handcuffed and ordered to be held without bail until his March 11 sentencing. He faces five to 25 years in prison.

Kansas Wrongful Arrest Case

Lamonte McIntyre, a man who has now spent over 20 years in prison for a double murder he did not commit, will receive \$1.5 million as compensation for the erroneous conviction, according to Time Magazine. In 1994, McIntyre was tried and convicted for the murders of Donald Ewing and Daniel Quinn, who were fatally shot while sitting in their vehicle in broad daylight. There was no physical evidence to convict McIntyre or a known motive, but it was later discovered that the prosecutor had intimidated witnesses into saying the description of the killer and McIntyre matched up. It was also discovered the judge in the case and the prosecutor were having a romantic relationship at the time of the case. McIntyre was released from prison after 23 years in 2017.

All The Small Things

DR. LESLIE SHOR ON HOW LOOKING AT THE STUFF IN SOIL CAN HELP THE CLIMATE

by **Grace McFadden**
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Humans spend a lot of time and energy shaping their environment, but University of Connecticut Associate Professor of Chemical & Biomedical Engineering and Associate Dean for Research & Graduate Education Leslie Shor spends her time studying how the environment can shape us.

Shor's research is interdisciplinary by nature -- she spends her time studying very small systems to understand much larger ones. Shor looks at dirt and its effect on the environment.

"My background is in environmental science and chemical engineering," Shor said. "I've kind of bridged those together by trying to understand how the engineering of natural systems -- in my case soil -- impacts the functions of microbial communities that are really important for plant health and the productivity of plants."

Among other areas of research, Shor's recent publications have focused on the roots of common plants and the important role they play in creating a whole world we don't know about beneath our feet.

"At the underground of a plant there's almost as much biomass as there is above ground," Shor said. "If you see a tree, you can imagine there's potentially as much of a root system below ground as above ground. That's first of all pretty amazing. And it's not just the cells of the plant that's there -- the plant is actually supporting a whole ecosystem of microbes and fungi that live below the surface in that dark soil

environment."

Shor's research on roots has looked at mycorrhizal fungi in particular. These are organisms that help extend the network of roots to be able to reach more nutrients and water.

Shor discussed how currently, human agriculture disrupts some of these essential root systems. Grass is one of the most ubiquitous plants on earth, covering between 20% and 40% of the Earth's land area according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

"I think the way that humans have approached agriculture is a little bit aggressive and controlling, like we're going to reshape the landscape in a certain way," Shor said. "I think we have a lot to learn from nature. I think by being more humble, we can maybe have a better performance and certainly obtain greater sustainability."

Shor has also been looking into how the bacteria in the guts of termites could be useful in developing a macro-level solution to clean energy.

"One of the other challenges we have is to provide energy and fuel for our society," Shor said. "We'd be in really great shape if we could use cellulose and the lignin that's in plants for these sorts of needs. Currently, we have bioenergy programs, but generally we're using the same part that we use for food to convert to energy in the form of ethanol."



The grass inside Hard Rock Stadium is shown Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020, in Miami Gardens, Fla., in preparation for the NFL Super Bowl 54 football game. Grass is a current area of research for Associate Dean for Research & Graduate Education Leslie Shor. Among other areas of research, Shor's recent publications have focused on the roots of common plants and the important role they play.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

"My background is in environmental science and chemical engineering. I've kind of bridged those together by trying to understand how the engineering of natural systems impacts the functions of microbial communities."

LESLIE SHOR

"I don't have all the answers. No researcher has all the answers."

LESLIE SHOR

Shor said that termites are somewhat unique in their ability to break down those same materials that would be useful for humans and convert them into energy.

"The termite can take wood and grind it up and convert it [into energy] and fuel its own activities," Shor said.

Shor said that outside of her research directly, one of the things she cares about the most is expanding diversity in the sciences and academia.

"As you broaden the group of people that's working on the solutions, you're also broadening the questions that are being asked, the approaches that are being brought to bare, and you're improving the outcome for everyone," Shor said. "If we're going to solve the grand challenges that face humanity, we need all hands on deck. It can't just be certain groups of people, certain socioeconomic classes, certain races, certain genders, that are contributing to the solutions. It really is gonna take everybody."

As for her advice for those who may be interested in research, she said that students should try if, even if they're unsure if they have anything to contribute. Shor said that she often even learned from her undergraduate researchers.

"I don't have all the answers. No researcher has all the answers," Shor said. "If we know what we were doing, it wouldn't be called research. I want to encourage students to jump into this playground whenever the mood strikes them, and engage with this, and contribute to this. That's really what going to a place like UConn is all about ... it's about contributing to knowledge."

The Daily Campus

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Board of Trustees decisions and student outcry

BOARD, cont. from p. 1

On top of increased funding, the students asked the board to consider further diversifying the mental health staff in place, so that more identities can be represented in the counseling services provided. At this time, there is one professional in Student Health and Wellness (SHaW) who speaks Mandarin, and four that speak Spanish.

"We have to be able to respond to the variety of identities that need support on campus, that has to happen through hiring," Daugherty said. "It has to happen through a perspective on student health and well-being that is inclusive and welcoming of diversity. One of the things we feel is very important in supplementing our counseling staff is including a social work perspective, which I think is very valuable among our clini-

cians, but also extending that to how we look at health and wellness in the community. Then the third piece is training, we need to be able to train our staff to be responsive to the variety of needs that our students experience."

Reitz said it is an "institutional priority", after hearing from students that there is a disconnect between them and some professors and faculty.

"I actively cut things out [of my testimonial] if there was even a risk of it falling on a deaf ear, so I said just enough," Morris said on explaining her story without having to prove to the board that her trauma was severe enough to warrant action.

They also spoke about difficulties and frustrations students experience in the appointment-making process, which requires a triage phone call and, depending on the individual, bi-weekly appointments.

"The students have been very clear in their questions which has prompted some immediate, short-term questions about changing hours, looking at a greater depth of care for 24/7 response, scheduling mechanisms that aren't phone dependent," Daugherty said. "All of those things are things we are talking to students about implementing in the short-term."

In terms of long-term care, Daugherty pointed to the UConn's partnership, alongside USG and SHaW, with the JED Foundation, an organization dedicated to improving student mental health on campuses around the country. University President Thomas Katsouleas announced the hiring of case managers at each of the regional campuses.

In addition to adding more diversity to SHaW, Caesar Valentin, an eighth semester political science and philosophy major,

spoke in support of making Jennifer Cheng, a METAS assessment specialist in PRLACC, a full-time employee.

"Real, institutional change requires us all to be on the same page and I think this was a good step forward to doing that," Gupta said. "We've done a lot of work laying the foundation and now it's time to build. I am greatly anticipating the response that we get from them as well as the establishment of the president's task force."

Among the agenda items approved were a software update to the PeopleSoft system, a host of construction and renovation plans and the honorary degrees of six professionals. They also approved re-naming the Hall of Champions in the Werth Family Basketball Champions Center lobby as the Nayden Hall of Champions, after receiving a gift "with the amounts recommended for naming the Hall of Champi-

ons" from the Nayden family.

"I'm hoping that they give it time to let it marinate and really sit with what we decided to share with them today, because it was really courageous of everyone who shared their experience and who shared their story," Gupta said.

Finally, here were some of the things the students had to say:

"I'm exhausted by students being invited to the table to break bread with administrators to be left with the crumbs," Luke Anderson, an eighth-semester anthropology and nutrition major, said.

"I am afraid of dying here and just becoming a story," Jessica Delgado, a fourth-semester nursing major, said after elaborating on her own mental health history.

"This is a problem that will not go away, we will not go away," Gupta said.

Mental Health Action Day march

MARCH, cont. from p. 1

Benkat said she expected more from CMHS when she started at UConn last semester.

"I definitely had bigger expectations for the quality of mental health care since UConn is a bigger university, but the atmosphere isn't great," Benkat said. "I wouldn't call it hostile here, but everyone is just walking around doing their own thing and I don't feel like it's a community."

Benkat clarified that joining a learning community made it easier to build connections at school.

"If I didn't have my learning community now, it would be way harder to find supportive social circles, and I know tons of freshmen start from scratch where they don't know anyone in their building and that can be hard," Benkat said.

Students at the march said they want to be heard and raise awareness among the student and faculty population on campus.

"I'm hoping to see some people look our way, be curious and inquire," Benkat said. "I hope students and administration see why we are making noise, get some awareness going and make a statement about how pissed people are about the state of mental health on campus."



Thomas Katsouleas sits at the Board of Trustees meeting Wednesday. Agenda items included a software update to PeopleSoft, construction plans and honorary degrees to six professionals. PHOTO BY WESLEY NYAMBI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

"I'm exhausted by students being invited to the table to break bread with administrators to be left with the crumbs."

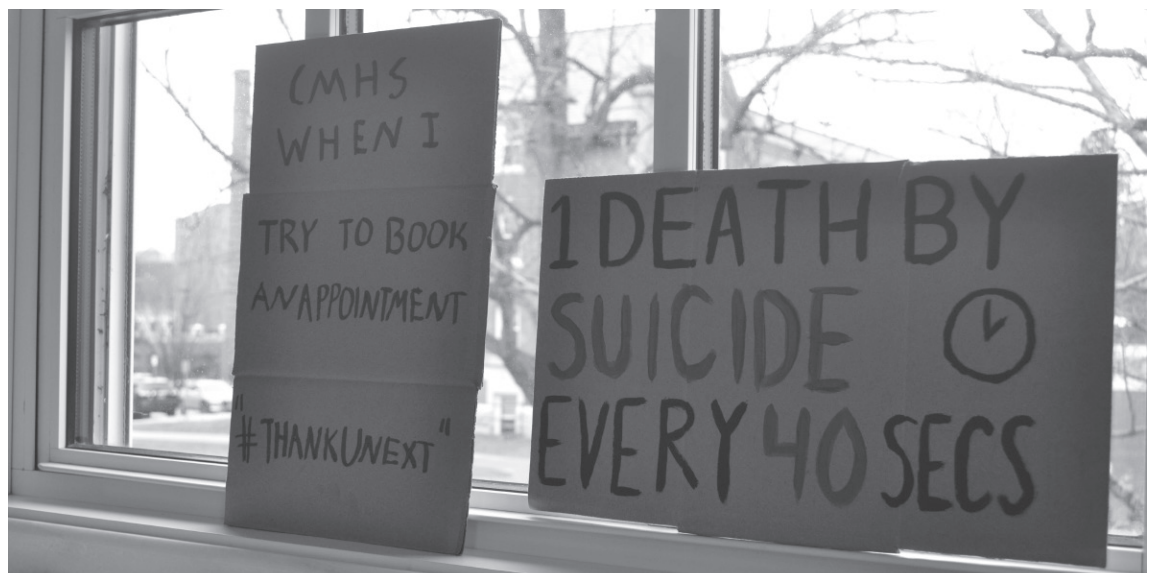
LUKE ANDERSON

"I am afraid of dying here and just becoming a story."

JESSICA DELGADO

"This is a problem that will not go away, we will not go away."

ABHISHEK GUPTA



Signs put up by students sit in Wilbur Cross during the Board of Trustees meeting. Students placed them in protest of UConn's inaction in the face of recent mental health crises. PHOTO BY WESLEY NYAMBI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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COMIC BY JOSHUA ARIZMENDI, STAFF CARTOONIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Josh Crowe addresses INCLUSION and FUNDING in USG

CROWE, cont. from p. 1

DC: Many undergraduate students feel powerless or voiceless against the decisions of the university. What do you have to say to them and how specifically will you advocate for all undergraduate students?

JC: I would say, first and foremost, that I'm sorry you've felt that way, and that we've all felt that way ... what we're trying to do in reaching out to those groups and being those facilitators that we've been so far is making people at least feel like they have a voice, even if all we do is shout sometimes, at least we have the ability to do that. We can amplify each other's voices. An example I always point to is look at the success the Graduate Student Union has had in the past few years being able to assist out graduate students. And granted, we're not a union, but that type of thing is what we could be if we optimize what we do and we focused on what we got more feedback on what we want and what people want, we could get up in the administration's faces a lot. They know they can take things from undergrads, because at the end of the day all that might happen is we'll complain about it for a little bit then we'll move on, so that would be the thing we're really trying to change. Bringing those communities together, we bring ourselves a staying power that really doesn't currently exist in the undergraduate life.

DC: How do you plan to include people from very disparate groups, like people from different schools, or especially students from regional campuses?

JC: This is a really good question, and something I really look forward to doing. I was fortunate to in the fall at the HuskyEngage summit to interact with the current Hartford student government. I would be very much in favor of reaching out to the other student governments as well, especially because when it comes to something like the appropriations hearings and testimonies we're doing this coming Tuesday [Editor's note: this interview was conducted on February 16th], that affects all of UConn, not just us up here at Storrs, so building those relationships before those problems hit is instrumental to our success as a larger institution and is absolutely something we should pursue and will pursue if we're elected.

DC: After the various racist incidents on campus last semester, and the big debate over the two students who were arrested, how will you make sure you run USG as an explicitly anti-racist organization that stresses diversity and inclusion?

JC: So, first, I think everyone can agree that what happened was atrocious and should never happen on this campus, but unfortunately we can only look to ourselves and what we can do. I can tell you that personally, I will always work to create an environment that's as welcoming as possible. Something that I've done as speaker is make sure I have one-on-one meetings with literally every single senator. There are 60 of them, so it takes a little while, but what that creates is an environment where every single one of my constituents feels like they can come to me and talk to me personally and tell me when there are problems. It also creates a collective spirit of togetherness, everyone in that body is not looking to upset other people or offend other people



USG presidential candidate Josh Crowe sits down with the Daily Campus editorial board to discuss his platform for the upcoming election. PHOTO BY KEVIN LINDSTROM, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

because while they may disagree on things, they're friends ... And that way, that spirit ends up spreading to the rest of the student body, because if we don't hold those opinions internally, we're not going to represent them externally.

DC: Tier II organizations often complain that funding is difficult to receive through USG. Do you have any ideas for improving this process?

JC: Something we're currently working on is upgrading the funding system. It doesn't work for the groups, it literally doesn't work for the funding staff who need to handle the request, they hate the system too. Nobody likes the system as it is. It's inefficient, it's old, so rebuilding that, retooling that is the first step. A lot of the reasons our policies are so strict, like the 6 week deadline, is because of how slow the system is on our end. If we rebuild that system, we can look to drop the deadline down to four weeks or two weeks ... In general, working with the comptroller and the funding supervisor to make sure we make the process more human and easier for everyone involved, because right now it's terrible for the people outside, it's terrible for the people inside, it just doesn't work.

DC: You and [vice presidential candidate] Alex are dating. How do you think that this will impact your governance?

JC: So Alex and I, first and foremost, decided we were going to run together before we were dating. That was not part of the paradigm at all. In fact, when it came to our attention that this was going to be something that we were going to pursue, that we needed to have a conversation with ourselves about how our professional and personal lives are going to affect each other. It was a difficult conversation to have, but we did have it and we've actually come to the conclusion that those things are entirely separate and will always remain entirely separate. Alex and I have not always had the best relationship. There was a period of time last

year where we did not like each other at all and actually personally could not really stand each other, but professionally retained that professional commitment to work together as a senator and a speaker and were able to accomplish good things together. It's because of that time period where we struggled together we know that, god forbid anything does happen, which we don't plan on, we can continue to operate as student body president and vice president regardless of what happens on the personal side of things. And, as another quick note, that separation almost has to exist for our benefit as

"While we have insider experience we have outsider ideas."
JOSH CROWE

well. If every time we went out to dinner, we talked about USG stuff, we'd go insane. So, it's not just for the benefits of the students but also for us.

DC: Give us your pitch. Why should students vote for you?

JC: I think people should vote for Alex and I because we're genuinely trying to make the student body better, and I don't think anyone is running because they're not. It's been brought up to us a lot that we've been in USG a long time, and USG's had problems, and don't you represent those problems by having that experience, and we say no. Because while we have insider experience, we have outsider ideas, specifically along the lines of bringing USG into a role where it's willing to take on a lot of these things more unilaterally when necessary, take that into a direction it hasn't really gone before, continue to support those ideas. And I think because of our willingness to reach out to groups, which we're going to continue to do, not just during the election period but if we're victorious afterwards as well, is to breed that sense of community. We can talk a big game about how it's terrible that there's no greater identity of what it means to be a husky on this campus, but if we're not the ones who are willing to go out there and build it, why would we bother running. That's why people should vote for us, because we're willing to put in the time and effort, paid or unpaid, to get this done, to make sure this happens because this is what matters for all of us.

★ The
Right
answer

Sanders pays homage to communist dictators

by Kevin Catapano
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This week, after months of hard selling his candidacy as a promotion of European-style democratic socialism, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) relapsed into defending murderous communist dictators while campaigning to be president of the United States. Given the opportunity to repudiate his 1985 defense of the Fidel Castro regime in Cuba – an evil regime which imprisoned and murdered thousands of Cuban dissidents and impoverished thousands more – Sanders reiterated his support for Castro on CBS's "60 Minutes." "We're very opposed to the authoritarian nature of Cuba but you know, it's unfair to simply say everything is bad. When Fidel Castro came into office, you know what he did? He had a massive literacy program. Is that a bad thing? Even though Fidel Castro did it?"

This isn't the first time Sanders has cozied up to the murderous Castro regime. In 1985, he suggested Castro supporters "had an almost religious affection" for the dictator because he "educated their kids, gave their kids health care, totally transformed society." He also complained that former President John F. Kennedy's "hatred of the Cuban revolution" made him "physically nauseated." This ignores that Castro was aiming Soviet nuclear missiles at the United States in this period, that the Cuban literacy rate was already among the highest in Latin America before the Castro regime and that Cuban healthcare has been riddled with dilapidated hospital buildings and a shortage of medical resources (and that Cuba had healthcare prior to the Castro coup).

Sanders' sycophantic propagandizing on behalf of brutal dictators isn't relegated exclusively to Fidel Castro, though. In 1980 Sanders and his wife took a trip to the Soviet Union and returned with proud claims that the Soviets had "the most effective transit system" he had ever seen. He also praised the Soviets for "moving forward into some of the early visions of their revolution, what their revolution was about in 1917." During this same decade, he hobnobbed with the murderous communist regime of Nicaraguan dictator Daniel Ortega, celebrating the Sandinista revolution and attending a rally at which demonstrators chanted "the Yankees will die." When pressed about the Ortega regime's murdering of thousands, he pointed out Abraham Lincoln had once suspended habeas corpus.

More recently – as in last year – Sanders refused to categorize socialist Venezuelan despot Nicolas Maduro as a dictator and declined to recognize Juan Guaido as the legitimate leader of Venezuela. During Tuesday's debate in South Carolina, Sanders stated that "when dictatorships, whether it be the Chinese or the Cubans, do something good, you acknowledge that."

This is a candidate who doesn't have a kind word for the free markets which have lifted half the globe from abject poverty over the last century or the U.S. healthcare system that provides the highest quality, immediate medical care in the world, including care for the 160 million Americans he will boot from their private plans. But Sanders can find the good in the communist Chinese government which censors speech and has jailed dissidents or the Soviet regime which executed, imprisoned and exiled millions of kulaks in order to seize their farmland for collectivization. This is a candidate who has never met a communist dictator with whom he would not exchange pleasantries.

For his entire career Bernie Sanders has praised dictatorial regimes, whitewashed or outright ignored their crimes against humanity and propagandized on their behalf in order to dishonestly distinguish between their collectivized visions and the execution and imprisonment of dissidents utilized to bring those plans to fruition. He has nothing but criticism for America and plenty of niceties for evil dictatorships. History has proved that communism and tyranny are two peas in a collectivist pod. History has also proved that Bernie Sanders doesn't have a problem with that.



Life

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DIABETES MANAGEMENT MADE SIMPLE: THE BIONIC PANCREAS

by **Meghan Shaw**
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Dr. Edward Damiano, a professor of biomedical engineering at Boston University, as well as director and CEO of Beta Bionics, discussed the production of, and hopes for, his revolutionary diabetes managing device in the Student Union on Wednesday.

His product, called the iLet, is a device about the size of a cell phone that monitors and adjusts glucose and insulin levels day and night, replacing the current system of constant blood sugar tests and insulin injections. It is a vast improvement on even the most advanced technology available at this time, not only monitoring the hormones in the blood, but self-correcting as needed every five minutes.

Inspired by his son, who was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at 11 months old, Damiano decided that he would pave the way for the

future of diabetes management. He resolved to create a bionic pancreas that his son would be able to wear to college, giving himself a deadline of 17 years. Now hoping to have the product widely available by the time his son graduates college, Damiano has made impressive advancements giving promise of a better way to manage diabetes in the years to come.

"I have Type 1 diabetes myself, which is what drew me to this event... I was diagnosed eight years ago, and so that was in the middle when he was producing everything... so over the years I've been following it, and I saw it advertised in the Union. It was so interesting, because it was this thing I had been looking forward to for so long, so I had to come check it out," Olivia Tabola, a second-semester allied health major said.

Damiano discussed the history of diabetes treatment, emphasizing the need for more ac-

curate and "smarter" devices. Great progress has already been made, albeit very slowly. Before insulin was used to treat diabetes, "it was a worse diagnosis than cancer," Damiano said. Though this is no longer the case, very few people living with diabetes are able to manage their blood sugar levels on par with the ceilings necessary for a healthy life with no long term consequences. Consistently high blood sugar can result in blindness, nerve damage and kidney disease.

The iLet both brings blood sugar levels to a healthy range and stabilizes the levels over time, which are the two major issues that current treatments struggle to address.

Another factor that makes the iLet stand out from the other diabetes management devices is its simplicity. It eliminates the need for insulin injections and regular blood tests and only requires that the wearer enter

their weight into the system.

"[I] have close friends that are affected by Type 1 diabetes, so it was interesting to learn more about it, and how the technologies are advancing," Valerie Knowles, a second-semester pre-pharmacy major said.

Damiano hopes that his product will also address the insulin crisis faced by countless Americans with diabetes. The enormous cost of insulin causes many people to ration their supply towards the end of the year, leading to a spike in ketoacidosis cases, which can be life-threatening. Damiano believes that a much cheaper, slower acting insulin can be effectively administered through the iLet, which can be purchased for about a tenth of the price of the \$300 ultra-rapid insulin most often used today.

Beta Bionics, the benefit corporation established by Damiano to produce the iLet, has a very different philosophy than

most medical and pharmaceutical companies in America. As a certified benefit corporation, its primary goal is to act in the best interest of the people affected by Type 1 Diabetes, giving access to technology and products as safely and efficiently as possible. Since they are unaffiliated with large corporations and have an allegiance to the stakeholders rather than stockholders, Beta Bionics is able to fulfill their mission by producing affordable and accessible products.

Although the iLet is making great strides and improvements in the lives of those living with diabetes, Damiano emphasizes that the ultimate goal is a cure.

"Until a biological cure is found... we need a better way of managing diabetes," he said.

By taking matters into his own hands, his project, 20 years in the making, is well on its way to being the best diabetes management device currently available.



Dr. Edward Damiano of Boston University discusses the future of diabetes management through the use of a "bionic pancreas," a recent innovation in the way of type 1 diabetes. He and his company, Beta Bionics, are working on bringing the iLet to market, an automated insulin regulator which can revolutionize the way diabetics manage their insulin levels.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MATT PICKETT,
GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY
CAMPUS



"Being able to say 'I accept this about myself is a huge step towards feeling empowered in that aspect of yourself.'"

On Feb. 26, students gathered at the Student Union Ballroom for "Jars of Self-Acceptance," an event to inspire body and mental positivity. This event is in response to National Eating Disorder Awareness week, which brings to light a larger conversation about eating disorders and mental illness.

Hosted by the Undergraduate Student Government (USG), Students Helping to Achieve Positive Esteem (SHAPE) and Student Health and Wellness, students found their crafty side by painting and decorating mason jars in order to fill them with notes of either self-acceptance or positive thoughts.

The goal of National Eating Disorder Awareness Week, which lasts from Feb. 24 until March 2, is meant to shine a spotlight on eating disorders by educating the public as well as sending messages to those who may be currently struggling.

SHAPE is a peer education group that works with both the University of Con-

necticut Nutrition Department and Student Health and Wellness to create events such as this, which promote positive body and self-wellness. Although this specific event is the first of its kind at UConn, SHAPE plans to continue it in the future.

Kasey Macedo, USG member and one of the hosts of the event, explained that although trying to achieve self-love is important, it can also sometimes feel impossible and this event is in hopes of sparking some change in self-acceptance.

"I think it is important to discuss self-acceptance and self-neutrality because no matter what you are struggling with, be it your body image, sexual orientation, etc.," Macedo said. "Being able to say 'I accept this about myself' is a huge step towards feeling empowered in that aspect of yourself."

Alongside snacks for students to munch on, a slideshow of positive stories of self-acceptance played. In the background, songs of positivity played such as

Taylor Swift's, "Me!" and Demi Lovato's, "Confident."

The event also had multiple fliers and stickers present, to give students some examples of self-acceptance phrases and inspiration.

In terms of eating disorder signs, Macedo says a negative distortion of body image can be a red flag and she encourages you to reach out to others for help.

"In a society that has normalized dieting, weight loss products, distorted eating habits and negative self-talk, warning signs can fly under the radar," Macedo said. I believe that educating yourself about eating disorder warning signs and fighting against the harmful diet culture that we live in can be beneficial to the people in your life, as well as your own."

If you think you may be struggling with an eating disorder or know someone who is, there are many resources on campus that can help, such as Mental Health Services (860-486-4705) and free nutrition counseling (860-486-2719).

Spring break ideas by budget and effort

by **Stephanie Santillo**
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Flying Out

If you're flying somewhere for spring break, chances are you've already booked your ticket and are just counting down the days until spring break.

Make sure that all last-minute details are in place. Find your passport, print your boarding pass and drag out your suitcase. All that's left for you to do is pack your bags when the time comes. Don't forget your swimsuit, sunscreen and flip flops if you're headed to the beach.

Once you get to your destination, make sure to stay safe and not party too hard. Always go out with a friend and come up with a plan for what to do if you ever get separated. It's not worth all that money if you're not having a great, safe time!

Road Tripping

If you're willing to put in a little effort right now, there's still time for you and a friend or significant other to plan a road trip. Take a few days to drive somewhere and plan a day or two to look around your destination.

Make sure to create a budget that includes funds for gas, food and lodging. Additionally, you should check to make sure your car's tire pressure is ok and that you have a spare tire and emergency kit.

A few destinations within day-or-so driving distance of Connecticut are Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Maine and Montreal (though you'll need a

passport for this one). Look up attractions at your destination and along the way before you get in the car so that you know of some cool places to stop.

Day Trips

If you're headed home but don't feel like staying home all week, plan a day trip or two to the city or somewhere else cool.

New York has plenty of fun things to do. You could go budget-friendly and visit Central Park, the High Line or Vessel in Hudson Yards. All of these are free and open to the public, though you will have to pick up (free) tickets for Vessel. These spaces are also interesting because you'll get to experience nature and art at once.

Boston is similarly full of things to do. Walk around Faneuil Hall, an indoor-outdoor shopping center, or visit the Museum of Fine Arts or the New England Aquarium.

Staycation

Don't be disappointed if you're staying home for spring break. It's one of the few opportunities that college students have left to hang around the house doing nothing. Fortunately, it is also very budget-friendly.

Make the most of the week by visiting old friends or seeing family. Get a few people together and do something fun like ice skating, bowling or mini golfing (if it's warm enough).

Invite some college friends to your hometown and show them around. Take them to your favorite coffee shop on Main Street or the best ice cream you know. A few days later, you can go visit them in their town.

Spring break is rapidly approaching, and students are running out of time to make plans for a great break. Here are four spring break ideas organized by effort in planning and budget. There's something for everyone, from the spring breaker who booked their ticket to the Bahamas months ago and the person who didn't realize spring break is only two more weeks away.

XXL FRESHMAN 2020 PREDICTIONS

by **Ian Ward**
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Every music genre has its milestones that shows an artist has made it. For hip hop, making the XXL Freshman cover is a major accomplishment. For those unaware, XXL is a hip hop magazine that issues a yearly list of 10 rappers they think will be popular. The number of rappers who have appeared on the list has changed over the years but the importance of the list hasn't. Rappers like Kendrick Lamar, Megan Thee Stallion and Travis Scott have graced the cover and gone on to be superstars.

For the 2020 list, XXL will have a lot to choose from, especially since there is fan voting in which fans can vote for their favorite rapper out of a selected bunch for the 10 spot on XXL's website. Here are some rappers who I believe will be featured on the cover based on popularity and their artistry.

Polo G

If you were paying attention to hip hop in 2019, you probably heard the song "Pop Out" by Polo G featuring Lil Tjay. The song reached No. 11 on the Billboard Hot 100 and No. 7 on the Billboard R&B and Hip Hop charts. Besides "Pop Out," Polo G is also known for songs such as "Neva Cared" and "Heartless," which have garnered millions of streams on Spotify. Polo G also has three million followers on Instagram and over 360,000 Twitter followers. With those kinds of numbers, Polo G is almost a lock to appear on the freshman list.

Lil Tjay

Bronx rapper Lil Tjay has quickly become a well known name in hip hop. Besides appearing on "Pop Out" with Polo G, Lil Tjay also appeared on "Slide" with French Montana and Blueface and "War" with the late Pop Smoke. Where Lil Tjay shines, however, is on his solo songs. Both "Brothers" and "F.N" each have over 100 million plays on Spotify, and his Instagram has nearly three million followers. Lil Tjay is a star in the making and a spot on the XXL freshman list is a fitting place.

Stunna 4 Vegas

North Carolina's hip hop scene has been prosperous over the past couple of years. With DaBaby and J.Cole being the most well known rappers to represent the state, it's only fitting that Stunna 4 Vegas would be the next North Carolina rapper to make it big. Best known for songs "UP THE SMOKE" featuring Offset and "Ashley" featuring DaBaby, Vegas's career is starting to take off. His social media presence isn't as high as other rappers, but he makes up for it through his unique flow and creative lyrics.

NLE Choppa

When thinking of major hip hop hubs, Memphis, Tenn. probably isn't the first place that comes to mind. After hearing NLE Choppa, however, that opinion may change. Songs like "Choppa Flow" and "Camelot" have catapulted the young MC to heights most 17-year-olds can only dream of. His feature on "Go Stupid" with Polo G and Stunna 4 Vegas also showed that NLE can share the spotlight. The energy Choppa provides to a track is something that will be hard for XXL to ignore when selecting their freshmen. Choppa is almost a lock for the cover.

Lil Tecca

Lil Tecca is everything XXL is looking for in a freshman. He has a major hit song "Ransom" has over 500 million plays on Spotify and "Love Me" has over 100 million plays. He has over three million followers on Instagram and he is only 17. A teenage rapper with that much success is a rarity, especially with more teenage rappers entering the scene. If Lil Tecca keeps his momentum going, he is almost guaranteed for the XXL list.

Doja Cat

Meme rap is a subgenre of hip hop that is often scoffed at for not being serious enough. Yet Doja Cat was able to capitalize off of memes through her song "Moos." Her fame has continued to rise through songs like "Juicy" and "Tia Tamera" which both have over 50 million plays on Spotify. Her eccentric style and colorful lyrics are a perfect fit for this generation of hip hop which are qualities XXL looks for when choosing their freshmen.

Baby Keem

Not many rappers can claim they are related to Kendrick Lamar. Baby Keem is an exception as Lamar's cousin. Best known for his songs "Orange Soda" and "Honest," Keem is also a songwriter who has worked with artists like Schoolboy Q and Jay Rock. Keem is only 19 but he shows promise as an aspiring rapper, and XXL often looks for rappers who have potential in the future to make it big.

Jack Harlow

Jack Harlow at first glance does not seem like an artist who would be on a XXL Freshman list. However, when the music video for his hit song "WHAT'S POPPIN" was uploaded to YouTube by Lyrical Lemonade, there was no question Harlow would be a candidate for the cover. Best known for helping launch the careers of Juice WRLD and Lil Pump, Lyrical Lemonade produces music videos with views that go into the millions. "WHAT'S POPPIN" was no exception, having reached over 11 million views on YouTube. Other songs that have been hits on Spotify include "THRU THE NIGHT," featuring Bryson Tiller, with over 17 million plays and "SUNDOWN" with over 16 million plays.

Don Tolliver

Houston rapper Don Tolliver almost seems too good to be true. His song "No Idea" has almost 150 million plays on Spotify, he will be an opening act on The Weeknd's After Hours tour this summer and he has collaborated with artists such as Eminem and Travis Scott. With over 500,000 Instagram followers, XXL will probably recognize the clout Tolliver has built and will put him on the freshman cover.

Calboy

Melodic hip hop has grown in popularity over the past couple years and it is partially because of rappers like Calboy. With hits like "Envy Me" and "Adam & Eve," Calboy's catchy hooks and melodic voice represent a new era of hip hop in which vocal abilities play a larger role in a song. Given how XXL has chosen melodic rappers such as YK Osiris and PnB Rock to be freshmen in the past, it is only fitting that they would choose Calboy to be a freshman on this year's cover.

EGGS FLORENTINE FLORENCE DANCE FOR KIDS

by **Rebecca Maher**
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It can be hard to leave all of UConn's traditions behind to go abroad. During this spring semester, I'm missing everything from One Ton Sundae to Spring Weekend. But at least I didn't miss HuskyTHON! That's right, International Studies Institute (ISI) Florence brought a THON-affiliated program to Florence this year: Florence Dance For Kids.

Florence Dance For Kids was created this year, through the help of Penn State University's THON program. Unlike THON, which lasts for 48 hours, and HuskyTHON, which lasts 18 hours, Florence Dance For Kids was only four hours long, and only allowed children and parents to come inside for hourly shifts, completely different from other THON's.

Taking place in the historic Palazzo Vecchio, the old offices of the Medici banking family, Florence Dance For Kids was more of a show for children than a giant dance marathon. Different groups from around the city showed up to entertain the kids. Most notable was the Florence Knights Star Wars Fun Club, which performed a 10-minute-long choreographed fight scene, consisting of several adults clad in Star Wars robes with lightsabers in hand. It was largely unclear what the plot of the fight was, as there were four different colored lightsabers and no clear good guy or bad guy. Their use of the force to make two Jedi kiss during the performance was disturbing at best, and an interesting choice for a kids show. But it was fun to watch.

A handful of children's dance groups showed up as well, which the little kids seemed to enjoy more.

Rather than have the student volunteers from ISI dance with the kids, they had us choreograph

and learn two dances within a two-week time span. By mashing together songs like Justin Timberlake's "Can't Stop the Feeling!" and Tones and I's "Dance Monkey," which the Florentines are absolutely obsessed with, we were able to make a dance that kept the kids on their toes. Unfortunately, the only time the kids were welcomed to dance too, was when they played Claudio Caccetto's "Gioca Jouer." "Gioca Jouer" is a lot like the "Hokey Pokey," in that a man sings different verbs, which the dancers have to act out. Unlike the "Hokey Pokey," the verbs in this song are completely random and include things like to spray deodorant or to ring the church bells.

Although the overall structure of Florence Dance For Kids was completely different from HuskyTHON, the message was the same. Several children who had survived cancer came to speak at the event, as well as Zia Caterina, a flamboyant woman who drives children with cancer and their parents to and from the hospital in her colorful taxi. Caterina has helped immortalize sick children by asking them to choose a superhero alter ego for themselves to be placed on her taxi and in her comics, for after they die. In this way, sick kids can help bring joy to others even after their deaths. The slideshow of sick children and their superhero identities at the end of the event firmly established the need for the fundraiser.

Florence Dance For Kids not only helped raise money and spread awareness this year, but it hopefully started a tradition of fundraising for children with cancer that will last in this city for years to come. So if you're worried about missing HuskyTHON during an abroad program next year, there's still a chance you'll be able to make a difference in ISI Florence.



thirsty
thursday



LEAP DAY DRINKS a toast to Feb. 29

by Daily Campus Life Section

Every four years, we have a leap year. This is the day we tack on to our calendar to make up for those pesky extra six hours per year the Earth spends in orbit. The extra day is added to February to make the shortest month just a smidge longer. For those of you that might be unfamiliar with this holiday, there are a number of odd traditions celebrated on Feb. 29.

According to Irish legend, women can only propose to men on a leap day (there's a whole movie about this one). In Denmark, if a man refuses a woman's proposal on a leap day, he must buy her 12 pairs of gloves to hide the shame and embarrassment of a naked ring finger. In Germany, it's tradition for a girl to leave a decorated birch tree on their crush's doorstep on Feb. 29.

While some of these traditions might seem antiquated and rooted in sexism, we cannot forget perhaps the most important facet of Leap Day: The celebration of Leap Year babies. There is even an official honor society for people born on leap days. They only get to celebrate their birthdays once every four years, so here are some cocktails to mark the occasion (or just to benefit Danish bachelorettes).

Leap Year Cocktail

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 oz. gin
- 1 oz. Grand Marnier
- 1 oz. sweet vermouth
- 1 oz. fresh lemon juice
- Lemon twist for garnish

This cocktail makes the list because it was invented during a leap year (1928). Aptly named, this cocktail is a little bitter sweet, much like the thought of adding an extra day to the calendar. To make this drink, simply fill a cocktail shaker with ice and add all the liquids. Shake vigorously for 10 to 20 seconds until incorporated. Serve chilled with a lemon twist.



The Leap Frog

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 oz. Galliano (an Italian liqueur flavored with herbs)
- 2 oz. vodka
- 1 oz. orange liqueur
- 2 oz. fresh lime juice
- A dash of bitters
- 1 teaspoon maraschino cherry juice
- 1 maraschino cherry

A deep dive into the internet will reveal a whole category of "frog" related cocktails, which is simultaneously alarming and charming. This cocktail might seem complex but is actually fairly easy to throw together in a pinch, and the deep flavors will leave you wanting more. Simply add all the liquid ingredients to a cocktail shaker with ice and shake vigorously. Strain into a martini glass and garnish with a cherry.



The Amy Adams

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 oz. vodka
- ½ oz. dry vermouth
- ½ oz. Irish whiskey
- Lemon twist for garnish

This martini honors actress Amy Adams in her role as Anna in the iconic 2010 Irish-American rom-com "Leap Year." Anna travels overseas to propose to the man she loves and finds a new romance along the way. During a classic wedding-crashing scene, Anna and her travelling companion Declan find themselves downing a few too many martinis. This simple drink is an Irish twist on a classic cocktail. The splash of Irish whiskey gives this martini a bold flavor, cut nicely by the acidic lemon taste. Just take care not to indulge as much as they do in the film. Remember spend your Leap Day wisely.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FACEBOOK

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PINTEREST

Opinion Study Break

Huskytalk | What are you doing with your extra day in February?

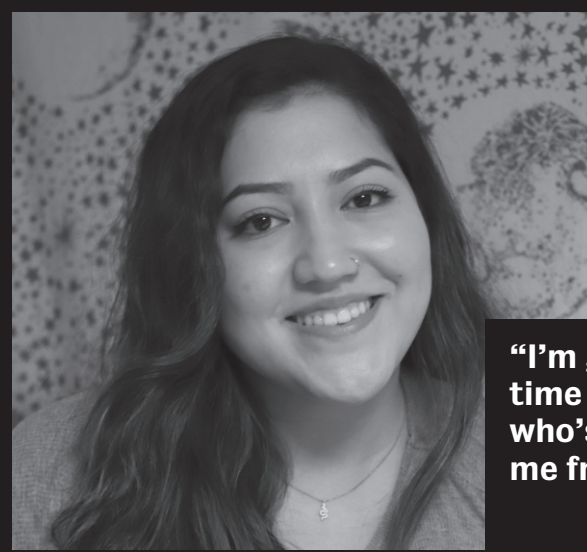
"I'm planning on catching up on all my work and studying for the midterms I have next week."

Sophia Scorziello
Journalism
Second Semester



"I'm going to spend time with my friend who's coming to visit me from Syracuse."

Teresita Ortiz
ACES
Second semester



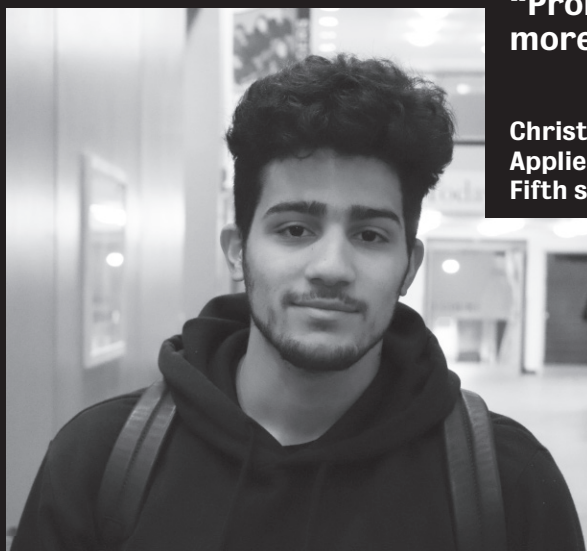
"I'll try to catch up on work, but I'm probably just going to sleep to be honest."

Jack Wohl
Computer Science, cognitive science
Fifth Semester



"Probably get some more sleep."

Christian Lebron
Applied physics
Fifth semester



USC's tuition plan goes too far and leaves too many behind

by **Carson Swick** | STAFF COLUMNIST
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Back in October, University of Connecticut President Thomas Katsouleas announced the Connecticut Commitment, a financial aid expansion plan that will eliminate tuition expenses for students from Connecticut with household incomes less than \$50,000. Though it has generated controversy, Katsouleas' plan has the potential to provide valuable opportunities to students in need if university funds are managed properly.

But last Thursday, University of Southern California (USC) President Dr. Carol L. Folt went a step further. In an attempt to make her university more accessible to working-class students, Folt announced that students whose household incomes do not exceed \$80,000 annually will be able to attend USC without paying tuition as of this fall. While her financial aid expansion is designed to increase, I worry that its radical nature will compromise both the university's academic prestige and its student body.

Before I become too critical of the USC plan, it is worth noting that the cost of living in Southern California is extremely inflated when compared to most of the country. Thus, a Middle American family making \$50,000 a year will have a much easier time paying for their children's tuition than a Californian family making the same amount of money. (For the purpose of this article, I will consider California households that make less than \$80,000 to be of the working and lower-middle classes.)

However, the issue at hand is not the fact that poorer USC students cannot make their tuition payments. Most of these students are able to attend the accredited university on the back of generous scholarships and financial aid packages already in place. Living expenses, such as housing and meal plans, are far more detrimental to students without the means to pay for them. President Folt's plan makes no mention of relieving students from the burden of Southern California's expensive nature.

Furthermore, raising the tuition-free threshold to \$80,000 actually assures that fewer students will receive academic scholarships. If students eligible for free tuition at USC under Folt's plan know that they can go there for free, what incentive do they have to apply for scholarships? Of course, USC is not a "safe school," but an all-out free tuition incentive essentially allows the university to create a monopoly over elite lower-middle class students in Southern California. Those who would otherwise consider other attending prestigious universities like Cal, Stanford or UCLA will flock to USC in large numbers. Ironically, in trying to create diversity, the USC plan will only shuffle student demographics and maintain uniformity.

When I mentioned "shuffling demographics," I was referring to the students who really lose out as a result of Folt's plan: those from middle (and low upper-middle) class households making just above the \$80,000 threshold. An obvious correlation, the need-based financial aid awarded to students decreases as their household income rises. The cost of college is rising exponentially, and I worry that middle-class students will find themselves just as disadvantaged as their less fortunate peers if tuition-free programs with quotas continue to be implemented across the country. In the case of USC, we must feel terribly for students in those households making \$80,001 a year, whose slight prosperity denies them a chance at academic prestige.

All admission scandal jokes aside, USC has proven itself to be a unique academic environment and one of the few places where typical students walk to class alongside the children of celebrities. For the sake of those typical students at USC and elsewhere, we must reject the implementation of income-based quota systems that determine the future of college students. Likewise, it is up to universities to find better ways to attract the finest students and bring out the best in them as individuals, not to group them together in socioeconomic masses at the expense of others.



USC President Carol L. Folt introduces a speaker at her previous institution, Dartmouth. Recently, Folt announced USC would be waiving tuition for students whose families make less than \$80,000 a year.
PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

Wet'suwet'en defend their land against Canadian colonialism

by **Zoey Turturino** | STAFF COLUMNIST
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Canada has a special place in the hearts of many American liberals as an example of what the United States could be, with its single-payer healthcare system, strict gun control laws, and charismatic young leader, Justin Trudeau. This sanitized image, however, hides the dark reality of Canada's existence as a settler state occupying stolen Indigenous land. Like the United States, Canada's colonialism doesn't just exist in the past, but continues to this day, and liberal heartthrob Trudeau has been particularly guilty of upholding that colonial legacy. The most recent flashpoint has been the Wet'suwet'en protests of a \$6.6 billion pipeline across unceded land.

On Dec. 31, 2019, the British Columbia Supreme Court gave approval to Coastal GasLink to begin clearing obstructions, such as cabins and gates, in the path of their new pipeline which runs directly through unceded Wet'suwet'en territory. Nearly immediately, the Wet'suwet'en First Nation served Coastal GasLink with an eviction notice for trespassing on their land. In response to the invasion, protests sprang up across Canada in the form of marches and rail blockades.

These rail blockades have been especially successful at halting commuter and freight traffic throughout Canada. By choosing this direct protest tactic, activists have made it impossible for the Canadian government or the general public to ignore their demands, forcing their way into the public consciousness. Protestors have been met with severe repression from the police while Trudeau continues to side against the First Nations people. Despite state repression, new barricades continue to go up and protestors have shown no signs of slowing momentum until the Canadian government leaves Wet'suwet'en territory.

This current wave of protests is among the largest displays of solidarity against oppression in Canada in years, and it exists at an intersection of multiple issues. The pipeline being protested, the TransCanada Coastal GasLink pipeline, is part of a \$40 billion investment in fracked gas in British Columbia. With scientists urging world leaders that we only have 12 years to act before climate catastrophe, the decision to continue with a brand new fracked gas pipeline represents an extreme level of hypocrisy from Justin Trudeau and the Canadian government, and a lack of commitment to fighting climate change. At the heart of the Wet'suwet'en resistance against the Coastal GasLink pipeline is an understanding that we must do everything we can to protect the environment.

Another central piece to this movement is the thousands of missing Indigenous women across Canada. In 2019, the Canadian government released a report admitting responsibility for the disappearance of over 4,000 Indigenous women over at least 30 years in what they describe as a Canadian genocide. Despite this report, violence against Indigenous people, and especially Indigenous women and queer people, continues in Canada. The red dress has become a symbol for those missing Indigenous women, and have been prominent throughout the protests. As the police continue to trespass on Wet'suwet'en land, they have trampled over the red dresses and the memory of those thousands of missing Indigenous women.

It is hard to look at these protests without remembering the resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline at Standing Rock in 2016. There, we saw another colonial government, the United States, trampling over the land rights of Indigenous people to build a pipeline. Neither of these are isolated incidents; they exist as flashpoints of a centuries long struggle against colonialism and genocide. As settlers, we are all complicit in the ongoing oppression of Indigenous people, and we must do everything in our power to respect the sovereignty of Indigenous people.

A woman speaks with Ontario Provincial Police officers as she removes flags from a rail blockade in Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, near Belleville, Ont., on Monday Feb. 24, 2020, during a protest in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en Nation hereditary chiefs attempting to halt construction of a natural gas pipeline on their traditional territories.
PHOTO BY ADRIAN WYLD/AP



Ionescu finally getting deserved respect

IONESCU, cont. from p. 11

Ionescu has brought a bright spotlight to women's basketball, something that rarely happens outside of Storrs, Connecticut. She is fully aware of the perception of the women's game as inferior and unimportant. But through her historic play on the court, and her impressive poise off it, she's actively changing that.

"I wanted to be a part of the generation that changed basketball for Gigi and her teammates," Ionescu said on Monday. "Where being born female didn't mean being born behind. Where greatness wasn't divided by gender."

In her address to the star-filled Staples Center, Ionescu lamented the crushing reality that we'll never know the player that Gigi would have become.

"If I represent the present of the women's game, Gigi was the future, and Kobe knew it," Ionescu continued. "So we decided to build a future together."

Ionescu has already helped pave the future of women's basketball. There are millions of young hoopsters watching triple-double after triple-double, hoping to achieve that same level of dominance one day. In Ionescu, we're watching unprecedented greatness. Pay attention.

Joel Embiid sprains shoulder, Sixers lose to Cavs

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Philadelphia 76ers suddenly have a lot more to worry about than their poor road record or playoff seeding.

Their star players are getting hurt.

Joel Embiid left Wednesday night's 108-94 loss to the Cleveland Cavaliers with a sprained left shoulder in the first quarter and didn't return. The All-Star center scored three points in 8 minutes.

The 76ers, already playing without All-Star guard Ben Simmons, never led against the team with the worst record in the Eastern Conference and fell to 9-21 on the road.

Embiid had his left arm in a sling and was in visible discomfort following the game. He declined to talk to reporters and had an equipment manager carry his backpack out of the locker room, where the quiet atmosphere summed up the team's mood.

The Sixers are fifth in the conference. Coach Brett Brown said he didn't know how long Embiid, who scored a career-high 49 points Monday against Atlanta, will be sidelined.

"I'm really unsure," Brown said. "It's not coach-speak, but this is part of the NBA landscape. That's why you try to accumulate talent and depth."

Al Horford said his team had a difficult time adjusting without Embiid, who averages 23.8 points and 12 rebounds.

"Obviously, we play through

Most likely Cinderellas at this year's dance



BYU forward Yoeli Childs (23) reacts after dunking against Gonzaga during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020, in Provo, Utah.

PHOTO BY RICK BOWMER/AP

by **Tamir March**
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There are going to be upsets everywhere this March. I've talked throughout the year about how nobody has emerged as a dominant team and that still holds true today. Usually we have about three or four shoe-ins to make the Elite Eight (Kansas may be the only one), but the reality is that the ceilings for teams are far lower. The actuality of this makes for a real possibility of not just one, but multiple Cinderellas. We're going to have to find more glass slippers.

BYU Cougars

After last week's upset of Gonzaga it'll be difficult to say that BYU is under the radar, but I'll still sneak them in here. I called it an upset, but it was not all that surprising that BYU beat Gonzaga; maybe that they won by double digits was though. The Cougs have scattered only seven losses over the course of the season, most of them being without their big man and best player Yoeli Childs. Three of those losses are against teams currently in the top 10 (Kansas, Gonzaga and SDSU). BYU's managed 91 in their drubbing of Gonzaga, which highlights their offense that ranks third in the country in efficiency. A senior backcourt of TJ Haws (14.5 points, 5.6 assists) and Jake Toolson (15.5 points, 46.2% from three) is easily one of the best in the country. Childs has missed

13 games this season — if he is healthy, BYU can beat anyone in March.

Utah State Aggies

Utah State hasn't got the national plaudits due to San Diego State earning all the attention in the Mountain West. The Aggies are not the 27-1, however they've shown in spurts that they will be very dangerous if the committee grants them an at large bid. They're led by one of the best scorers in the country, Sam Merrill. Merrill puts up a shade under 19 points a game on over 40% from three and 89% from the line. A guy who can put up 30 in a hurry is a near necessity for a double digit seed to make a Cinderella run and Utah State has just that in Merrill. Justin Bean and Neemias Queta are one of the best mid major front-court tandems, combining to average 25 points and 18 rebounds. The Aggies already have wins against Florida and LSU earlier in the year. Don't be surprised when Sam Merrill is dropping 35 against Duke in the Sweet Sixteen.

East Tennessee State Buccaneers

The 25-4 ETSU Buccaneers are fighting with Furman and UNC Greensboro for the SoCon automatic bid, but they could very well earn an at large, barring an upset. The Bucs beat LSU on the road (who mid majors seem to beat up on), and had Kansas on the ropes at Fog Allen. ETSU does not have a scor-

er like Merrill or a dominant post like Childs, however they are incredibly balanced on both sides of the ball. A roster littered with seniors, ETSU has everything it takes to make a run in March (if they raise their 68.7% from the line).

Rhode Island Rams

I already wrote about Rhode Island and why they will eventually be "in" come Selection Sunday. The second best team in the A-10 has all but solidified their name being called (probably as a 9 seed) and a win vs. Dayton on their senior night will lock that in. Fatts Russell struggled in a recent loss at Davidson, but is capable of lighting up any team (19.7 points per game) and disrupting the opposing offense (2.9 steals per game). Russell's steals are just part of the 21st best defense in the country (per Kenpom), that is anchored by senior forward Cyril Langevine. Langevine is undersized for his position at only 6-foot-8, but he is one of the most physical bigs in the country, grinding out 10.4 rebounds a contest. This Rams team lacks depth, but they make up for that in talent and experience. Jeff Dowtin (14.3 points per game) can take over first fiddle from Russell when need be. An 8/9 seed would make for a difficult second round game against a 1 seed, but the Rams starting 5 matches up well with anybody in the country.

Honorable Mentions: Stephen F. Austin, Saint Mary's,



Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid, center, squeezes between Cleveland Cavaliers' Ante Zizic, left and Matthew Dellavedova in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020, in Cleveland. PHOTO BY TONY DEJAK/AP

him and once he was out, we didn't really know what was next," said Horford, who scored 10 points. "We didn't quite know how to play. We have to figure out how to play without him."

Embiid collided with Cavaliers center Ante Zizic while being fouled late in the first quarter. The 7-footer held his shoulder in obvious pain but stayed in the game and missed both free throws.

The Sixers pulled Embiid at the next time stoppage and

he walked to the locker room while rubbing his shoulder. He briefly returned to the bench in the second quarter, but went back for more evaluation and treatment. At halftime, Embiid rejoined his teammates on the bench with a wrap on his injured shoulder.

Brown, sensing his team was in early trouble, called timeout two minutes into the game, but Cleveland steadily built its lead. The Cavaliers shot 58% in the first half and led 70-50 midway through the third quarter. Phil-

adelphia cut the lead to 85-80 in the fourth, but got no closer.

Cavaliers forward Larry Nance Jr., who had 13 points and 15 rebounds, said Embiid's absence made a difference.

"You never want to see that," Nance said. "He's one of the best, most dominant players in this league. Anytime he's not there, same with Ben, is important."

Collin Sexton scored 28 points for Cleveland, which had five players in double figures. Tristan Thompson had

Huskies drop 100 on Cincy

CINCY, cont. from p. 12

The third 20-point game of the night came from Anna Makurat, who had 20 on the nose. Like Williams and Walker, she also hit four shots from beyond the arc. She also dished out six assists.

This marked Makurat's third-straight game with at least 17 points. The freshman has displayed flashes of shooting and passing prowess all season, but her skills have really been honed in over the last week or so. A spark plug offensive threat like Makurat can provide instant-offense when the Huskies really need it in the tournament.

Crystal Dangerfield played a great all-around game, scoring 14 points, grabbing seven rebounds and dishing six assists, making her the fourth player with seven or more rebounds and the second with six assists in this game. She also shot 2-for-3 from deep, and UConn as a team shot 16-for-23 from beyond the arc, which is an absolutely absurd 69.6% mark.

Kyla Irwin hit both of the 3s she attempted on her way to an eight point, four rebound and five assist game. Aubrey Griffin also had eight points, pulling down seven rebounds, nabbing two steals and blocking one shot.

Auriemma said that Olivia Nelson-Ododa was feeling sick before the game, but insisted on playing. Luckily the Huskies didn't need much from her, playing her just 12 minutes. In those 12 minutes, she was able to make her mark defensively, blocking three shots.

All the way up and down the roster, it was a great night to be a Husky. With two games remaining before the AAC tournament, UConn will try to let the good times roll into March.

Next for the Huskies is a trip to Texas for a Saturday afternoon game against Houston. The Cougars are 12-16 this season and lost by 40 when they played the Huskies in Connecticut back in January. Saturday's game will tip off at 3 p.m.

14 points and 13 rebounds. Cavaliers center Andre Drummond didn't play because of a strained left calf.

Shake Milton, who replaced Simmons in the Sixers' lineup, scored 20 points. Furkan Korkmaz scored 14 points and Alec Burks had 13.

Simmons missed his second straight game because of a nerve impingement in his lower back. The team hasn't given a timeline on when he'll be back.

After hosting New York, Philadelphia will begin a four-game trip in Los Angeles on Sunday. Philadelphia is fifth in the Eastern Conference.

The Cavaliers are 3-1 under coach J.B. Bickerstaff, who took over when John Beilein resigned during the All-Star break.

TIP-INS

76ers: The NBA fined Embiid \$25,000 on Wednesday after he made an obscene gesture on the court and used profane language during a live television interview Monday. ... Tobias Harris scored 11 points.

Cavaliers: Drummond is considered day to day. ... Bickerstaff said G Dante Exum will miss an "extended period of time" because of a sprained left ankle. Exum was injured Monday.

Sports

Photo of the Day | Big Day for Big Red



Tom Emery, better known as "Big Red," poses for a picture with UConn Athletic Director David Benedict and Jonathan the Husky at the men's basketball game at Gampel Pavilion on Feb. 23. Big Red has been a fixture at UConn basketball games for almost 50 years and routinely leads the crowd in a "U-C-O-N-N, UConn, UConn, UConn," cheer during big moments of the game. He was honored prior to Sunday's game for his long-time support of the Huskies. PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Mav's Musings: Who's the next Mason Saunders?

by Mike Mavredakis

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If you pay attention to baseball or rodeos, you have likely stumbled upon the lore around the mysterious "Mason Saunders," or Arizona Diamondbacks pitcher Madison Bumgarner.

Bumgarner, a three-time World Series champion, has reportedly been posing as "Mason Saunders" for many years in order to participate in team-roping events at rodeos. Already known to be a different kind of guy, one who hits dingers from the right side as a left-handed pitcher and gets hurt in a dirt bike incident.

That being said, I got curious and started theorizing who could be the next Mason Saunders from each major sports league?

Mitch Moreland, Boston Red Sox

The MLB pick is easy for me, aside from Bumgarner himself Moreland is widely-known for his country boy stature. A Mississippi native, Moreland can be seen in the clubhouse rocking plaid shirts and firing off hot diet related quotes.

Back in 2018 he was asked about the TB12 method, created by New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, since his teammate at the

time, Hanley Ramirez, had started it. His response?

"I don't even know what the Tom Brady method is, man. Is it steak and potatoes, that's what I'd do."

Not only is his diet rooted in pure beef and starch, but he also is an avid deer hunter and lives on a farm, according to Christopher Smith of MassLive.com. He even trained his golden retriever to hunt with him.

Jimmy Butler, Miami Heat

Now a star in the league, Butler has long been a proponent of country music, even with the ire it draws from his fellow NBA colleagues.

Last year, former teammate Karl-Anthony Towns got into a post-game debate about his musical choices. "It's terrible. It's so bad," Towns said after a game with the Oklahoma City Thunder, according to USA Today.

"I just had to chase Russ [Westbrook] around and get hit by Steven Adams. I can listen to whatever (expletive) music I want," Butler said.

The Athletic reported in October that new Heat teammate Udonis Haslem, a league veteran, wasn't having any of his music choices.

"Nah, we're not going to allow that because we've got our music playing in the locker room," Has-



Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler (22) drives up against Minnesota Timberwolves guard Josh Okogie (20) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020, in Miami. PHOTO BY WILFREDO LEE/AP

lem said. "We're getting ready for a game. We ain't got time for that foolishness."

Teammate Goran Dragic chimed in as well, saying:

"It's happening every day," guard Goran Dragic said. "As soon as I walk in the locker room or when he walks in, he's singing all the time. He's got his phone on and he's listening to the country music. He's just positive, always positive. Sometimes you have bad days and you see him and it's like, 'OK, let's go.'"

Butler is a Texas native and I can totally imagine him roping some cattle while Jason Aldean blares in

the background. I'm not so sure he could keep it quiet, but alas.

Cam Jordan, New Orleans Saints

While I was tempted to go with Nick Bosa of the San Francisco 49ers with this pick, I ultimately decided to go with Jordan because of his love of fishing.

ESPN did a "HangTime" feature on Jordan in November, taking him out on the Louisiana Bayou to bowfish in the middle of the night. Jordan also said this about Ndamukong Suh's decision to join the Los Angeles Rams in free agen-

cy in 2018, according to NFL.

"We could've gone fishing on the weekends in Louisiana. We've got things we can do, we've got places, we've got the mentality of what we're going to do. We want to go deeper into the playoffs than we did this previous year. I feel like L.A., the Rams have a lot of good things going for them ... we made the final three, we just weren't the finalist."

He already has experience with fish and bowfishing, so he could probably swing it as a secret rodeo roper. I'd like to see that.

Notebook: Huskies almost back to winning ways



Freshman James Bouknight goes up for a shot against UCF on Wednesday night at the XL Center. Bouknight scored 16 points, and the Huskies won 81-65 for their 16th win of the season. PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

NOTEBOOK, cont. from p. 12

One more win this season, whether in the regular season or postseason, will now secure a winning record for UConn (16-12, 7-8 The American). The last time that happened was the 2015-16 season, when the Huskies went 27-11. That year, after winning the conference championship, UConn pulled off an opening round win over Colorado in the big dance before falling to No. 1 seed Kansas. In the three full seasons since, UConn

has a combined 46-52 record.

That means no one on the current roster has experienced a winning season, including senior Christian Vital and redshirt junior Alterique Gilbert, both of whom have labored through three years of losing. But as expected, Vital was unsatisfied with simply avoiding a losing season.

"I thought that was kinda expected at a program like this, so it's good to get a win but we've got a lot of season left," Vital said. "We just want to keep our season go-

ing, I mean obviously it's meaningful, but this group is a different group ... We truly believe and love each other, and we're willing to dive on the floor, do the extra work to make sure the season keeps going."

In his final game at the XL center, Vital fittingly did a bit of everything on Wednesday, dropping 18 points, seven boards, five assists and four steals. He checked out of the game to a raucous standing ovation from the crowd, partly thanks to his head coach pointing to him while egging on the crowd.

"He's the example for next year's team and for future teams I coach here, as an example of what current players need to do," Hurley said. "The 180 he's made in terms of his leadership — how he's helped bring along younger players, how he's adjusted his offensive approach ... That's gonna be his legacy here. Two, three years down the line when we win a championship, he's gonna have his fingerprints on it."

Gilbert, who has settled comfortably into a bench role, had five points and four assists without a turnover. He said he has not yet decided whether Wednesday's game would be his last at XL, but he did say this season has been easily the most enjoyable one he's had in a UConn jersey.

"Especially looking back at the last three years here, just for us to have a winning season is a big step for the program in the right direction," Gilbert said. "We're winning a lot more ... especially at this time of the year, which is different than the past few years. Coach mentions it to us each and every day: 'These games mean something.'"

It's impossible to talk about the team's success without mentioning the purely spectacular play from junior

Isaiah Whaley as of late, particularly since the season-ending injury to Akok Akok earlier this month.

"His emergence has been huge," Hurley said. "In recruiting, we'll use him as an example of player development, no doubt ... He's just a selfless guy that you can win with. He's like the greatest teammate in the world."

Since Akok's injury, Whaley's numbers are simply staggering, especially given how minimal of a role he played prior: 12.3 points, 9.3 rebounds and 4.7 blocks per game. He added another double-double to his resume on Wednesday, scoring 18 and pulling down 11 boards. He was mobbed by his teammates after the buzzer, further evidence that he has unified the team after a devastating injury to a beloved teammate.

"The first two years I was here, around this time, we weren't playing for nothing, we were playing empty games," Whaley said after the win. "This is the most positive vibes that we've had since I've been here. The first two years, it was really rough but everybody's in good spirits right now. We're actually playing meaningful games now, and it's really fun."

Column: We're finally talking about Sabrina Ionescu. It's about time.

by **Andrew Morrison**
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On Monday morning, Oregon senior guard Sabrina Ionescu delivered a heartfelt speech in front of 20,000 people, including some of the biggest names in the sport, at the Kobe Bryant memorial. On the same day, just hours later, she became the first player in Division I history — male or female — to record 2,000 points, 1,000 assists and 1,000 rebounds, leading her Ducks to a win at No. 4 Stanford.

She's 22 years old. Ionescu, who returned to Oregon for her senior year despite a No. 1 overall pick awaiting her in the WNBA Draft, has deservedly made all kinds of headlines this week. But almost all of those headlines are focused on Ionescu's close relationship with the Bryant family, a relationship most people didn't know about until after Kobe's passing. Let's be real: If Sabrina didn't have a connection to Bryant, would her remarkable achievement be getting nearly the same amount of press?

This is not at all to diminish what Kobe meant to Ionescu, or what Ionescu meant to Gigi. In fact, perhaps the most heart-breaking moment of Monday's memorial came when Ionescu revealed she still texts Bryant, wanting to pick his brain just like before, still hoping for a response. "I still text him even though he's not here," Ionescu said, voice shaky from emotion but remaining composed and eloquent. "The

last one I sent him said, 'I miss you. May you rest in peace, my dear friend.' The texts go through but no response. It still feels like he's there, on the other end — that the next time I pick up my phone, he would've have hit me back. Sometimes I find myself still waiting."

It's not a coincidence that the memorial's first three speakers after Vanessa Bryant — Diana Taurasi, Ionescu and Geno Auriemma — all come from the women's game. Kobe was a steadfast admirer of women's hoops; a firm believer that women's basketball players should be celebrated as basketball players, not just as female ones.

What Ionescu achieved on Monday is nothing short of astounding. Not only was she forced to gather herself just hours after an emotional and mildly terrifying (at least it would be for me, although I'm not sure she knows what fear is) speech about the passing of a close friend, but she was also violently ill all day with flu-like symptoms, barely able to eat.

She then proceeded to record her 26th career triple-double (the most ever, by the way), defeat a top-5 team in the country on their home court and reach an awe-inspiring milestone that no college player in history has ever achieved. Quadruple-digit points, rebounds and assists. 26 triple-doubles. Let those sink in. The fact that it occurred on 2/24/20, the combination of Gigi's, Kobe's and Sabrina's uniform numbers? I've run out of adjectives.

We are witnessing one of, if not THE, greatest college basketball player of all time. I'm glad more people are finally appreciating it. I'm disappointed it took so long.

But like Kobe, Ionescu is far more concerned with winning than with individual accolades, and what she has accomplished in that area too is staggering. The season before she arrived at Oregon, the Ducks didn't even make the NCAA tournament. In her freshman season, they made the tournament as a No. 10 seed, making an unlikely run to Elite Eight before running into ... the No. 1 UConn Huskies, losing by almost 40 points.

Now, in her senior season, Oregon, currently No. 3 in the country, has made a convincing case as the best team in the nation. The Ducks slaughtered UConn earlier this season, 76-58, the worst loss ever at Gampel Pavilion. Ionescu isn't the only reason Oregon has gone from an afterthought to one of the premier programs in women's hoops — but she's certainly a huge part of it.

"In the last four years, she's probably redefined what is possible for a point guard," Auriemma said ahead of that meeting with Oregon. After the loss, he added, "There's a lot of good programs out there today and they've certainly made the most progress quicker than anybody else. I wasn't the least bit surprised. You get a generational-type player like Sabrina and that kind of accelerates the process ... One player can make you. Trust me, I know."

See **IONESCU**, p. 9



Oregon's Sabrina Ionescu celebrates a score against Stanford in the third quarter of an NCAA college basketball game Monday, Feb. 24, 2020, in Stanford, Calif. (AP Photo/Ben Margot)

PHOTO BY BEN MARGOT/AP

Roundtable: What will Gods do?

by **DC Sports Staff**
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Though Dennis Rodman had their first, Allen Iverson was the first NBA star to bring tattoos into the mainstream. In the league today, hundreds of players ink up their bodies with art and tend to like to show it off. Celtics forward Jayson Tatum is no exception. Twitter users had fun when he posted his newest piece, "Gods Will" that stretches from shoulder to shoulder across his back, missing an apostrophe in "Gods." So this week, the DC Sports staff breaks down what exactly Gods will do.

Sean Janos
Staff Writer

"Gods will" allow the Cavaliers to buyout and the Celtics to sign Tristan Thompson. The former No. 4 pick is exactly the type of player that Boston needs to add. Daniel Theis and Enes Kanter have been splitting most of the center minutes and have the Celtics in a good spot, but I think we can all agree this is the one starting position in need of an upgrade most. The Celtics seem to be a piece away, and someone who can protect the rim like Thompson would be valuable in the playoffs. Giannis Antetokounmpo and Joel Embiid devour teams in the paint, and Thompson's services would be helpful in defending elite big men.

Conner Gilson
Staff Writer

UConn is known for a few things: Cows, the ice cream that comes from those cows, and its dominant basketball program. But as I'm about to wrap up my third year here, I've only been able to get the complete "UConn experience" for two of those things. That is why Gods will get the Huskies back to the national championship before May 2021 rolls around. Since I came to UConn I've seen the women fall short in the Final Four in back to back years, while the men have yet to make the tourney. I'm not ruling out the women this year, but with Paige Bueckers and Evina Westbrook joining next year, and the likes of Andre Jackson and Javonte Brown-Ferguson (so far) adding to the men's team, there



Jayson Tatum's new "Gods Will" tattoo went viral after he posted it on social media last Friday, with many people pointing out the grammatical error. PHOTO COURTESY OF ROB LOPEZ (@ROBATO) ON TWITTER

is a real chance next year flips the script. We just need that final push. So please God, Jesús, whoever you are, please make it happen because I can't afford to come back here for grad school.

Jorge Eckardt
Staff Writer

When you're a young football fan, you don't appreciate a lot of things about the game. At the foremost of that group is easily the offensive line, so at the time I never really appreciated when the Jets took Nick Mangold and D'Brickshaw Ferguson (all-time name by the way) in the same draft. So now, I'm just praying that Gods (I'm talking Zeus, Poseidon, Ra, Humbaba, Thor, Loki and all the rest) will inspire the Jets to get Sam Darnold some protection this offseason. On Twitter, Michael Nania (@Michael_Nania) said that in weeks 10-17, Sam Darnold was the highest pressured QB in the entire NFL but still had the 10th best passer rating. He was literally the QB who had his offensive line hang him out to dry the most, yet was still a top-10 quarterback! Protect this man, please!

Kevin Arnold
Associate Sports Editor

Gods, meaning the baseball ones, will finally allow their holiest son to ascend to the heavens. In layman's terms, the baseball Gods will finally call Tim Lincecum up to the big leagues. The 32-year-old minor leaguer has spent the last three years in the Mets minor league system and finally hit his first Spring Training home run the other day. I think he should've gotten the call after he waded to me at Dunkin' Donuts Park when he saw me do the Gator Chomp, but 2020 is as good a year as any. It will create quite the log-jam in the already crowded Mets outfield and that's okay. The Mets need all the help they can get.

Mike Mavredakis
Staff writer

Jayson Tatum is a young king amongst non-royalty, namely Carsen Edwards. The Purdue product had my heart out of the draft last June. His potential for greatness had all of Celtics twitter foaming at the mouth, thinking of 35-foot 3-point bombs coming from his fingertips. Then once he actually took the court, and cut his beautiful hair, his magic shooting ability was pulled from him at the root. Like King Midas without his golden touch. I believe Gods will restore Carsen's shooting touch, and bring back the power of his astronomical thighs.

Huskies clinch winning season in win over UCF

UCF, cont. from p. 12

The win marked No. 16 on the season and secured a winning season for the first time in four years — quite a difference from when Hurley first came to Storrs.

"This was a massive rebuild," Hurley said on securing a winning season. "It was what it was across the board. Just to show the progress and to get to seven conference wins, we had six all of last year, and to avoid a losing season. When you lose Tyler [Polley] to the ACL and when you start three freshmen, a couple weeks ago we were wondering how we were going to win a couple games. It's the next step that we're taking."

It was who else but Whaley to get the Huskies on the board first. UConn looked to its big men early as Whaley and Carlton combined for three buckets as the Huskies took an early 8-2 lead. The Huskies made five of their first six shot attempts and made 43% of their takes in the first half.

"Coach said he needed someone to step up," Whaley said on stepping into Akok's role, "and I knew I'd be the next guy up so I just really wanted to step up and have a presence on the team."

Vital and Bouknight, the "Second Half King," knocked down a pair of threes before UCF pieced together a quick 6-0 spurt. Carlton interrupted with a lay-in,

but back-to-back buckets from Ceasar DeJesus, who finished with 14 points, put the Knights ahead 18-16.

Then the Knights went scoreless for four minutes and 19 seconds while the Huskies built a nine-point lead, their largest at the time. Adams made a lay-up, Bouknight a three and Whaley and Gaffney each made a pair of free throws.

UCF couldn't put any real stretches together the rest of the half, never scoring more than four in a row. Whaley scored the last four Husky points in the first and UConn went into the locker room up 36-32 and shooting 31% from downtown.

A winning season and playing with confidence, it doesn't matter that the Huskies lost two starters to serious injuries, they've won five of their last seven. For some it's the most fun they've had in a UConn uniform.

"This is the most positive vibes we've had since I've been here," Whaley said. "First two years it was really rough, but everybody's in good spirits right now. We're still playing for stuff right now. We're still playing meaningful games."

The Huskies have three games left ahead of the conference tournament. They have yet to beat ECU, who they play on Saturday, and Houston, who will make the trek for Senior Day in Storrs next week. More opportunities to spread the positive vibes.



Redshirt junior point guard Alterique Gilbert handles the ball during UConn's 81-65 win over UCF on Wednesday. PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Sports



A UConn Basketball Midweek Sweep

Men's Basketball: Huskies win by 16 in Hartford's farewell to The American

by Kevin Arnold
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR
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The Huskies have had enough of the close calls and the overtime affairs. So, instead, the UConn men pieced together an 81-65 win over UCF in the last AAC game at the XL Center.

You don't have to go as far as you may think to find UConn's (16-12, 7-8 The American) last double-digit win. That came on Feb. 6, also a 16-point win, on the road over Tulsa. That was also before Akok Akok was lost for the rest of the season and before Isaiah Whaley - who matched a career-high with 18 points Wednesday - became a force to be reckoned with.

"My mentality has been the same," Whaley said about his recent play. "It's just been go hard, take what's given to me, never try to do too much, don't try something I can't do and just try to give what the defense gives me"

Whaley, a junior, recorded his fourth double-double in his career. A reserved player by nature, he began to show his emotions on the floor in the win. After an emphatic two-hand slam to put his team up 44-38 early on in the second half, he roared and pumped his fists as he bounced back to the defensive end.

It took a full-team effort to pull off the win. Christian Vital dropped 18 points with seven rebounds and four steals in his final performance in Hartford. James Bouknight had 16 points and matched Vital in boards. Brendan Adams and Alterique Gilbert scored nine and six. Carlton added eight points and

fouled out late, making way for Whaley to finish his double-double.

"It flew," Vital, who reached 12th on UConn's all-time scoring list, said on his last game in Hartford. "It's crazy. I was just thinking about it in the locker room like that was my last one. It's crazy, but that's life though. You gotta keep on going. Life doesn't wait for anybody."

UConn lead by as much as 19 after Adams made a couple of free throws with a minute and change left in the game. Gilbert, Vital and Carlton authored a quick nine-point burst earlier to build a 16-point lead with more than 11 minutes to play. UConn made nearly half of all its shots (49%) and went 5-for-19 from beyond the arc.

Sprinkled in the mix was a Jalen Gaffney smooth reverse lay-up that dropped assistant coach Kenya Hunter's jaw and Bouknight caught a lob from Gilbert in a passing-of-the-torch type of moment. Both plays brought the 9,480 in attendance to their feet.

Despite a period of three turnovers in three minutes, the second half belonged to the Huskies. UConn outrebounded UCF (14-13, 5-10 The American) 36-28 overall with 18 in the second half. It was a 48-38 win for the Huskies in the paint, 34 points coming after halftime.

"I wasn't thrilled with the way we ended the first half," head coach Dan Hurley said. "We had a good talk at halftime about finishing plays and playing with a lot more urgency. Just thrilled with the second half performance"

See UCF, p. 11

Women's Basketball: Huskies drop first 100-piece of season on Cincy



Olivia Nelson-Ododa goes up for a contested basket against UCF on Feb. 22. UConn beat Cincinnati on Wednesday night 105-58. PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE LAO, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Sean Janos
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They came oh so close against ECU and Oklahoma, coming within a bucket of 100-point games in those blowout victories, but UConn finally hit the triple-digit threshold Wednesday night in Cincinnati.

The Huskies (24-3) beat the Bearcats 105-58 with three players scoring at least 20 points. Head coach Geno Auriemma voiced his concerns with UConn's offense last week.

"I don't think our offense was in peak form. We still have a long way to go there. We still have to move the ball better," Auriemma said after last Wednesday's win over Tulane. "The ball has to

change hands, and the ball has to go in the basket. It's not the easiest thing in the world. We keep working on it and trying to get better at it."

An offensive explosion like this, granted it was against an American Athletic Conference opponent, has to build this team's confidence. No player needed a big game like this more than the game's highest scorer, Christyn Williams.

Williams scored 26 points on 14 shots, hitting four threes and going 6-for-6 from the free throw line. She also had eight rebounds and three assists.

February had not been a kind month for Williams. She followed up a 5-point game in the Feb. 3 loss to Oregon with a solid 20-point game against Memphis on the

Feb. 7. Since then, she had failed to score double-digits. In UConn's most recent game, she scored just three points against UCF.

A great performance like this from Williams, where she knocked down everything she looked at and rebounded well, snaps the cold streak and puts Williams back on the right track with tournament season right around the corner.

Megan Walker scored the next-most for the Huskies with 25 points, eight rebounds and two blocks. She shot 10-of-15, also knocking down four 3-pointers in her 24 minutes of play. This now makes it back-to-back 20-point games for the junior, with Walker shooting 4-for-6 from deep in both.

See CINCY, p. 9

Men's Basketball Notebook: Back to winning — er, non-losing — ways



Isaiah Whaley throws down a dunk in Wednesday's game at the XL Center. The Huskies took another home win, this time against UCF with a final score of 81-65. Christian Vital (1) and Whaley (5) led the team with 18 points each. PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Andrew Morrison
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For the first time in four years, the UConn men's basketball team will not finish the season with a losing record.

That much was confirmed in the Huskies' convincing 81-65 victory over UCF on Wednesday, as UConn moves four games over .500 with only three games remaining in the regular season. At worst, with a first-round exit in the conference tournament, UConn will finish at an even .500 — avoiding a fourth-straight losing season.

In Storrs, that kind of modest accomplishment might not exactly be the kind you proudly display in the Gampel rafters. But it's certainly a step in the right direction.

"It's huge," Hurley said after the game on halting the losing season streak. "Listen, this was a massive rebuild across the board. Just to show the progress, to get to seven conference wins after six all

of last year and to avoid a losing season ... We've shown real progress here, and it's the next step that we're taking."

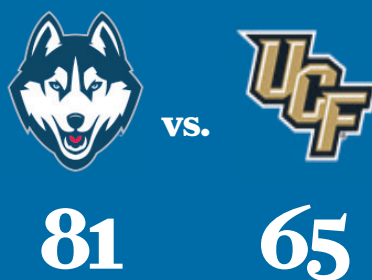
Hurley, of course, has an extensive track record of turning around programs. He took a 7-23 URI program and turned it into a back-to-back NCAA tournament team. Before that, he transformed a five-win Wagner team into a 25-6 success story. They don't call him "The Carpenter" for nothing.

"When you lose Tyler [Polley] to the ACL and you're starting three freshmen — a couple weeks ago, we were wondering where the hell we were winning a couple games," Hurley said, as UConn has now won five of seven. "Not only have we accumulated more wins, but we've had a chance to win five, six, seven more based on how we've played ... We're building a strong championship organization."

See NOTEBOOK, p. 10

THIS WEEK IN UCONN SPORTS

Men's Basketball



Women's Lacrosse
Friday 2 p.m.
Hamden, CT



Women's Hockey
Friday 6 p.m.
Chestnut Hill, MA

NUMBER OF THE DAY



The Houston Astros have been hit by seven pitches in their five spring training games so far, which leads all teams. Astros players will likely be the target of many more throughout the season in retaliation for their cheating scandal that got exposed this offseason.

TWEETS OF THE DAY

Mr. Hot Balls
@MisterHotBalls
Last time for an AAC game in the XL and the last time you have to look at the trash logo on the XL floor, you lucky dogs, you.

Ari
@uconnfan2021
I love how UConn fans are surprised our defense is worse without akok. Like duh

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