



## Loved ones remember the legacy of Justin Niezrecki

by **Ashley Anglisano**,  
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Students, family and friends are remembering Justin Niezrecki, a 22-year-old electrical engineering student from Avon who took his own life behind Mansfield Apartments on Dec. 6 last year.

Niezrecki was involved in numerous organizations at the University of Connecticut, including Engineering Ambassadors, the 3D Printing Club, the Engineering Student Leadership Council and the Gamers Club, according to the Dean of the School of Engineering Kazem Kazerounian.

Justin's father, Rick Niezrecki, in his obituary spoke of Justin's constant desire to get to know those around him on a personal level and see the factors that made them unique, valuable human beings.

"Justin was keenly aware we are not cogs stamped out of a machine. Justin always looked for what makes our fellow human special," Niezrecki said. "Justin strove to find out what made you different and what made you special. He embraced diversity, because it makes us all better people and it makes our community stronger."

Justin Niezrecki also founded a club at UConn where students could come together and watch "Avatar: The Last Airbender"

and drink tea to destress, according to his friend Beth Cavanaugh, who said he was very proud of that club.

Morgan Locandro, another friend of Niezrecki's, spoke of a time at an Engineering Ambassadors conference where a fellow ambassador was struggling with a speech they were giving, and Niezrecki quickly stepped in to make him more comfortable.

"[Justin] stood up and said 'Morgan, we're going to give a presentation about dragons,'" Locandro said. "[Our] favorite movie was 'How to Train Your Dragon.' And he stands up and he just starts talking and the two of us went on for about 10 minutes just talking about dragons."

Locandro said the nervous ambassador stood up after Justin's dragon speech and recited his speech about wind energy and nailed it.

Nicholas Tannicus, a UConn alum and friend of the Niezrecki family, said Justin's optimism, even in the face of adversity, was contagious to those who loved him.

"He injected positive energy into everyone he met. No matter who they were or even if they were strangers. He just wanted to make people smile and feel confident in who they were," Tannicus said. "He was thoughtful and kind and so very inclusive. I can't think of a single person who has more good in his heart."

UConn spokeswoman Stephanie Reitz said a memo-

rial scholarship has been made in Justin's name and that his legacy will live on as a mentor and friend to many.

"Leaders of the appropriate university offices and departments have been in conversation with Justin's family, friends and classmates in the time since his death, both to express condolences and to offer support," Reitz said. "President Katsouleas also greatly appreciated the chance to honor Justin's memory on the university's behalf as a guest at his memorial service."

Cavanaugh stressed how many lives Justin was able to touch through his various volunteer work, as well as through friendships he formed.

"I don't know anyone who embraced life like Justin embraced life," Cavanaugh said. "That dude was just out here to meet the world and make it his best friend."

Cavanaugh and Locandro agreed that Justin was a great friend and person.

"For someone who's never met Justin, I'd say you missed out," Locandro said.



COURTESY OF NIEZRECKI'S OBITUARY

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

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## UConn students arrested after Charter Oak incident sue university

by **Ashley Anglisano**  
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Two students at the University of Connecticut who were arrested and charged last year after yelling racial slurs outside of Charter Oak Apartments have sued the university for violating their First Amendment rights.

Ryan Mucaj and Jarred Karal filed their lawsuit Tuesday morning in federal court, the Hartford Courant reported, and allege the university is

**"The disruptive behavior policy is unconstitutionally overbroad, unlawfully restricting speech."**

### STUDENT LAWSUIT

seeking to remove them from university housing for violating the "disruptive behavior" section of the student code of conduct.

The lawsuit calls the disruptive behavior policy a "de facto prior restraint," and alleges university officials can deem what falls as impermissible.

"The disruptive behavior policy is unconstitutionally overbroad, unlawfully restricting speech," the lawsuit reads.

The lawsuit also cites a 1990 case where UConn agreed not to "enforce any policy that interferes with the exercise of First Amendment rights when the exercise of such right is un-

accompanied by violence or the imminent threat of violence."

University spokeswoman Stephanie Reitz said the university does not comment on pending litigation.

Mucaj and Karal were arrested in mid-October and charged under Connecticut General

Statute 53-37, which is ridicule on account of creed, religion, color, denomination, nationality or race, The Daily Campus reported.

Last week Karal was put on probation for six months with 20 hours of community service and diversity and bias training,

according to the Hartford Courant. His application for accelerated rehabilitation was accepted by Judge James Sicilian, who found that his offense was not of a serious nature and he was unlikely to offend again.

Mucaj's case is still pending in Superior Court in Rockville.



The University of Connecticut is being sued by students who were arrested and charged in 2019 outside of Charter Oak Apartments for yelling racial slurs.

PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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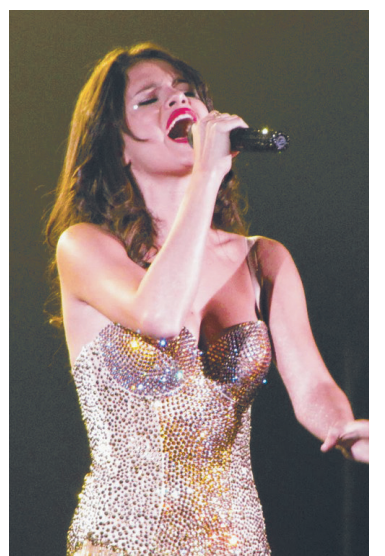


PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

Check out page 5 for an article about Selena Gomez's upcoming album

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## News

## Thoughts on new USG funding policy changes

by Mike Mavredakis

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In their last meeting of the fall semester, the Undergraduate Student Government Senate voted on a group of proposed Tier II funding policy changes that increased the funding caps on travel costs and registration fees as well as two pathways for funding.

**The two added funding avenues are in the form of a comptroller's appeal, which is a form of second-chance funding should a request be denied, and a variance.**

The goal of these new policies is to increase the funding potential for Tier II organizations — clubs and organizations that are funded by USG — so that students have to spend less out of pocket, according to Comptroller Fabio Saccomanno.

**The caps that were bumped include: Registration fees being funded up to 100%, they were previously 90 to 95%, up to \$600 per person for round trip flights from \$300 and up to 1,000 miles from 500 miles for gas.**

"The changes to the funding policies we passed in the fall are an important step in the right direction in terms of optimizing the funding system," Speaker of the Senate Josh Crow said. "The ability of the Comptroller to work with the Funding Staff to grant variances will go a long

**"I think that the changes we made were a long-needed improvement to our Tier II funding. These improvements will make it so more groups will be given more money which is ultimately the best for the students."**

**USG SENATOR  
LUIS TOSCANO**

way in allowing more student groups to benefit from our funding."

The two added funding avenues are in the form of a comptroller's appeal, which is a form of second-chance funding should a request be denied, and a variance.

The caps that were bumped include: Registration fees being funded up to 100%, they were previously 90 to 95%, up to \$600 per person for round trip flights from \$300 and up to 1,000 miles from 500 miles for gas.

"During the last Senate, in my budget calculations, I realized that our overflow increased by a couple thousand dollars during the 2019 Fall semester," Saccomanno said. "So, I would consider it an improvement because during the Spring [2019] the overflow increased by at least \$100,000. During the fall we didn't increase by nearly as much, we almost broke even.

Possibly, with calculations including the end of December we may have reduced the overflow for once. That was my goal."

As Saccomanno stated above, increasing the funding caps will at least maintain or even help reduce the USG budget surplus.

A Tier II organization can request a comptroller's appeal when their funding request is denied for being in violation of the funding policies but receiving funding for their request is "vital to the realization of their mission," according to the new changes. This policy allows for funding up to 50% of the requested amount.

The variance policy enacted is a limited version of the original policy proposed at the two town halls hosted by Fabio Saccomanno and the Funding Student Staff last semester.

Before the vote, it was coupled with moving back the funding request deadline from the current six weeks to eight weeks prior to when the funding was needed. In order to keep the deadline where it is, at six weeks, variance can now only be granted when a Tier II advances in a competition. So, for example, when a debate team advances from the quarter-

finals to the semi-finals they can request a variance in order to fund that trip even if it is past the six week deadline.

"That kind of took us by surprise, but that's what was passed by the Senate and we think that is a really fair compromise at the end of the day," Saccomanno

said. "They wanted to keep the six-week deadline, so essentially we are in support of that because the amount of variances we anticipated receiving went down significantly."

During the Dec. 4 Senate meeting, USG President Priyanka Thakkar made an argument against the passage of the original variances policy, which allowed requests for a broader range of circumstances, because she was worried it would place too much stress on the funding student staff, according to the meeting minutes.

"As the past Comptroller, I know how hard it was for students to plan six weeks in advance and two months would greatly hurt Tier II organizations," Thakkar said. "As USG, our priority should be to support Tier II groups no matter what and be able to understand that our process for funding is not easy. Adding additional steps or time would not be conducive to their productivity or success."

As a result, the Senate, at Senator Kevin Perrone's suggestion, rewrote the policy and made it as it is now. The altered variance policy passed 25-0, with five abstentions.

"Excluding variances for deadline related policies assists in working towards our goal of funding as many Tier II expenditures as possible while taking into consideration the burden that this policy change will have on our ability to distribute and process these requests in a timely manner," Perrone said on the compromise. "It was a true compromise and is one that will ultimately benefit Tier II organizations in the long run."

His sentiments were echoed by both the Funding Student Staff Supervisor Erin McConnell and Senator Luis Toscano.

"To have this procedure explicitly delineated in the funding policies allows for all Tier II organizations to have the same chance to receive funding even if there is an extenuating circumstance," McConnell said. "I think this is a really great step toward optimizing how USG uses the funds allocated to Tier II funding."

The Senator Luis Toscano also agreed.

"I think that the changes we made were a long-needed improvement to our Tier II funding. These improvements will make it so more groups will be given more money which is ultimately the best for the students," Toscano said.

On top of the changes in amount funded, they also changed around the wording of some of the policies, which can be found here.

The changes went into effect on Dec. 30, 2019 and haven't been going decisively well nor poorly as of yet, according to

Sacomanno. The forms for a comptroller's appeal are available on the USG website and Saccomanno and McConnell are working on a standardized form for variance requests as well.

Another piece of note, USG will not be pursuing a student fee increase for the 2020-2021 year, Saccomanno confirmed. The student fee will remain at \$45 through next year.



**(Both) The Undergraduate Student Government (USG) Funding Staff including, Erin McConnell, the Funding Staff Supervisor, and Fabio Saccomanno, the Comptroller, host the What to Fix (WTF?) town hall to help Tier-II student organization executive board members with their questions and concerns on the USG funding policy.** PHOTOS BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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# UConn dining chefs compete in 20th Culinary Olympics



The 20th Culinary Olympics takes place on Jan. 14 in the Lewis B. Rome Commons. The McMahon team competes in the 19th Culinary Olympics, which took place at UConn in 2019. PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN TODAY

First place for this Boiling Point competition was awarded to the Gelfenbien Commons & Halal team number two consisting of Amy Gronus, Donna Johnston and Charlie String.

(BELOW) The judges from the 19th Culinary Olympics were determining scores at the competition in 2019. PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN TODAY/KENNETH BEST



by Thomas Alvarez  
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The 20th Culinary Olympics at the University of Connecticut, which took place on Jan. 14 in the Lewis B. Rome Commons, presented chefs with an opportunity to test their creativity when given a Boiling Point Mystery Basket to use.

The 11 participating teams were all presented the same ingredients: Frog legs, porcini mushroom powder, pistachios, cornbread, chia-raspberry jam, French meat pie and oat milk. With these resources, each team was required to craft three tapas dishes before presenting the results to the judges.

First place for this Boiling Point competition was awarded to the Gelfenbien Commons & Halal team number two consisting of Amy Gronus, Donna Johnston and Charlie String. For their tapas, they presented pistachio-encrusted hopping pops with tropical salsa, a Canadian burger with balsamic cranberry reduction and jalapeño cornbread bellini.

Second place was given to the Union Street Market team featuring Kyle Davis, Keith Gilbert and Dan Malinak. They prepared lollipop frog legs with raspberry chia barbecue carrot slaw, Asian beef wonton with chili soy mixed green and toasted pumpkin seed and chili-spiced cornbread with raspberry chia whipped cream

and pistachio brittle. The Whitney team number three consisting of Jennifer Anderson, Ann Marie Meres and

**The 11 participating teams were all presented with the same ingredients: Frog legs, porcini mushroom powder, pistachios, cornbread, chia-raspberry jam, French meat pie and oat milk.**

Lynn Zanlungo secured third place. The team crafted cornbread dressing “from the river,”

Frenchmeat scotch egg with oat milk beurre blanc and raspberry chia zabaglione with candied pistachios.

Additionally, individual recipe contests were held. These contests were held for appetizers, entrees and desserts. Individual chefs entered these recipe contests unaffiliated with their respective dining halls.

For the appetizers, first place was awarded to Bill McKay’s wonton quartet, second place was awarded to Donna Johnston’s ceviche style shrimp cocktail and third place was awarded to Alexis Saucier’s beet and radish salad.

For the entrees, first place was awarded to Kyle Davis’s braised oxtail ragu over blue cheese po-

lenta, second place was awarded to Kathy Halgren’s roasted rack of lamb with sweet potato orzo and third place was awarded to Lucinda Simms’ jerk chicken with mango slaw.

For the desserts, first place was awarded to Alexis Saucier’s ruby and gold, second place was awarded to Curtis Bangs’ going green milkshake and third place was awarded to Sarah Rose’s maple pecan baklava with cranberry coulis.

Finally, a distinction was made for the honorable mention for the title of best plate overall. This distinction was given to Gelfenbien’s team number one Curtis Bangs, Gary Ellis and Lucinda Simms for their Crepe ala Curtis.

## CONNECTICUT NEWS

### In Connecticut, ‘day of action’ replaces Women’s March

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Connecticut organizers aren’t staging a Women’s March like in past years, but they’re still hosting events in the state’s major cities on Saturday.

Women’s March Connecticut organizers say the press conferences in front of Bridgeport Superior Court, New Haven Superior Court and the Hartford Capitol Building will highlight key issues such as abortion, gun violence, immigration, gay rights and the environment.

They say the events are meant to help get people more engaged and involved in the issues than a one-day march sometimes can.

“The previous marches have been powerful visibility events and the Women’s March

CT has worked hard to amplify the voices of those most marginalized in the State of Connecticut for the last three years and now it’s time for action,” the organization said in a statement.

Marches are still happening Saturday in D.C., New York and other cities, however.

Local organizers encouraged those looking for a rally to attend those events, which also include gatherings in the Boston-area and Springfield, Massachusetts.

The marches have been held in Connecticut since 2017, when about 10,000 people gathered at the state Capitol in Hartford. Last year’s Women’s March in Hartford drew nearly 3,000 people.

### Connecticut lawmakers to resurrect age discrimination bill

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Connecticut lawmakers plan to resurrect a bipartisan proposal that attempts to help older workers who often face age discrimination when seeking employment.

The bill would prohibit employers from requiring a job applicant to list their date of birth and school graduation years, information that reveals a worker’s age even though prospective employers are not allowed to ask about age during interviews.

Supporters said the legislation is aimed to address discrimination older online job applicants often face.

West Hartford Sen. Derek Slap, a Democrat, said this move could level the playing field for older workers in Connecticut and “give them a chance once they get into the application process to get that interview

and make a case.”

Slap said Connecticut has the sixth-oldest workforce in the U.S. Recent U.S. Census Bureau data show more than a quarter of the state’s workforce is over age 54.

A similar bill died last year in the General Assembly because time ran out, said lawmakers, who hope to pass legislation early in the new session. The next regular session of the General Assembly convenes Feb. 5.

“This is actually a pretty important day because this legislation has been something we’ve been pursuing for years and we came so darn close last year,” said Republican Rep. Mitch Bolinsky of Newtown who said he has personally faced age discrimination.

“All this does is get somebody in the door for an interview,” he said.

## McConnell proposes swift impeachment trial with long days



President Donald Trump waves as he leaves the White House, Monday, Jan. 20, 2020, in Washington to attend the annual economic forum in Davos, Switzerland. AP PHOTO/MANUEL BALCE CENETA

WASHINGTON (AP) — On the eve of President Donald Trump’s impeachment trial, the Senate leader proposed a compressed calendar for opening statements, White House lawyers argued for swift rejection of the “flimsy” charges and the Capitol braced for the contentious proceedings unfolding in an election year.

Final trial preparations were underway Monday on a tense day of plodding developments with Trump’s legacy — and the judgment of both parties in Congress — at stake.

The president’s legal team, in its first full filing for the impeachment court, argued that Trump did “absolutely nothing wrong” and urged the Senate to swiftly reject the “flawed” case against him.

“All of this is a dangerous perversion of the Constitution that the Senate should swiftly and roundly condemn,” the president’s lawyers wrote. “The articles should be rejected and the president should immediately be acquitted.”

The brief from the White House, and the House Democratic response, comes as the Senate could be facing 12-hour sessions for the rare Senate trial, with some of the very senators running to replace Trump as president sitting as jurors.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell proposed a condensed, two-day calendar for each side to give opening statements, ground rules that Democrats immediately rejected.

Voting on the Republican leader’s resolution will be one of the first orders of business when senators convene Tuesday. It also pushes off any votes on witnesses until later in the process, rather than up front, as Democrats had demanded.

The Senate Democratic leader, Chuck Schumer, called the GOP leader’s proposed rules package a “national disgrace.”

Senators are poised for only the third presidential impeachment trial in U.S. history, coming just weeks before the first primaries of the 2020 election season and as voters are assessing Trump’s first term and weighing the candidates who want to challenge him in the fall.

House Democrats impeached the president last month on two charges: abuse of power by withholding U.S. military aid to Ukraine as he pressed the country to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden, and obstruction of Congress by refusing to comply with their investigation.

The Constitution gives the House the sole power to impeach a president and the Senate the final verdict by convening as the impeachment court for a trial.

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# Opinion

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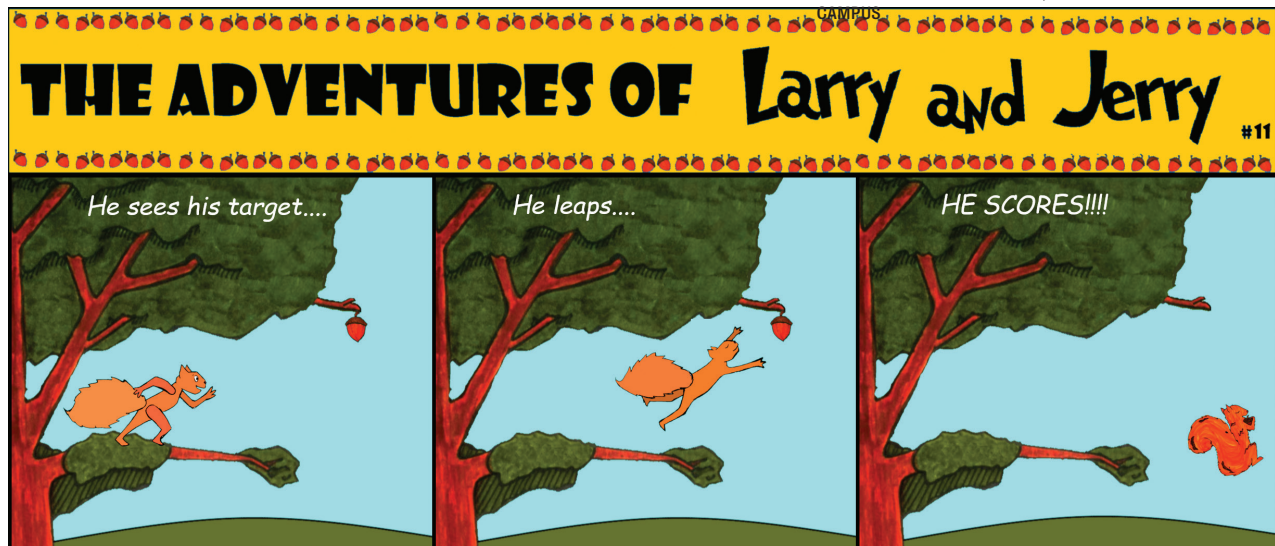
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COMIC BY JOSHUA ARIZMENDI, STAFF CARTOONIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



### ► Editorial

## Welcome back, Huskies!

**T**he slamming of car trunks. The sidewalks packed with life. The harsh winds on Fairfield Way. It can only mean one thing: School is back in session! Though many may be wishing for another week of break, we should all be excited to usher the University of Connecticut into the 2020s.

As cold as it may be right now, spring semester always feels so much more full of life. In the fall, the days get shorter as the semester goes on. When students are already feeling stressed about exams and projects, they feel they have less time to do them. Of course, the break being so late doesn't help in this feeling. Now, we are able to experience the campus's yearly rebirth. It's always refreshing to see people playing ultimate frisbee during finals week, full of hope to contrast the anxiety of the exams.

Spring is also filled with a special sort of energy as graduation nears. The Class of 2020 is finishing its time at UConn this semester. While this will surely make some seniors feel a certain kind of way, it should be cause for celebration! The end of undergrad means the start of something fresh and new, fitting for the season.

So rejoice, Huskies! We can clear our mind from last semester and get ready for the one to come. Full of new classes and friends, a bit of rejuvenation is much in need. Good luck, and we look forward to a new newsworthy semester.

## What does it really mean to be electable in 2020?

by **Arjun Ahuja**  
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If you have been following any coverage of the 2020 Democratic primary you have inevitably heard talk of "electability," and its merit when discussing who Democrats should nominate to be the candidate that eventually squares off against President Trump. The term, however, is far more ambiguous than common discourse would lead you to believe. When defined simply, electability is the capacity to win an election. When further explored and put in the context of a 2020 election, the term takes on quite a bit of nuance.

The two candidates to which this debate largely applies are former Vice President Joe Biden and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders. The former, being seen as the "safe" choice to defeat Donald Trump, has garnered the support of many moderate voters who say their number one priority is defeating the president in November. The latter is seen as an outsider whose further left leaning policies would turn off moderate voters thus leading to cataclysmic loss and another four years of Trump. This ideology, however, is severely flawed as it depends on a lackluster conception of what it means to be electable in 2020.

To understand the flaws situated in this preconceived notion it would do us well to take a trip down memory lane. In 2016, Hillary Clinton also was the moderate candidate, and while her loss is far more nuanced than the binary distinction between moderate and progressive, it shows that being in the middle does not always

translate to electoral success. The Democratic Party's thought process in 2016 as illustrated by majority leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) was, "For every blue-collar Democrat we lose in western Pennsylvania, we will pick up two moderate Republicans in the suburbs in Philadelphia, and you can repeat that in Ohio and Illinois and Wisconsin." As it turns out, this philosophy would be their downfall as they suffered losses in all three of those crucial swing states mentioned. What backed this ideology was the idea that appealing to moderate, independent voters is more important than turning out the reliable Democratic base that had brought so much success in 2008 and 2012. Clinton failed to turn out working class and African American voters in the three major metropolitan areas in these aforementioned states: Philadelphia, Detroit and Milwaukee.

The lessons that can be taken from 2016 are still poignant in 2020. Common discourse largely dictates we should nominate Biden because of his less inflammatory policy ideas and thus his appeal to the average voter in middle America. But in the quest of returning the "blue wall" to Democrats in 2020, it is important to dive deeper. Sanders has had previous success in both Michigan and Wisconsin, as illustrated by his primary wins there in 2016. His appeal to working class voters is pervasive and essential to a coalition that brings back the demographic that Democrats once had a vice grip on. Backed by empirical evidence and polling, middle America prefers a Sanders platform to a Biden one.

To give credit to the Biden campaign, he is currently leading with African American voters while Sanders sits in second place. However, it is important to make the distinction that turning out African American voters in a Democratic primary is far different than turning out those same voters in a general election. The former vice president has seen a substantial nosedive in polling when it comes to enthusiasm around voting for his campaign. This does not bode well to recapturing those lost demographic categories that led to a Donald Trump presidency. On the other hand, Senator Sanders has a plethora of metrics that not only show that he can do what Biden can't in terms of reclaiming the blue wall, but also excite the country like no presidential candidate has done in years past. At this point in the primary cycle, no other candidate has ever had more donations, individual donations or volunteers. These staggering numbers show that people are genuinely invested in a potential Sanders presidency, unlike any other potential Democratic opponent.

With these arguments laid out, it is important to look at the big picture. Biden currently leads national polling, while both he and Sanders vie for the lead in early state polls. In the leadup to the Iowa Caucus, Democrats must truly understand why they choose a certain candidate. If their number one priority is to truly defeat Trump, then a Biden presidency seems doomed to follow the same path that saw us lose the White House in 2016.

## MLK was a radical, and here's why you should be too

by **Harry Zehner**  
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Make no mistake: Martin Luther King Jr. was a radical.

He fought for a transformational program of racial and economic justice. He opposed the Vietnam War and railed against the rampant militarism of the United States. He proclaimed that "capitalism has outlived its usefulness." He was assassinated shortly after standing in solidarity with workers in

But this historical malpractice ignores the reality: At the time of his death, King was widely disliked. His nationwide approval rating was 30%. The FBI put him under surveillance and famously attempted to convince him to commit suicide. After his assassination, nearly one in three Americans thought he had "brought it upon himself."

Within the spectrum of public disapproval, King viewed the white moderate as the greatest threat to his goals. In King's words: "I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that

a 'more convenient season.'"

His words ring true today. Black and brown people are still being murdered by the police and imprisoned at higher rates than whites. The world is speeding rapidly towards a climate disaster which will displace millions and disproportionately affect people of color, the poor, the global south and women. In the wealthiest country in the history of the world, half a million people are homeless, millions are housing insecure and millions more are pushed from their homes by predatory real estate firms and the forces of

in the complete and total abolition of injustice, and you are labeled a radical, wear that title with pride.

We have a right to demand radical solutions to radical injustices. We have a right to demand an end to mass incarceration and the beginning of a rehabilitative justice system; an end to the militarization of police; the mass construction of social housing; a Green New Deal; Medicare-For-All; an end to endless wars; the cancelling of illegal and immoral student and medical debt; the cancelling of the illegal and immoral debt

**MODERATION IS UNACCEPTABLE WHEN WE ARE FACED WITH A CRUEL AND UNJUST WORLD.**

Memphis, who were striking for better pay and safe working conditions.

But radicals are rarely celebrated in their time. And if they are eventually celebrated, it is not for their radical vision.

King's struggle has been whitewashed for the masses. His sharp critiques of broken systems have been whittled down to their most dull and palatable arguments. His clear and incisive analysis of injustice has been discarded in favor of a historical account which assumes his vision was inevitable, and refuses to acknowledge the painful relevance of his words today.

the Negro's great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Council-er or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate who is more devoted to 'order' than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says 'I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I can't agree with your methods of direct action;' who paternalistically feels he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; who lives by the myth of time and who constantly advises the Negro to wait until

gentrification. Working people are dying or going bankrupt due to the exorbitant cost of healthcare. Children are being held in grossly inhumane conditions on our southern border, deprived of their innocence and human rights. Women of all backgrounds are facing an epidemic of sexual assault, harassment and austere cuts to reproductive health services.

Injustice — of capitalism, imperialism, racism and sexism — is rampant. If you are aware of these grave injustices, and you believe in anything but the complete and total end to those injustices, you are insufficiently radical. If you do believe

held by Puerto Rico; and fundamentally, a society which strips power away from the wealthy, from the white hegemony, from the patriarchy and delivers it into the hands of the masses.

So when Colin Kaepernick kneels during the national anthem, or millions of young people stand together to demand climate justice, or when moms occupy empty homes to protest the lack of affordable housing, your response should not be to advocate for patience and moderation.

Moderation is unacceptable when we are faced with a cruel and unjust world.





# Life

@dailycampuslife

## Gomez waits to make 'Rare' extra special

by **Stephanie Santillo**  
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It has been four years since Selena Gomez released her last album, "Revival," and I was happy to wait this long for great work. Gomez has said that she wanted to wait for the right time to release "Rare," and listeners can clearly hear how this album is the product of years of hard work.

Indeed, the past few years have not been so easy for the singer either. From health struggles to intrusive media coverage of her love life, Gomez has experienced some hard times.

And that's why "Rare" is an important album for her: It's the record of her growth and development. "Rare" evidences Gomez's emotional maturation as she learns to move past disappointment and love herself. The album is lively and empowering, showing Gomez at the top of her game.

"Rare" is also fittingly named. It's uncommon to find such a well-done, cohesive pop album that is also authentic and fun to listen to all the way through.

One of the album's greatest strengths is how cohesive it is. The songs sound similar but



Rare  
SELENA GOMEZ

have a variety that keeps listeners interested. Not only is the music cohesive, the lyrics are also connected. Certain songs relate to each other in a meaningful way that allows listeners to understand Gomez's feelings better and link the pieces of the

album together. The album's other great strength is its theme. Every song puts Gomez, her experience and her goals at its center, allowing her to communicate a message of self-love. The album recognizes her rarity, her matu-

city and her capacity for fun. She has moved beyond the past, accepted her emotions and intends to exercise her freedom. Gomez released "Rare" at the appropriate time for her, and it enabled her to share what she's learned over the past few years.

The title track is perhaps the best song on the album. "Rare" is catchy, upbeat and empowering. It sets the tone for the record to be one of self-love and acceptance.

COURTESY OF FLIKR

The first half of the album also includes the songs "Dance Again," "Ring" and the single

"Look At Her Now." With these tracks, Gomez displays how she's moved on from the past to lead a fun and fulfilling life.

In fact, though some songs on the album describe the end of a relationship, Gomez always takes a positive look at the situation. In "Cut You Off," she's ending a relationship and moving on because she knows it's simply not good for her anymore. And in "Kinda Crazy," Gomez sings about having fun with someone who is a little wild. There's "no damage done" since she knows it's only a fling.

Another standout is "Vulnerable." Gomez achieves authenticity with this track, singing about how she will allow herself to remain vulnerable in a relationship even though she has previously experienced heartbreak.

The way Gomez weaves themes of maturity, self-love and freedom throughout her tracks brings "Rare" together. The album is fun and easy to dance to, celebrating Gomez's new chapter in life while paying respect to the tough experiences she went through to inspire the record. It might be too soon to say that "Rare" is the best album of 2020, but there's no doubt Gomez is starting off the year on a high note.

Rating: 5/5

## George Lucas' Space Opera Goes Out With Whimper

### A REVIEW OF 'STAR WARS: THE RISE OF SKYWALKER'

by **Evan Thomas Burns**  
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Two years ago, I reviewed "The Last Jedi" for this newspaper. Never in my life have I seen a film generate such a polarizing reception from audiences. At the time, I gave the film a five star rating. While my high rating was in part indicative of my genuine enjoyment of the film, in retrospect I can admit that it may also have been a reactionary response to an incredibly negative review of the film from this same newspaper. This can be seen as yet another example of how the extreme conflict among audiences influenced the discourse on the film.

Now, given two years to ruminate on "The Last Jedi" and having seen the completion of the arcs it explored with this final film in the "Skywalker Saga," my opinions have undergone some revision. I am more willing to recognize some of the film's flaws, such as the poorly executed arc for Finn, the unnecessary sidelining of Princess Leia and the overly convoluted issue of communication between Poe Dameron and Vice Admiral Holdo.

Despite the realization of these flaws, it took viewing "The Rise of Skywalker" to solidify in my mind the elements of "The Last Jedi" that made it such a strong (if imperfect) entry in the series. The best way that I can characterize the flaws of "The Rise of Skywalker" is to compare it to another massively popular series which came to an end in 2019: "Game of Thrones."

In its early seasons, HBO's "Game of Thrones," based on the popular "A Song of Ice and Fire" series by author George R. R. Martin, was both critically acclaimed and beloved by mass audiences. The show was a cultural phenomenon, praised for its strong characters, themes and storytelling. The series' fifth season was where, for many audience members, it began to show signs of rot, yet its strengths were still able to carry the show through its rough patches.

It wasn't until the final season where the problems which had been building finally eclipsed the quality of the show's strongest elements. Viewers com-

plained of the rushed pacing, lack of internal logic or consistency, mishandling or pure abandonment of major themes and character arcs and an overall feeling of style over substance.

Every single one of these complaints can be lodged with "The Rise of Skywalker." At nearly two and a half hours long, making it the second longest film in the franchise after only "The Last Jedi," the film can't spare a single second to breathe. The amount of plot traversed feels like enough to span an entire season of television and not a single feature length film. Important plot points and character reveals come and go in the blink of an eye with no time spent to reflect or generate an emotional response from the characters.

The reveal of Emperor Palpatine having somehow miraculously survived the destruction of the Death Star in "Return of the Jedi" is laughable. To make matters worse, not only is Palpatine alive but he is in command of a massive fleet of star destroyers all fully manned and all individually possessing the power of the Death Star. Abrams makes no effort to explain any of this, as any explanation given would most likely further illustrate how absurd and poorly thought out these choices were.

These inclusions remove so much of the weight of events central to the original trilogy. The awesome and terrifying power of the Death Star in "A New Hope" has been reduced to a cheap built-in feature for star destroyers, not unlike back-up cameras for cars. The emotional weight of Darth Vader's decision to kill his master in order to save his son (and ultimately the entire galaxy) is severely undercut as well by the revelation that Palpatine is still alive. Considering that Snoke, in one of the film's most idiotic moments, is revealed to have been a lifeless puppet operated by Palpatine, this means that Palpatine, through Snoke and the First Order, was able to cause the destruction of multiple planets and caused the events which led to Luke's death. Vader's sacrifice appears to have been in vain.



Daisy Ridley poses with her co-stars at the premier of Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker PHOTO COURTESY OF AP IMAGES

The other issues with this film's plot are too numerous to detail. Many are not inherently bad ideas, but they suffer from a lack of attention or buildup to make them feel earned or important.

The acting was, as usual, strong. Daisy Ridley is still a likeable protagonist as Rey, and John Boyega and Oscar Isaac are still charming and entertaining as Finn and Poe. Adam Driver remains the strongest actor in the series as Supreme Leader Kylo Ren, giving off a commanding, intimidating presence yet never completely masking the character's inner vulnerability. The talent on display makes mishandling of these characters in the screenplay all the more unfortunate.

Looking back across all three films in the new trilogy, none of these characters have an arc that feels particularly well executed. The only one who seems to have been given any narrative effort is Kylo Ren, but even his role falls victim to the break-

neck pace of the film, rarely being given enough time to show real emotion or contemplation in his decisions. When these characters were introduced in "The Force Awakens," I was eager to see where their stories would lead them. Now that the story is over, I'm left to think about their wasted potential.

The same goes for the characters in the original trilogy. Lando Calrissian feels shoehorned in to this film, appearing for about five minutes total in a role that had little bearing on the plot except to serve as a deus ex machina at the end. Ian McDiarmid is delightfully hammy as usual in the role of Palpatine, chewing scenery left and right, but his inclusion in the story is so insultingly preposterous that I was unable to enjoy his performance.

The most disappointing role of all has to go to Princess Leia. While complaints about her awkward inclusion in the film and clunky, confusing conclusion can be reasonably attrib-

uted to Carrie Fisher's death in 2016, the problems go much deeper. Her role throughout this sequel trilogy has been to act as a glorified extra. These films never quite knew what to do with her. After her brief appearance in "The Force Awakens" which was played up as more of a cameo, she was put offscreen in a coma for most of "The Last Jedi." Now, in her final film, she mostly just stands in the background and offers inspirational quotes. The closest thing these films gave her to a purpose was to help turn her son back from the Dark Side, but so little time was spent developing that angle that it seems like an afterthought.

The handful of characters introduced in this film (Keri Russell as Zori Bliss, Richard E. Grant as General Pryde, Naomi Ackie as Jannah and Shirley Henderson as the adorable, hilarious Babu Frik) all leave an impact, but have such small roles that they are not given much of an opportunity to shine. Even then, they mostly have more screen time than Rose Tico, played once again by Kelly Marie Tran. It is unfortunate that she received such a downgrade in this film as I found her genuinely likeable in the last film and strongly sympathized with Tran after the cruel attacks she received from toxic fans online.

With this incredible cast of new characters, Disney could have given us an amazing, fresh story for a new generation of viewers. Instead, they were afraid to experiment with such a lucrative brand, retreating to the comforts of nostalgia and recognizability. Even when Rian Johnson attempted to force the trilogy into a new, original direction with the shocking ending of "The Last Jedi," Abrams and co. managed to turn in yet another shameless ripoff the original trilogy with no regard for logic or consistency.



## Life

## Stars and surprises at this year's Golden Globes

by **Hollianne Lao**  
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The year for the film industry's top stars started out strong in their showing at the 77th Annual Golden Globes Jan. 5 in Beverly Hills. Hosted by Ricky Gervais for the fifth – and final time, according to the New York Times – the awards show is a prelude and indicator for the Academy Awards, whose nominees were announced earlier this week. From the well-deserved wins across the 25 award categories to some unexpected surprises, this year's Golden Globes highlighted the current state of film and shows going into the new decade, as well as the societal environment of the time.

#### Awkwafina's award makes history for Asian-Americans

The 31-year old actress from New York won the award for Best Actress in a Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy for her acclaimed performance in "The Farewell." Awkwafina's win for the comedy-drama based on director Lulu Wang's life experience and Chinese culture marked the first time a woman of Asian descent has won the Golden Globe in the category.

The rapper-turned-actress won the award over some veteran actresses such as Cate Blanchett ("Where'd You Go,

Bernadette"), Beanie Feldstein ("Booksmart"), Emma Thompson ("Late Night") and Ana de Armas ("Knives Out"). Previously taking comedic roles such as in the films "Crazy Rich Asians" and "Oceans 8," Awkwafina reacted humbly to her historic win.

"It feels incredible," she said in the South China Morning Post. "There's also this feeling that you are going to do more. I hope this is just the beginning."

#### Disney misses out on Best Animated Feature

The Big Foot-inspired stop-motion film produced by Laika, "Missing Link," was a surprise win over the dominant Disney dynasty, which had not one, not two, but three nominations in the Best Animated Feature category – "Frozen 2," "The Lion King" and "Toy Story 4," respectively. Despite tanking at the box office earlier last year, the charismatic voice cast – including Hugh Jackman, Zoe Saldana and Zach Galifianakis – and positive reviews from film critics helped the heartwarming adventure movie hand Disney its third loss in the category (in the history of the Golden Globes!).

"Missing Link" was also the first non-computer animated film to win the award, as well as the first non-CGI one to win since 2008, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

"Once Upon a Time ... in

#### Hollywood" takes trio of Golden Globes

Directed by Quentin Tarantino, the star-studded ode to Hollywood in the 1960s took home the most awards of the night, capturing three wins out of its five total nominations. These included the Golden Globes for Best Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy; Tarantino for Best Screenplay and Brad Pitt for Best Supporting Actor. The film beat out competition from movies like "The Irishman," "Marriage Story" and "Knives Out."

#### Women take home the lone wins for Netflix

Arguably the most recognizable streaming service has definitely stepped up its game with its original TV series and movies, and the Hollywood Foreign Press Association acknowledged Netflix's on-par quality with other studios by granting it the most nominations going into the night – 17, to be exact. With buzz around selections such as "The Irishman" and "Marriage Story," the service seemed primed to have a sizeable haul of Golden

Globes following the show. However, only Laura Dern from "Marriage Story" and Olivia Colman from "The Crown" were able to snag victories in their categories, for Best Actress in a Supporting Role and Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series, Drama, respectively.

Bong Joon Ho's international success highlights the importance of diversity in the industry.

The South Korean dramedy directed by Joon Ho, "Parasite," deservedly won the Golden Globe for Best Motion Picture, Foreign Language after the thriller garnered global acclaim for its plot involving class deception fabricated by a poverty-stricken South Korean family. The film also received nominations for Best Screenplay and Best Director, but its win in the former category is a first for a South Korean movie.

"Once you overcome the one-inch-tall barrier of subtitles, you will be introduced to so many more amazing films," Joon Ho said in his acceptance speech, drawing attention to the domination of English movies in commercial markets. "Just being nominated along with fellow amazing international filmmakers was a huge honor. I think we use only one language: The cinema."

A full list of nominees and winners can be found at the Golden Globes website.



Brad Pitt at the 2020 Golden Globes after starring in Quentin Tarantino's 'Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood'  
PHOTO COURTESY OF AP IMAGES

## The downfall of Onision

by **Ian Ward**  
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Gregory "James" Jackson, otherwise known as Onision, is a popular YouTuber who is best known for his 2009 video, "Banana Song (I'm a Banana)." The video has over 78 million views and helped Jackson reach over two million subscribers on YouTube. In the years since "Banana Song" released, Jackson has been no stranger to controversy. In 2012, the internet video convention VidCon banned Jackson for making a statement about his girlfriend, according to medium.com. In the statement, Jackson claimed that because his girlfriend "had slept with over 20 men" thus was incapable of being raped."

The most recent scandal Jackson is facing, however, involves "grooming" girls with his husband

Kai. For those unaware of what grooming is, it is when a sexual predator gains the trust of a victim to later start a sexual relationship. In Jackson's case, a woman known as Sarah had a relationship with Jackson's husband, formerly known as LaineyBot, back in 2014 when she was 14. At 15, Jackson had romantic conversations with Sarah, often sharing sexual jokes and comments. Kai adopted Sarah when she was 16 and she moved in with him and his husband.

This isn't the first time YouTube has been involved in pedophilic activity. YouTuber Matt Wilson made a video exposing how pedophiles use the comment section on videos of children to share pedophilic content on the site.

Since the allegations have come out, Jackson has continued to make videos on YouTube, which are mostly songs. Jackson was banned from using the creator subscription service Patreon because he allegedly "doxed"

### Four other women have come forward with allegations of physical and sexual assault against Jackson.

(or exposed private information online) a woman named Billie Dawn Webb, who claimed she was groomed and harassed

while living with Jackson and his husband. Jackson posted text conversions, which included Webb's phone number, to Twitter resulting in the ban and subsequent backlash.

Four other women have come forward with allegations of physical and sexual assault against Jackson. Chris Hansen from "To Catch a Predator" has been investigating claims against Jackson and his husband. Hansen featured Jackson's alleged victims on his YouTube channel to interview them about their encounters with Jackson. The FBI is also involved in investigating the allegations against Jackson and his husband. As of this writing, there have been no charges issued to the couple.

When Insider asked Jackson for an interview on the allegations, he requested \$10,000. Insider denied the payment and Jackson later wrote them an email stating, "the fee is never expected to be accepted. I should be paid to endure [sick] stupidity of the current state of outrage/online culture."

On Jan. 16 of this year, Jackson filed a civil lawsuit against Hanson and Daniel Sulzbach, known as Repzion on YouTube. It is unclear why exactly Jackson is filing a suit against Hanson and Sulzbach, however Hanson did visit Jackson's home in Washington on Jan. 9 and he had 911 called on him by Jackson. As for Sulzbach, he made videos criticizing Jackson on his YouTube channel. The trial is expected to happen on Jan. 24 at the Pierce County District Court in Washington.

## My ultimate top travel tips

by **Kimberly Nguyen**  
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I guess I have gained some kind of reputation among my friends and people that know me for being a traveler. Mostly, the main question I get asked is how I can afford these adventures, to which I respond, I honestly have no idea. Despite the accumulation of travel debt, I've gained a lot of knowledge about the world, and how to explore it the best I know how.

With all the countries I have been so, so lucky to go to (New Zealand, Samoa, Vietnam, Thailand and France to name a few), I've developed some travel advice from the past year of traveling that I think would be invaluable for any new wander luster. When I did my first solo travel trip to study abroad in New Zealand, I did a lot of Googling to find travel tips and "insider secrets." Some of the tips may seem obvious, some of them may seem rather random, but I promise that these tips either saved me on several occasions or was something I wished I had done earlier.

**Prepaid travel cards:** I personally don't like to have a lot of cash on me. It's easier to block a card than to try to regain cash that gets stolen from you. It can also cost a lot to exchange money in your home country before

flying somewhere else. To avoid that hassle, you can get a prepaid travel card, pay a really small initial user fee and load money on the card in the currency of the country you'll be going to. A friend of mine that I met up with had been using it all over Europe before I met her in Portugal, and tapping the card took less than a second. I was definitely envious of her, as I always carried cash and kept it close to me at all times. A quick side note too, if you do plan on exchanging your country's currency for cash, exchange enough at the bank at home for some airport food and a taxi ride at your destination. Then, exchange it locally; usually banks within the country you are visiting are the most trustworthy. You can look up the day's exchange rates online, as it changes each day.

**Flip flops:** Maybe you're going to an impromptu beach trip. Maybe you're like me and went on an eight hour hike and wanted to give your feet some breathing space. You could also be like me, who went to a hostel and forgot to bring flip flops for the shower. I stood on my toes and prayed for no foot disease. Regardless, staying in hostels is one of the cheapest ways to get a bed while traveling, while AirBnB from time to time just to have your own bathroom is really nice. Flip flops are es-

sential, especially for use with shared showers. The memory of those forgotten shoes brought me back to my freshmen year, when I had also forgotten flip flops for the shower. Shout out to my best friend for letting me borrow hers until mine from Amazon came in.

**Mesh shower bag:** This is another freshmen year item that I brought along with me in

hostels have a hook and minimal to no space to put down a bottle of shampoo or anything else that you might need. The bags are easy to wash and can have multiple pockets to put other toiletry items you may need; I sometimes brush my teeth in the shower if I'm in a rush. Don't be like me, who carried shampoo and shower bottles in her hands and almost had

a nice pair of dress shoes, casual shoes that are comfy to walk in and a pair of running sneakers. An impromptu night out could happen at any time, and it's always nice to have a pair of fancy-ish heels for the occasion. I would recommend a thicker heel; stilettos won't do you any good on cobblestone streets at 3 a.m. Casual shoes or running sneakers are good for exploring. A cute pair of casual shoes for a photo was always a must for me, and I tended to wear neutral colors on my feet to match with any outfit I had on. For running sneakers, I often liked to wear them on the plane. There would also be times when I would be in an area which I thought would be really nice to go for a run around in the morning, cursing myself for not having packed running shoes.

**Rain jacket:** This is much easier to fold up and store in a backpack than an umbrella. Having a rain jacket has come in handy for me so many times when I've forgotten to check the weather or was flying to a destination that I thought was going to be sunny the whole time I was there (looking at you Thailand). Imagine going on a hike, seeing grey clouds and realizing that you have nothing to cover yourself with?



Travel  
PHOTO COURTESY OF FLIKR

my travels. It's convenient strap makes it easy to hang up when toting toiletries around a hostel and easier to hang when you're in the shower. A lot of the time,

to chuck it on the shower floor of a hostel.

Other pairs of shoes: Going back to footwear, my top three other essential shoes to pack are

See TRAVEL, p. 7



## USE THESE TRAVEL TIPS ON YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE

**STORY, cont. from p. 6**

For outdoors adventures, I would recommend a rain poncho. You can easily cover your pack with it as well if it isn't waterproof. A poncho definitely came in handy for me when I was riding on a motorbike in Vietnam, where the rain would often come suddenly and harshly.

**Pack your clothes once, then repack:** I am guilty of packing too much for a trip, thinking that I was going to wear every single item of clothing that I shoved into my suitcase. I am also guilty of shopping while I'm away, and at that point, I have to use my backpack to gather the overflow. To really streamline my closet, I've packed once and then taken out items in the second round. I always want to look stylish and comfortable while traveling, but it's not necessary to bring a whole closet to achieve the look. Items that can be mixed and matched are key. I always try to pack some statement items, such as a belt or a purse, if I'm trying to elevate my look.

**Portable charger:** I used my phone a lot to research different places to go to and especially as the main way to figure out how to get to those places. When I had WiFi at a café, I would also use my phone to update my loved ones on what I was doing. Having a dead phone isn't useful to do any of that, and so I really recommend a portable charger. On planes, I also enjoyed listening to music.

Now, most planes will have a USB to charge your phone but depending on which airline you use, that might not be the case.

**Offline Google maps:** The app allows you to use maps offline if you download it while connected to a cellular or WiFi service. This saved me a few times in Europe, when I decided to live off of WiFi instead of paying for a SIM card. Having the ability to read a map on my phone helped me get around to places a lot until I found another WiFi spot at a café. It can also be really useful if for some reason, the SIM card on your phone isn't working and you need to get back to your accommodation.

**Do prior research on transportation:** Not being able to get around gives me a lot of anxiety. I like to know that I can at least get to my accommodation from a long airplane ride and oftentimes, I don't really like to take a taxi. They can often be expensive, and I don't feel like working out a language barrier when I'm tired. Many major cities will have a Metro line that can take travelers anywhere or close to where they need to be. I also preferred traveling on buses when I could for longer distances, within a continent, especially Europe, as it was significantly cheaper than catching a plane. Taking these methods of transportation made me feel more attached to the country that I was visiting. I love people watching and looking out at windows at the passing landscape.



Using these convenient travel tips, your trips could take you on whatever kind of vacation you want.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF FLIKR



# Melissa's Menu Meal-prep chicken teriyaki stir-fry

**Melissa Scrivani**  
ASSOCIATE LIFE EDITOR

The start of a new semester can be a stressful time. After a month of living at home with little responsibility and a mom that cooked for me every day, I was anxious to return to school, begin classes AND readjust to completely taking care of myself. That's why this Melissa's Menu is a super easy meal-prep idea to help alleviate some of this stress: Chicken teriyaki stir-fry. This is a really simple and delicious recipe that takes little time to make but will last through the week. The teriyaki sauce only requires a few ingredients but adds an excellent flavor to the dish and pairs well with chicken, veggies and rice. This recipe can easily be modified, as well: Feel free to swap the rice for any grain or use different vegetables.

## Ingredients

- 3 chicken breasts, cubed
- Salt, to taste
- Pepper, to taste
- 1 teaspoon of crushed garlic
- 1/2 cup of soy sauce
- 1/3 cup of honey
- 1 1/2 tablespoons of sesame seeds, more to garnish
- 1 sliced onion
- 2 thinly sliced small bell peppers
- 2 cups of broccoli
- 1 thinly sliced green onion
- Cooked white rice

## Directions

In a pan, cook cut chicken over medium-high heat until almost done. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Reduce heat to medium, and stir in crushed garlic. Add the soy sauce, honey and one tablespoon of sesame seeds. Stir until thickened. Remove the chicken from the pan, leaving the sauce, and add the vegetables. Cover the pan for several minutes and cook until the vegetables begin to soften, then remove the lid and stir until the sauce is thick again. Split the rice, vegetables and chicken evenly between four containers. Top with a sprinkle of sesame seeds and sliced green onion. Refrigerate for up to four days. Enjoy!

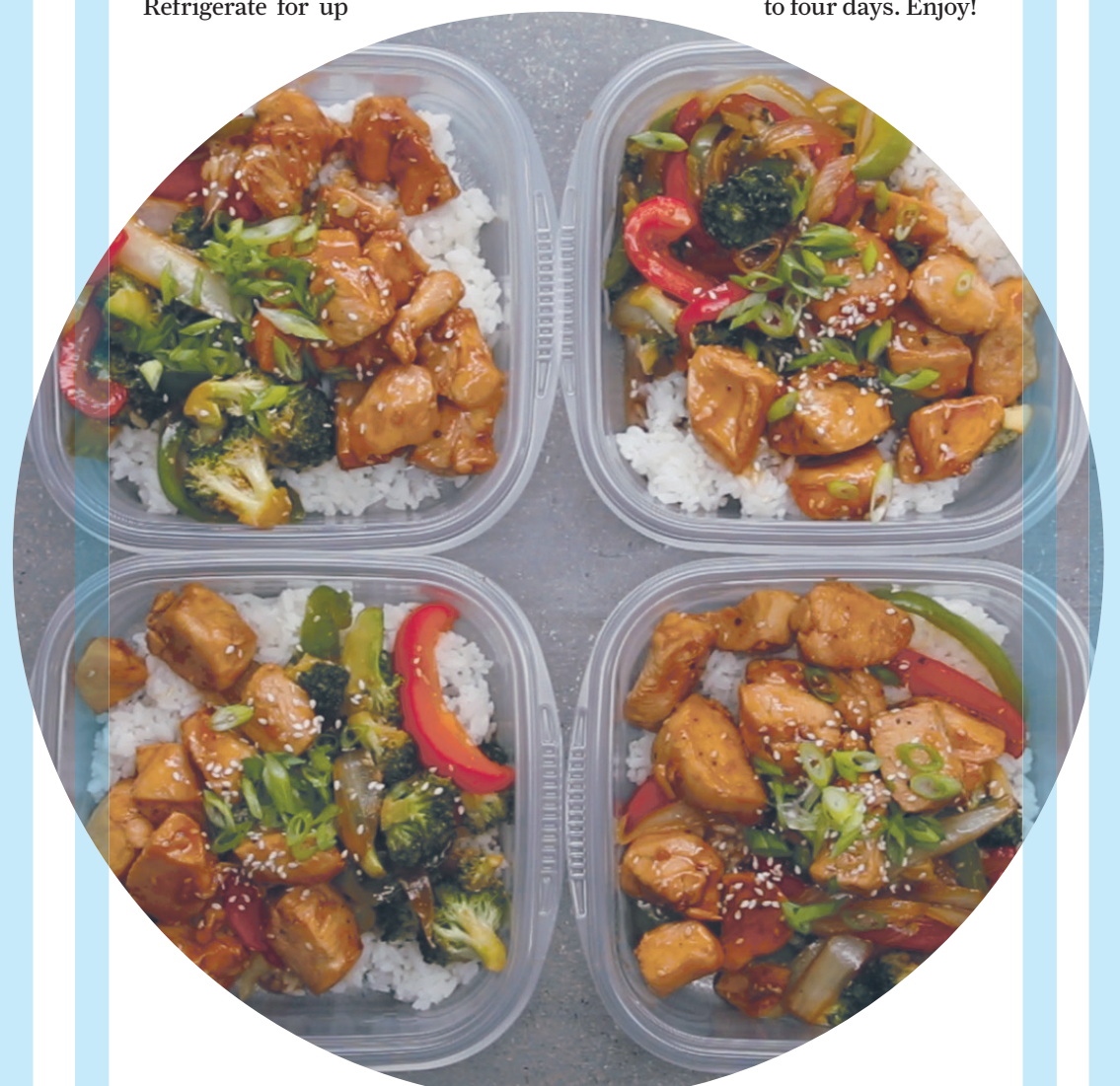


PHOTO COURTESY OF DELISH



# Opinion StudyBreak

## Photo of the Day | It's like grain on your wedding day



Wheat blows in Silver Sands State Park, located in Milford. PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

### Letter to the Editor: West is Best

My name is Stephen Winchell, and I'm an alumnus of the University of Connecticut (CLAS '08). I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to UConn.

A new year is a time of reflection for all of us: a chance to examine our lives and decide how to shape our future. It is an especially sacred time on campus — it may not feel like it now, but you only have so many new years at Storrs. Because these special days won't last forever, I encourage you all to make some UConn Resolutions. And as an alumnus with a soft spot in my heart for this school, I have some gentle suggestions. Take 'em or leave 'em.

Second — and I can't stress this enough — there is no place like Storrs. Resolve this year to explore as much of this fine community as you can. Wander the hallways of departments beyond your major. Discover the fascinating history of this campus. Fall in love with a painting at the Benton, feel the electricity of a home game in Gampel, savor that perfect moment at the top of Horsebarn Hill. The world is full of incredible places. I had to graduate in order to realize that UConn — this campus — is one of them.

Lastly, enjoy yourself. You're a Husky. This is your time, your place. Relish this

### Letter to the Editor: Let Us Be Dissatisfied: Racial Inequality in Connecticut

Every year on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the renowned civil rights leader is celebrated for his unwavering commitment to the nonviolent direct-action approach to achieving civil rights for African Americans. We commend the late Dr. King for his dream of the future, yet we fail to recognize that this dream is far from fulfilled. I was born in Sherman, Connecticut. Of its 3,581 residents, 0.4 percent identify as African American. Upon moving to Waterbury, Connecticut, I was struck by the startling contrast between my place of birth and my current place residence. Twenty percent of Waterbury's 108,093 residents identify as African American.

According to an article published in The Connecticut Mirror in 2018, The Sherman School was given a performance rating of 90.0%, whereas West Side Middle School, which shares a zip code with my current home, received a rating of just 50.8%. 94% of students within the Sherman School District are white, while only 39% of students within the Waterbury School District are white. Furthermore, the median household income in Sherman, Connecticut amounts to \$113,636. The median household income in Waterbury, Connecticut is \$41,617. A scant 0.3% of Sherman residents live below the poverty line; meanwhile, 23% of Waterbury residents live below the poverty line. Not only must we consider diversity, academic performance and income in our assessment of racial equality in the United States; we must also take into account rates of incarceration. Forty two percent of inmates in the Connecticut Department of Correction are African American. Twenty nine percent of inmates are white.

Given these statistics, over fifty years after his assassination, the words of Martin Luther King Jr. ring true: "Why is equality so assiduously avoided? Why does white America delude itself, and how does it rationalize the evil it retains? The majority of white Americans consider themselves sincerely committed to justice for the Negro. They believe that American society is essentially hospitable to fair play and to steady

**We must recognize the inherent, endemic inequality present in this nation, and we must elect officials and implement policies that will enact Dr. King's dream.**

growth toward a middle-class Utopia embodying racial harmony. But unfortunately this is a fantasy of self-deception and comfortable vanity." We must not delude ourselves by presuming that we have achieved racial equality in this country. We must recognize the inherent, endemic inequality present in this nation, and we must elect officials and implement policies that will enact Dr. King's dream. Let us be dissatisfied with the current state of things. Let us continue the work that Dr. King began.

*Elizabeth Amory is a senior and an English major in the Honors program.*



FILE PHOTO OF THE DAILY CAMPUS

First, focus on your studies. Life outside of school offers precious little time to learn. Something is always getting in the way: work, money, commitments, etc. It's a real blessing to be somewhere that's dedicated solely to education. I know, focusing on classes seems like a drab resolution. But one day you'll find yourself stuck in traffic on your way to the office and you'll realize that it's been months since you learned something new! Believe me, it's not a good feeling. So please, take this semester and absorb every bit of information you can.

experience. Celebrate UConn, whatever it means to you

Thank you for giving this old alumnus a chance to offer some small pearls of wisdom. And if you'll allow me, I have one more before I go: West is the greatest place on campus, and Towers is a national embarrassment that deserves to be tossed into the world's ugliest dumpster where it belongs.

*Stephen Winchell is a graduate of UConn's 2008 class, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.*

COMIC BY CONNOR RICKERMANN, STAFF CARTOONIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS





# When it comes to unanimous Hall picks, Jeter could be No. 2

NEW YORK (AP) — When it comes to unanimous picks for baseball's Hall of Fame, Derek Jeter quite appropriately has the chance to be No. 2.

Yankees closer Mariano Rivera became the first player to appear on every ballot when he swept 425 votes in last year's election. Ken Griffey Jr. was three votes short of perfection in 2016, breaking the mark of five shy that had been held since 1992 by Tom Seaver.

Bill Madden, the longtime New York Daily News baseball writer, said attitudes had changed and Rivera's performance could lead to more 100% results from the Baseball Writers' Association of America, whose 2020 votes are announced Tuesday.

"Nobody wants to be branded or held accountable on social media if they're not voting for an obvious selection," Madden said Monday. "I could see people's lives being threatened if they didn't vote for Derek Jeter."

Jeter was picked by all 201 voters tabulated through late afternoon Monday by Ryan Thibodaux's Hall of Fame vote tracker, nearly half the expected ballots. A 14-time All-Star shortstop who hit .310, Jeter led New York to five World Series titles and captained the Yankees for his final 11 1/2 seasons. New York retired No. 2 in his honor, but Jeter has struggled for success in his post-playing days as CEO of the of the Miami Marlins.

Larry Walker, who hit 383 homers in a career boosted by nearly a decade of home games in the launching pad of Denver's Coors Field, was at 170 (84.6%). Curt Schilling, a three-time World Series champion for Arizona and Boston, was next at

158 (78.6%). While Walker and Schilling were thus far above the 75% threshold needed for election, percentages usually decline among the non-public ballots.

Attitudes have changed since the initial Hall vote in 1936, when Ty Cobb was left off four ballots, Babe Ruth and Honus Wagner were omitted from 11, Christy Mathewson from 21 and Walter Johnson from 37.

Joe DiMaggio received one vote as an active player in 1945, fell short in his first two ballot appearances after retirement and was elected in 1955, when 28 voters left him off. Yogi Berra was elected in his second appearance in 1972 after missing by 28 votes in his first try. Willie Mays was deemed unworthy by 23 voters when he was elected in 1979, and 52 bypassed Sandy Koufax when he was voted to the Hall in 1972.

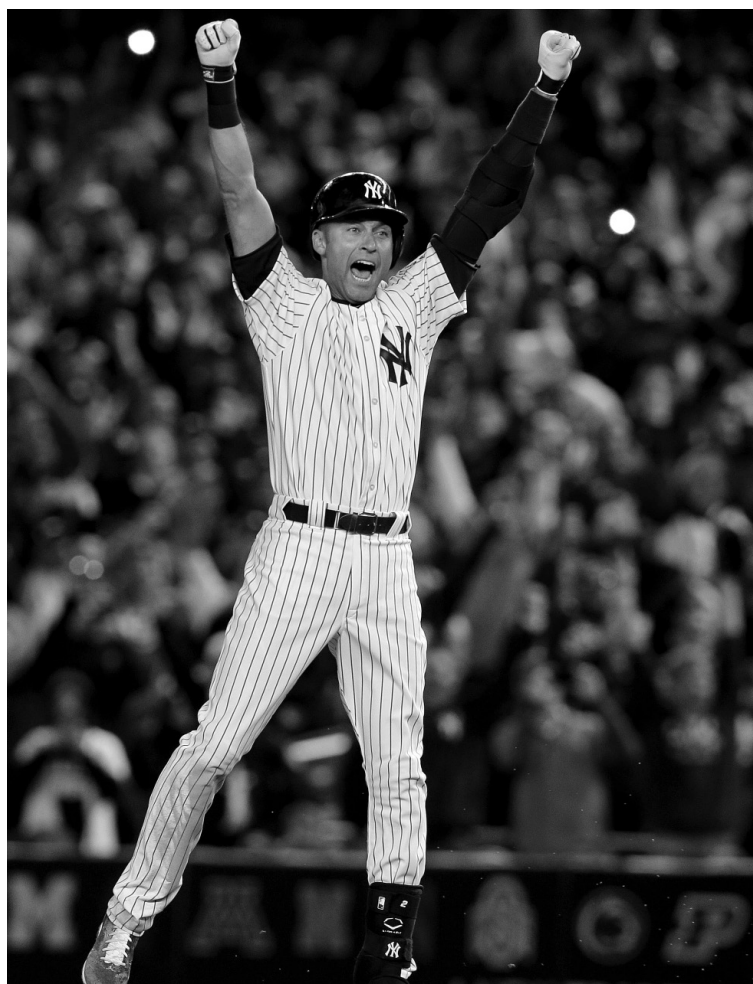
John Thorn, Major League Baseball's official historian, called last year's election a precedent.

"Mariano was the very best at what he did. Derek Jeter will not be the very best at what he did," Thorn said. "The meaningfulness of Mariano achieving unanimity just testifies to a herd mentality."

Walker is on the BBWAA ballot for the 10th and final time after improving from 34.1% in 2018 to 54.6% last year.

Schilling is making his eighth appearance after going up from 51.2% to 60.9%. He dropped from 52.3% in 2016 to 45% the following year and claimed his support dropped because he publicly supported the election of Donald Trump for president.

Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens, both tainted by accusations of steroids use, also are on for



In this Sept. 25, 2014 file photo, New York Yankees' Derek Jeter jumps after hitting the game-winning single against the Baltimore Orioles in New York. PHOTO BY JULIE JACOBSON, FILE/AP PHOTO

their eighth time. Each received just over one-third of the vote in his first appearances in 2013 and both were at about 59% last year. Bonds was at 72.6% on this year's vote-tracker and Clemens at 71.6%.

Manny Ramirez, suspended twice under Major League Baseball's drug program, was at 31.8% on the vote-tracker. Sammy Sosa, another steroids-tainted star, was at 16.9%.

Bonds and Clemens could benefit next year, when the most prominent players eligible for

the first time are Torii Hunter and Mark Buehrle.

The 2022 ballot will include David Ortiz and Alex Rodriguez, who served a season-long suspension in 2014 for violations of the drug program and baseball's collective bargaining agreement. Joining the ballot in 2023 is newly tainted Carlos Beltran, who quit as New York Mets manager last week after he was implicated in using electronics to steal signs with Houston in 2017, his final season as a player.

## SOUTH CAROLINA, BAYLOR LEAD WOMEN'S TOP 25

NEW YORK (AP) — South Carolina still sits atop The Associated Press women's basketball poll, with Baylor in second place.

The Gamecocks received 22 first-place votes from a 30-member media panel Monday. The Lady Bears got six.

UConn moved up to third after previous No. 3 Stanford lost to Oregon by 32 points. The Ducks moved up to No. 4. Louisville was fifth, sandwiched between Oregon and Stanford. Louisville received the other two first-place votes.

Oregon State, North Carolina State, Mississippi State and UCLA rounded out the top 10.

South Carolina faces Mississippi State on Monday night.

Northwestern entered the Top 25 for the first time this season, coming in at No. 22. The Wildcats were last ranked for the first nine weeks of the 2015-16 season.

Joe McKeown's team has lost only to No. 11 DePaul and No. 19 Iowa. The longtime coach got his 700th career victory earlier this season.

"I think our kids are doing a great job and are really humble," McKeown said. "This is a fun team to watch and we have a lot of fan support. It helps getting some national recognition. For our program, I'm glad to see people taking notice."

The Wildcats have a big week ahead, with Big Ten games at Michigan State and Maryland.

"Our league is so deep right now it's amazing," McKeown said. "You can't get ahead of yourself as you look at the next game and say let's go. It's my 12th year in the league and it's the deepest it's been."

Missouri State fell out of the poll after losing to Southern Illinois on Friday night.

Here are a few other tidbits from the poll:

**MOVING UP:** DePaul climbed three spots this week to No. 11, the Blue Demons' best ranking since the final poll of the 2011 season, when Doug Bruno's team was No. 10. DePaul hosts Villanova and Georgetown this week. The team's only loss came to UConn.

**FALLING DOWN:** West Virginia had a week to forget, with blowout losses to Oklahoma and No. 2 Baylor. The Mountaineers fell eight spots in the poll to No. 25. They will try to regroup against Oklahoma State on Wednesday.

**GAME OF THE WEEK:** For the first time in more than a decade, UConn and Tennessee will play each other. The two women's basketball powers will play the first of a home-and-home set in Hartford, Connecticut, on Thursday night. They last played in 2007.

### OVERTIME, cont. from p. 11

UConn came out with a bang, as Firstov picked up the puck just over a minute into the first period and streaked down the middle of the ice before sending it flying by goaltender Craig Pantano's glove-side.

The Huskies took a 1-0 lead and were able to keep it for the next 24 minutes, until Grant Jozefek's first goal and then second seven minutes later.

With just three minutes left in the second period, Firstov picked up a sequence from Wyatt Newpower and Ruslan Iskhakov in front of the net and secured his brace, tying the game at 2-2.

The third period saw no goals despite the 24 total shots taken between the two teams.

Both goaltenders had great nights between the poles, especially Tomas Vomacka. UConn's sophomore stopper had a 35-save performance and stopped 11 or more shots per regulation period, plus one in overtime.

Pantano, Northeastern's No. 1 option in net, is a grad-transfer from Merrimack and has put on a display this season. Even in Saturday's loss, he cleaned up shot after shot from UConn. He finished the night with 41 saves, having stopped 13 in each period of regulation and a pair in overtime before the winner.

UConn has now won two conference games in a row, following a four-game losing streak, putting them in a tie for sixth in the conference with Boston University at 14 points apiece. They have just nine more conference matchups to go, and two of them are with BU.

Their next matchup is Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Connecticut Ice Festival versus Quinnipiac at 4 p.m., followed by a game against either Sacred Heart or Yale on Sunday at 3:30 p.m. or 7 p.m. depending on a win or loss Saturday. All games will be televised on SNY and take place at Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport, Conn.

Saturday's game was an important step forward for the Huskies, who have been streaky this season. I would not be surprised if they went on another extended positive run like they did earlier in the season, but they have to stay motivated and energized.

# Aaron Rodgers says 'window's open' on another title run

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — The 2019 season for the Green Bay Packers marked the dawn of a new era.

Matt LaFleur took over and won more games than any first-year coach in franchise history.

The final result again fell short of the Packers' goal of winning it all, but this time it had a different feeling, according to Aaron Rodgers.

The two-time MVP was on the losing end of the NFC championship game in his third consecutive appearance.

There was the overtime loss at Seattle in the title game in the 2014 season, the 23-point rout at Atlanta in the conference championship in the 2016 season and Sunday's 37-20 defeat to the Super Bowl-bound 49ers.

But the 36-year-old Rodgers said the latest loss isn't like the others.

"It's a lot different feel," he said Sunday night. "I remember in those moments the emotion compared to this. I feel really confident in (general manager) Brian (Gutkunst) and the job that he's done and his staff. They did go all-in — as much as they could — this year and the pieces that they brought in. I'm confident that he's going to continue to add to this squad. So, that part is very exciting. It is a lot different feel than three years ago."

Gutkunst spent big on the defense in free agency last March. The second-year general manager acquired pass rushers Za'Darius Smith and Preston Smith and veteran safety Adrian Amos. The Packers also used both of their 2019 first-round picks on defenders (outside linebacker Rashan Gary at No. 12 and safety Darnell Savage at No. 21).

Both Smiths invigorated the defense and revitalized themselves, as each had a career high in sacks (Za'Darius, 13 1/2; Preston, 12)

But after being a large reason why Green Bay was 13-3 this season, swept its division and finished as the No. 2 seed in the NFC, that same re-tooled unit was largely to blame for Sunday's loss because of its inability to stop the run.

The Packers' leaky run defense, which was in the bottom third of the league for most of the season,



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers sits on the bench during the NFC Championship game against the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday, Jan. 19 in Santa Clara, California. PHOTO BY BEN MARGOT/AP PHOTO

allowed 220 yards and four touchdowns to Raheem Mostert, a running back who had been cut seven times in his career.

### NEW OFFENSE

LaFleur brought with him an entirely new offense that showed flashes of brilliance but struggled to find consistency all season. However, it did uncover a gem in Aaron Jones, who had the most productive season of his young career.

The third-year running back had career highs in carries (236), rushing yards (1,084) and total touchdowns (19). Jones also had 49 catches, second on the team behind only Davante Adams' 83, and was Green Bay's first 1,000-yard rusher since Eddie Lacy in 2014.

But outside of Jones and Adams, there wasn't much offensive production, which begs the question: After reshaping the defense last offseason, will Gutkunst have to spend this offseason finding a dynamic playmaker or two to add to LaFleur's offense?

"The scheme is there. The scheme and what Matt and his staff put together every week was fantastic," Rodgers said. "The execution and the moving pieces will continue to improve. Like I said, the

window's open and I think we're going to be on the right side of one of these real soon."

Green Bay has the 30th pick in this year's draft.

### PLENTY OF QUESTIONS

The Packers have a number of unrestricted free agents they will have to make difficult decisions regarding, including defensive back Tramon Williams and veteran right tackle Bryan Bulaga, who has protected Rodgers' right side since 2010.

"This is my last year and we'll see what happens," Bulaga said. "I don't have any predictions or anything like that. I don't know what's going to happen. So, we'll see."

Balaga, 30, and Williams, 36, are two of only four players remaining from Green Bay's Super Bowl-winning team in the 2010 season.

Other notable unrestricted free agents include outside linebacker Kyle Fackrell (10 1/2 sacks in 2018), inside linebacker Blake Martinez (team-high 155 tackles in 2019, second in the NFL behind Bobby Wagner's 159), wide receiver Geronimo Allison, 35-year-old tight end Marcedes Lewis and 35-year-old kicker Mason Crosby.

"The Gamecocks received 22 first-place votes from a 30-member media panel Monday. The Lady Bears got six. UConn moved up to third after previous No. 3 Stanford lost to Oregon by 32 points."



## Sports

## Photo of the Day | Another day, another W



Olivia Nelson-Ododa (20) and teammates celebrate a basket against Tulsa during a game on Sunday, Jan. 19 at Gampel Pavilion. The Huskies pulled away with a 92-34 victory, improving their record to 16-1.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## DB's Weekly Take

### BOLD PREDICTIONS FOR THE 2020S

by **Danny Barletta**  
STAFF WRITER  
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For my first column of the new decade, I figured I would put forward some predictions so if they happen in the next 10 years, I can pull this article up and pretend I am some incredible seer. In reality, I am just a sports fan with some takes that may or may not happen, but if future me is looking at this, then I must have been right about something.

#### A double-digit seed will win March Madness

I know it has never happened. The lowest seed to ever win the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament was an eight seed back in 1985 when Villanova upset Georgetown. Three other eight seeds have made the title game, but none have ever won it all. I believe that changes this decade.

I don't think this season will be a fluke. There is more parity than ever before in college basketball, which explains the shakeup in the rankings every week. There are some really solid teams in conferences you wouldn't expect, and the gap between the "Blue Bloods" and the rest of the pack is smaller than ever. I think it is only a matter of time before a No. 10, 11 or 12 seed wins it all. In the

next 10 years, we will see an unprecedented run by a Cinderella team. Heck, it could even happen this year at this rate.

#### There will be at least three first-time Super Bowl winners

This one may not be that bold, especially with the end of the New England Patriots dynasty imminent, but I think it's likely that we see some new teams hoisting the Lombardi trophy this decade. There are 12 NFL teams that have never won a Super Bowl, and by the end of the 2020s, that number will have decreased to at least nine.

The era of Tom Brady, Drew Brees and Aaron Rodgers is waning, and there is a youthful presence in football that is great for the game. With that, I believe there will be some fresh champions in this decade. If I had to pick which teams I think will win for the first time, I would say the Cincinnati Bengals, the Houston Texans and the Arizona Cardinals, but any of the 12 (except the Cleveland Browns) have a good chance.

#### The Celtics and Lakers will meet in multiple NBA Finals

This could be wishful thinking, but it seems to me that both teams are built to compete for championships for the next

number of years. A renewal of the game's greatest and most historic rivalry could be on the doorstep.

The amount of legends to have played in this rivalry is astounding. First it was West vs. Russell, then it was Bird vs. Magic then Pierce vs. Kobe. Now you could have Kemba Walker, Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown going up against LeBron James and Anthony Davis for the next handful of seasons. That would be pretty special and a lot of fun to watch.

#### Mike Trout will tie Barry Bonds's record seven MVP awards

Trout just won his third MVP this past season and he appears to be just now arriving at the prime of his career, which is scary. Four MVP awards this decade is completely on the table as long as he remains healthy.

If Trout decided to retire today, he would probably already be a Hall of Famer. He is now going to start to approach an all-time great level and he's still just 28 years old. Trout is the best player of this generation and by the end of this decade, he will be considered one of the greatest baseball players of all time. His seven MVP awards will only be the tip of the iceberg.

## Setien in Barcelona



Quique Setien answers journalists during a news conference after being officially introduced as the new soccer coach of FC Barcelona at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on Tuesday, Jan. 14. PHOTO BY EMILIO MORENATI/AP PHOTO

#### BARCELONA, cont. from p. 12

manager wasn't their first choice of coaches for the Balugrana. Originally, the board turned to former midfielder Xavi for the position but turned it down which is probably a smart move. We've seen former players like Frank Lampard and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer coach their boyhood clubs, and while Lampard's Chelsea has been doing pretty well despite his managerial experience, Solskjaer's Manchester United have seen mixed results. But what can Setien really bring to the table? The answer: The old Barcelona.

Setien typically favored a "Johan Cruyff" style of soccer, which was keeping open space when on the offensive and making the pitch look smaller in the defensive. This play style should ring a bell to many Barcelona fans, since not only did Cruyff play for and manage Barcelona, but also established this style of soccer in Ajax and Barcelona's youth academies.

Already in Setien's first match on Saturday against Granada there was greater intensity in defense from the likes of Pique and Samuel Umtiti as well as better

movement and fluidity when handling the ball. Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

While it has only been his first game as coach only time will tell what kind of impact Setien will have at the Camp Nou. Currently, the Spaniard will have to work with a Suarez-less team, as the Uruguayan is out for four months with a knee injury. Besides, there's one thing Setien has to prove not only to the Barcelona board but to the fans: Winning the Champions League.

If there's any pressure on Setien, it's bringing back the Champions League trophy back to Barcelona; the last time was in 2015, when Barcelona won the treble under Luis Enrique. Under Valverde, as stated earlier, his lack of substitutions and good tactics had cost the Catalonians their Champions League triumph in 2018 against Roma and in 2019 against Liverpool, where in both occasions they blew their chances in the second leg. Setien's first Champions League match will be against Napoli on Feb. 25, so it will be interesting to see how Barcelona performs under him between now and then.

So, is Setien the right choice for Barcelona? Only time will tell.



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James celebrates after scoring and drawing a foul during the first half of the team's game against the New York Knicks on Tuesday, Jan. 7 in Los Angeles.

PHOTO BY MARK J. TERRILL/AP PHOTO



# Women's Basketball: It's all coming together for Anna Makurat



Freshman Anna Makurat puts up a basket against a Tulsa defender during a game on Sunday, Jan. 19 at Gampel Pavilion. PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Sean Janos  
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Anna Makurat missed her first 11 threes to begin her UConn career. Yesterday afternoon, she went 4-for-7 from beyond the arc and lit Tulsa up for a career-high 21 points.

"She's much more confident taking those shots and driving into the lane when they run her off the 3-point line," Megan Walker said. "For a freshman, there's going to be ups and downs, but for her we just need her to keep making shots."

UConn beat up on their conference rivals in their first

game back in Gampel Pavilion for the new year, 92-34. Walker, Crystal Dangerfield and Olivia Nelson-Ododa all sat the entire fourth quarter, and Christyn Williams played just three minutes. This opened the door for Makurat to play the entire period, in which she scored 16 of her 21 points.

"Sometimes you just have this feeling that the ball is going to go in no matter what shot you take. I had it for a moment and it was pretty cool. It was the first time that it happened here," Makurat said.

Makurat was able to unleash the 3-ball, but also had a few impressive drives to the basket where she'd jump off the opposite foot and hit reverse layups. She shot super efficiently (8-for-12) and contributed across the board, adding six rebounds, five assists and three steals. She played the second-most minutes on the team with 29.

The last few games have built up to this great performance from the freshman. She tied her previous career-high of 10 points Thursday against UCF, shooting 2-for-4 from deep. Two games before that, she also went 2-for-4 from three. The game before that, she made three 3-pointers and grabbed five rebounds.

"I'm not surprised that Anna had a game like today because these last three or four games, she's looked really, really good," head coach Geno Auriemma said. "She's getting more comfortable every day, she's finding spots on the floor where she can be successful, she feels bet-

ter shooting the ball and she's getting better defensively."

Makurat has a money 3-point shot, but it's her playmaking ability that Auriemma loves about her game.

"When we were in Dallas, I kept reminding her 'that guy out there is only one year older than you,'" Auriemma said. "Today she kind of channeled her inner Luka."

The Luka Doncic comparison is pretty on the nose. Both players have a great jumper, are savvy rebounders, developing defenders and above all else, incredibly gifted passers. Plus, Makurat being Polish, both learned to ball European style.

Moving forward, Makurat will play an important role taking scoring pressure off Walker and Williams, and playmaking pressure off Dangerfield. Auriemma mentioned Dangerfield is at her best when she is trying to score instead of playing pass-first, so having another distributor like Makurat will be valuable as the long season starts to wear on everybody.

Next for the Huskies are bitter rivals Tennessee on Thursday. The game will tip off from the XL Center at 7 p.m.

## Men's Basketball: Huskies fight but can't hold on late, lose 61-55 to No. 14 Villanova

by Kevin Arnold  
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The UConn men's basketball team has not beaten a ranked opponent on the road in six years.

It also hasn't beaten Villanova in six years.

Both of those streaks will remain for the time being after UConn failed to close out the No. 14 Wildcats down the stretch in a 61-55 loss at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia.

After falling to Wichita State by three in double overtime a week ago, Saturday's loss fell into UConn's "excruciating losses" category, alongside the double-overtime, one-point loss to a ranked Xavier team and a three-point loss to Indiana at Madison Square Garden.

"It's a frustrated locker room," head coach Dan Hurley told the media, as reported by the New Haven Register's Dave Borges, "because that game was on the table for us."

In a game with seven different lead changes, the Huskies (10-7, 1-3 The American) found themselves ahead by six in the second half when Brendan Adams capped off a 20-8 run with a layup. Villanova, who had little success scoring against UConn's interior defense, was forced to shoot from distance, making 11-of-23 three-point attempts. The Wildcats shot 34.5% from three entering the game.

UConn seemed to be the opposite of the Wildcats, out-scoring 'Nova in the paint 36-12 and winning the rebound battle 35-23, but shot just 2-of-15 from beyond the arc.

With the Huskies down a point with under a minute to play, Altirique Gilbert forced a no-look pass through traffic, intending to find Akok Akok down low. Instead it landed in the hands of the Wildcats, turnover No. 17 on the day for UConn, giving Jermain Samuels the stage to nail a dagger of a three-pointer on the other end with 31 seconds to play.

"Bad decision. I just hesitated," Gilbert said on the play, as reported by the Journal Inquirer's Neill Ostrout. "Made a bad play. You live and learn."

Gilbert finished with 12 points and five assists, while Christian Vital had team highs in points (13) and rebounds (8). The senior backcourt duo, however, committed nine turnovers. Josh Carlton was the beneficiary of UConn's in-paint production, scoring 12 points of 6-of-9 shooting with six rebounds and two blocks before he fouled out late.

Carlton scored the first four points of the game for the Huskies before Akok hit a 3-pointer from the wing to give UConn a 11-4 lead at the 15:43 mark.

After moving the ball well and utilizing Carlton's size down low early, the Huskies' offense went stagnant, scoring just 10 points the remainder of the half.

The Wildcats (14-3, 4-1 Big East) found their stride from deep, going 6-for-11 in the half, including a stretch of four straight. While the Huskies' four blocks proved to be a deterrent from scoring inside, the 'Nova marksmen built a 19-15 lead with 10:04 before halftime.

Akok tied the game at 21 a few moments later on a second-chance effort, the last points of the half for UConn. The Wildcats would hit a pair of threes, one from Jeremiah Robinson-Earl and the other by Bryan Antoine, over the final 4:08 to give Villanova a 27-21 halftime lead.

"We had them on their heels the whole game," Akok said, as reported by the Hartford Courant's Dom Amore, who finished with seven points, four rebounds and three blocks. "As the games go forward, we're going to start earning respect for this program."

UConn, thanks to a quick spurt from Gilbert, Vital and Carlton, tied the game at 27 just three minutes into the second half.

Then Samuels answered with a three. UConn scored two more buckets.

Then Samules hit another three. He finished with 19 points (4-of-6

3-pointers), five rebounds and three steals.

Then 10-straight points from Collin Gillespie saw the Huskies' four-point advantage transform into a 43-43 contest with 7:52 to play.

"I thought we did a really good job of taking away the 3-point shooters that we didn't want taking threes," Hurley said, as reported by Amore. "Based on the numbers, based on their strengths, you've got to pick your poison because where we're at right now, we can't take everything away."

Samuels put his team ahead permanently when he converted an and-1 opportunity with 2:58 to go, nullifying Vital's made three from two minutes prior.

Vital followed Gilbert's late-game miscue with a bucket to keep the Huskies' hopes alive, if only for a moment. Robinson-Earl closed the game with four-consecutive made free throws, bringing the Wildcats' total to 12-of-16 on the day. UConn went 3-of-3 from the stripe, all coming on one trip by James Bouknight.

Though disappointed, the Huskies are not discouraged following their second tough loss in a seven-day span.

"People better get us now," Hurley said, as reported by Ostrout, "because it's coming."

UConn's next opportunity comes on a Thursday night, Jan. 23, road bout with Houston. The Huskies return home the following Sunday, Jan. 26 to host Tulsa at the XL Center.



Christian Vital drives to the hoop against Iona defenders during a game on Wednesday, Dec. 4 at Gampel Pavilion. PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## UConn picks up gritty overtime win at No. 12 Northeastern



Forward Zac Robbins fights for the puck against a Merrimack opponent during a game on Tuesday, Jan. 7 at the XL Center. The Huskies lost the match 2-6, but picked up a win against Northeastern on Saturday. PHOTO BY KEVIN LINDSTROM, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Mike Mavredakis  
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When the UConn men's hockey team is energized and motivated, few can stop them. Saturday was no different, as they took down No. 12 Northeastern in their own facility in overtime.

"I was very happy with the way we responded today, in all facets of the game," head coach Mike Cavanaugh said post-game. "I thought our defense was good, I thought we created a lot of offense. We won special teams, which is something we've been really harping on lately. It was a good power play goal for us to win the game, so I am really really happy. That's a great team we played tonight and our effort was excellent."

After the first period, no penalties were charged to either side until two minutes into overtime. Northeastern's (13-7-2, 8-5-1 Hockey East) Jeremie Bucheler drew a call for holding

UConn's (9-10-4, 6-7-2 Hockey East) Vladislav Firstov near his own goal. Forty seconds later, Jake Flynn chucked the puck at the net and senior Benjamin Freeman slammed it into the back of the net.

UConn played Northeastern two weeks prior and were absolutely taken out to lunch by the Huskies from the north, losing 5-2 at home while being outplayed in every phase. This game was an entirely different story.

They played consistently well going forward, making quick and decisive moves to push the puck. On the defensive side they guarded the dangerous Northeastern transition game with energy and poise.

"I'm happy with the way we played today," Cavanaugh said. "A couple weeks ago we really played this team and we weren't really even in the game. We made a late push, but it was all Northeastern in that game."

See OVERTIME, p. 9





# Sports

## Women's Basketball: Huskies easily take care of Tulsa

by **Jorge Eckardt**  
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On Sunday, the UConn women's basketball team absolutely crushed the Tulsa Golden Hurricane's 92-34, easily breezing past yet another American Athletic Conference opponent.

Olivia Nelson-Ododa won the tip, but it might as well have been the game right then and there because from the first minute anyone could tell that Tulsa was simply outclassed. UConn took the lead 19 seconds into the game and never relinquished it.

By the end of the first quarter, UConn was winning 24-6, and their lead only grew. Interestingly, those six points were not even the fewest they gave up in a quarter, as they held Houston to two in the first quarter of their game just over a week prior.

They were up 48-11 by the end of the first half. They could have stopped scoring then and still won by double digits.

"Some of that was us, some of that was them," head coach Geno Auriemma said. "They don't score a lot of points to begin with, and I felt like if we could turn up the pressure a little bit and make the game fast that they would have to take a lot of shots, and

the first half we really made it difficult for them to get where they were going."

In the second half, they worked in more of the bench, getting all nine players in the game by the end of the quarter. Megan Walker, Crystal Dangerfield and Nelson-Ododa each left the game at some point in the third and never returned. Instead, the final quarter turned into the Anna Makurat show. After scoring just five points in the first 30 minutes, Makurat dropped 16 in the final 10 on 6-of-7 shooting including 3-of-4 from beyond the arc.

"I'm not surprised that Anna had a game like today," Auriemma said. "These last three or four games, she's looked really, really good. She's getting more comfortable every day, she's finding spots on the floor where she can be successful, she feels better shooting the ball, she's getting better defensively. I'm not surprised that she just needed to see the ball go in a lot, and that's what happened.

She knocked down shots, she finished through contact and, most importantly, she showed confidence, something that had been severely lacking earlier in the season.

"I think she's putting less pressure on herself, she's getting less frustrated with herself," Dangerfield said.

Makurat finished the game with 21 points, six rebounds and five assists in 29 minutes, the second-most on the team.

Megan Walker led the Huskies in scoring with 24 points on 9-of-12 shooting including 3-of-5 from three and also grabbed five boards in just 26 minutes. Dangerfield had 16 points of her own on 6-10 shooting, featuring a 4-for-5 day from beyond the arc. Christyn Williams had 11 points on 4-of-10 shooting, and after struggling from three so far this season, knocked down three of her four shots from deep.

As a team, the Huskies shot 56% from the field and 61% from three, while Tulsa shot 26% and 13% respectively. UConn outscored Tulsa by 30 from inside the paint, 30 in points off turnovers and 13 in second-chance points.

UConn has a brief stretch coming up where they will sparingly play conference games, with just three of their next seven being against American Conference opponents. The other four could be accurately described as the gauntlet, playing Tennessee, Oregon, South Carolina and an exhibition vs. the U.S. National Team.

The first one up is Tennessee, as they will host them at the XL Center on Thursday, Jan. 23.



The UConn women's basketball team celebrate on the sidelines of their game against Tulsa on Sunday, Jan. 19 at Gampel Pavilion.  
PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Australian Open 2020: Who should we look out for?

by **Nicholas Martin**  
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The 2010s decade is barely behind us, yet the stars of tennis are already in Melbourne for the 'happy slam' — the 2020 Australian Open. Despite the devastating bushfires down under casting a shadow over the usual pre-tournament excitement, our worries have been quelled knowing that the show still goes on. Known for pulling off surprises, partly due to its early staging in the year, this year's staging once again promises more of that, though the big names have already thrown down their gauntlets.

Fresh off victory at the ASB Classic in Auckland for her 73rd WTA career title, Serena Williams leads the pack as the favorite to hoist the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup this year. Could Grand Slam No. 24 finally be attained, after eluding her for the last two years? The odds very well seem to be in Williams' favor, and all being equal, she should win. Her journey to the final will be no easy feat, and Williams has found herself in the toughest quarter of the draw, which features defending champion Naomi Osaka, Simona Halep, rising star Coco Gauff and sister Venus Williams. Williams opens her campaign against

Russia's Anastasia Potapova.

Home turf favorite and top seed Ash Barty is looking to become the first Australian woman to win the Open since 1978, ending the country's 42-year drought. The 23-year-old Queenslanders run in Adelaide ensured her No. 1 ranking heading into the tournament, following a stellar 2019 season, which saw her winning the French Open. Defending champion Naomi Osaka is also among the big contenders this year, with the evergreen Simona Halep lurking amongst the 128 women vying for the title. This year's biggest underdog to watch out for is 'The Danimal,' American Danielle Collins.

The dog fight for the Norman Brooks Challenge Cup has not just the Big 3 in the ring. NextGen's newest poster boy, Stefano Tsitsipas, seeded at No. 5, is another one to watch out for in Melbourne this year. Following his semifinal run at last year's tourney, Tsitsipas failed to progress beyond the fourth round at the other three majors in 2019. A disappointing season at the majors culminated with a convincing win at the ATP Finals at the end of the year, which earned him a pedestal position heading into the 2020 Open.

Also among the top contenders is Russia's Daniil Medvedev.



United States' Serena Williams celebrates after defeating Russia's Anastasia Potapova in their first round singles match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia on Monday, Jan. 20. PHOTO BY LEE JIN-MAN/AP PHOTO

While not enjoying similar popularity to that of Tsitsipas, 'Medwed' was arguably the most consistent NextGen player of 2019, with an impressive showing at the US Open. The Australian Open plays faster than the US Open, meaning the

Russian's flat hitting style of play will be even more effective in Melbourne.

While the Big 3 are all in their very right favorites to win the Open, Novak Djokovic once again is the frontrunner for the trophy.

## COLUMN: IS SETIEN THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR BARCELONA?

by **David Sandoval**  
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Welcome back, UConn family.

A lot has happened in the world of soccer since the beginning of the winter break: Liverpool still has a flawless record, Tottenham is struggling to find a Harry Kane replacement due to a hamstring injury and Watford actually won a few more matches.

But this column will be looking away from the Premier League and focus more on what's happening in Spain's La Liga, where on Jan. 13, FC Barcelona sacked Ernesto Valverde from the club following their 3-2 defeat to Atlético Madrid in the Supercopa semifinal.

Being a Barcelona fan, I was relieved to see the news of the sacking. After poor choices, or lack thereof, for substitutions and tactics in big games it was nothing but a dream to see the Spaniard get the axe from the club; and a few hours later Barcelona announced their new coach until the end of the 2021-22 season: Quique Setien.

The former Real Betis

See **BARCELONA**, p. 10

### THIS WEEK IN UCONN SPORTS

**Women's Basketball**

**7 p.m., XL Center  
Hartford, Connecticut**

**Men's Basketball**

**9 p.m.  
Houston, Texas**

**Women's Hockey**

**6 p.m.  
Storrs, Connecticut**

### NUMBER OF THE DAY

**24**

Rutgers is 24th in the AP poll. This is the first time the Rutgers men's basketball team has been ranked since March 1979.  
via @ESPNStatsInfo

### TWEETS OF THE DAY

\*S.Janelle\*  
@SjBALLstar32  
Do I buy a ticket for the @UConnWBB @UConnHuskies vs Tennessee matchup this Thursday?!? Renewing the rivalry even though it'll never be the same without Pat Summitt #webackPat

**ESPN Stats & Info**  
@ESPNStatsInfo  
Entering Super Bowl LIV, Patrick Mahomes has thrown 11 career touchdown passes. Only Dan Marino has more career passing TDs in the postseason before turning 25.

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