



UConn reaches a new record of over 50,000 applicants

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The University of Connecticut received more than 56,700 applications for the class of 2028, the first time that applications have surpassed 50,000 in the university's history.

UConn application trends have increased by 18% in the past two years, with approximately 48,000 applicants last year and 43,000 in 2022, according to UConn Today. There has also been a 21.5% increase in applications to the regional campuses in Hartford, Stamford, Avery Point and Waterbury.

"The interest in UConn bodes well for our state, since such a large majority of our graduates stay here for their careers," Stephanie Reitz, University spokesperson, said. "It also reflects well on UConn's appeal to students with a wide range of interests, since they're drawn to so many of our majors and all of our campuses."

Admissions offers will be sent to Storrs campus applicants on or shortly before March 1 and will continue in the days and weeks after for those that sent in late applications. Prospective

students can access the status of their application by using UConn's applicant portal.

Of the approximately 4,350 new first-year students expected to enroll at Storrs, there will be growth

across all campuses this fall, with 19,600 at the Storrs campus. 70% of these students will be Connecticut residents, with many students coming from bordering states. UConn also continues to

Reitz said UConn typically houses about 12,300 undergraduate students in university-run housing, but will increase that number with the opening of the new 652-bed South Residence

The Board of Trustees approved Wednesday to enter a contract with The Oaks. According to the lease agreement, UConn will lease up to 60 units, providing housing for approximately 150 students and will include all operating expenses including electric, heat and internet connectivity. Residential Life plans on subleasing the units to students for 12 months and anticipate the units will operate at financial breakeven.

"This arrangement continues UConn's tradition of providing convenient, comfortable housing options while accommodating the increased interest in attending the University," Reitz said.

More information about housing can be found on the UConn Residential Life website.

UConn continues to increase their profile nationally and internationally. They were recently ranked No. 9 among public colleges and universities in the U.S. and was recognized this month among the nation's top producers of Fulbright U.S. Student Program award recipients for the first time.

More information about the applicant record can be found on UConn Today.

"The interest in UConn bodes well for our state, since such a large majority of our graduates stay here for their careers."

UNIVERSITY SPOKESPERSON STEPHANIE REITZ

in the nursing, fine arts and other disciplines, along with traditionally high numbers in business, engineering and liberal arts fields, according to UConn Today.

UConn is on track to have almost 24,500 undergraduates

draw interest among students from other states and internationally, according to UConn Today.

As the UConn population will continue to grow, there is ongoing discussion about housing availability.

Hall near Mirror Lake in the fall.

UConn is hoping to reduce waiting lists and accommodate more students through an agreement with The Oaks on the Square, an apartment complex in Downtown Storrs.

HuskyGo bus services reduce hours starting March 17



ILLUSTRATION BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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The University of Connecticut is reducing bus services on the Storrs campus in the spring due to budgetary reasons.

The changes are beginning on Sunday, March 17 and continuing through June 30. According to university spokesperson Stephanie Reitz, hours for HuskyGo shuttles are ending earlier and certain bus lines will have a reduced number of shuttles.

Shuttle services from Monday to Thursday are going to end at approximately 10:30 p.m. instead of midnight. According to Reitz, this change will include the Hunting Lodge Road regional bus service.

On Fridays, shuttle services will end at 10 p.m. Additionally, shuttle services on Saturdays are going to end at 10:30 p.m. Currently, shuttles on both Fridays and Saturdays end at 1 a.m.

Reitz also confirmed that the Yellow line will be reduced to two shuttles instead of three during peak times.

The Campus Loop service that operates on weekends and during summer and breaks is going to be reduced to a single bus that will alternate between its two routes as opposed to having one bus operating on each route at the same time.

There have been no changes to Connecticut bus services not affiliated with the university, such as CT Transit buses traveling to Hartford and other surrounding areas.

Aside from confirming that the changes were being made for budgetary reasons, Reitz did not provide any additional information about who decided on the changes and when the decisions were made.

The changes were first announced by a user on Reddit. The user who initially posted them claimed in a later comment that the

changes were decided in a closed meeting, so they did not have a source they could link, and there was no known plan to announce the changes to the student body. The changes were confirmed in the Daily Digest yesterday.

Commenters on the initial Reddit thread expressed dissatisfaction with the fact that UConn was reducing bus services that were used heavily by students who live far from the center of campus and those who work late nights.

One commenter pointed out that dining hall employees who work later shifts may need the 11:30 p.m. buses to get home after working. Other comments emphasized that the Yellow line, the only weekday shuttle run that is losing a bus, is often one of the most useful and crowded buses.

The announcement in the Daily Digest said that students could email UConn Transportation Services at info@wrtd.org for more information about campus transportation.

Ukrainian Student Association endures continuing harassment

by Colin Piteo
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On Monday, Feb. 26, the Ukrainian Student Association of UConn (USA) announced via its Instagram account that it had been the victim of another hate incident on campus. The incident centered around a Ukrainian flag memorial, placed on the two-year anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine last Friday, which was defaced by a number of Russian flags. Additional fliers and black and orange ribbons meant to symbolize the Ribbon of Saint

George, a symbol of the Russian military, were tied around trees and lampposts across campus as well. These incidents follow a similar episode of hateful vandalism last week, in which Ukrainian blue and yellow ribbons were defaced with the letter "Z," another symbol of the Russian military.

Kate Koval, a sixth-semester psychology major and President of the UConn Ukrainian Student Association, explained the process the organization has gone through with university administrators and safety personnel since the incident, expressing frustration in the administration's lack

of action on the matter.

"Yesterday we met with the Dean of Students, Associate Dean, Lieutenant UCPD & Director of Community Standards. Our club advisor Solomiya Ivakhiv and UCUF (Ukrainian Catholic University Foundation) representative Oles Kuzma joined us to emphasize their fear for our safety. We emphasized the DIRECT threat proposed by the 'Z' symbols. All representatives of the administration claimed that all of our concerns will not amount to much

See UKRAINE STUDENT ASSOCIATION ENDURES HARASSMENT, p. 02



Students from the Ukrainian Student Association rally at the Connecticut State Capitol Building to raise awareness for the two-year anniversary of the full scale invasion of Ukraine. Earlier in the week, the USA had been the victim to several acts of vandalism.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @USA_UCONN ON INSTAGRAM

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UKRAINE STUDENT ASSOCIATION ENDURES CONTINUED HARASSMENT, cont. from p. 02

since the offender's actions are protected by 'freedom of speech,'" Koval said. "UCPD told us they are actively looking at footage, the process may take months. Community Standards and Police agreed that if they identify a student in these offenses, there will be some sort of punishment, but ONLY because they broke the student code of conduct by going against SU rules (as the space we had was reserved for the flag exhibit)."

Koval also spoke to the meaning of the "Z" symbol to the Ukrainian community and how she feels this symbol is creating a disconnect between students and administrators. She also expressed her fear on campus since the defacing incident.

"We emphasized the direct threat that 'Z' symbolizes, we did not feel that the administration fully understood the gravity of the meaning of the symbol as a representation of killing Ukrainians. We don't feel safe on campus. We are scared to wear the Ukrainian ribbons on our backpacks because there are propaganda posters across the campus calling us Nazis, degrading Ukrainian experience and targeting us," Koval said.

Andrea Kolinsky Tunney, a UConn class of 2014 alumni, sent an email to The Daily Campus and university administrators to express their views on the incident. The statement emphasized the significance of the vandalism and



The Ukrainian Student Association and other community members participate in a candlelight vigil to honor the lives lost in the two-year mark of the full scale invasion of Ukraine. Community members spoke about the pain they endured together.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @USA_UCONN ON INSTAGRAM

defacing and how the symbols involved essentially represent hate speech on campus.

"It's important to understand the significance and context of this vandalism — in this case it is very clear these are symbols of hate and meant to intimidate (NOT memorialize or show a political view). The Saint George ribbon has been used as a symbol of hate by Russia with the war on the Ukrainian people. In fact, it is banned in many countries. The ribbon in conjunction of the letter 'Z' is no different than a swastika," Tunney said.

Paul Doboszczak, a UConn class of 2017 alumni, added that these acts of hate have had a chilling ef-

fect on both students and alumni.

"These acts of hate had a clear purpose — to intimidate both students and alumni. Hate speech of this kind should not be confused with free speech and UConn needs to take a hard stance on this matter," Doboszczak said.

Koval agreed with this sentiment, saying that she doesn't even feel safe walking home from her evening classes anymore.

"Again, we don't feel safe on campus. I personally have thought about skipping my evening class because I'm worried about my walk home, our parents tell us not to walk alone, tell us to buy pepper spray and have them out, they ask their 20 year

old child to share their location because they are worried they might not make it home okay. We never thought that we would feel this way on UConn campus," Koval said.

Additionally, Teryn Kuzma, a UConn class of 2019 alumni, expressed in an email sent to The Daily Campus their frustration at the university administration's lack of public response to the events, especially toward such hateful incidents.

"I loved UConn and have always been a Husky fan, but now I feel ashamed that this happened on our campus. As someone who has personally lost close family in this war, it angers me to see hate crimes like this at my alma mater, and it

disappoints me even more to see the lack of appropriate response to it," Kuzma said.

In response to these incidents, university spokesperson Stephanie Reitz provided comment, explaining that affected students have been contacted and that the incidents are currently moving through an already established framework for investigating such events.

"Leaders of several UConn departments have been speaking regularly with individuals and groups of students about their concerns and the bias incident reports. Our work in this regard is multifaceted: providing support for those who are impacted, while also examining whether the actions constituted violations of the Student Code of Conduct and, if so, by whom," Reitz said.

Koval concluded by urging the university administration to publicly acknowledge the incidents that have happened and expressed frustration at the university's continuing silence on the matter.

"We urge the UConn administration to publicly acknowledge the violence that is occurring right under their noses. Silence IS violence. Silence will allow the perpetrator(s) to feel as though there are no repercussions to their actions and that the University does not oppose their hateful, and frankly terrifying ideologies and behaviors. There is widespread outrage throughout the Ukrainian community nationwide at these acts of hate, and more so, the lack of response from administration. We are eagerly awaiting a statement," Koval said.

UConn student wins \$19,000 at ESPN's 'College GameDay'



Pictured left to right: Rece Davis, Andraya Carter, Jay Williams, Seth Greenberg and Jay Bilas get ready for College GameDay at Gampel Pavilion on Feb. 24, 2024.

PHOTOGRAPH BY EVAN RODRIGUEZ, ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Molly Moriarty
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Akshay Zaveri, a sixth-semester mechanical engineering student, had 19 seconds to make a halfcourt shot at ESPN's College GameDay on Feb. 24. In the final

seconds, he made the shot, leaving Gampel Pavilion \$19,000 richer.

When Zaveri arrived at Gampel Pavilion at 4 a.m. for UConn's feature on ESPN's College GameDay, he did not expect to participate in one of College GameDay's most well known traditions — the halfcourt shot.

"We were there at four in the morning and this guy came up to four or five of us and we went to the Werth Family practice facility and took some practice shots," Zaveri said.

College GameDay is a two-hour pre-game broadcast created by ESPN with the intent

to get fans excited and ready for whatever big game is happening later that day. In this case, it was a men's basketball game — UConn vs. Villanova. This event was especially exciting for UConn students as GameDay hadn't made its way to Storrs in over 10 years.

Zaveri was taken to the Werth Family UConn Basketball Championship Center to show GameDay that he was capable of making a shot from halfcourt.

"When we went to the practice facility in the morning, I pretty much hit the rim on all of my shots and then one went in, so I knew I had a good chance, but then I was definitely a little nervous when it actually came down to it."

Zaveri had just 19 seconds to get a basketball through the hoop and in the final second, he did just that.

"I was there since 4 a.m. so I hadn't eaten or anything, so the first few shots I don't know what happened, but I had a feeling for that last one that it was going to go in."

When asked what was going through his mind after making the shot, he said, "I didn't really even think about

the money. It was just sick to have made it and have everyone cheering for you. All my buddies were on the side so they came down and we were all celebrating."

He called his mom and dad prior to the shot and let them know he was going to be taking it on television. His dad was watching the moment live when it occurred.

"He just thought it was cool that I had the opportunity, and he didn't really think I was going to make it ... My mom and dad were just sitting there waiting, holding their breath," Zaveri said.

Zaveri told the GameDay announcers that he plans to use the money for a few vacations, but after the event he was able to go into a bit more detail.

"Probably gonna buy a pair of shoes, save some of it and then once I graduate maybe go on a few vacations with friends and family," he said.

Zaveri would like to give a shoutout to some of his friends, Tom Maclaughlin, Nick Sabillon, Morgan Balesano, Rachel Coppinger and Katelynn Horvath, who were there with him on the court to celebrate the moment.

The Daily Campus

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Thursday, February 29, 2024

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Connecticut History Day returns to UConn this Saturday

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On Saturday, March 2, Connecticut History Day will hold its annual regional competition in Mansfield for middle schoolers and high schoolers to present historical research projects. Sponsored by the UConn History Department and UConn Early College Experience, the event will be held in McHugh Lawrence D Hall.

This year, students in the Mansfield area will present projects on the theme “Turning Points in History,” which can take the form of historical papers, websites, documentaries, exhibits and performances. Each of the categories are judged separately and send

their own students to the state competition on May 4, 2024.

If they emerge victorious in their given category at the state competition, Mansfield students will make their way to the University of Maryland for the 2024 National Contest, held from June 9-13. Last year, over \$150,000 in scholarships were awarded to competition winners and over 100 won cash prizes with some numbering in the thousands.

In last year’s competition, nearly 46 students from Connecticut made it to the National Contest, including winning projects like “Operation Sunshine: How the Nautilus’s Crossing of the Polar Frontier Allowed America to Emerge from Sputnik’s Shadow” and “Hold on to the Land: The Treaty of Hartford and its Eradi-

cation of Pequot Frontiers.”

UConn students are encouraged to volunteer to set up and judge at the event, says UConn History Department Head Mark Healey. “Any advanced undergraduate, graduate student, teacher, or faculty member can be a judge,” Healey said. “If you’re free for some or all of that time, and enjoy the infectious energy of kids ... We’d love to have your help.”

Volunteers at Connecticut History Day will “help out with set up ... directions, tech support, and general back-up,” and can choose from a variety of different shifts depending on what works with their own schedules according to Healey.

Judges are active in the History Day presentation process itself, working as part of a team to pro-



Connecticut History Day will be held on Saturday, March 2 for middle schoolers and high schoolers to present historical research projects. The event, held in McHugh Hall, is sponsored by the UConn History Department and UConn Early College Experience.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @CTHISTORYDAY ON INSTAGRAM

vide “fair and impartial review of student projects” in all five categories according to Connecticut History Day’s website.

The sign up for volunteers can be found at tinyurl.com/MansfieldVolunteerSignup, while in-

formation at the judging process is located at www.historydayct.org/where-to-begin/judges/. Judges are also welcome to sign up for the State Contest on Saturday, May 4 at Central Connecticut State University.

DAILY CAMPUS CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Curly’s replacement in the Three Stooges
- 6 Canal spot
- 9 Files that can’t be opened
- 14 Bar mitzvah scroll
- 15 Name of the T. rex at Chicago’s Field Museum
- 16 Short exile?
- 17 State known for huckleberries
- 18 Canine care org.?
- 19 Actress Witherspoon
- 20 Movie with lots of pan shots?
- 23 Language suffix
- 24 Actor Chaney
- 25 Ramble
- 27 Missing criminal who inspired James M. Cain’s “Rainbow’s End”
- 32 Limburger feature
- 33 “Wowzers!”
- 34 Trojan War figure
- 36 Pathway stone
- 39 Dip
- 41 Movie with an iconic long shot?
- 43 Antioxidant-rich sorbet base
- 44 Measure out
- 46 Berlin’s “Blue ___”
- 48 Goof
- 49 Capital on the Persian Gulf
- 51 Orange garnish for sushi
- 53 Some Cassatt works
- 56 Ryan’s “La La Land” role
- 57 Little dickens
- 58 Movie with lots of reaction shots?
- 64 Not as flushed
- 66 Regret
- 67 River that feeds Utah Lake
- 68 Stage
- 69 Spleen
- 70 “Yeah, sounds like”
- 71 Affectionate letters
- 72 30-Down, for one
- 73 “It’s Gonna Be Me” band

DOWN

- 1 Shift slightly
- 2 TV host Kotb
- 3 Proof word
- 4 Island “thank you”
- 5 Camera setting?
- 6 Genesis twin
- 7 Bavaria-based automaker
- 8 Sphere
- 9 Enjoys a favorite novel, say
- 10 Fellinging tool
- 11 Movie with lots of zoom shots?
- 12 So five minutes ago
- 13 Use a wheelchair’s joystick, say
- 21 Commensurate (with)
- 22 Zodiac lion
- 26 Home of the NBA’s Pels
- 27 Pancake served with chutney
- 28 Cereal dish
- 29 Movie with lots of dolly shots?
- 30 Mythical archer
- 31 “Casablanca” cafe

- 35 Hardly pore over
- 37 Staple in African cuisine
- 38 Country led by the Taoiseach
- 40 Academic
- 42 “Gimme a break!”
- 45 Math proposition
- 47 Wake up late
- 50 Swiss peak
- 52 Sporty Fords
- 53 Longstocking of chapter books

- 54 “___ and the Night Visitors”
- 55 Thyme piece
- 59 Vision prefix
- 60 Shortage
- 61 Stage name of electronic musician Richard Melville Hall
- 62 Not odd
- 63 VMI program
- 65 Self starter?

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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By Ryan Patrick Smith
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03/01/24

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Fighting phone addiction:

by Benjamin Lassy

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I have realized that my phone is basically my life. First, it greets me each morning with an eruption of vibrations and squeals on my nightstand. Occasionally, the cacophony wakes me, and I scramble to shut it up. Then, lunchtime rolls around. Naturally, a meal just doesn't feel right without some doom-scrolling, and gosh, I can't skip a new one-hour-long Markiplier upload on YouTube right as I prepare to study. Before bed, I set my alarms again, rinse and repeat.

Of course, my experience is far from unique. Scientists — who are also addicted to their phones, no doubt — have found that college students average 8-10 hours every day on their devices. So, if you're enrolled in 12 credits this semester (approximately 36 hours worth of schooling per week) and use your phone eight hours per day, you're spending 20 hours longer on your phone than learning.

Upon realizing the severity of my phone dependence, I deleted my most-used apps, half-heartedly enforced screen time limits and even used airplane mode when possible. I'm sure most phone users have gone through similar stages of an "anti-phone" mentality: First, you realize you use it too much, so you try some hard-to-maintain methods to use it less, but ultimately fail and thus use it more. All of the strategies I tried fell apart for one reason or another. If you've tried them, chances are

that they didn't work either. But that was until I discovered one strategy that didn't fall apart: going grayscale.

This past Tuesday, I encouraged other members of The Daily Campus to attempt the following challenge: For 24 hours, they would set their phones to black and white. Participants then had the option to fill out an anonymous survey detailing their thoughts.

On most smartphones, enabling grayscale is simple. The option can be found in system settings as a toggle, most commonly under display settings or accessibility options. Grayscale, as well as other color filters, are often used as an accessibility feature for those with color-related eye impairments as they increase contrast and improve legibility.

To reduce intensive phone usage and perhaps cease reliance, setting a phone in grayscale has one immediately noticeable consequence: Colors no longer catch your eye.

This sounds like a simple change, but one participant in the challenge noted anonymously, "I honestly thought it would be a big change and I wouldn't like it, but I didn't really notice it until I was trying to do things on my phone that required color, like playing games with color-coded items."

A common fear going into grayscale is that setting a phone to the filter will drastically reduce its functionality or accessibility. However, all integral phone functions are some shade of gray to begin with. On Android devices, the settings menus are typically black with white text, or white with black

text — both of which would appear identical with grayscale enabled. The same can be said for iOS devices. For instance, the wifi strength bars, battery icon and keyboard all translate seamlessly to black and white. Only in less common cases such as gaming or perhaps viewing photos do you really need color on your screen.

With that in mind, what are the impacts of using grayscale on screen time? Out of the four individuals who participated in the challenge — which I want to make clear, is far from conclusive — two used their phone slightly less than normal, one said they used it much less than usual and another marked that they used their phone about the same amount. So, the majority of those who took part in this small study noticed an impact.

Regardless, the impact was felt to varying degrees, with one participant noting, "It didn't reduce my screen time as much as I had hoped, even watching videos and looking at social media posts in black and white didn't bother me."

I think this touches upon a central flaw here: The grayscale technique doesn't really change anything about your phone's functionality. If you're committed to playing a mobile game, chances are you will still find a way to play it even if it's in black and white. Furthermore, if you're doom-scrolling, the black-and-white color scheme may do nothing except make it even gloomier.

Another respondent stated that during the 24 hour period, "I tended to pick up my phone less, but while using it, I felt little difference. My Pokémon



Go experience was also diminished." No doubt catching shiny Pokémon — who often depend on slight color variations to stand out — would prove more difficult.

However, for participants who didn't have games to play, or perhaps used their phones for less involved media consumption, responses indicated that the strategy worked; they used their phones less. "I loved it! It made me spend way less time on my phone and encouraged me to look for other things to do when I was bored rather than scrolling on social media," replied one participant when describing their experience.

Of course, everyone uses their phone differently, so

any strategy is a hit-or-miss for each individual even if it generally tends to work for others. For instance, if you're someone who has other technology around, you may have a similar experience to this participant: "It did deter me from using my phone less, but that only made me want to use my computer more."

Sadly, a solution to this seamless swap between devices is hard to pinpoint. College life revolves around a phone, sure, but it equally revolves around a laptop, TV and desktop computer. Maybe a more intensive solution lies in just removing technology entirely, but that may be an impossible task.

Participants did, however, note some interesting caveats to grayscale. While generally in favor of the change, one participant emphasized a downside: "I really liked doing this because it encouraged me to look for alternatives when I was bored. The only thing that was kind of weird (but honestly helped me stay off my phone) was after spending a few minutes on my phone and then looking back up I expected things to be grayscale irl and had to take a sec to let my eyes adjust."

I'm unaware of research done on the negative effects of black-and-white screen usage, but I am aware of phone screens' harmful impact on eye health. Another response indicated that at 12:28 p.m., far into the challenge's duration, "[Grayscale] is better for your eyes due to the lack of blue light." While I cannot scientifically confirm this, the increased contrast of grayscale can allow for lower screen-brightness levels, something I've personally noticed. This would, in theory, help reduce the strain of blue light on your eyes.

Finally, the participants responded to the most telling question: "Would you try using grayscale again in the future?" To this prompt, given the answer options yes, no, and maybe, it was a 50-50 split between yes and maybe responses. Generally, this little grayscale experiment was a success. Participants generally noticed an impact and many seemed open to trying it again.

So, while it's no shock to find out you have an incredibly constricting mobile device nestled in your pocket, hopefully it was a surprise to hear of a technique that has the potential to alter your phone-use dependency. Give grayscale a try, it could just be the change you've been needing this winter.



TALES FROM THE TURNTABLE: FROM BROTHERS TO ENEMIES



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Henry St. Pierre | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | henry.st_pierre@uconn.edu

Welcome back to Tales from the Turntable! Before writing about the infamous rivalry between Stephen Malkmus and Billy Corgan, I never realized the sheer amount of bitter rivalries that often arise in music. Really, I could start up another column just about these rivalries.

Even hundreds of years ago, musicians couldn't help but become consumed by meaningless squabbles — take Mozart's feud with composer Antonio Salieri in the late 1700s, for example. The two often wrote pieces in attempts to "one-up" each other, though Salieri has largely been forgotten in the shadow of Mozart, with his story being relegated only to films like "Amadeus." World class musicians that are lauded as some of the greatest artistic minds in modern history can't escape petty drama.

Though there is a never-ending supply of drama in the musical world, this week I'll be focusing on one of the more explosive feuds in recent memory, a fight that's been raging since 2009 between two brothers who set out for nothing less than being the biggest band on Earth.

A small band called The Rain spawned out of Manchester, England. Due to issues with their singer, the band quickly opted for a lineup change, switching out their vocalist for Liam Gallagher. Gallagher's first action as new lead singer was a name change; inspired by a concert venue in Swindon, England, the singer insisted the band be renamed Oasis. With this newfound identity, the group found their first gig playing for an underwhelmed audience.

Somewhere in the crowd was Gallagher's older brother, Noel, a guitarist and songwriter in his own right. While Noel didn't particularly like how the band sounded, he approached the group with several of his song ideas, offering his talents as lead guitarist and songwriter.

With a stable lineup, Oasis quickly climbed the ranks of the British underground scene, eventually being scouted by a record executive for Creation Records and offered a record deal. Their debut effort, "Definitely Maybe," climbed to number 31 on album charts in the U.K. Their sophomore album, however, would explode the band's popularity.

"What's the Story? (Morning Glory)" was released in late 1995, spawning several hit songs like "Wonderwall," "Don't Look Back in

A n - a litany of excuses for their shortcoming in sales. Noel later stated publicly that he wished members of Blur would "catch AIDS and die."

The band showed no signs of slowing down going forward through the 1990s and 2000s. However, the group would never again reach the height of success and critical praise that "What's the Story? (Morning Glory)" would get. Cracks began to form shortly after the turn of the decade, with arguments between Liam and Noel becoming more frequent. Though many arguments were eventually patched up between the two, Noel stated he and his brother "never hung out outside of Oasis, ever."

The squabbling came to a head in August of 2009. Oasis was scheduled to play a show in Paris, but the group suddenly canceled the performance. Noel announced his departure from the group on their website a few hours later, saying he "could not go on working with Liam a day longer."

The brothers went on to trade insults publicly through X (formerly Twitter) and British press, while millions of Oasis fans patiently waited for the two to patch things up and reform the band. Liam announced in December of 2017 that he and Noel had finally reconciled, however he would quickly rescind the comment as something he made up after a night of drinking.

Almost 15 years on, Liam and Noel are still not on speaking terms and the possibility of an Oasis reunion seems further and further with each passing day. Both have entertained the idea of a reunion time and time again, but every mention always ends with an insult from one to the other, and nothing more than that. Though the future may look bleak, fans continue to hold out hope that one day Oasis will tour again.



LOGO BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

ger" and "Champagne Supernova." The record would go on to become one of the best selling albums of all time and would cause significant changes within the band.

Throughout the Gallagher brothers' lives, they had been known for their short tempers and large egos. Unsurprisingly, sudden and newfound fame only went to their heads, further inflating both their egos to the point of no return. Infamously, fellow Britpop band Blur, had outsold Oasis in August of 1995, causing the Oasis camp to spew

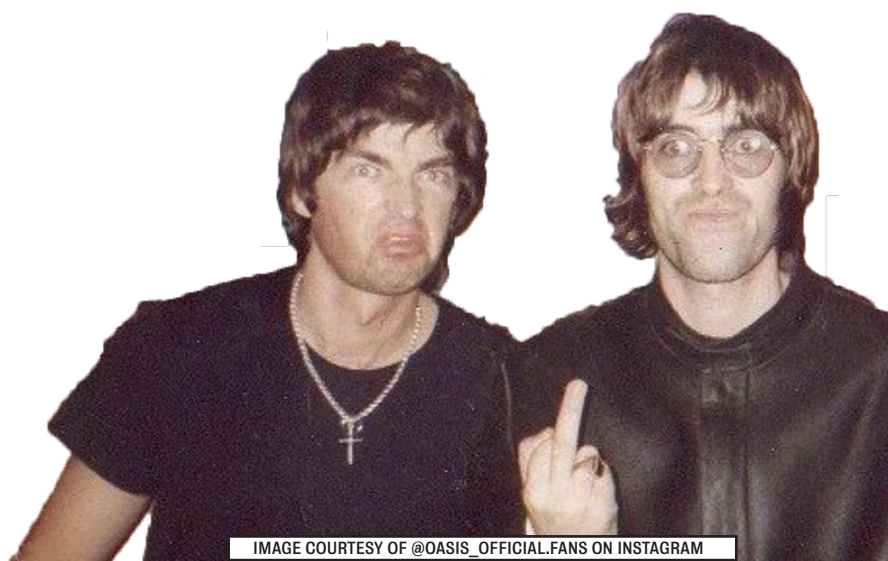


IMAGE COURTESY OF @OASIS_OFFICIAL_FANS ON INSTAGRAM

'And Still I Rise': Remembering the importance of Maya Angelou through film

by Lilith Rampertab
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Editor's Note: Content warning for mentions of sexual assault. If you or someone you know is a survivor of sexual assault and needs support, please contact the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800-656-HOPE (4673) or their website.

On Wednesday, Feb. 28, the University of Connecticut Women's Center hosted a screening of the 2016 film "Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise." The film won the 2017 Peabody Award, according to the film's website. All I knew about Maya Angelou prior to watching was that she wrote "I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings" and some poems such as the titular "And Still I Rise."

The film began with a video collage of important people, like Rosa Parks and former President Barack Obama, then an interviewee described Angelou as a dancer, actress, writer and performer with deep roots in American culture. The movie quickly reveals the scope of Angelou's talent.

At the age of 7, Angelou's mother's boyfriend raped her. She told a trusted individual about the violation, and as a result, the rapist spent a day in jail. After he was freed, the rapist was murdered. This resulted in Angelou's unwillingness to speak for 5 years due to the trauma and guilt of knowing her telling might have led to his death.

Angelou's family had to accommodate for her mutism. A family member told her she could become a preacher or a teacher in the future, to which Angelou claimed she thought "this poor ignorant woman." This was one of a handful of instances where the audience laughed at how deadpan Angelou's delivery is. Those around her doubted her intelligence due to her inability to speak, but she read the likes of William Shakespeare, Edgar Allan Poe and Honoré de Balzac, as well as books only found in white schools.

The film then showcased a few presentations given by Angelou which related to her personal life experiences. In one of these presentations, Angelou started laughing and crying afterward, shedding real tears. In another presentation, a close-up photo portrait was revealed to the public with her on stage to see it. In a different presentation, she stated, "I would like everyone to be an African-American for at least a week" to see what it's like and to forgive others for their racism and ignorance.

Continuing the chronology, Angelou opens up about having consensual sex for the first time

and being disappointed in what transpired. "Is that all there is?" she remarked. She became pregnant and her mother convinced her to keep the baby.

Guy Johnson is the son of Maya Angelou. In the film he recalled being ashamed of his mother wearing African clothes when she picked him up from school. She wore African clothes due to the pride she has for her racial and cultural heritage, but Johnson thought his mother was crazy. Angelou also used to dance, and later sang calypso. She then got to go across the world playing the character Ruby for the "Porgy and Bess" opera by George Gershwin.

The film promotes the idea that Harlem, New York, where Angelou was residing at the time, was highly politicized in the 1950s and 60s. She met Langston Hughes and James Baldwin, went to a Martin Luther King Jr. speech and even protested in front of the United Nations in New York after Congolese independence leader Patrice Lumumba was murdered. Johnson recalled his mother saying "If you really have something to protest, you should be on the streets." Angelou once stabbed a sergeant's horse with a hairpin, causing the sergeant to fall and allowing the protesters to finish their route.

Later in her career, a publisher pushed Angelou to write an autobiography. At first, she denied the offer, but then the publisher challenged her and she wrote, "I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings," inspiring the likes of the hip-hop artist Common, Oprah Winfrey, Hillary Clinton and former President Bill Clinton among many others. After this book, Angelou acted in the miniseries "Roots," a show entirely made by Black people about the story of Kunta Kinte.

Later achievements in Angelou's life, include her reciting "On the Pulse of Morning" for Clinton's inauguration, skyrocketed her career even further. She kept her integrity despite this success, staunchly being against the use of any slur and hateful jokes. For example, Angelou kicked somebody out of a party for making a homophobic joke.

Despite the seemingly only serious subject material, Angelou tells her story how it is: a portrait of life. There are depressing moments, but there are also joyous and comedic moments. While her love life was tumultuous, her career is incredibly inspiring. As a woman of color, I aspire to be a prolific writer and perhaps a polymath of the arts. Maya Angelou is a brave role model and I'm glad I was able to learn more about her through this film. I wouldn't have seen it if it weren't for this screening.

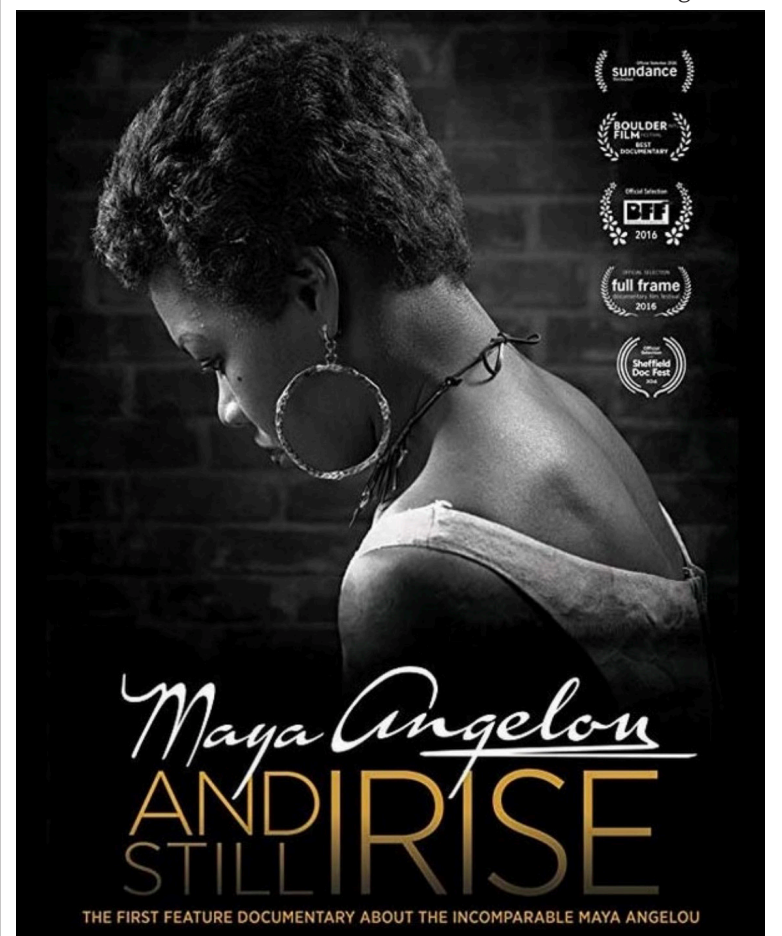


IMAGE COURTESY OF @FILMFATALESORG ON INSTAGRAM



Life

@dailycampuslife

‘Survivor 46’ premiere sets forth a new adventure filled with allies, betrayals and blindsides

by Molly Daigle
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On Feb. 28, the premiere of “Survivor 46” aired on CBS. “Survivor” is a reality show that follows 16 to 20 people — or in the case of season 46, 18 — as they get marooned on an island and divided into tribes. The castaways must learn to provide themselves with food, water, fire and shelter in order to survive. This season continues the new era of gameplay — taking place over the span of 26 days and forcing players to earn everything they need, including the most basic supplies.

The tribes compete against each other in grueling challenges, fighting for the most coveted reward — immunity. Immunity provides players with safety during the most anxiety-inducing part of the game — tribal council. During tribal council, castaways cast votes against each other to vote their fellow players out of the game, bringing them one step closer to crowning the final victor. The game forces players to forge alliances, think strategically and blindside their fellow castaways in order to survive.

At the end of the game, when only three players remain, the finalists plead their case to a jury made up of players previously voted out. These jurors decide the fate of the final three as to who was able to outwit, outplay and outlast their competition to be most deserving of the title of sole survivor and the million dollar prize that accompanies it.

The season premiere opens with a showcase of three new tribes — Nami, Siga and Yanu



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

— arriving at the marooning challenge, anticipation brewing within the cast as they prepare for an adventure many have waited their whole lives for. “Survivor” host Jeff Probst welcomes the new castaways to the beautiful islands of Fiji.

Reintroducing a concept seen in recent “Survivor” seasons, the first place tribe of the marooning challenge wins their basic camp supplies (a pot, machete and flint), while the sec-

ond place tribe gets a “sweat or savvy” task. The last place tribe gets whatever option is left to them. This can be a physical challenge or puzzle.

Other notable returning concepts and twists include the return of the “Beware Advantage,” an advantage that forces players to make a difficult decision — take a risk by wagering your vote in tribal council for a potential advantage or leave the advantage alone for another

player to potentially find. The premiere featured Yanu tribe member Tiffany Nicole Ervin, a 33-year-old artist from Elizabeth, New Jersey, finding her tribe’s hidden advantage. She ultimately takes the risk, leading her to a highly coveted hidden immunity idol — an advantage that when played at tribal council, negates all votes cast against the player that it is played on.

There is also confirmation of the return of the infamous “Shot

in the Dark Advantage,” an advantage that every player receives on their first day that they can use if they feel unsafe. However, no reward comes without a risk as players must sacrifice their vote for a one-in-six shot at safety. The advantage has only been successfully played one time in its five seasons in play by fan favorite Kaleb Gebrewold in “Survivor 45” which negated the unanimous 11 votes cast against him.

The premiere of the new season proves that it is evident that the game of “Survivor” isn’t getting any easier. This season, players must work together to lift a 500-pound gecko through an obstacle course as part of the first immunity challenge, and as in past seasons, castaways have to make tough choices and maneuver difficult dynamics. With the difficulty increasing, some players may have to give up. The first released episode proves to be more difficult and fast-paced than ever, starting what will hopefully be a season filled with an entertaining cast, epic blindsides and exciting moves.

The show has undergone many changes since its first season aired back in 2000. However, with new twists, personalities and challenges, both superfans and new fans alike will be kept on the edge of their seats in season 46. This season also continues to utilize the newly implemented format of longer 90-minute episodes, with the first two episodes each spanning two hours. This length expands the adventure, tension and excitement packed into each episode.

New episodes of “Survivor 46” release Wednesdays at 8 p.m. on CBS or it is available to stream on Paramount+.

“A KID NAMED LAROI” IS GROWING UP AT A RAPID RATE

by James Fitzpatrick
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The documentary on the rise of the prolific singer and rapper Charlton Howard, who performs as The Kid Laroi, was released on Prime Video on Thursday, Feb. 29, preceded by a watch party on the platform. Directed by Michael D. Ratner, the full title references his song, “Kids are Growing Up,” as he is just an adolescent at the onset of filming. Animation is interspersed throughout, maintaining an almost childlike aesthetic with bits of gore to intensify the heightened struggles that come with stardom.

The 20-year-old Laroi is in touch with his young fanbase, shying away from the traditional facets of prestige in the music industry, such as award shows. He is not afraid to display his vulnerability, but awkward moments that are spread like wildfire on social media are not appreciated, by any celebrity for that matter. Unlike people’s general ideas about reaction channels on YouTube, Laroi appears to embrace them, with their reactions of “Stay” placed in a positive tone. This is an apt attitude to have, considering the free exposure given by these channels, and the likelihood that fans of creators like ImDontai will enjoy what he likes. He also understands the

importance of artistic collaborations, elevating his friendship with Justin Bieber into a brotherhood, sharing their mutual connection of being young pop stars.

His bond with his younger brother, Austin, presents the obligations assumed by Laroi, pressured to set a good example by not abusing drugs, as youths in Los Angeles tend to do. Their comradery throughout the documentary also defies the myth that celebrities do not lead some semblance of normal lives. Their father, Nick Howard, was also revealed to be a 90s singer managed by Simon Cowell of American Idol fame. Howard may have suffered a stagnant trajectory in the industry, but his optimism has permeated into his sons’ lives, allowing for them to believe in themselves and giving Laroi the drive to stay in the spotlight for his family and friends.

The structure of the documentary brings home the idea that Laroi is still figuring himself out, going through an identity crisis during his victory lap while touring in his home country of Australia. In 2023, the final year this was filmed, he spiked his hair, cut the sleeves off his shirts and wore baggy pants when performing, along with increasing rock instrumentation in his music. This can just be chalked up to teenage angst; however, there

have been plenty of events that have compelled Laroi to question everything, humbling Laroi to become an introspective person.

Death has unfortunately plagued the social life of Laroi, who was a close housemate and friend to the late Juice WRLD. While it can be argued that Laroi could have helped intervene with Juice’s drug use given all the time they shared, this is inconsiderate of the artists’ ages and respect to let their friends deal with fame in ways they see fit. Laroi still regrets not ensuring Juice WRLD was okay, but once again, he can only attribute so much responsibility to himself. Before he was adequately able to cope due to his fast lifestyle, his friend, Saik, passed away while train surfing less than a year after Juice WRLD’s overdose.

To enforce the somber themes, the animators refrain from using visual gags when portraying Laroi as a sad clown, which he has tattooed on his kneecap. He does not allude to its meaning to him, but entertainers are often like jesters, who do not always want to perform or have the capacity to uplift others when they are down on themselves. Reflecting on his past ideations of suicide, it is clear that Laroi was unsure of why he felt those ways, a vital sentiment to express when plenty

of young people feel burdened by unexplainable thoughts. He mentioned music is a form of therapy for him, aligning with the visceral exploration of powerful emotions in his lyrics and through his vocal delivery.

This message is further conveyed by Laroi’s relationship with his ex-girlfriend, Katarina

Deme.

A l -

though

h i s

m o o d

f l u c t u -

a t e s, Deme

i s s o m e o n e

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i s h h i m. I t i s

a l s o a d m i r a b l e

t h a t Deme e m -

p h a -

sized how she was equally valuable in their relationship; she was not just Laroi’s girlfriend, as the two built each other up to the top. He acknowledges this, stating: “I was a sad man. And then I met a sad girl. And now we’re a happy couple.”

Sadly, he grew apart from both Deme and a previous girlfriend in the timeline of this documentary. However, in the grand scheme of things, three years is a small slice of one’s life. He will fondly remember his time with Deme, lamenting at the end that he will always love her.

Regardless of your music taste, you will likely hear about The Kid Laroi if you have not already, so if you want to discover a new artist or someone to relate to, he could be the one.

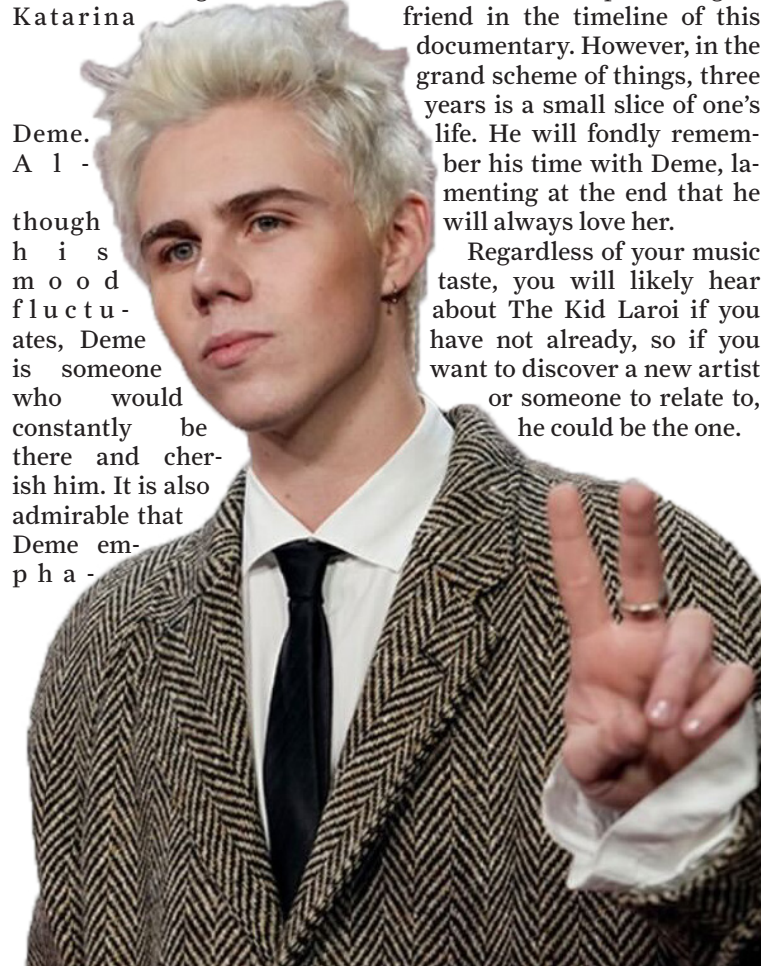


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COMIC BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

► Editorial

UConn: Public university, private jets

The UConn Foundation has spent nearly \$500,000 on chartering private jets in recent fiscal years according to reporting from The Daily Campus. Foundation officials stated that the expenditures were used for athletic recruiting trips and that the costs of the jets were covered by donations to the university's athletics program.

"Alumni and friends who make philanthropic gifts designated for recruitment travel for the men's and women's basketball teams have covered costs associated with travel for recruiting student-athletes, including charter flights, as the coaching staffs deem most impactful," David Carney, senior vice president and chief financial officer of the UConn Foundation said in a statement. "These donors' generosity supports the continued excellence of the 11-time NCAA champions women's team and the five-time championship-winning men's team."

The Daily Campus Editorial Board disagrees with these gross over-expenditures on private jets; further, we feel this wasteful spending on recruitment signals a broader issue in the Foundation's fundraising priorities.

The UConn community has had to grapple with more expensive costs of living, looming academic budget cuts and increasing tuition — all just in the past few months. The UConn Athletics department has consistently operated within a budgetary deficit for years, but the university continues to fork money over to them without hesitation. Despite operating in a \$47 million hole in 2021, when they needed \$17 million for a new ice hockey rink, the money was approved unanimously by the Board of Trustees.

The head coaches of men's basketball, women's basketball and football; Dan Hurley, Geno Auriemma and Jim Mora respectively, are the three highest-paid state employees in Connecticut. The athletics director David Benedict receives \$900,000, making him the 11th highest paid state employee.

The university is well-aware of the draw and prestige of the athletics program, especially with the increased national profile of the basketball team after their national championship win. While it's undeniable that athletics generate revenue and clout for the university, UConn Athletics consistently fails when it comes to balancing its own budget. According to data of the most recent fiscal year from the Knight Foundation, UConn's athletic expenditures were more than double its profits. Despite that, they were covered with \$56 million comprised of \$49 million directly from campus funds and \$7 million in student fees.

Privately-chartered flights have devastating impacts on the environment. Studies show that flying by private jet is up to 14 times more polluting than flying commercial, being responsible for as much as 480 times the carbon dioxide emissions compared to an average person's climate footprint by air travel. UConn is not the only university who charters private jets; college athletic powerhouses across the country spend millions of dollars flying their coaches on private jets.

How can we as a campus take the administration's supposed commitment to carbon neutrality by 2030 seriously while their non-profit fundraising arm is chartering private jets all over the country in the name of athletic recruiting? This hypocrisy is part of a long pattern by UConn's administration when it comes to climate and sustainability. The university endowment appears in lock-step with the fossil fuel industry, historically investing millions of dollars of the Foundation's portfolio in some of the world's worst polluters.

It is laughable to see the same university that spends an entire month trying to incentivize students to be more sustainable, engaging in a practice that has such devastating and far-reaching environmental impacts. Yet, it is not surprising. UConn's Central Utility Plant generates 100,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually.

Seeing this much money thrown around on a department who gets more than enough money from the university, on a commodity that a sliver of the student population at UConn has access to — while slashing resources to the rest of the students and professors that make up their university — all while also harming the environment, shows where UConn's interest truly lie.



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

WHY THE F*CK ARE THEY \$400?

by Tomas Hinckley
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In what was probably one of the funniest political moves of 2024 so far, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump recently released a new shoe brand entitled the "Never Surrender High-Tops" at a sneaker convention in Philadelphia just over a week ago. The \$400 sneakers are a mixture of solid gold-colored leather and American flag motifs stamped with a single, large capital "T" on each side.

These shoes are some of the butt-ugliest creations that have graced the world of sneaker fashion. For starters, the "Never Surrenders" are a gross dismemberment of a classic Air Jordan 1 without any of the quality design, symbolism, culture or history associated with them. The metallic gold texture is tacky and does not mesh well with the American flag, and the "T" — for Trump — looks weak as a logo. The silhouette of the shoe is mostly unoriginal yet still unimpressive, and above all else it is grossly overpriced for what looks like a cheap knockoff. Yet, the fact that they are an ugly abomination capitalizing off of an entire sub-culture's history is not their greatest sin; rather, it is everything about

what they symbolize and are being used for that is much more important and disappointing to see.

The timing of this stunt is no mistake. Unveiling the sneakers only one day after the announcement of a \$355 million payment by order of the judge from his civil defraudment trial, it is clear that Trump is in need of cash and is looking toward his supporters to crowdfund it. It is ironic that he would try to erase the costs on his ledger caused by his dubious business deals by setting up a shady LLC, but as with any good gambler, I guess he knows the only way out is by going deeper in. Still, it presents a special conflict considering the ambiguity of what the money is actually going to be for. Trump largely self-funds his political campaigns, so when a large financial hit like this arrives, what is the money actually going towards — campaigning or personal funds? As much as the new company selling these shoes is not legally part of his campaign efforts, the connection and promotion happening between the two cannot be ignored. It is also not as though Trump fanatics who would be willing to spend \$400 for a pair of crappy shoes would care that much about how he plans on spending the money.

On the point of fanaticism, this represents one of the newest examples in a long line of items sold purely

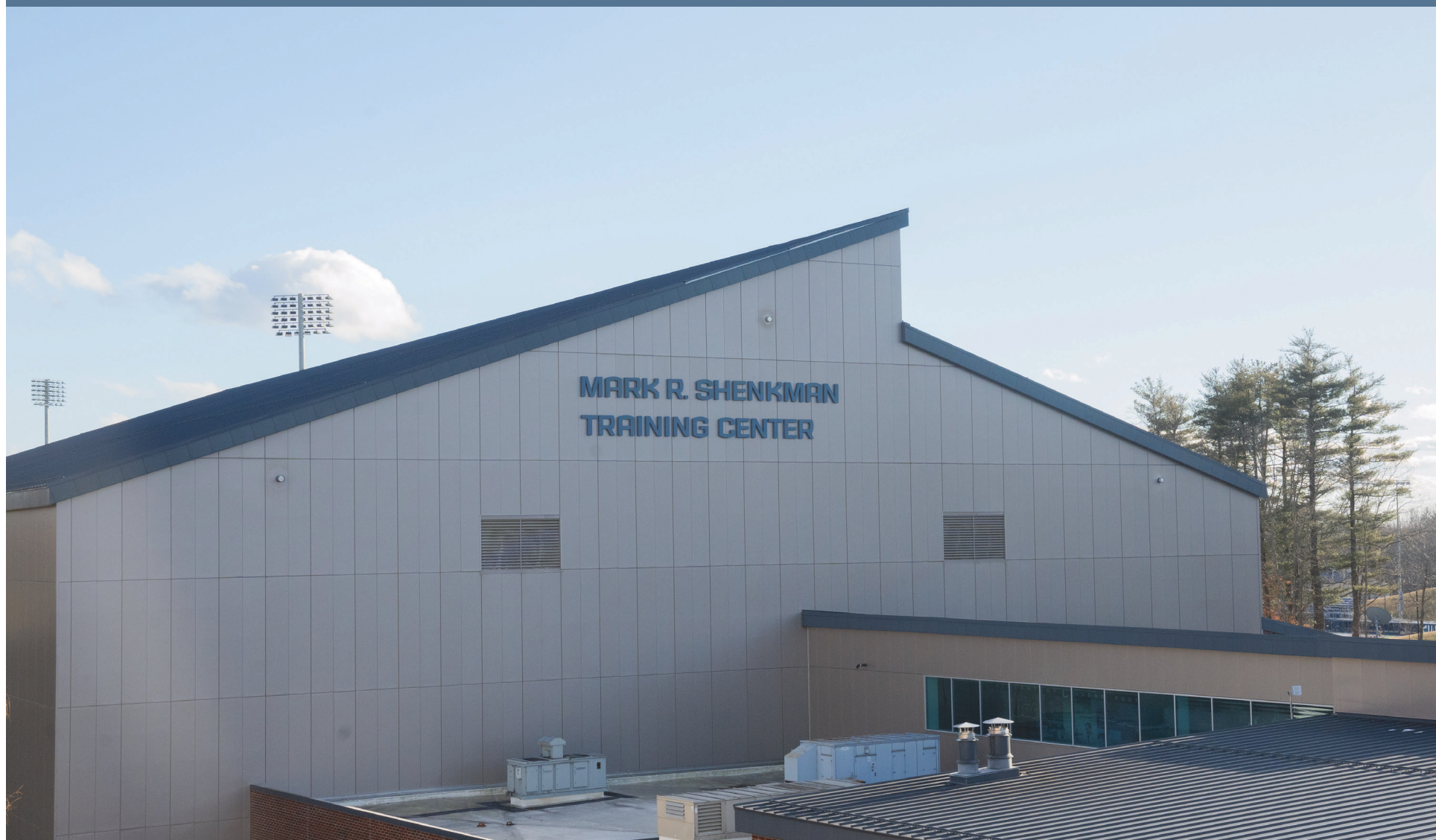
by the force of the Trump name, from Trump NFT's to products based on his own mugshot picture. The ability of items of any variety to be sold at such a high cost, low quality and no real appeal other than the name demonstrates the power that personality holds over a specific group of people. No other political candidate could do this, there simply does not exist another cult of personality of any degree comparable to Trump's. In fact, it is most likely that if anyone else tried to pull a stunt like this it would probably result in much more backlash and be a complete failure because no one likes their politician as much as the far-right loves Trump. As such, these shoes represent one of the largest current problems in American politics right now, the ability of Trump to do no wrong and have support no matter what the endeavor. These shoes generate such a buzz, they are purchased for such high prices and are revered at such a level because of his name alone. They are not a policy or a platform, yet have the ability to stir the same level of excitement or attraction from his fanbase and from the media as a whole. It's easy to think about this whole ordeal as nothing but a cash grab, and it is, but it also represents something bigger which cannot be understated in the current political climate of the United States.



ILLUSTRATION BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Opinion StudyBreak

Photo of the Day | Marching into Mark R. Shenkman



The view of Mark R. Shenkman Training Center from the South Parking Garage on Feb. 29, 2024. The facility is utilized by the football program, recreational services and other varsity sports. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Was **Nikki Haley** the last chance at preventing a **2020 rematch**?

by **Youssef Macary** | STAFF WRITER | HE/HIM/HIS | youssef.macary@uconn.edu

As the 2024 United States Presidential Election gets closer, it is increasingly looking like it is going to be a Donald Trump versus Joe Biden rematch. However, there have been a few candidates who reached enough popularity to make it possible for there to be a shake up between the major election candidates. One would think this is something Americans would want, given Trump is facing a number of legal challenges, and Biden's not getting any younger. Unfortunately, it appears that Nikki Haley is the last chance to avoid a 2020 rematch, and her campaign has been unable to build momentum.

Trump and Biden have been the frontrunners of their prospective party's primaries. There has been some opposition from both sides, but most candidates have dropped out and been unable to sustain a competitive campaign. All that remain on the Democrat's side is Biden, Dean Phillips and

Marianne Williamson. All that remain on the Republican side are Trump and Haley. There are also a few independent or third party candidates, including Jill Stein, Cornel West and Robert F. Kennedy.

On the Democratic side, Biden has been dominant in the polls, and while he has not yet formally won the nominations, he has gained more or less all of the delegates that have been won thus far. Not to mention the obvious fact that Biden is the incumbent president, it is fair to say that Biden will be his party's nominee for the 2024 election. However, in the Republican race, Haley has, at the very least, been able to acquire some delegates. She has 20 compared to Trump's 110. While 20 delegates is significantly less than 110, it is admirable, considering Trump is a former president. Haley's campaign may be a long shot, but given Trump's legal issues, she may have the best shot of anyone at mixing up the 2024 election.

There are also a number of third party and independent candidates who have done decent in the polls. However, third party candidates have a much more difficult time than a nominee of one of the major parties. For example, in 1992, Ross Perot was able to run an extremely successful campaign as an independent. He captured almost 20 million votes, compared to roughly 45 million that Bill Clinton, the victor, was able to secure. However, he didn't receive a single electoral vote. While an independent may be able to capture popularity at a national level, it is difficult to become popular enough in a single state to secure their electoral votes. Not to mention the fact that the major political parties are extremely dominant and have the resources and infrastructure in place to run a successful presidential campaign.

Out of all the possible options, Haley has the best chance at preventing a Trump versus Biden rematch. Unfortunately, that chance is a small one, and her campaign may be at its end. Regardless,

she is the last hope that we have for stopping 2024 from becoming another 2020. That being said, we should all prepare for the inevitable outcome of Trump and Biden duking it out.



Republican presidential candidate and former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley speaks at a campaign event, Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024, in Falls Church, Va. PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON/AP

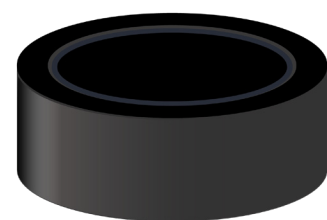
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FLIP THE PAPER UPSIDE-DOWN FOR THE ANSWER!

Sports



MEN'S HOCKEY:

Looking to rebound vs. Northeastern

by Nick Spinalli

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After dropping each of their last four contests over the past two weeks, the UConn men's hockey team will look to regain some momentum heading into the final weeks of the season when they take on Northeastern University for a home-and-home series this weekend.

The Ice Bus has been playing well below their own standards after ranking as a top-10 program last season. Two weekends ago, they dropped both of their matchups to No. 11 Massachusetts, though this past weekend has perhaps been their toughest stretch of the season. The team took on a stout Boston University team, ranked No. 2 in the nation, and seemed utterly outmatched. They lost 6-1 last Friday in front of home fans at the Toscano Family Ice Forum before action moved to Boston for game two, which they lost 6-0. It was the team's second-straight one-goal weekend and they've now been

outscored by opponents 23-4 over the last three weeks.

"I think that there's always value in learning from the previous weekend," UConn head coach Mike Cavanaugh said ahead of the Northeastern set. "We did some good things last weekend; we didn't do enough ... we just need to take some of those positives and move on."

The Ice Bus has seen its overall record drop to 12-17-2 as a result of their recent losses. Against Hockey East opponents, they have gone 7-13-1, resulting in 23 points. They are currently tied for eighth place in the conference alongside Vermont and are essentially guaranteed to be playing in the first round of the Hockey East tournament after they earned themselves a bye as a top-five seed last season. They've scored 38 goals in conference play this season, only better than last-place UMass Lowell.

The other Huskies, Northeastern, have won nine of their last 12 games dating back to Jan. 13. They played two games at No. 9 Maine this past weekend, drop-

ping the first by a 5-1 score before rebounding for a 4-0 victory in game two. Senior forward Alex Campbell rattled home two goals in the victory while sophomore forward Cam Lund tallied two points on the weekend thanks to a score and an assist. Freshman goaltender Cameron Whitehead was superb in the shutout win as he secured 39 saves, his second-highest total this season, including 22 in the second period alone.

Northeastern overcame a rough start to their season, and they've played their way back to an overall record over .500 (15-14-2). In Hockey East play, Northeastern has gone 8-13-0, yielding 26 points and placing them just in front of UConn in seventh place in the conference. They'll need to make up at least six points for a chance at a top-five seed in the conference with just three games remaining, meaning they will more than likely be playing in the opening round of the Hockey East tourney.

According to the UConn Athletics webpage, Northeastern has historically had UConn's num-

ber, going 8-14 in 22 games dating back to 2015. That includes losses in each of the first eight games Connecticut played against Northeastern. The last matchup came last February when UConn scored in overtime to claim a 4-3 overtime win over Northeastern in Boston, Massachusetts.

Sophomore forward Jake Percival has been a bright spot for Connecticut throughout an otherwise forgettable campaign. The Avon native tallied a point over the weekend for assisting on UConn's lone goal against Boston University. In 31 games, the sophomore has totaled seven goals and six assists, giving him 13 points on the campaign. That is tied with senior Andrew Lucas for the fifth-most points for the Huskies. In addition, his .135 shooting percentage ranks second and his plus-minus third for UConn. He'll continue to be a focal point in Connecticut's offense as they look to rebound in the upcoming weekend.

Campbell has been one of Northeastern's top performers on offense this season. In 31 games, the senior has knocked in 18 goals, the best on his squad. He's also dished out 15 assists for a total of 33 points on the year, the second most behind sophomore Jack Williams. In the victory versus Maine, Campbell scored multiple goals for the fifth time this season. He also tallied a hat trick in an early December contest against Brown University. With a plus-minus of plus-10, Campbell is one of three Huskies with a plus-minus in the double-digits. The forward figures to be a key piece in Northeastern's offensive attack.

Game one between the two programs is set for Friday at 7 p.m. from the Matthews Arena in Boston and will air on NESN+. Game two will take place on Saturday at 5 p.m. at the Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, Connecticut, when the Huskies will honor their graduating senior class with a Senior Day ceremony. Fans can catch that game live on ESPN+.



UConn men's hockey takes on Boston University at Toscano Ice Forum on Feb. 23, 2024. After a long fought game, UConn lost 6-1. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

BASEBALL:

Huskies aim for bounce back performance at No. 23 Auburn

by Cole Stefan

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Over three intensive battles against the California Golden Bears last weekend, the UConn baseball team scored 20 runs on 32 hits. Despite going 0-3, the Hook C will need that much efficiency out of their offense and more as they battle the No. 23 Auburn Tigers in a three-game series this weekend.

Senior outfielder Corey Morton had the series of his career in Berkeley last week. Morton went 9-15 with four runs batted in and five runs scored over that three-game stretch, a major improvement from when UConn played Cal last season. With a weekend like that, do not be surprised if the senior outfielder stays in the heart of the order against Auburn.

Graduate students Jake Studley and Paul Tammaro III have also had hot starts to their 2024 season. Three of Studley's eight hits have gone yard, and his 17 total bases rank second behind Morton. Combined with his five runs scored, the Preseason Big East Player of the Year has become a very dangerous No. 3 hitter. Tammaro is the Huskies' only infielder with more than five hits and a .300 batting average in at least five games played. The graduate infielder's ability to drive the ball

deep makes him more of a threat at the leadoff position than his speed when he is on the basepaths.

Four players have swiped a bag for Connecticut, with sophomore infielder Ryan Daniels and graduate outfielder Caleb Shpur accounting for most of them. Daniels, the everyday second baseman, can provide a clutch hit when the Hook C needs one. After starting two of the three games in last weekend's series, expect Shpur to really acclimate himself into UConn's lineup versus an SEC foe.

Garrett Coe, one week removed from a career-best 11 strikeouts, should be on the bump tonight. The 2023 Cape League All-Star has been phenomenal over the first two weekends, striking out at least five in both of his starts thus far. While the Tigers strike out less than 10 times per game, Coe should make it difficult for them to get anything going early on.

Junior righty Ian Cooke is looking for a massive rebound after allowing eight runs in 1.1 innings last Saturday. It was a much different outcome than his season-opening quality start where he tossed six shutout innings. For Cooke to produce better results in Alabama, he needs to establish a potent breaking ball early.

That leaves graduate righty Stephen Quigley as the probable starter for the Sunday finale. Quigley could bump up to the middle of the rotation after striking out four in six innings versus the Golden Bears, but nothing has been set in stone. Regardless, the Preseason Big East Pitcher of the Year has a tall task ahead of him against a ranked opponent.

Auburn hosted a regional last season as the No. 13 seed, but their NCAA Tournament run ended with two heartbreaking home losses. The Tigers' 2024 campaign began on a much better note with a key neutral site win over the then-No. 18 Iowa Hawkeyes in Jacksonville last Friday.

Despite their 7-1 start, Auburn's offense is in the middle of the Southeastern Conference pack. Their .273 batting average ranks 11th in the SEC while their 81 runs scored are eighth. Head coach Butch Thompson and the Tigers compensate for that with their speed. Auburn's five triples lead the conference, and only one program has swiped more than their 22 bags.

Most of those come from three players. Miami University (Ohio) transfer Cooper Weiss is the main troublemaker on the basepaths with 10 stolen bases on 11 attempts. Last season's MAC Defensive Player of the Year complements that quickness with a .292 batting average and three doubles. Jacksonville State transfer Javon Hernandez makes up for his .059 average with a team-leading nine walks and three stolen bases. On top of stealing three bases, infielder Deric Fabian drives in runs as one of four Tigers with 11 RBIs.

Graduate outfielder Bobby Peirce and sophomore catcher Ike Irish are Auburn's power hitters. On top of his three homers, Peirce zooms across the basepaths with six of the team's 24 total bases and two triples. Irish, meanwhile, ignites his team at the dish with two doubles and two homers in the heart of the Tigers' lineup. Redshirt junior Co-

per McMurray is on his own tear with nine RBIs in his last three contests. UConn must consider McMurray in particular because he may continue his hot trend.

Friday starter Chase Allsup has not had the best start to his season, but his 6.75 ERA can be misleading. Allsup has struck out five in both of his appearances so far, and if he regains his command, the Huskies' offense may have a hard time getting to work. Redshirt junior righty Joseph Gonzalez does not make things any easier with a 3.00 ERA and a 2-0 record. Although he walks more people than he strikes out, Gonzalez has allowed opponents to hit just .133 against him in nine innings.

Even if Connecticut conquers both of them, Alabama-Birmingham transfer Carson Myers awaits on Sunday. Myers' Auburn career started with six shutout innings versus the Eastern Kentucky Colonels, and after allowing two runs in 4.1 frames last weekend, he is due for another quality start.

For the Hook C, stealing at least one win in an SEC environment would be huge for their NCAA Tournament resume this early in the year. Taking the series is even more significant, but both of those things are easier said than done. As long as their entire offense gets going early and their pitching staff can quiet the rowdy home crowd, UConn has a chance.

The first pitch in tonight's contest is at 7 p.m. EST while Saturday and Sunday's games each begin at 2 p.m. Two out of the three matchups are on the SEC Network; all three will be additionally available on MIXLR.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY:

UConn CLAIMS FIRST-EVER REGULAR SEASON CHAMPIONSHIP, SETS SIGHTS ON HOCKEY EAST QUARTERFINALS

by Bridget Bronsdon

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It has been an electric week for the Huskies as they have clinched new program records, team awards and individual decorations. For the first time in program history, the UConn women's hockey team are Hockey East regular season champions. This season's performance has taken the program to new heights as the Huskies are now enjoying the title of champions, the No. 1 conference seed and an exceptional overall record of 22-7-5.

The accolades didn't stop there as individual athletes earned their moment in the spotlight. Senior Kathryn Stockdale was named the Hockey East Best Defensive Forward for her dynamic performances throughout the season. Throughout her four years as a Husky, Stockdale has been a reliable force on the ice and has consistently dominated as she has scored 10 goals and seven assists this year alone.

As for the underclassmen, Ashley Allard was named to the Hockey East All-Rookie Team. The freshman couldn't have had a better start to her collegiate career as she contributed five goals, 10 assists and a whopping 74 shots on goal. The forward was consistently a force to be reckoned with as she attempted at least one shot on goal in almost every contest. After just one collegiate season, Allard already has an impressive resume and will be the athlete to watch as her career continues.

Looking ahead, UConn will be facing Hockey East counterpart Holy Cross, currently No. 10 in the conference. By the numbers, the Crusaders are battling a .204 conference shooting percentage whereas the Huskies are enjoying a .778 and what appears to be a leg-up.

Earlier this season, the duo faced off in a two-game weekend series. UConn rolled the Crusaders in back-to-back wins, the first a 3-0 shutout and the second a 3-1 triumph. The duo matched up for a third time in mid-February for a 5-1 Huskies victory. What was an unfortunate outcome for the Crusaders, should grant UConn the confidence to come out on top for a fourth time this season.

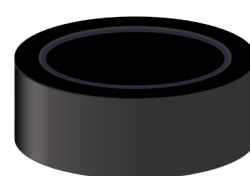
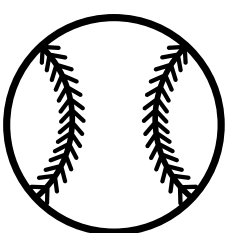
Throughout the season, Holy Cross has also fallen to several of the same opponents UConn has beaten with flying colors such as Merrimack College, Boston University and New Hampshire. Not only that, but the Crusaders have been battling a subpar season whereas the Huskies are excelling in almost every category.

The history of the duo also favors UConn.

Since 2018, the Huskies have beaten the Crusaders in all 16 matchups and only fell once. If the trends continue, it appears that UConn will be taking another win against their Hockey East counterpart.

Looking towards the weekend, the Huskies will aim to ring in their first victory as champions this Saturday.

The contest will be held at Toscano and puck drop is scheduled for 1 p.m.



HOCKEY & BASEBALL CLIPART COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

Sports

Photo of the Day | One more week until break



UConn women's basketball wins their last home game of the season against Villanova at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn. on Feb. 28, 2024. The Huskies won with a score of 67-46. PHOTO BY BRIAN JEREZ, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

MEN'S SOCCER:

HUSKIES TO TAKE ON USL'S HARTFORD ATHLETIC IN ANNUAL PRESEASON FRIENDLY

by Nahum Valiente
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The UConn men's soccer team is set to compete against USL

Championship team Hartford Athletic in a preseason friendly at Dillon Stadium this Saturday.

The two Connecticut teams have faced each other yearly as a warmup for each team's up-



UConn men's soccer wins their home opener against Holy Cross at the Marrone Stadium in Storrs, Conn. on Aug. 27, 2023. The Huskies held momentum throughout the entire match, finishing the game with a score of 4-0. PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

coming season. For the Huskies, the season will not begin until August while Hartford Athletic is set to begin their campaign this month.

The Huskies are coming off an average season with a 9-8-1 record overall. Although they came in fourth in the Eastern division of the Big East, UConn had an impressive showing in the Big East Tournament. After knocking out St. John's in the opener, they were then eliminated in the semifinals by Georgetown.

The Huskies' many wins were largely helped by key plays from the junior forward, Scott Testori. Testori led the team in goals scored, recording eight throughout the season. Another key player to keep an eye out is Nicolas Tomerius, who led the team to a total of seven assists. During the 2023 Season, the

Huskies were known for their aggressive offense. They averaged 14.3 shots per game, while opponents averaged 10.9.

Hartford Athletic, on the other hand, are seeking revenge after an abysmal season, only recording four wins and a record 24 losses, which resulted in coming not just last in their conference, but also in the whole league.

Because of their low-performance last season, many changes had to happen. The most notable loss for the Athletic is the transfer of Prince Saydee, who led in goals scored, with a total of 10. His move to Rhode Island FC will leave a space for another player to step up. One key signing includes Marcus Epps from FC Tulsa. With a tally of nine goals, Epps is known for overwhelming defenses around the league. This will be key for

Hartford as they must combat the Huskies attack. Another player who could contribute is Rece Buckmaster. From Memphis 901 FC, Buckmaster has been able to outplay attackers in their efforts to get past him.

For Hartford Athletic, this is an opportunity to figure themselves out as they are seeking to reinvent their way of play and deliver a quality season for their fans. For UConn, this is a great chance to have a more competitive opponent, as head coach Chris Gbandi looks to take the team he once played for back to their glory days. He led Connecticut to their most recent National Title and playing an opponent like this is a great way to challenge his squad. The game is set to kick off behind closed doors on Saturday at Dillon Stadium at 2 p.m.

Matthew's Column:

Previewing the NFL Combine

by Matthew Chmura
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After the Super Bowl ended, fans of NFL teams throughout the league immediately began to look at their futures. Even with the drafts being a couple of months away, speculation about which players would be taken by franchises became a top storyline in sports media. This week, the NFL draft combine will occur in Indianapolis, Indiana as it does every year. Superstar talents such as Caleb Williams, Drake Maye and Marvin Harrison Jr. will be in attendance, as well as two stars from UConn, Eric Watts, and Christian Haynes. Everyone invited to attend but certain draft prospects will only be competing in some skill events. This column will touch on the star plays to watch as well as each Husky prospect.

Caleb Williams

The heavy favorite to become

the number one overall pick, the former USC quarterback will have all eyes on him this week. Despite all the attention surrounding him this week, the Washington D.C. native is not expected to throw at the combine and will wait for his Pro Day to do so. He has meetings scheduled with the Bears, Commanders and Patriots.

Drake Maye

The North Carolina product comes into the combine with plenty of potential and many questions. While many believe that the Tarheel would join his mentor and former teammate, Sam Howell, in Washington; others believe he could fall in the draft. Like his peer Williams, Maye will not throw at the combine and will do so on his Pro Day.

Marvin Harrison Jr.

The son of an NFL legend, Harrison Jr. is widely considered one of the most talented wide receiver prospects of all time. Every mock draft has the Buckeye in the top five with

many of them having him go No. 3 to the Patriots. The reigning Biletnikoff Award winner will only focus on interviews during the combine and will hold off on showing his skillset for his pro day.

Jayden Daniels

The reigning Heisman trophy winner may end up being the most talked about name in Indianapolis this weekend. Many believe the Patriots will select him with the No. 3 overall pick but there is also talk of teams like the Minnesota Vikings that are actively seeking a trade for him. Daniels will not be throwing at the combine, the theme amongst the top quarterbacks.

Eric Watts

The former Husky defensive lineman enters combine week after lots of buzz following his performance in the Senior Bowl. The 6-foot-5 270-pounder from South Carolina rose up mock draft boards and is looking to climb again at the combine. Mock drafts have Watts as high as a second-round pick



Caleb Williams facing the USC fans at one of his last football games at the collegiate level. Williams is predicted to be drafted as the number one overall pick in the NFL draft next year. PHOTO COURTESY OF @AYEECALEB ON INSTAGRAM

and as one of the best defensive linemen in the draft.

Christian Haynes

The standout offensive guard, who spent his whole collegiate career with UConn, will enter the draft as one of the best interior offensive linemen. After dominating at the Senior Bowl, where he went viral for stand-

ing up to LSU defensive lineman Jordan Jefferson, Haynes has even more potential to move up draft boards. Haynes is a second-round pick, but with a good combine, he may blossom into a first-rounder.

Tune in to the NFL Combine on NFL Network to see how the stars and former Huskies do.

Ava's Angle:

OPENING DAY IS 1 MONTH AWAY, WHERE DOES THE MLB STAND?

by **Ava Inesta**
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The first game of the 2024 MLB season is about one month away. However, the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Diego Padres will open up a week before all 28 other major league clubs as they have a series in South Korea on March 20-21. It will be the first MLB regular season game ever played in the country. A week later, on March 28, all teams are slated to play for the 2024 Opening Day.

The series in Seoul is just one of a number of international contests that are scheduled for this MLB season. During spring training, the Tampa Bay Rays and the Boston Red Sox will play in the Dominican Republic (March 9-10). The Houston Astros and the Colorado Rockies will meet in the Mexico City Series (April 27-28). The London Series will return from 2023, this year, the New York Mets and the Philadelphia Phillies will play (June 8-9).

There are some other highlights of this season's schedule to mark on your calendars. There were two planned double headers: Texas Rangers at A's on May 8, Rockies at San Francisco Giants on July 27. Additionally, there will be a special game played between the Giants and the St. Louis Cardinals in Birmingham, Alabama, at Rickwood Field which is the oldest professional ballpark in the United States and also the former home of the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro League. Some other notable dates are all team plays on Jackie Robinson Day (April 15), Lou Gehrig Day (June 2), the Fourth of July, and Roberto Clemente Day (Sept. 15).

Last season, MLB was hit with a dramatic pace of play changes, mostly due to the addition of pitch clock rules that were implemented and immensely altered the game. With these initial changes of last

year, more adjustments are coming in for the 2024 season.

Some rule modifications were announced in December by the MLB. They were approved by the Competition Committee which was created in 2022 and consists of

tember last season, an average nine-inning game increased by seven minutes. MLB has created solutions to address that.

Timing between pitches: The time on the pitch clock with runners has been reduced from 20 seconds to 18. MLB believes that

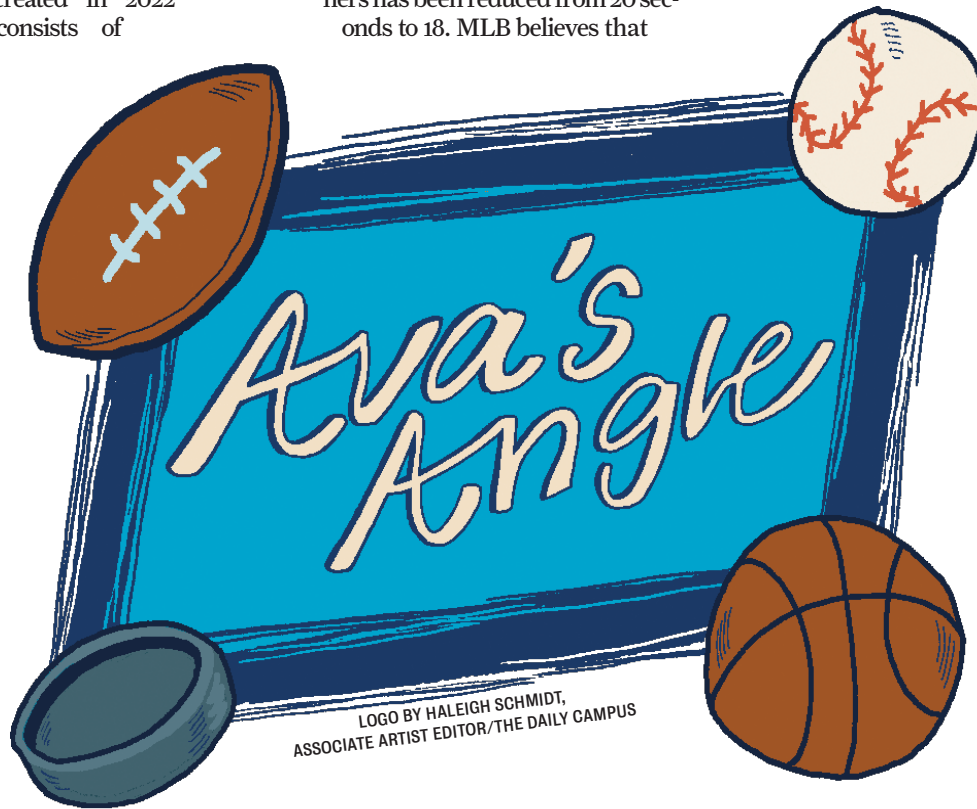
inning must face at least one batter, in addition to any requirements under the three-batter minimum. There were 24 instances in 2023 where roughly three

moving the pitcher's ability to delay the start of the timer by walking around the edge of the mound." When the pitcher has the ball and play is ready to resume after a dead ball, a fielding coordinator will restart the timer.

All of these new rules and adjustments were released by the MLB in their announcement. They are planned to improve last year's rule changes by the Competition Committee. However, at its release, the Players Association (MLBPA) was not exactly on board with these modifications and the committee's player representatives voted against the proposal.

Another change that will occur aside from the pitch clock is the runners lane will be widened. It will include the dirt area between the foul line and the infield grass. This move will make a more direct path towards first base for right-handed hitters. The distance between the foul line and infield grass in all ballparks, with some limited grace periods granted to allow for field modifications, will be 18 to 24 inches. The runner's lane will still be chalked to ensure runners do not drink too far into foul territory. The league said that from an umpire's perspective, the simplicity of "dirt good, grass bad," will make for an easier evaluation tool. MLB says it will allow batters to take a more direct path to first base while protecting from interference.

Similar to last year, there is a lot to look forward to with this upcoming MLB season. There are many new faces on new teams with Shohei Ohtani on the Dodgers and Juan Soto on the New York Yankees. Spring training is fully underway with the Grapefruit League in Florida and the Cactus League in Arizona. Teams are playing everyday and we won't be without baseball until November, thrilling news to all baseball fans. Time is ticking and it's now March — when the MLB regular season begins!



s i x owners, four players and one umpire. These changes were set to be adopted at the beginning of this year.

After the pitch clock was placed by MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred last season, the league was changed and the game was noticeably faster. Over the 2023 season, According to USA Today, nine-inning games averaged 2 hours and 39 minutes which is down almost half an hour from the 2022 campaign. This was the shortest game time of any season since 1985.

The changes that are implemented this season will impact the game-speed, specifically on the pitchers end. According to the league, from April to Sep-

tember last season, an average nine-inning game increased by seven minutes. MLB has created solutions to address that.

Timing between pitches: The time on the pitch clock with runners has been reduced from 20 seconds to 18. MLB believes that

inning must face at least one batter, in addition to any requirements under the three-batter minimum. There were 24 instances in 2023 where roughly three

minutes of dead time were added per game because a pitcher who warmed up between innings was replaced before throwing a pitch.

Mound visits: Clubs averaged only 2.3 mound visits in 2023 and 89% of games would not have exceeded a limit of four. So this season, the number of mound visits permitted to each team per game will be reduced from five to four. There will be an extra mound visit given to a club in the ninth inning if the defensive team has zero remaining at the end of the eighth inning.

Circumvention: Per MLB's announcement, "There will no longer be a requirement for the pitcher to be on the mound, re-

Men's Basketball:

Huskies prepare for rematch with Pirates on Senior Day

by **Evan Rodriguez**
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Over two months ago, the Seton Hall men's basketball team had given UConn their second loss of the season, a devastating 75-60 defeat at the Prudential Center. The Huskies not only surrendered the game but also lost a major piece of their lineup with Donovan Clingan. At that point in the season, the future was unknown as to how the program would rebound from such a devastating negative.

Fast forward to March 3, Connecticut will have the chance to avenge that matchup in front of their home crowd at Gampel Pavilion at noon.

Naturally, both teams have progressed drastically since that very game. While UConn has accumulated just one loss since then in their battle with Creighton at the Chi Health Center, Seton Hall sits at 18-10 on the season, good for fourth in the Big East conference. They've certainly had massive highs, such as wins over the Huskies and a home win over Marquette, and some hard-fought losses like their triple-overtime defeat against Creighton in New Jersey. Considering that this is a team that has been known to give Connecticut some difficulties on both sides of the court, this is a super important matchup for the No.



No. 1 UConn regains their dominant posture with a 78-54 win against Villanova at Gampel Pavilion on Feb. 25, 2024. The win was an important turning point after the tough loss against Creighton on the road earlier in the week. PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

1 team in the conference, especially when you consider the festivities that are set to occur on Sunday.

With the last home game of the season, the program is set to honor their upperclassmen on senior day and with such a talented group about to depart from Storrs, it's certainly looking like this version of the event will be special. Tristen Newton, Cam Spen-

cer and Hassan Diarra will all be apart of that stacked group. Notably, it should be very emotional for coach Dan Hurley, when his son Andrew is set to be honored.

On top of all of the senior day festivities, it's looking like this will be the final home game for Donovan Clingan, Stephon Castle and, potentially, Alex Karaban, barring the redshirt sophomore's

decision to enter the upcoming NBA Draft. Regardless of the outcome of the Southborough native's choice, something he'll be looking at following the season, it's certainly slated to be an emotional day for all involved.

With all that being said, the No. 3 team in the nation is certainly going to look to take care of business against the Pirates. Weapons like Kadary Richmond

are still as effective as ever, averaging 18.5 points over the last four contests. Dre Davis and Al-Amir Dawes remain as important scoring options that need to be kept in checked.

One of the biggest things for the Huskies remains having Clingan back on the court. As mentioned prior, the Bristol native was absent for most of the second half in the last matchup between these two teams, exiting with 16:33 to go in the game. With the impact that Connecticut's man in the middle is able to provide on both ends of the court, he'll look to be a huge part of Sunday's result.

Most importantly though, UConn has to play their brand of basketball, especially on the offensive end. This is a team that shot just 37.9% from the field and a mere 19% from the three-point line on Dec. 20. Simply put, Hurley will have a tall task on his hands to defeat coach Shaheen Holloway and the Pirates. However, if they're able to get the job done, that sets a great tone for a loaded second half of the season that includes away matchups at both Marquette and Providence, plus the illustrious Big East Tournament.

To view this important matchup, it will be televised on CBS Sports Network, with both Ian Eagle and Bill Raftery set to be on the call.



Sports

Women's Basketball: No. 10 Huskies wrap up regular season in Rhode Island versus Friars

by Cole Stefan
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Over the past three seasons, the UConn women's basketball team has gone 51-3 in Big East play. Despite their success, this is the first time since 2021 that the No. 10 Huskies are undefeated in conference play this late in the year. The only thing standing in UConn's way of achieving the Big East's 14th perfect season is a clash versus the Providence College Friars at Alumni Hall in Providence, Rhode Island tomorrow.

When the Huskies last went undefeated in conference action, star guard Paige Bueckers was in the midst of her National Player of the Year campaign as a freshman. Now a redshirt junior, Bueckers has built on that season with a balanced attack and is coming off two consecutive 30-pieces. On top of her team-leading 20.8 points per game, the Minnesota native averages 4.5 rebounds and 3.7 assists. Her all-around style of play has been critical to Connecticut's success in conference play.

The same applies for senior forward Aaliyah Edwards. Her 11 double-doubles in 17 conference games play a pivotal role in why it is hard for opposing frontcourts to truly lock down the paint. Edwards did not even need an efficient night from the floor to collect her most recent one, speaking volumes to how effective she has been down low. Add in her 25 blocks (only Bueckers has more on the team) and 49 steals, and people start to understand why the Huskies have allowed less than 60 points per game.

First-year guard KK Arnold contributes to that number by taking possessions away. The Wisconsin native's feisty energy has helped her collect a team-leading 70 steals. Arnold's biggest habit on offense is driving to the lane for a bucket. She has attempted 60 three-point shots and made 21 of them, but being able to shoot from anywhere on the floor will further boost her development into one of the nation's top point guards.

Senior guard Nika Mühl, who works at a slower pace, has already cemented herself as a floor general. Her 192 assists on the season and over 600 in her career are a testament to her ability to command the court. Mühl's five-game streak with five or more assists has helped her move up the all-time ranks and be within striking distance of Moriah Jefferson's 659. Beyond her dimes, the senior guard can light it up from downtown without any advance notice.

Mühl's 40.6% clip from behind the arc is almost 6% better than first-year guard Ashlynn Shade's. That is partially because Shade has attempted 135 shots from downtown as compared to the senior guard's 96, but she is still a major three-point threat. The Indiana native shot an uncharacteristic 0-4 from downtown the other night. If Shade can boost her confidence from downtown early tomorrow night, it could be huge for a UConn team needing as much offense as they can get heading into the postseason.

First-year guard Qadence Samuels provided valuable minutes off the bench in Wednesday's win. Between Mühl's absence due to injury and Bueckers dealing with foul trouble, Samuels stepped up and handled some of their regular duties, especially on defense. How many minutes she gets against Providence depends on how the game goes, but should she see some action, expect the first-year guard to be everywhere on the floor.

The Friars have lost seven out of their last eight since starting Big East play 5-4. Their lone victory in that span came at home against the Xavier Musketeers, who have just one win on the season. Despite their recent results, Providence has scored at least 60 points in three out of their last four home contests. It is an encouraging sign for the program under first-year head coach Erin Battth.

Senior guard Grace Efosa (12.7 PPG) has heated up offensively during the Friars' rough stretch. Efosa has scored in double figures in five out of her last six games and made at least four shots in her last four. The senior guard is also becoming more confident in her three-point shooting, and that could be critical for Providence ahead of the Big East Tournament.

Fellow senior Brynn Farrell will have the same role. Farrell makes a living in two areas on the court: the charity stripe and from behind the arc. At the free-throw line, the senior guard is shooting 81% and has had just four games where she did not take a shot. The second-year Friar's three-point performance varies by game, but her four triples the other night could be a sign of things to come, especially if she comes back for a fifth season.

Junior forward Olivia Olsen is the mastermind behind Providence's post play because of what she can do on both ends of the floor. Offensively, she leads the team with 14.2 points per contest at a 53.5% clip. The junior forward holds the edge over most post players who want to grab a missed shot at 8.8 rebounds a night, especially when it comes to the 83 second-chance opportunities she has created. Her 173 defensive rebounds rank third in the conference and just one player, Villanova's Christina Dalce, has more blocks than Olsen's 52.

Wake Forest transfer Marta Morales Romero could be an X-factor for the Friars as she scored 11 points off the bench in Wednesday's defeat. Beyond the scoring, Morales Romero uses her offense to make up for not being the most dangerous defender. The junior guard leads the team with 64 assists and has the second-best percentage from downtown among players who have attempted 50+ threes.

Alumni Hall seats less than 2,000 people, but it is still going to be an intimidating venue for the Huskies to play in. Should Connecticut want to walk out of Rhode Island victorious, they will need to consistently crash the glass as both teams average over 38 rebounds.

Tip-off in the regular-season finale is at 7 p.m. on SNY.



UConn women's basketball wins their last home game of the season against Villanova at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn. on Feb. 28, 2024. The Huskies ended the game with a 21 point lead.
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