



UConn USG Election Results: Lorien Touponse and Arunima Chaturvedi elected as USG President and Vice President

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The results of the Storrs USG election have been announced, with Lorien Touponse and Arunima Chaturvedi being elected as President and Vice President respectively winning 906 votes out of 3053.

Touponse and Chaturvedi told The Daily Campus that “our overarching principle and largest initiative is to return USG back to its advocacy roots by bringing resources to students and clubs directly instead of them having come to us.”

Tae’Niajha Pullen was elected as Chief Diversity Officer with 1840 votes. She campaigned on Instagram on lifting the voices of sexual assault victims at UConn, creating a more inclusive environment for students of all backgrounds, and implementing support systems for students on academic probation.

Sydney Whittaker was elected as Comptroller with 978 votes, campaigning on Insta-



From left to right, Sydney Whittaker (Comptroller), Lorien Touponse (President), Arunima Chaturvedi (Vice President), and Tae’Niajha Pullen (Chief Diversity Officer). They were elected during the UConn 2024 Joint Election.

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gram on supporting USG’s advocacy initiatives, being transparent about the most recent funding status and making “budget adjustments where necessary to ensure equitable access to funding for all active Tier II organizations.”

Races for Senate seats were far less competitive, with just

25 out of the 45 senate seats on the ballot being filled. All candidates who ran for a senate seat won a senate seat.

Two constituencies, ACES and Pharmacy had no candidates running, meaning that all three ACES seats and both Pharmacy seats were left empty.

CLAS filled eight out of its ten

seats with Kyle Lowry, Olivia Eshoo, Aditi Thaker, Kenneth Nguyen, Shahad Faiz, Ryan Engels, Advait Pradeep and Devin O’Brien getting elected to the USG Senate.

In the School of Business, two out of four seats were filled by Heaven Buckham and Gavin Kuebler. The CAHNR also

filled two out of its four seats, with Elizabeth Garcia and Andy Zhang getting elected.

The School of Engineering filled three out of six seats, with Aya Amoudi, Harshit Yadav and Sadaf Zarei getting elected.

The School of Fine Arts filled one out of its two seats, with Luke Roy getting elected. NEAG also filled one out of two seats, with Andy Lanza getting elected.

The School of Nursing was the sole constituency to fill both its seats, with Allison Villano and Megan Minicucci getting elected.

The Multicultural and Diversity constituency filled six out of its ten seats, with three of the winning candidates receiving 18 votes or less as write-in candidates. Jibreel Akbar, Avery Flechtner and Daniel Siguenza ran on the ballot and were elected while receiving at least 110 votes each. Khushi Kalyan, Lianna Smith and Nathan Velazquez were write-in candidates who all won seats despite receiving 45 votes between them.

UConn faculty raise concerns over mental, physical health amidst budget cuts

by **John Haslun**
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Amidst continued outrage regarding a planned 15% cut to academic operational support budgets, the University of Connecticut held their second in-person Budget Town Hall in the Student Union Theatre on Wednesday, March 20.

“We once had a rigorous graduate program that drew people from across the world and U.S. ... Now, we barely have anything left.”

BRENDAN KANE, HISTORY PROFESSOR

President Radenka Maric, CFO Jeffrey Geoghegan, and Provost Anne D’Alleva addressed questions and concerns from faculty and students alike in an open forum. Petitioners addressed issues from collective bargaining to communication and accountability, but most inquired after the effect of the cuts on CLAS departments, specifically UConn’s ability to protect its elite status as an R1 research university.

Advocacy groups for faculty and students on campus, such as the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and the Graduate Employee & Postdoc Union (GEU), argued that cuts to CLAS departments, which have already faced downsizing and cost-cutting efforts in the past, will jeopardize their ability to provide necessary academic services.

Graduate programs across the college are particularly at risk. “We once had a rigorous graduate program that drew people from across the world and U.S.,” history professor Brendan Kane said in an interview with the CT Mirror, “Now, we barely have anything left.”

The elimination of graduate programs is of particular concern, but even for depart-

said. “Every single department head in that room told you that the amount you were asking us to cut would lead to catastrophic consequences.”

King’oo also highlighted concerns over the physical and mental health of its faculty amidst increasing workloads, which would be exacerbated by cost-cutting measures.

“I’ve been at the University of Connecticut for almost 20 years now, and over that time, I’ve seen our department receive multiple budget cuts,” King’oo said. “I’ve seen my colleagues, staff ... all employees of the university take on a greater and greater workload.”

“When I look at the faculty in my department now, I see folks who are working extremely hard, many more hours than the 40 the university imagines they’re working per week. Sometimes it’s 60, sometimes it’s 80,” King’oo said. “I’m seeing folks who are becoming very tired and experiencing extreme medical crises, so I am deeply concerned about people as we face these cuts.”

“Every single department head in that room told you that the amount you were asking us to cut would lead to catastrophic consequences.”

CLARE COSTLEY KING’OO, ENGLISH DEPARTMENT HEAD

“At the beginning of January, [Provost D’Alleva] met with department heads in CLAS,” English Department Head Clare Costley King’oo

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UConn 2024 HEADLINER RELEASED TO MIXED STUDENT APPROVAL



UConn is an annual tradition held in April that allows students to attend a large concert on Storrs campus. This year, the headliner is Swae Lee.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @UConnMUSICFEST ON INSTAGRAM

by **Gabriel Duffany**
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The Student Union Board of Governors (SUBOG) has officially released the list of artists performing at this year’s UConn music festival, announcing rapper Swae Lee as the event’s headliner.

Held annually in April, UConn has become a modern tradition for University of Connecticut students, granting the unique experience of attending a large concert on the Storrs campus. This year’s show will take place on Thursday, April 11 at 6 p.m. in Gampel Pavilion. For UConn 2024, organizers are emphasizing UConn’s distinct identity as the key framework for the festival.

“This year there was a focus on developing UConn as a brand rather than putting on a visiting artist’s concert presented by SUBOG,” said SUBOG Concert Chair Allegra Mendiratta. “The lineup we curated for this year

has varying genres of artists with different backgrounds to reach as many students as possible.”

SUBOG released multiple ballots this past fall to voice student input on artist selection, eliciting a sizable response from the UConn community.

“We want students to know their opinions were very heavily weighed in our decision-making which is why we released the two surveys at the beginning of the fall semester,” said Mendiratta. “The initial one, posted to the SUBOG Instagram, was used to gauge what music students were interested in having at UConn. On the UConn Instagram, we conducted another questionnaire, which garnered a lot more traction and focused more heavily on different possible artists. The second survey received 3,000 responses and did in fact have Swae Lee on the ballot, who was voted as a top choice.”

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News

BUDGET CUTS, cont. from p. 01

King'oo expressed concerns over the ability of the university to provide a healthy work-life balance for professors, especially in a post-budget cut environment.

"Would you commit to surveying the faculty and staff and the graduate students, finding out how much we work per week ... how our time is divided, and how we're doing in terms of our physical and mental health?" she concluded, receiving enthusiastic applause from those present.

"I appreciate what you're saying," responded Provost D'Alleva. "I am concerned about every person who belongs to this community because I belonged to it for 25 years. I will say the workloads are structured differently across schools and colleges — I think everyone

works extremely hard but extremely hard in a different way in each place."

She expressed openness to the idea of surveying the faculty, and remarked that while it was not a unilateral decision she could commit to immediately at the town hall, it was something the university should include in the future discussions.

Further questions related to the topic of temporary funds. The university admitted to using temporary funds, including ARPA relief funds provided over the COVID-19 pandemic to pay ongoing costs such as faculty salaries. While some critics view this as a decision which aggravated the current budget crisis, UConn administrators attest this was the only option provided to them.

"Again, the statement goes back to 'we never requested temporary funds,'" said

Geoghegan. "We never requested ARPA funds. We requested help from the state to balance our budget, and this was a method they had to get us some of that [help]."

The best-case scenario for this year, Geoghegan said, is that the state provides the \$18 million in permanent funds the university is requesting. If the Legislature and Governor Lamont can only provide temporary funds, such an influx would still be vital to pay salaries and diminish the impact of UConn's "reduction plan."

"If it happens again this year, we are going to take it. We will take the temporary funds and make sure we are able to present a balanced budget to our trustees and directors," he said, "but we also need permanent support. If they help us balance the current year but it's one time, we will be back here July 1st."

UConn, cont. from p. 01

Despite efforts to incorporate student attitudes in the artist selection process, not everyone is content with the choice of headliner Swae Lee. Countless comments beneath UCONNIC's Instagram post express their disappointment in SUBOG's decision, many of which received over a hundred likes.

"As an artist, Swae Lee is mostly known for his feature work on choruses, so to make him a headliner without anybody he does these features for — he isn't going to garner massive attention from the audience," said second-semester student Antoine Chisholm.

Chisholm is WHUS Radio's assistant live production director and the DJ of WHUS Radio show "Monke Brains."

"I believe UCONNIC should have tempered the expectations of the student body. If they

couldn't afford massive artists they should have prepared us for a more lowkey artist like Swae Lee," Chisholm said.

Though SUBOG understands that some students have concerns regarding the upcoming festival, they are steadfast in their excitement about the event's promising turnout.

"The team behind UCONNIC has put in a lot of hard work and dedication to create a great show for the UConn community," Mendiratta said. This task, though seemingly easy to the public eye, has been a long, arduous journey filled with many difficult decisions ... While public reception to this year's headliner was not as positive as we hoped, we believe the show is going to be one to remember and every artist is going to put on a great performance."

Tickets to UCONNIC 2024 are available for purchase on the SUBOG website.

UConn's Horticulture Club wins five awards at the CT Flower and Garden Show

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On Feb. 23, the University of Connecticut's Horticulture Club won multiple awards for their garden display at the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show. They won five awards: "Excellence in Design," "Best Educational," "Best Use of Unusual Plant Material," "Best Use of Texture" and "Best Use of Garden Structures."

The Connecticut Flower and Garden Show is an annual event hosted in the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, where exhibitors put together a garden display to show off their organization. The majority of these exhibitors are for-profit organizations, including landscaping companies and greenhouses. The UConn Horticulture Club was one of the few non-profit organizations and the only college group to create a display for the event. Throughout the event, different panels of judges look at all the displays and give out their respective awards at the end of the event. The prestigious "Excellence in Design" award, handed out by Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc., and The Landscape Design Council, is only given to two displays, one of which went to the Horticulture Club.

The other four awards that the club won were given directly from the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show. These awards are each in a different category, which are decided on by a different panel of judges. "Best Use of Texture" is a design award, "Best Use of Unusual Plant Material" is a horticultural award, "Best Use of Garden Structures" is an implementation award and "Best Educational" is an originality award.

Considerable work went into making sure that their display was as good as it possibly could be. The president of the Horticulture Club is senior Will Carter, a sustainable plant and soil systems and digital media and design double major at UConn. He created a rough design of what they'd be creating at the garden show. The club had a 600-square-foot plot, doubling the size of their display last year, and were tasked with procuring the materials and plants that they would use to fill that space. Unlike many other organizations present, the club doesn't have its own greenhouse space to grow the plants for themselves, so they relied on businesses from across the state to donate plants for their display. In an emailed response, Carter and two other club officers, Vice President Sofia Karalekas and Secretary Olivia Delello, talked about the process of acquiring these donations.

"We are incredibly lucky to have had these kind nursery owners respond to our requests for plant donations in large numbers. Due to their combined contributions, we had over two hundred gorgeous, healthy plants to fill our garden this year!" Delello said.

The club started building their display on Feb. 18, meaning they only had four days to finish their plot before the garden show. Volunteers signed up for shifts each day to get the display done. This was difficult for the club, since many of the volunteers were students at UConn's Storrs campus, which meant they had to commute to Hartford to volunteer. There were other challenges while developing the plot, including when a mulch loader broke, preventing any mulch being



The UConn Horticulture Club's display at the CT Flower and Garden Show. The event was held on Feb. 23 in Hartford, Conn.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN HORTICULTURE CLUB



Members of the UConn Horticulture Club stand in the display with their awards. The club won five awards for their display.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN HORTICULTURE CLUB

delivered that day, but the volunteers were able to persevere in order to have their display ready for the opening.

"Winning these awards has been a source of encouragement for us and will ensure we continue the tradition of participating in this show, despite the effort required to pull it off. These awards also help us

get the word out about our club and act as a source of publicity for us, making the show a great way for us to connect with others," Carter said.

The UConn Horticulture Club holds meetings at 7 p.m. every Wednesday that are open to all UConn students. The club has many activities, including holding multiple plant sales

throughout the year, community engagement activities, and field trips, ranging from small weekend trips to local nurseries to traveling to other countries to learn about the local botany. For more information about the club, check out the club's Instagram page at @uconnhortclub, or email them at uconnhortclub@gmail.com.

The Daily Campus

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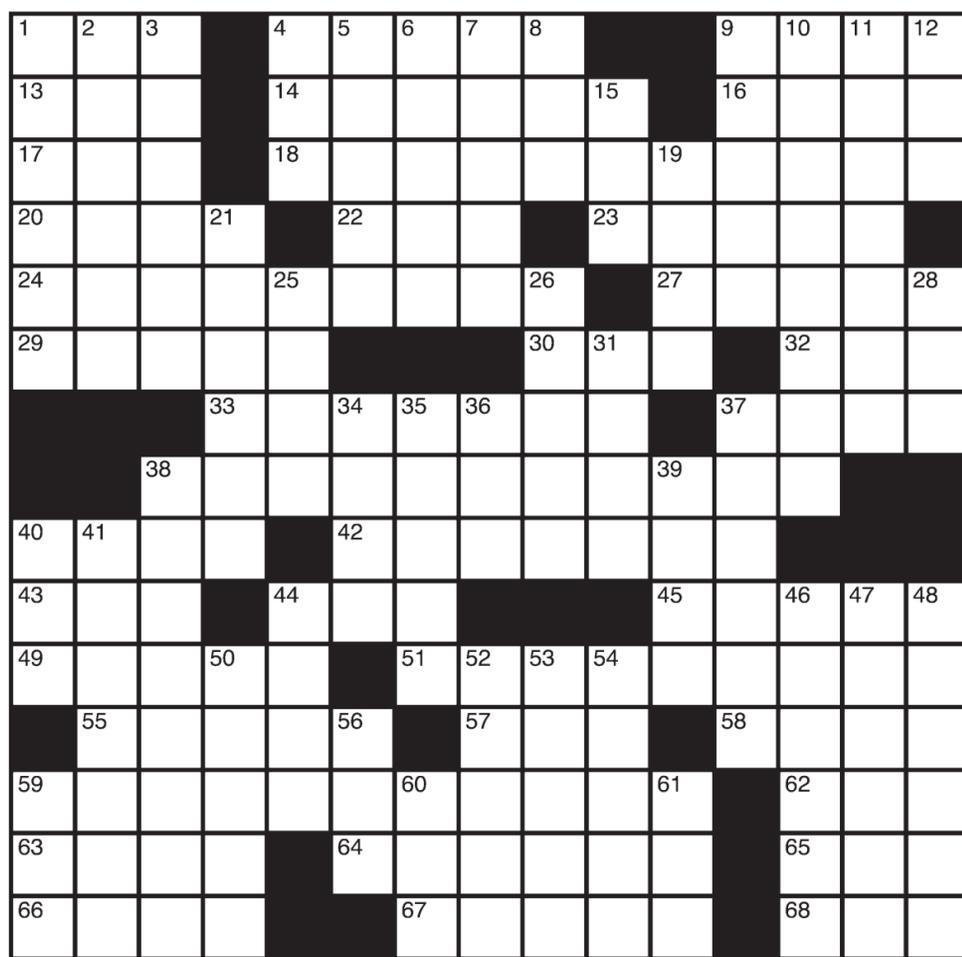
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By Katie Hale

3/22/24

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3/22/24

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Life

A powerful dialogue for inclusion:

M. JACQUI ALEXANDER AND BEVERLY GUY-SHEFTALL IN CONVERSATION

by Benjamin Lassy | LIFE EDITOR | HE/HIM/HIS | benjamin.lassy@uconn.edu

Established in 1974, the University of Connecticut's Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) program is celebrating 50 years in operation this week. To celebrate the diverse and talented group of faculty, staff and students which have been involved with WGSS over the decades, the program invited M. Jacqui Alexander and Beverly Guy-Sheftall to host a panel in the Graduate Hotel Ballroom. The speakers discussed a wide range of issues regarding black feminism, the transnational nature of WGSS as a field of research, the need for more activism in the university environment, and much more.

Moderated by Assistant Professor of English and WGSS at UConn, Briona Jones, the event was designed to cover the many obstacles overcome by the program, and the many it still must face. M. Jacqui Alexander, a professor in WGS, the University of Toronto's Women & Gender Studies Institute, discussed her publications, including the highly influential "Pedagogies of Crossing: Meditations on Feminism, Sexual Politics, Memory, And the Sacred," among other deeply impactful topics. Alongside Alexander was Beverly Guy-Sheftall, director of the Women's Research and Resource Center at Spelman College. Guy-Sheftall wrote a monumental piece on Black Feminism, "Words of Fire."

Both Guy-Sheftall and Alexander brought an incredibly spirited and inspiring dialogue to the Graduate Hotel Ballroom. First, Alexander spoke on the spirits which were amongst those speaking in the audience, in particular reference to Audre Lorde, a prominent black feminist professor, thinker and activist. A panel on her life and contributions to scholarship in WGSS took place in the Ballroom earlier in the day. In addition to beginning the dialogue by acknowledging her work, the panel also highlighted the ongoing oppression in Palestine which sparked the first topics of discussion.

Both panelists agreed that the ongoing horrors in Gaza were connected to women's studies, and as Guy-Sheftall added, "unique to

how you form your own political identity." Alexander noted how the talks given earlier in the day, as well as those given throughout the history of black feminist activism, was a "rich tapestry which has been woven for us here." With the tapestry being a recurring theme throughout Alexander's dialogue, she concluded that the talk was "continuing the tapestry this afternoon."

Focus then shifted to the dangers associated with dialogue taking place on the panel. Alexander mentioned that modern society is not open, nor is democracy permissive of the radical thinking and activism that it takes to bring about an inclusive and equitable community. She noted how Gaza, like Haiti and other oppressed countries and groups, is "constantly under siege." Amid the combat, Alexander stated "Women's bodies pay the disproportionate price."

Guy-Sheftall opened her dialogue by reading Lorde's commencement speech from Oberlin College, which featured statistics and commentary on the situation in Israel and Palestine even then in 1989. Such bold advocacy against oppression made by Lorde had a clear impact on Guy-Sheftall, but also those in the audience, who clapped after she finished reading Lorde's words. Guy-Sheftall then discussed the third National Women's Studies Association Conference on the UConn Storrs campus in 1981, remarking "if a bomb had dropped, we would have no black feminist movement."

Discussion then shifted toward the educational aspects of WGSS. Alexander focused on fighting against American exceptionalism, while Guy-Sheftall encouraged revitalizing the activism within the scholarly setting. Alexander also highlighted experiences in the Caribbean, where women undertook "unpaid work" in the domestic sphere and were "made poor because they work in low paying jobs." This economic injustice would be called into question as Alexander in her youth caught

on to feminist advocacy, which critiqued the domestic and state backed patriarchy.

As discussion went on, the panelists laughed as their dialogue had strayed so far from the initial question asked by Jones, that they all backtracked to Lorde, who was the topic of Jones' first question.

Using this backtrack as a time to explore the academic side of black feminism in the context of WGSS, Alexander and Guy-Sheftall commented on the idea of valuing a "robust African American literary tradition." For both, it was the lack of exposure to such powerful writing that contributed to them teaching and pursuing academics.

The next question focused on the transnationality of WGSS, asking panelists to comment on whether it was necessary for the field to be globally focused.

Both Guy-Sheftall and Alexander agreed that it was necessary for WGSS to have a transnational approach, with Guy-Sheftall saying, "Women's studies, women of color and black stuff has always been transnational, I can't imagine it not being transnational."

Alexander remarked that there is a certain "interdisciplinarity" within WGSS, and that "moving away from separation" was a key aspect to achieving this unity within the field and fostering inclusivity in more spaces.

Lorde's life and legacy was then recalled by Alexander, who commented on how profoundly her life impacted the WGSS program and feminists across the country. Alexander raised a question that may have been said by Lorde had she been alive to ask it, "What have you done with the work that I have left for you?"

The audience was moved by this question, which emphasized the importance and ever-expanding history of the WGSS program and the efforts, achievements, difficulties and challenges it may face. Lorde was very much still inspiring the audience,

and it was almost as if she herself was one of the panelists. The spirituality of the discussion embraced her legacy and brought it to the forefront.

Discussion then shifted toward the difficulties WGSS faculty face and have faced for its entire history, in terms of grappling with academic routine and radical activism. Alexander remarked that tenured faculty should be helping junior faculty break out of their restrictions in place by university regulation. "At 50, you should be out of your mother's house" noted Alexander.

Likewise, the concept of the state and political agents imposing their power in women's studies as a field was mentioned, with a paragraph in Alexander's book "Pedagogies of Crossing" being read aloud, which shared insight into the links between states and oppression. Guy-Sheftall also commented on the "bullshit" that was academic rigor requirements, which were used to prevent activists from being employed to higher positions in a university setting. Alexander added that just because research or activism is political, doesn't necessarily make it radical. There is always a need for increased awareness of oppression and issues regarding equality and inclusivity, and by preventing those who think outside the sphere of regular academia from having a voice, the cycle of oppression will continue.

Running with that theme of radical change and thinking being necessary for change, a Q&A section followed during which several questions and statements by audience members brought out further insights from the speakers.

One student asked how best to bring about change and activism, especially as examples were mentioned during the talk of activists organizing entire events without any money of their own, purely from their kitchen floor or dorm room. Both Guy-Sheftall and Alex-

ander encouraged sitting down with groups, and as Alexander mentioned, "all it takes is two to three people" and a plan for radical change will become a possibility. With that simple motivation in mind, the panel concluded that all it takes is thinking with others and thinking about an issue that must be fixed and doing something to resolve it. Activism starts in small groups, as shown through an example of a large march organized by a small group in their kitchen.

Another audience member, Myra Marx Ferree, Professor of Sociology and a member of the Gender and Women's Studies department at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, thanked the panel and the dialogue they provided, and spoke on the importance of manifestos and the sharing of ideas between those who feel the need to take on issues of oppression or hatred. Ferree emphasized changing the "I" to "we" when thinking about activism, and that rather than thinking of only what impacts you, be just as aware of what impacts those around you.

In an interview following the Q&A, I was able to speak with Ferree about her work and comments in more detail. Being involved in the WGSS program since the 1980s, even attending the 1981 NWSA Conference at Storrs, Ferree spoke on the need for UConn to transform its WGSS department.

"I don't think WGSS has changed enough to reflect how the whole academic world has changed," Ferree said. When we first established women's studies, the idea — and it was a smart idea — was that we would hire outside people for five years as director, after which they would rotate to their disciplinary department. There wasn't a program like this anywhere [at the time]."

For more of the story visit [DAILYCAMPUS.COM](https://www.dailycampus.com)
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Is social media good or bad?

THE ARGUMENT IS IRONICALLY NOT BINARY

by James Fitzpatrick

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Dr. Jeffery A. Hall, a Professor of Communication at the University of Kansas, spoke on the benefits and harms of established and emerging social media platforms on Thursday, March 21. Held in Arjona Hall with a virtual component, the talk focused on whether well-being increases or decreases when using social media, as this framework does not villainize social media from the jump. Rather, it emphasizes the role of the person behind the screen and how their interactions on social media shape how they feel afterwards.

A brief introduction was made by Lili Romann, a master's student pursuing Communication, noting Hall has been featured by all the top news sources and that he recently published a book titled "Relating Through Technology," published through Cambridge University Press, that was awarded by the National Communication Association. Currently, he heads the Relationships and Technology Lab at

the University of Kansas, along with being a Visiting Scholar at Harvard University.

Hall began with quotes from politicians including President Joe Biden that slandered the supposed symptoms of social media consumption on both youth and adults. As he later elaborates, pinning social media companies as catalysts of mental health crises around the nation is misrepresentative of findings by researchers, claiming, "These discourses do not match the reality of the research on the topic." Many also say that social media leads to lower well-being, though this argument is backward. Citing multiple types of evidence, Hall chalks up social media use as another product that will be detrimental if someone uses it too much. Therefore, correlations between social media and lower well-being are most present in people who are struggling outside of their internet usage.

Social media is defined differently by everyone. Even in academic environments, individual interpretations of what qualifies as a social media platform are subjective, which can change one's research on the topic.

Facebook users living in countries that were late to social media have not reported variation in their feelings since installing the app. This is not to disregard the brooding of hostility found on X, formally known as Twitter, which is believed to attract people, knowingly or unknowingly, seeking to use social media in harmful ways. While a researcher studying X may consider social media to be a demon, Hall and others think of it in terms of eating donuts, a strange metaphor that highlights how not going overboard leaves most people unscathed.

It was not long ago that social media was non-existent, but now that it is here, companies will continue to innovate and change the landscape. Social media is ever-changing; what we once knew as Facebook is now Meta and the once simplistic platform has imitated TikTok to stay modern. Nevertheless, Hall predicts other platforms will supersede the dominant force of TikTok within a few years, as television was rendered to be an outdated medium throughout this century.

Video games are often a means of escape from one's

surroundings, which are sometimes impoverished. Yet, they can provide powerful opportunities to connect with others, though not on Fortnite, as Hall mentioned while conversing with an Epic Games employee, who thought that the game is centered on winning and not making friends. Context and irony are at play here, the latter meaning there is bound to be a negative for every positive of social media use, or the inverse. For example, having close contact with family and friends is great, but as a result, much-needed distance in a close relationship is removed and the boundaries in correspondence are blurred. Moreover, someone trying to detox from heavy social media use, a beneficial action on the surface, is no longer in the know about things important to them.

After providing lines of thought that state how social habits and routines must be supplemented by satisfaction to increase one's well-being, Hall recommends four ways to foster good social media usage. Creating close relationships with online friends or main-

taining other relationships using social media can make usage of your preferred platforms meaningful. Those who are just acquaintances are still good to keep up with on a less-involved basis. Feeling wanted in a social space can assist in validating one's own identity or the group they are part of, along with generally positive sentiments shared between you and others, such as birthday wishes or check-ins.

In terms of future research, Hall expects attention to shift towards the effects of entertainment and online content on its audience. Given TikTok's reach, though, entertainment is believed to have minimal impact on one's well-being. He also praised one of his graduate students for studying Twitch and its ability to grow communities that boost the lives of both streamers and their viewers, something I have personally experienced. If you are looking to stay tuned on research developments, Hall and other researchers are participating in an event at Harvard next Thursday that can be attended virtually on Zoom.

Tales

From the

Turntable:

DO YOU KNOW WHO WROTE THIS SONG?

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

Welcome back! Hopefully you're all well rested and ready to take on these last few weeks of the semester. Personally, I went into spring break ready to get a head start on work to make this week easier to get through. Though that didn't end up happening, I did listen to a lot of cool music. I spent a lot of time diving deep into classic new wave and synth-pop and listening endlessly to classic groups like The Buggles, Talking Heads, New Order and Killing Joke among many others.

While I scrolled through artists and songs under the new wave and post-punk categories on Last.fm, one song caught my eye in particular. Titled "The Most Mysterious Song on the Internet," this track piqued my interest as soon as I saw its artist — or lack thereof. The song had no artist attached to it, no name given to the singer, keyboardist, drummer, lyricist or any producer.

With a quick google search of the title, the song was apparently a cult classic among post-punk fans and lost media enthusiasts, spawning countless efforts to track down the song's creators.

"The Most Mysterious Song on the Internet" was first played on the German radio station "Norddeutscher Rundfunk," or NDR, by a DJ known only as Darius S. The DJ recorded the song onto a cassette tape, along with other big new wave bands at the time. The song was introduced with the title "Blind the Wind," which was a repeated line in the chorus. Darius didn't know the artist of the song, and he came up with the title based on the song's lyrics.

Decades later, Darius S. was still intrigued by the song's origin, launching a website in 2004 titled "Unknown Plea-

tures" to lay out his search effort. Darius spread word of the song across the internet throughout the late 2000s. The track became an urban legend among musical historians on the internet without much widespread attention outside dense music communities.

With the creation of the subreddit r/TheMysterious-Song in 2019, awareness of the tune skyrocketed, coming to the attention of the lost media community, a group of people

LOGO BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

or this show, after the host of "Musik Für Junge Leute" claimed to have played the song originally.

Internet denizens sleuthed to no avail, exploring almost every detail of the song, only to find dead ends. Analyzing the songs found on the original cassette mixtape helped narrow the year to 1984, as the rest of the songs found on the tape were from around the same time. The lead synth heard on the track is thought to be a Yamaha DX7 synthesizer, which was very popular at the time. Further analysis of the tape's frequency revealed that the song's recording frequency matched that of NDR's broadcast frequency — being around 15kHz, proving without a doubt that the song had first been aired on NDR.

In early 2021, an article from the German website Plattentests claimed the song belonged to the Austrian singer Christian Brandl and drummer Ronnie Urini. When prompted, Urini confirmed to be one of the song's writers; however, this claim had ultimately been deemed dubious. Other musicians from the time chimed in, stating that the song's singer sounded nothing like Brandl, and featured electronic drums in a very different style to Urini's.

Since 2021, the trail has gone mostly cold. Analysis of the song's spectrogram can only go so far, and there haven't been any leads to solving this mystery in years. The search hasn't slowed, however, and will likely continue until the true creators are identified. To this day, the song's title and band name are unknown, but music historians and enthusiasts alike refuse to stop their search.



LOGO BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

IDENTITY AND MENTAL HEALTH

by Abigail Bonilla
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SHE/HER/HERS
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There are many different factors in maintaining control of your mental health. One factor that is incredibly important in mental health is your identity. Identity can encapsulate a range of descriptors. Racial, sexual, ethnic and cultural identities all play important roles in our sense of self and in understanding the world around us. Additionally, our personal identities can affect our understanding of our own mental health.

Numerous scientific studies show that being connected to our personal identities can have a positive effect on our lives and sense of self. When you feel more connected to various parts of yourself, self-confidence and self-assurance can increase. The more confidence you have in yourself and your abilities, the better control you will have over your own mental health. When you believe in yourself, you are better able to cope with all the difficulties life can throw at you.

Additionally, being in touch with your own various identities can help improve connections with your peers. In an article published by Medical and Life Sciences News, finding similarities in your identities and interests between your peers can improve relationships with friends, co-workers and others can improve symptoms of mental disorders such as depression and anxiety. Identity connection can also slightly decrease stress levels, leading to further improved health outcomes. When we feel seen and connected to the people around us, our mental health can improve. A sense of belonging in yourself and the community around you can positively affect your life.

Many college students struggle to connect with others when they first move away from home. Especially as a freshman, making friends in a new environment can seem incredibly daunting and terrifying. Luckily, many colleges and universities (including UConn!) have numerous cultural centers and resources. Various centers devoted to celebrating different parts of people's identities can not only provide you with fun activities to fill your free time but can also introduce you to other students who share similarities with you.

Attending events at cultural centers, or even just sitting inside of the space can allow you to make connections with your peers and foster friendships that could potentially last a lifetime. If you are part of a specific cultural group, reach out to or stop by any of UConn's cultural centers. Most of them can be found on the fourth floor of the Student Union.

Going to events and being involved with spaces related to your individual identity can allow you to branch out and create new connections. Additionally, being connected to specialty groups can improve your own sense of self, sense of community and self-confidence. When you are connected to others and yourself, you will experience more positive feelings towards yourself as well as the larger community around you, whether that be on or off campus.

Having a strong connection to your own identity can improve your mental health, decreasing depression, anxiety and stress symptoms. The less isolated you are, the happier you will become. Reach out to or stop by the cultural centers in the Student Union today!

“If you are part of a specific cultural group, reach out to or stop by any of UConn's cultural centers.”

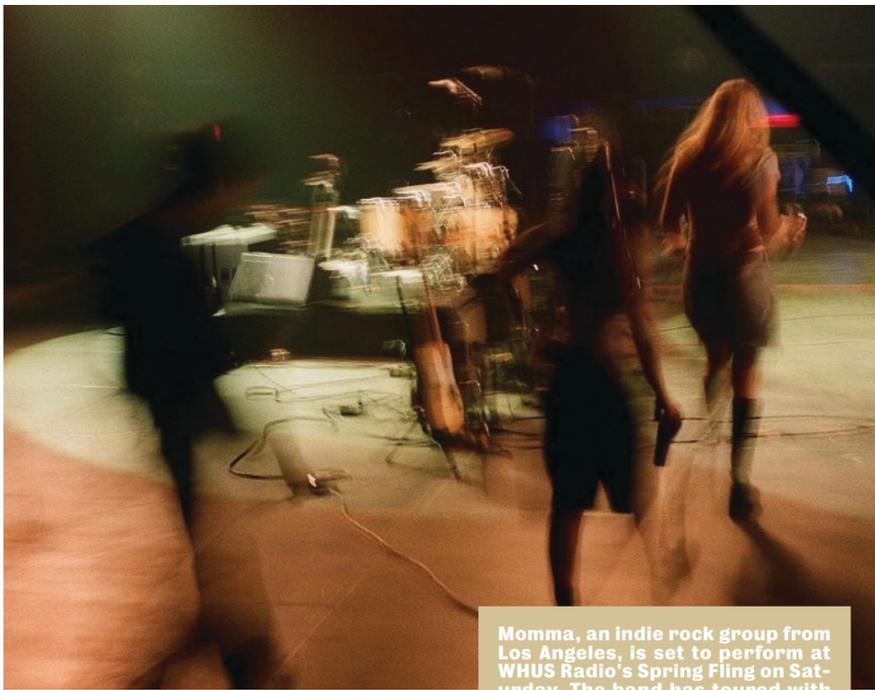


Life

@dailycampuslife

WHUS Radio's Spring Fling is back and ready for you

by Karla Perez | ASSOCIATE LIFE EDITOR | SHE/HER/HERS | karla.perez@uconn.edu



Momma, an indie rock group from Los Angeles, is set to perform at WHUS Radio's Spring Fling on Saturday. The band has toured with artists such as St. Vincent and Girl in Red.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @MOMMA.BAND ON INSTAGRAM

After a week of teasers, the University of Connecticut's student-run radio station, WHUS Radio, has finally announced the date and lineup for the annual Spring Fling Concert. The event will take place this

opened for artists such as Girl in Red and St. Vincent, and played at Coachella in 2023.

Sophia Curran, WHUS's events coordinator, said planning for this year's Spring Fling has been in the works since November. Following their fall concert, Curran has been emailing many different artists to curate the lineup for Spring Fling. She described that the process for selecting acts comes mostly from input from WHUS Radio's music department; but, she also seeks out opinions from others involved at the station and the UConn student body through Instagram outreach.

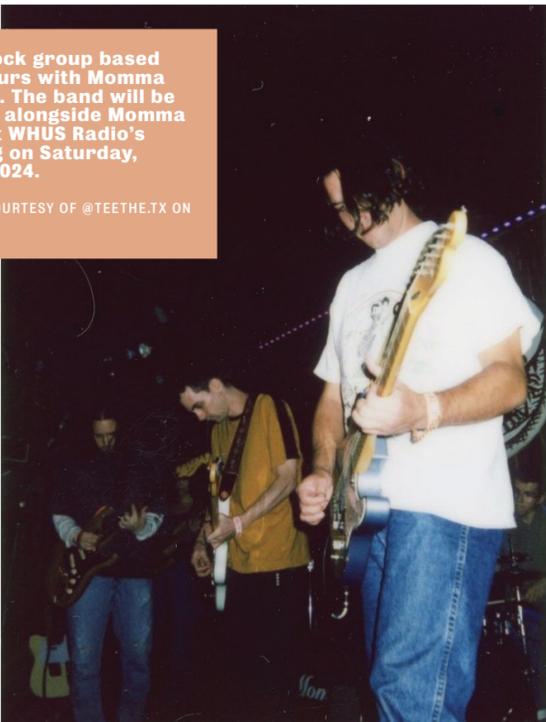
"We do our best to go with things our audience wants. We really do our best to have people [that] our constituents want to see be on stage," Curran said.

Curran expressed her excitement about this concert and for students to get to experience live music on campus for free. "It's my favorite thing in the world. I'm excited for people to show up and just have a good time," she said.

For a more condensed version of information about the Spring Fling, check out the flyer on WHUS Radio's Instagram page. According to Curran, you can find out more about WHUS news by reading their weekly newsletter,

Teethe, a rock group based in Texas, tours with Momma in Oct. 2022. The band will be performing alongside Momma yet again at WHUS Radio's Spring Fling on Saturday, March 23, 2024.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @TEETHE.TX ON INSTAGRAM



Ruby Leftstep performing at WHUS Radio's Battle of the Bands in Feb. 2024. The band will opening for Momma and Teethe at WHUS Radio's Spring Fling on Saturday.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @RUBYLEFTSTEP ON INSTAGRAM

Saturday, March 23 in the Student Union Ballroom on the third floor. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the music will begin at 7 p.m. The event is 18+. Students who come with their UConn ID gain free admission, while students without a UConn ID will have to pay a \$5 fee at the door.

Three bands will perform at the Spring Fling. First in the lineup is Ruby Leftstep, a band familiar to UConn as they made a previous appearance on campus at the Battle of Bands back in February. The two other bands performing for the first time on campus are Teethe and Momma, the latter will perform their music in an acoustic set.

For those who missed them at the Battle of the Bands, Ruby Leftstep is an alternative rock band from Connecticut that made its debut in the fall of 2021. As of now, they have released three singles and an EP, and according to their Instagram, Spring Fling will not be the last time they perform in Storrs.

Teethe is an indie rock band from Texas that made their debut in 2020 with a self-titled album. The group has released four singles and an album. They have toured with artists such as Ethel Cain and alongside the third group, Momma.

Momma is an alternative rock band with three albums and many singles released. The group has

Momma, an indie rock group from Los Angeles, is set to perform at WHUS Radio's Spring Fling on Saturday. The band has toured with artists such as St. Vincent and Girl in Red.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @MOMMA.BAND ON INSTAGRAM



which you can subscribe to via the Linktree also on WHUS' Instagram. For information about the events WHUS hosts in general, following their Instagram is the best way to stay in the loop, as all big event announcements are posted there.



Opinion

The Daily Campus

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► Editorial

Cut ties to RTX

The University of Connecticut Board of Trustees voted nearly unanimously to rename the G1 Cleanroom in the Science 1 Research Center to the "RTX Research Center" at the Feb. 28 board of trustees meeting, according to The Daily Campus. The dedication came at the recommendation of university President Radenka Maric, who also recommended that the United Technologies Engineering Building be renamed after RTX subsidiary Pratt & Whitney in 2022.

The RTX Corporation, after which the research facility is named, is the second largest military contractor both nationally and globally, generating 59% of its revenue from the U.S. and other militaries. Formerly known as Raytheon Technologies, RTX is composed of three major subsidiaries: Raytheon, including its military arm Raytheon Missiles & Defense, Pratt & Whitney and Collins Aerospace. The latter two subsidiaries are based in Connecticut.

The Daily Campus Editorial Board has long been outspoken against the encroachment of the war industry at UConn. We strongly reject the use of UConn's research and development capacities to develop weapons of war, and we consider this a moral and political stain on this university's mission and global impact. In this same vein, we have warned that academic integration into the war industry makes UConn directly complicit in the atrocities committed with weapons produced by "strategic partners" like RTX and Lockheed Martin, the world's largest weapons manufacturer, further normalizing mass death as a legitimate and justifiable vocation.

As such, we call not only for the reversal of the decision to dedicate a university research center to one of the country's foremost war profiteers, but for UConn to cut ties with RTX entirely.

Before articulating the global harm for which RTX is a willing beneficiary, there is one disquieting fact of the decision to rename Science 1's state-of-the-art research facility: It involves a major, unaddressed conflict of interest.

According to the Feb. 6 minutes of the board of trustees Institutional Advancement Committee, the motion to officially bring Maric's recommendation to dedicate a research center after RTX to a full board of trustees vote came from alumni trustee Bryan K. Pollard. Pollard is currently the Associate General Counsel for the RTX Corporation, meaning he led a motion concerning his employer.

This glaring conflict of interest makes the decision to rename the G1 classroom wholly illegitimate in the eyes of the Editorial Board. Furthermore, it represents the gross collusion between military contractors and the university. If Pollard was not asked to abstain from this hugely consequential vote — the only abstention in the full board vote was

from the undergraduate trustee — we have serious doubts that UConn administrators and trustees would object to the harm and destruction for which RTX itself is responsible.

RTX collects handsome profits from mass death, and this is far from an abstract accusation. Evidence of RTX's direct role in global conflict is evident in the genocide unfolding in Gaza, perpetrated by the state of Israel and financed by the United States, which had killed over 30,000 Palestinians by the February board of trustees meeting. The systematic starvation of 2.2 million Palestinians in Gaza, often laundered through the neutral terminology of "famine," threatens the lives of hundreds of thousands more.

In RTX's 2023 Annual Report, the company briefly assesses the "potential impacts" of "business, customers, suppliers, employees, and operations in Israel" in the aftermath of Oct. 7. The report concludes that impacts on business operations are "minimal." Further, RTX even anticipated positive impacts of U.S. military aid to Israel, with CEO Greg Hayes saying that the company would "see a benefit of this restocking" of arms on Oct. 24, 2023, according to Business Insider.

RTX subsidiary Pratt & Whitney, the eponym of numerous buildings and research centers at UConn, is the sole producer of F-100 engines, which power F-15 and F-16 fighter jets, as well F-135 engines, which power the F-35. Each of these aircraft are included in the Israeli Air Force inventory, including the bomber fleet dropping bombs currently killing and displacing Palestinians. Collins Aerospace, which sponsors a research center in the Innovation Partnership Building, collaborates with Israeli arms manufacturer Elbit Systems to produce helmet-mounted displays for pilots of these F-35 bombers.

As we discussed, the vast majority of RTX's income is generated from military contracts; thus, it is unambiguous that the company's primary role is as an accessory to militarism and, now, the mass slaughter of Palestinians. We are cognizant that many members of the board of trustees will remain complacent as the guilty hands of war profiteers tighten their grasp, symbolically and materially, over UConn. Nonetheless, we view total separation from RTX as an imperative. Allowing military contractors to recruit in classrooms and career fairs, sponsor research and endow professorships are currently — and will be — viewed as UConn's willful involvement in global harm. As students who care about many aspects of this institution, we do not tolerate this.

The Editorial Board has previously discussed UConn's potential as an institution that can help steer the state of Connecticut away from its dependency on the war industry. The present need for this could not be more pressing. We call on UConn to cut ties with RTX and reverse the illegitimate decision to name a major university research center after a merchant of mass death.



COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Tomas Hinckley
WEEKLY COLUMNIST
HE/HIM/HIS
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TikTok is once again under attack by the U.S. government, except this time, the threat to ban the app is more realistic.

Last week, the House of Representatives passed a bill which would completely ban the app in the U.S. unless TikTok's parent company, ByteDance, gives away control of the app to a U.S.-owned firm. Since President Joe Biden has already promised to sign the bill should it come to his desk, there is only one more point of uncertainty left in the form of an uncommitted — but not necessarily opposed — Senate. Security concerns regarding the Chinese-based parent company are claimed to be the root of the bill, with politicians fearing that ByteDance could be compelled to give U.S. citizens' data to the Chinese government or help with election interference.

The veracity of these claims is dubious at best, but there is so much more underlying this bill that needs to be addressed first to understand why TikTok, and why now. TikTok caters and gives a voice to a very unique demographic both in American society and globally. Specifically, it has an incredibly young user base, which is generally much more progressive and a politically concerned group. This has been seen in the Israeli invasion of Gaza wherein politicians have claimed young people's overwhelming condemnation of Israel is because of TikTok's influence. There have been threats to ban TikTok since 2020, but it is only now that they are actually following through. That is no coincidence. If their intention is to prevent support from growing for Palestine, or simply silence the current dissidents on the app, then this ban cannot be allowed.

It's also no secret that TikTok is fundamentally different from any other social media app. It has revolutionized the social media market and defined the online experience of an entire generation, and that has garnered an incredible amount of popularity and money.

Now all over the internet, it's easy to find knockoff versions of what TikTok did, like Instagram Reels or YouTube Shorts. It would be an incredible opportunity for companies like Meta if TikTok were to be banned right now, and they know it too. Since 2022, Meta has been campaigning hard against the app, even going as far as hiring GOP media firms to spread baseless claims about the app through local and national news outlets. In 2023 they spent \$19.3 billion on lobbying efforts, making them one of the top 10 biggest spenders in politics right now and giving them a strong voice in politicians ears on topics like this. This is also a great time to mention Meta's own problems

with data security, as they are an incredibly pervasive company with a history of problems with international actors using public data. Yet, because of the influence of money and other factors in politics, the focus is not on them for all that they have done to the American public.

Now, as for the claimed security concerns of the ban themselves, there are significant shortcomings. First, it is important to note that these fears are purely hypothetical. No evidence has ever been provided by government security officials to show that TikTok has ever been compelled by the Chinese Communist Party to do anything. In fact, past Intelligence Community threat assessments have found no evidence of coordination between TikTok and the Chinese government to influence past elections. TikTok's CEO also vehemently denies that they have shared data with Chinese officials or ever would if they were asked to. The amount of hysteria regarding this topic is so widely inflated compared to the shocking lack of evidence to justify it. Security concerns are merely a facade with which to push an agenda being paid for by other interests.

Finally, I'd like to tackle the point made by politicians that this isn't a ban, but rather a forced sale, a claim meant to reinforce the idea that the bill isn't against TikTok itself, but rather the security concerns surrounding it. The idea that ByteDance would choose to sell TikTok because they would lose their American users is either an incredibly egotistical American viewpoint or just an attempt to obscure the ban as something else. TikTok does not survive just on its American viewers and the idea that it would sacrifice

many hundreds of millions more users is absurd. Do not believe that this is anything but a TikTok ban, because if this bill is allowed to pass that is the only thing that is going to happen. A bill of such magnitude attempted to be passed under the noses of the American people cannot be reasonably said to be for our benefit. The TikTok ban is a gross example of dirty politics in America and all voters young or old should be watchful of what is going on here.

such blatant lies cannot be allowed to stand. A bill of such magnitude attempted to be passed under the noses of the American people cannot be reasonably said to be for our benefit. The TikTok ban is a gross example of dirty politics in America and all voters young or old should be watchful of what is going on here.

The TikTok ban is a gross example of dirty politics in America and all voters young or old should be watchful of what is going on here.



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

Opinion StudyBreak

Photo of the Day | Sunrises at Storrs



The sun rises over campus on March 21 in Storrs, Conn. Sunrises over Mirror Lake have always been a beautiful start to the days of early bird students.
PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

RAPID FIRE



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

As we recuperate from spring break, Opinion continues to ruminate on our time spent outside the great state of Connecticut. And in a car-dominated culture such as ours, one of the best ways to differentiate the United States from freeway to shining freeway is its drivers. This week, Opinion writers give their thoughts on this question:

WHICH U.S. STATE HAS THE WORST DRIVERS?

Nell Srinath, Opinion Editor

Massachusetts. A product of Puritanical colonialism, so-called MassHoles drive like they're trying to shake the sin from their bodies.

Dan Stark, Associate Opinion Editor

The New Yorker in me immediately says New Jersey, but I'm going to go with Florida. The roads are filled with the worst and oldest drivers from each state, which turns any routine drive into what I imagine Grand Theft Auto VI will be like.

Tomas Hinckley, Weekly Columnist

You, reading this, are the worst drivers. UConn students. I've been almost hit too many times on this campus.

Luke Feeney, Weekly Columnist

New York, specifically Long Island, they call it the Long Island Expressway for a reason; you're gonna be expressing yourself the entire time you're on that highway from hell.

Evelyn Pazan, Contributor

The worst drivers are in New Jersey, and I am one of them. I get on the highway, grip my wheel and pray that no one gets in the way of my Jersey Slide.

Sudoku

								2
			7		3		5	
4	1			8				3
6		8		3		2		
	3						6	
		2		7		9		4
7			8	2			1	
	6		1		9			
8								

9	4	9	7	6	3	1	2	8
2	8	1	4	9	8	3	9	5
7	6	3	1	4	9	8	2	7
9	1	6	3	1	6	8	9	4
4	3	8	7	6	2	5	1	7
8	9	3	7	4	5	2	1	6
6	4	8	9	3	1	2	7	5
3	6	8	7	9	2	5	4	1
7	9	2	8	6	7	9	3	1
2	8	6	7	9	3	4	5	1
3	7	9	5	1	4	6	8	2

FLIP THE PAPER
UPSIDE DOWN TO SEE
THE SUDOKU SOLUTION

DYK?

Camels have three eyelids to protect themselves from the blowing desert sand.

THE MONA LISA HAS NO EYEBROWS.

FACTS COURTESY SAVIT.IN

BASEBALL

Huskies head to Piscataway for three-game series versus Rutgers

by Cole Stefan
SENIOR COLUMNIST
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Yesterday, the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Diego Padres combined for 26 runs on 33 hits in the second game of the season-opening Seoul Series in South Korea. The UConn baseball team, 19 contests into their 2024 season, could find themselves in that same scenario this weekend when they battle the Rutgers Scarlet Knights in New Jersey.

UConn swept Rutgers at Eliot Ballpark when these two programs dueled last season behind two walk-off hits. Despite not having either slugger who delivered those game-winning base knocks, this year's Huskies have an offense that can compete in close situations.

It starts with left fielder Korey Morton and shortstop Paul Tammaro, Connecticut's lone players batting above .300. Morton is on a seven-game hitting streak, whacking half of his team, leading six doubles and driving in six in that span. Beyond this hot stretch, the Norwalk native is one of the most versatile sluggers in the Hook C lineup and the Big East Conference.

No UConn player has attempted or stolen more bases than Tammaro, and he complements that quickness with a disciplined approach that helps him hit for average. Four of his six RBIs came via a second-inning grand slam in the Huskies' win over the Long Island Sharks on Wednesday; expect the team's shortstop to continue seeing the ball well this weekend.

Five of Matt Malcom's nine hits in his 14 games have left the yard, making him a potent power hitter in the heart of Connecticut's batting order. While the Eastern Connecticut State transfer has done a lot of damage, graduate right fielder Jake Studley has helped replenish some of the heavy hitting lost from last year's squad. Mix that with Luke Broadhurst's 13 RBIs in as many games and second baseman Ryan Daniels at the leadoff spot, and the Hook C possess six quality hitters who can set the tone in any contest.

Endicott transfer Gabe Van Emon has emerged as UConn's ace the same way Andrew Sears did last year, leading the team with 29 punchouts. Expect a bounce back performance from Van Emon tonight after the California Baptist Lancers went deep off him twice last week. Graduate lefthander Garrett Coe had the outing of his Huskies' career last Saturday in Riverside, tossing a complete-game shutout without allowing a Lancer past second base.

It is highly unlikely he will throw 100+ pitches for the second straight weekend, but another quality performance may be in the cards. Stephen Quigley awaits at the back end of the rotation. While he started last weekend's rubber game, his two innings of relief versus the then-No. 22 UC Irvine Anteaters may be a sign that he is returning to midseason form.

Connecticut's bullpen is also taking shape, which is critical as Big East play nears. Notably, junior southpaw Braden Quinn has emerged as a reliable relief arm through nine

appearances. Quinn's 21 strikeouts in 12.2 innings are fourth behind the Hook C's starters, while his 2.13 ERA is the third lowest among all pitchers. With time, the junior southpaw could be the setup man for closer Brady Afthim, who has two saves and 11 punchouts.

The Scarlet Knights had an even more dominant midweek performance than the Huskies did. Rutgers topped Rider 8-2 on Tuesday behind Jordan Falco's five strong innings, and followed that up with 18 runs against the Lafayette Leopards on Wednesday.

Senior southpaw Justin Sini-baldi is the Scarlet Knights' Friday night pitcher. While he has allowed more doubles and hits than any other pitcher, his 31 strikeouts and three walks in 32.2 innings make him one of the Big Ten's strongest arms. Christian Coppola should get the nod on Saturday, where he will look to build off his five innings where he allowed just two runs. That puts true freshman Zack Konstantinovsky in line to start Sunday afternoon. Konstantinovsky has pitched four innings in all but one of his starts, but perhaps that trend will change this weekend.

Joshua Kuroda-Grauer has been the star of the Scarlet Knights offense. His .452 batting average ranks second in the Big Ten behind Penn State's J.T. Marr while his 42 hits and 12 doubles sit atop the conference leaderboard. The Big Ten Player of the Week enters Rutgers' first home series of 2024 with a multi-hit performance in each of his last five games. Unless

UConn's pitching tries to duplicate what the North Carolina Tar Heels did, Kuroda-Grauer will likely keep his torrid streak going.

Tony Santa Maria is the only other person who is even close to the junior infielder in some offensive categories. Santa Maria leads the conference with 29 RBIs, seven homers and a .741 slugging percentage to complement his .376 batting average. The redshirt sophomore's speed goes unnoticed sometimes because of his offense; he has five consecutive multi-hit games and has scored 2+ two runs all but once in that span.

Trevor Cohen, meanwhile, is the only other Scarlet Knight batting above .400. Although he does not have that many extra-base hits, Cohen's 41 knocks rank second in the Big Ten behind Kuroda-Grauer and his .418 batting average is tied for third. The sophomore outfielder is seeing the ball incredibly well as of late; he has five three-hit games in Rutgers' six contests.

Those three alone give the Scarlet Knights a lethal 2-3-4 part of the batting order. Pete Durocher and Cameron Love make it even more difficult for the opposition to plan around containing just one hitter. Durocher sports a .383 batting average to go with his 23 base knocks while Love is one of the nation's top nine-hitters with two triples, seven doubles and four stolen bases. Expect three very high-stakes shootouts in Piscataway this weekend as a result.

First pitch Friday from Bainton Field is slated for 4 p.m. EDT while Saturday's is at 2 p.m. and Sunday's series finale begins at 1 p.m. All three contests will air on MIXLR.



UConn takes down Long Island University 14-8 to win their home opener. After coming out strong, LIU fell in the second half to a strong UConn offense.

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Softball: Huskies head to Butler for second weekend of Big East play

by Ava Inesta
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The UConn Softball team is set to make their first road trip of their Big East slate to travel to Indiana for a three-game series against Butler this weekend. The series will open on Friday, March 22 at 3 p.m. Game two will be set for Saturday, March 23 at 1:00 p.m. The series will wrap up on Sunday, March 24 at 12:00 p.m. All games will be played in Indianapolis at the Butler Softball Field.

Starting off with the Butler Bulldogs, they are coming into the series with a 13-15 overall record and a 2-4 record in Big East action as they were swept by St. John's last weekend. However, they do have a series win over Providence in the Big East conference. UConn leads the all-time series with Butler 11-1 overall.

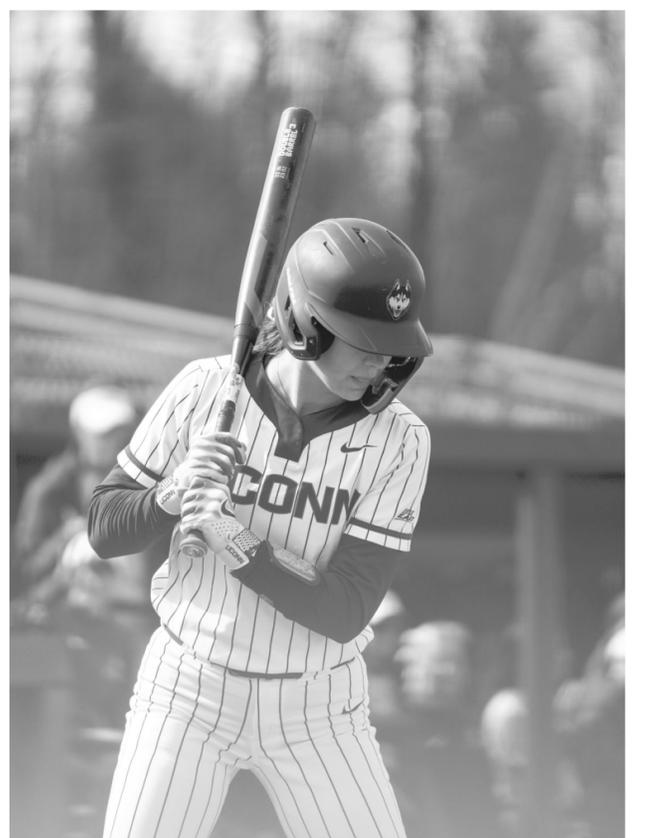
As for the Huskies, they are entering the weekend on an eleven-game winning streak. They have outscored their opponents 66-23 during this winning stretch. UConn's pitching staff has been one of their biggest strengths as they've held opponents to three runs or less in nine of their past eleven games. The Huskies' offense has also been dominating, scoring more runs in this eleven-game span than their first fifteen games combined with 56 runs.

Four pitchers currently hold an era below 4.00; graduate student Meghan O'Neil, senior Payton Kinney, senior Hallie Siems and sophomore Hope Jenkins. These Husky pitchers have combined for 168 out of the team's 176 strikeouts this season. O'Neil, Siems and G. Jenkins all posted 0.00 ERA's in the series against DePaul last weekend and only gave up four hits

combined across 15 innings pitched. This season, Siems ranks third in the Big East with 72 strikeouts and the Huskies lead the conference with 176 total strikeouts.

From the offense, the Huskies have four players currently hitting over .300: sophomore Grace Jenkins, junior Lexi Hastings, junior Rosie Garcia and Hope Jenkins. These four Huskies have combined for 69 of the team's 108 RBIs this season, also with 15 home runs between them. As of right now, Grace Jenkins leads the Big East with eleven doubles and as a team, UConn leads the conference with 39 doubles so far this season.

The three-game series will open on Friday, March 22 at 3:00 p.m. in Indianapolis at the Butler Softball Field. All the games during the weekend will be streamed on FloSoftball.



UConn beats CCSU on March 19 in Storrs, Conn. 6 runs to 0. They will face Butler today starting their three game series.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JORDAN ARNOLD, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sports

Photo of the Day | Big East title holder



UConn takes the win over Marquette in the Big East Championship game on Saturday, March 16, 2024. UConn has not won the Big East Tournament title since 2011. PHOTOGRAPH BY JORDAN ARNOLD, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Stratton Stave
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This Sunday, the UConn women's lacrosse team has their last ranked opportunity of the year in the game that also serves as their conference opener. The recent powerhouses of the Big East, No. 13 Denver and UConn, are facing off in the Rocky Mountains in a matinee that is critical for both sides.

Connecticut's year has been tough, as they've started off with an even 4-4 record thus far. They dropped their first three games, two against teams currently in the top 25, by a combined four goals. If things had gone just a little differently each time, it's not difficult to see the Huskies in a much better standing, perhaps in the top 15 nationally.

Their oddest loss came against a mediocre St. Joseph's squad that's not great, but it was likely a culmination of frustration as they faltered against quality opponents. The Huskies were also dominated by No. 16 Yale, 17-6, after being tied 5-5 late in the first half. They had an exceptionally weak second half, falling apart completely.

Since then, UConn has been very good, winning their last three by a combined score of 47-15. Though their adversaries in such competitions aren't amazing, these are great confidence boosters.

So far, the Huskies have enjoyed contributions from a three-headed attack, with nearly even scoring numbers from Kate Shaffer, Susan Lafountain and Rayea Davis. Shaffer is the reigning Big East co-Attacker of the Year and leads the team with 29 points. Lafountain is having a career-year with 18 goals and seven assists, dipping into the distribution area that hasn't typically been a staple of her game. Davis has been a scoring machine with 20 goals on just 41 shots, but missed UConn's most recent match.

As for Denver, they are having a solid year, though picking up more losses than they often do. The Pioneers had an excellent

Women's Lacrosse: Huskies hit the road for huge opportunity at No. 13 Denver

season in 2023, going undefeated until they faced off against the eventual champions, Northwestern in the national semifinals. They've already picked up three losses this time around, perhaps looking a bit more beatable.

Denver owns an 0-3 record against the top 10, while winning their only other top 25 game against No. 11 Stony Brook by a goal. The Pioneers have a dual threat offense, with Olivia Penoyer and Julia Gilbert getting a lot done.

Gilbert has nearly twice as many goals as anyone else on the team with 22, with scoring as her sole focus. The attacker has been reliable, only going one game without finding the back of the net. Penoyer, on the other hand, has done well in setting Gilbert up. She's responsible for over one third of the squad's 46 assists, while also serving as the team's second leading scorer. The postgrad duo has been excellent this year and are crucial for the Pioneers' success, accounting for nearly half Denver's points.

No game against Denver has been easy for UConn, as they've failed in each of their nine tries dating back to 2017. The largest margin of defeat was 10 goals and they've gotten as close as triple OT back in 2021.

A win here would mean everything for the Huskies. It's been a trying season for Connecticut and if they could pick up a ranked win in this one, it could put them back on track to reach the NCAA tournament. The altitude could be a problem, but they'll have no shortage of motivation to overcome it.

The opening draw will happen at 2 p.m. EDT, noon MT, and can be viewed on Denver's Pioneer All-Access for free.



UConn's women's lacrosse dominated the field Wednesday night with a win against Columbia. The final score for the match was 17-1 at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MERCER FERGUSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHERS/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women's Tennis: Huskies set to take on the Providence Friars Friday

by Avery Becker
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After a much-needed spring break following a hard-earned win versus Valdosta State, the UConn women's tennis team returns home to take on Providence on Friday at Magic Lincer Tennis Academy in Manchester, Connecticut.

The last time these two Big East foes faced each other was Feb. 26, 2023, when the Huskies defeated the Friars 5-2. The history against this team has been back and forth, but their record all time is

8-2 and Connecticut has been on a four-game winning streak.

When you look at the Friars' roster this season, they currently have a record of 3-10; and in terms of Big East play, they are 0-1. An athlete to look out for on their roster is graduate student Liria Loria, from Bolivia. She has a record of 3-3 in her share of third and fourth singles. The Friars are coming off a shutout 7-0 loss against Emporia State, and they are looking to clinch their first win in the Big East.

Against Valdosta State, it was a shaky start for the Huskies as they couldn't

clinch the doubles point. Junior Maria Constantinou started the winning streak for the team as she won her singles point in the second singles. After Valdosta State won the third single, the Huskies were hungry, and wouldn't let that defeat seal the deal for their opponent. Sophomore Cameron Didion had two back-to-back set wins, and freshman Isabella Asenov came back from a 5-0 deficit, taking the win 7-5.

Not only was this an impressive win for the Huskies, Constantinou brought her all-season singles record to 7-5.

It'll be interesting to see how this matchup will play out amongst these teams, with the Huskies looking to continue adding wins to the records and the Friars looking to pick themselves up by the bootstraps. With powerhouse juniors Olivia Wright and Constantinou in doubles play, along with Cameron Didion in singles play, it is sure to be a fun match to tune into as they hope to take their 8-6 record to 9-6.

If Husky fans wish to keep up with this match and see how it plays out, they can do so through iOnCourtLive Scoring, which is a link provided on the team's website.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: NO. 3 UCONN TO JOUST WITH JACKSON STATE IN FIRST ROUND AT GAMPEL

by Cole Stefan

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On Selection Sunday, head coach Geno Auriemma announced that junior forward Amari DeBerry would miss the entire NCAA Tournament with a concussion that sidelined her for the Big East Tournament. The No. 10 UConn women's basketball team and their eight-person squad have played with the hand they were dealt with all season long. That mantra carries over into the NCAA Tournament, where the Huskies begin their 35th consecutive appearance at Gampel Pavilion against the No. 14 seeded Jackson State Tigers.

Earlier that evening, the selection committee placed UConn as the No. 3 seed in the Portland 3 Regional. WNBA all-time leading scorer Diana Taurasi was one year removed from college the last time the Huskies were a No. 3 seed in 2005. Connecticut held serve on their home court in the first two rounds but fell to the second-seeded Stanford Cardinal in the Sweet 16 in the Kansas City Regional that year.

That was as far as the Huskies made it last season, but that happened without First-Team All-American Paige Bueckers. She did it all in her first postseason action since 2022 two weeks ago, averaging 27.6 points, 8.3 rebounds and four blocks over three straight days. The Big East Tournament Most Outstanding Player has scored at least 20 points in nine out of her last 10 games, and with UConn back on their court, another sensational performance could be in the cards.

All-American Honorable Mention Aaliyah Edwards should make her return tomorrow following a two-game hiatus during the Big East Tournament. With 17.8 points and 9.3 rebounds per game, her impact down low is as critical to how far the Huskies go in the postseason as Bueckers is in general. At the same time, however, Edwards' absence allowed Big East All-Tournament Team selection Ice Brady to take a major step forward in her development.

Brady scored all 31 of her points and hauled in 15 rebounds in 96 minutes of play two weekends ago. The San Diego native also made it difficult for the Providence Friars, Marquette Golden Eagles and Georgetown Hoyas to get anything going down low. Regardless of how many minutes she plays, expect her to repeat and build upon that effort tomorrow.

So should Big East All-Tournament Team selection Nika Mühl, who is nine assists away from passing Moriah Jefferson for the program record. Her four rebounds per game and 39 steals fly under the radar because of her impact on offense, where her 218 assists rank fourth in the nation. Despite this, the senior guard is just as dangerous when it comes to finding her open teammates as she is giving them extra possessions.

That is also the case for Big East All-Freshman Team selection KK Arnold, who leads the team with 78 steals and ranks third with 109 dimes. Arnold scored in double figures twice in her postseason debut, and if she can replicate that on a much bigger stage, then she could become Connecticut's biggest X-factor. Big East Freshman of the Year Ashlynn Shade and her 49% clip from the field, meanwhile, should do damage offensively.

Jackson State enters Storrs with a 21-game winning streak. All of the Tigers' victories in that stretch, which dates back to Jan. 3, have come against Southwestern Athletic Conference foes. Outside of the SWAC, Jackson State's signature victory was a four-point triumph over the St. John's Red Storm in the Discover Puerto Rico Classic.

The Tigers thrive in the post. Their 43.44 total rebounds per game put them just outside the top 10 nationally while their 16 offensive boards per night are tied for ninth. SWAC Defensive Player of the Year Angel Jackson and all-SWAC First Team selection Miya Crump do the most damage on the glass. Both veterans average over six rebounds per game and have combined for nine double-doubles this season.

Beyond the boards, each graduate student has a different style

of play that contributes to Jackson State's stout defense. Crump causes trouble in transition with a team-leading 48 steals. Jackson, meanwhile, is a defensive beast down low; her 95 blocks led the conference by a very wide margin. Do not be surprised if Auriemma counters with Bueckers and Edwards controlling the post.

In addition to their defense, three Jackson State players average double figures. The SWAC does not hand out a Sixth Woman of the Year award, but if it did, redshirt senior Andriana Avent would have a very strong case for it. Although she has just started two of the 23 games she has appeared in, Avent leads the team with 12.3 points per game and 50 three-pointers. The Texas Southern transfer has averaged 17 points since being shutout against the Prairie View A&M Panthers on March 4. Keep watch for another dangerous performance from downtown off the bench for Avent, especially since all but four of her field goals in the SWAC came from behind the arc.

All-SWAC First Team selection Ti'lan Boler is a very efficient scorer in her own right. While she does not have the highest shooting percentages on the team, Boler is the one taking and making the most shots. It has helped the 6-foot-1 guard, who has attempted 10+ shots in 21 games, drop three different 20-pieces while scoring in double figures in six of her last seven.

Boler is to the Minnesota native for the Tigers as graduate guard Keshuna Lockett is to Mühl. While she has not recorded more than eight in a contest this season, Lockett and her 119 assists set the tone for Jackson State's style of play. She and Mississippi Valley State transfer Zakiya Mahoney could both be X-factors for the Tigers, especially beyond the scoresheet.

Tip-off tomorrow is scheduled for 1 p.m. EDT on ABC. Should the Huskies win that game, the tip-off time for their second-round contest on Monday will not be announced until later that evening.

UConn destroys the Georgetown Hoyas in the Big East Tournament final 78-42 to punch their ticket for the NCAA tournament.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CONNOR SHARP, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/
THE DAILY CAMPUS



AVA'S ANGLE: THE EVOLUTION OF THE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL NCAA MARCH MADNESS TOURNAMENT

by Ava Inesta

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It is finally that time of year and March Madness has finally begun. But for many years, the women's basketball NCAA March Madness Tournament received less attention and views compared to the men's tournament. Some fans have gone as far as creating their own bars that just showcase the women's end of the March Madness tournaments.

However, this year it has seemed that the tides have changed, and the women's basketball NCAA tournament is heavily on the rise. In the last five years, women's sports coverage has tripled. Last season, the NCAA Tournament championship game between the LSU Tigers and the Iowa Hawkeyes set an attendance record with more than 350,000 fans, which only set the stage for an even more promising 2024 season of support.

This year, the women's Final Four round will take place in Cleveland, and experts are already predicting that it will bring in more than the \$25 million estimate.

"In many ways, right now, women's college basketball is as popular if not more popular than men's college basketball. I think Cleveland is really going to be the beneficiary of that being the

case," said David Gilbert, the CEO of Greater Cleveland Sports Commission, in an interview with ABC's News 5 Cleveland.

There are powerhouse headlines of women's basketball all over the country with players like Kamilla Cardoso (South Carolina), Caitlin Clark (Iowa), Paige Bueckers (UConn), Angel Reese (LSU), Lauren Betts (UCLA), JuJu Watkins (USC), Cameron Brink (Stanford) and so many more are the spotlights of this league. These women keep breaking the news, setting new records, and most importantly, challenging the stereotypes that say women's sports are less entertaining and relevant than men's sports.

It was not until the 2021 season that the NCAA allowed for the women's basketball tournament to use the name "March Madness" for their phrasing and branding. This name change came after a gender equity review was conducted. Differences in signage, branding and advertisements were pointed out between the men's and women's games and the change was initiated. The review found that \$1.5 million more had been spent on the men's Final Four round than the women's competition, which also sparked a ton of change in the tournament's execution.

That season alone, several women's players posted on social media the big differences in resources given to the men's and women's teams during the tournament, this initially promoted the law firm's review. One of the biggest and most viral examples of inequality was the difference in the men's and women's weight rooms. The men were given what someone would expect to see for some of the best college athletes competing in the biggest event in their sport, with multiple machines and racks to allow for the most intense training. On the other hand, the women got a single stack of dumbbells.

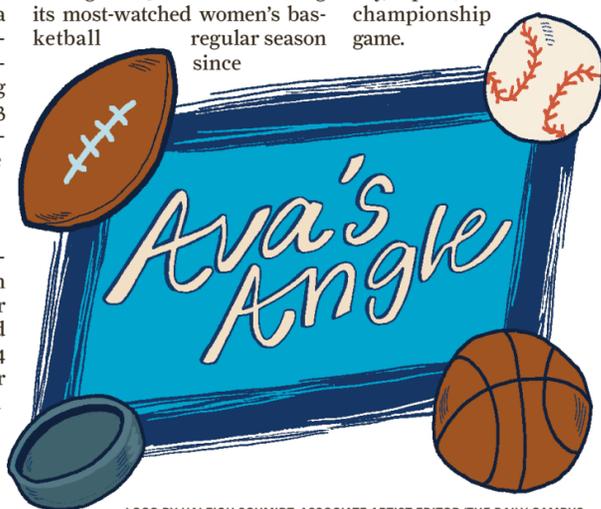
Since this, there has been a wide increase in women's basketball sales and their popularity. In 2019, the women's Big Ten Tournament had 26,813 fans in attendance and the final was aired on ESPN2. In the 2024 tournament, there were 109,000+ fans in attendance and it aired on CBS. The demand for this year's women's March Madness tournament is higher than ever before. The get-in cost for the women's Final Four round in Cleveland this year is \$474 per ticket, compared to \$372 for the men's which will be held in Phoenix. This year's torrent has already sold more than last year's, however, the supply does influence the demand.

The women's Final Four will take place at Cleveland's Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse with a 19,432 capacity while the men's will be at Glendale State Farm Stadium that holds 63,400. These locations are chosen a year in advance, so these decisions do not reflect the rapid growth of women's basketball since 2022 whatsoever. But the NCAA needs to keep up with the rise of women's basketball for future Final Fours.

In better news, ESPN will now air the women's tournament through 2032 after recording its most-watched women's basketball regular season game since

2009. The average viewership for the 81 games watched was 37% Year-over-year as 272,000 average viewers tuned in across linear and digital channels. Matchups that aired exclusively on ESPN and ABC channels averaged 476,000 viewers.

The growth of women's basketball is undeniable, and it is only going to continue increasing. This is just the beginning of March Madness and there is so much in store for the next month as all the 68 teams selected will battle for who is going to be the last team standing in Cleveland on Sunday, April 7 at the NCAA championship game.



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



Sports

MEN'S BASKETBALL: HUSKIES TAKE ON HATTERS IN MARCH MADNESS ROUND 1

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It all comes down to the next few weeks of play for the UConn men's basketball team. After being named the No. 1 overall seed in the NCAA Tournament, the Huskies will stay on the East Coast until the Final Four during a potential run at championship No. 6 and ring No. 2.

and their defense has made significant strides over the season, both hitting top 15 marks in the country. They have excellent play from the one through the five, and despite having arguably one of the toughest roads to getting their second championship in a row, they have the tools to overcome the significant challenges of an unforgiving NCAA Tournament.

One of the biggest storylines

of their puzzle has been sticking to their identity, especially on the defensive end. If you were a team that was looking to give Connecticut a rare loss on their resume, it took some incredible shooting. While the program did struggle with injuries during two of those losses, whether it was the absence of Stephon Castle against Kansas or Donovan Clingan in the second half against Seton



That being said, it's only going to get tougher from here, but the first challenge of the field for Connecticut will be the No. 16 Stetson Hatters at 2:45 inside the Barclays Center.

If you haven't read my article detailing what to look out for from the Hatters, there are some weapons to look out for from the program. Many may quickly doubt Stetson, but with options like Stephan Swenson setting up his teammates and great scorers like Jalen Blackmon scoring the basketball, the team could give the Huskies some problems. That's not even mentioning some quality front court plays from guys like Aubin Gateretse and Alec Oglesby. But their biggest struggle has been on the defensive end, so they'll need to be on their best to have a shot at staying competitive with Connecticut.

But UConn was named the No. 1 overall seed in the Tournament for a reason, and there are plenty of positives on their side. Opponents know that their offense is electric,

heading into Brooklyn has been the strides that UConn's depth pieces have made this season, more specifically guys like Jaylin Stewart. Throughout the season, it's been no secret that both Hassan Diarra and Samson Johnson have stepped up big time, with the former Texas A&M transfer providing the biggest spark off the bench. Yet, Stewart has been the most interesting development in Dan Hurley's winning formula. Both of Connecticut's two final wins showed that the freshman forward could definitely be an important depth piece going into March on both ends of the floor. While many expected Stewie to be a key piece of UConn's program in the future, this is a guy who shouldn't fly under the radar if it comes to some important minutes during the tournament.

However, there are some things that Hurley and Co. will need to do to make history. One of the things that many may be concerned about was UConn's last four contests, which saw the program have some significantly slower starts than usual. In some even tougher contests against teams like St. John's and Marquette, that fact was especially obvious. While the team was obviously able to overcome that negative and win all four of those matchups, it's something that needs to be fixed if they may potentially go up against top teams like Auburn or Iowa State as they continue through March Madness.

Yet, the most important piece

Hall, that fact remains ever true. The Huskies need to remain hard-nosed and focused on the defensive end to keep their hopes alive in the tournament. That's something that remains essential if they want to make it out of a difficult East Region.

And UConn has the defensive pieces to be fantastic on that end of the court. Clingan completely changes the formula for this squad by his sheer 7-foot-2 presence. Stephon Castle has dazzled the eyes of scouts with some elite defense that has shown to be effective against the one through five. Alex Karaban has shown how effective he can be throughout the season, especially when the Huskies went small without No. 32 and forced the redshirt sophomore to play the five. You can't forget about the defensive spark that Diarra adds off the bench either.

Ultimately, Friday is the first step, and UConn has the cast of characters to make history in an incredible tournament field. To watch the Huskies take on the Hatters on TV, you can tune into CBS.

IMAGE COURTESY OF PRINTerval



“Ultimately, Friday is the first step, and UConn has the cast of characters to make history in an incredible tournament field.”

UConn takes the win over Marquette in the Big East Championship game on Saturday, March 16, 2024. UConn hasn't won the Big East Tournament title since 2011.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JORDAN ARNOLD, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS