



## HuskyTHON breaks record, raises over \$1.7 million



**HuskyTHON, a year-long fundraising effort that culminated in an 18-hour dance marathon, reached record breaking fundraising numbers on March 2, 2024. This initiative raised \$1,736,591.22 for Connecticut Children's.**  
PHOTO COURTESY OF @HUSKYTHON ON INSTAGRAM

**by Sara Bedigian**  
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The University of Connecticut held the 25th annual HuskyTHON dance marathon on Saturday, March 2, which raised a record-breaking \$1,736,591.22 for the patients and families at Connecticut Children's.

HuskyTHON is a year-long fundraising effort that culminates in an 18-hour dance marathon in the Hugh S. Greer Field House from 6 a.m. to midnight. This year, HuskyTHON had a record-breaking number of participants, with

over 4,400 students, according to the press release. Students create teams with their organizations to fundraise and spend the day with a Connecticut Children's patient.

After participants fundraised throughout the year, students spent 18 hours dancing, meeting patients and families, participating in activities and witnessing the grand total reveal at the night's end.

HuskyTHON is the largest student-run organization at UConn, the largest by participant size Children's Miracle Network Dance Marathon, the highest fundraising CMNH dance marathon in the North-

east and the largest fundraiser for Connecticut Children's.

"HuskyTHON has an immense impact on the UConn Community, uniting thousands of students under one greater purpose," the press release said.

Each hour, there was a morale dance where all participants gathered to dance along to the 10-minute choreographed dance led by the management team. Following the dance, there was a miracle child speech, where participants met the patients and families of Connecticut Children's and listened to their stories.

Other activities throughout the day to keep the participants engaged include sunrise yoga, zumba and volleyball and dodgeball tournaments. There were performances by Selenite and Wavy McGrady to keep participants dancing and activities, such as Family Feud for the children to participate in.

The UConn men's basketball team also made an appearance and encouraged all participants to keep raising money.

This year, HuskyTHON used the campaign, "Build the Moment" to unite the UConn community and 'build the mo-

ment' where everyone can live in a world absent of childhood illness, according to the press release.

"The ability to dance alongside these children, whose lives are directly impacted by our mission, is exactly what makes HuskyTHON a unique philanthropy and experience," the press release said.

If you are interested in learning more about how to further your HuskyTHON experience next year, there is a steering board information session today at 6:15 p.m. in Student Union 303.

More information can be found at [www.huskython.org](http://www.huskython.org).



**Since 1999, HuskyTHON has raised money for children at Connecticut Children's. This event, stewarded by students at the University of Connecticut, reached record breaking fund raising numbers of over \$1.7 million dollars.**  
PHOTO COURTESY OF @HUSKYTHON ON INSTAGRAM



**A collage of Daily Campus newspaper coverage of past HuskyTHON events covers a wall of the Hugh S. Greer Field House on March 2. This year-long fundraising effort celebrated its 25th anniversary of raising money for children affected by cancer.**  
PHOTO COURTESY OF SARA BEDIGIAN, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## DEAN OF UCONN ENGINEERING STEPS DOWN INTO TEACHING ROLE

**by Sara Bedigian**  
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Dean Kazem Kazerounian, who has led the University of Connecticut College of Engineering for 12 years, will step down and return to a teaching and research role in August.

Kazerounian started as an assistant professor of mechanical engineering in 1984 and developed leadership roles throughout his career, becoming the Dean in June 2012. Now, he is looking forward to returning to the teaching role, emphasizing the importance of change.

"Change in any position is good for my career, is good for me as a person, and is good for the College of Engineering," Kazerounian said. "At the same time, I have some research problems that I want to go back to and solve before

I retire. And I want to be back with the students again."

Kazerounian said he hopes to bring the overlap of advanced technologies and their impact on society to his classrooms. On the research side, he said he wants to focus on robotics and gear system design.

During his time as Dean, enrollment in the College of Engineering has more than doubled, research expenditures have increased and industry partners offered 46 full scholarships for students, according to UConn Today. Now, the College of Engineering consists of nearly 200 faculty, 152 staff members and about 5,000 students.

Last fall, the School of Engineering, as it was called since 1940, was elevated to a college, and Mechanical Engineering is now the School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Manufacturing Engineering.

Kazerounian, who oversees all academic programs, seven departments and 20 centers, said he tried to expand the college, ranging from inclusion and diversity programs, student clubs, new degree programs, scholarships and internship opportunities.

In the current state of budget and resource concerns, Kazerounian said there are always going to be challenges, but as a community of students, faculty and staff, we have to see beyond that.

"It is like climbing a mountain; when you are in the mountain, you don't get to see how big the mountain is, but then, after 30 years and 40 years, you look back, and you see the majesty of this experience that we had at UConn," Kazerounian said. "Looking at it that way, we have to cherish the moment, every single moment. As a faculty member, I do."

Kazerounian explained that UConn has been home for him and his family. Along with his 40 years of commitment to the College of Engineering, his wife worked at UConn for 30 years, and his three children graduated from UConn, helping them build successful careers.

"We are a UConn family all the way, and I feel UConn has come a long way from being a regional university to an internationally renowned university."

Outside of his work as dean, Kazem is a member of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering, a fellow of the American Society for Mechanical Engineers and a fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering. He has served on editorial boards of the ASME Applied Mechanics Review and ASME Journal of Medi-

cal Devices and was associate editor of the ASME Journal of Mechanical Design and the Journal of Mechanisms and Machine Theory. In 2006, he received the ASME Design Division Mechanisms and Robotics Award in recognition of cumulative contributions to the field of mechanism design and theory.

As Kazerounian prepares to step down, the Office of the Provost has begun the process of searching for the next dean. A search committee is hosting final interviews this month. More information on the candidates is on the Academic Leader Searches website.

"I look forward to the creativity and to new ideas of the people that come in this position, as the same as when I came to this position. I tried to provide new ideas and new energy, and that cycle needs to continue," Kazerounian said.

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News

PRESIDENT BIDEN ANNOUNCES \$1.2 BILLION IN STUDENT LOAN DEBT FORGIVENESS

**by Patrick Boots**  
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In a significant move aimed at easing the burden of student debt, U.S. President Joe Biden recently announced the accelerated cancellation of \$1.2 billion in educational loan debt for over 150,000 borrowers under the Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) Plan. This marks the first wave of borrowers to benefit from relief under the modified repayment period, originally intended to begin in July.

Students who enrolled in the SAVE Plan and took out less than \$12,000 in student loans with payments for the past 10 years or more will be forgiven. Currently enrolled borrowers will start receiving emails from the U.S. Department of Education that they have been approved for forgiveness, and those who enroll in the SAVE Plan in the future and become eligible for forgiveness will have their loans discharged.

"We are once again sending a clear message to borrowers who had low balances: if you've been paying for a decade, you've done your part, and you deserve relief," said

U.S. Secretary of Education and Meriden, CT native Miguel Cardona in a press statement.

According to the White House, the Biden-Harris Administration has now approved a total of nearly \$138 billion in student debt cancellation for almost 3.9 million borrowers through multiple executive actions. Under the SAVE plan, introduced last year, monthly loan payments are based on a borrower's

income and family size, not their current balance as was previously standard.

Information from the Education Data Initiative suggests Connecticut students hold more debt than the national average.

"Education is getting more expensive, and the prices of undergraduate and graduate studies differ," said Vanessa Garcia, a 2022 CLAS graduate pursuing further education in library sciences. "There

have been a lot of these [programs], but they should be available to more students."

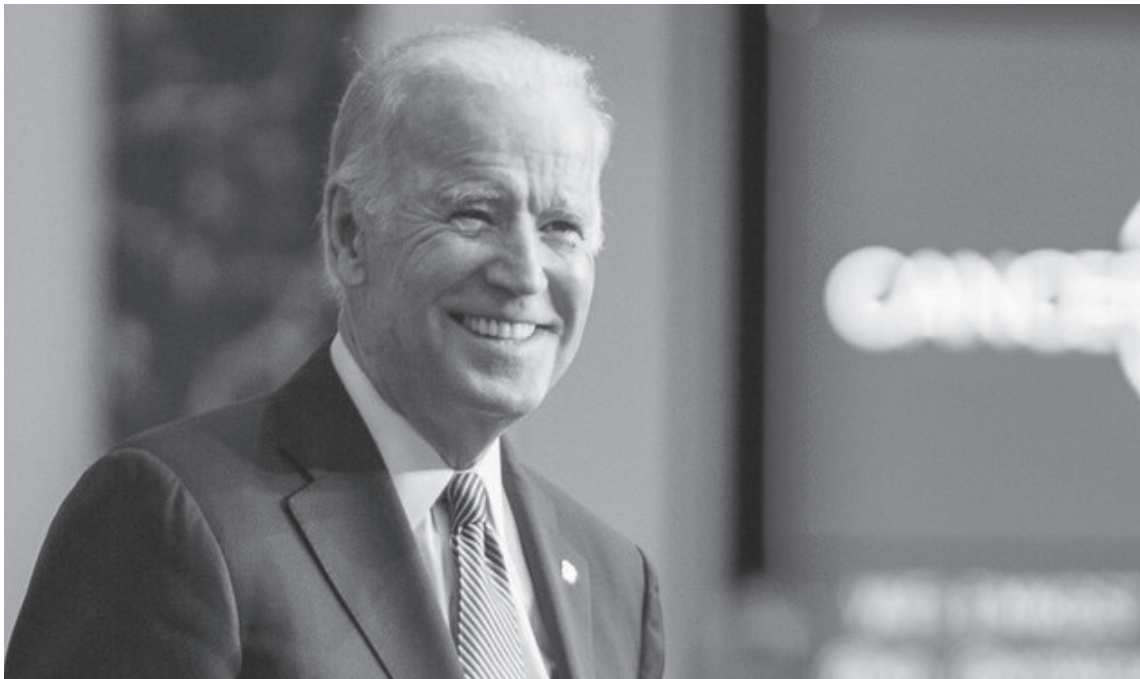
The announcement comes after other initiatives by President Biden to decrease student debt. In January, \$5 billion was forgiven for nearly 74,000 borrowers who work in public service careers, with additional forgiveness programs for closed school discharges and disabled borrowers. Last summer, a proposal was inked

that would have provided relief to millions of borrowers, but the Supreme Court ruled that only minor non-transformative relief programs could be enacted.

"It is difficult to get a job today, so to have the money to start paying back loans is difficult," commented Anting Ma, a fourth-year computer science major. "I hope they can have more [loan forgiveness]."

President Biden promotes the SAVE Plan as a way to protect borrowers from larger-than-life interest and balances larger than what they originally took out. During the speech, President Biden stated there are 7.5 million borrowers currently enrolled in the SAVE Plan.

The announcement encourages borrowers who believe they meet the criteria to enroll in the SAVE Plan at studentaid.gov/save and to visit studentaid.gov/forgiveness for more information on forgiveness programs. For resources relevant to current UConn students and alumni, visit financialaid.uconn.edu or contact the Financial Aid Office in the One Stop Student Services Center, located in the Wilbur Cross Building on the main UConn campus in Storrs-Mansfield.



President Joe Biden posted on his Instagram on Jan. 20, 2021 after being inaugurated. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES.

University of Connecticut professor recognized for BBC's Book of the Week

**by Hallie LeTendre**  
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Last week, associate professor of anthropology Dimitris Xygalatas's book, "Ritual," took on BBC Radio 4's title of Book of the Week.

Xygalatas explained that he began writing "Ritual" after a fellowship he won through UConn's Humanities Institute several years ago. He briefly described the main theme of the book.

"In a sense, this book is about what makes us human. In my view, it is not so much the obvious things, like language, technology and so on, but something more profound, like our deeply situated need to derive meaning from things that seem to be

intrinsically meaningless," Xygalatas said. "Things like art, music, sports, group identity and the myriad rituals that are enacted as individuals and as members of cultural groups."

Xygalatas mentioned that he wrote the book so that anyone can read it, not just scholars or those who study anthropology.

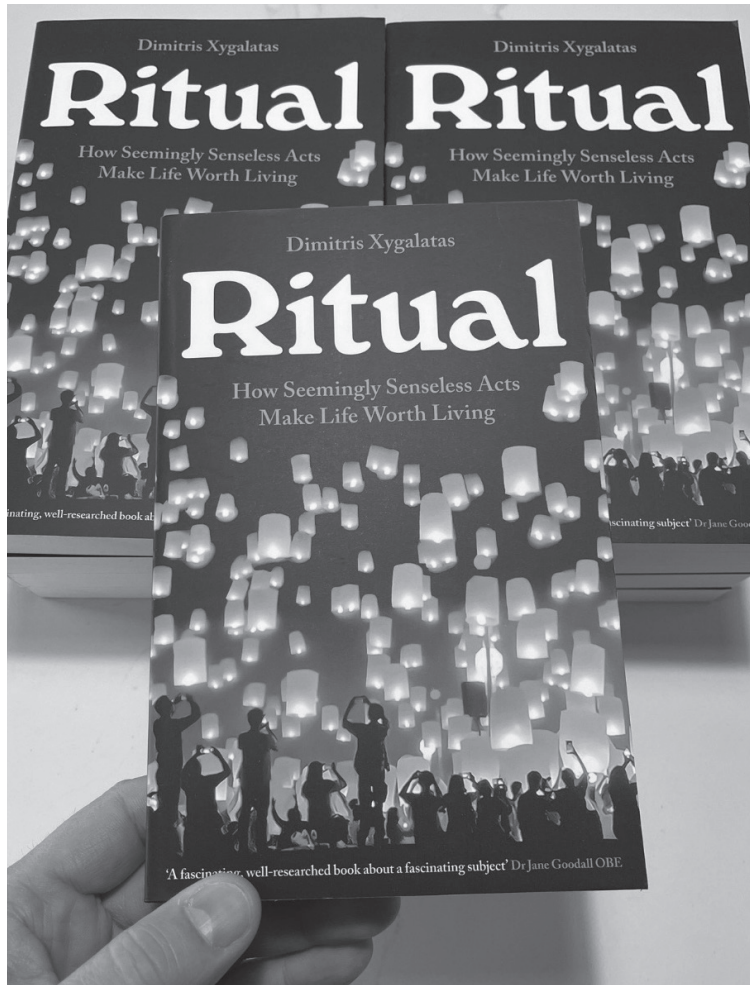
"In this process, my engagement with different audiences, from schools and museums to UConn students, was invaluable because it allowed me to convey and discuss my ideas with people of different backgrounds and hear questions that I might have not bothered to ask otherwise," Xygalatas said.

"Ritual" was published in 2022 and has since been nom-

inated for an award from The British Academy. After that nomination, Xygalatas received word that "Ritual" was chosen for Book of the Week, he explained in a UConn Today article.

"Obviously, it's an honor to get any kind of recognition, but the BBC award makes me particularly happy because a lot of my childhood heroes, people like David Attenborough and Jane Goodall, I got exposed to through BBC documentaries," Xygalatas said. "It certainly puts a smile on my face."

Xygalatas, who is originally from Greece, stated that he hopes readers understand the commonalities within humanity that can be seen through cultural expressions around the world.



Associate Professor of Anthropology, Dimitris Xygalatas, published a book, Rituals, that was recognized on BBC Radio's Book of the Week. Xygalatas discussed that the book allows all individuals to engage with anthropology themes — not only scholars. PHOTO VIA @@XYGALATAS ON X

The Daily Campus

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The Daily Campus Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Graceful long-necked bird  
5 Hoover Dam lake  
9 Colorful quartz  
14 Roof spot for holiday lights  
15 Moreno who owns the MLB's Angels  
16 Like some pools  
17 Cabbage side often served in tiny cups  
18 \*Online journals for DIYers  
20 "The Little Mermaid" role for Halle Bailey  
22 Take up again, as a case  
23 \*Warm alcoholic beverages with sugar and spices  
26 Back in time  
29 Twisty letter  
30 Neckline shape  
31 "j" topper  
32 Cereal container  
33 Update to reflect new districts, say  
35 Nondairy spread  
36 Step in for another, and what the answers to the starred clues literally do  
41 Printer stoppages  
42 The "C" of CEO  
43 Signs off on  
44 "C'\_\_ la vie!"  
47 Turkish title  
48 Gibbon or gorilla  
51 Former GM division with a globe in its logo  
52 \*Horse-drawn excursions  
55 Respectable  
57 Divination deck  
58 \*Low-effort posts of vacation pics, say  
62 Brood  
63 Charitable sort  
64 Uncommon  
65 Peevishness  
66 Expert dealmaker  
67 Storm centers  
68 Much of a sunflower

DOWN

- 1 \_\_ seed bun  
2 Arctic mammal with tusks

- 3 Makes use (of)  
4 Banister post  
5 Apple desktop  
6 Make a mistake  
7 Pong producer  
8 Stick up for  
9 Optimally  
10 Arizona river  
11 Cute as can be  
12 Identify, as on Facebook  
13 Above-the-street trains  
19 James of "The White Lotus"  
21 Be honest (with)  
24 First stage in many an HGTV renovation show, informally  
25 Gradually stop nursing  
27 \_\_ for it: takes a chance  
28 Kitchen gadget brand  
33 "Treasure Island" writer's monogram  
34 Bench press muscle, for short  
35 Gut punch reaction  
36 Art world fraud

- 37 "This is it for me!"  
38 Hair or carpet style  
39 Express relief  
40 Artichoke core  
41 Get some exercise on the track  
44 Compact Ford succeeded by the Focus  
45 Snow coaster  
46 Time in office

- 48 Skillful  
49 Human beings  
50 Regard highly  
53 "That could happen"  
54 Poetic feet in Shakespeare  
56 Venerable British school  
58 Kissing in the park, briefly  
59 Harley bike  
60 Post- opposite  
61 French "his"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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By Susan Gelfand  
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03/04/24

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Atlanta-based artist Faye Webster first gained fame among her adolescent listeners in 2019 with the release of the playfully brilliant “Atlanta Millionaires Club.” Since then, she has experienced an influx of new fans and attention from new releases, including “Kingston,” “Right Side of My Neck,” “In a Good Way” and most recently, “I Know You.” Webster’s albums tend to have a melancholic backbone, which is always displayed raw in the flesh of each song she chooses to show the world. Yet, in her new album released on Friday, March 1, “Underdressed at the Symphony,” fans see she’s added complexity to her relationship between love and play by navigating the unmapped spaces between her comfort and vigilance.

The title of Webster’s new album is inspired by her occasional compulsion to lose herself amongst concertgoers at the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Atlanta Symphony Hall is just a short skip from her midtown home, and Webster has expressed her vulnerability in multiple interviews when it comes to the orchestra. “Underdressed at the Symphony” pertains to how this orchestra was the one place where she could be raw and exposed without any concerns of societal pressure. Craving company and distraction, Webster often went to the symphony as a form of cathartic release.

Clocking in at a mere 36 minutes, “Underdressed at the Symphony” leaves its listeners intertwined in Webster’s endearing enigma— despite it only consisting of 10 tracks. The album reveals Webster’s raw experimentation and playfulness alongside her quavering use of vocative chamber folk.

Starting the album strong with “Thinking About You,”

she sings, “I’m asleep in the moment when you’re holding my head / but I want to remember I’ll sleep when I’m dead.” Turning her breakup into an ironic play on morality, she details the solitary moments where her brain conflicts with itself, allowing unhurried insight to come naturally. Her voice lilts and fades over an expertly placed bass, which creates a soothing melody over a soft piano twinkle. Her voice is beautifully nourished by an orchestra in its synergistic entirety.

My personal favorite track on this album is what I believe can only be described as an “anti-love song.” The lush, slow burner “But Not Kiss” is an emotive and breathtaking ballad. Webster writes, “I want to see you in my dreams— but then forget.” A gust of raw tenderness is swiped across our faces, and we have no choice but to indulge in Webster’s dynamic waves of melancholy. She proves here that she is not a woman misplaced amongst opulent audience members at a symphony; rather, she is the symphony.

“Wanna Quit All the Time” is a song very similar to what you’d expect to see on her 2019 album “Atlanta Millionaire Club,” with its use of a vocoder to synthesize her usual idiosyncratic chords and melodies. The song exudes spooky harmonies and synths, which arrive without sacrificing the spacious quality of Webster’s prior music, allowing each lyric to bubble to the surface with added layers of complexity.

Moving on to the only song on this album with a feature, Lil Yachty’s appearance on “Lego Ring” brings an unexpected shift to the album experience. Though Webster is a timid yet emotive and lighthearted performer, she

attempts to blend unconventionally with Yatchy, who is mainly rap/hip-hop focused. The song floats between fuzzy alternatives and dreamy hip-hop and fails to have a clear stream of consciousness for its listener. The song seems to have an unbalanced rhythm and incongruous synths and leaves the artists’ individual

ences slightly disappointed and aching for more.

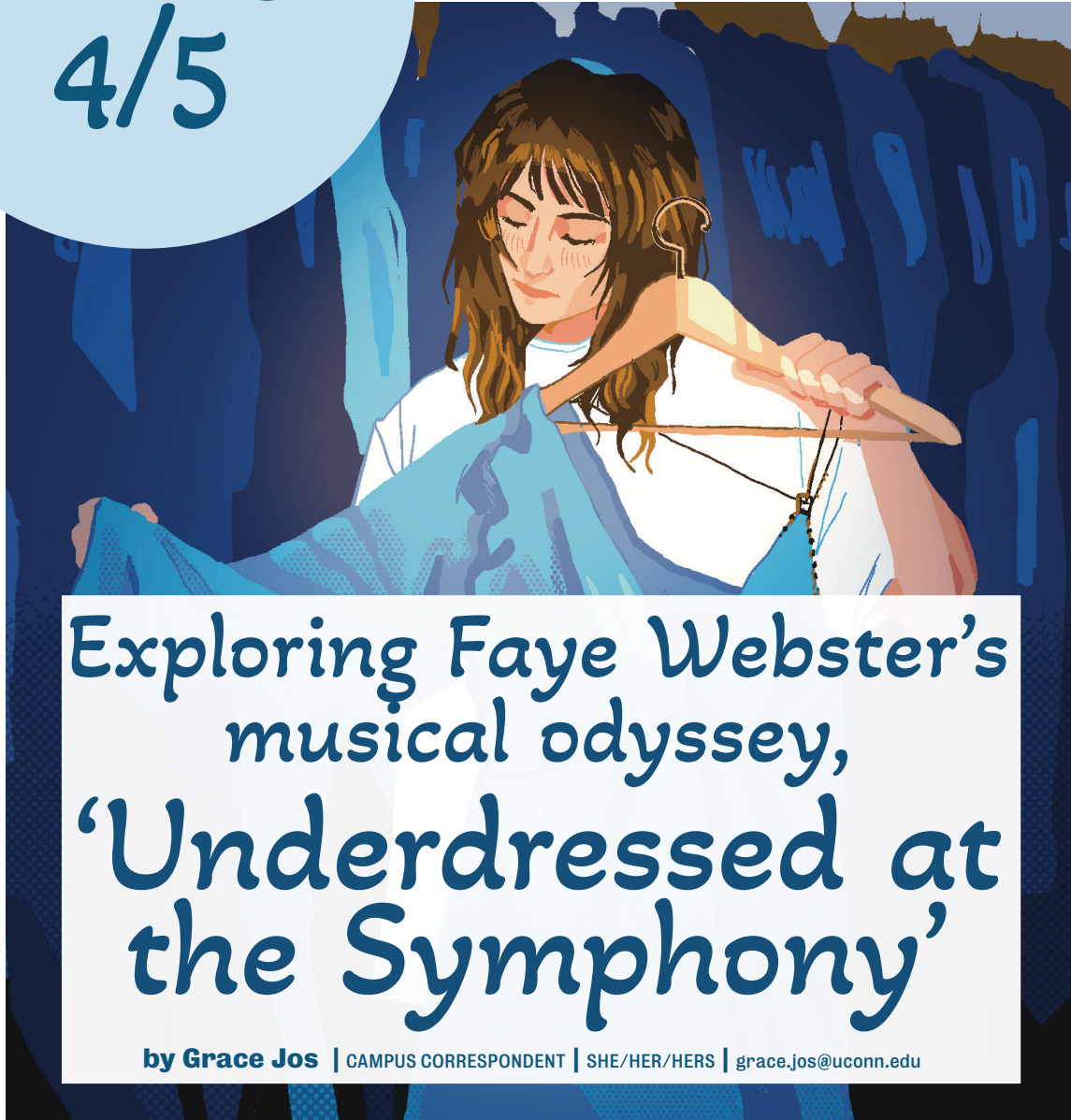
Racing the last few songs of this album, “Lifetime” stretches the repetition of a single phrase, “in a lifetime,” into a jazz-like trance. Though a beautiful song, Webster says what she needs to say and nothing more, leaving listeners slightly mystified. The song “Underdressed at the Symphony” is also a beautiful, picturesque song of vulnerability. Webster doesn’t want your sympathy. She just wants you to feel along with her, and that aspect of Webster becomes clear in her closing songs.

With “Underdressed at the Symphony,” Webster

is not looking to self-actualize nor is she on a healing journey. Instead, she’s simply choosing to exist. Webster documents heartbreak and ridiculous moments right next to each other until they start to blur, becoming real enough for us all to feel.

At its core, Webster’s poetic account of her inner struggles with confusion, doubt and the grief that aligns with heartbreak is all captured in this album. Webster’s angelic voice rings of sheer femininity throughout “Underdressed at the Symphony,” and listeners are taken on a gloomy ride with a soft and accepting current.

Rating:  
4/5



# THE LONG WEEKEND: ‘P.S. I Love You,’ ‘Dave,’ and ‘We Can Make It Baby’

by Xander Serrano | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | alexander.serrano@uconn.edu

Hello and welcome to The Long Weekend. In this column, we will cover movie, TV and music recommendations to get you through the weekend.

## THE MOVIE: “P.S. I LOVE YOU”

What do people love about early to mid-2000s movies the most? Is it the wardrobe, the storyline, the actors or simply everything? Maybe it is because every second of the film is filled with unconditional love. Living in the past through romantic films is a guilty pleasure. While coming off Valentine’s Day festivities, go turn off the lights on a quiet night with nothing but a box of chocolates and a bag of Doritos, sit down and watch the film “P.S. I Love You” starring Gerard Butler and Hillary Swank.

The film raises questions such as how can one deal with losing someone they love? What should be done to keep their memory alive? When is the appropriate time to move on from a loss? “P.S. I Love You” follows the couple Gerry and Holly; when Gerry (played by Butler) dies from an illness, Holly (played by Swank) is devastated. Luckily, Gerry takes steps to ease the grieving process. He leaves a series of letters behind for Holly to read starting on her 30th birthday, encouraging her to move on and begin a new life.

Some audiences feel like they want to throw up when watching romantic movies that try to capture what love genuinely is. The film showcases an honest representation of love despite an unhinged opening scene: When Gerry and Holly walk into their apartment arguing, mindlessly undressing their bed while barking at each other about their opposing views on their future plans. Then, the pair reach a quick and passionate reconciliation, which is unrealistic for many couples after an argument.

Just as any widow tries to rebuild their life from scratch and adjust to living a life they didn’t expect to be navigating on their own now, Holly’s character embodies disorder. Regardless, the setting in the Lower East Side of Manhattan is visually pleasing and hot with strong cinematography. Like all good romantic comedies, as Holly returns home, the plot brings back “skeletons” from the past that disrupt her life.

Taken literally, the skeleton in the film should not suggest a weird romance between a woman and a dead man—it goes much deeper, but that’s for you to find out. The film is unique; a love story is told from its very beginning, and viewers witness the relationship of Holly and Gerry from the moment they meet. Filled with love, humor and heartbreak, “P.S. I Love You” is available on Max and Amazon Prime.

## THE SHOW: “DAVE”

“Dave” follows the life of Dave Burd, a rapper in his late 20s who goes by the stage name ‘Lil Dicky’. The series follows the real-life rapper’s fictional life, from trying to make a name for himself in the hip-hop community to becoming one of the biggest stars in the music industry today.

For those who enjoy edgy comedy that is clever and shocking, “Dave” is worth the watch. The elevator pitch for this show would be if Max’s ‘Entourage’ and the 2007 comedy ‘Superbad’ had a child. “Dave” checks all the boxes of being a show that has great cinematography as the series progresses but also is accompanied by a terrific soundtrack, brilliant writing and impressive acting while also throwing viewers off at times when the story suddenly takes dark turns and can have you on the edge of your seat.

When college kids are under immense pressure to figure out their future and the workload of everyday class, it is essential to find a point in the day where you can forget about the stress of life and laugh for a bit. That’s why “Dave” is the perfect show to watch at night before bed or with friends. It also helps that the episodes are only 30 minutes long, so it won’t keep you up all night and make you miss your 8 a.m. Since the show is set in Los Angeles, looking at the warm California sun throughout the show can be comforting, as the weather feels like it drops below zero up here in Storrs sometimes.

The first three seasons of “Dave” are available to stream on Hulu.

## THE SONG: “WE CAN MAKE IT BABY”

Walking back from the last class of the week and passing by the Graduate Hotel—while avoiding the snow—I walked under the entrance awning where the hotel’s lobby music can be heard from outside. As I approached the awning, I heard Marvin Gaye’s “We Can Make It Baby” off the deluxe edition of “Let’s Get It On,” initially released in 1973. The classic Motown sound hits right in the song’s beginning as Gaye’s voice breaks in with energy, soul and passion. Writer and producer Willie Hutch assisted Gaye with this record. Having a tenured background in soul, Hutch also co-wrote songs for Michael Jackson and Smokey Robinson.

Nothing will ever beat a Motown Soul Mix, a unique blend of songwriting, dancing and passion—something missing in much of today’s music.

Being so consumed with the stress of college, the countdown to the weekend starts once Monday hits. Forget your worries and immerse yourself in a film, piece of music or a show.

Have a great week; see you back here next Monday.



# Sandler steers away from comedy in new sci-fi film ‘Spaceman’

by Kaily Martinez | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | SHE/HER/HERS | kaily.martinez@uconn.edu

Diverting from his typical comedic scene, Adam Sandler stars as an astronaut exploring space in the new Netflix film, “Spaceman,” released on Friday, March 1. In this dramatized film, Sandler struggles to keep the relationship with his wife afloat and meets a stowaway creature that becomes a close friend during his journey.

Sandler’s character, Jakob Procházka, is six months into his exploration trip to study and sample a huge, cosmic purple cloud. While one could assume how lonely it is to travel space alone, it is made obvious during a video conference he has with the Euro Space Program. Towards the end of the video conference, sixth grader Anna, played by Sunny Sandler, asks: “I read that you’re the loneliest man in the world... does it make you sad to be so far away?”

In the first 10 minutes of the film, viewers learn that Procházka’s main struggle is being unable to contact his wife. However, he is unaware that his pregnant wife Lenka, played by Carey Mulligan, has already sent a video message to the Euro Space Program stating she wants to leave him.

People may easily jump to the conclusion that it was wrong for Lenka to leave her husband during his lonely space journey, but that is not the case. While Procházka feels lonely in space, it is apparent by piecing together flashbacks and how Lenka is currently doing that she has felt alone for almost the entirety of their relationship. Procházka had left her multiple times, failed to be there for her in her times of need and did not keep the promises he made her.

Most of this comes into light once Procházka meets a stowaway creature that snuck into his ship: a human-sized spider. Initially, Procházka isn’t fond of the spider as it continuously asks questions about Procházka’s relationship with Lenka, which contributes to him having flashbacks of moments he buried deep and times Lenka needed his support. Later, as the two develop a deeper, unexpected friendship, Procházka names the creature Hanu.

Hanu helps Procházka realize that while he loves Lenka, he has never taken the time to understand or appreciate her. This parallel is noticeable between the beginning and end of Hanu and Procházka’s friendship as Procházka truly takes the time to understand and know who Hanu is.

“Everything is permanent, yet nothing ever is,” said Hanu as he and Procházka explored the cosmic purple dust cloud.

“Spaceman” is similar to most astronaut sci-fi films where the protagonists are alone, uncovering their own mental blockers. However, it is different by having a human-sized spider as a supporting protagonist. While it was questionable at first, it ended up being a great choice. Sometimes, the things that seem the most terrifying hold the answers to what we are searching for.

For those who have arachnophobia, this may not be the film for you. But, if you believe you can prevail, it will be rewarding to understand the movie’s message. While the film is a completely different genre than others Sandler has starred in, it is worth the watch.



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# TV CRIMES UNFOLD WITH A TWIST ON NEW CBS SPINOFF ‘Elsbeth’

by Patrick Boots  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
HE/HIM/HIS  
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A change in wardrobe, how many spaces you add after a period, a choice in deodorant or tone of voice are examples of small things that may not have much impact on your life. All the same, those small characteristics may just be the key to solving bigger problems — or so is the premise of “Elsbeth,” a new detective-style series from CBS. The show stars Carrie Preston as Elsbeth Tascioni, an unconventional attorney who reads between the lines to help the NYPD solve unique crimes. The series premiered as a special preview on Leap Day 2024, Feb. 29, as a spinoff of CBS’ “The Good Wife.”

In fact, this show is a second spinoff after 2017’s “The Good Fight,” but switches out legal drama for a crime procedural. Preston appeared in both series, portraying Elsbeth, a fan-favorite character. The new format definitely fits, prompting comparisons to cult-classic shows “Columbo” and “Monk,” both with offbeat main characters that use their unique intuition to uncover serious crimes.

The pilot episode opens with a confrontation between a college acting teacher (guest played by Stephen Moyer) and his lead actress (Alex Costello) — who reveals she’s about to go to the Dean to expose their secret relationship. Acting quickly, he switches out the student’s medicine for a lethal dose behind her back, resulting in her death. To try and avoid being caught, he breaks in and frames the ordeal as a suicide. A highlight of the format and another point of inspiration from “Columbo” is that the audience sees the crime unfold and knows exactly who the culprit is, making Elsbeth’s deductions and the wrongdoers’ lies all the more enjoyable to watch.

The featured cast includes Wendell Pierce as Police Captain Wagner and Carra Patterson as Officer Kaya Blanke, who

are both skeptical of Elsbeth’s upfront and seemingly scattered methods until they turn out to reveal the truth. Every episode will most likely show a different criminal and setting, with guest stars like Keegan Michael-Key and Linda Lavin announced, amongst others.

As a viewer who has not yet watched “The Good Wife,” I did not feel alienated from the plot. Some expositional dialogue that explains why Elsbeth was uprooted from Chicago, where the first two shows were based, and where these characters come from. The characters explain that after wondering why a person like Elsbeth was chosen, her former boss in Chicago tells Captain Wagner, “she’ll grow on you.”

In a 2014 Huffington Post interview on how she started to shape the character of Elsbeth, Carrie Preston reflected that “... it feels to me that she is somebody who is highly capable of thinking about 500 things at the same time, and her brain is working a lot faster than her mouth is. So, the mouth’s trying to keep up with the brain juggling the 500 things equally well.” Preston still embodies the character with uniquely written elements that may make viewers reconsider the little things they encounter in daily life.

For those looking to enjoy a detective unraveling crimes before our eyes or a strong, independent female story, this weekly drama is a good watch. Produced by King Size Productions and CBS Studios, you can watch “Elsbeth” every Thursday at 10 p.m. on CBS (local WFSB channel 3 — Huskyvision channel 3) or on-demand the next day with a Paramount Plus subscription.

You can also watch “The Good Wife” and “The Good Fight” with a Paramount Plus subscription and “Columbo” every Saturday at 8 p.m. on Cozi TV (local EVIT channel 30.2 — Huskyvision channel 4.2, and ESHM Springfield channel 33.2) or on-demand for free through Fox’s Tubi.

Rating:  
3.5/5

Rating:  
4/5

“Just one more thing.”



RAINBOW CENTER DRAG SHOW

25 years of UConn pride celebrated in style

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

On Saturday, March 2, the Jorgensen Theater filled with students eager to attend the 2024 Rainbow Center Drag Show, hosted by headlining performer Throb Zombie (@throb.zombie on Instagram) and a cast of student and local drag performers.

The theme for this year's show, titled "Cabinet of Curiosities," brings "the world of [the] odd and wonderful to the Drag Show Stage," as described on the Rainbow Center's website. With a long night of performances met with a never-quiet audience and countless fans rushing tips up to the stage, there is no doubt that the event was a stunning success.

As the lights dimmed to just a spotlight, Throb Zombie opened the show with an act that was featured in "Dragula Season 5," where the performer was a finalist. With pale-faced make-up, a slightly unsettling expression and a surprisingly large "Sid Scoops" hat, Zombie put on a show that was both unnerving and empowering. "Sid Scoops" is an ice cream worker themed around "Garbage Pail Kids"—a classic series of gross yet captivating characters. Sid began by whirling around rather joyfully, only to finish the act by scooping out of their stomach and setting lumps of blood and guts onto a tray of blood-soaked ice cream cones. To top it all off, Zombie belted out the most harrowing screams as the organs were scooped out as sundae toppings, setting a high standard for performers to come.

Before going further into the later performances, it bears mentioning that a huge amount of work goes into every component of a drag costume. In an Instagram post made around the time of Zombie's performance, the performer wrote, "The whipped topping is actually insulating spray foam. I wanted it to be even taller, but with the spray foam, it was CRAZY HEAVY. The amount of time I practiced skipping in that beast to make sure I held my posture so it wouldn't fall off..." The same level of commitment to performing in an immaculate costume was shared among all performers, which was evident through Zombie's introduction of Cara Ho (@misscaraho), the next performer. Ho bombarded the stage with energy, getting the crowd moving and cheering as a flamboyant personality radiated through bright pink clothing. Ho then jumped off the stage and got immersed in the tables of the Jorgensen, which occupied the area right in front of the stage. The performance was as powerful as it was stunning, and it kept energy levels high.

Ho's performance also included commentary about critical gender-related issues, yet, in the face of such issues, got the audience laughing with lines such as "A prostitute ain't nothing but a customer service representative." The performance came to an end with a genuinely uproarious audience.

Next, bringing in some "sunshine," as Zombie alluded to in their introduction, student performer SMR Couture (@summergaspardd) had a blazing performance as elegant motion paired with a richly decorated golden outfit set her firmly under the audience's

gaze. Couture also beautifully transitioned from long, wavy clothing to a far tighter outfit by the end of the performance. As a piece of clothing was cast off—matched perfectly with the background music—the crowd was simply ecstatic. But, get this: The Drag Show was Couture's first drag performance. Her routine was wonderful, and it was easy to tell a ton of work went into getting the performance to be as strong as it was.

Next, Rainbow Center Director Kelsey O'Neil shared some words on the center's support for all those attending the University of Connecticut. O'Neil emphasized the ongoing rapid HIV/HepC testing, which is both free and private for UConn

reographed dances to hit K-Pop songs. Their performance was incredible. Groups of five performers began the show, but the rest of the troop slowly joined them as dancers adorned black and white outfits, complimenting the choreography, which was essentially split into halves — three dancers in white, three in black. The bass-heavy tracks and the flawless execution of complicated timed choreography energized the audience. It was also exciting to see a student-led club work with the Rain-

bow Center, as although their performance may not have been purely drag-themed, it was an excellent addition to the host of performances for the evening.

Next, student performer and co-team lead of student programs at the Rainbow Center, Alexxxa W.F. Starlight, took the stage (@alexammudell on Instagram). Featuring songs by Avril Lavigne and others, the set of songs complimented Starlight's aesthetic style. The performer would add another cosmetic item between songs, such as a tie, which matched the footage in the music videos on the monitors above the stage. This highly choreographed performance was absolutely awesome. The audience cheered as Starlight embodied the energy and passion that has come to highlight the entire show.

Finally, we come to the closing performances. The first was by the wonderful Xiomarie LaBeija (@xiomarie.xl on Instagram), whose supporting dancers gave a marvelous performance filled with belly flops and incredible choreography throughout. One of LaBeija's most evident talents is her ability to use her body to support her act. As described in her Instagram bio, Xiomarie is "CT Plus Size Dancing Diva #XL." With this gift, LaBeija owned the stage and

Lucia's outfit sets a solemn tone that leaves the audience quiet.

That silence was soon shattered as the performer danced in sync with a musical backing track and bounced around in her red outfit with no impedance despite its length and the height of her heels. The energy swelled as lyrics advocating for women's worth and a woman's world got the crowd on their feet. Lucia's energy and ability to seemingly teleport across the stage was astonishing; the audience was completely locked in.

As Lucia left the stage, Zombie again provided an excellent transition to the next performance. An audience member asked them, "What is your favorite fa-

vorite natural environment? Mine right now is the woods." Zombie told a story about Louisiana and their affinity for being a "swampy boy." Brief interpersonal moments like this set the tone for the whole event: great performances for and by great people.

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On March 3, 2024, the Rainbow Center held their 25th Annual Drag Race inside the Jorgensen for an adoring crowd. The night proved very successful headlined and MC'd by drag king Throb Zombie.

PHOTO BY MERCER FERGUSON, GRABS PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

students.

Testing dates are March 13 and 22, April 10 and 26, and May 8. More info on times, locations and alternate times can be found on the Rainbow Center website.

O'Neil also shared powerful words on the actions of the ACLU in their efforts to track prohibitive legislation across the country but closed on a high note, as they noted that the event was "The Rainbow Center's largest drag show in 25 years of its history." The center has "No plans to stop advocating ... for 25 more years." The Rainbow Center has many ongoing and upcoming programs, including FAMILIEE mentoring, Gender Affirming Closet (GAC), and the Lavender Graduation; more information on these events can also be found on the Rainbow Center's website events calendar. O'Neil closed, "Please tell our story; we welcome you all."

After O'Neil's brief but joyous interruption, UConn's K-Pop dance group KCONN (@uconnkconn and @uconnseoular on Instagram) took the stage with an incredible series of cho-

reographed dances to hit K-Pop songs. Their performance was incredible. Groups of five performers began the show, but the rest of the troop slowly joined them as dancers adorned black and white outfits, complimenting the choreography, which was essentially split into halves — three dancers in white, three in black. The bass-heavy tracks and the flawless execution of complicated timed choreography energized the audience. It was also exciting to see a student-led club work with the Rain-

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# Opinion

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► Editorial

### UConn:

#### A record-breaking broken record

The University of Connecticut received a record number of applicants for the class of 2028, according to reporting by The Daily Campus. The university received more than 56,700 applications this cycle, marking the first time in the university's history that UConn has received more than 50,000 applications. UConn expects approximately 4,350 new undergraduate students to enroll in the Class of 2028, according to UConn Today.

The Daily Campus Editorial Board has strong concerns given this record-high number of applications and the likely growth in enrollment that will occur as a result, in conjunction with the recent announcements of budget cuts impacting the future of the university.

Despite the significant amount of protest and uproar by undergraduate students, graduate students and faculty alike regarding the budget cuts—which could be as high as 19% for some academic departments—the UConn community has yet to hear how the university will grapple supporting more students with less money.

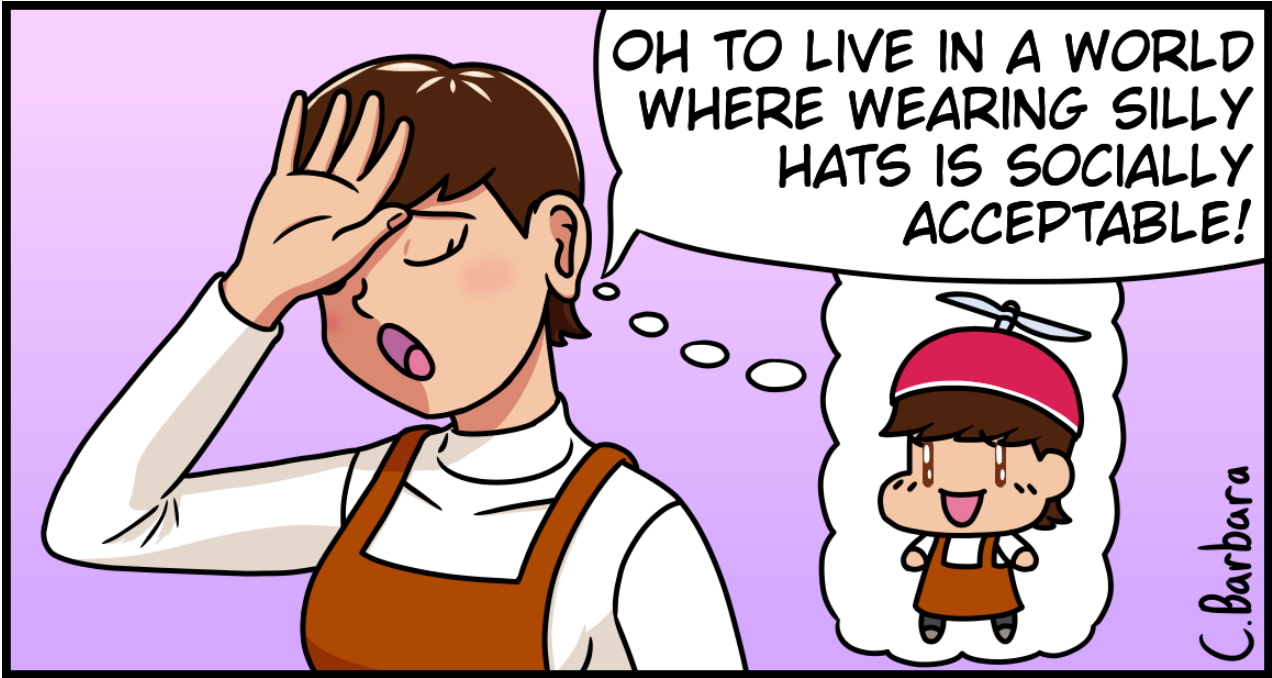
How will UConn cater to more students when there isn't enough money to serve the students we have right now? With impending budget cuts, community members have raised concerns that students are likely to suffer in terms of increased class sizes, increased costs of attendance and fewer resources available in general. Increasing enrollment at a university with an already stretched-thin academic budget and no plans to mediate fiscal challenges only serves to exacerbate these issues.

Another important aspect to note is that these concerns regarding increased enrollment and what that means for available student resources is not a new concern from The Editorial Board. Last year, when UConn announced then-record-high applications for the Class of 2027, we discussed similar concerns in our editorial, "Growing UConn admissions signal higher costs with less representation."

The precedent at UConn shows administrators tend to err on the side of increasing costs of attendance rather than exploring other creative ways to reduce costs for students and proactively lobbying for state financial support. We discussed the example of "reducing the cost per credit for on-line courses, promoting distance learning and potentially curbing issues such as housing shortages and college area gentrification," to no avail as of today.

In short, we've been here before as a university, and nothing has changed, yet here we are again with even more applicants and potential students to serve. What will it take to stop this cycle of sacrificing student interests for the money they pay in tuition?

Again, last time, we noted that the purpose of our editorial is not to say UConn should not admit more students — quite the opposite. Allowing a post-secondary education for more individuals is the core to democratizing higher education. This still remains true. However, The Editorial Board wishes to draw the attention of the UConn community to the irony and hypocrisy of administrators celebrating record-breaking admissions while ensuring that their education will be both less financially accessible and less resourced than previous classes.



CARTOON BY CHRISTIAN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The desire to belong to a group of like-minded individuals is powerful. "The Communication Theory of Identity" states that humans yearn for a communal identity. The two-party system in the U.S. has perpetuated a binary line of thinking by forcing us to reside under the tents of either the Republicans or Democrats. Limited by a focus on major political parties, our political landscape hinders the development of views rooted in our personal values. Despite the diverse spectrum of political thought, third-party options face challenges, discouraging the exploration of alternative perspectives.

The intricate nature of the political spectrum leads to disagreements even within these parties, as seen with the emergence of distinct identities like "Trump Republicans" among Republicans. Individuals anchored to their political party may overlook exploring options on multiple issues. Consider the contemporary example where voters identifying as Democrats may disagree with Joe Biden's stance on the Israel-Palestine conflict. In passionately engaging

with this issue, individuals may question why they continue associating with the Democratic party when they fundamentally oppose certain policies. It becomes evident that dissociating from political parties and developing independent opinions is crucial. Don't get me wrong, divorcing yourself from a political affiliation is a hard thing to do. However, it is crucial to recognize that political parties and their candidates express their views, not yours. In our country, it often feels like people's political choices are limited to a small range of options, which usually leads to a narrow decision between Democrats and Republicans rather than being genuinely shaped by each person's unique views and ideas. It's easy to believe that a single political party can represent your perspective.

But political parties fail to serve every individual in the context of their unique cultural, educational, religious and economic backgrounds unless, of course, you are affiliated with a political party that is run by you and you alone. To quote George Washington, "[political parties] are likely in the course of time and things, to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government."

So, how do we detach ourselves from this way of think-

greater precision. How do you feel about redlining or corporate regulation? What do you think is the best way to solve the issue of student debt? Asking yourself these questions allows you to not only articulate your views better when Grandpa brings up politics at Thanksgiving dinner, but it should also provide you with a better understanding of what YOU believe in.

Another piece of advice that is crucial in independent thought is questioning everything. Countless times, I have heard someone say, "Hey man, [insert politician] is bad; look at this TikTok,"

to which they then proceed to show me a video of someone claiming that said politician eats babies with no evidence to back it up. Even if the statement is not as absurd as that, questioning said statements, even if you agree with them. Critical thinking is the key to independent thought, and questioning the legitimacy of where you get your news is crucial to developing an informed and educated opinion.

When engaging in independent thought, one final thing to consider is simply participating in political discourse. Open-

mindedness reflects intelligence, and without strict political affiliations, you might find yourself surprisingly receptive to new ideas and opinions. There is a distinction between one's political opinions and one's voting actions. Your vote does not bind you to a politician's exact beliefs. Discussing one's individual opinion is equally as important as party preference. So when someone asks about your political views, it's crucial to discern whether they seek your preference for a particular party or genuinely want to understand your individual convictions and values. Whether you register as Democratic, Republican or even Kanye West's "Birthday Party," when someone asks you, "what do YOU believe in?" don't let the name of a political party be the first thing that leaves your lips.

## FREE YOUR MIND FROM THE CHAINS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

by Patrick Barron | CONTRIBUTOR | HE/HIM/HIS | patrick.d.barron@uconn.edu



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Opinion

StudyBreak

Photo of the Day | Through the looking glass



A study space on the third floor of the Edward V. Gant Science Complex is illuminated with a sunset on Sunday, March 3, 2024. The glass walls on the west side of the building allow for more natural light than most other spaces within Gant.

PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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# BASEBALL

## Huskies face No. 23

by Nicholas Spinali | STAFF WRITER | HE/HIM/HIS | NICHOLAS.SPINALI@UCONN.EDU

The University of Connecticut baseball team managed a 1-2 record over the weekend while facing the No. 23 Auburn Tigers at Plainsman Park in Auburn, Alabama.

Game one of the three-game series was originally set for Friday before rain postponed the event to Saturday, resulting in a doubleheader.

Hook C's Jake Studley got the scoring started in game one with a solo home run off of Tigers' starter Chase Allsup. It was all Auburn after that, as the Tigers tied the game on an RBI groundout by Bobby Pierce in the bottom of the first before taking a 2-1 lead on a Cooper Weiss solo home run in the bottom of the third. In the fifth, Weiss drove in another run via a sacrifice fly before Pierce swatted a two-run homer to left-center and inflated Auburn's lead to 5-1. Auburn wasn't done as in the bottom of the eighth; Mason Maners scampered two more runs home on a single. Maners came around to score on a single by Weiss, making the score 8-1. John Armstrong navigated the final three innings out of Auburn's bullpen to close the door and cement the game as a one-win.

Allsup received the win on the bump after bouncing back from the Studley homer to pitch six strong frames. In to-

tal, the right-hander allowed one run on six hits and two walks, striking out six Huskies. Armstrong was credited with a save with the multi-inning effort. Garrett Coe started for Connecticut and was able to work through 4.1 innings, allowing four runs on five hits and a walk. He struck out two but was on the hook for the loss. Thomas Ellisen entered the game in relief of Coe and also allowed four runs in three innings. Both Weiss and Peirce drove in three runs for the Tigers with Maners driving in two himself while tallying a game-high three hits.

When game two was initiated later in the day, the action from game one carried straight into the first inning. Connecticut got on the board quickly after Luke Broadhurst singled two runs home in the top of the first. Matt Garbowski brought another run home

on a groundout to make the score 3-0. The runs kept coming after a Matt Malcolm single drove in another run before Ryan Daniels cranked a two-run homer over the right field wall, making the score 6-0 UConn in the top of the first. The Tigers answered in the bottom of the frame with an Ike Irish solo home run and a Cooper McMurray two-run bomb, making the score 6-3 Huskies after one inning. Connecticut kept the foot on the gas as Broadhurst drove in another run on a single in the top of the second before a no-doubt solo home run by Malcom in the top of the third made the score 8-3 in favor of UConn. Auburn would score one more run on an RBI walk in the bottom of the eighth but could not surmount a comeback, securing the 8-4 win for the Huskies.

After Connecticut starter Ian Cooke was unable to escape the first inning, Gabe Van Emon entered the game in relief and put a stop to the Auburn offense. He won after working through 5.1 innings over which he allowed no runs on just three hits and two walks, striking out six Tigers. Brady Afthim was credited with the save after striking out three batters and allowing no runs over the final 1.1 innings. Auburn starter Joseph Gonzalez received the loss after allowing six runs to score in less than one inning. Both Broadhurst and Malcolm tallied three hits and multiple RBIs in the game, with Broadhurst driving in three and Malcom driving in two.

Game three took place Sunday afternoon. The Tigers got on the board quickly via a three-run home run from Deric Fabian in the bottom of the first. Connecticut cut into the lead as Malcolm smacked his second solo homer of the series in the second before Broadhurst scampered home a run with a single in the bottom of the fifth to bring the score to 3-2 Auburn. The home team bounced right back though with Maners scoring on an error in the sixth before Irish smacked a two-run home run later in the frame. Irish was not done, coming back up in the bottom of the eight and hitting yet another two-run home run to inflate Auburn's lead to 8-2, which ended up being the final score.

Stephen Quigley took the bump for the Hook C and received the loss after going for 4.2 innings, allowing three runs on seven hits and two walks while also striking out two. He was credited with the loss. For Auburn, Cam Tilly was able to work through four innings of relief, receding the win after allowing just one run, one three hits and a walk, striking out two.

The weekend performance moves the Huskies' record to 3-6 in the early going of the campaign. The Hook C will continue their early season road trip with three games against the University of California Santa Barbara next weekend.



CUTOUT COURTESY OF @UCONNBSB ON INSTAGRAM

### WOMEN'S, cont. from p. 10

In their next game, the Huskies will host Boston College, a team that they have struggled against this season. In all three meetings this season, the Eagles were the ones to walk away victorious. These teams first met back in October, when Boston College took game one with a thrilling 4-3 overtime victory at home, then traveled to Storrs the next day to steal another from the Huskies, winning 2-1 at Toscano. The teams met again in early December to complete their regular season matchups, and the Eagles yet again stole another game from the

Huskies on the road with a shootout win. In fact, two out of four of UConn's conference losses this year have come at the hands of Boston College. As for momentum, the Eagles headed into Wednesday off an electric victory over Providence on Friday, winning against the Friars in overtime, but they had lost five of their last six games beforehand.

The winner of Wednesday's game meets with the New Hampshire and Northeastern game-winner on Saturday, March 9. As of right now, the start time is still TBD for Wednesday's game, but it will be played here at Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs,

### MEN'S, cont. from p. 10

In the first period, Northeastern jumped out to a 2-0 lead and the Huskies were quickly behind. Northeastern opened the scoring nine minutes into the game as freshman Dylan Hryckowian gathered the loose puck in front of the net and scored. Just a minute later, Northeastern doubled their lead off of a power play goal. Before the period break, UConn did have a scoring opportunity to cut the lead to one but the puck died before crossing the goal line. The Huskies entered the period break down by two goals.

Northeastern stayed on a roll in the second period and increased their lead to three. Graduate student Liam Walsh was able to beat out goaltender Haider to score a goal. The Huskies then started scoring after Wood left the puck for Salminen who launched

it past Northeastern's goaltender Cameron Whitehead. UConn went into the period break trailing by a score of 3-1.

Just one minute into the beginning of the third period, Northeastern re-captured their three-goal lead and held onto it. With one minute left in the game, Oliver Flynn scored his first career goal as a Husky, but the clock ran out and Northeastern sealed the 4-2 over UConn.

The battle of the Huskies ended in a tie. UConn splitting the series with Northeastern made their record 13-18-2 overall and 8-14-1 in Hockey East action. The Huskies will wrap up the regular season with a single-game against Vermont on Thursday, March 7 at Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, CT. Puck drop is set for 7:00 p.m. and will be available to stream live on ESPN+.

CUTOUT COURTESY OF @UCONNBSB ON INSTAGRAM



Photo of the Day | Victory royale



No. 3 UConn runs away with the win against Seton Hall with a score of 91-61 for their last home match of the season on March 3, 2024. The win secured the Big East regular season title, which is the program's first since 1999.  
PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WOMEN'S

WOMEN'S:  
UConn ADVANCES TO HOCKEY EAST SEMIFI-  
NAL ROUND WITH WIN OVER HOLY CROSS

by Noah Reed | STAFF WRITER | HE/HIM/HIS | NOAH.REED@UConn.EDU

This Saturday, the Connecticut Huskies hosted the Holy Cross Crusaders at home in the Hockey East Quarterfinal round of the tournament. UConn, who entered the tournament as the top seed for the first time in school history, came in having already beaten the Crusaders three times this season, including a 5-1 victory on Feb. 10. With a spot in the Semifinal on the line, the Huskies cruised past Holy Cross once again to advance. Here's how the game went down:

In their home arena, the Toscano Family Ice Forum, the Huskies scored early and often. Captain Coryn Tormala started the day for Connecticut on their first power play opportunity of the game. With the Huskies on the attack, the puck found its way to Tormala with an open look on goal, and she punched it in, giving the Huskies the lead 1-0.

UConn found another scoring chance in the second period and capitalized once again, this time from one of their freshmen. Ashley Allard put a shot on goal that was blocked by Crusader's goalie Madison Beck, but the puck deflected right back to Allard, who tapped it into double UConn's lead in the second period.

Known for their great defense this season, the Huskies were put to the test with three power play opportunities for Holy Cross. While UConn killed the Crusaders' first two chances, an Alexa Pongo

cross-checking penalty gave them another in the second period. However, UConn's leading scorer, Jada Habisch, broke away on a Holy Cross power play opportunity, skating past three Crusader defenders for a look at the net and scoring to double UConn's lead to 3-0.

Down three with time winding down, Holy Cross finally got themselves a goal when Lilly Feeney found the back of the net with five seconds left in the second period. Feeney wrapped around the goal and went over the shoulder of UConn's goalie, Tia Chan, to break into the scoring column for the Crusaders.

The Huskies would strike again, with a fourth scorer getting in on the action. Junior Ava Rinker sent a slapshot to the goal that was placed perfectly for Brianna Ware to chip it in, giving UConn back their three-goal lead at 4-1.

Holy Cross made one last push halfway through the third period, with Reghan Chadwick scoring off a Lulu Rourke assist while falling to cut UConn's lead in half, but that would be the end of it for the Crusaders as the UConn Huskies advanced to the next round.

Tia Chan was in goal for the Huskies; she made 13 saves and allowed just two goals. Madison Beck was in the net for Holy Cross; she made 28 saves but allowed four.

See WOMEN'S, p. 9



UConn women's hockey wins their quarterfinals matchup against Holy Cross at the Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn. on Mar. 2, 2024. The Huskies took an early lead and stayed ahead the entire game, finishing with a final score of 4-2.  
PHOTO BY BLAKE SKYES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's:  
ICE BUS SPLITS 'BATTLE OF THE HUSKIES'  
SERIES WITH NORTHEASTERN

by Ava Inesta | STAFF WRITER | SHE/HER/HERS | AVA.INESTA@UConn.EDU

This weekend was the matchup of the Huskies between UConn and Northeastern. The home-and-home-series started on the road for the UConn men's hockey team at Northeastern in Boston, Mass. In the series opener on Friday evening, UConn defeated Northeastern by a final of 4-3 at Matthews Arena.

Connecticut got off to a hot start in the first period to get the early lead. Senior Nick Capone used a screen and fired a shot past the Northeastern goaltender just two minutes into the game. The scoring did not end there for UConn as sophomores Matthew Wood and Ryan Tattle connected on a give and go which ended in another goal for the Huskies. Wood hit a diving goal to give UConn the two goal lead heading into the first period break.

Wood struck again early in the second period. He found himself in the front of the net for the rebound goal. This gave UConn the 3-0 lead in the second frame. However, Northeastern responded and fired back, scoring two goals to cut UConn's lead to one. Northeastern scored their first goal off of a power play, then with one minute remaining in the period, they scored their second goal of the night with a tip on shot.

Halfway through the third period, Northeastern found the equalizer goal as sophomore Vinny Borges fired a puck past sophomore goaltender Arsenii Sergeev. Fol-

lowing the game-tying goal, UConn did not quit the fight as Tattle and Wood connected for the second time of the game, also giving Wood his third goal of the night. With five minutes left in the game, UConn gained a 4-3 lead over Northeastern. UConn committed a penalty with one minute remaining in the game which resulted in Northeastern pulling their goalie in favor of a two-man advantage. Despite having the two-man advantage, Northeastern was unable to find the back of the net late in the game as UConn's penalty kill dominated which led them to sealing the game.

UConn closed out the 4-3 win at Northeastern. Wood scored a hat trick and Tattle finished with three assists in the victory Friday night.

The Huskies then made their way back down to Storrs, CT, to wrap up the series with Northeastern. It was senior night at Toscano Family Ice Forum and the Huskies celebrated their eight seniors; Andrew Lucas, John Spetz, Hudson Schandor, Ethan Haider, Harrison Rees, Jake Flynn, Nick Capone and Matt Pasquale. As for the game, the Huskies fell to Northeastern with a final of 4-2 on Saturday night. Sophomore Samu Salminen and freshman Oliver Flynn were the goal scorers for the night for UConn.

See MEN'S, p. 9



On March 2, 2024, at the Toscano Family Ice Forum, the UConn men's hockey team faced a 4-2 loss against the Northeastern Huskies. The two goals were scored by Samu Salminen and Oliver Flynn.  
PHOTO BY LUISA MASSASSO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS





# Women’s Swim and Dive: Huskies earn runner-up at Big East Championships

by Sean Ahern  
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The UConn women’s swim and dive team showed out for a second-place finish at the Big East Championships this weekend, finishing just behind Villanova. It is the second year in a row the Huskies finished runner-up to the Wildcats, who claimed their 11th consecutive title. It was clear heading into championship weekend it would come down to these

cats. The day’s highlight came with a third-place finish in the 50-yard freestyle by junior Maggie Donlevy. Donlevy’s stellar performance extended into the third day. After setting a new school record in the 100-yard backstroke in the preliminaries, she came back in the final to solidify a new record of 53.21. She earned herself a first-place finish and contributed 32 impactful points to the team score. Later in the third day, the team of Donlevy, senior An-

Saturday’s events saw several Huskies stand on the podium, one of those performances being freshman Bella Hoffman turning in a second-place finish in the 100-yard backstroke. With a time of 1:56.69, Hoffman set yet another school record for UConn. In the end, these record-setting performances were not quite enough to overtake Villanova for the Big East Championship title. In the end, the score shaped out to be 1482.5 to 1461.5 in the Wildcats’ favor.



two programs by the finals held on Saturday. Villanova placed third in the final event, the 400-yard freestyle relay, to ultimately edge out UConn for the title. The first day was held on Wednesday, and it went nearly as well as it could have for the Huskies. After day one, they held a lead of 64 points with the help of incredible diving performances from junior Julia Pioso and sophomore Olivia Denery. Pioso took home gold in the 1-meter dive with a score of 307.75, and Denery followed with bronze. On Thursday, UConn’s early lead would be overtaken by the eventual champion Wild-

gela Gambardella, sophomore Ella Epes and freshman Claire Lippert came together to set a new school record in the 400-yard medley relay. The new record was also another first-place finish for the Huskies. Other highlights on the third day included senior Kayla Mendonca, who placed third in the 100-yard backstroke, and Gambardella, who took second in the 100-yard breaststroke. The diving crew consisting of Pioso, freshman Kate Cooper, Denery, senior Ana Laura Faoro and sophomore Darah Ostrom placed two through six to heavily outscore the Wildcats by 82 points in the 3-meter dive.

The awards weren’t only won in the pool for the Huskies either, as the coaching staff was named the Co-Coaching Staff of the Year. Additionally, head diving coach David Mckown was named Women’s Diving Coach of the Year for his guidance in medal-earning performances. It was yet another successful Big East showing for the Huskies, especially those seniors who finished their careers over the weekend. Up next will be the NCAA Zone Diving Championship held at Princeton, NJ, from March 4 to March 6. Information for the meet can be found at [uconnhuskies.com](http://uconnhuskies.com)



The UConn women’s swim and dive team take on the Providence Friars in Storrs Conn. on Feb. 10, 2024. The Huskies sweep the floor again with another win and head to the Big East championship.

PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Sports Women’s Tennis:

HUSKIES CONTINUE THEIR WINNING  
STREAK AGAINST SACRED HEART

by Caleb Cook | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT |  
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The UConn women’s tennis team hosted Sacred Heart Thursday afternoon, their first home match in 11 days after traveling to Chicago, IL, and Indianapolis, IN, to play DePaul and Butler, respectively. They came out victorious against the Pioneers, making it two wins in a row for the Huskies, who sit at 7-4 overall and 1-2 in the Big East.

**Results**  
Juniors Olivia Wright and Maria Constantinou were up first for UConn, partnering up in doubles against seniors Katsiaryna Starastsenka and Kim Fenton. Things started off great for the Huskies, as Wright and Constantinou jumped out to a commanding 5-0 lead in the match, needing only one more game to secure the 6-0 victory. However, Starastsenka and Fenton had other ideas. The seniors from Sacred Heart stormed back, rattling off five straight wins of their own to knot things up at five-a-piece. Wright and Constantinou were able to compose themselves in the following game, winning and securing the 6-5 advantage, but Starastsenka and Fenton’s momentum proved to be too much. They won the next two games and secured a nail-biter of a victory for the Pioneers.

Junior Isabel Petri Bere and freshman Caroline Hinshaw had a similar match against Sacred Heart’s pairing of senior Flavia Rambaldi and junior Aina Garriga. Rambaldi and Garriga jumped out to a 3-0 lead, but on the brink of losing, Petri Bere and Hinshaw battled back to tie things at 3-3. After some more back and forth, the Huskies came out victorious, 6-4.

In the final doubles match, UConn relied on senior Nansi Toskova and freshman Isabella Asenov, who went against graduate student Ciarra O’Toole and freshman Malena del Olmo in order to decide which team would receive the crucial double point. This time, after starting 3-0, Sacred Heart was able to see out the match. It finished with a resounding 6-1 score, setting the Pioneers up very nicely for singles play.

While doubles didn’t go as well as usual for the Huskies, they brought their A-game to singles. At first, things worsened as Starastsenka defeated Wright in three sets with scores of 2-6, 6-0 and 6-7. With a loss looking like a strong possibility, UConn secured all five of the remaining singles wins, all in straight sets, propelling them to triumph.

Constantinou defeated Rambaldi by a score of 6-2, 6-2, securing her 14th singles win of the year. Petri Bere was victorious against Garriga (6-2, 6-2,) keeping her in the top spot with 18 singles wins. Hinshaw bested O’Toole (6-0, 6-3) and now sits right behind Petri Bere in singles wins with a very impressive total of 16. Sophomore Cameron Didion defeated fellow sophomore Ana Sofia Angeles Sánchez (6-0, 6-2) putting her officially at double digits on the year with 10 singles wins. Finally, Asenov wrapped things up for UConn against junior Renee Sharma (6-0, 7-5) to bring her singles record to .500 (9-9).

**What’s Next**  
UConn will be back in action on Wednesday, March 6, in Boston, MA, for a matchup with Boston University.



Isabella Asenov playing against Sacred Heart on Feb. 29, 2024. The Huskies now have a record of 7-4 overall. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNWTENNIS ON INSTAGRAM

## BASKETBALL, cont. from p. 12

It was also nice for Auriemma to allow his stars a breather. It seems like they’ve kept their foot firmly on the gas all year, so giving them a light day on the tail end was a welcome sight. That time on the bench also offered freshman KK Arnold a chance to shine—and she was solid. Arnold led her team to an ugly eight-point fourth quarter, but her efforts throughout the evening were positive. She nabbed three steals to go along with 12 points and a career-best seven boards. Any concerns about 3-point shooting weren’t totally alleviated as she hit on one of five attempts, but her aggression driving to the cup was a nice sight. Arnold will need to be the best version of herself if the Huskies wish to live up

to their aspirations in March, having more nights with this level of intensity. Mühl finished the night with seven assists, tying Renee Montgomery for fourth all-time in UConn history. Her intensity was as high as anyone else for the duration of her time in, even to a fault at times. She dove in for a loose ball with fewer than five minutes left in the blowout but managed to escape the scene completely unscathed. If she doesn’t use her extra year of eligibility, the Huskies’ postseason run could be her last chance to dole out 28 more assists, which would give her the program’s all-time record. That run will kick off this Saturday at the Big East tournament in Uncasville, Conn., where Connecticut looks to continue their dominance against Big East competition.



Daily

Sports

# WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:

## No. 10 Huskies crush Friars to finish perfect in Big East

**by Stratton Stave**  
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Perfection: it's a term that has become synonymous with the No. 10 UConn women's basketball team. They've gone through six entire seasons without a blemish on their record and make all sorts of accomplishments that would be monumental for other schools seem ordinary. On Sunday, the Huskies entered Providence, RI with a chance to complete their 17th perfect conference slate in school history and their first since 2021.

"We've got some pretty good upperclassmen that are pretty tough kids," Coach Geno Auriemma told SNY postgame regarding what led to the undefeated campaign. "They've gotten better and better and they're great leaders...We've had some great contributions from some of our freshmen."

The Friars weren't set to be the toughest challenge, entering with a 6-11 record in the Big East, but no away game is a piece of cake. After a rough and sloppy first quarter, Connecticut found their groove en route to a 65-42 blowout of Providence.

Even as Paige Bueckers scored the contest's first five points, the hosts didn't let it deter them. A Kendall Eddy jumper knotted

the score at 10, but it was UConn's turn to respond. Nika Muhl drained a three to cap off an 11-0 run that had the Huskies up by eight at the end of the quarter.

Connecticut was cruising until Alumni Hall went dead silent early in the second frame. The air was taken out of the building as Bueckers limped across the court and fell to the floor, clutching the same knee that held her out for all of the 2022-23 season. Fortunately, the red-shirt junior re-entered the competition just a moment later.

Not only did she return, but she absolutely torched Providence. As the UConn defense was rock solid, Bueckers scored at will. Whether it was a floater, a triple or anything else, the Friars were completely overwhelmed. With the Huskies allowing just three points in the period, Bueckers finished the half with 17 points to Providence's 16.

Things didn't get any more competitive for the rest of the game, with Connecticut ultimately winning by 23 and leaving their starters on the bench for a nice chunk of the second half. The contributions from anyone not named Aaliyah Edwards or Bueckers were limited, but those two were excellent.

Bueckers had her aforementioned spurt in the second quarter, playing as aggressively in that stretch as she has all year.

She finished with 17 points on 13 shots in just 22 minutes, not really needing to do much after that stretch. But the fire that she showed is what UConn needs if they want to make a deep run.

Bueckers prefers to get her teammates involved and play a holistic game, but with the excess of season-ending injuries the squad has sustained, that's not feasible. There aren't enough viable options to dish the ball to, hence why games where she bears the scoring burden are critical. There aren't many—if any—players in the country with the talent to play basketball at the level that Bueckers can. She just needs to channel those abilities into putting the ball in the basket like never before.

Though she didn't quite do it with the same flare, Edwards played well in her 23 minutes. She dropped in 13 points, seven rebounds and four steals, a modest contribution, but excellent when considering her limited playing time. The former All-American set the tone, neutralizing Olivia Olsen, one of Providence's best players. Edwards has been a major key for Connecticut this year, giving them consistency. When so few things have been stable for this team, knowing what you're getting with Edwards is huge.

See BASKETBALL p. 11



UConn women's basketball destroyed Georgetown 85-44 at Gampel Pavilion on Friday, Feb. 16, 2024. The game was followed by a celebration of UConn's seniors.  
PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



No. 3 UConn runs away with the win against Seton Hall with a score of 91-61 for their last home match of the season on March 3, 2024. The win secured the Big East regular season title, which is the program's first since 1999.  
PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# MEN'S BASKETBALL:

## No. 3 Huskies make Pirates walk the plank 91-61

**by Connor Sargeant**  
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The UConn men's basketball team kept the momentum rolling on Sunday, routing the Seton Hall Pirates 91-61. Their latest win locks up the Big East for Connecticut and puts them in an excellent position to finish out the regular season, especially considering the program will have to play Marquette and Providence on the road. This win was all the sweeter for the Huskies, considering it was Senior Day for Tristen Newton, Cam Spencer, Hassan Diarra and Andrew Hurley.

Early on, it was evident that this would be a battle down low, as UConn's first four buckets came in the paint. Not to mention, Seton Hall implemented plenty of off-ball movement to set up looks in the paint, and they were largely successful early on. For the first 10 minutes, this game was neck and neck, with both sides trading blows and each program never gaining an edge. However, as the first half progressed, Connecticut kept pulling away, thanks to the play of Stephon Castle and Donovan Clingan.

The Connecticut freshman was doing everything right for the Huskies on both sides of the ball. The Georgia guard put up 11 points on 4-5 shooting, including an unreal steal and slam that showed off his ability to quickly change directions and impact the game in a big way. It was Castle's fastbreak jam that signified the unofficial turning point in the first half for the Huskies. After that, Connecticut went on their run, and it was a true team effort. Whether it was Newton taking a charge or Clingan cleaning up down low, everyone played their part, a huge reason as to why the Huskies led by 15 at the half.

Clingan put together yet another solid first-half outing, accumulating 10 points on an efficient 4-9 from the field. Not to mention, the 7-foot-2 Bristol native got it going defensively, picking up three blocks and six first-half rebounds.

Despite all of the good things they did, it wasn't all sunshine and rainbows for Connecticut. Seton Hall guard Dylan Addae-Wusu locked up Spencer in the first half, holding him to just one shot and no points. Samson Johnson also had a first half to forget, accumulating three first-half fouls.

Dre Davis had the best first half of any Pirate, putting up 16 points on 5-7 shooting. However, his Seton Hall teammates failed to make the same effect he did, as no other player scored over eight first-half points.

The second half was more or less the same story, with the Huskies keeping the pedal to the metal and Castle leading the charge. The 6-foot-6 guard put up another 10 points on 5-7 shooting, including a couple of electric dunks. Many Husky fans quickly pointed out that this was one of the freshman's most complete performances all season long, and the Georgia native noted that his teammates setting him up helped spark his highlight-reel performance.

Another Husky who put together a solid showing was Alex Karaban, who accumulated 13 points on 5-12 shootings. His performance is all the more encouraging when you consider the offensive funk he has been in of late. Head coach Dan Hurley noted postgame that Alex's offensive blues are normal to go through and that his impact goes beyond the boxscore.

"I think [Karaban] did other things. He problem solved, he played really good defense, he moved the ball, he cut, he drove," Hurley said. "Alex gets hot in

March. There's a difference between shooting well and playing well. He played well."

Newton kept rolling for the Huskies, finishing with another double-double: 17 points and 10 assists in 32 minutes of work. Hurley told the media postgame about how Newton impacts the game every time he is out on the court and how Newton's accomplishments up to this point will be tough for any guard to match in two years. The East Carolina transfer has a chance to make his resume even longer as the postseason tournaments are nearing.

Despite the lopsided scoreline, there were some bright spots for the Pirates. Davis finished with 20 points. Not to mention, Kadary Richmond had a solid 15-point, five-rebound outing.

However, UConn's defensive performance limited nearly everyone else on the Pirates. The program forced 11 Seton Hall turnovers and outrebounded the Pirates 38-26. Not to mention, Clingan singlehandedly had five blocks and 11 rebounds on top of his 19 points.

Sunday's win was all the more satisfying for Husky fans, considering one of their three losses all season long came at Seton Hall on Dec. 20. Since the neutral site in-conference tournament is not that far away, there is a chance that these sides will get to play out the grudge match with larger stakes on the line.

This position sets the Huskies up nicely for not only the Big East tournament but March Madness in general, as the Huskies have sewn up a top seed in the East over North Carolina. As Newton, Clingan and the rest of the team mentioned, "the job is not yet finished."

Sunday was a solid win for the program. However, the real test is just around the corner.