



## ‘That’s Why I Have 86 Meetings Scheduled!’ - UConn President Maric Addresses Critics at University Senate

by John Haslun | STAFF WRITER | HE/HIM/HIS | john.haslun@uconn.edu



University Senate meeting taking place at McHugh hall in Storrs, Conn. on March 4, 2024. Many senate members asked questions on what UConn plans to do for its future.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRIAN JEREZ, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

At a University Senate session held in McHugh Hall on Monday, March 4, University of Connecticut faculty members were presented with an opportunity to question President Radenka Maric regarding the university’s \$70 million budget shortfall.

The University Senate, a legislative body made up of both faculty and student representatives, is endowed with the powers to establish and amend university policies not already under the purview of another institution. Following the presentation of the “Report of the President,” Maric took questions and concerns from university senators on the subject of the cuts and their projected impact.

In January, the UConn administration revealed plans to reduce their academic op-

erating support budgets by 15% over five years, drawing intense criticism from prominent groups of faculty, staff and students. Projections indicate the cuts, if made, would result in increased class sizes, fewer class selections, the elimination of graduate student positions and in some cases, entire graduate programs.

The March 4 meeting marked the first time to date that Maric has been able to address the concerns of the University Senate in person. In a separate meeting on Feb. 5, she appeared virtually while traveling to discuss budgetary concerns with state officials.

First, Maric addressed lingering anxiety over the university’s contract with Huron Consulting, a management consulting firm linked

to mass downsizing and layoffs at universities across the country.

She reiterated that Huron’s role at UConn had nothing to do with the budget cuts, and that their consulting was instead used for the purpose of comparative data analysis.

“They compare us to other universities, Rutgers, Stony Brook, UMass Amherst, Vermont, UMaine[...]compare the size of the classes, enrollment in the undergraduate program, size of the faculty, and send all of that data to us,” she explained.

Maric noted that the university “couldn’t pick up anyone else fast enough to pursue what we requested.”

One senator engaged in a lengthy exchange with the president and UConn CFO Jeffrey Geoghegan over the cuts, questioning their neces-

sity and the figures surrounding them, particularly the 15% reduction in operating support for academic units.

“In September, we had a meeting with legislators. They said, you are not doing any layoffs, cutting of programs, or tuition increases,” Maric responded. “We had to show something that we are doing [to address the budget].”

“We are asking for the full amount [of state support],” she noted. “But based on that request that we had, we had to put the 15% in over a period of five years.”

“The numbers will change as we continue to move forward,” indicated Geoghegan. “There was no magic number or calculation behind the 3%. It was the delta, or difference, we had to solve for.”

In response to a question regarding the alleged elimination of the history department graduate program, Maric expressed confusion over the idea that deans of departments in CLAS were already beginning to apply the cuts to their own departments.

“There was no directive from my office to say programs must be cut,” Provost Anne d’Alleva explained. “My directive was to be as efficient as possible... let’s modernize our degrees, let’s think about revenue-generating programs... these are the conversations we’re having [instead of cuts].”

In an attempt to end confusion about the status of budget cut proposals, Maric clarified the university’s next steps if the state were to meet the funding target UConn is lobbying for.

“The rescission will be off the table at the latest until the next year,” she said. “I don’t want any cuts... if we don’t get the money, we still have enough in reserves.”

See SENATE, p. 3

## USG closes its Tier II funding budget, says fee increase would sufficiently cover budget

by Aiza Shaikh  
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The University of Connecticut’s Undergraduate Student Government (USG) reached its budget cap for Tier II organizations last week and had to close this year’s funding system, according to an email sent to club officers Monday.

“USG has run out of available funds to distribute to clubs this year,” stated the email. “Due to this, we are closing our Tier-II Funding System effective immediately.”

According to USG Comptroller Ben Keilty, the total amount of funding requested by clubs went over \$1.2 million last year. This year, clubs were only able to request \$900,000 before USG ran out of funds to give.

“It is clear as we established last year that if USG has the funds, clubs will want \$1.2 million worth of funding,” Keilty said. “This year we only had \$900,000 available, and in fact, that is still using up some of those extra funds that we had as a result of COVID.”

This point in the year differs from previous years, when the budget would run out at the end of the semester or never at all.

“We’ve never gotten to this point before... last year was the first year we went over [the budget],” said USG Funding Staff Supervisor Stephanie Boisrond. “Before starting funding this year we thought we would maybe have issues around late March, but early February was not our expectation.”

According to USG’s email, the reason for this early closing of the Tier II funding system comes from increased demand of clubs, as well as an unchanged budget for the past 10 years.

See USG, p. 2

## WHAT TO KNOW IF YOU ARE STAYING ON CAMPUS OVER SPRING BREAK

by Hallie LeTendre | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | SHE/HER/HERS | hallie.letendre@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut’s spring break is coming up next week. From March 11 to March 15, classes will not be in session.

For students who are staying on campus next week, there is some key information to know regarding food, housing and building hours.

Student meal plans will first see changes this Friday for dinner. Only McMahon and Northwest dining halls will be open for dinner from 4:15 p.m. until 7:15 p.m.

Over the weekend, until March 16, McMahon will be open for breakfast from 7 a.m. until 9:30 a.m., for lunch from 11 a.m. until 2:15 p.m. and for dinner from 4 p.m. until 7:15 p.m.

Additionally, students can fill out a meal request form on the dining services website to request meals throughout the week of spring break. The service is free, but the number of meals offered is limited to three per day.

Ramadan dining will be available during the week for dinner from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. More information about the service can be found on their website.

Student union restaurants, campus cafes and retail locations will be open over break with limited hours.

UConn’s Husky Harvest food pantry will be open on Thursday from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

All meal plans will resume on Sunday, March 17 with South serving breakfast from 8 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. South and Northwest will serve brunch from 10:30 a.m. until 2:15 p.m. All dining halls except for Buckley will serve dinner from 4:15 p.m. until 7:15 p.m.

The UConn Rec Center will be open during the week of spring break from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

On Saturday and Sunday the rec will be open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with more details listed on their website.



Swan Lake is located on the UConn Storrs campus between the Chemistry Building and the Phillip E. Austin Building. Swan Lake is a popular place for students to enjoy warm weather.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CONNOR SHARP, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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## News

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“So far this year, USG has received 1,126 funding requests from 202 Tier-II groups,” the email said. “This is an increase from last year’s 1,026 requests from 197 groups.”

In regard to USG’s budget, the email said it “has not increased in nearly a decade, and the additional funds made available during the pandemic have been utilized largely through USG’s Tier II Funding and food insecurity advocacies.”

USG is one of four Tier III organizations requesting a fee increase this year. They are asking for a \$10 increase, which if approved would raise the current \$45 undergraduate student fee to \$55 starting the fall of 2025. This fee makes up a portion of the Student Activities fee in each semester’s fee bill.

This fee increase, according to Keilty, would raise USG’s Tier II budget to an amount sufficient to meet clubs’ requests without closing the funding system.

“Without an increase to the USG budget long term, we’re looking at a number somewhere between \$700,000 and \$800,000 for what USG can give out to clubs and that, we have established, is not enough,” Keilty said.

As stated in the email, USG would need to continue to cut club funding and advocacy initiatives if their request for a fee increase is not accepted.

**“Unfortunately, if USG’s increase request is unsuccessful, we will be forced to make further cuts in all areas, including club funding and advocacy, to ensure that we have enough resources to meet student demand in the long term,”**

“Unfortunately, if USG’s increase request is unsuccessful, we will be forced to make further cuts in all areas, including club funding and advocacy, to ensure that we have enough resources to meet student demand in the long term,” the email said.

“USG exists to represent you and your interests. Whatever you decide, we look forward to supporting you in your clubs’ initiatives and the issues that matter most to you,” the email added.

The vote for fee increases for USG and other Tier IIIs is currently open, ending on Thursday, March 7. It can be found in the Referenda section of the joint elections ballot.

## Miami Beach is breaking up with spring break — or at least trying to



**Pedestrians walk along Ocean Drive with its beautiful Art Deco buildings, Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024, in Miami Beach, Fla. Miami Beach officials are implementing a series of measures to discourage non residents from going to South Beach for spring break. They include curfews, DUI checkpoints and closing parking garages.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARTA LAVANDIER/AP

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Miami Beach is trying to break up with spring break, but it’s not yet clear whether spring break will take the hint.

After three consecutive years of spring break violence, Miami Beach officials are implementing monthlong security measures aimed at curbing the chaos, including parking restrictions for non-residents and closing sidewalk cafes on busy weekends. The city has warned visitors to expect curfews, bag searches at the beach, early beach closures, DUI checkpoints, and arrests for drug possession and violence. Gov. Ron DeSantis announced Tuesday that 45 state law enforcement officers are also being deployed to the city to bolster the police.

But business owners in the city’s world-famous South Beach neighborhood are now concerned that they’ll lose money during one of the busiest times of the year, and civil rights advocates say the restrictions are an overreaction to large Black crowds.

Many of the city’s restrictions aren’t new, but in past years, they were instituted as emergency measures during the unofficial holiday — not measures put in place ahead of time.

“The status quo and what we’ve seen in the last few years is just not acceptable, not tolerable,” Miami Beach Mayor Steven Meiner said.

Meiner said crowds have become unmanageable despite a robust police presence. He said the city, which is situated on a barrier island across the bay

from Miami, can only hold so many people, and that capacity has often exceeded what’s safe for both visitors and residents during the break.

DeSantis said at a Miami Beach news conference that Florida is going to crack down on anyone who violates the law during spring break.

“Florida is a very welcoming state. We welcome people to come and have a good time. What we don’t welcome is criminal activity. What we don’t welcome is mayhem and people who want to wreak havoc on our communities,” he said.

Most spring break activity centers around a 10-block stretch of Ocean Drive known for its art deco hotels, restaurants and nightclubs.

David Wallack, owner of Mango’s Tropical Cafe, said Miami Beach has always thrived on celebration, and choking visitor access will turn the vibrant, eclectic city into a retirement community.

“I believe we need to create something big, another big event in March because March has fallen off the edge of the cliff,” Wallack said.

Wallack and others have proposed a large music festival during the third week of spring break — when aimless and unruly crowds tend to reach their climax — with the hope that attendees will disperse the loitering mobs.

Meiner said the city has spent millions of dollars on concerts and other events in the past with little effect in mitigating the violence. He said businesses

suffer when violent mobs gathering along Ocean Drive force them to close, adding that the people who are primarily causing the problems aren’t spending money in the city anyway.

“They’re not staying in the hotels,” Meiner said. “They’re not visiting our businesses.”

Some civil rights advocates, however, believe the restrictions are racially motivated.

South Beach became popular among Black tourists about two decades ago as promoters organized Urban Beach Week during the Memorial Day weekend. Many locals have complained about violence and other crime associated with the event, which led to an increased police presence. But the event’s continued popularity correlates to a bump in Black tourism throughout the year.

Stephen Hunter Johnson, an attorney and member of Miami-Dade’s Black Affairs Advisory Board, said city officials are only cracking down so hard because many of the visitors are Black.

“Everybody loves this idea that they are free from their government intruding on them,” Johnson said. “But amazingly, if the government intrudes on Black people, everyone’s fine with it.”

Miami Beach’s mayor rejects the notion that the city’s actions have anything to do with race.

“I have a moral obligation to keep people safe, and right now, it is not safe,” Meiner said.

In the Florida Panhandle, the longtime spring break destination of Panama City Beach has experienced a similar escalation in violent crime, but Police Chief

Eusebio Talamantez attributes that to people taking advantage of the environment, not actual college students on spring break.

“When you think of spring break, you might think of vacation, a collegiate break, maybe some fistfights and some keg stands,” Talamantez said. “It has evolved into shootings, mass riots, rape and homicide.”

Panama City Beach’s violence came to a head in 2015 when a house party shooting left seven people wounded. The city subsequently banned alcohol on the beach and cracked down on unpermitted events, among other things. Local businesses sued the city later that year, claiming the new rules unfairly targeted events popular with Black visitors, but the lawsuit was dropped several months later.

Talamantez said the measures were somewhat successful, but a massive hurricane in late 2018 and COVID-19 lockdowns in 2020 disrupted the city’s ability to manage crowds once pandemic restrictions were lifted, leading to a resurgence in the violence.

A renewed crackdown in 2023, however, led to a 44% reduction in crime, and the city is imposing similar rules this year. Talamantez said he doubts anything Miami Beach is doing will be more strict than the enforcement measures in Panama City Beach.

“We’re just trying to create an environment that says loud and clear in big bold letters that we are a municipality of law and order,” Talamantez said. “And law and order does not go away just because you’re on spring break.”

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**SENATE, cont. from p. 1**

“Legislators said ‘Are you going to do the cuts?’ And I said no.”  
 Associate Professor of political science Michael Morrell sought clarification on whether or not the administration had spent temporary state money on ongoing costs.

“That’s correct,” Maric admitted. “Because we spent it on new faculty. New faculty requires ongoing costs[...] You can’t accept more students without providing more faculty. We cannot put in a hiring

freeze because they ask us to enroll more students.”

“How much more? They have their own ideas, and that’s why I have 86 meetings!”

Following the conclusion of the President’s Report, Maric received no applause. Many of the professors in attendance remained skeptical of the university’s rhetoric regarding the budget crisis.

“[Maric] didn’t respond to my question about changing the composition of the faculty to hire teaching faculty instead of research faculty,” Associate Professor of economics

and Treasurer of the UConn AAUP Oskar Harmon lamented. “Even in December, they didn’t change the plans.”

“If you’re hiring research faculty, they teach three courses a year for the first five years. If you hire teaching faculty, they teach six courses a year plus some other service,” Harmon said. “So that would be an easy way to increase the faculty that we need for the larger enrollment that we’re expecting.”

While the university must hire faculty, in part because of the demands of the state legislature, Harmon indicated they

still have a choice regarding what type of faculty they hire, and an important one at that.

“I think that the step back [for UConn] is to say ‘we’re not going to make you reduce your budget this year,’” Harmon said regarding the confusion over the history department cuts. “It doesn’t have the ‘warm and fuzzy’ when you tell people, we’re taking your money away and we want to work with you.”

In an address to the Board of Trustees titled “Recommitting to the Mission of UConn as the Flagship University of

Connecticut,” Harmon outlined his concerns with the university’s approach to the cuts. While the projected deficit of \$23 million is large, he noted, “it is by far not the largest we have faced,” and does not justify cuts that “jeopardize the future” of CLAS graduate programs.

“We are a university that has shared governance,” Harmon said. “I think they will work with the faculty to try and address this in a way that they haven’t done so far... as [the President] said, we’re all one UConn.”

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# Conversations with Karla:

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

Hello and welcome back to Conversations with Karla! In case you missed it, last week we discussed how the fear of missing out intensifies between high school and college. This week, I met with Olivine Harvey, a sixth-semester marketing major, to talk about how social media can make people feel like they're not doing enough.

Harvey shared that her TikTok algorithm is filled with "Get Ready With Me" and "Day in the Life" videos. We all know the type. They're videos or slideshows of college-aged students documenting nearly every part of their days from their 4 a.m. wake-up call to their 8 p.m. bedtime. The people creating this kind of content seem to have their lives all figured out with their early-morning workouts, consistent meal prep and admirable academic diligence.

When she first watches these videos, Harvey feels inspired, thinking that if these people can live this way, then so can she. However, she shared that after a while, she feels like she can't keep up. "I think I watch them because I think [the productive lifestyle] is something I should be doing. Every time I watch [a video] I'm like, 'I should be this productive, I should be doing this much,'" she said.

Recently, Harvey has seen a shift in social media on this topic. She said that a few creators who document a realistic

day in their lives are sprinkled throughout her algorithm. Harvey added that watching that particular content makes her feel better because she knows that not everyone actually sustains the lifestyle they portray on social media. She explained that she knows not everybody is living by a set routine, but when it's all she sees, it can be hard to differentiate between reality and the social media portrayal. She said that seeing unfiltered

**"I think it's so subjective what works for each person"**  
OLIVINE HARVEY

realities being promoted on social media helps her know she is not alone in not pursuing a certain lifestyle.

Harvey shared that she has a friend who lives the kind of life depicted in these videos. Harvey described that while this friend does all the things shown in these "Day in the Life" videos, she does not live by them every day. Seeing this reality through her friend helps Harvey re-

alize that what she sees on social media is there for a reason: it's the small part of one's life that people want to be seen. Having this friend has helped Harvey differentiate between real life and social media. "She could 100% be producing that content and I know that there's another 70% of her life that she would not be sharing on social media," Harvey said.

She also explained how there appear to be two motives behind depicting this "perfect" lifestyle. She said that for the most part, people create this content solely to provide entertainment or motivate other people. However, she said that some videos seem to brag, as if the person documenting their life is trying to say, "I'm a busy college student but I still have time for all of this."

Harvey said that if these "Get Ready With Me" and "Day in the Life" videos disappeared one day, she would not be upset. "I think it's so subjective what works for each person," she said. She explained this by saying how there are some days when she wakes up late and still feels productive because she did everything she needed to get done, and there are other days when she wakes up incredibly early and feels like she did nothing.

That's all for this week's Conversations with Karla! See you next week when we'll meet a new student to discuss a new social media topic.



CLIPART COURTESY OF FREERANGE STOCK

# Social media is FAKE!

# ‘THE GENIUS OF HIP-HOP:’ Appreciating the culture of a musical and historical staple

by Lilith Rampertab | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | SHE/HER/HERS | lilith.rampertab@uconn.edu

Jeffrey Ogbonna Green Ogbar Ph.D is a history professor and the director of the Center for the Study of Popular Music at the University of Connecticut. He offered a lecture on the genius of hip-hop to close off the end of Black History Month on Thursday, Feb. 29.

Entering the Student Union theater, the audience was greeted with a mix of hip-hop songs from throughout the decades courtesy of DJ MoreLifee.

Residential Life employee James Walker took the stage to introduce himself. He then gave the podium to Denardia Amponsah-Amfo, who delivered the land acknowledgment with an added clause about the harm that American colonialism dealt to Indigenous American and African peoples.

Walker then gave a recap of what new occurrences happened at UConn this Black History Month, those being that there is a new director of the African American Cultural Center and that this is the first year in which there are learning communities for both Black women (BSOUL) and men (SchOLA<sup>2</sup>RS). Jeffery Hines took to the podium to

center the conversation on celebrating Black history year-round instead of just pigeonholing it to a single month.

UConn ENCORE performed a

short but incredibly sweet hip-hop dance to what DJ MoreLifee played. A group of women then made a semicircle on stage and rapped to segments of mul-



MF DOOM, a modern hip-hop artist, sits in front of a microphone. Jeffrey Ogbonna Green Ogbar credits MF DOOM as one of the most underrated rappers of all time.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF @MFD00M ON INSTAGRAM



Tupac Shakur was a well-known hip-hop artist whose work was showcased at the ‘The Genius of Hip-Hop’ event.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF @2PAC ON INSTAGRAM

most visible part of hip-hop is the MC,” he said.

After acknowledging how many genres of music were pioneered by the African-American com-

munity, Ogbar defined ‘genius,’ along with the help of the Merriam-Webster Dictionary and philosopher David Hume as someone or something that is disconnected from society with intellectual and creative prowess. He then showed a quote by Arthur Schopenhauer “Genius hits a target no one else can see.”

Ogbar then shifted the focus to the detractors of hip-hop, saying that the detractors of hip-hop are parallel to the detractors of jazz. He mentioned his back and forth with John McWhorter, who believes that “hip-hop creates nothing” as well as others who argue that the artform is “crude, vulgar, un-loving, homophobic, anti-social, anti-intellectual [and] misogynistic.” Ogbar juxtaposed these statements with the definition of confirmation bias.

Ogbar played a guessing game with the audience in which the audience had to guess if the quote was from an MC or a famous poet. The most surprising one was that a quote containing the word “shooters” was a Shakespearean quote, as most believed the quote was more contemporary. The point

of this game was to prove that hip-hop is a valid and eloquent form of expression just like poetry. “While rap is an established form of poetry, there are aesthetic differences,” Ogbar said.

To end the lecture, Ogbar showed a website where rappers’ vocabularies were compared to Shakespeare’s and Moby Dick’s. He reflected on how some rappers, like DMX and Drake, were good at writing hooks and that is the reason why they were placed on the lower end of the chart. He then reflected on the importance of the higher ranking MF DOOM, saying “MF DOOM is one of the most underrated rappers of all time,” and that he had a vivid imagination.

There was a short Q&A session where a question was asked about gentrification and the evolution of hip-hop, to which Ogbar recommended Lance Freeman’s book “There Goes the ‘Hood’ for the former question due to its analysis of data surrounding gentrification and the surprising results drawn from that data. Ogbar stated that horrible conditions shouldn’t be preserved for the sake of art and that poorer families tend to move more often. “It just so happens that beauty can sometimes evolve out of ugliness,” he said.

Following the event was a book sale and signing for two of Ogbar’s books outside of the theater as well as a reception with food in the ballroom.



Queen Latifah addresses the audience on “The Tonight Show” on Feb. 15, 2024. Latifah is a prominent figure in the hip-hop world.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF @QUEENLATIFAH ON INSTAGRAM

multiple hip-hop songs including “U.N.I.T.Y.” by Queen Latifah, “Doo Wop (That Thing)” by Ms. Lauryn Hill, “Brenda’s Got A Baby” and “Changes” by 2Pac. The energy was infectious and enjoyable. You could tell the performers were having fun and that they loved hip-hop.

Terrence Abney then introduced Ogbar, stating that he was born in Chicago but raised in Los Angeles, and that his book “Hip-Hop Revolution: The Culture and Politics of Rap” won the W.E.B. Du Bois Book Prize in 2008. He has been teaching at UConn since 1997.

Ogbar began the official lecture by contextualizing the origins of hip-hop. It began in 1973 in the South Bronx. The Bronx was viewed by some to be a “dystopian society” due to the extreme amount of poverty there. The Black and Brown kids in The Bronx created hip-hop to entertain themselves according to Ogbar.

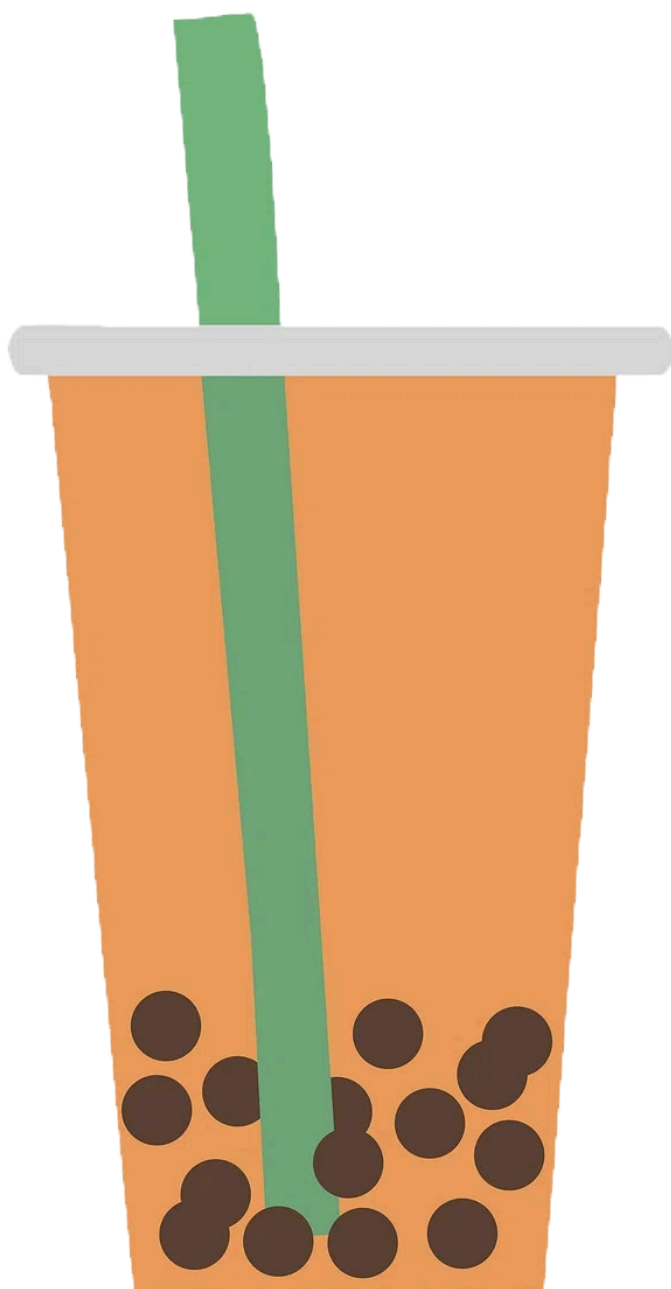
Ogbar likened hip-hop to a four-legged chair, meaning that the four pillars of hip-hop are the MC, the DJ, the breakdancer and the graffiti artist. “The



**Life**

@dailycampuslife

# FOOD FIGHT: THE BATTLE OF THE BOBAS



CLIPART COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL

by **Charlotte Chen** | DIGITAL EDITOR | SHE/HER/HERS | charlotte.chen@uconn.edu  
and **Naiiya Patel** | BUSINESS MANAGER | SHE/HER/HERS | naiiya.patel@uconn.edu

Welcome to the first-ever written food fight of The Daily Campus. Every week, we will discuss two of our favorite foods or orders and battle out who wins. This week, we're kicking things off with a defense of our favorite boba beverages (specifically from Whale Tea in Storrs Center).

## CHARLOTTE:

I remember when I first stumbled upon this combination. I was scrolling through The Whale Tea menu looking for something new to try, something fresh. Something popped out at me. I noticed the milk foam tea series and couldn't believe that I had never tried one. Upon tasting, I was pleasantly surprised by the wonderful mix of herbal jasmine tea with the creamy, slightly salty milk foam and the succulent and fruity lychee jelly. Since then, this drink has been my consistent go-to, and I can't see myself stopping anytime soon. Let's be honest, having a milk-heavy drink with sugar syrups all the time can be a lot. Don't get me wrong, I do like brown sugar milk tea, but I can't have it all the time. This specific order on the other hand? I could drink that stuff every day. For those of you who want to try the drink, I've found that 70% is the optimal sweetness with half ice. If you ever want to spice things up, jelly boba is a great addition! I've had some great boba from Taiwan (the birthplace of boba), and frankly, The Whale Tea in Storrs, Connecticut does not make particularly good brown sugar milk tea, but that doesn't stop me from enjoying it every once in a while. Whenever I want a consistent drink to fall back to, milk foam jasmine tea with lychee jelly has been there for me. Not to mention that the drink combo is cheaper overall compared to most other things on the menu, totaling to \$5 before tax.

**MILK FOAM JASMINE TEA WITH LYCHEE JELLY IS THE MOVE**

VS

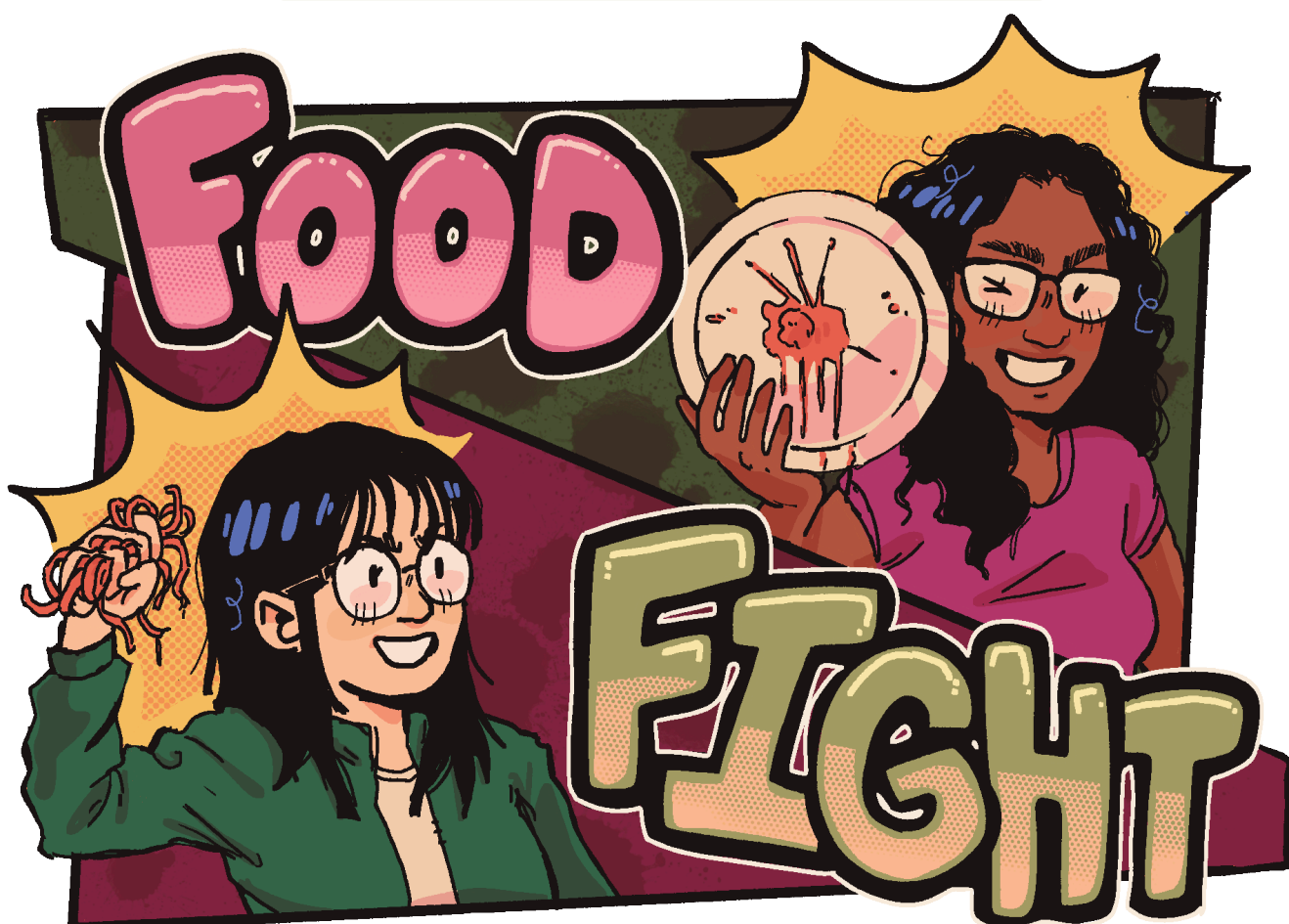
## NAIIYA:

Everyone who is a Whale Tea connoisseur knows that brown sugar milk tea is THE drink. If you stand at the counter, there will be a brown sugar milk tea waiting for pick-up within five minutes. Basic does not mean bad folks. Brown sugar milk tea is the basic drink of every Whale Tea goer because it is the best drink around. I discovered brown sugar milk tea after a horrible try with taro milk tea. I was looking through the menu and found the brown sugar lighting up with 23,7 thousand orders. I was so excited because it was exactly what I imagined boba to look like. The beautiful brown sugar drizzles on the inside of the cup with the warm tapioca pearls best represents boba. I used to go 100% sugar in my customizations but as my sweet tooth has calmed down, I've gone to a cool 70% sugar. I actually got to visit The Whale Tea in Chinatown, London which was an amazing brown sugar boba experience. Glad to know that Whale Tea is keeping it real all over the globe. It is a heavy drink, I won't deny that. However, it is the true boba experience and that is why I will always stand up for brown sugar milk tea. That first sip is a life-changing moment. Nothing makes me happier than the warm boba with the sweet milk tea. We are not arguing which tea you can drink every day, but rather which is the true winner of boba drinks. That, my friends, is brown sugar milk tea. #Brown Sugar Milk Tea 4ever.

**BROWN SUGAR MILK TEA LOVERS, STAND UP**

## BOBA TRUCE

Whether you're a milk tea or jasmine tea enthusiast, you can't go wrong with any option at Whale Tea, unless you like their taro milk tea boba. If you've ever had The Whale Tea taro milk tea, you have had the worst boba there. See you next week!



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



# Opinion

## The Daily Campus

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Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed by individual writers in the opinion section do not reflect the views and opinions of The Daily Campus or other staff members. Only articles labeled "Editorial" are the official opinions of The Daily Campus.

CARTOON BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



### ► Editorial

# SUPPORT THE DAILY CAMPUS; VOTE YES!

Featured on the ballot of the University of Connecticut Undergraduate Student Government elections this year from Tuesday, March 5 at noon to Thursday, March 7 at noon is a student fee referendum, which includes a question asking students if they support a request for a fee increase from The Daily Campus.

The Daily Campus is a Tier-III organization at UConn, meaning we are supported by student fees. As such, our annual budget review process requires a presentation to the Student Activity Fee Advisory Committee (SASFAC), including any requests for a fee increase the organization may wish to proceed with. As a part of a petition for a fee increase, a Tier-III organization must provide undergraduate students, who would be paying the fee if approved, an opportunity to vote for or against the proposed increase.

The Daily Campus Editorial Board — and the entire Daily Campus — asks the undergraduate student population to vote yes for The Daily Campus fee increase. This request comes out of true necessity for our organization.

Currently, The Daily Campus receives \$10 per semester for a total of \$20 per academic year from each undergraduate student at UConn — a charge that is included within the "student activities" fee within the undergraduate fee bill. We are asking for a semesterly increase of \$4, for a total of \$28 per academic year. While The Editorial Board understands the financial barriers to higher education and that any fee increase is significant, we also believe it is important to note that compared to the rising costs of tuition, this is not a large amount of money and it will stabilize our organization's budget for years to come.

As we ask for student support, we understand we are asking you to agree to paying more money. Please note: this vote guarantees neither a fee increase for us nor an increase to your fee bill. The annual SASFAC review process has multiple parts and the student fee referendum is not the sole decision. Instead, voting yes for The Daily Campus fee increase is a vote of confidence in our work.

With that being said, the individuals that work at The Daily Campus work incredibly hard to provide for our fellow undergraduates. We are funded by you, and our work is for you. Most importantly, The Daily Campus provides comprehensive and extensive coverage of UConn and the surrounding community. No other news outlet in the state is as closely tuned-in to what is going on at UConn. No one else will take the time to thoughtfully cover the news and major campus events that truly impact student life, like Werth flooding, student groups facing harassment, bus

services being significantly cut or the ongoing budget cuts. Professional news organizations cannot cover such events to the degree we have at The Daily Campus.

There is significant value in having a free press on campus. The Daily Campus is editorially independent from the university, meaning we provide an opportunity for students to push for accountability from the administration. Take away our presence and there will only be UConn Today, which is a public relations outlet for UConn — meaning that what is published in UConn Today is certainly not a 100% accurate representation of the entire picture in Storrs or at our regional campuses. Without The Daily Campus to independently verify it, news coverage of UConn isn't news — it's PR.

The Daily Campus uses our student fee revenue to print the paper five days a week and pay our workers. If we cannot afford to do so, we risk missing out on significant, in-demand campus news — case in point, it is impossible to find a spare original copy of our newspaper from the day after the UConn men's basketball team won the 2023 national championship. Furthermore, all of these are opportunities for students that pay our fee as well — you can join us anytime!

It's also important to note that we are not the only Tier-III organization requesting a fee increase this year. Of the four organizations requesting a fee increase this year, three of them are media organizations that exist to document and cover student life at UConn. The idea these organizations that struggle financially to the point of not being able to maintain their operations should be concerning to students. As we noted last year, The Editorial Board believes the funding process for Tier-III organizations should be democratized and made less dependent on student fees. However, at the moment, student fees are one of our only available methods for funding our work. At The Daily Campus, we depend upon and appreciate the community's support.

Please take the opportunity to vote yes for The Daily Campus fee increase, from noon on Tuesday, March 5 to noon on Thursday, March 7 at [vote.uconn.edu](http://vote.uconn.edu), to support The Daily Campus and what we provide to students.

Our mission statement reads, "We strive to provide the UConn community with fair, accurate, relevant and editorially independent content, to take on student interests as our own interests, and to provide the best possible environment for students to learn, experience and develop skills related to news media." We can't do that without your help on the ballot this year.

FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS



## Lower the drinking age

by Dan Stark | ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR  
HE/HIM/HIS | [daniel.stark@uconn.edu](mailto:daniel.stark@uconn.edu)

If you asked most young adults what their least favorite parts of being in this age bracket are, one of the most likely responses — other than the constant worry of what the hell they're going to do with their life — would be that the drinking age is 21. The drinking age in the United States has been 21 since the passage of the National Minimum Drinking Age Act in 1984, which raised the age from 18 to 21. This has remained the law of the land for 40 years, much to the chagrin of young adults and college students nationwide. But I say it's about time to change this outdated law and lower the drinking age to 18 again.

Now, some of you are probably reading this and thinking that I'm only writing this so I can go get wasted at Ted's or the other local watering holes around campus, but I promise that my argument has nothing to do with that. My first main point is that raising the drinking age to 21 has not done anything to reduce underage drinking. If anything, drinking culture has become larger than ever. Raising the drinking age to 21 incentivizes teenagers to seek out other ways to obtain alcohol. One of the most common methods to do so is purchasing a fake ID, which is easier now thanks to the many websites selling these powerful pieces of plastic. Underage individuals take a huge risk in buying these, as getting caught using one is a felony in Connecticut and most other states, which is a horrible thing to have on one's permanent record. It's also worth noting that there's a psychological aspect to underage drinking, as there's a thrill that comes from breaking this law. Lowering the drinking age to 18 would greatly reduce the use of fake ID's and not give college students a reason to break the law and give themselves a criminal record.

Next, there are far worse things than drinking that young adults already have the right to do at 18. The most notable of these rights is the ability to purchase a gun. I fail to see the logic in believing that someone at 18 is responsible enough to buy and use a gun at 18 but not responsible enough to buy a 12-pack of Natty Light or whatever the kids are drinking these days. If anything, the age to purchase a gun and the drinking age should be swapped, but I doubt the NRA would ever let that happen (they may even come after me for even suggesting that!). Additionally, men who turn 18 are required to sign up for Selective Service, which registers men for a potential military draft if the U.S. ever needed one. If I or anyone from my generation ever gets sent overseas to some country we're sent over for oil, the right to walk into our local liquor store and make a purchase seems like a pretty fair trade-off to me.

See LOWER, p. 8

# Opinion

Photo of the Day | The fabulous world of drag



The Rainbow Center held their 25th Annual Drag Race inside the Jorgenson for an adoring crowd on March 2, 2024. The night proved very successful headlined and MC'd by drag king Throb Zombie.

PHOTO BY MERGER FERGUSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

### LOWER, cont. from p. 07

Lastly, it's important to consider the circumstances of why the drinking age was raised in the first place. As a social conservative, Ronald Reagan faced pressure from organizations

like Mothers Against Drunk Driving to raise the drinking age. In order to do so, Reagan bullied states into complying with the law by threatening to reduce their federal highway funding by 10%, which sounds like a tactic that I'm surprised Donald Trump and his cronies

didn't employ more often. Reagan showed how out of touch he was to the average American by forcing this into law, which isn't surprising given that he built his legacy on destroying the middle class. Lowering the drinking age back to 18 would be a great way to right one of the longest-lasting

wrongs of the Reagan administration and also revive a necessary discussion about how his administration should be viewed as one of the most disastrous and impactful of the last 50 years - more on that another time.

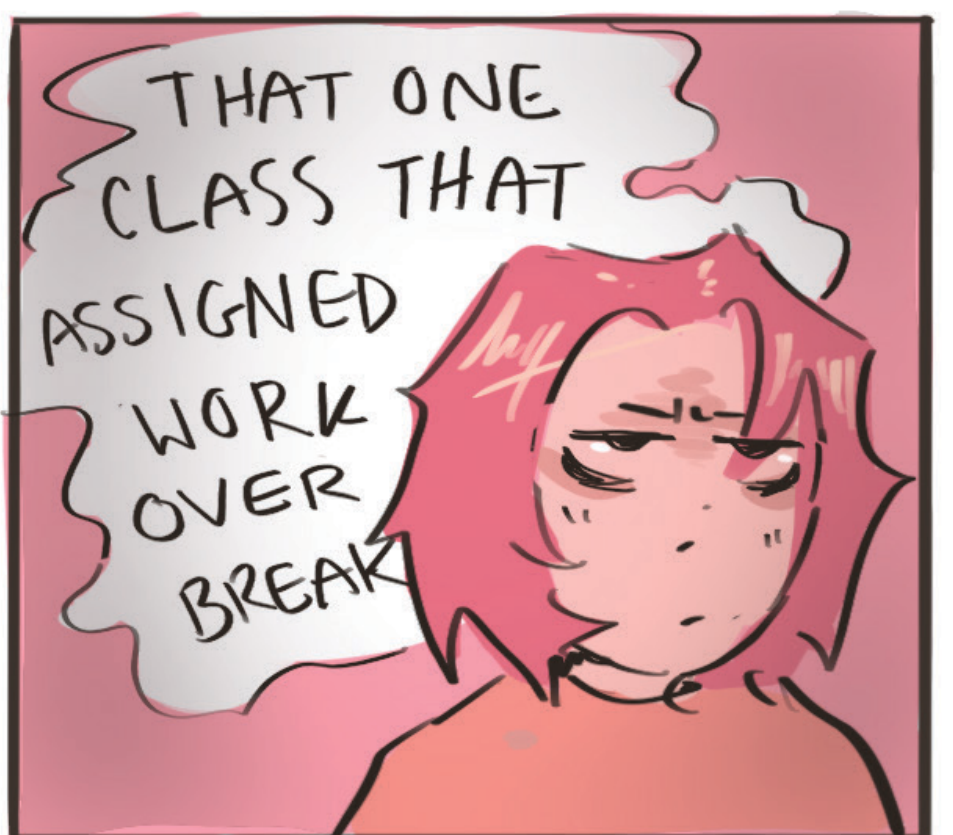
In summary, there's no good reason to keep the drinking age

at 21. Lowering the drinking age would not lead to the moral decay that the Christian right claim it would, but rather encourage young adults to drink safely and responsibly. Plus, the meltdown from the Fox News outrage machine would be legendary.

CARTOON BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# THE DAILY CAMPUS COMICS



CARTOON BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

No. 3 UConn runs away with a 91-61 win against Seton Hall 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



CONTINUED FROM P. 12

Another area to watch for is how Hurley manages the rotation. Players like Solomon Ball and Jaylin Stewart are talented and have shown that when on the floor. However, they have struggled to garner significant playing time, with the Huskies looking to go eight deep, seven playing for more than a few minutes. When freshman Stephon Castle was injured, Ball did take his spot in the starting five. Stewart has filled in here and there for Karaban, although those moments have been far and few between. Look out for how both players are utilized in the home stretch, as giving the starters rest during an intense Big East tournament run is critical.

If the Huskies wish to improve to 17-2 in-conference, they must do their best to limit Marquette's Kam Jones. The 22-year-old guard has been on an offensive tear lately and has the potential to do damage. In his last four games, Jones is averaging over 25 points on nearly 60% from deep, a testament to his deep offensive arsenal. With the loss of Kolek, look for Marquette to lean on Jones to keep the Golden Eagles in

the game. If the Husky defense cannot contain him, Connecticut could find themselves in a similar position to their Feb. 20 showdown at Creighton, where the Bluejays shot an unreal 14-28 from deep in Omaha.

It's March, meaning anything and everything is a possibility. This is a big game for UConn and will have an impact on its momentum headed into both the Big East and NCAA Tournaments. The Huskies have put together a solid season so far, and a win at Marquette would be another feather in their cap. How this squad performs, especially in one of the most hostile places in college basketball, will show fans how ready this team is for pressure-filled situations. Are the Huskies a team that can't get it done in big games on the road? Or will they rise to the occasion and send the Fiserv Forum crowd home packing? A game like this at Marquette is a perfect opportunity for the basketball community to get a temp check of Connecticut, with nearly no long-term implications. Both teams are playing at a high level, and the only sure thing right now is that it will be must-watch basketball.

Women's Tennis

# Huskies and Terriers to square off in Boston



UConn women's tennis plays Xavier on Feb. 10, 2024 at the Magic Lincer Tennis Club. The program fell to the Musketeers by a score of 7-0.

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

by Caleb Cook | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
HE/HIM/HIS | caleb.cook@uconn.edu

The UConn women's tennis team is riding high after winning their last two matches, though they have a tough test coming up. The Terriers of Boston University have lost their last two games but have proven to be a difficult matchup for the Huskies in the past. As the postseason continues to approach, this is looking like a must-win for both sides.

**MATCHUP**

While these teams may have similar records, they come into the match in very different situations. UConn is coming into this one with a respectable 7-4 record (1-2 in conference play). BU has a similar record, currently sitting just above .500 at 6-5. This might come as a surprise to some, as the Terriers started off the season with a remarkable 5-1 record, with four of those wins being 7-0 sweeps. In their five matches since, BU has fallen out of form in a big way. They were swept by Charlotte and No. 49 Harvard but were able to get a much-needed 4-0 win at Western Carolina. They also lost to in-state rival Boston College and Brown, losing 5-2 in each match. They now find themselves in a tough spot, but history is on their side in this important match. UConn on the other hand, started at 4-2 and has maintained consistency throughout. They

snapped their two-match skid and turned it into a winning streak, but that can only take the Huskies so far.

The last time these two faced off was March 2023, where BU came to Connecticut and won with a resounding 7-0 score line. With that win, the Terriers increased their winning streak against the Huskies to three matches. Since the 2013-14 season these squads have matched up eight times, with six of those going in favor of BU. After starting out 3-0 in BU's favor, UConn was able to win two in a row in 2016-17 and 2017-18 to keep things close, but as previously mentioned, it's been all Boston since 2021.

**PLAYERS TO WATCH**

Following their win against Sacred Heart on Thursday, UConn junior Isabel Petri Bere increased her overall singles win total to 18 on the year. She's been playing well in 2024, winning her last two matches en route to an 18-7 singles record.

Right behind Petri Bere are fellow juniors Maria Constantinou and Olivia Wright, who have 14 and 15 singles wins respectively. They've been playing in the first two singles spots all season and have been stalwarts for the Huskies.

For BU, there are four Terriers who have reached double-digit wins in singles. Senior Kaitlin Tan leads the pack with 15 wins and only five losses. Senior Victoria Carlsten and junior Michelle Kleynerman both have 12 wins and freshman Uma Bakaityte has 10. The Terriers have a solid singles rotation with varying experience levels and have proven to be a tough matchup for the Huskies in years prior.



## Sports

Photo of the Day | Winning smiles



UConn women's ice hockey celebrates their Hockey East regular season title with a sold-out crowd at Gampel Pavilion during the mens' basketball match against Seton Hall on March 3, 2024. PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

**by Sam Calhoun**  
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The NFL Draft is slated for next month, where teams will look to add crucial pieces to their franchise's future. The first overall pick belongs to the Chicago Bears, who have an important decision to make. While the team drafted former Ohio State quarterback Justin Fields in the first round of the 2021 NFL Draft, the Bears will have the option of taking former USC standout Caleb Williams.

In this edition of Point/Counterpoint, staff writer Sam Calhoun and campus correspondent Gavin Friedman debate whether the Bears should keep Fields or trade him and draft Williams with the top pick of the NFL Draft.

**Sam:** I think the Bears should keep Fields and build around him instead of drafting Williams and starting fresh. Fields was sacked 44 times, the fifth-most in the league. The Bears could look at the offensive line, as only half of the offensive linemen stood out with potential or performed well enough to receive a solid grade on Pro Football Focus. They could use a better receiver, as wide receiver DJ Moore stood out with almost double the

number of receiving yards tight end Cole Kmet had, and made over 900 yards more than WR2 Darnell Mooney, who finished the season with 414 yards.

If the Bears were to trade down and away from the top quarterback prospects, they could get a lot for the first overall pick, considering the hype built with the quarterback draft class. Overall, I think the Bears need to keep Fields. He became the fourth quarterback since the 1970 AFL-NFL merger to have at least 5000 passing yards and 1500 rushing yards in their first 30 starts.

**Gavin:** I think Fields has the potential to be a good starting quarterback in the NFL, but I think his time in Chicago needs to end before the NFL Draft. The Bears have the opportunity to select Williams with the first overall pick, and I do not think it is one they can pass up. Williams is widely considered an elite prospect with tons of potential in the NFL and had a phenomenal season in 2022 when he won the Heisman Trophy, along with another solid season in 2023.

On the other hand, Fields has shown potential in the NFL but has not been able to perform at a high level in his first three seasons. In 2023, he threw for a career-high 2,562 passing yards, which was only good enough for the 22nd most in the league. Granted, he only played in 13 games, but that is still not very impressive, even

on a per-game basis. I believe Fields would be better off joining a new team with a more complete roster that will allow him to develop into a top-tier quarterback. There should be a few teams interested in Fields, including the Atlanta Falcons, Pittsburgh Steelers, Denver Broncos and Las Vegas Raiders. The decision is one that Bears general manager Ryan Poles needs to get right, and I do not see how he can pass up the opportunity to draft an incredible talent in Williams with the first pick in the draft.

**Sam:** While Williams is considered an incredible talent, he also has some red flags as a prospect. According to Analytics of Dynasty on X (formerly known as Twitter), Williams has the longest time to throw, with 3.26 seconds on average. With a quarterback that gets sacked as much as Fields, Williams would need to get rid of the ball much faster, especially considering the Bears' subpar offensive line.

Williams opted against providing his medical information to every team during the NFL Draft Combine, which is unusual for a prospect as highly rated as he is. If Fields does get traded, the question is what would the Bears get in exchange for the former Ohio State Buckeye? I agree his passing stats are not a sight to see, but considering the options Fields has with the current roster, it is not out of the question that the Bears could look elsewhere.

**Gavin:** Williams may have some red flags, but it is common for there to be some minor concerns about top prospects as they enter the NFL draft. While he may take a long time to get the football out of his hands, there is a lot to love about what Williams brings to the table, including his arm strength, accuracy, decision-making and mobility.

Another issue that Chicago would face if they kept Fields is that he is entering the final year of his rookie contract and the Bears will need to decide whether to exercise his fifth-year option or extend his contract. Both of these options would require a massive financial investment from Chicago. In addition to acquiring an incredible talent in Williams, it will buy the Bears more time before signing a quarterback to a long-term contract. Williams will be cheaper for the team, allowing them to spend more money on other positions, which will help with the development Williams needs in the NFL. With so many other holes in Chicago's roster that need to be filled, this extra money will be essential for Poles to construct a roster that will help Williams succeed.

In a poll conducted by ESPN, a large majority of participating NFL representatives agreed that Chicago would draft Williams on April 25, and for good reason. The combination of Williams' talent, potential and affordability makes this the most logical choice for the Bears.

## WHAT SHOULD THE BEARS DO WITH JUSTIN FIELDS?



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

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



The Daily Campus Sports  
ROUNDTABLE

# Who is the biggest sleeper in their NCAA basketball conference tournament?

**by Sean Ahern**  
STAFF WRITER  
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**Memphis men's basketball**

The 11th week of the AP Poll saw the Memphis Tigers rise to the 10th spot for their wins over solid teams of the likes of Clemson and Texas A&M. It looked as though the defending American Athletic Conference Champions would be in contention for the regular season title, but shortly after they would suffer poor losses to Tulane on

the road and Rice at home. Their defense leaves much to be desired as they rank middle of the pack in adjusted defensive efficiency in the AAC, but they still have an offense full of experienced players like David Jones and Jahvon Quinerly. It seems as though people have written off this squad for dropping a few games. The Tigers are quietly 22-8 and currently on a four game win streak with an important matchup at Florida Atlantic this Saturday. Don't be surprised to see Penny Hardaway steal the automatic bid like they did to Houston last season.

**by Cole Stefan**  
SENIOR COLUMNIST  
HE/HIM/HIS  
cole.stefan@uconn.edu

**Michigan State women's basketball**

The Ohio State Buckeyes, Iowa Hawkeyes and Indiana Hoosiers are the big three in the Big Ten Conference this season. The Spartans, who finished fourth in the conference standings, can spoil each of their plans to conquer the Big Ten Tournament title. Michigan State went 12-6 in conference play and ended the regular season on a

five-game winning streak. Half of those defeats came on the road against the Big Ten's top three teams by just three points apiece. Michigan State has the offense to spar with just about anyone; their 84.5 points per game were second in the Big Ten to only Iowa. Five Spartans, two of whom have started one combined contest, average double figures. With their scoring prowess and disciplined style of play, do not be surprised if Michigan State makes it to the Big Ten championship game. Stealing the automatic bid would be a major step in the right direction for the Spartans' organization.

**by Chris Charbonneau**  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
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**Washington State men's basketball**

The Washington State Cougars have emerged as one of the biggest sleeper teams in the 2024 NCAA March Madness tournament. The Cougars have flown under the radar all season long. They are ranked No. 18 in the AP Poll with a 23-7 overall record and an impressive Pac-12 conference record of

14-5. They tied their program record for most conference wins in a season. They were picked to finish 10th in the preseason poll for their conference and sit in second place behind Arizona. The Cougars are set to face off against the Washington Huskies on Thursday at 6 p.m. If Arizona loses to either UCLA or USC, the Cougars can win the regular season Pac-12 Championship because they have beaten Arizona twice in each of their meetings. Led by Myles Rice, Isaac Jones, Jaylen Wells, Rueben Chinyelu and Andrej Jakimovski, keep an eye out for the Cougars to disrupt your bracket.

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**UMass men's basketball**

As the Minutemen close in on their first 20-win season since 2013-2014, the madness of champ week is right around the corner with the Atlantic-10 conference tournament set to tip off on March 12. Massachusetts, sitting at fifth in the conference, boasts wins over No. 24 South Florida, West Virginia, VCU and an impressive road

win over first-place Richmond. Head coach Frank Martin is no stranger to success in March, leading 7-seeded South Carolina on a magical run to the final four back in 2017. The conference's top offense is led by the forward tandem of Josh Cohen (15.9 points, 6.8 rebounds, 54.5% FG), Matt Cross (15.6 points, 8.2 rebounds, 55.6% FG) and junior guard Rahsool Diggins, who's scored at least 10 points in 15 of his last 18 games. The Minutemen have shown they have the star power to beat the best teams in this conference and are certainly a team to keep an eye on in this tournament.

## Sam's Section: Previewing the final week of the regular season

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The final week of the regular season has arrived, and the end could not be better. In the final week, there are seven AP Top 25 matchups and multiple games where there could be regular season titles clinched. Along with that, the first automatic bids out of 32 will be secured this weekend.

As the final day of the regular season is Sunday, let's look at the biggest races and games decided this week.

**Big 12 regular season title down to Houston and Iowa State; Kansas looks to improve resume on Saturday**

While the two don't play each other this week, Houston and Iowa State are the only two teams with shots at the top seed in next week's Big 12 Tournament. Houston is in first place, leading by one game in the standings. The Cougars can clinch the regular season title if they win just one game this week. The only scenario in which Iowa State can come from behind and steal the regular season title away is if the Cyclones win and Houston loses.

Bracket Matrix, a site that compiles 104 bracketologies, states that Kansas has fallen off the No. 2 seed line. Despite being a lock to go dancing, the Jayhawks have a chance to boost their resume with a massive game at Houston.

Oklahoma and Texas are bubble teams that face off on Saturday. Kansas State and Cincinnati also have work to do for any chance at making the NCAA Tournament.

**MOST IMPORTANT GAMES IN THE BIG 12 THIS WEEK:**

- No. 1 Houston at UCF (7 p.m., Big 12 Now on ESPN+)
- No. 20 BYU at No. 6 Iowa State (9 p.m., ESPN2)
- No. 6 Iowa State at Kansas State (Saturday, 2 p.m., ESPN2)
- Oklahoma at Texas (Saturday, 2 p.m., ESPN)
- West Virginia at Cincinnati (Saturday, 2 p.m., Big 12 Now on ESPN+)
- No. 14 Kansas at No. 1 Houston (Saturday, 4 p.m., ESPN)
- No. 11 Baylor at Texas Tech (Saturday, 6 p.m., ESPN2)

**Duke and North Carolina battle for ACC regular season title; Bubble teams on last chance to improve resume before ACC Tournament**

The ACC is weaker this season, with just two teams ranked in the AP Top 25. Those two are Duke and North Carolina, who will face off at Cameron Indoor Stadium on Saturday night for the top seed in next week's ACC Tournament. The only other team that seems to have clinched a spot in the NCAA Tournament is Clemson, who will wrap up their season against another bubble team after hosting Syracuse on Tuesday night. The bubble teams with work ahead of them are Wake Forest, Virginia, Pittsburgh and Syracuse. It's an important week for a conference that might only have three bids in the NCAA Tournament.

**MOST IMPORTANT GAMES IN THE ACC THIS WEEK:**

- Clemson at Wake Forest (Saturday, 6 p.m., ACC Network)
- No. 7 North Carolina at No. 9 Duke (Saturday, 6:30 p.m., ESPN)
- NC State at Pittsburgh (Saturday, 7:45 p.m., The CW)
- Georgia Tech at Virginia (Saturday, 8 p.m., ACC Network)

**Three-way race for SEC regular season title with Tennessee, Alabama and South Carolina; Texas A&M and Mississippi State aim to improve chances at NCAA bid**

While Tennessee controls its destiny in the SEC, there are scenarios for Alabama and South Carolina to clinch the No. 1 seed in the SEC Tournament. Tennessee only has to win one of their games this week to clinch the regular season championship. Alabama would need to win as well as have Tennessee lose. South Carolina would need Tennessee and Alabama to lose, along with the Gamecocks winning. This month isn't called "March Madness" for nothing. There is a chance for a chaotic final week in the SEC regular season.

It seems guaranteed that the SEC has at least six teams make the NCAA Tournament. However, that number can increase to eight if Texas A&M and Mississippi State can improve their resumes this week.

**MOST IMPORTANT GAMES IN THE SEC THIS WEEK:**

- No. 4 Tennessee at No. 17 South Carolina (7 p.m., ESPN2)
- Mississippi State at Texas A&M (9 p.m., ESPN)
- Arkansas at No. 16 Alabama (Saturday, noon, ESPN)
- Texas A&M at Ole Miss (Saturday, 2 p.m., CBS/Paramount+)
- No. 17 South Carolina at Mississippi State (Saturday, 2:30 p.m., SEC Network)
- No. 15 Kentucky at No. 4 Tennessee (Saturday, 4 p.m., CBS/Paramount+)

**Arizona and Washington State battle for final Pac-12 regular season title; Colorado and Utah look to improve NCAA hopes**

The final season of Pac-12 basketball is not full of championship contenders outside Arizona. Washington State is the only other team ranked in the AP Poll. Those two teams have a shot at the Pac-12 regular season title. Along with that, Colorado and Utah can improve their resumes.

**MOST IMPORTANT GAMES IN THE PAC-12 THIS WEEK:**

- Washington at No. 18 Washington State (Thursday, 9 p.m., FS1)
- Colorado at Oregon (Thursday, 9 p.m., ESPN2)
- No. 5 Arizona at UCLA

(Thursday, 9:30 p.m., ESPN)

Utah at Oregon State (Thursday, 11 p.m., ESPN)

Colorado at Oregon State (Saturday, 5 p.m., Pac-12 Network)

Utah at Oregon (Saturday, 7 p.m., Pac-12 Network)

No. 5 Arizona at USC (Saturday, 10 p.m., ESPN)

**The first automatic bids are set to be clinched this weekend**

Saturday will be the first day a team can punch their ticket to March Madness, and there will be at least one mid-major conference championship game every day from Saturday until March 13.

**HERE IS A LIST OF THE CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES UNTIL OUR NEXT ARTICLE:**

- Ohio Valley Conference Championship (Saturday, 8 p.m., ESPN2/ESPN+)
- Big South Championship (Sunday, noon, ESPN2/ESPN+)
- Missouri Valley Championship (Sunday, 2 p.m., CBS/Paramount+)
- ASUN Championship (Sunday, 2 p.m., ESPN2/ESPN+)
- Sun Belt Championship (Monday, 7 p.m., ESPN+)
- SoCon Championship (Monday, 7 p.m., ESPN+)



# Sports

## WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY

# Top-seeded Huskies host fourth-seeded Boston College in Hockey East Semifinals

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Despite their march to the program's first-ever Hockey East regular season title, the team that has given the No. 10 UConn women's ice hockey team (23-7-5, 19-4-4 Hockey East) the most trouble is the Boston College Eagles (15-13-7, 13-9-5 Hockey East), who will visit the Toscano Family Ice Forum tonight with the winner advancing to the Hockey East championship game.

The Huskies began their postseason run on Saturday afternoon, hosting 10th-seeded Holy Cross. Forward Jada Habisch finished the game with two points, which included a goal and an assist. Senior captain Coryn Tormala found the back of the net for the sixth time this season, with freshman Ashley Allard contributing another goal for her sixth. Junior forward Brianna Ware gave Connecticut a 4-1 cushion in the second period. Despite junior goaltender Tia Chan allowing two goals, the Huskies faced little to no trouble advancing to the semifinal round.

Boston College hosted fifth-seeded Providence College on Friday night in what ended up being a thriller. After the Friars got on the board early in the second period, Boston College sophomore forward Kate Ham scored her third goal of the

season. It was her first in over a month. The game would stay tied and head into overtime. With just under 17.5 minutes into the extra period, freshman forward Sammy Taber came up in a big way to push the Eagles to the semifinal round.

On Friday, the Hockey East announced their Women's All-Star Teams.

UConn had two players on the first team: Habisch and defender Camryn Wong. Wong was also the runner-up for the Army ROTC Hockey East Defender of the Year, while Habisch was named the runner-up for the Hockey East Three Stars Award.

Chan was named to the second team, making her the second-best goaltender according to the 10 head coaches in the league.

Senior forward Kathryn Stockdale was named the best defensive forward in the conference as part of a portion of the honors the league handed out last week.

Boston College did not have anyone named to the first or third teams, but Taber was the highest-rated freshman in the conference, earning a spot on the Hockey East All-Stars Second Team.

Taber joined defender Molly Jordan and forward Julia Pellerin on the Pro Ambitions Hockey East All-Rookie Team and was the only unanimous selection.

Outside of the star freshman, the Huskies will look



UConn women's ice hockey reaches a stalemate against Vermont with a score of 0-0 at the Toscano Ice Forum on Jan. 28, 2024. The Huskies' record is now 17-6-3 this season.

PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

out for forward Sammy Smigliani, who ranks second on the team in assists and points with 15 and 26.

Boston College goaltender Grace Campbell averages 2.45 goals allowed per game, with 18 of her 83 goals allowed coming on power plays. The sophomore from Kensington, Maryland has a save percentage of .922.

On the other hand, the goaltender duo of Chan and junior Megan Warrenner has proved to be more successful.

Chan averages 1.46 goals allowed per game and has a save percentage of .945.

Despite Chan being in the crease more than her, the On-

tario native allows 1.01 goals per game and has a save percentage of .951.

While it is likely that head coach Chris MacKenzie will turn to Chan, who played in the Olympics representing China, he has many great players to put in the net for this crucial game.

Two players on Boston College's roster are Connecticut natives and will return to the Nutmeg State tonight. Junior defender Annaka Mettler is from New Canaan, while Jordan is from Berlin, Connecticut.

The Huskies have not fared well against Boston College in the past. The Eagles hold

a 47-25-11 lead in the all-time series, with UConn losing three of the last four meetings. Connecticut has yet to beat Boston College at their new home. The last home win came at the former Mark Edward Freitas Ice Forum, now known as the UConn Volleyball Center, on Nov. 4, 2022.

Connecticut's 2022-23 season ended in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, losing to the Eagles in the quarterfinal round of the Hockey East Tournament. Tonight is an opportunity for UConn to get revenge.

The Huskies are two wins away from winning the program's first conference tournament championship. That would give the program its first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance. UConn has made it to the championship game five times in their program history but has not come out on top.

On the other side of the bracket, the University of New Hampshire faces Northeastern University in a game that will be decided by the time UConn's game starts. The two winners from tonight's games will face off for the Hockey East Championship.

UConn hosts Boston College at the Toscano Family Ice Forum tonight at 7 p.m. and will be televised on NESN. The other semifinal game begins at 4:30 p.m. from Matthews Arena in Boston, Massachusetts, and will be televised on NESN and ESPN+.



No. 3 UConn runs away with a 91-61 win against Seton Hall 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

# No. 3 UConn looks to ride the momentum on the road against No. 8 Marquette

by Connor Sargeant | STAFF WRITER | HE/HIM/HIS | connor.sargeant@uconn.edu

While the Huskies' case to be the top team in the East is nearly locked up, their March 6 matchup at No. 8 Marquette is nothing to gloss over. The in-conference tournament and March Madness are only a blink away, and this is a perfect game for both sides to assess where they stand.

Being a UConn men's basketball fan has been as easy as ever lately. With Connecticut's latest 91-61 demolition of Seton Hall, the program won the Big East regular season for the first time in nearly 20 years. While the Huskies' case to be the top team in the East is nearly locked up, their March 6 matchup against No. 8 Marquette is nothing to gloss over. The in-conference tournament and March Madness are only a blink away, and this is a perfect game for both sides to assess where they stand.

A massive storyline heading into this one surrounds Marquette star Tyler Kolek. The 2023 All-American was in the midst of yet another excellent year, averaging 15 points and eight assists in over 30 minutes of work a night. However, the team announced that Kolek will miss the rest of the regular season and is questionable heading into the Big East tournament, a massive loss for the Golden Eagles.

On the other hand, a player that Husky fans will need to keep an eye on heading into this game is Alex Karaban and his offensive performance. In his last four games, the 6-foot-8 power forward has struggled to get it going, averaging less than eight points a night on 27% shooting. Karaban has been a quintessential piece to UConn's success this year despite his offensive woes. Whether through his leadership or

defensive growth, head coach Dan Hurley hasn't been afraid to tell the world how big of an impact the Massachusetts native makes beyond the box score. If the shots aren't falling for the 21-year-old, look for him to impact the game in other ways. UConn has shown they can handle off nights from the sophomore, but they'd benefit tremendously if he were on.

Another Husky who started a little slow but has found himself in a nice groove as of late is Donovan Clingan. The 7-foot-2 Bristol native's season got off to a rocky start, nursing a foot injury, with his weight playing a factor. Clingan has looked leaner, quicker and more comfortable on the court lately, losing around 10 pounds. Consider his performance the first time these teams met, which came after his return. On Feb. 17, the big man put up 17 points and 10 rebounds in 24 minutes of work. Perhaps the most impressive feat of his performance was that he never committed a foul and has managed to stay out of trouble in that department following his recent return to the lineup in late January. If the Huskies want to come out on top in this one, he is a guy they will need to be on point on both sides of the ball, especially if backup center Samson Johnson struggles to stay out of foul trouble.

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