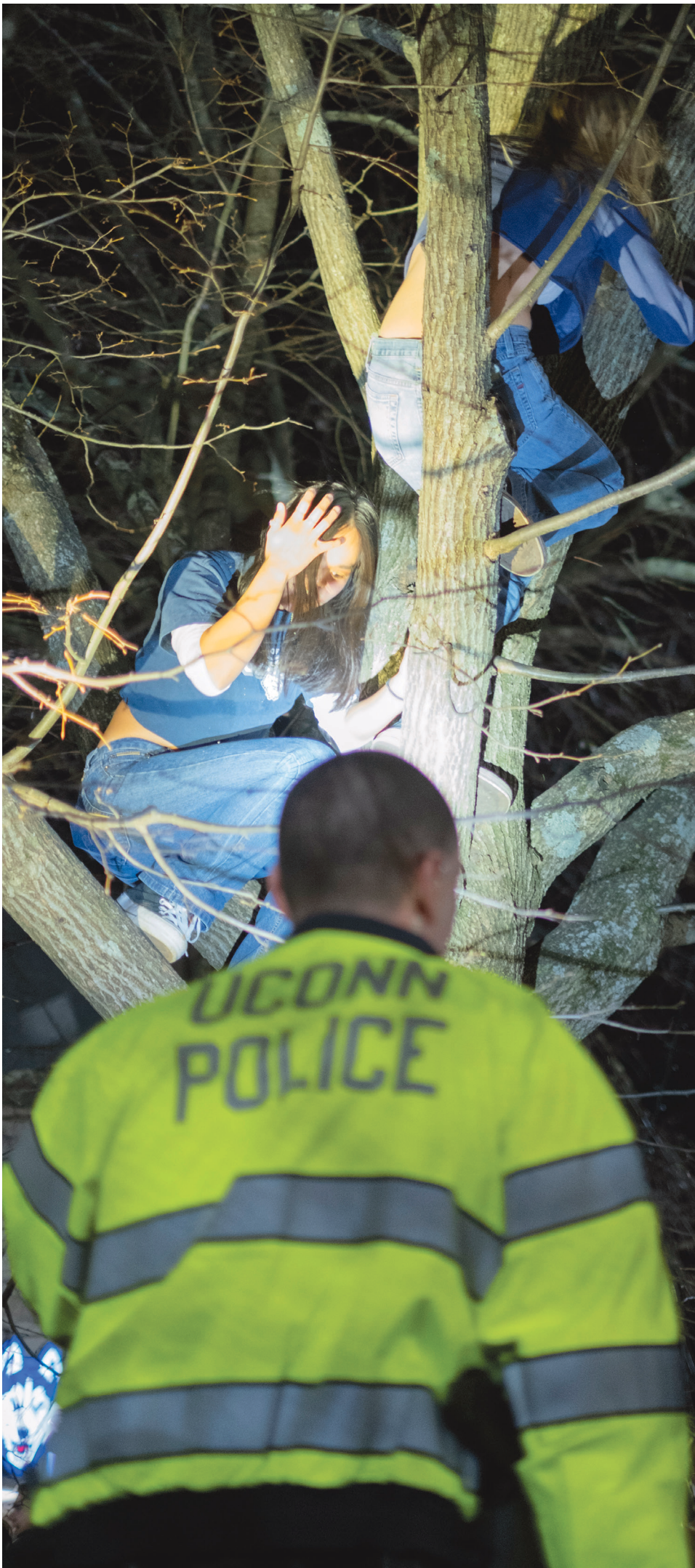




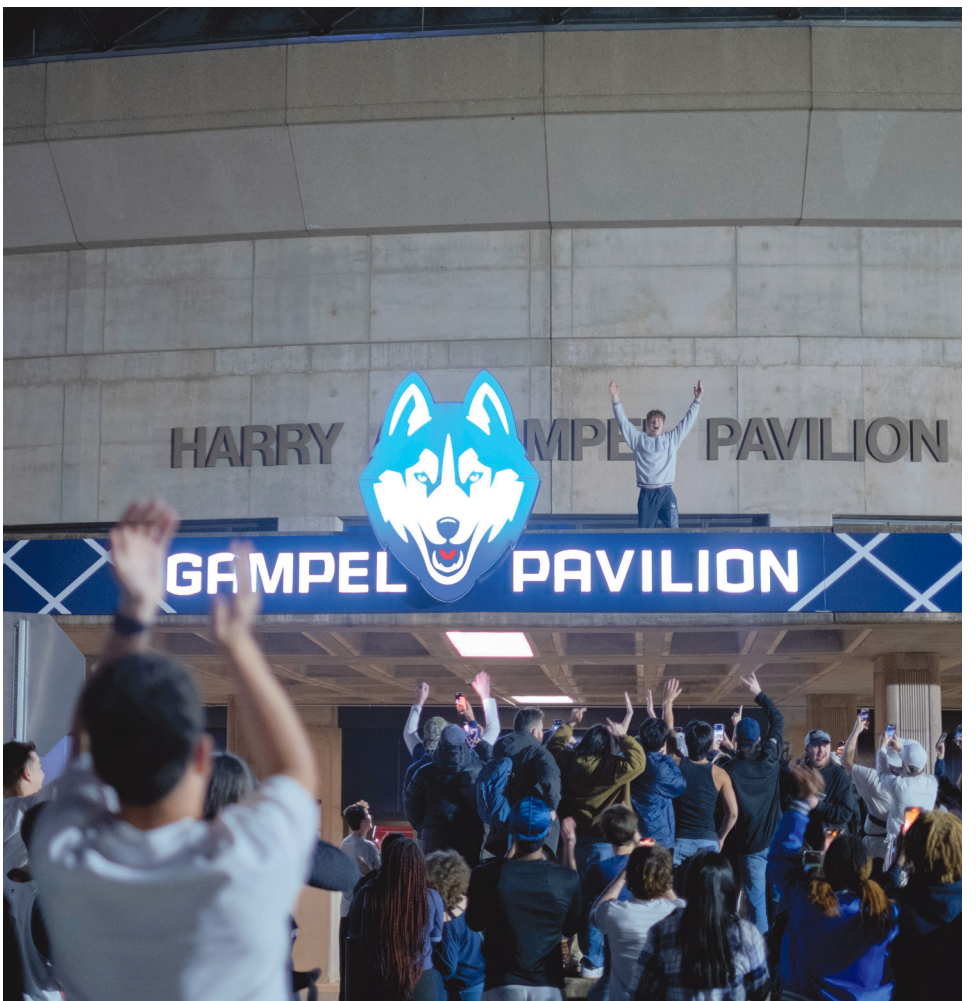
## Six arrested as thousands of UConn students celebrate NCAA victory

by Sara Bedigian | STAFF WRITER | SHE/HER/HERS | sara.bedigian@uconn.edu



Crowds of students overtake the Storrs campus after the men's basketball team won the NCAA Tournament for the second year in a row. Various damage occurred on campus after the championship game on Monday, April 8, 2024.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Crowds of students overtake the Storrs campus after the men's basketball team won the NCAA Tournament for the second year in a row. Several students were arrested throughout the night.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Students overtake the Storrs campus after the men's basketball team won the NCAA Tournament for the second year in a row. There was an increased police presence on campus to maintain order and the safety of attendees.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Six people were arrested as the University of Connecticut Storrs campus celebrated the men's basketball team winning the NCAA championship title for the second year in a row.

Police were stationed along Fairfield Way Monday night as thousands of students ran out of Gampel to celebrate following the Huskies win against Purdue 75-60. While most celebrated safely, there were some incidents of vandalism, including a street sign being shoved through a Rec Center window.

"Thousands of UConn students and others on the Storrs campus celebrated an amazing Husky victory this evening and the vast majority did so respectfully, responsibly, and safely. There were some incidents of vandalism following the victory, but they were limited in number," university officials said in a statement.

A few students were seen climbing up lamp-posts and trees and tearing up street signs. The Rec Center had

a delayed opening Tuesday morning to repair the broken window.

UConn Police made six arrests as of 9 a.m. Tuesday, according to university officials. The UConn Police was joined by the Connecticut State Police to prevent vandalism and ensure everyone was safe.

This year, the university took additional precautions to prevent the severe damage and rioting on campus following the victory last year. The university restricted the

number of individuals in attendance at the watch party in Gampel Pavilion. Gampel did not sell alcohol and only UConn students were admitted. In addition, students were required to show their UConn ID upon entrance.

Last year, the campus faced nearly \$123,000 in damages as fans set fires, flipped vehicles, knocked down lamp posts and smashed through windows. The celebrations resulted in 15 arrests and 16 hospitalizations.

To prepare for the games and prevent damage, the university temporarily removed lampposts on Hillside Road, replacing them with wall lights along the School of Business, after many were removed and misused last year.

"On the whole, it was a very good night on the Storrs campus and the university looks forward to continuing to celebrate our phenomenal student-athletes, their coaches, and this incredible win," university officials said.

For more...


[dailycampus.com](https://dailycampus.com)

 [The\\_DailyCampus](https://www.instagram.com/The_DailyCampus)

 [The\\_DailyCampus](https://twitter.com/The_DailyCampus)

 [The Daily Campus](https://www.facebook.com/TheDailyCampus)

Subscribe to...

 "COWBOY CARTER" | PAGE 5  
A review of Beyonce's newest western-inspired album

 RAPID FIRE | PAGE 7  
Shake it up: Accurate earthquake headlines

 MEN'S BASKETBALL | PAGE 12  
Huskies emerge triumphant, secure second straight win

 THE DAILY CAMPUS  
8 AM BLAST  
NEWSLETTER

## News

# New financial documentary film screening in Babbidge Library on April 10

by **Pierce Colfer** | STAFF WRITER | HE/THEY | pierce.colfer@uconn.edu

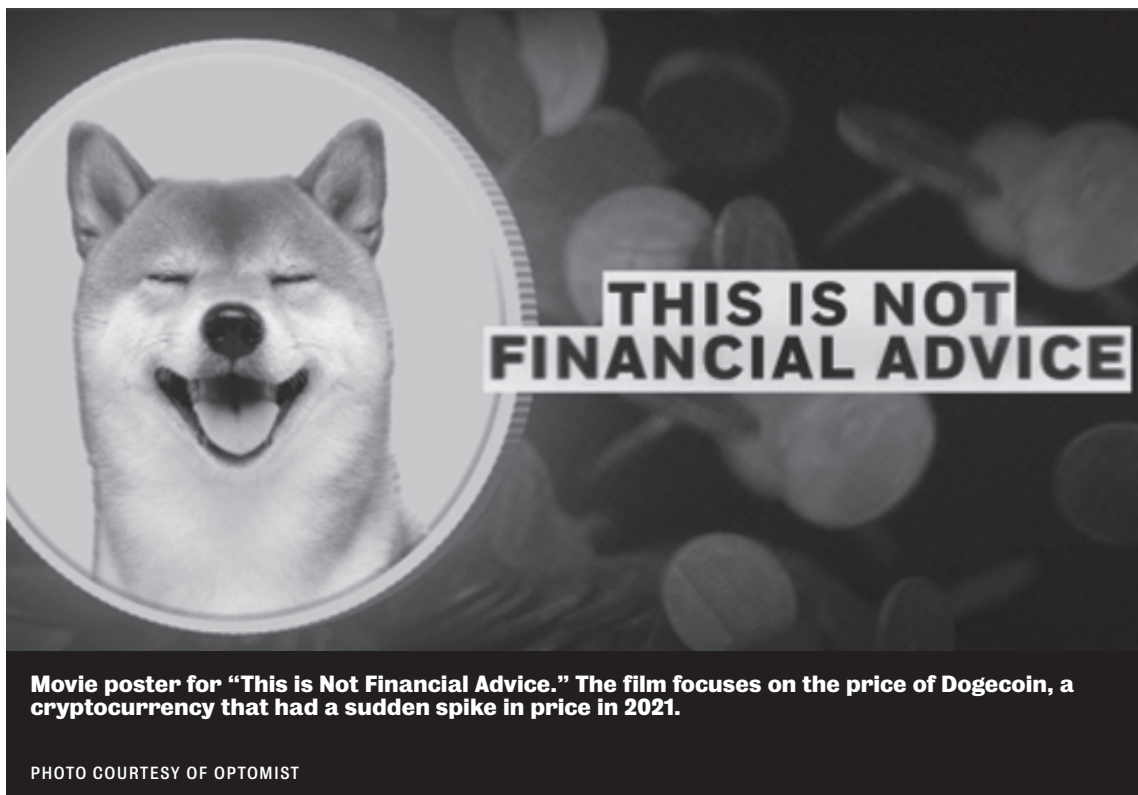
On April 10, a new financial documentary titled “This Is Not Financial Advice” will have a free screening at 5:30 p.m. inside of Homer Babbidge Library at the University of Connecticut. Directed by Chris Temple, the co-founder of Optimist, a non-profit film studio based in Los Angeles, the film follows four different people as they invest in cryptocurrency and explores their different ways of approaching those investments.

The movie was created as an educational piece for people to learn about how to properly handle investing and their finances. To accompany it, Optimist created a free curriculum “designed to engage and imbue students with the practical financial lessons observed in the documentary.” This curriculum has already been distributed and utilized by over 40,000 students.

In a virtual interview, Temple talked about his experience as a filmmaker, the inspiration behind the film and what he hopes it achieves.

“We started this film in early 2021 at a time where it felt like everything in financial markets was going up. Everybody was talking about getting rich quick on crypto. The movie was inspired by FOMO, the fear of missing out on opportunities to invest,” Temple said.

The film shows the differences between investing strategies and financial ad-



Movie poster for “This Is Not Financial Advice.” The film focuses on the price of Dogecoin, a cryptocurrency that had a sudden spike in price in 2021.

PHOTO COURTESY OF OPTIMIST

vice in hopes that viewers will gain “a deeper understanding of their own relationship with money and their own risk tolerance, and to take advantage of financial opportunities and not get caught up in a get rich quick scheme,” according to Temple.

“This Is Not Financial Advice” follows four individuals: Glauber Contessoto, Rayz Rayl, Kayla Kilbride and Senay Kenfe. Contessoto, the star of the film, is an immigrant working two jobs and becomes a millionaire after

investing in Dogecoin. Apart from documenting the experiences of the four, Temple also conducted over 300 interviews with investors and financial advisors, one being Mark Cuban, as well as authors and journalists.

Although the film is a documentary, Temple wanted it to be as engaging as possible.

“Cinematically and story-wise our goal was to make it play like an entertaining film,” Temple commented. “We wanted people to be able to learn about their relationship

with money with a fun and cinematic experience, and not just a talking head interview with Warren Buffet telling you what to do with your money.”

Temple described himself as an “accidental filmmaker” since he wasn’t a film major in college, nor did he ever take a film class. Temple got into film when he and Zach Ingrasci, a friend of Temple’s who went on to co-found Optimist, decided to try to live on \$1 per day for two months in Guatemala. They decided to film the experiment on a whim, even-

tually becoming Temple’s first film, “Living On One Dollar.”

“When we graduated, we decided that we would give ourselves six months to promote the film and see if it would make a difference in the world,” Temple said. “[Ingrasci and I] created [Optimist] coming out of our college dorm room as we graduated.”

Temple and Ingrasci have been working at Optimist for the past 15 years and have since created over 15 new films, continuing to build off their experience for every new documentary.

“I think every film helps inform the next; I was able to look at [“This Is Not Financial Advice”] through the lens of wealth inequality in America because of [my previous documentaries],” Temple said. “You can’t look at the issue of poverty without looking at immigration and you can’t understand climate change without understanding human migration.”

“This Is Not Financial Advice” first premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2023 and went on to be shown at film festivals throughout the summer and fall. The film recently launched on Apple TV and is currently doing a tour across 20 cities, the next stop being Storrs.

For more information about “This Is Not Financial Advice” or Optimist, you can visit Optimist’s website at optimist.co

## STUDENT INFORMATION INADVERTENTLY DISCLOSED IN UCONN FACULTY TRAINING VIDEOS

by **Gabriel Duffany**

STAFF WRITER  
HE/HIM/HIS  
gabriel.duffany@uconn.edu

Two online training seminars were taken down after the grade point average, academic credits, and emails of 20 University of Connecticut alumni and students were displayed publicly from the Nexus platform. The videos, published in 2020 and 2022, respectively, were recorded training sessions for undergraduate student advisors openly accessible on the undergraduate advising website.

“The University learned in recent weeks that undergraduate advising training videos from 2020 and 2022 included views of computer screens

with information that should not have been publicly visible,” UConn Deputy Spokesperson Mike Enright said.

“None of the data that was publicly viewable on the screens during the videos included Social Security numbers, financial information or similar specifics,” said Enright.

Although the information breach was contained to a relatively obscure section of the advising website, the university was required to follow a formal restoration procedure to ensure compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA).

“The videos were immediately removed when UConn learned of the issues, and protocols are being developed to

prevent a repeat incident. UConn also notified the students whose protected information

**“The videos were immediately removed when UConn learned of the issues, and protocols are being developed to prevent a repeat incident.”**

MIKE ENRIGHT

was disclosed, almost all of whom have since graduated, as well as the U.S. Department of

Education,” Enright said.

University administration has not yet detailed what specific protocols are being taken to prevent future leaks but stresses that the Nexus platform itself is secure.

“Since the data was being viewed as part of a training session directly related to the records, the trainers were authorized to access it as part of their job responsibilities. UConn’s review of the incident also determined that no privacy or security concerns exist with the software platform itself,” Enright emphasized.

The threat of more damaging or malicious data leaks is a reasonable concern in the era of digitization, with numerous universities reporting

breaches within the past year.

According to one report from the University of Michigan, the personal data of students and faculty including Social Security numbers, driver’s license numbers, financial information and health information were compromised in August 2023, impacting as many as 230,000 people.

As institutions like the University of Michigan and recently Stanford University have witnessed first-hand, the risk of a widespread data breach is very real. Although spurred by an unfortunate, albeit isolated leak, the improvements being made to protect sensitive information stored in the UConn database have come not a moment too soon.

## The Daily Campus

Printing since 1896, The Daily Campus is the oldest and largest independent student publication at the University of Connecticut. The Daily Campus circulates 1,500 newspapers daily and strives to serve the student body by delivering accurate, relevant and timely news and content, both in print and online at DailyCampus.com. Our staff is comprised entirely of students, with roughly 200 undergraduates gaining professional development while contributing to the daily production of the paper, with positions including writers, photographers, copy editors, page layout designers, graphic designers, advertisement representatives, receptionists, delivery drivers and digital producers. Thanks for reading.

**Want to advertise in print or online?**  
businessmanager@dailycampus.com

**Corrections and Clarifications:**  
Send Corrections to EIC@DailyCampus.com

**Tuesday, April 9, 2024**

**Copy Editors:** Raquel Montelindo, Janella Briones, Sophia Manos, Mario Boozang, and Daniel Przybysz  
**News Designer:** Catherine Duffy  
**Life Designer:** Renee Haddad  
**Sports Designer:** Janella Briones  
**Opinion Designer:** Raquel Montelindo  
**Photo Producer:** Skyler Kim

**Madeline Papcun**, Editor-in-Chief  
**Raquel Montelindo**, Managing Editor  
**Naiya Patel**, Business Manager  
**Charlotte Chen**, Digital Editor  
**Emily O’ Bannon**, Associate Managing Editor  
**Shannon Hong**, Associate Managing Editor  
**Ky’Lynn Monts**, Associate Digital Editor

**Colin Piteo**  
News Editor  
**Aiza Shaikh**  
Associate News Editor  
**Stratton Stave**  
Sports Editor  
**Evan Rodriguez**  
Associate Sports Editor  
**Skyler Kim**  
Photo Editor  
**Jordan Arnold**  
Associate Photo Editor  
**Benjamin Lassy**  
Life Editor  
**Karla Perez**  
Associate Life Editor

**Nell Srinath**  
Opinion Editor  
**Dan Stark**  
Associate Opinion Editor  
**Van Nguyen**  
Artist Editor  
**Haleigh Schmidt**  
Associate Artist Editor  
**Nell Komorowski**  
Outreach/Social Media Coordinator  
**Gabriella Margolies**  
Associate SMOG  
**Maddie Archambeau**  
Circulation Manager  
**The Daily Campus**

For more information about getting involved as an editorial, business or digital employee:

Editorial · managingeditor@dailycampus.com  
Business · businessmanager@dailycampus.com  
Digital · digital@dailycampus.com

**Prefer to read our content online?**

Check out our newly redesigned website at [dailycampus.com](http://dailycampus.com) and follow us on social media.  
Instagram · The\_DailyCampus  
Facebook · The Daily Campus  
Twitter · The\_DailyCampus

**Want to write or photograph for The Daily Campus?**

**The Daily Campus welcomes writers and photographers of all backgrounds, interests, majors and levels of experience.** To get involved, it’s as easy as attending section meetings on Sunday nights, all at the Daily Campus building, (1266 Storrs Road) or reaching out to an email below:

**Opinion (Meetings at 5 p.m.)**  
opinion@dailycampus.com  
**News (Meetings at 6 p.m.)**  
news@dailycampus.com  
**Life (Meetings at 7 p.m.)**  
life@dailycampus.com  
**Sports (Meetings at 8 p.m.)**  
sports@dailycampus.com  
**Photo (Meetings at 10 p.m.)**  
photo@dailycampus.com  
**Artists (Meetings at 10 p.m. on discord)**  
artists@dailycampus.com

# Study Break



**TBH**

**I**

**VOLUNTEER**

**FOR**

**MYSELF**



**Be a Change Maker. Volunteer Today!**

The Pfizer Clinical Research Unit in New Haven, Connecticut is seeking healthy volunteers age 18-49 for a clinical trial comparing a study vaccine for flu to another flu vaccine.

**This study involves:**

- 7 visits over 7 months, about 2-4 hours each
- 2 doses of study vaccine or comparator vaccine/placebo
- Compensation up to \$3,000\* plus a bonus for travel

\*Based on 7 planned visits, inclusive of screening

You could receive up to \$100 for bringing a friend with you. Just:

1. Schedule your appointment
2. Tell your friends to sign up and say you referred them
3. You and your friend complete a screening visit

Call or visit our website to learn more about our referral program.



Study Number C5561001

**800-254-6398**  
NewHavenCRU.com

# THE DAILY CAMPUS CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bit of quick inspiration?
  - 5 Saucy dance?
  - 10 Personalize a trophy, say
  - 14 Gone but not forgotten
  - 15 Far from skilled
  - 16 Organ part
  - 17 Webb designer?
  - 18 Like music with traditional harmony
  - 19 Big name in big screens
  - 20 \*Splashy arrival
  - 23 Meal that features a retelling of the story of Exodus
  - 24 ID-issuing org.
  - 25 Org. that says no to some drugs
  - 28 Paint finish
  - 32 Lion of Narnia
  - 34 Synthetic drug similar to psilocybin
  - 37 \*Like a conversation covering many topics
  - 40 Côte d'Ivoire pal
  - 42 Triglyceride, for one
  - 43 Côte d'Ivoire head
  - 44 \*Friendly signoff
  - 47 "To be," in Spanish
  - 48 Chosen few
  - 49 Naughty and nice
  - 51 One of a D.C. 100
  - 52 Bring out in the open
  - 55 Existential dread
  - 59 Run-of-the-mill, or what can be found in the answers to the starred clues?
  - 64 Social finesse
  - 66 Message in a drafts folder
  - 67 Air Force Two exec
  - 68 Hoax
  - 69 Singer-songwriter Mann
  - 70 Salinger heroine
  - 71 Norms on the links
  - 72 Ruminates bitterly
  - 73 End to end?

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21						22				
23								24				25	26	27
			28		29	30	31			32	33			
34	35	36		37				38	39					
40			41		42						43			
44				45						46		47		
48							49				50			
51				52	53	54				55		56	57	58
		59	60				61	62	63					
64	65				66						67			
68					69						70			
71					72						73			

By Trent H. Evans

4/10/24

- DOWN**
- 1 Factions in "West Side Story"
  - 2 Already informed
  - 3 "Such a shame"
  - 4 Piper Cubs, e.g.
  - 5 Place to build
  - 6 In a sec, quaintly
  - 7 Pre-Easter time
  - 8 Dukes it out in practice
  - 9 Sky supporter of myth
  - 10 Big picture
  - 11 "Can't believe it's been that long!"
  - 12 Balancing pro
  - 13 Bad spelling?
  - 21 Tie
  - 22 Bread brushed with ghee
  - 26 Poet who was guided through paradise by Beatrice
  - 27 Fury
  - 29 Backsplash piece
  - 30 "Got it, daddy-o"
  - 31 Nation between China and India
  - 33 Lt.'s underling
  - 34 Finger \_\_\_
  - 35 Look happy
  - 36 Place to eat while on the go

## Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

R	E	L	Y	O	N		T	A	B		S	K	E	W									
A	V	E	E	N	O		R	B	I		N	A	P	A									
T	E	X	A	S	T	O	A	S	T		E	T	S	Y									
							R	A	I	M	I		O	L	S	O	N						
											V	O	L	C	A	N	I	C	P	L	U	M	E
							V	E	N	E	E	R		N	A	T	E						
G	O	N	E							O	R	I	E	N	T	E	D						
A	L	T					B	O	O	K	E	N	D			R	O	O					
S	T	I	R	R	U	P	S								H	I	N	T					
										O	O	Z	E		A	S	C	O	T	S			
T	O	M	A	T	O	C	O	M	P	O	T	E											
E	P	O	C	H						W	A	I	L	S									
S	E	S	H							N	O	I	S	E	L	E	V	E	L				
T	R	E	E							P	U	N			L	I	A	I	S	E			
S	A	Y	S							R	I	G			S	E	T	S	T	O			

©2024 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

4/10/24

- 38 "Disturbia" singer, familiarly
- 39 Does some kindergarten math
- 41 N.H. summer hrs.
- 45 \_\_\_ admiral
- 46 Guide for the Magi
- 50 Whine
- 53 Creative sparks
- 54 Pay
- 56 "The Twelve Days of Christmas" half-dozen
- 57 Watch and wineglass features
- 58 Classifies
- 60 Bread machines?
- 61 Appoint
- 62 Opinion
- 63 Pub orders
- 64 Seasoning meas.
- 65 "Now I get it!"

# CLASSIFIEDS

**Policy:** Classifieds are non-refundable. Credit will be given if an error materially affects the meaning of the ad and only for the first incorrect insertion. Ads will only be printed if they are accompanied by both first and last name as well as telephone number. Names and numbers may be subject to verification. All advertising is subject to acceptance by The Daily Campus, which reserves the right to reject any ad copy at its sole discretion. The Daily Campus does not knowingly accept ads of a fraudulent nature.

# BENSON BOONE SENDS A BOOM THROUGH THE MUSIC INDUSTRY WITH 'FIREWORKS AND ROLLERBLADES'

by **Thaomy Phung**

CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
SHE/HER/HERS  
thaomy.phung@uconn.edu

Benson Boone, former "American Idol" candidate and current American singer-songwriter from Monroe, Washington, has climbed Billboard's Hot 100 multiple times with tracks like "Beautiful Things," "Slow It Down," "Ghost Town" and "In The Stars." Although his music career began only three years ago, Boone has steadily gained a massive following on Instagram, Spotify and TikTok. The success of his first single, "Ghost Town," with over 350,000,000 listens on Spotify, has snowballed into his current fame. Finally, after years of releasing singles and months of teasing his audience with new songs, Boone has released his debut album, "Fireworks & Rollerblades."

The album opener is called "Intro" and has a Disney-esque sound to it. The track sets a nostalgic and innocent tone for the album with the use of a radio-crackle sound to cover his voice. However, "Intro" quickly ramps up the tempo, forcefully transitioning from purely sweet to tastefully aggressive.

"Do you believe there is a life / Where it's just you and me and I? / We don't need to wait, we don't need a sign / It's only you and me and I"

These questions and beliefs are central throughout Boone's songs. It seems as if he is hoping to find closure through music.

The second song, "Be Someone," transitions smoothly from "Intro" whilst staying in the same key of A major, but doubles the tempo. The intro has a similar feel to the intro of "Firework" by Katy Perry. However, distinguishing itself from "Firework," "Be Someone" is about the romantic desire to be that special someone's person they can depend on.

"Didn't know how much I would love Santa Barbara / Never driven up, but I know that it's gotta be so beautiful / If that's where you were born"

Immediately, the first verse of the song teleports you to the California coast, driving with your hands out of the window, wind blowing through the strands of your hair. A great summer song, "Be Someone" replicates the same feelings of being in love with sunny skies and cloudless weather.

Returning to the nostalgia of the opening track, Boone repeats the same questions from "Intro," making "Be Someone" a continuation of the first song. To these questions, he answers: "From time to time, you give me the smallest look / Behind your eyes, and, baby, it's almost like you need someone / I promise I can be someone."

The third song, "Slow It Down," is one that Boone teased heavily on TikTok. Usually, when an artist teases a song, they release only the best part of the song, but sometimes that hypes up that certain snippet of the song and puts down the rest when the full song comes out. Unfortu-

nately, for "Slow It Down," the teased outro to the song was indeed the best part of it, rendering the rest graciously mediocre in comparison. If only the song was not teased, the entire song might be seen in a better light.

The fifth song, "Cry," was another song that he teased, however the effect was fortunately opposite to "Slow It Down." The rest of "Cry" is just as good as the teased chorus: "Cry, cry / Go ahead and ruin someone else's life / Cry, cry / Go bug somebody else, so I can sleep at night."

In producing this song, he made the effective choice to cut himself and his bleakly played piano off. "I tried to hide it through the silence while I played along / I'm welling up behind my eyelids when I'm holding on / To the rage, so badly I hate it / And I wish that all of—"

After this cut, an electric guitar is angstily introduced, backed by a propulsive drumbeat.

With this rockier style, Boone throws away the somber tone that the song initially held and creates something much more powerful. Leading up to the vengeful chorus is a more self-pitying verse with an abrupt close: "Mmm, you're more narcissistic than anybody in Hollywood / You're not a misfit, don't keep sayin' you're misunderstood / I'm tired, oh, I'm so tired, oh."

With Boone's stylistic choices, frequent octave changes and simple instrumentals, "Cry" might be one of the best songs on the album.

"My Greatest Fear," the ninth song on the tracklist, is one of the more emotional songs on "Fireworks & Rollerblades." The song explains exactly what the title says: Boone's greatest fears.

"Oh, I'm terrified of the day that I die / I'll lie there all alone, no flowers on my bones / All the things that I've been afraid to lose / My greatest fear of all is losing you"

He touches upon death and loneliness, mainly the thought of having to be alone for eternity. Being buried together is one thing, but loving together is another. Boone created this whirlwind of a song out of fear of facing such eternal loneliness and it has touched his audience's hearts.

Interestingly, the end of "My Greatest Fear" features an impressive guitar riff and solo that sounds similar to that of "Sky Full of Stars" by Coldplay. Nevertheless, the riff played fits the tone entirely.

Boone has had tremendous success; many hits in the Top 100 charts and even reaching almost 60,000,000 listeners on Spotify. For this being his first album, his future seems brighter than the stars. Until the next album, Boone can expect his listeners to be hooked onto "Fireworks & Rollerblades" for years to come.

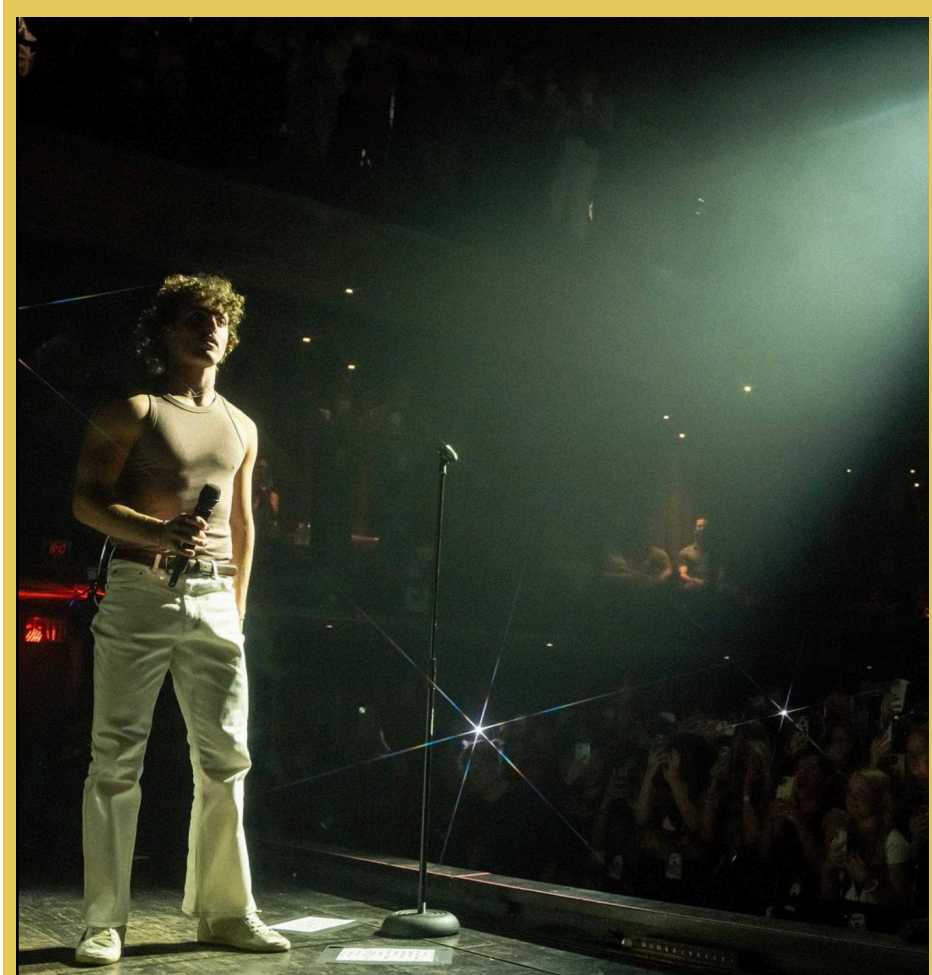
**RATING:**  
**4.25/5**



Benson Boone plays piano during the Chicago leg of his "Pulse" tour. This tour was Boone's first in the United States.  
IMAGE COURTESY OF @BENSONBOONE ON INSTAGRAM



Benson Boone poses for the cover of his debut album, "Fireworks & Rollerblades." This album was released on April 5, 2024.  
IMAGE COURTESY OF @BENSONBOONE ON INSTAGRAM



Benson Boone performs before an audience while on tour for his EP "Pulse." This tour concluded in San Diego in 2023.  
IMAGE COURTESY OF @BENSONBOONE ON INSTAGRAM

# CONVERSATIONS WITH KARLA: A thrifted dilemma

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 met with a student to talk about how she maintains her blog and how it has opened multiple doors to opportunities for her. This week, I met with Isabella Friedrich, a fourth-semester management major with a minor in women's, gender and sexuality studies, to talk about how social media has affected thrifting culture.

The growth of social media has caused trends to rapidly circulate, "Classic" trends are no more, as micro-trends have taken over. As a result, thrifting has also become a trend. Debates over whether the thrifting trend is positive or not are common on social media. Some people argue that the resurgence of thrifting is justified because it protects the environment and deters shoppers from buying fast-fashion brands. Others argue that the trend threatens the integrity of what thrifting was originally intended to accomplish. Friedrich dissected this dilemma by saying that it is far from a black-and-white issue.

"Social media is the reason why we're having this resurgence of thrifting," said Friedrich. While this is a positive — it draws customers away from major fast fashion

brands — some people are still being negatively affected.

While thrifting becoming a trend helps the environment, it also produces symptoms such as a growth of resellers. "Thrift stores were meant to be places where people of a lower

Friedrich touched on how this controversy can apply to any topic regarding social media: It's impossible to make everyone online happy. "It's just built into you to try to find the good and the bad in a situation. At the end of the day, everything is so complex and you

tomers to send a Pinterest inspiration board or their general interests and they send out boxes filled with vintage finds that match the customer's style. Friedrich sees this as the closest thing to a happy medium regarding this topic. Taking this route helps the environment, benefits a small business and buyers are almost guaranteed high-quality pieces.

Friedrich closed the conversation with reasons why she is drawn to thrifting. She said that she enjoys finding pieces that not many people have. While she doesn't intentionally try to dress in opposition to trends, she described how she likes to be "a step removed" from what the general public often wears.

"I think clothes are a really cool way to articulate [her identity]," she said.

Friedrich urges people not to feel pressured to follow a trend in order to be considered "cool." She emphasized the importance of finding high-quality pieces that can be worn and loved for years and that it's important to have pieces that can outlive trend cycles.

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



LOGO BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

cioeconomic status could find clothing to clothe themselves and their families at an affordable price," she said. However, she also recognized that many people make their livelihoods from reselling vintage clothing from thrift stores.

can't find a finite answer to something," she said.

With the rise of thrifting, there has also been a rise of social media influencers and small businesses that curate a thrifted wardrobe for customers. They ask cus-

# Queen Beyoncé proves she can succeed in any genre with her new album "Cowboy Carter"

by Grace Jos  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
SHE/HER/HERS  
grace.jos@uconn.edu

In the vast realm of musical prodigies, Beyoncé is one of the most notable — not only for being an American singer, but also a songwriter, actress and businesswoman. Dubbed "Queen Bey," a prominent cultural figure of the 21st century, she has been recognized for her artistry and performances, with Rolling Stone naming her one of the greatest vocalists of all time. Beyoncé rose to fame in the '90s for her unique take on R&B in the group Destiny's Child, and after her tenure in that group, she became one of the most prominent independent artists of all time — with eight studio albums globally ranked.

Beyoncé's versatile music often incorporates elements of contemporary R&B with catchy melodies, powerful vocals and detailed cryptic lyrics. Her previous album, "Renaissance," is known for its eclectic yet cohesive sound and ultimately became the best-rated album of 2022 by the New York Times and the Los Angeles Times. On March 29, 2024, Beyoncé released her first country/western inspired album "Cowboy Carter." Since this release, the album's genre experimentation, expansive scope and eclectic references have received recognition on a global scale for its revolutionary musical fusion.

At first glance, the scope and scale of "Cowboy Carter" can be overwhelming. With a 27-track runtime that summates to a whopping 78 minutes, there's something about its construction that pleads with you to consume it as a whole. Though Beyoncé intertwines her R&B groove through "Cowboy Carter," she now seems to focus on American folk music and the golden era of country, with cosigns from legends who forged their legacies in the '60s and '70s such as Dolly Parton, Willie Nelson and Linda Martell.

The album opens with "AMERICAN REQUIEM," a slow-burn, country-rock opera that references the CMA controversy directly through lines like "Used to say I spoke too country / And the rejection came, said I wasn't country 'nough," before making broader statements on who gets to call themselves a "true Ameri-

fore planting her own flag in it, kicking off the album in an extremely melancholic way.

Taking a systematic turn, this album features her current most popular song "Texas Hold 'Em," which initially set the tone for "Cowboy Carter" when it was released earlier this year. This upbeat frenzy of a song with its idiosyncratic chords and melodies that are just too synthetically groovy not to dance to. This song is truly a Texas country triumph and exudes energy that true pop can hold.

In Beyoncé's take on "Jolene" by Dolly Parton, she loses some of the original's desperation by morphing the piece into more of a warning than a plea for mercy. She alters most lines outside of the

"Jolene, I know I'm a queen, Jolene / I'm still a Creole baw-jee bitch from Louisiana." Parton represented the kind of woman who was allowed to be vulnerable, but Beyoncé's take counteracts the precedent set.

Meanwhile, Beyoncé and pop-country maven Miley Cyrus trade odes to their ride or dies, sharing the mic on their song "II MOST WANTED." They bring us on a soft electronic wave during the duration of the song while their voices blend beautifully on the track.

She seems to stray away from the theme of the album on "DESERT EAGLE" and "RIIVERDANCE." These are unexpected slap-bass strip-club anthems that are extremely explicit and only feature undertones

of country. These songs showcase a finger-picked bluegrass guitar alongside a house piano and four-on-the-floor percussion. These songs both have layered textual references, interludes and copious gestures that gravitate towards the topics of Southern racism and discrimination. Though she brings a small posse of lesser-known artists along with her, this is more of a challenge to herself, than an altruistic endeavor. Beyoncé explains the Black roots of country music in such a modern and pioneering attitude. Beyoncé's deep-toned voice exudes a Southern aura, which complements the cultural tone of this album. Beyoncé's persona has become American iconography, and her magnitude tends to cast a shadow over everything before her, no matter the medium or genre. Just as it uses country music as a backdrop to explore other genres, it creates an unorthodox blend that many new artists will most likely try to replicate. "Cowboy Carter" is a journey and a reflection of past injustices that reveal a bigger picture about America. Beyoncé adds American roots into her music, celebrating the multi-faceted nature of country. As she declared when announcing the album, "This ain't a country album. This is a 'Beyoncé' album."



IMAGE COURTESY OF @BEYONCE ON INSTAGRAM

Rating:





# Life

@dailycampuslife

# Don't stress! Catch the Sun and good vibes with the AsACC

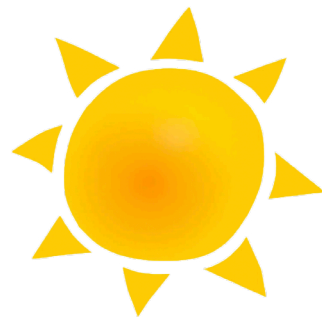


IMAGE COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL

Yesterday, the Asian American Culture Center held a presentation and workshop to help students unwind and find ways to de-stress. "Catching Good Vibes" focused on using suncatchers as a means of creating something pretty to interact with the wonderful weather that has finally arrived. The event was relocated to the Women's Center in the Student Union to provide more space for the arts and crafts. The event was originally to take place in the AsACC's main room.

Each spring semester, the AsACC's outgoing event programmers hire roughly nine new interns who shadow and assist in presenting events like "Catching Good Vibes." Neeha Zaman, Audrey Hom and fourth-semester student Val Chia are the current outgoing programmers. The interns who led this event include second-semester Abhigna Reddy, and fourth-semester students Hannah Lee and Emily Liu. Stress was a fitting topic to cover for this event, especially as Emily is a Psychology major — this helped me connect to this event as I also major in Psychology.

An important caveat with stress is that it can be helpful in moderation. If it pushes you to get homework done on time (or write newspaper articles to meet deadlines,) stress helps limit the amount of time you can waste putting off an assignment. By the same token, stress can compound into other health-related problems or exacerbate ongoing ones. The presentation pointed out that the interference of stress with appetite and mood is not good,

and prolonging this will diminish any benefits gained from more manageable stress. Attendees were first told to write down anything that was a current catalyst of their stress, then rip up the paper. While the activity may seem cliché on the surface, it can be enlightening to see huge hurdles in your life minimized down to phrases written on torn pieces of paper.

The suncatchers provided by the event featured plastic sketches of butterflies, dragonflies and other critters. Suncatchers refract direct sunlight, enhancing the colors that are painted onto them. Thankfully, the center did not hold the event during the solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, as otherwise the sunbeams would have been impossible or dangerous to be near. Either way, there was plenty of paint to go around, though some of the containers were... unruly, dirtying up the canvas cloth on the tables and endangering people's clothing. Once the designs were finalized, attendees brought the suncatchers to the windowsill and let them shine on. Everyone admired each other's creations, lending credence to the notion that art brings people together. It was

recommended to let them dry before latching onto the final appearance due to the paint's tendency to form bubbles.

The environment reminded me of art class in middle school, when my peers and I were all granted access to similar materials and honed our skills while sharing the classroom. Unlike middle school, however, snacks were supplied, one being a bag of Jell-O-like treats. Even if the task of this event was to paint inside the lines, I believe you can never be too old for a coloring book — trust me.

The Asian American Cultural Center will continue to "educate and advocate," as Reddy put it, for the Asian American community and the student body at large by hosting more

by James Fitzpatrick | STAFF WRITER | HE/HIM/HIS | james.fitzpatrick@uconn.edu

events in the future. On Thursday, April 11, students will have the opportunity to make origami lotus flowers, and on Monday, April 15, there will be a bookmark-making event, both in Room 428 of the Student Union. More information is on the center's website at <https://asacc.uconn.edu/>.



The Asian American Cultural Center holds a student-led event 'Catching Good Vibes' on Tuesday, April 9. Participants did crafts such as painting and tearing paper as de-stressors for the end of the semester. PHOTO BY CRISTIAN WELCOME, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/ THE DAILY CAMPUS



# Opinion

## The Daily Campus

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Madeline Papcun.....EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Nell Srinath.....OPINION EDITOR

Dan Stark.....ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

Luke Feeney

Tomas Hinckley.....WEEKLY COLUMNISTS

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 CHRISTIAN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## RAPID FIRE

### Shake it up: Accurate earthquake headlines



If you live in the northeastern United States, you probably received a slew of text messages frantically asking if you "FELT THE EARTHQUAKE" the morning of Thursday, April 5. Although the tremors, clocking in at 4.8 on the Richter scale, received sprawling media coverage, students at the University of Connecticut may not have felt what all the hype was about.

This week, we ask writers in the Opinion section to write a headline that accurately describes the New Jersey earthquake.

**Nell Srinath, Opinion Editor:**

**BREAKING: GOP finds another natural disaster to blame on gay people.**

**Dan Stark, Associate Opinion Editor:**

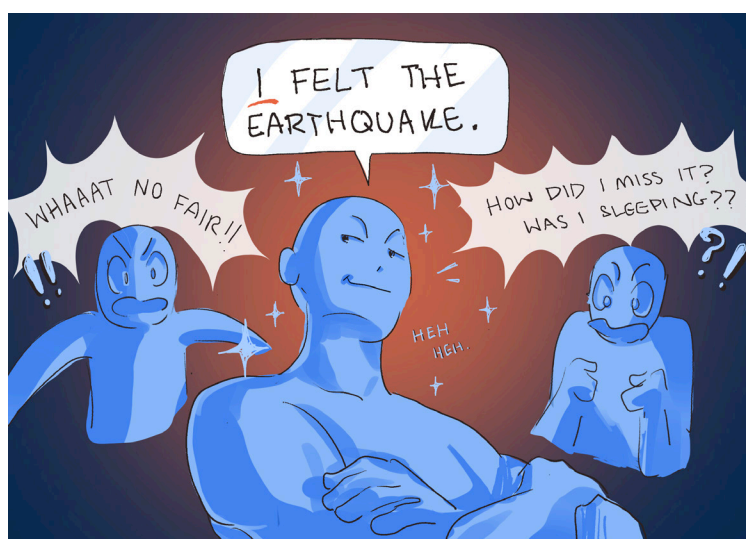
**Angry New Yorkers freak out over absolutely nothing yet again.**

**Luke Feeney, Weekly Columnist:**

**New Jersey: Epicenter for the End of the World according to Mayor Adams.**

**Tomas Hinckley, Weekly Columnist:**

**Wokeness has gotten rid of real earthquakes, New York City libs too "sensitive" to handle 4.8 magnitude because gender.**



CARTOON BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## A few thoughts on college life

by Dan Stark | ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR | HE/HIM | daniel.stark@uconn.edu

As I'm sitting here writing this, I've tried out three different ideas I had for this week, but my creative spark just isn't there right now. My mind keeps wandering today as I think about what life has been like over my second year of college. Personally, I'm at the point where I'm counting the days until I'll be back home for the summer and just trying to get through these next three weeks of final projects, tests and dealing with the stress that comes from that while also balancing my social life. And honestly, it's been pretty damn hard sometimes, but that doesn't mean that college life is an entirely bad experience.

The fast pace of college life makes it hard to keep up with everything happening, especially academically. Each class has its own challenges and demands that must be balanced with every other class you take. It's especially tough as a journalism major, since I have a lot of constant deadlines for stories I must do and interviews to schedule for those stories. I'm always working on multiple stories at once, which can be stressful to keep track of when they all have different deadlines. Don't get me wrong, I love writing and strive to do it as much as possible, but it's not without its headaches.

And then there's the social aspect. I've found that this year, especially earlier in the spring semester, there were more nights than before where I was just hanging out in my dorm with nothing else to do. It's tough to find stuff to do sometimes since I'm not 21, I don't have a car up here and college students can be unreliable when it comes to planning things. Plus, the lack of house shows at local DIY music venues this year doesn't help, since that was a big part of my college experience last year. This doesn't mean I haven't had any fun nights this year, as I've still found things to do and people to hang out with, but having nothing to do can get frustrating.

Despite these stressors and grievances listed above, I'm still standing better than I ever did to quote the great Elton John. Though college life can be hard to manage and is at times unpredictable, it's that unpredictability that

makes it special. I've found that my favorite experiences and memories that I have from my time at the University of Connecticut have happened on a whim when I didn't have any plans. There's something thrilling about just rolling with the night and seeing what happens. Whether it's meeting new people while wandering around campus or getting tossed around in a mosh pit at a random basement show, I've ended up having some great times on nights when my expectations were the lowest. Embracing unpredictability has allowed me to get these experiences that I never would have planned or thought I would have.

I've also experienced this approach of embracing unpredictability with my writing, and the best example of this is how I ended up in the opinion section of The Daily Campus. Prior to college, I had never been a fan of opinion writing and had no interest in pursuing it. But in my first month on campus in September 2022, I went to my first opinion section meeting after signing up for the email list at the involvement fair on a whim. In that meeting, I loved the idea of the creative freedom the section offered and was intrigued by the idea of becoming a weekly columnist. I walked out of that meeting with the goal of getting hired as a columnist by the end of the semester, which I successfully accomplished. Curating a column has allowed me to develop my writing in a form that I never would have anticipated, all because I went to an opinion meeting just for the hell of it.

My point is this: College life can be stressful and tough a lot of the time, but it's important to keep an open mind and see where it takes you. And it's also important to remember that you're not alone in feeling stressed, anxious or other emotions you may have. Nothing that you're feeling or going through is permanent: this is where your book begins, the rest is still unwritten.

Though college life can be hard to manage and at times unpredictable, it's that unpredictability that makes it special. I've found that my favorite experiences and memories that I have from my time at college have happened on a whim when I didn't have any plans.

FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

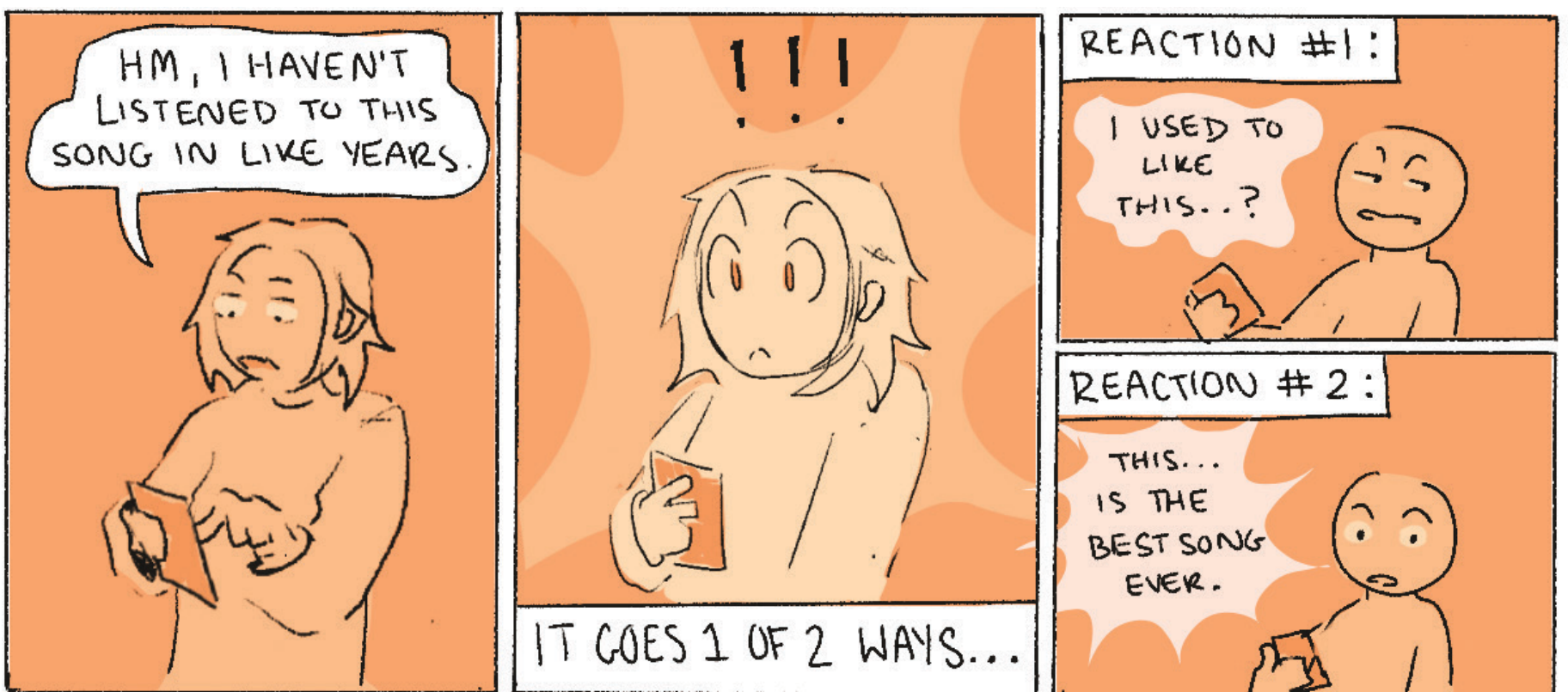


# Study Break

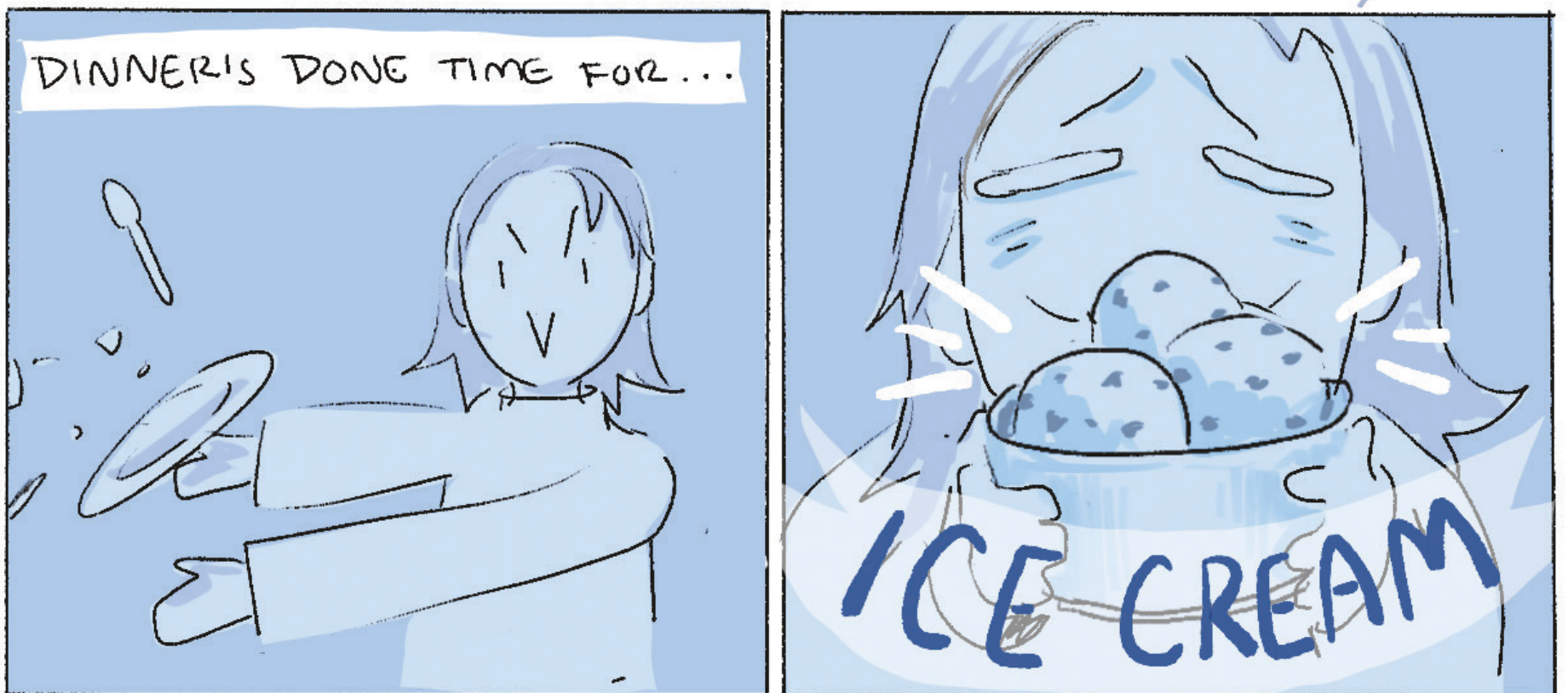
Photo of the Day | Storrs superstition



Gampel Pavilion hosts yet another watch party for UConn men's basketball for their NCAA Tournament final match against Purdue on April 8, 2024. The stadium roared in excitement throughout the match, which concluded with 75-60 win for the Huskies.  
PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



CARTOONS BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



## SUBMIT TO CULTURE SHOCK

Culture Shock is a column for underrepresented and marginalized UConn students to anonymously discuss their stories and experiences as members of those groups at UConn.

<https://dailycampus.com/culture-shock/>

WHERE CAN I GET A COPY OF

## The DAILY CAMPUS?

**KEY LOCATIONS**

- ① HOMER BABBIDGE LIBRARY
- ② STUDENT UNION
- ③ E.O SMITH HIGH SCHOOL

**key**

- DINING HALLS
- EXTERNAL LOCATIONS
- ACADEMIC BUILDINGS
- UCONN BUILDINGS

# Roundtable

## The Daily Campus Sports

### Favorite non-March Madness game from UConn men's basketball this year?

It's official! After a truly historic season of college basketball, the UConn men's basketball team reigns supreme as the National Champions. Of course, the entire world watched as the Huskies fought valiantly and dominated their opponents to get to the top. But it's easy to lose track of the actual season of incredible moments that were created by the reigning National Champions. Our team of writers will aim to give their take for which was their favorite non-March Madness game from the team this season in this special edition of the Daily Campus Sports Roundtable.

**by Sean Ahern**  
STAFF WRITER  
HE/HIM/HIS  
sean.ahern@uconn.edu

#### Jaylin Stewart's Big East Tournament Impact

In a season where the Huskies only lost three regular season games, the pool of highlight moments is significant. This team was led by experienced players from last year's championship team, but I wanted to shine some light on the future of this program: Jaylin Stewart. The freshman had back-to-back impactful offensive performances in the Big East Tournament against St. John's and Marquette. His eight points on perfect four-for-four shooting against St. John's and nine points on three-for-four shooting from downtown was a scary sight for the NCAA Tournament field. It only solidified UConn's unparalleled depth, and it got me hopeful for when the 2024-2025 season comes around. With the chance of the whole starting five leaving for the NBA draft or running out of eligibility, Stewart will slide right into being a focal point for UConn. He's full of potential and all fans should be excited to see his growth.

**Gavin Friedman**  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
HE/HIM/HIS  
gavin.friedman@uconn.edu

#### Feb. 17 win over Marquette in Hartford

This was a game that most people thought would be a very close and competitive team. The game featured two of the top five teams in the nation on national television, so there was a lot of anticipation heading into this showdown. However, these expectations couldn't have been further from the truth of what happened. The Huskies destroyed the Golden Eagles 81-53 and held star guard Tyler Kolek to merely 7 points. The game was close for the first 10 minutes, but after that, it was all UConn the rest of the way. This game put the entire country on notice that this team could beat anyone and win the National Championship again. This was much more significant than another conference victory for the Huskies as it gave them a confidence boost that brought them to a Big East and NCAA Championship.

**by Evan Rodriguez**  
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR  
HE/HIM/HIS  
evanrodriguez@uconn.edu

#### Feb. 3 win over St. John's in Storrs South

This season was massive for the St. John's and UConn rivalry this year. After the Huskies took care of business against the Red Storm at the XL Center two days before Christmas, the matchup in New York became extra special. I personally wasn't able to attend the first matchup between these two programs, so being able to attend the matchup at the Garden ended up being one of my fondest memories of the season. Considering how Connecticut was down a point at the half and still able to convincingly win ended up showing how this team really catches a spark in the final 20 minutes of games. When you insert one of Cam Spencer's most impressive second half performances, that's a game that a lot of Husky fans will appreciate when looking back at such a historic season of epic proportions.

**by Ava Inesta**  
STAFF WRITER  
SHE/HER/HERS  
ava.inesta@uconn.edu

#### March 3, 2024 - Seton Hall

It was a perfect way to close out the home slate, a revenge game against Seton Hall. Stephon Castle showed his true colors, dropping 21 points in the 91-61 win at Gampel Pavilion. Game after game, Castle showed that he was a real one on the court and a huge weapon for the Huskies. Donovan Clingan also dropped 19 points and 11 rebounds with five blocks. It was the first of the four net cuttings that the Huskies had during March/April and it was gladly celebrated on their home court on campus. The Huskies dominated the Big East conference all season long and they could not have finished off that slate in a better way. It was also the last regular season game at Gampel Pavilion for the year before UConn went on their back-to-back championship run. Since it was a blowout over the Pirates, the game wasn't necessarily the most competitive, but it sure was a sweet way to send the Huskies into the playoffs.



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

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

#### "Foot stays on gas" vs. Georgetown

Winning 21 of 23 contests against Big East opponents this season is extremely impressive, but the marquee moment from conference play occurred in a blowout. Two-time national champion head coach Dan Hurley called a timeout with his team up 25 in the second half against the Georgetown Hoyas in Washington, D.C. His message was stern and succinct:

"foot stays on gas." It was uttered as an observation of his team's lack of hustle in an already-decided contest. Looking back two months later, those four words entered a pantheon of the most memorable phrases of the Hurley era, alongside "it's coming." Not only was it a hit among UConn fans, but it also showed the nation the culture Hurley has instilled in Storrs over the past six years. Complacency was not an option in the Naismith National Coach of the Year's eyes. His team made sure of that during March Madness, beating all six opponents they faced by an average margin of 23.3 points.

**by Stratton Stave**  
SPORTS EDITOR  
HE/HIM/HIS  
stratton@uconn.edu

#### Villanova at home for College Gameday

This was far from the most exciting game that the Huskies played in—they blew the Wildcats out in the second half as they did to many other teams — but the vibes were incredible. It was UConn's first game removed from their most recent defeat and ended up starting their 13-game winning streak that still stands. College Gameday came to Storrs, Connecticut for the first time in 10 years and students came in full force. They created an electric atmosphere for the show in the morning and followed it up with an amazing crowd for the actual game. Cam Spencer absolutely exploded with 25 points on 5/8 shooting from distance, while Tristen Newton got his final collegiate triple-double. The storylines throughout the action were great and UConn was once again able to show that they were ready to repeat on the national stage.

**by Sam Calhoun**  
STAFF WRITER  
HE/HIM/HIS  
samuel.calhoun@uconn.edu

#### Beating North Carolina at MSG

These were two of the best teams in the country all year long, headlined by a gear battle between UConn's Tristen Newton and North Carolina's RJ Davis. However, it was the coming out party for grad transfer Cam Spencer, who led the team with 23 points and six assists as the Huskies bounced back after a heartbreaking loss at Kansas — which ended the team's winning streak against non-conference opponents. Following a win in Seattle against Gonzaga, Connecticut took down three AP Top 15 teams. However, in front of a nationally televised crowd on ESPN and a sold-out Madison Square Garden, this win was a sight to see. Especially since the Huskies hadn't fared well against the Tar Heels in the past. Looking back at this game, it was clear this team was a wagon, showing resilience after a loss. Both teams were No. 1 seeds in this year's NCAA Tournament.

## Sports

## Photo of the Day | Hurley hug



Freshman guard Stephon Castle hugs coach Dan Hurley after the UConn men's basketball team defended their national title winning 75 - 60 against Purdue on April 8, 2024. Castle is projected by many to be a lottery pick for the upcoming 2024 NBA Draft. PHOTOGRAPHY BY JORDAN ARNOLD, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# AROUND MARCH MADNESS

## DOMINANT HUSKIES GO BACK-TO-BACK

by Sam Calhoun | STAFF WRITER | HE/HIM/HIS | samuel.calhoun@uconn.edu

UConn accomplished something unprecedented in its program's history. They repeated. They did it in a dominant fashion, with a total scoring differential of +140.

I was lucky enough to be in Arizona for the Final Four. Purdue's fanbase traveled better than any school I have seen in the Final Fours I have been to, including Michigan State in 2009 when the Final Four was in Detroit. However, the overwhelming number of Purdue fans was not enough for their team to stop the Huskies.

In the final edition of Around March Madness this season, we recap the final three games of college basketball, along with the best players of the Final Four (Hint: most of them are UConn players).

### FINAL FOUR

**Edey, top-seeded Boilermakers make first national title game since 1969 over No. 11 seed NC State, 63-50**

Last season, Purdue became the second No. 1 seed in tournament history to lose to a No. 16 seed (Virginia in 2018). This season, they dominated, losing just four games going into their first NCAA title game since 1969 and winning the Big Ten regular-season title. Zach Edey, who is now a two-time National Player of the Year, helped lead the Boilermakers to Monday night. The 7-foot-4 giant played all 40 minutes, scoring 20 points and grabbing 12 rebounds. Unfortunately for NC State, their Cinderella run ended on Saturday in Glendale.

**Castle masterclass helps defending champs win over No. 4 seed Alabama, 86-72**

Alabama is one of the best of defensive teams in the country, led by an absolute problem of a guard in Mark Sears, averaging over 20 points per game coming into the contest. Even though UConn's star freshman Stephon Castle could not keep Sears under his scoring average as he did with Illinois's Terrence Shannon Jr. in the Elite Eight, he had one of his best offensive games of the season, scoring 21 points. The Crimson Tide drilled eight 3-pointers in the first half, but the Huskies were up by four at halftime and only allowed three baskets from long range in the second half.

### NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

**UConn wins sixth national title, completes repeat with 75-60 win over Purdue**

This was one of the most anticipated championship games in the 21st century, with UConn and Purdue being the two best teams consistently all year with two 7-foot centers in Edey and Connecticut's Donovan Clingan being a battle coined: "Cling-

Kong vs. Zachzilla." Despite the Purdue legend scoring 37 points, the story was UConn's perimeter defense. While Purdue is known as a strong 3-point shooting team, they only allowed seven attempts, with the Boilermakers only making one of those attempts. All-American guard Tristen Newton, now a two-time national champion, scored 20 points to complete one of the greatest two-year runs in college basketball history.

### FINAL FOUR ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

**Most Outstanding Player: Tristen Newton, G, UConn (16 PPG, 8 APG, 4 RPG, 41.6 FG%, 35.7 3P%, 87.5 FT% in two games)**

The All-American who be-



came the third Husky to receive the Bob Cousy Award (awarded to the nation's best point guard) capped off the best season of his career by being named the Final Four most outstanding player. In both games in the Final Four, Newton was responsible for at least 30 points each game, scoring in double figures while recording at least seven assists in both games. He became a UConn legend this year as one of the program's best guards ever.

**Cam Spencer, G, UConn (12.5 PPG, 8 RPG, 3 APG, 2 SPG, 43.5 FG%, 44.4 3P% in two games)**



One of the most impactful graduate transfers this season was huge in the Final Four. He scored five baskets in each of the two contests. Grabbing eight rebounds in each game may be the most impressive part of the final two games of Spencer's collegiate career.

**Stephon Castle, G, UConn (18 PPG, 5 RPG, 2.5 APG, 1 SPG, 50 FG%, 70 FT% in two games)**



If you didn't think Castle was a top-10 pick in the NBA Draft before the Final Four, you should now. The five-star freshman was incredible, tying his career-high in points with 21 points in the national semifinal against Alabama. He followed up that performance with a 15-point outing in the championship game against Purdue. Send this guy to the NBA. He is ready.

**Donovan Clingan, C, UConn (14.5 PPG, 5 RPG, 1 APG, 2.5 BPG, 59.1 FG%, 100 FT% in two games)**



Arguably the best college basketball prospect in the upcoming NBA Draft, Clingan had quite the end to his legendary two-year career at UConn. The hometown hero scored 18 points and blocked four shots in the Huskies' 14-point win over Alabama. In a season where he didn't shine from the free throw line, he only missed five free throws during the six-game NCAA Tournament run.

**Zach Edey, C, Purdue (28.5 PPG, 11 RPG, 2 APG, 2 BPG, 61.5 FG%, 75 FT% in two games)**

Last, but not least, one of the greatest Purdue basketball players ever. Despite losing the national championship game, the nation's leading scorer proved his dominance with a 37-point outing against 7-foot-2 center Donovan Clingan. Edey had at least 20 points and a double-double in every game this tournament.

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

## SAM'S SECTION:

### How UConn's two-year run matches up with Duke, Florida

by Sam Calhoun

STAFF WRITER  
HE/HIM/HIS  
samuel.calhoun@uconn.edu

UConn has won back-to-back national championships. They're the third program to accomplish the rare feat since the NCAA Tournament field expanded to 64 in 1985 (Duke in 1991 and 1992, Florida in 2006 and 2007).

In this edition of Sam's Section, we'll recap the incredible two-year run that UConn completed and compare them to the runs that Duke and Florida made.

**UConn Huskies (back-to-back National Champions in 2023 and 2024)**

The 2022-23 season was not supposed to be the magical run that the men's team went on. The Huskies lost their starting backcourt in R.J. Cole and Tyrese Martin, their best defensive player in Isaiah Whaley and one of their best 3-point shooters in Tyler Polley. However, head coach Dan Hurley replaced those four with four transfer guards: East Carolina's Tristen Newton, San Diego's Joey Calcaterra, Virginia Tech's Nahiem Alleyne and Texas A&M's Hassan Diarra. Alongside that, they brought in four-star center Donovan Clingan and early-enrollee Alex Karaban. The Huskies began the season unranked in the AP Poll and lost starter Samson Johnson in the first game against Stonehill. However, the team came alive, knocking down Oregon, Alabama and Iowa State to win the Phil Knight Invitational and begin 8-0, skyrocketing them into the AP Top 10. After convincing wins over Oklahoma State and Florida, UConn began the season 11-0 without losing to a single non-conference opponent. January was brutal for the Huskies, losing five games and almost falling out of the AP Top 25. The Huskies finished the regular season on a five-game winning streak and secured the No. 4 seed in the Big East Tournament. After taking care of a scare against Providence, Connecticut could not get past the semifinal round again, losing to Marquette in a 2-point game. UConn won their last six games by double-digits and dominated the NCAA Tournament in a season where Adama Sanogo, Jordan Hawkins and Andre Jackson played terrifically.

Despite losing three of their five starters from the 2022-23 season, this team did not see their ranking fall out of the AP Top 5 all season, thanks to a star-studded freshman class featuring Stephon Castle and grad transfer Cam Spencer. They won the Empire Classic with wins over Indiana and Texas and took down North Carolina and Gonzaga at neutral sites. Kansas was the team's only non-conference loss of the season. After losing their Big East opener at Seton Hall, the Huskies went on a 14-game winning streak, including wins over Creighton and Marquette. Connecticut's final loss of the 2023-24 season came in mid-February at Creighton. The Huskies won and swept the Big East titles. Newton was one of the best players in the country and joined Kemba Walker (2011) and Shabazz Napier (2014) as the only Huskies to win the Bob Cousy Award — which celebrates the nation's best point guard. After earning the program's first No. 1 overall seed ever, they destroyed everyone in their path, even a terrific Purdue team. Additionally, they beat three of the best offenses in the country — Illinois, Alabama and Purdue.

**Duke Blue Devils (back-to-back National Champions in 1991 and 1992)**

Duke was coming off a 30-point loss in the 1990 title game against UNLV and was ranked No. 6 in the country headed into the Preseason NIT. They won their first two games by double-digits but lost to Arkansas at Madison Square Garden. They would later lose at Georgetown. They also beat Notre Dame, Michigan, Oklahoma and LSU. The Blue Devils won the ACC regular season title, with the only conference losses coming at Virginia, NC State and Wake Forest. In a double overtime thriller, Duke lost at Arizona before beating North Carolina in Chapel Hill. However, the Tar Heels got revenge in the ACC Championship game. With seven losses coming into the NCAA Tournament, the No. 2 Blue Devils cruised past their first four opponents on their way to the Final Four, where they got their revenge against UNLV. They beat Kansas in the National Championship game, led by a trio of Christian Laettner, Bobby Hurley and Thomas Hill.

For more of the story visit [DAILYCAMPUS.COM](https://www.dailycampus.com)

## Women's Basketball

# What legacy will Aaliyah Edwards and Nika Mühl leave behind at UConn?

by Stratton Stave | SPORTS EDITOR | HE/HIM/HIS | stratton@uconn.edu

**A**fter four years of service in Storrs, Connecticut, Aaliyah Edwards and Nika Mühl have reached the end of their time at UConn. Though they couldn't capture any championships—the standard for success in Connecticut—their time as Huskies was far from a complete failure. Both made great contributions to UConn women's basketball history, so let's take a moment to discuss their respective legacies.

UConn women's basketball team plays against Georgetown on Feb. 16, 2024. The game marked a bittersweet night for many senior players, as they said goodbye to UConn and had their families join them on the court for senior night.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CONNOR SHARP, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



## AALIYAH EDWARDS

Edwards came to UConn from Kingston, Ontario in 2020 as a five-star prospect, largely projected to be part of the supporting cast of whatever magic Paige Bueckers created. Her freshman year, Edwards was a pleasant surprise with 10.7 points per game and 5.7 boards, making the Big East All Freshman team. But this was largely overshadowed by Bueckers' excellence, with the guard sweeping national POTY honors.

Edwards' physicality gave the Huskies' lineup some nice variety alongside Olivia Nelson-Ododa and the Canadian really began to break out during March Madness. Across the round of 32 and Sweet 16, Edwards totaled 37 points and 8 rebounds, with the latter win against an Iowa team led by a freshman named Caitlin Clark. She struggled in the Elite Eight and Final Four, which ultimately contributed to Connecticut's fourth straight trip to the Final Four without a win in as many years.

Sophomore year for Edwards wasn't one she'll likely want to remember, as the forward took a step back in pretty much every category. Contributions from various freshmen and transfers Evina

Westbrook and Dorka Juhasz were still enough to push the team to a championship appearance, but Edwards looked gassed all season.

If it's possible to make up for deficiencies one year with an awesome subsequent campaign, she did just that. With Bueckers sidelined for all of 2022-23 and Nelson-Ododa graduated, Edwards and Juhasz were alone in the front court, with a lot of scoring duties on their shoulders. Edwards was one of the two or three best players on that team, scoring 16.6 points and grabbing nine boards.

She led the team in scoring and was electric enough to earn an AP All-America selection. The team was short from a depth perspective and was missing the true star power that UConn teams have typically featured. As such, the Huskies fell in the Sweet 16 to Ohio State, the worst they've done in over a decade. Edwards did everything she could to try to help them get further, but every factor went against the team.

This year was supposed to be a game-changer in the history books for the Huskies, with so much talent coming back and South Carolina's Aliyah Boston gone. The injury bug didn't relent, with

seven players sidelined for the season. These injuries didn't impact benchwarmers. Two of the starters from the opener—plus much of the team's bench rotation was out. This makes it difficult to win games against elite teams without any missing pieces.

With full reign of the front court—sans freshman Ice Brady—Edwards had an awesome senior season. She narrowly upped her numbers from last year and again became an AP All-America selection. There was so much on Edwards' shoulders and she did everything she could. That effort was enough to help lead Connecticut back to the Final Four, which is absurd given all they went through and how little depth they had.

As Edwards departs, she won't be remembered for championships, but she was a bright spot in a "down" stretch of UConn women's basketball. She didn't shoot herself to the top of the record books, instead providing consistency during her final two years. With all the troubles this program has sustained, being consistent and herself was all UConn could have asked for.



## NIKA MÜHL

Mühl showed a ton of development in her four years as a Husky and has an interesting spot in UConn history. Fans grew to love her fiery personality and incredulous attitude towards the refs after any foul she committed. She worked her tail off day in and out and always brought 100% effort to the floor.

This was an especially pleasant surprise, especially after she came in as something of an unknown entity out of Croatia. Mühl commanded 22-24 minutes per game her freshman and sophomore years but wasn't relied on for much offense at all. It was the defensive intensity that made it tough for Auriemma to take her off the floor as the team's lockdown defender.

It wasn't until Bueckers' absence for all of 2022-23 and Christyn Williams' graduation that allowed Mühl to truly shine. Suddenly she had a much bigger workload of 36 minutes a night and she was trusted as the Huskies' primary ball-handler. That role worked out

well for her, as she notched 7.9 assists per game, breaking UConn's single-season record. It didn't quite come out of nowhere, but few expected her to thrive in the role as much as she did. As noted with Edwards, Mühl's tremendous role in this squad didn't lead to exceptional team results, with their Sweet 16 exit.

In her final campaign, Mühl and Bueckers struggled a bit initially working through what worked and what didn't. The Croatian obviously had to take a step back in terms of how much she had the ball in her hands, which took some adjustment. Ultimately, they figured things out as the injuries piled on and Mühl had a great senior year.

She still managed to be the team's primary distributor with 6.5 dimes per game and she left the scoring to her teammates. Mühl also was able to focus on her defense, with some pressure taken off amid the emergence of future defensive star KK Arnold. Her year and career were capped off with a Final Four

appearance, along with her being crowned as the Huskies' all-time assist leader.

Her legacy is a bit strange, since she's at the top of the all-time list for the statistic that guards should excel at, but she's not even the best guard on her team. Her assist record will be tough to beat and she will likely live forever at least in the top 10. Mühl will likely be remembered as one of the greatest UConn guards without a title, a group that Bueckers will look to escape from next year.

Overall, one can't argue the immense impact that Edwards and Mühl had on UConn women's basketball. Even without any rings, the duo remained very healthy in a time when there was not a lot of health to go around. Their respective accolades were tremendous with All-America selections and spots in all-time lists and perhaps one day, when UConn is back at the top of the women's basketball landscape, they'll have their fingerprints all over that trophy.

## HUSKIES EMERGE TRIUMPHANT, SECURE SECOND STRAIGHT WIN OVER BOILERMAKERS

by Evan Rodriguez  
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR  
HE/HIM/HIS  
evanrodriguez@uconn.edu

STORY CONT. FROM PAGE 12

At the beginning of the 2023-24 season, the UConn men's basketball team had one goal and one goal only — to be in the mix for six. It would require everything they had and more, along with the ability to overcome challenge after challenge.

On Monday, they accomplished that goal, rewriting the history books and becoming the first back-to-back national champions since the Florida Gators from 2006-07, with a win over the Purdue Boilermakers 75-60.

What was billed as a true battle of the bigs was truly so at the beginning of this matchup. The game plan for the Boilers was to give it to their main man, Zach Edey, and it worked about as good as hoped for by coach Matt Painter.

Edey was dominant in the first half of Monday's game, totaling 16 points on 7/13 shooting. It was about as tough of a matchup as possible for big man Donovan Clingan. While the Great Wall of Bristol was able to neutralize him as much as he could, it wasn't enough to take him out of the game, at least not until the latter stages of the first half.

Meanwhile, Connecticut played their brand of basketball on the offensive end, with the energetic Cam Spencer leading the charge in the first national championship appearance of his college career. Not only did the Maryland native get the first points of Monday's game on a 3-point jumper, he was also effective in the paint with plenty of pump fakes to catch the Boiler defenders off guard.

As Spencer gave Connecticut a massive boost on the offensive end, Hassan Diarra also showed up big to give his guys a spark. In the first half, Diarra matched Spencer's scoring total with seven of his own, electrifying the

crowd with some crucial buckets in just five minutes of play.

Yet, what really gave UConn an edge in the first half ended up being Tristen Newton, who's no stranger to the big moment. Last year, it was the Texas native who helped power this team to their fifth championship with 19 points on 5/11 shooting. Fast forward to 2024, in the first half alone, he was just as dominant, combining electric defense with some massive buckets to collect 11 points on 4/8 shooting.

As the clock winded closer to halftime with under three minutes to go, the Huskies held just a five point lead, 32-27. While Braden Smith started to heat up a bit, the reigning national champions remained poised and confident in their brand of basketball. While the Boilers guard ultimately cut the lead to as low as two, the Huskies answered right back and more, playing behind some excellent defense and key offensive buckets to head into the half up 36-30.

What was most impressive heading into those latter stages of the game was how they guarded the massive figure of Edey. Up until around the 12-minute mark, the Canadian big man was simply getting what he wanted, but after that, Connecticut

seemed to have contained the 7-4 center much better. In the final 12 minutes of the first half, the squad held Edey to just five points as both teams headed to the locker room.

20 more minutes till greatness. The Huskies had the lead, but with such an incredible offense like Purdue, Dan Hurley and Co. needed to go all out in the second half to end Monday's game as champions.

What transpired in the final 20 minutes for UConn was dominance and nothing but that.

With some positive momentum in their favor, preventing Edey from total domination, the game got completely out of hand and in favor of the Huskies. It all started off with a big triple from Newton, fresh off an offensive rebound from Clingan. Then, it was some crucial buckets from Stephon Castle, a player who was largely absent in the scoring column in the first half.

Connecticut stacked their buckets to form a pair of runs. Those points eventually stacked like a game of Tetris, forming a wall that Purdue simply could not overcome. UConn's lead ballooned to as much as 17 at its peak at the 8:39 mark. Led by UConn's electric guard play, the team chugged on toward greatness, outscoring Purdue's guards 55-17.

"That was the game plan, just limit the guards," said Newton following the game. "Steph, Cam, got in there and did a great job on the guards, limiting them and their impacts."

"We didn't care if Zach took 25, 28 shots to get 30, 35 points. This whole game plan was no Smith, no Loyer, no Gillis, no Jones. Keep that collective group under 18, 20 points as a group. They had no chance to win, no matter how well Zach played," said coach Hurley following the win.

That sentiment was truly remarkable, as despite an astronomical 37 points from the Purdue big man on 15-25 shooting, they truly had no chance when Newton put up 20 or Castle adds 15. When you add some lockdown defense to the equation, game over.

With the sixth championship in Storrs, UConn now leaps further into the upper echelon of programs in college basketball and tie North Carolina for the third-most of all time. If you know Hurley, he's determined to keep this program climbing to a whole new level, even higher than the program already is.

"I don't think we're going anywhere," said the coach of the reigning National Champions.



# Sports

## *Men's Basketball*

# HUSKIES EMERGE TRIUMPHANT, SECURE SECOND STRAIGHT WIN OVER BOILERMAKERS



**READ ALL ABOUT IT | STORY ON PAGE 11**

UConn men's basketball wins their second consecutive NCAA Championship against Purdue on April 8, 2024. This was the program's sixth national title, tying UConn with North Carolina for third all-time for most titles behind UCLA and Kentucky.

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