



## ECSU BUILDING TO BE RECYCLED, UCONN ANNOUNCES NEW SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

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Many students recycle their used bottles, cardboard and paper, but it's difficult to imagine recycling on a larger scale. Eastern Connecticut State University officials have announced plans to recycle the parts of one of their campus buildings this spring.

Eastern Hall, on the main ECSU campus in nearby Windham, Connecticut, was originally constructed as a modular portable building. For 20 years, the building has been used for some offices and basic classroom facilities close to the James Eugene Smith Library. However, it was always intended to be a temporary construction, according to James Fielding, coordinator of ECSU construction projects.

"The building was underutilized and reached the end of its life," said Fielding in a statement to the Journal Enquirer.

The announcement comes as part of Eastern's ongoing commitment to sustainability. ECSU has a multi-faceted approach to environmental stewardship, sponsoring a Center for Sustainability Studies for coursework and curriculum improvements in teaching, impacts and scientific aspects of the environment. In addition to these initiatives, ECSU partners with local and



The demolition of Eastern Hall at Eastern Connecticut State University starts on April 10, 2024. After demolition, blueberry bushes and trees will be planted in Eastern Hall's place.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @EASERNCTSTATEU ON X

regional groups and the State of Connecticut through the Eastern Institute for Sustainability to encourage responsible "green tracking," developing the university climate action plan and student engagement.

"The work of [the Institute of Sustainability] will support diverse and bold actions required by the United Nations 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and resilience: for people, prosperity, and planet," added Patricia Szczys, ECSU Sustainability Director. The group also has an interactive "sustainability

dashboard" on the ECSU webpage, where visitors can track impact areas, conservation, and other environmental data.

Other conscious features on campus include "Thrift Warriors," a student-run thrift and swap shop which opened this February, and a lineup of annual student activities for Earth Day.

After demolition and cleanup are complete, blueberry bushes and trees will be planted in Eastern Hall's former plot, and a walking path will be re-paved. In an energy statement, university officials claim an average

of 166,500 kilowatt-hours of energy will be saved per year. The furnishings that used to be in Eastern Hall were donated to the Army National Guard or otherwise repurposed on campus, and the whole project is expected to cost just shy of \$450,000.

The University of Connecticut also recently announced a new "framework for environmental responsibility" which complements a 10-year plan to be carbon-neutral by 2030, increase sustainability awareness and education and improve waste management

and energy practices, according to UConn Today.

"[The plan] embodies our unwavering commitment to lead by example, embrace innovation, and create a resilient and sustainable future... to cultivate a culture of environmental responsibility, social equity, and economic viability across [UConn]" wrote UConn president Radenka Maric in the plan's foreword.

The new outline also inspired the UConn ECollaboration Sustainability Network, an online network for students and faculty to network and discuss sustainability information and news. Additionally, the plan envisions numerous other improvements. These include food waste-composting details, sustainable building material use and data to support geothermal heating in tandem with an ongoing campus-wide energy audit.

Students aiming for greater environmental responsibility can take several steps, such as reducing waste by using reusable items, recycling and conserving materials and energy. For more information on sustainability and environmental initiatives at UConn, visit the UConn Office of Sustainability webpage at sustainability.uconn.edu. For details about ongoing ECSU sustainability efforts, visit easternct.edu/sustainability.

## UCTV requests student film submissions for their first annual film festival

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University of Connecticut Student Television is going to be hosting the first annual UCTV Film Festival on April 21, which will show student films from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Lawrence McHugh Hall. UCTV is looking for student filmmakers to submit 10-minute films to the event, and is accepting submissions from any student currently enrolled at a university or college.

In hosting this film festival, UCTV is hoping to celebrate "the diverse talents of emerging student filmmakers" from UConn's student body, according to their website. Submissions to the film festival will be able to win two different awards: the Judges' Choice Award, chosen by a panel of judges, and the Audience Choice Award, voted on by the attendees. Students interested in submitting a film

"This will be the first time UCTV hosts a film festival, with the intent to make this an annual event."

**FILM Festival**

We are excited to invite you to UCTV's Film Festival, a celebration of creativity and storytelling through the medium of film. Join us in a night of films to celebrate the diverse talents of emerging filmmakers!

**SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024**

**FROM 11 AM - 3 PM**

**McHugh Lecture Hall 102**

**SUBMISSIONS DUE APRIL 8TH**

UCTV will host the first annual UCTV Film Festival on Sunday, April 21. It will be held in McHugh Lecture Hall 102.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @UCTVCHANNEL14 ON INSTAGRAM

talking about the motivation behind starting the film festival. "We decided to introduce a film festival to not only captivate students but also celebrate their creative endeavors. We firmly believe that this initiative will provide aspiring filmmakers with a platform to showcase their work and receive constructive feedback, thereby better preparing them for their future careers in the industry."

This will be the first time UCTV hosts a film festival, with the intent to make this an annual event. Carlon hopes to eventually turn the UCTV Film Festival into a biannual event and to reach out to even more universities and colleges to receive submissions from student filmmakers.

"We are deeply committed to highlighting the creative brilliance of college students in Connecticut and are genuinely excited about the opportunity to showcase the diverse talents of our participants," said Carlon.

After the film festival, there will be a networking event happening in the Rainbow Center in the Student Union.

According to Carlon, UCTV is UConn's sole student-run television station, which "serves as a source of news, event coverage, advertising, information and entertainment for its constituents" across six departments. The organization helps students learn about and prepare themselves for the media industry through the creation of original student-made content. For more information about UCTV, visit their website.

can visit the UCTV Film Festival website. Entry into the festival is free for UConn students; non-UConn students

will have to pay a \$10 entry fee. Admission to the event is open to the public, and is free of charge.

Patrick Carlon, the presi-

dent of UCTV, discussed the film festival over email.

"We observed that in the past, UCTV primarily hosted events featuring guest

speakers. While these events provided valuable industry insights for students, we noticed a decline in engagement over time," said Carlon when

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**NEWSLETTER**

## News

## In some classrooms in Senegal, deaf and hard-of-hearing students now study alongside everyone else

PIKINE, Senegal (AP) — Mouhamed Sall stepped to the chalkboard with a glance and quick question in sign language to an assistant. Then he solved the exercise to the silent approval of his classmates, who waved their hands in a display of appreciation.

Sall and three other students are part of a new approach in a small number of schools in Senegal that seat those who are deaf and hard of hearing with the rest of the class.

Some classmates at the sun-washed Apix Guinaw Rails Sud school in a suburb of the capital, Dakar, have embraced the chance to learn sign language in the months since Sall arrived. The class is lively and cheeky: “No teachers allowed in this room,” graffiti scrawled above the chalkboard says.

“I have no problem communicating with some colleagues I went to primary school with,” said Sall as his mother spoke. “The new colleagues don’t know sign language but we still play together.”

“We’ve been friends, so it was easy to learn sign language,” said classmate Salane Senghor, who also knew Sall in primary school. New classmates were curious, looking to the assistant to find out what he was saying.

The United Nations children’s agency says about 60% of children with disabilities in Senegal are not going to school. But the government lacks comprehensive data on the issue and counts only children who are formally registered as having a disability.

“We’re looking for progress from the government to ensure every child, regardless of ability, has the opportunity to learn,” said Sara Poehlman with UNICEF Senegal.

Senegal lacks a national strategy for inclusive education, but it



**Mouhamed Sall, who is deaf, attends class at the Guinaw Rail Sud public high school in Pikine, Senegal, Monday, March 18, 2024. Sall and three other students are part of a new approach in a small number of schools in Senegal that seat those who are deaf and hard of hearing with the rest of the class.**

PHOTO BY SYLVAIN GHERKAOU/AP

is developing one. Recent political instability in the West African nation has hindered progress.

The challenges are compounded by a stigma that some in Senegal associate with disabilities. Some parents hide their children and prevent them from participating in society.

But attitudes are changing. In 2021, Senegal’s football team for deaf and hard of hearing players won the first African football championship for such teams and played in the world championship, to the congratulations of Senegal’s president. During the recent election, the National Association for the Promotion of the Deaf in Senegal and the International Foundation for Elec-

toral Systems organized a workshop to teach hard-of-hearing voters over 100 election-related terms in sign language.

Now there’s more visibility in classrooms.

The organization Humanity and Inclusion last year began partnering with Senegal’s education ministry for mixed classes in four public secondary schools with inclusive education practices. Apix is one of them. Humanity and Inclusion funds the hiring of assistants who can communicate in sign language.

“We see that all children are on an equal footing, and that’s why we make an inclusive class or school by harmonizing with the hearing pupils,” said Papa

Amadou, one assistant.

Sall is receiving education free of charge, a big advantage in a part of the world where school fees can be a constant source of stress for parents.

Until now, Senegal has had mostly specialized schools for children with disabilities, but they are often private and expensive.

Sall’s mother, Khadija Koundio, at first paid about \$17 every month for him to attend an activity center for children with learning challenges in their neighborhood. Then he was able to enter primary school with the support of a similar Humanity and Inclusion program created several years ago in a small number of schools for younger students.

Omar Diop, head supervisor at Apix, praised the new secondary school program but said challenges continue.

“It’s their first year for the teachers, so that poses a problem because the children come with a much higher level of sign language,” said Diop.

Mamadou Konte, the Apix school director, emphasized the need for more teacher training. “We’ve seen success at our school, but this model needs to be replicated nationwide,” added Konte.

Challenges remain for students and families, too. Koundio, president of the parents’ association for the school’s deaf and hard-of-hearing students, said some of her son’s classmates live farther away and struggle with the cost of commuting.

Poehlman with UNICEF highlighted government initiatives like the Carte de l’Égalité, which provides financial assistance to families so children can access specialized schools, but she stressed the importance of programs implemented in public schools.

Jandira Monteiro with Humanity and Inclusion urged collaboration between Senegal’s ministries of health and education to ensure holistic support for children with disabilities.

Sall said he feels accepted by his peers. The teachers at Apix commend him on his intelligence and his artistic talents in crafting bright models of houses and traditional boats called pirogues.

His mother wants him to pursue his passions, including art.

“One day, when I’m gone, he’ll have enough to support himself,” she said.

Ndeye Sene Mbengue in Dakar, Senegal, contributed to this report.

## CORNELL STUDENT ACCUSED OF POSTING VIOLENT THREATS TO JEWISH STUDENTS PLEADS GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — A former Cornell University student accused of posting violently threatening statements against Jewish people on campus shortly after the start of the war in Gaza in the fall pleaded guilty in federal court Wednesday.

Patrick Dai, from the Rochester, New York, suburb of Pittsford, was accused by federal investigators of posting anonymous threats to shoot and stab Jewish people on a Greek life forum in late October. Dai, a junior, was taken into custody Oct. 31 and was suspended from the Ivy League school in upstate New York.

The threats came amid a spike of antisemitic and anti-Muslim rhetoric related to the war and unnerved Jewish students on the Ithaca campus. Gov. Kathy Hocu and Doug Emhoff, the husband of Vice President Kamala Harris, traveled separately to Ithaca in the wake of the threats to support students. Cor-

nell canceled classes for a day.

Dai pleaded guilty to posting threats to kill or injure another person using interstate communications. He faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison on Aug. 12, according to the U.S. attorney’s office for northern New York.

“This defendant is being held accountable for vile, abhorrent, antisemitic threats of violence levied against members of the Cornell University Jewish community,” said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division in a prepared release.

One post from October included threats to stab and slit the throats of Jewish males and to bring a rifle to campus and shoot Jews. Another post was titled “gonna shoot up 104 west,” a university dining hall that caters to kosher diets and is located next to the Cornell Jewish Center, according to a criminal complaint.

Authorities tracked the threats

to Dai through an IP address.

Dai’s attorney said outside of court that he had no intention of carrying out violent acts but decided during a depressed time in his life to pose online as Hamas to change the minds of people who sympathize with the organization.

“It was a bad decision on a very bad day,” federal public defender Lisa Peebles told WHEC-TV. “He’s very remorseful. He accepts responsibility.”

Dai’s mother, Bing Liu, told The Associated Press in a phone interview in November she believed the threats were partly triggered by medication he was taking to treat depression and anxiety. She said her son posted an apology calling the threats “shameful.”

Liu said she had been taking her son home for weekends because of his depression, and that he was home the weekend the threats went online. Dai had earlier taken three semesters off, she said.



**A woman walks by a Cornell University sign on the Ivy League school’s campus, Jan. 14, 2022, in Ithaca, N.Y. Patrick Dai, a Cornell University student accused of posting violently threatening statements against Jewish people on campus shortly after the start of the war in Gaza last fall, pleaded guilty in federal court Wednesday, April 10, 2024.** FILE PHOTO/AP

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## THE DAILY CAMPUS CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Data depiction
  - Mouth piece?
  - Slalom markers
  - Diet that precludes grains and dairy
  - Charlottesville sch.
  - Animal wearing red pajamas in Anna Dewdney kids books
  - Hybrid wheat species
  - "A Life Outdoors Is a Life Well Lived" co.
  - Get greasy
  - Mindset that may hinder growth
  - Quick burn
  - "Me too"
  - Deep rift
  - Plant used as an herbal medicine
  - Rollover subj.
  - Getting a grip, maybe
  - "It's \_\_\_-win situation"
  - Slip in judgment
  - "Jeopardy!" host Jennings
  - Getting hungry, probably
  - Uses a keyboard
  - Come to a close
  - Slips through the cracks?
  - Spanish "Hey!"
  - Field where things disappear?
  - NNW opposite
  - European range
  - "August: \_\_\_ County": Streep film
  - Agile
  - Actress Gadot
  - Small part to play
  - Skilled sort
  - Let up
  - Pretty strange
  - Chops in the kitchen
  - Likely to speak out
  - "Say Yes to Heaven" singer Lana Del \_\_\_
  - Goddess of peace
  - Put forth
  - Chemistry suffix indicating a double bond
  - Exams

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By Rebecca Goldstein

4/11/24

- DOWN**
- Waze tech
  - Future genre
  - Smart \_\_\_
  - Speaker emerita Nancy
  - Complete disasters
  - Peer at a trial
  - State firmly
  - Counts down the minutes, maybe
  - Member of the blue man group?
  - Dresses that twirl
  - Unbelievable story
  - Outback bird
  - Softy
  - Notoriety
  - Investigative journalist Paula
  - Delta deposit
  - Container that may have a built-in sharpener
  - Mental image during meditation
  - Bias-free environments, or what 20-Across and 27- and 35-Down are

### Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

G	A	S	P		S	A	L	S	A		E	T	C	H			
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4/11/24

- Latte order specification
- Dishwasher detergent units
- Retail outlet whose products often come with Allen wrenches
- Tabletop decor piece with raked sand
- Need for some denim jeans
- Observes
- Loch with a legend
- "Me, mon ami?"
- Animation still
- Tequila plant
- Approvals
- Suspenders alternative
- Exchange a few words, say
- Roof sealant
- Fury

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## Journey's 'Greatest Hits' lives up to its namesake



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

by **Raquel Montelindo**  
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Hello, and welcome to the second edition of No Skips, a column where I analyze an album and deem every track as unskippable. This week, we will look at Journey's "Greatest Hits," an album that defined my childhood and built a musical bond between my dad and I.

I was first exposed to Journey as a child when my dad played their hits while driving in his blue Ford Mustang. I knew all their songs at a young age and sang along to all the words (and guitar solos) with my dad.

Journey is an American rock band that formed in San Francisco, California in the 1970s. Being a San Franciscan myself — and my dad growing up a stone's throw away in San Jose — enjoying Journey's music was no surprise. My dad saw them multiple times in concert during his teens and twenties and shared his love of the band with both me and my little brother. Nowadays, I listen to Journey on warm sunny days and reminisce about drives with the windows down in the back of my dad's car.

With tracks like "Don't Stop Believing," "Lights" and "Any Way You Want It," Journey's "Greatest Hits" has no skips. The album is filled with rock songs that maintain an edge even 35 years after they originally came out. Furthermore, the album was remastered this year, demonstrating its reach and popularity as a "no skips" album.

The album, as illustrated in the title, is filled with the band's greatest hits. It opens with "Only the Young," a rock powerhouse that always merits a listen. "Only the Young" holds a lot of meaning to me because a) I would listen to it with my dad growing up, and b) it covers themes of growing up and having dreams — ideas that hit pretty hard as a 22-year-old college senior.

The next few tracks, "Don't Stop Believing," "Wheel in the Sky" and "Faithfully," are arguably Journey's most famous releases. "Don't Stop Believing" is one of those songs that, as soon as it comes on, everyone is singing along to both the lyrics and the screaming guitar solos. You can never skip "Don't Stop Believing," especially at a sporting event or karaoke bar. "Wheel in the Sky" is also a classic.

Every time it comes on, I catch myself singing and dancing along to the track.

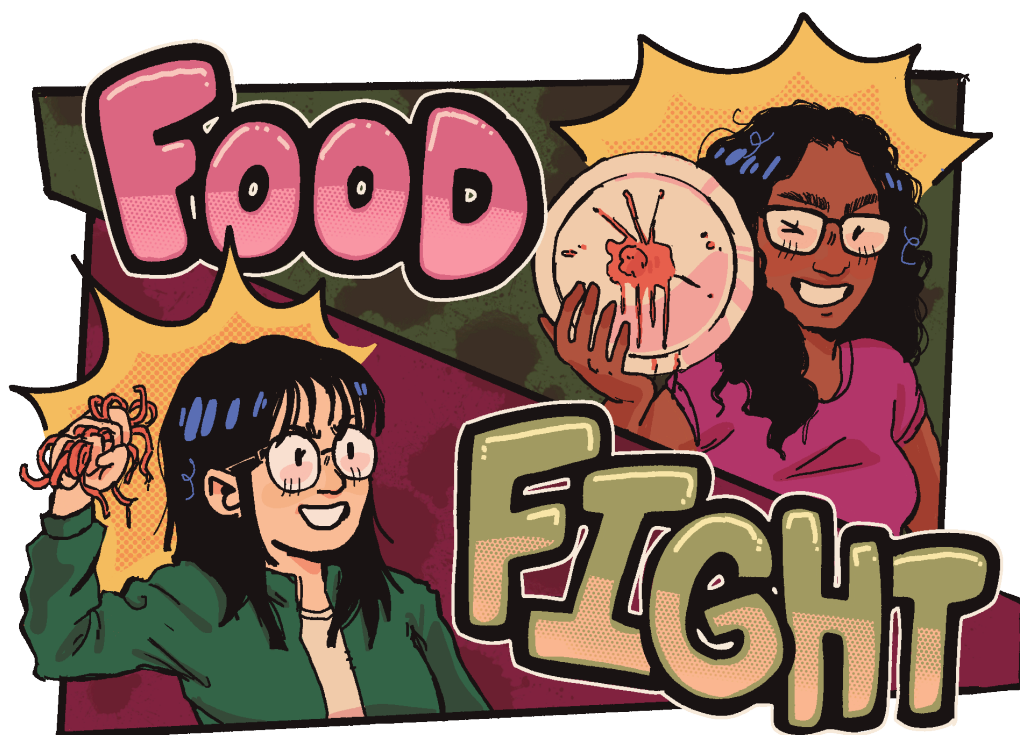
The album continues to live up to its namesake with other phenomenal songs like "Separate Ways (Worlds Apart)," which had a resurgence in popularity with its remixed feature on the fourth season of "Stranger Things." This song has been and always will be unskippable due to its thumping bass lines and roaring drums. Additionally, the "Stranger Things" remix with Bryce Miller and Alloy Tracks is also a bop — one that I listened to a lot in the summer of 2022.

Love songs are also common on this album. "Faithfully," "Open Arms" and "Send Her My Love" each have messages of love and care for one's partner and are great songs musically as well. "Faithfully" is one of my favorite Journey songs of all time and illustrates Journey's ability to create powerful lyrics and even more powerful scores.

On the flip side, the album also features themes of loss and heartbreak. "I'll Be Alright Without You," "Who's Crying Now" and "Ask the Lonely" emphasize those themes. "I'll Be Alright Without You" touches on moving on after a breakup and working through those big emotions. The drums and tone of this song are softer than many other Journey songs, and it continues to be a profound piece by the band.

The album ends with "Be Good to Yourself" and "When You Love a Woman" — two songs that are just as significant as the 14 other tracks on this powerhouse of an album. "Be Good to Yourself" continues the roaring guitar and upbeat keyboard that are characteristic of Journey's discography, and maintains its place (alongside "Faithfully") as one of my favorite Journey songs of all time.

To conclude, this album is a perfect reminder of summer drives and a shared love of music with my dad. The lack of skips on this album highlights Journey's ability to craft rock music with a timeless sound that continues to gain fans 35 years after being released. I highly recommend this album to everyone reading this column — especially as the weather gets warmer and summer quickly approaches.



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

## FRUIT BRAWL

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Welcome back to the fourth edition of Food Fight! Every week, we will discuss two of our favorite foods or food orders and battle it out to see who wins. This week, we are diving into fruits to argue what is (objectively) the best!

### CHARLOTTE: IT DOESN'T GET BETTER THAN MANGO

When you want some fruit, what do you want? Do you want sweet golden nectar with a bold, yet subtle flavor? Succulent, juicy flesh that melts in your mouth? A beautiful bite that leaves you longing for more? If you said yes to any of the above, mango is the obvious choice. I'm a self-proclaimed fruit fanatic, and I can confidently say that mango is the one fruit that I have never ever gotten sick of. This is coming from a person who eats fruit in what my parents call "excessive amounts."

For perspective, I once consumed each of the following in one sitting: half of a full-sized watermelon, 12 clementines, two pounds of strawberries, two pounds of blueberries, six alphonso mangoes and a whole honeydew melon. For clarification, each fruit was a different sitting, in case you were getting concerned or dubious about how feasible it would be to eat all of that fruit. My point is, I like fruit. A lot.

I like to think that I've tried a good variety of fruits, and nothing seems to top a beautifully ripe mango. I will insert one caveat: A lot of the mangos that are available in grocery stores are often picked much earlier than they should be and are left to shelf-ripen, which significantly alters the flavor profile and texture of the fruit when it ripens. Usually, you'll run into fibrous and flavorless fruit, but if you pick a good batch, it'll taste like a slice of heaven. I've experienced more consistency in flavor, texture and deliciousness with alphonso mangoes, which are smaller and are usually yellow all over.

Mango just never gets old, and each time, it brings me so much joy to eat. It tastes so good that it's hard to believe that it's also relatively good for you! For the health-conscious, it's relatively low in calories, high in vitamin C and beta-carotene (an antioxidant). Just don't look too hard at the sugar content, but if you do, a whole mango still has less sugar than a can of soda. Maybe that's why mango tastes so delicious.

For fans of delicious sugary fruit, consider trying sugar apples if you ever get the chance! It's a weird looking fruit, but boy is it delicious! It's not super common in Connecticut, but it boasts a custardy, sweet flesh that always makes my mouth water. I think it's really hard to go wrong with mangoes — if you don't like mango, you just haven't tried the right one!

### NAIIYA: IT'S STRAWBERRY.

Really not a hard one guys. I am taking a different approach than Charlotte because a widely loved fruit is the BEST fruit. Who doesn't love strawberries? They go with everything. There's no question that a mango is yummy, but not to all. The pickiest eaters I know love strawberries. They wouldn't dare touch a mango! My family loves mangoes. However, the stringiness of the mango is not for people who suffer from textural issues. I cannot handle the feeling of mango strings stuck in my teeth. A strawberry would never betray me like that.

Ever had a chocolate covered strawberry? Yeah, that should have your answer. I am not going to eat a mango with chocolate. Strawberries are yummy, versatile and so widely available. We are not gatekeeping strawberries from the public. I am not a mango hater, but it is not the best fruit. The best fruit is not one that is so difficult to find ripe or is so difficult to cut.

Go visit a strawberry farm and you will have your answer. Unsure if you can visit a mango farm.

### NAIIYA + CHARLOTTE: ROTTEN FRUIT

Starfruit is crazy overrated for something that really doesn't taste all that good. We are convinced that the only reason it's still eaten is because of its star shape after you cut it (which is cool). Starfruit is surprisingly tart and flavorless, and gets damaged relatively easily, meaning any fruit you get is probably not in peak condition. 0.5/5 Stars for starfruit (it gets a half point out of pity; it still is edible).

## KARMA, IT'S INEVITABLE...

## AND SO IS HEARING THIS SONG

JoJo Siwa, a former “Dance Moms” dancer known for wearing rainbow and sparkly bows, has turned a complete 180 degrees as she enters her “edgy” era. Additionally, Siwa, who created kid-catered songs like “Kid in A Candy Store” (2017) and “Boomerang” (2016), released a new song on April 5, 2024, that is “not made for children,” according to a message that Siwa shared.

Teased on TikTok, “Karma” attracted millions of views, but the responses from the crowd weren’t what she expected. There have been copious amounts of TikTok videos posted by both Siwa and others who danced with her learning the infamous “head-flick-seizure-like move” that is used in the music video’s choreography. This has received a lot of hate, with users commenting things like “Ohhh so IT IS Jojo...,” “SHES DANCING IN CAPS” and “POV: there’s a bug on you.”

There has also been some backlash against Siwa, accusing her of stealing Brit Smith’s original song, “Karma’s a Bitch.” Katie (ttdp version) posted on X (formerly Twitter) revealing that Siwa has a history of stealing other people’s songs and publishing them as her own, without the original artist knowing or giving permission. However, there are other rumors saying that “she bought the song, lyrics beats and all.” In actuality, Siwa was pitched the song two years ago. Siwa has never claimed to write the song, as there are several interviews in which she has spoken about liking the song when she bought it. Additionally, a part of the song sounds like “Push It” by Salt-N-Pepa, a classic ‘80s song.

Siwa released the official music video on her YouTube channel, which has left her comment section flooded with hate and shock. Just as funny as the music video, are the things that people are writing. The following are a few examples:

“‘i was a bad girl’ GIRL YOU WORE PINK DRESSES AND SOLD GLITTERY BOWS AT WALMART.”

“this sounds like kids bop especially if they were allowed to swear”

“im telling a trusted adult.”

While listening to the song for the first time, the lyrics aren’t that bad. However the overwhelming amount of autotune used and the overly energetic and enthusiastic dance that accompany the song make it unbearable. The energy is good, of course, but Siwa’s moves in comparison to her dance crew are excessive. After hearing the original version sung and produced by Smith, the lyrics along with the instrumentals and style of playing fit perfectly, but Siwa’s version strips the song of its dignity.

The music video is set on a deserted island with a full moon shining brightly on it, but what’s the reasoning? Why is this the scene? It seems like Siwa chose this setting just because it looked edgy — which is the image she aims to cultivate right now — but other than that, it doesn’t seem like there’s any significant connection to the song.

About halfway through the music video, Siwa is seen jumping off a party ship dressed in all white, swims for a bit, then rises back up dressed as an evil jester — which may correlate to her transition from the innocent girl fans and viewers used to know into a more rebellious look. But viewers only perceived this bit of her walking out of the water like Moto Moto from “Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa.”

Confusing, shocking and hilarious are three words that can sum up Siwa’s (or not Siwa’s) song and music video. Choreographically questionable and unnecessarily vigorous, the dance is the focal point of hatred among viewers. Hopefully, if she releases new songs, she’ll consider this as a misstep.

by **Thaomy Phung** | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | SHE/HER/HERS | thaomy.phung@uconn.edu

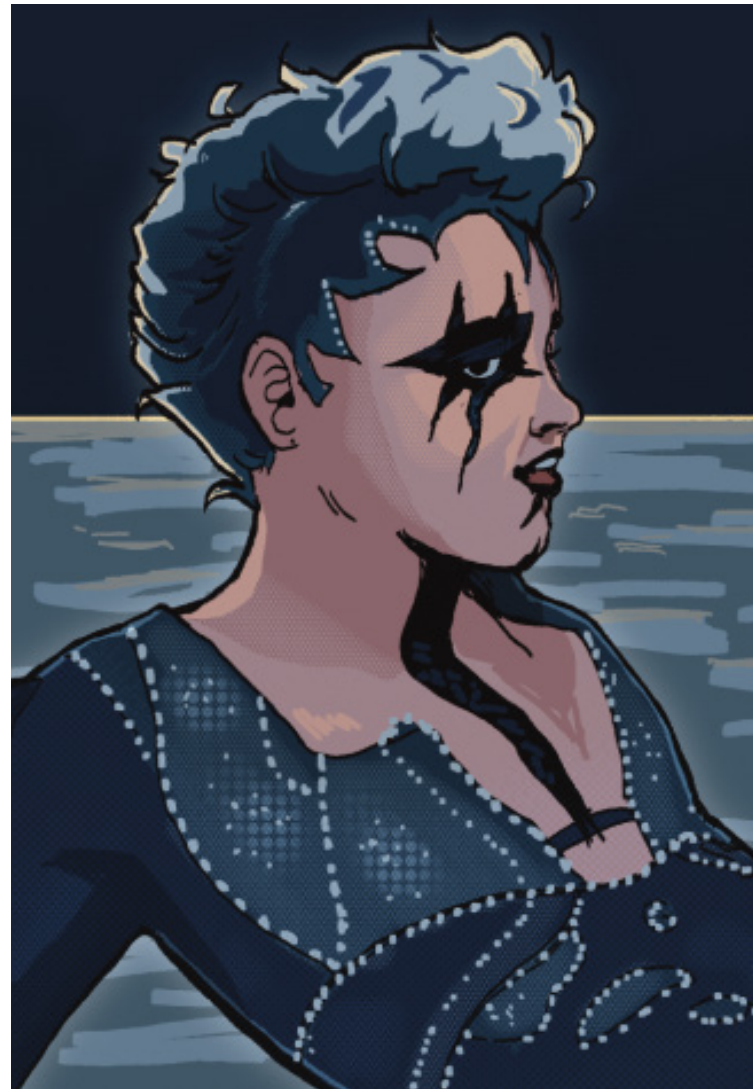


ILLUSTRATION BY HALEIGH SCHMIDT, ASSOCIATE ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

**RATING:**  
**0/5**

# One Size Fits Most: ‘Brandy Hellville & The Cult of Fast Fashion’

by **Sarah Barker** | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | @sarah.barker@uconn.edu

Max is the home of a new documentary following the clothing brand Brandy Melville and the consequences of fast fashion. “Brandy Hellville & The Cult of Fast Fashion” exposes the toxic work environment and discriminatory practices behind the scenes of the company, and brings up the problem with fast fashion and its effects on the environment.

In this film, we get interviews from multiple ex-employees, as well as women with careers that tie to the fashion industry. Kate Taylor, an investigative journalist for Business Insider, started a deep dive into Brandy Melville. She found that Brandy Melville isn’t a person’s name, but rather two fictional characters: Brandy is an American and Melville is an Englishman. The name’s backstory is that these characters met in Italy and fell in love. In her research, Taylor found that you can’t find Brandy Melville’s CEO with just a quick Google search like you can with other companies. Likewise, each Brandy Melville store is owned by a different shell company, while the Brandy Melville trademark is owned by a Swiss company. However, this whole

web has one man in the middle: Stephan Marsan.

When you talk about Brandy Melville, you can’t dismiss its ties to fast fashion. Alyssa Hardy, a former fashion editor at Teen Vogue, said that the company Zara is credited as the starter of the fast fashion model. Brands have continued to speed up production to drop new styles every week. Consumers are constantly buying because they feel like they need to fit in. Throughout all of this, though, is a massive amount of clothing that is going to waste. Hardy says “Ghana is like a dumping ground for our unwanted fast fashion.” These clothes need a place to go, and unfortunately Ghana has become a country that is forced to deal with our excessive consumption.

Emily, a former employee, recalls the application process requiring applicants to submit a full body image and provide their personal social media handles. A lot of the questions asked in the interview process didn’t have to do with working skill, but what YouTubers girls watched and other unrelated questions. Emily is part Asian, and she commented about how

she was always behind the register, whereas other girls who were blonde and model-esque got to greet customers and be “the face” of the store. Kali, another former employee, started in the fitting room and then moved to the stockroom. She said that no white people worked in the back. She said the girls knew it was wrong, but loved being around other minorities.

Brandy Melville’s clothes are famously branded with girls’ names, the reason being because Marsan or other higher ups would buy clothes that employees were wearing to then copy and sell. So, the Josslyn tee came off Josslyn’s back. “Product research” included copying a piece that an employee with good style had worn in a small amount at one store, then sending it to mass production if the product was performing well. This landed the company in lawsuits, but that didn’t stop them. They’re also not the only brand who has gotten in trouble for stealing ideas. Unfortunately, when larger brands steal from small businesses, it’s harder to get justice because of the size and financial difference between the companies.

Clothes from Brandy Melville have tags that say “Made in Italy.” People mistakenly think that this implies good quality, but there are good and bad factories everywhere. Brandy Melville clothing has been known to be made of thin materials that easily rip; those issues are a symptom of fast fashion.

A lot of former employees talked about the sizing of Brandy Melville’s clothing messing with their heads and mental health. Brandy Melville is known for its “one size fits all” system. The employees wanted to be able to fit into the clothes and fit company policy, which led to eating disorders and the cultivation of an awful body image. Store style photos were taken every day of what employees wore to work, and sent to Marsan. If he didn’t like the photo, he would encourage the manager to fire the employee in question. Looking back, former employees recall it being weird that their employer had numerous photos of them, but they didn’t think much about it. Employees were also encouraged to send photos they took of customers who had “Brandy style,” and if Marsan liked the picture,

he would say to offer them a job.

Marsan is also proudly libertarian, so much so he named the Brandy Melville sub-brand after a character in Ayn Rand’s “Atlas Shrugged,” which is sometimes referred to as the “Libertarian’s Bible.” He also used the book as a prop in store locations.

After news came out about Marsan and other higher-ups in the company being antisemitic and misogynistic, a lot of employees quit, and social media trends ruined the company’s reputation. It didn’t last long though; the company continued to go on as it had been after a few weeks. They never issued a public apology and have been able to find girls to work and appear on their Instagram. “They’re not hypocrites because they’re exactly who they say they are, they’re just racist sexist pigs,” said Taylor.

This documentary was very eye-opening and educational. As someone who shopped at Brandy Melville in high school, I had no idea what was happening behind the curtain. I care a lot about fashion, and hearing about how bad fast fashion has become is jarring, but also urges me to do better.

Rating: 3.5/5 stars



# Life

@dailycampuslife

## 'Monkey Man' takes a swing and slight miss at religious nationalism

by Nell Srinath | OPINION EDITOR | THEY/THEM/SHE/HER | nell.srinath@uconn.edu

In most stories about obtaining justice for the oppressed, viewers are met with the message of “turning the other cheek,” or forgoing vengeance to end a constant cycle of violence. In a violent and visually stunning — but thematically messy — display of righteous anger, actor-turned-director Dev Patel bucks the trend of pacifism with his directorial debut and performance in “Monkey Man,” which opened in theaters on Friday, April 5.

Set in the fictional, bustling and spectacularly unequal city of Yatana in India, “Monkey Man” takes on rampant corruption, religious nationalism and even the ongoing dispossession of marginalized Indian communities. The film follows Kid, played by Patel, a fighter in an illicit ring that combines the theatrics of WWE and the martial arts savvy of UFC with even more copious amounts of blood. In fact, in addition to being paid to throw matches for betters, Kid receives a “blood bonus” from Tiger (Sharlto Copley), the ring’s white emcee and organizer, if he bleeds during matches.

But Kid did not find himself in this sordid position in a vacuum. The film follows Kid’s ascension through Yatana’s criminal enterprises to seek revenge against Rana Singh (Sikandar Kher), a corrupt police chief who, at the behest of the demagogic, right-wing religious and political leader Baba Shakti (Makarand Deshpande), razed Kid’s childhood village and killed his mother to produce real estate. Kid’s quest for retribution has him infiltrating — as a dishwasher — the headquarters of Queenie Kapoor (Ashwini Kalsekar), the cocaine and prostitute-peddling business-

woman whose VIP nightclub Rana frequents.

Through his own criminal underground bona fides, Kid makes it to the upper echelons of Queenie’s company by the first act of the film, where he sees firsthand the depravity of the city’s rich and powerful figures. The remainder of “Monkey Man” sees Kid endure punishing action sequences, intense physical training — featuring a cameo from the legendary tabla player Zakir Hussain — and numerous emotional catharses before the film’s climax.

The crown jewel of “Monkey Man” is its gripping, blink-and-you’ll-miss-it fight scenes, choreographed by Brahim Chab. Patel, who himself studied martial arts as a teenager, gives a convincing performance that strikes a balance between strained and effortless. The earlier fights in “Monkey Man” are brutal wars of attrition, in which Patel’s character sustains nearly as much injury as he doles out to the gangster underlings of the main antagonists. The stakes are life and death, but not unbelievably so. The film is gory, but it’s tastefully done.

Though Patel’s penchant for shaky and chaotic establishing shots during heated expository moments becomes somewhat tiresome, the film’s camerawork matches the elevated caliber of its action sequences. Paired with thumping sound design, viewers watching in theaters have every reason to wince through each flurry of blows.

“Monkey Man” is an unapologetic love letter to “John Wick,” a pioneer of the “vengeful man with a dog brutalizes his way through the opps” subgenre. However, it takes on a markedly more political posture than its

action-thriller contemporaries, to the point where the commentary Patel wants to make is greater than the film’s capacity to properly communicate it.

To its credit, the film holds space for political issues that rarely, if ever, receive attention among western audiences. The film’s emphasis on the dispossession of land from villagers parallels real-world land grabs from Adivasis, or tribal Indians, by the Indian government under the pretense of development or conservation. The film also broaches discrimination against the Hijra, a group of people in India that identify with a third gender, distinct from “man” or “woman,” who are pushed into the margins of society and become especially vulnerable to violence and exploitation due to intense social stigma — both in the film as well as contemporary India. The film goes beyond portraying the Hijra in a paternalistic, sympathetic light; it outright empowers them, depicting them as spiritual leaders, healers and fighters, who directly resist — with sickles, no less — the corporate and ideological actors responsible for their oppression.

Though the film’s commentary appears potent on the surface, it falls short in several crucial areas. The ascetic political kingmaker Baba Shakti (shakti meaning “power” in Hindi), whose othering rhetoric and populist appeals to the “working man, the poor, the sick” mirrors the rise of Hindu nationalism in India, as well as communal violence by Hindus against religious minorities.

Yet, despite the Hindu character of the problems it’s referencing, “Monkey Man” shies away from calling out Hindu nationalism outright. Shakti is

not even stated as belonging to a particular faith; rather, he is the religion. The social messaging of the film shrinks into a tamer critique of cults of personality and populism. In “Monkey Man,” the real-world critique is reduced to individuals rather than systems, which disappoints the film’s earlier emphasis on corruption, inequality, gendered exploitation and more.

For Patel’s directorial debut,

“Monkey Man” is an extremely ambitious project — especially given its relatively modest \$10 million budget. And though its technical chops are remarkable, the story and message these techniques are used to tell collapses on itself with political contradictions and writing clichés. Despite this, “Monkey Man” is a must-see in theaters, and even a cynic like this author plans to see it again soon.

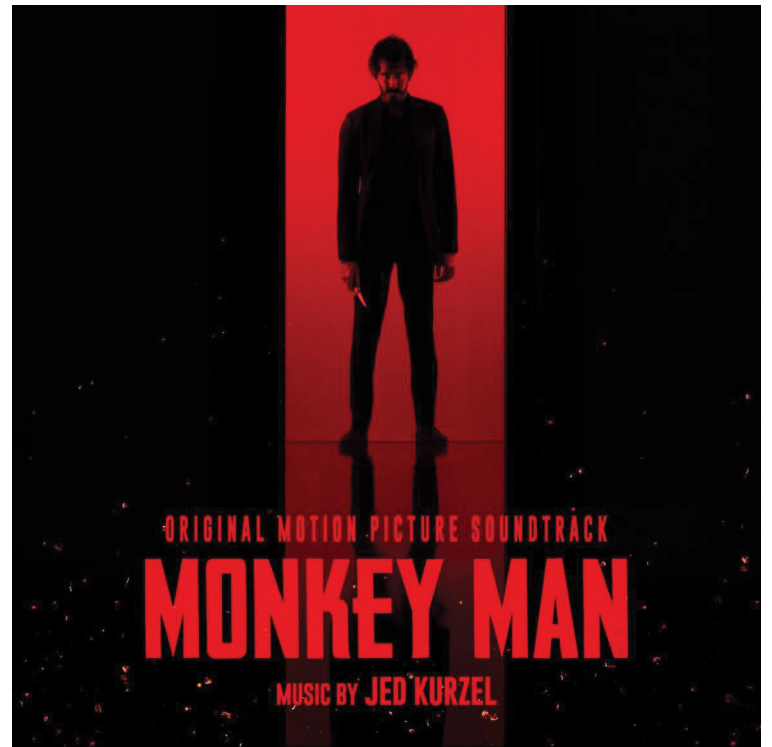


PHOTO COURTESY OF @MONKEYMANMOVIE ON INSTAGRAM

Rating:  
3.7/5

## Examinations of the self and French solidarity of workers

by Desirae Sin | STAFF WRITER | SHE/HER/HERS | desirae.sin@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut Humanities Institute held its second undergraduate fellow’s talk on Wednesday, April 10. The presenters were eighth-semester student Annabelle Bergstrom and sixth-semester student Brent Freed.

Bergstrom’s presentation, “Minds Among Minds: The Self in the Hyperconnected World” explored the impact that social media has on the understanding of ourselves and those around us. She aimed to answer the question: “Is there a difference in degree or in kind of sociality as compared to before the advent of social media?” The inspiration for her project came from her therapy sessions and the realization that there has been a global feeling of disconnectedness despite an increase in connectivity. “60% of Americans describe feelings of loneliness,” stated Bergstrom. “How the self is affected both internally and externally will tell us a lot about our culture and society.”

She focuses her research

on social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and X (formerly known as Twitter). Bergstrom noted that she avoided platforms that allow or encourage anonymity like Reddit, as the previously mentioned platforms better display how we want to portray ourselves. She also focuses on the work of William James, who is known as the “Father of American Psychology.”

The Jamesian theory of the self contains three aspects of the self. The material refers to the human body, the spiritual is about inner life and the social is about how others view you. Originally, this theory posits that these three components are equally balanced, but Bergstrom combats this by stating that while there is a balance, it is not equal. There are shifts in which one aspect of the self overtakes the others depending on the time and situation. She uses social media to display a change in this balance. “We have the ability to login to social media more than 50 years ago,” said Bergstrom.

Social media has created two groups, Bergstrom explained; one being the influencer who creates “targeted content that affects how people see themselves or others,” and the influenced, in which “content displayed by others becomes part of one’s expectations/identity.” Yet, these two groups are not mutually exclusive. Bergstrom believes that influencers can also be the influenced and vice versa.

Bergstrom concluded by mentioning the positive aspects of social media, which have allowed connections to be maintained over large distances and enabled new friendships. However, the biggest attribute of social media, to Bergstrom, is the fact that it is a safe haven for outcasts. The goal that her project lays out is to encourage individuals to be authentic in both the real and online world, along with being purposeful and reflective of how we portray ourselves.

The second presentation by Freed was titled “Vietnam in Their Factories: Themes Ex-

plored Through ‘Freedom in Solidarity, My Experiences in the May 1968 Uprisings’ by Kadour Naïmi.” Freed’s project explores the 1968 riots in France by students who displayed solidarity with the working class. He explored the link between anti-colonialism and immigrant workers rights through Naïmi’s book.

Freed briefly mentioned Naïmi’s history as an Algerian immigrant and student, one who had connections with activists within the Strasbourg Grassroots Vietnam Committee. Naïmi himself described his work as “an account of national and social liberation.” Naïmi was also associated with Maoists and worked to bridge connections with other countries. His work included factory visits where he displayed genuine concern and sympathy for the workers, as opposed to using these people’s stories to garner fame.

To display the temperament of the activists during this time, Freed showcased various posters such as “Workers Unite”

(Travailleurs Unis), “Be Young and Shut Up” (Sois Jeune et Tais Toi) and “Don’t Let Yourself be Exploited” (Ne Vous Laissez Pas Exploiter). Some posters weren’t completely in French, showing remnants of anti-colonialism in the movement.

Naïmi’s actions during 1968 were highlighted by Freed and contained in a summarizing list. This includes the importance of solidarity, the intersection of identities and the cycle of exploitation faced by laborers in blue collar industries. The movement brought people together, and Freed stated how there were “feelings united despite differences.”

While the movement ended quickly, it prompted a fear of violence, distrust in the leaders and the deportation and/or arrest of many of the movement’s key figures. Yet, Naïmi’s account of the movement is a “physical intersection of workers, immigrants and students of France at the time,” concluded Freed.



# Opinion

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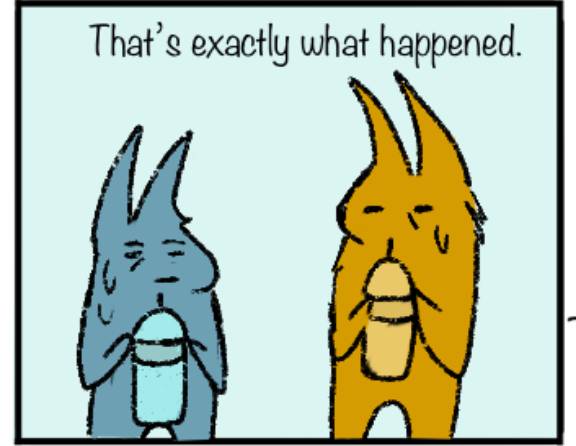
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The White Collared Worker



Jason J. Sampson

COMIC BY JASON J. SAMPSON, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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

# IT ISN'T JUST MINDLESS

by **Luke Feeny**  
WEEKLY COLUMNIST  
HE/HIM/HIS  
luke.feeny@uconn.edu

I love this job. It combines a lot of my best talents: writing, research, wit, being correct and telling people why they are wrong. One of my favorite things about this job is that, in addition to my own column, I get to do collaborative work with other wonderfully talented writers on a weekly basis as a part of The Daily Campus Editorial Board.

We've covered a variety of topics that have a direct impact on the University of Connecticut community: private jets, 10-year plans, why Luke Feeny is by far the best writer in the opinion section and poor institutional planning. This February we wrote — in my opinion — our strongest piece of the semester. It was looking back on the #SaveUConn movement that engulfed Storrs at the beginning of the 2023 spring semester. On that article, this comment was left:

"What unites UConn? Mindless college sports... No one really cares about college sports after the fact."

This is not a defense of UConn Athletics, as I believe there is plenty that we can and should criticize them for. Despite consistently operating within a budgetary deficit for years, the university continues to fork money over to them without hesitation; while stuck in a \$47 million hole in 2021, when they needed \$17 million for a new ice hockey rink, the money was approved unanimously by the board of trustees.

See **FEENEY'S FOCUS**, p. 08

# HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS ARE WORTHLESS

by **Youssef Macary**  
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In recent years, the high school diploma has become less and less valuable, and that is because graduating high school is no longer something that students need to work as hard towards. In this article, I will discuss what makes a high school diploma valuable, and the policies that undermine that value. Schools are making it easier for students to pass, and in doing so, they strip the worth of completing high school and receiving a diploma.

Getting [a high school] diploma is supposed to be an achievement which signifies that a student has learned a certain amount of academic material and met the standards required to graduate.

A high school diploma means something because students need to work to obtain it. Getting that diploma is supposed to be an achievement which signifies that a student has learned a certain amount of academic material and met the standards required to graduate. These standards are meant to ensure that students who leave the school system have a base amount of knowledge and skills that will enable them to succeed in the world. With this logic, the choice to fail a student makes complete sense. If a student is

not meeting the requirements needed to be worthy of a diploma, they should be kept in the system as long as it is necessary to ensure they gain the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the world. This ensures that the school system is properly serving students. However, it seems that society has the opposite approach; it has prioritized passing students, no matter what.

In 2016, neaToday posted an article about a no-zero grading policy. They claim that "a small but growing number of school districts have implemented new grading systems that ban grades of less than 50% - the so-called

centivized to learn skills such as time management and effort.

Another article discusses how "schools in Washington state saw a pandemic-era spike in students' grades that did not line up with how students did on year-end tests, particularly in math, a new analysis finds." This shows that there is grade inflation, indicating that schools prioritize passing their students over ensuring that they have learned the intended academic material instructed within school districts. This begs the question: What is the point of having standards to graduate and goals for all students to achieve before they get a diploma if they are all going to get one? Schools are telling their students they are doing well through good grades, when in reality, they are not.

Overall, the standard for earning a diploma seems to be dropping. Grades were inflated during the pandemic, the standard to pass is sharply lowering and schools seem to prioritize pushing kids through the system, when they should be doing the opposite. If schools set standards to graduate, they should strictly adhere to them to ensure students going through their system are getting a proper education and are prepared for the real world. This philosophy can help society to best serve the next generation and prepare them for what is to come. Unfortunately, that does not seem to be the priority. Schools must reverse this trend so that a high school diploma reclaims its value as a genuine accomplishment.



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Opinion StudyBreak

## Huskytalk | Rate the on-campus cafes based off of their vibe only



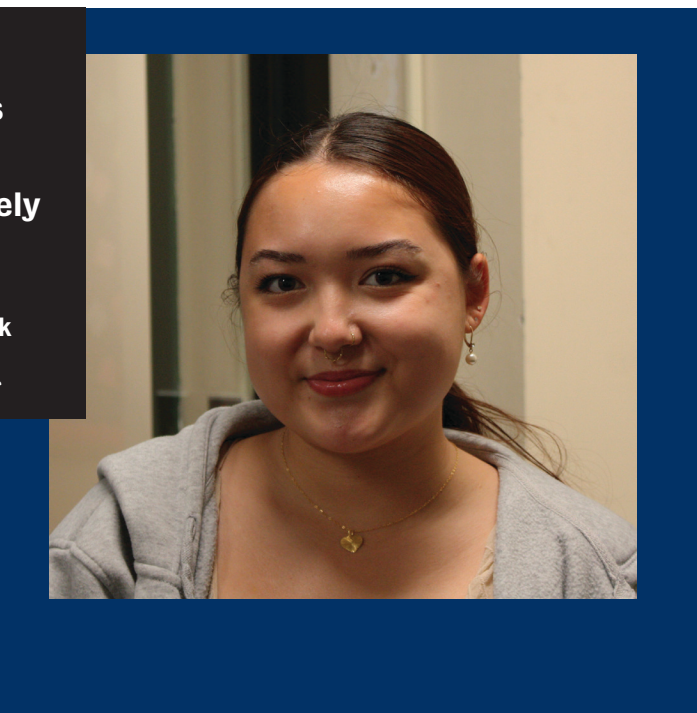
**“Five or six, it’s not like I don’t want to be there, but there is always a lot of people there.”**

Grace Pereira Lopes  
- Tenth Semester




**“9.5, the Beanery is really nice, a nice place to go and relax.”**

Jacob Gilson  
- Second Semester



**“nanoByte is number one, Bookworks is number two, and the rest are collectively mid.”**

Jaelynn Cafourek  
- Eighth Semester



**“Bookworms at number one, the vibes are great, the ambiance when studying is also great.”**

Jeremy Haber  
- Second Semester

**FEENEY’S FOCUS, cont. from p. 07**

There’s also the fact that the UConn foundation is adamant on chartering private jets for coaches on recruiting trips, despite the devastating impacts on the environment. Studies show that flying by private jet is up to 14 times more polluting than flying commercial, and it is responsible for producing as much as 480 times the carbon dioxide emissions of an average person’s climate footprint by air travel.

I, and anyone who has interacted with me, will tell you that I am a naturally cynical person, but this level of cynicism is a bit much even for me. While the commenter is right that sports — especially basketball — do typically generate the highest level of campus engagement among UConn students, I reject the notion that it is just mindless groupthink.

In the past two years, myself along with thousands of other students got to witness history: the utter domination by the men’s basketball team over the past two years en route to consecutive NCAA titles, making them the third program to pull off the rare feat of repeating as the kings of March.

Getting to watch this team for the past two years has been one of the greatest joys of my life, and not something I will soon be forgetting. Watching UConn’s dominance over the course of these past two tournaments brought me closer with the friends I’ve made up here. It gave me and my dad an excuse to have an incredible night in Boston watching the Huskies go on an unheard of 30-0 run against Illinois in the Elite Eight, which will forever be a trump card over all my former classmates from high school who went to big-time sports schools and didn’t get to watch back-to-back titles.

Sports are beautiful, frustrating, unpredictable and heartbreaking; UConn, and its students, are better for having them. Obviously, there is much that needs to be done regarding the administration’s funding for athletic programs here at UConn and nationwide. However, I can assure you I will not be forgetting what I’ve seen.

Sports give us the rare opportunity to truly forget about everything else in our lives and be together, engagement that I wish was present for other pressing issues such as sexual assault on-campus, UConn’s climate complacency and ever-increasing cost of living. But, that lack of mobility isn’t the fault of sports.

I will remember the noise, the excitement and above all else, the unfettered rapture of victory. Watching a bunch of students who come from different backgrounds, study different topics, and have different cultural and political issues unite is not mindless... it’s community, which shines a light on the true beauty of sports.

## 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/

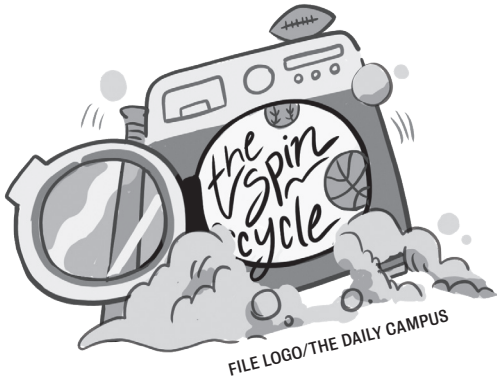
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## Spin Cycle: Andrew Bailey was the Red Sox's biggest offseason acquisition

by Nick Spinali  
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The 2023-23 offseason was not a particularly busy one for the Boston Red Sox. They made a few moves, though none were notable enough to warrant extensive media attention or praise from the fans. Yet, the team has had one of the better starts to the new baseball campaign in all of Major League Baseball. Now, looking back at this last offseason, it's clear that one move has paid dividends immediately and should continue to in the future.

The funny thing is that the move wasn't even to bring in a player. Well, he was a player, but he's long since turned in the jersey for a spot on an MLB coaching staff. The move was to hire Andrew Bailey as the team's pitching coach.

The 39-year-old Bailey was a MLB reliever from 2009-2017. He made his MLB debut with the Oakland Athletics after being selected by the team in the sixth round of the 2006 MLB Draft. He was a two-time all-star with the A's, and was named the 2009 American League Rookie of the Year. He was a member of the Red Sox from 2012-2013. For his career, Bailey amassed a 3.12 ERA and 95 saves to complement an ERA+ of 136. That means that throughout his career, he was an average of 36% better than the average MLB pitcher.

After his playing days ended, Bailey was hired as the instant replay coordinator and coach-



Andrew Bailey, the Red Sox pitching coach, walks through the dugout after the final game of spring training. The Red Sox have since opened the season with a 7-4 record. PHOTO COURTESY OF @ANDREWBAILLEY37 ON INSTAGRAM

ing assistant for the Los Angeles Angels, before being named their bullpen coach in 2019. Prior to the 2020 season, he was hired by the San Francisco Giants as their pitching coach.

Bailey's pitching philosophy differs from that of Boston's previous pitching coach, Dave Bush. Under Bush, Red Sox pitchers threw off-speed pitches at the 21st highest rate in MLB. On the other hand, Bailey's former employer in San Francisco threw off-speed pitches at the top rate in the Big Leagues. Now, Bailey has Boston's starters throwing more off-speed pitches, proving immediate results.

All statistics used in this article reflect Boston's pitching performance through the team's first 10 games.

Last season, Boston pitchers allowed more hard contact to batters than this year's team (4.0 weak hit percentage compared to 6.1%). They also allowed hitters to find the sweet spot of the bat and barrel up the baseball at a higher rate than this year's team (7.9 barrel percentage compared to 5.7%). The results have been immediate; compared to last season, Red Sox pitchers have improved on their average exit velocity (89.1 MPH compared to 86.7 MPH), expected batting average (.243 compared to .214), ex-

pected slugging percentage (.408 compared to .350), expected weighted on-base average (.315 compared to .278) and average launch angle (12.1 degrees compared to 11.2 degrees).

Now, this Boston staff ranks first in the Majors in earned run average at a measly 1.48. They also rank in the top-five among all pitching staff in strikeouts, walks, saves, hit batters and home runs allowed.

To say Bailey has succeeded early on would be an understatement, especially after Boston fans took aim at the front office for failing to acquire another notable starter this past offseason. In fact, this year's Red Sox staff may have less

noteworthy pitchers compared to last year's after losing names such as Chris Sale and James Paxton to other teams. Instead, Bailey has made do with a unit headlined by the young Brayan Bello and composed of unlikely heroes such as Nick Pivetta, Tanner Houck and Kutter Crawford.

It'll be interesting to see how Boston's pitchers will fare for the remainder of the regular season. Many weren't expecting the BoSox to be contenders in 2024, not due to a lack of offense, but mainly due to pitching concerns. If those concerns can be ironed out and the unit stays healthy, a feisty Red Sox team could be on tap in the new campaign.

# Huskies in the Pros:

## A closer look into the NBA, NHL and MLB

by CJ Dexter  
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**NBA: Drummond has double-double streak snapped, leaves game with ankle injury vs New York**

Embracing a key role off the bench this season, veteran big man Andre Drummond has been a key piece of the Chicago Bulls rotation, averaging 8.4 points and nine rebounds on 55% from the field. The former lottery pick out of UConn recorded his third consecutive double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds on Sunday against Orlando, but left with an ankle injury on Tuesday against the Knicks. There is no official word on how much time, if any, that Drummond could miss, but a potential loss to the team's first big off the bench would be brutal for a squad looking to make it out of the play-in

round of the playoffs. In the meantime, head coach Billy Donovan said former UConn national champion Adama Sanogo could see "situational minutes" in his absence.

**NHL: Thompson scores three goals in three games for Sabres**

Despite Buffalo falling short of the postseason for the 13th straight year, star right winger Tague Thompson has continued to perform at an elite level with 20 points in his last 16 games. Before he was held without a shot on goal in Tuesday's 3-2 loss to Dallas, the former UConn star scored a goal in three consecutive games against Detroit, Philadelphia and Washington. The former first-round pick exploded for a career-high 94 points last season (47 goals and 47 assists), but an injury to his left hand kept him sidelined for a chunk of this season. Thompson has 29 goals

and 26 assists as the regular season ends for Buffalo.

**MLB: Former UConn star Nick Ahmed earns everyday shortstop job for San Francisco**

After serving as the everyday shortstop for the Arizona Diamondbacks over last decade, former UConn star Nick Ahmed was released last September, one month before the club clinched its first postseason spot since 2017.

Fast-forward to 2024, Ahmed takes over the everyday shortstop job for the D-Backs' division rival, the San Francisco Giants, after the departure of longtime star Brandon Crawford. In 12 games played this season, Ahmed is batting .222 with four runs batted in. "Blindsided" after being released from the organization that drafted him, the veteran gold-glover looks to maintain the everyday job for the Giants in his 11th season.



Andre Drummond plays during a game for the Chicago Bulls. The Bulls record this season is currently 37-42. PHOTO COURTESY OF @DRUMMOND ON INSTAGRAM



Nick Ahmed with his new teammates on the San Francisco Giants. Formerly, Ahmed had played for the Diamond Backs for nine years. PHOTO COURTESY OF @NICKAHMED13 ON INSTAGRAM



Tague Thompson suits up for a game. Thompson currently plays on the Buffalo Sabres. PHOTO COURTESY OF @TOMMER97 ON INSTAGRAM

## Sports

Photo of the Day | UConn stays winning



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

# Chris's Column:

## 2024 MASTERS PREVIEW

by **Chris Charbonneau**  
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Tune in this Thursday for the 2024 Masters Tournament at Augusta National Golf Club. This past weekend at the Valero Texas Open, the 22-year-old lefty Akshay Bhatia won in a playoff over Denny McCarthy. Bhatia is an example of a young rising golfer with an opportunity to place high in his first career Masters, as his first major appearance was in 2021 at the U.S. Open when he tied for 57th place. The odds for this year's Masters can be viewed via DraftKings Sportsbook.

### Analysis

Tiger Woods withdrew from the 2023 Masters after seven holes in the third round. Previously, the legendary golfer won the 2019 Masters and is hoping to win his sixth green jacket to tie Jack Nicklaus. Woods has a history of injuries but



The Masters participants taking shots in the pre-tournament warmup session. Round one will begin today on Thursday, April 11, 2024. PHOTO COURTESY OF @THEMASTERS ON INSTAGRAM

a ton of course experience.

Rory McIlroy will have another opportunity to secure the green jacket. He finished third at the Valero Texas Open, but is still hungry for a major championship win.

The Irish golfer hasn't won a major since 2014. In 2022, he finished second at the Masters, but missed the cut last year at Augusta. In the PGA Championship, he tied for seventh in 2023 and finished eighth in 2022. In the U.S. Open, he finished second in 2023 and tied for fifth in 2022. At the Open, he tied for sixth in 2023 and finished third in 2022. McIlroy will always be a name to consider in the top 10 of a major championship, but can he get it done on Sunday and play a perfect clean round?

The former PGA Championship winner might become the sixth player in PGA Tour history to complete the grand slam. He's shot par or worse in the first round of the last five masters. This is McIlroy's 16th ca-

reer Masters start.

Jordan Spieth finished 10th at the Texas Open and is another name to look out for this weekend. The 2015 FedEx Cup champion shot a 66 in the final round of the 2023 Masters, and has six rounds of 66 or better in his career at Augusta National. Woods has eight rounds of shooting 66 or better and the golden bear, Nicklaus, has six. In Spieth's ten starts at the Masters, he has the lowest career scoring average of 70.7, McIlroy has 71.5 in 15 starts and Rickie Fowler has 71.5 in 10 starts.

Last year's winner, Jon Rahm, may become the first repeat Masters champion since Woods in 2001-02. The Spanish golfer left for LIV Golf shortly after his win in 2023, and hasn't played many rounds this year. He had four top-nine finishes in his last five Masters appearances. Rahm has the opportunity to become the second golfer in the last 15 years to defend a major title. Golf fans questioned whether LIV players could make the cut in last year's Masters. Phil Mickelson and Brooks Koepka tied for second in the 2023 Masters, with Koepka leading through the first 3 rounds, shooting -12 under. He tied for the third lowest 36-hole score in Masters history and lost to Rahm down the stretch on the back nine. Koepka won his fifth major at the PGA Championship at Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, New York.

Wyndham Clark and Ludvig Åberg rank fourth and ninth in the Official World Golf Rankings. Clark is the reigning U.S. Open champion and finished second at last year's Arnold Palmer Invitational and Players Championship.



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

The 24-year-old Åberg won the RSM Classic in November and has seven top-10 finishes in 23 starts on tour. He, alongside first-timers like Bhatia, are in play to be the first first-time Masters winner since 1979 when Fuzzy Zoeller won.

Last, but certainly not least, is Scottie Scheffler. The 27-year-old won the 2022 Masters and has the best odds to win this year's Masters tournament. Scheffler leads the tour in scoring average (69.0) and birdie or better percentage (31.4%). Viktor Hovland is the reigning FedEx Cup winner, but his season hasn't exactly panned out like he wanted it to. Hovland has zero top-15 finishes in his last five starts and ranks 119th in strokes gained compared to last year, when he ranked eighth.

### What's At Stake

This year's purse for the Masters is \$18 million, the same as the 2023 Masters Tournament. The winner receives 600 FedEx Cup points, 100 world ranking points and an automatic exemption to the PGA Tour, plus the other three major tournaments for the next five years. The winner also gets to choose the menu for the following year at the Champions Dinner and, most importantly, receives the green jacket.

## TRACK AND FIELD: UCONN PREPARES FOR TWO-MEET WEEKEND

by **Jackson Crainich**  
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Connecticut track and field is splitting up into two groups this weekend, as half the squad will stay on campus to participate in the UConn Northeast Challenge, and the other half will travel to Durham, North Carolina to compete in the Duke Invitational.

The UConn Northeast Challenge is a two-day event — kicking off on Friday morning and concluding Saturday afternoon — and will host schools from all around the Northeast, including Albany, Boston, Central Connecticut State, Wesleyan, Yale, Columbia, Northeastern and more.

At last year's UConn Northeast Challenge, the Huskies' men's and women's teams both took first place. The men put up 112 points, totaling six first place finishes and beating out Rhode Island's 93 points and Harvard's 85 points. The women posted a total of 172.5 points with five first place finishes, including two by current junior A'lyyah Thomas. The women took home first place by a wide margin, as Harvard came behind them with a score of 133 points and Albany finished in third with 67 points.

The Duke Invitational will take place at Morris Williams Stadium and will last from Thursday to Saturday. Other schools that will be participating in the Duke Invitational are North Carolina, College of Charleston, Wake Forest, Charlotte and UNC Wilmington.

The meet is expected to kick off at 10 a.m. on Friday. The first event is the men's decathlon 100m, followed by the women's heptathlon 100m hurdles at 10:15 a.m. The day ends with the men's hammer throw, anticipated to take place around 6:30 p.m. On day two, the meet will start at 10 a.m., as the men will take the track to race in the 110m hurdles. Day two of the meet will be far longer, as the final event is expected to start around 9:55 p.m. with the men's 5000m as part of the Norm Ogilvie Distance Carnival. To conclude the event, day three will start at 11 a.m. with the women's javelin, long jump and 4x100 relay final, and the men's triple jump and pole vault. The final event of the meet will take place at 4:15 p.m., when the men run the 4x400 relay final.

Only a month away from the Big East Outdoor Championships, the Huskies have had a successful start to their outdoor campaign and are looking forward to continuing their strong season in Durham, North Carolina and Storrs, Connecticut



# BASEBALL:

## HOOK C RUN-RULES BRYANT AND MAINE WITH BROADHURST'S THREE HOMERUNS

by Cole Stefan

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In the last two games of their Big East-opening series versus the Xavier Musketeers last weekend, it was the UConn baseball team's pitching that delivered the damage. Fresh off that massive conference series victory, the Huskies' bats erupted against two America East Conference opponents.

In particular, second-year graduate student Luke Broadhurst raked. At third base, he went 6-8 with three longballs in two games, and raised his season batting average from .234 to .282.

The first of those homers came in the third inning of Tuesday afternoon's 12-1 triumph over the Bryant Bulldogs. Leading off the frame against righty Mark Scamardella, Broadhurst belted a 1-2 pitch beyond Bryant's bullpen for a 5-0 Connecticut lead.

Prior to the third baseman's booming solo shot, the Hook C offense started hot. Two hits by pitches from Bulldogs starter Toby Scheidt put runners on the corners with one away in the first. Although catcher Jackson Phinney caught shortstop Paul Tammaro stealing, left fielder Corey Morton broke the ice early with an RBI single that landed in fair territory.

Right fielder Jake Studley kept UConn's offense flowing in the second. A throwing error and a four-pitch walk knocked Scheidt out of the game, but Scamardella fared no better. Studley smacked the payoff pitch with two away, driving in both runners who were on base for a 3-0 Huskies advantage. Redshirt junior Bryan Padilla brought home the Big East Preseason Player of the Year three pitches later.

Bryant's bats, held to one hit through three innings, responded in the fourth. Designated hitter Brandyn Durand singled and took second on a wild pitch, stopping the shut-out bid on Carmine Petosa's RBI single. Junior Joe Carrea relieved midweek starter Ben Schild following that hit, and struck the next two Bulldogs out swinging. Righty M.T. Morrissey returned the favor in the bottom half, relieving Bradley Lewis and holding Connecticut scoreless for the first time all afternoon.

Braden Quinn escaped trouble twice over the ensuing two innings. Quinn relieved Carrea with a runner in scoring position in the fifth, escaping the jam unscathed on Zac Zyons' grounder to second. Two walks put the junior southpaw in another pickle in the sixth. Despite the adversity he faced, Quinn struck Daniel Baruch out swinging and kept Bryant's offense at bay. The Hook C subsequently made the Bulldogs pay for not scoring in the bottom half, when first baseman Maddix Dalena whacked a 3-1 count to the wall. Designated hitter Matt Malcom sprinted to the plate from first as UConn got their run back.

Leading 6-1 was not enough. Senior southpaw Ryan Bradley nearly escaped a two-runner situation unscathed in the seventh inning, but Dalena smacked an RBI double into right field. The Huskies kept the floodgates open when pinch-runner Drew Kron scored on a passed ball. Two consecutive RBI singles gave

Connecticut a 10-1 lead.

Broadhurst iced the contest in the bottom of the eighth, following southpaw Charlie West's 1-2-3 frame. The third baseman blasted a 2-2 pitch into the Hook C bullpen with one aboard, enforcing the 10-run mercy rule.

UConn's offense responded after Jake Marquez's two-run shot put the Maine Black Bears ahead during the following afternoon. Malcom cut the Huskies' deficit in half in the second inning when he grounded into a fielder's choice; his team went ahead on the very next pitch. Dalena demolished a three-run homer toward the woods for his fifth blast of the year as Connecticut went ahead 4-2.

Padilla smoked his own two-run shot three batters later and, with Tammaro in scoring position, Morton brought home the Hook C's seventh run of the frame with an RBI double. Only then did Maine head coach Nick Derba pull starting pitcher Noah Lewis; Gabe Gifford fared no better. Given the green light, Broadhurst whacked an opposite-field, two-run shot for his third blast in approximately 25 hours. While they left the bases juiced, UConn scored nine runs on seven hits and sent 15 batters to the plate in that frame.

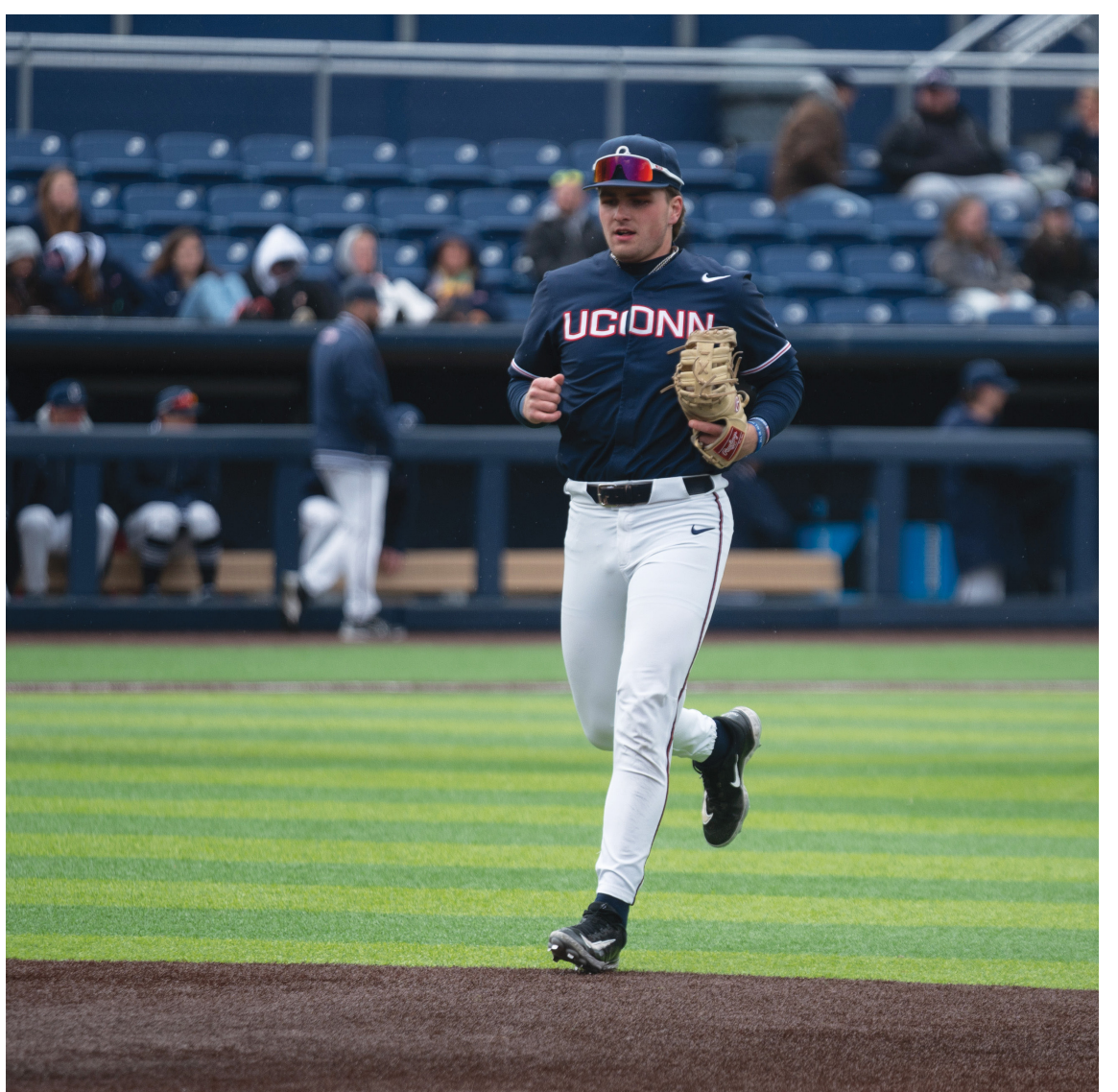
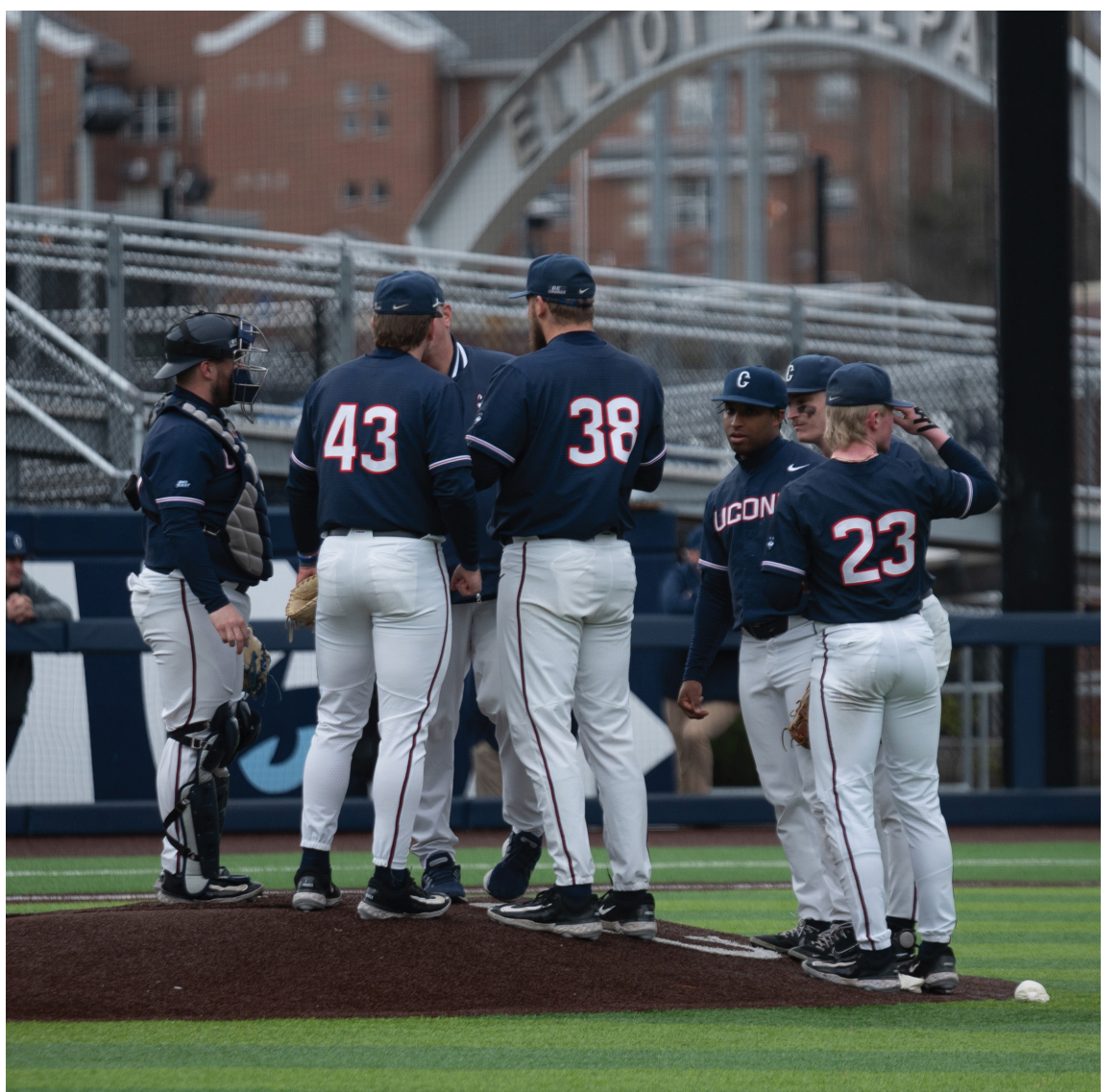
The Huskies followed that offensive outburst with 13 players stepping into the batter's box in a seven-run third. Studley, who popped out in foul territory during the second, sent the first pitch of the frame over the fence for his sixth homer of the season as Connecticut crossed double figures. Broadhurst drove in Tammaro on an RBI single, scoring himself when Malcom mashed a two-run base knock. Studley would have put ducks on the pond again when he walked on a full count, but the payoff pitch sailed past Black Bears catcher Dean O'Neill.

Two runs scored on that play and Tammaro brought home one more on an RBI single. Pinch-hitter TC Simmons kept the foot on the gas for the Hook C in the bottom of the fourth when he smacked an 0-1 pitch to the deepest part of right field. Simmons' blazing speed took him all the way to third base for a standup, two-run triple.

UConn's decisive 19-2 advantage allowed head coach Jim Penders to utilize some of his lesser-used bullpen arms. Redshirt junior Hector Alejandro entered first after relieving Jack Sullivan and worked a 1-2-3 top of the fifth. True freshman Tommy Turner followed and recorded his first-career strikeout in the sixth. SUNY Oswego transfer Kieran Finnegan made his Huskies' debut after that punchout, and stranded Mark Sargent at second on two pitches.

Connecticut's first hit of the bottom half — a Caleb Shpur RBI single with team captain Ryan Hyde at third — put the cherry on top. First-year righty Sean Finn relieved graduate student Cam Mayer following a one-out single in the seventh. He tossed five pitches for the final two outs as the Hook C run-ruled Maine 20-2.

UConn's nine-game homestand hits the final stretch with a critical weekend series against the St. John's Red Storm. First pitch Friday



UConn baseball wins their matchup against Xavier at Elliot Ballpark in Storrs, Conn. on April 6, 2024. The Huskies took an early 3-0 lead in the first inning and led the entire game, winning with a final score of 8-2.

PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# Sports

# THE COLEUMN

## Non-UConn schools that almost ruled basketball



**by Cole Stefan**  
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It has been 20 years since the UConn men's and women's basketball teams won the national title in the same year, and a decade since they repeated that feat. While that accomplishment did not happen for the third time this season, college basketball fans still witnessed history.

Two schools, Connecticut being one of them, had both of their programs in the Final Four in the same season for the first time. Here is a list of every institution that has accomplished this feat and come close to sweeping the basketball national championships since 1995.

**Writer's Note:** Both of a school's basketball programs must have reached the Final Four in the same year to be included.

**Louisville (2013)**

The Louisville Cardinals have come the closest to doing what UConn has accomplished since 2004. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Rick Pitino and the No. 1 overall seed men's team topped the Michigan Wolverines in Atlanta, Georgia, for the national title. One day later, with Pitino in attendance, head coach Jeff Walz and the fifth-seeded women's team sought history against Breanna Stewart and the Huskies in New Orleans. Louisville's women's team lost by 33 points to the Huskies, and the men's team's championship has since been vacated.

**Duke (1999)**

The Duke Blue Devils were almost the first school to make unprecedented college basketball his-

tory. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Mike Krzyzewski and the men's team won 34 games by double figures heading into their highly anticipated title tilt against UConn. Duke's women's team dethroned the three-time defending champion Tennessee Volunteers in the Elite Eight and bested the Georgia Bulldogs in the Final Four. However, head coach Carolyn Peck led the Purdue Boilermakers past the third-seeded Blue Devils, and Jim Calhoun and the Huskies shocked the world.

**Syracuse (2016)**

Connecticut and the Syracuse Orange have met twice in March Madness, with the second occurring this year. The first happened in 2016, when the fourth-seeded women's team made their first championship game following consecutive wins over No. 7 seeds. Stewart, Moriah Jefferson and Morgan Tuck ended their collegiate careers with a 31-point victory over Syracuse. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Jim Boeheim and the men's team squeaked in as a No. 10 seed. The North Carolina Tar Heels bested the Orange in the Final Four.

**South Carolina (2017)**

Head coach Dawn Staley and the South Carolina Gamecocks lost to the Orange in the Sweet 16 as a No. 1 seed in 2016. South Carolina captured their first national title a year later, besting the Mississippi State Bulldogs, two days removed from snapping the Huskies' NCAA-record 111-game winning streak. Frank Martin and the seventh-seeded men's team, meanwhile, reached their first Final Four after knocking off the second, third and

fourth seeds in the East. They fell to the eventual national runners-up, the Gonzaga Bulldogs.

**LSU (2006)**

The LSU Tigers are one of three schools in women's basketball history to reach five straight Final Fours. The third of those consecutive national semifinal appearances came in Basketball Hall of Famer Seimone Augustus' senior year, when the top-seeded Tigers fell to Duke in Boston. Glen Davis and Darrel Mitchell guided the fourth-seeded men's team to their fourth Final Four after downing the Atlanta Region's top two programs. The eventual runners-up UCLA Bruins handed LSU their first non-conference loss since they played UConn in January.

**Michigan State (2005)**

Basketball Hall of Fame coach Tom Izzo led the Michigan State Spartans to three Final Fours in his first nine years in East Lansing. With four players averaging double figures, Izzo celebrated his 10th season at Michigan State by advancing to his fourth national semifinals, where eventual champion North Carolina ended their run. Head coach Joanne P. McCallie led the women's team to the national title game after knocking off Tennessee in the Final Four. All-American Sophia Young and the Baylor Bears left them empty-handed.

**Texas (2003)**

Both Texas Longhorns basketball teams made the Final Four for the third time in program history 21 years

ago. Head coach Rick Barnes and the top-seeded men's team surged through the San Antonio Regional. Despite picking up close wins in the Sweet 16 and Elite Eight, the third-seeded Orange prevented Barnes from coaching for a national title. The second-seeded women's team upset Louisiana State in the West Region's Elite Eight, but fell by two points to Diana Taurasi and the eventual repeat-champion Huskies in Atlanta.

**Oklahoma (2002)**

With Hollis Price and Aaron McGhee, head coach Kelvin Sampson led the second-seeded Oklahoma Sooners to their first Final Four appearance since they were national runners-up in 1988. Although they were favored, the fifth-seeded Indiana Hoosiers halted Oklahoma's chances at vengeance. Head coach Sherri Coale led the women's team to their first championship game appearance after winning the West Region and downing Duke by 15 in the Final Four. However, Sue Bird and Swin Cash concluded their collegiate careers with a 12-point victory over Oklahoma.

**North Carolina State (2024)**

Kevin Keatts and the 11th-seeded men's team went from twice being on the brink of elimination during the Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament to the Final Four. Head coach Wes Moore and the women's team began the season unranked. They used that as fuel, upsetting the Portland 4 Reigonal's top two seeds en route to their first national semifinal appearance since 1998. Despite the university becoming a part of history this season, both teams' campaigns ended in Final Four heartbreak against No. 1 seeds.

I originally came up with this idea in December, when the UConn men's basketball team had five national titles. If the past four months are any indication, more universities will achieve this honor in the future.

While each addition may decrease the value of being in rarified air, it should not take away from the universities that have already made history. Their extraordinary seasons, like those of any program that sweeps the national championships, will be remembered for eternity.



LOGO BY ANNA IORFINO, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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