



LEAD SUPERVISOR OF UCONN POLICE SVU DEMOTED AMID HARASSMENT INVESTIGATION

by **Gabriel Duffany**
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
gabriel.duffany@uconn.edu

An investigation conducted from February to July 2023 found the head officer of the University of Connecticut Police Special Victims Unit (SVU), Sergeant Marc Hanna, in violation of the department's standard operating procedure on seven different counts. "There are several policy violations that impact the effectiveness of Sergeant Hanna's leadership within this organization," the official findings read.

The charges include a violation of attention to duty, failure to obey directions and multiple instances of workplace harassment.

After union arbitration, Sergeant Hanna has been demoted to the rank of Detective, removed from the SVU, and may not apply for promotion within the next five years.

Lieutenants Robert Allen and Jennifer Moskowicz of the UConn Police Department led the internal affairs investigation. They conducted a series of 23 separate fact-finding interviews.

The investigation identified four individuals who have been inappropriately touched by Hanna in the workplace, with instances of unwanted shoulder massages, kisses on the head, hugging and one incident involving an officer being restrained against the wall.

One female police officer reported that, despite consistent and vocal protest, "Sergeant Hanna had, on several occasions, put his arm around her, has given her hugs and had come up behind her and rubbed her shoulder," the internal documents read.

Regarding unwanted massages, one male officer testified, "Sgt. Hanna had to actually wedge himself between the back of (the officer's) chair and a filing cabinet to be able to massage her shoulders... he could see that (the officer) was very uncomfortable with the situation," the investigation reported.

These incidents were not isolated, with Hanna's troubling

patterns of behavior negatively impacting co-workers and victims of the SVU. Per the official findings of the investigators, "Employees are forced to modify their behavior in order to avoid having Sergeant Hanna touch them or be alone in his presence. Other employees reportedly declined to apply for career development opportunities to avoid having to work for Sergeant Hanna."

The abuses were often perceived as threatening by those employed at the department, hampering their ability to continue working. One particularly aggressive act led to the eventual investigation of Hanna's conduct over time.

Cornering and grabbing a female officer with both hands, then Hanna "jacked me up against the wall" and expressed his anger regarding the subordinate officer not pursuing a temporary detective position, the investigation reported. The officer left her Feb. 4, 2024, shift early, unable to carry out her duties due to the shock of the experience.

In official interviews, Hanna detailed this incident as "light banter." Subsequent to the interaction, Det. Hanna lied to his commanding officer, Captain Justin Gilbert, who directly ordered Hanna not to make contact with the victim.

"Captain Gilbert told him [Hanna] that he wasn't sure where the complaint was going to go and that they should just wait and see if the complaint died down," the investigation said. Phone logs reveal Hanna called the officer in an attempt to persuade her to revoke the complaint.

Although the female officer did not exercise her right to legal recourse against Hanna, she requested he be transferred to a different UConn campus. Hanna maintains his employment in Storrs.

Hanna justified his inappropriate advances as being playful or warranted in the circumstances at the time.

In response to a situation where Hannah kissed one female and one male on the top of the

head from behind, the Detective stated "that he sees them 'like they're kids,'" and that the interactions were "meant as a joke."

During the interviews, the female dispatcher expressed her anger with the conditions created by Hanna's presence.

"It is already hard enough to be a young female in a workplace such as a police department and to be valued, so when [she's] treated how Sergeant Hanna treats [her,] it is very frustrating," the dispatcher said.

The report goes on to outline instances of inappropriate comments and jokes primarily targeted at the department's female staff.

After overhearing one "joke" of a sexual nature, one female officer "Recalled feeling humiliated but felt that this was the humor of most departments, so she just let it pass and didn't complain about it at the time," the investigation reported.

Hanna has additionally been cited for a failure to uphold his professional duties and adequately meet the sensitive needs of his unit, which serves as the first line of response for victims of sexual crimes.

SVU Officer James Voelker described Hanna as "condescending" towards victims in SVU cases, constantly being on his cell phone during interviews and being "disengaged."

Despite the serious allegations of misconduct against Hanna, the university assures that the UConn Police are committed to serving the community and addressing wrongdoing both externally and internally.

"UConn Police immediately launched an internal affairs investigation upon learning of concerns and complaints regarding the officer's behavior," said Deputy UConn Spokesperson Mike Enright. "The UConn Police Department and its Special Victims Unit care deeply about pursuing justice on behalf of survivors of sexual assault and handling their cases with the utmost diligence, care and sensitivity."

CONNECTICUT DEMOCRATS VOTE ON WAR IN GAZA

by **Liliana French** | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | SHE/HER/HERS
liliana.french@uconn.edu

In Connecticut's Democratic primary election held on April 2, 11.6% of votes cast were uncommitted in protest of the war in Gaza, with turnout at 8.3%.

Connecticut's Vote Uncommitted Campaign was organized by the CT Palestine Solidarity Coalition, who publicized their campaign on Instagram, organized phone banks, published campaign ads and offered instructions on how to take part in the Vote Uncommitted campaign. Flyers were also posted by groups such as the Democratic Socialists of America.

The campaign was inspired by the success of the Listen to Michigan campaign, where over 100,000 people voted uncommitted. Michigan's primary was held on Feb. 27 and local Democrats, such as Rep. Rashida Tlaib backed the campaign.

Zach Weingart — a University of Connecticut graduate student who is earning a master's in social work — as well as a member of Students for Justice in Palestine and Connecticut Social Workers for Palestine, said that he decided to vote uncommitted "pretty much as soon as I knew that was an option."

Weingart pointed to Michigan's early success, saying "seeing the success that Michigan had with the vote uncommitted campaign was pretty inspiring."

"I think it does show that there's a significant proportion of people who are opposed to his support for genocide. And, you know, it did get some publicity after the fact in Connecticut newspapers," Weingart said. "I think a lot of people are talking about it, at least in my circles, so I do view it as a success."

Weingart discussed the impact of the Vote Uncommitted campaign nationwide in changing Biden's foreign policy towards Israel.

"There's been a rhetorical shift, but we're still sending weapons and, you know, we're saying 'maybe we won't send weapons' but we're still continuing to do so. I think this has gone on for far too long," Weingart said. "So, I think he has noticed it."

Weingart also brought up recent U.S. humanitarian aid to Palestine, which has occurred through airdrops from military planes, according to an AP News report.

"I think any amount of food that gets in does help," Weingart said. "Between air drops and the pier that they're currently constructing, I think it's part of this shift that Biden is, sort of starting to pander to people to his left that are opposed to this... The most effective way is getting the trucks in," he added, saying that Israel was blocking aid trucks.

Regarding the campaign in November, Weingart was unsure as to how successful online pledges to not vote for politicians who fund the war in Gaza will be.

"It's hard to say until the votes actually happen," Weingart said.

The CT Palestine Solidarity Coalition thanked those who participated in the campaign and who voted uncommitted via Instagram.

"We will continue to stand firm against the genocide of the Palestinian people and make our voices be heard!" the organization said.

The CT Palestine Solidarity Coalition is made up of groups including Abandon Biden, We Will Return, Democratic Socialists of America, CT Students 4 Palestine and more.

Mansfield will be hosting annual Mansfield Tag Sale Trail on Saturday, April 27, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

by **Jenna Outcalt**
STAFF WRITER
SHE/HER/HERS
jenna.outcalt@uconn.edu

The event allows local small businesses and residents to sell wares or personal items throughout Mansfield while buyers can follow a map to any sellers they want to visit.

The deadline to register as a seller for the tag sale is today. Registration is free and open to all Mansfield residents and Mansfield small businesses. Registered sellers will be listed on the map that will be available starting April 22. Maps can be found online at <http://www.mansfieldcc.com>, and hard copies

will be available at the Mansfield Community Center free of charge.

The event will be based out of the Mansfield Community Center's gymnasium. Sellers can set up their goods in the gymnasium or elsewhere in Mansfield, allowing shoppers to follow the map and explore the community. Both businesses and residents can register to sell. Spaces in the gymnasium are open to anyone who registers, whether or not they reside in Mansfield.

A press release from Mansfield Parks and Recreation said that the event is a great opportunity for residents to interact with the community.



Downtown Storrs is located on the southeast end of the University of Connecticut Storrs campus. The area contains apartments, restaurants, stores and other small businesses, making it a popular place among UConn students.

PHOTO BY EMILY O'BANNON, ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

"Whether you love the hunt for a bargain, need to purge your spring cleaning, or are just looking to finally get out of the house, this event has something for everyone!" the press release said.

According to the press release, home sales that are occurring for the tag sale may also be open on Sunday, April 28. The press release also gave examples of the variety of wares shoppers might

find along the tag sale trail.

"Find treasures and treats from antiques, baby and children's items, gardening and other tools, household items, furniture, outdoor equipment, rugs, books, quilts, and much much more!" it said.

The weather on the Saturday of the tag sale is currently predicted to be cloudy and in the 40s and 50s. Guaranteed

dry 10' by 10' spots in the community center's gymnasium are acquired on a first-come, first-served basis for registered sellers.

Those who wish to register must do so through the online registration portal on the Mansfield Parks and Recreation website. For those who want to collect a hard copy of the trail map, the community center is open from 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. on weekdays.

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Study Break

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Activist Brockovich played by Julia Roberts
 - 5 Without a cent
 - 10 Youngsters
 - 14 High-fat, low-carb diet, casually
 - 15 Merits
 - 16 Falco of "Nurse Jackie"
 - 17 Backyard vegetable patch, e.g.
 - 19 "___ Enchanted": Anne Hathaway film
 - 20 Surveil secretly
 - 21 Socialized at leisure
 - 23 Stretch the truth
 - 25 Prefix with pod
 - 26 Configuration before customization
 - 34 Tiny criticism
 - 35 24-Down soother
 - 36 Hearing-related
 - 37 Tennis great Arthur posthumously awarded a Presidential Medal of Freedom
 - 39 Titled
 - 41 Mani-___
 - 42 Hops along happily
 - 44 Shadowboxes
 - 46 Pen tip
 - 47 Element of early internet art
 - 50 Lifesaving skill, for short
 - 51 Gaming console with a gesture-based controller
 - 52 Leafy bowlful with hard-boiled eggs
 - 58 Bub
 - 62 Civil rights icon Parks
 - 63 Brainstorming breakthroughs, and the ends of 17-, 26-, and 47-Across?
 - 65 Opposed to
 - 66 Bring to mind
 - 67 Pull sharply
 - 68 Breakfast for dinner, say
 - 69 Used needle and thread
 - 70 Concludes

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68						69						70		

By Micah Sommersmith

4/15/24

- DOWN**
- 1 Cardiac readouts, briefly
 - 2 Gather crops
 - 3 Coy response to a compliment
 - 4 Drift into dreamland
 - 5 Actor/director Stiller
 - 6 Many Megan Thee Stallion songs
 - 7 "Derry Girls" girl played by Louisa Harland
 - 8 Celtic artwork feature
 - 9 North Carolina's Biltmore ___
 - 10 "Don't stop now!"
 - 11 Unoccupied
 - 12 Pickle herb
 - 13 Official emblem
 - 18 Giant computer of the 1940s
 - 22 Miss, in Mex.
 - 24 Unwanted beach souvenir
 - 26 Once-common storage media
 - 27 Moral principle
 - 28 Dog walker's line
 - 29 ___ Bay
 - 30 Lipstick mishap

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

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4/15/24

- 31 "Fame" star Cara
- 32 Lowest point
- 33 Silver-tongued
- 34 Astronauts' gp.
- 38 Dumpster fire-level blunder
- 40 ___ a blank
- 43 Tentative tastes
- 45 Space series genre
- 48 Building site sights
- 49 Camp project with rubber bands
- 52 Make up for procrastination, perhaps
- 53 Sharpen, as a blade
- 54 "¿Cómo ___ usted?"
- 55 Adoration
- 56 Declare publicly
- 57 Hockey feint
- 59 Incline
- 60 Terra firma
- 61 Requests
- 64 Went first

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RECONTEXTUALIZING SEX WORKERS IN THE MEDIEVAL LATIN MEDITERRANEAN

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

Susan McDonough, an associate professor of history at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, gave a talk on the connections and community within the medieval Mediterranean, as part of the University of Connecticut's Visiting Scholar in Gender & History series on Thursday, April 11. This series began in 1998 with support from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies program.

According to her biography on UMBC's website, McDonough is an author, with her first book, titled "Witnesses, Neighbors, and Community in Late Medieval Marseille," having been published in 2013. She has also published articles in multiple historical journals. McDonough is currently writing a monograph on "exploring the role of sex workers as knowledge brokers in the port cities of the late medieval Mediterranean."

History Department Head Mark Healey introduced the Visiting Scholar in Gender & History series before introducing Charles Lansing, an associate professor of the history department.

Lansing then introduced McDonough, mentioning the prestigious journals that have published her writing.

McDonough began her talk by asking, "Can we imagine that it's January 15, 1381?" She contextualized the history of the medieval Latin Mediterranean by setting the scene in Marseilles, France. She gave a quote cited by sex worker Caterina Danton from a court case against another sex worker named Johanna the Brytoza, for slander that could be a part of Aristophanes' "Lysistrata." "These old horny women, who are not worth a big donkey's prick, are in the habit of shaving three times a month," getting a humorous reaction from the audience.

"There is such richness in Johanna's words with its sexual references and ageist language," McDonough later said. In the court document for the case, the word "prostitute" is said numerous times. "They really want you to know she's a sex worker," McDonough said.

McDonough mentioned the notary records that survived. "For medievalists, this is a treasure trove," she said. However, the details of the notary records, especially for sex workers, "could be just a name and occupation."

She acknowledged English professor and academic Saidiya Hartman, saying "My approach

to medieval sex workers is indebted to Hartman" before explaining the concept of critical fabulation, which allows people to qualitatively imagine what people's lives could have been like through information we already have that may not tell the full story.

"We must concede that there are many things we don't know and maybe never know about these women," McDonough said. She stressed the importance of having a critical imagination to fill in the gaps. Many constraints controlled the lives of sex workers' dangers to them being inherent.

On the topic of sex workers' safety and mobility, McDonough said, "There was violence in their lives, and they were not in control of their movement." She is aware of the stigma that sex workers have and still have, saying churches ban sex workers due to their profession. "The sex workers did not accept those limitations," she said.

The scene then changed to Valencia, Spain, in 1372 to see what other ways legal cases involving sex workers were handled. According to a document, a father accused sex workers of poisoning his son. Someone else eventually confessed that they slowly poisoned his apples and eggs. McDonough wondered if the sex workers were trying to help and not hurt when they were involved with the son. In another case, a sex worker was fined 10 euros for

pulling another sex worker's hair.

The scene then changed again to Venice and Corelone in Italy. Notarial records from those locations suggest the consideration of sex workers as providers of consumables like fishmongers and that the patrons of sex workers were "consumers of services." When seeking notarial services, multiple sex workers had the same notary.

Now focusing on Barcelona, Spain, in 1457, McDonough said that Mediterranean women traveled together over long distances for the sake of security. She said that, fundamentally, "Sex work is a way to make money," highlighting the other forms of work that women in the medieval Latin Mediterranean could do, such as domestic work. There were many risks to being a sex worker if not licensed by the crown of Barcelona, as they would be enslaved and exploited if caught doing sex work. There were incentives, especially financially, to participate in the institution of slavery. McDonough also said that, if fined by the crown, there was an expensive price to pay that could not be paid with money made from sex work. "Their freedom meant nothing if they were poor and couldn't pay their fines," she added.

"I presented you my collection of critical fabulations," McDonough concluded. She said

that while not all sex workers moved to the Latin Mediterranean, many of them did. She also noted how the surviving documents judged the morality of sex workers.

The talk was followed by a Q&A session. McDonough noted that people invest in paying for notaries and court documents by sex workers, symbolizing privilege. This, according to McDonough, refuses the notion that women in the Latin Mediterranean were oppressed by their government. "When you see a sex worker in notarial documents, they choose to self-identify as a sex worker. In fines, the legislation identifies them as sex workers," she added.

McDonough also said, "Some women do sex work for a short time and go on to do other things," rejecting the notion that jobs are generally permanent. In response to a question about the women traveling, McDonough noted how "Some sex workers were fined for dressing as men. They were fined not because they were sex workers but because they were dressed as men. It was safer to dress as a man than a woman when traveling."

McDonough aims to destigmatize sex work, saying, "I'm trying to be careful about that."

Symphonic Wind Ensemble performs "HOME"

by **Patrick Boots** | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | patrick.boots@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut Symphonic Wind Ensemble presented a compelling program titled "HOME" at the Von der Mehden Recital Hall on Thursday, April 11. Dr. Janet Song Kim conducts the group, which is comprised of dedicated UConn music students.

The concert featured guest artist-in-residence Dr. Solomiya Ivakhiv on violin and composer Catherine Likhuta, whose works were prominently featured throughout the evening.

The first piece performed was Likhuta's "A Place That Is Yours" — a touching tribute to the late composer Steven Stucky, according to her catalog. This introspective piece, rendered by the ensemble and highlighted by Ivakhiv's violin performance, was a highlight of the evening and showcased her exceptional artistry and intricate technique. Likhuta's use of chimes and bell-like sounds resonated with the audience, creating a hauntingly poignant atmosphere.

"[Dr. Stucky] often said that, as a viola player, he didn't get very busy parts in the orchestra, and that allowed him to sit and listen to what was happening around him," said Likhuta in the program notes. "Writing this sentimental dedication felt special and brought back so many wonderful memories and a strong feeling of gratitude."

"Through Healers' Eyes" was particularly interesting. Likhuta explained to the audience that the piece started as a painting of war through the eyes of nurses and later added inspiration from first responders to the COVID-19 pandemic. It makes use of kettle drums and strong brass to invoke this imagery.

The ensemble's versatility was shown during Patrick Burns' "Oasis." Burns, a former mentor to Kim, gifted the piece as an example of the reflections we all have of the world. "[I] needed to find a band that would do it justice. the UConn Wind Ensemble was able to bring it to life," said Kim on choosing the selection.

"We all have at least one oasis, whether it be another person, a faith, a pet, a vocation, a hobby or someone to whom we can turn for rejuvenation when we need it most. The music is meant to transport you to that place in your mind," wrote Burns about the piece, "The invitation is to listen actively and to imagine." The ensemble's dynamic range and nuanced interpretation conveyed the emotional depth of Burns' composition.

"Home Away from Home," a personal composition that explored themes of identity and belonging, was also included. Likhuta explained that her travels through Ukraine, Australia and the United States inspired this piece. The main focus while creating the music was revolving around the concept of "home."

Before the performance, Likhuta said, "I wanted to make music for students who leave the nest at home and have to make their own lives."

The second half of the program concluded with Karel Husa's iconic "Music for Prague - 1968." This powerful work, inspired by the events of the Prague Spring invasions and protests, unfolded with dramatic intensity. The ensemble's precision and cohesion in the intricate textures of this challenging piece were commendable, culminating in a breathtaking performance.

Throughout the evening, Kim's leadership was evident in the ensemble's unified sound and expressive interpretation. The student musicians were professional and collectively showcased the high standard of performance that UConn promotes.

In a busy week, some people may wonder if it is worthwhile to attend a concert performance. As the semester closes, there will be many great performances available here on campus. Be it the Wind Ensemble, a showcase of puppetry at the Ballard Institute, choral groups or shows by the Connecticut Repertory Theatre and more, there is no shortage of enriching fine arts for students to explore and enjoy.

The best part is that students can enjoy the majority of these events for free. For this performance, all I had to do was walk to Von der Mehden Hall, which is only a short distance from the Fine Arts Complex and Downtown Storrs, furnish my student ID card and take my seat.

A calendar of performances is available through the UConn Events webpage and the MyUConn app — including those from the Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, student recitals and others. Later this week, the CRT opens "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" at the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts, and this just scratches the surface.

Even if you've never visited a concert or performance like this, it is worth a try. Who knows, you could even like it! For more information on the fine arts at UConn, upcoming performances and more, visit music.uconn.edu and vdm.uconn.edu.

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Life

In The Limelight: Joseph R. Rodríguez for 'Writers Who Edit, Editors Who Write'

by Joana Giano
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
joana.giano@uconn.edu

Joseph R. Rodríguez commanded the spotlight at this year's "Writers who Edit, Editors who Write" event, held at the Storrs Downtown Barnes & Noble store on Thursday, April 11 at 6:30 p.m. Presented by the Department of English, Rodríguez's remarkable presence in the literary world was unveiled to the audience. As an author, educator and editor, Rodríguez has honed his craft with precision, earning acclaim from critics and peers alike. His collection of poems, "This Is Our Summons Now: Poems," garnered attention and acclaim, being nominated and shortlisted for the prestigious John A. Robert Johnson Award for First Book of Poetry.

As the event began, the audience delved into Rodríguez's memorable debut collection. Described by the Poetry Foundation and Naomi Shihab Nye as "essential, elegant, earthen, transcendent," the collection captivates hearts and minds. Rodríguez holds a diverse background intricately woven into his craft. He was born in Houston, Texas in 1974, a year which he references throughout the event with a playful nod to his age. His roots extend beyond borders, drawing inspiration from Mexico, an influence that illuminates many of his poems.

Rodríguez's poem "Think of the Eclipse" was introduced with an anecdote about Carlos Fuentes, a renowned Mexican novelist and essayist. Rodríguez highlighted Fuentes' references to the Chac Mool in his works. The Chac Mool is a reclining figure from ancient Mesoamerican civilizations, typically holding a vessel on its stomach. It symbolizes the connection between the earthly and divine realms, often associated with water, fertility and sacrifice. Fuentes'

inclusion of the Chac Mool inspired Rodríguez to incorporate this mythical figure into his own craft.

In Rodríguez's narrative, the Chac Mool becomes more than just a mythological figure — it embodies the essence of storytelling itself. By weaving together a tale of the Chac Mool's encounter with the moon and the sun, Rodríguez taps into the enduring power of storytelling to preserve cultural heritage. Rodríguez invites readers to connect with the universal human experience of

ing down wisdom and tradition through generations. In doing so, he emphasizes the timeless value of stories in shaping our understanding of the world and our place within it.

Following the flow of cultural differences, "Frozen" is a poem inspired by Rodríguez's visit to a Target store in his hometown. He emphasized the contrasts between his own culture and that of the average American citizen, offering insight into how Target's transition from all-caps to lowercase lettering came about because shoppers felt they were being yelled at. His use of the English

language intertwines with Spanish, adding to the richness of multicultural interaction. Phrases like "frozen Hispanic," where American stores stock frozen Hispanic food items, despite the humorous disconnect, reflect the complexities of cultural integration and the sometimes comical misunderstandings that arise. Rodríguez playfully questions, "Would a Disney movie be stored in one of these coolers?" And muses over the juxtaposition of "A my's cheese and enchiladas olé," eliciting both laughter and reflection on the idiosyncrasies of cultural coexistence.

As an educator with a heart for his students, Rodríguez mentors over 186 senior students at a community college. Despite the praise he receives, he shares a poignant moment of empathy with a student, acknowledging the challenges they face. He recounted a scenario when he told his stu-

dents, "You are on your way to great things," but they responded with "a frown" and questioned if he was "confused." This touching exchange underscores Rodríguez's deep connection to his students and his commitment to their success. Despite his deep appreciation for the community college and its resources, Rodríguez emphasizes the transformative impact of experiences like those offered at the University of Connecticut. Having earned his Ph.D. at UConn and being involved with the Long River Review, a literary magazine, Rodríguez credits his time at the University as "life-changing," citing the enriching community, dedicated professors and even the simple joys like walks in the snow.

Closing the event with a Q&A session, Rodríguez seamlessly intertwines his roles as an editor, writer and educator, sharing insights into the interconnectedness of these roles. He offers valuable insights into networking as a writer, detailing how he stays in touch with many of his former teachers. He also emphasizes the importance of taking risks, recounting how reaching out to a popular author via email led to a fruitful literary mentorship. Reflecting on his journey, Rodríguez expresses his deep appreciation for literary greats, recalling the surreal moment of seeing his book displayed next to Sylvia Plath's at a Barnes & Noble store.

Attendees of Joseph R. Rodríguez's literary showcase at Barnes & Noble were treated to an unforgettable evening of poetry and prose. Rodríguez's journey, from the playful exploration of cultural nuances to heartfelt connections with his students, reminds us of the joy and complexity of the literary world. As the event drew to a close, attendees left with a renewed appreciation for storytelling, inspired by Rodríguez's wisdom and wit.



ILLUSTRATION BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

UConn Jazz Lab Swings Into Spring

by Stephanie Dickinson
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
stephanie.dickinson@uconn.edu

This Sunday, students, family members and faculty gathered at the Von der Mehden Recital Hall for the University of Connecticut Jazz Lab's final performance of the semester. The group, directed by Director of Jazz Studies Earl MacDonald, presented a repertoire featuring the likes of Thad Jones, Sammy Nestico and Noël Coward.

Upon taking the stage, the Jazz Lab launched straight into the program with "Thad Jones'

"My Centennial," a lighthearted piece that began with a solitary bassline and built upon itself. The track was released in 1977 in honor of the United States Bicentennial, though Jones' own centennial (100th birthday) was celebrated in 2023. For this reason, Jazz Lab had planned to cover the piece last semester but pushed it to the spring in order to give members more practice time. The extension was worth it, as the group delivered a compelling rendition led by double bass, piano, woodwinds, brass and a rousing guitar solo from Colin Quigley.

After the opening number, MacDonald took the opportunity to acknowledge the time

and effort his students had put into rehearsing. For first, second and third-year members, the concert provided an opportunity to show off the skills they had been honing over the past couple of months. For seniors set to graduate in a few weeks, it was a bittersweet farewell to a program many of them had dedicated several years and countless hours to.

The next few pieces, including "Windmill Tilter" by English musicians John Dankworth and Kenny Wheeler, were upbeat and energetic tracks that inspired more than a few drumming fingers, tapping feet and nodding heads among the audience. This afternoon's selection seemed to stray away from some of the more muted jazz noir numbers featured in the win-

ter concerts, which provided a pleasant change of pace. Though the Jazz Lab consists of no more than 20 members in total, the ensemble had no trouble filling Von der Mehden Hall with its full, bright sound.

Despite the fast-paced, uplifting tone set by the majority of the program, my personal favorite song of the afternoon, "Mad About the Boy" by Coward, was a slower, more melancholy track. "In this one, what I really enjoy is with the trumpet solo, the drums drop out entirely and it's just trumpet and base. It makes for a really intimate conversation I think you'll enjoy," MacDonald promised when introducing the song.

Indeed, featured soloists Madeline van Dyke (trumpet), Sebastian Rodriguez (piano) and Chandler Creedon (saxophone) did an excellent job putting their own spin on the piece. One of the beauties of a live performance such as this is that the musicians will improvise differently each time they perform a song, making for a unique experience that can never be replicated.

If you missed this afternoon's performance, don't worry! As the semester draws to a close,

UConn's performing arts ensembles will continue to showcase their talents in various concerts scheduled for the next two weeks. These events are free for students and faculty with a UConn ID and are a wonderful way to expose yourself to new music. It's a way to support UConn's musical community and simply relax and unwind.



CLIPART COURTESY OF WANNAPIK

THE LONG WEEKEND: 'ED WOOD,' 'KILL TONY' AND 'SONGS IN THE KEY OF LIFE'

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

What a week it has been! The University of Connecticut was able to celebrate back-to-back national championship wins for the men's basketball team. We are fortunate to have witnessed some great basketball these past few years, and it is special for the senior class to be a part of these years as our university has gained so much recognition. While some argued that the celebrations were anticlimactic, some students found a way to break a window at the recreation center. At least no couches were lit on fire. As always, here are some of my media recommendations for this week. Maybe they will help you ease off the high of our win.

THE MOVIE: "ED WOOD"

Nothing beats a Johnny Depp-Tim Burton collaboration — especially in the '90s. Following the iconic film "Edward Scissorhands" in 1990, Depp and Burton teamed up to create "Ed Wood" in 1994 — the duo's second project together.

Based on a true story, the film shows the career of Hollywood film director Ed Wood played by none other than Depp. The story follows Wood's career of directing mediocre films in the 1950s that went on to become cult classics years later. Wood is able to direct bombs with the help of legend Bela Lugosi, who is brilliantly portrayed by Martin Landau in an Oscar-nominated performance. Regardless of the film's success, Wood and his team of Hollywood outcasts can do them with a low budget. "Ed Wood" also stars powerhouse actors Sarah Jessica Parker as Woods' wife, Dolores Fuller and Bill Murray as Bunny Breckinridge.

By coincidence, I was able to see the back of Murray's head as he appeared at the championship rally on Tuesday night to support our national champions and his son, assistant coach Luke Murray.

The message of "Ed Wood" speaks to loving what you do regardless of the outcome, even if no one believes in you. If you have a story you want to tell, staying true to yourself and being authentic and authoritative — respectfully — will get you to where you want to be. It is also refreshing to see Depp take on a more grounded role of a real person while also showing the audience the more eccentric side of the characters we are so used to seeing. It is rare to see Depp take on these characters that are not so whimsical, but his performances are just as captivating when playing more straight characters, like his performance as Donnie in the 1997 film "Donnie Brasco" or James "Whitey" Bulger in the 2015 film "Black Mass." Shot in black and white, Burton portrayed Ed Wood not as making fun but as showing his process of filmmaking and his life.

THE SHOW: "KILL TONY"

Think of it as an R-rated "America's Got Talent" but strictly for comedy — the number one live podcast "Kill Tony" takes a no-holds-bar approach to seek out the new and upcoming talent in the stand-up comedy world. The host, Tony Hinchcliffe, pulls random names from a bucket that includes people who have never performed comedy before or have just started their stand-up journey. The participants have just one minute to perform their material and either get laughs from the crowd or complete silence and sometimes booted off the stage. After the set is over, the panel of guests interviews the comic to find out interesting things about their lives, which adds to the humor and brilliance of the show. You never know who might be a part of the esteemed panel. Whether it is other accomplished comedians or WWE legend Ric Flair, Post Malone or even Tucker Carlson, people who have never performed stand-up and still enjoy the craft and the show. "Kill Tony" is taking over the live show genre and deserves to get more mainstream recognition as the show continues to sell out theaters and arenas around the world. Available on YouTube or wherever you get your podcasts, "Kill Tony" is one of a kind.

THE ALBUM: "SONGS IN THE KEY OF LIFE"

Walking through campus during these gloomy, rainy days, I find myself searching for music in R&B to accompany the soft, low-energy sounds and feelings of the day. Having been a fan of Stevie Wonder, I clicked shuffle on his 1976 album "Songs in the Key of Life." Being one of Wonder's longest collections of songs, the two-LP set is a wide arrangement featuring some of Wonder's best work. The opening track, "Love's In Need of Love Today," might sound familiar to fans of Jay-Z and his "4:44" album as he samples Wonder's opening track on the song "Smile." Wonder kicks off the beginning of the track with the explosive "Village Ghetto Land." Then, Wonder delivers one of his most iconic tracks, "Sir Duke," which is a song that no one can not tap their foot along to. The album is filled with more hits like "Isn't She Lovely" and covers topics from love and relationships to social issues and spirituality.

Coming towards the end of the semester, it might be beneficial to show up to that lecture you have never been to or reach out to the professor about catching up on a semester saving assignment that was due in February. See you next weekend.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY: APRIL 14 - APRIL 20 "DRUGS IN THE SWINGING CITY"

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

Hello, and welcome back to This Week in History! Something that rarely makes its way into this column is the history of pop culture. While the previous historian behind this column, Gino Giassanti, dabbled in social events and major occurrences — like the sinking of the Titanic this week on April 15 — I feel that simply rehashing the history he already covered so exceptionally would be pretty basic. So, this week I'm diving into the history of the 60s, my favorite era of music and a remarkable era of change.

We begin this week in history on April 15, 1966, the publication date of an energetic Time magazine cover. Following an almost comically morbid blacked-out issue on April 8, asking, "Is God Dead?" Time magazine put out a wonderfully colorful issue covering "London: The Swinging City." The cover features a glimpse into the art styles pervading the mainstream pop culture in the "swinging city" of London — the centerpiece for the "swinging sixties."

Behind the standard Time logo at the top of the image is a darkened Union Jack, but below that is a lovely cacophony of color. Images of a discotheque, the core unit of the expanding music scene, are hidden behind wildly dressed dancers. On the right we see the automobile crazy take hold with a casino-esc scene in the center. In true Mod fashion, there's also an image of a rocker — maybe even Roger Daltry of The Who — screaming in a wildly British pair of Union Jack sunglasses and a shirt that bears his band name.

For a little context, a few months before the magazine released, the Beatles' "Rubber Soul" album took No.1 on the album charts for a six-week run in December 1965, while in a few short weeks the Beach Boys' "Pet Sounds" would capture the English charts.

London was swinging, the music was groovy, and yet decades earlier, one accidental discovery set the stage for the destructive innovations to come.

While it should be fairly obvious at this point in the column, I'm not a scientist; but, this week in history let's join the chemist Albert Hofmann in his lab at Sandoz Pharmaceutical Laboratories in Switzerland.

Hofmann had spent most of 1942 and early 1943 exploring the neurological effects that lysergic acid diethylamide produced. He was the first to synthesize the fungal compounds as early as 1938, all while seeking a simple medicinal solution for migraines. Immersed in his research and unaware of its full strength, the synthesized lysergic acid diethylamide sat in Hofmann's lab for five years until this week on April 16, 1943, when he examined its effects once again. Hofmann recalls in his book, "LSD — My Problem Child":

"In a dreamlike state, with eyes closed (I found the daylight to be unpleasantly glaring), I perceived an uninterrupted stream of fantastic pictures, extraordinary shapes with intense, kaleidoscopic play of colors."

Hofmann had discovered LSD. Now known as "Bicycle Day," on April 19, Hofmann attempted to ride his bicycle home from work under the effects of his discovery, but the landscape morphed and bent as he rode, people passing by turned into creatures and he essentially left reality. This week in history, Hofmann was the first person to intentionally take LSD. He continued to take small amounts of the drug for the rest of his life.

Twenty-three years later, on April 19, 1966, the Beatles were recording at Studio Two at EMI Studios — the secluded castle from which they ruled London's music scene. There, over several days this week, John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr assembled the psychedelically influenced song "Doctor Robert" — it was to go on their trippy response to the "Pet Sounds," "Revolver."

Upon its release, "Revolver" produced a new scene of underground psychedelic bands — many of whom would see a period of popularity in the true year of psychedelia: 1967. Though they often tried to deny it, the connection between LSD and this new wave of music is easy to spot.

In "Doctor Robert," an unobserved discussion of drug use is a bold inclusion: "You're a new and better man / he helps you to understand / he does everything he can, Doctor Robert." Helping his "patients" day and night, Doctor Robert sure sounds like a drug dealer. Lennon commented that the song was "mainly about drugs and pills," while McCartney said, "It was a big racket, but a joke too about this fellow who cured everyone of everything with all these pills and tranquilizers, injections for this and that; he just kept New York high."

Well, no doubt that the 1960s were forever changed by the growing mainstream appeal of LSD and its pop-culture infamy. Recall Hofmann's description of LSD as a "kaleidoscopic play of colors," by 1967, bands on both sides of the Atlantic would name themselves "Kaleidoscope" and embrace an emerging, colorful sound. Meanwhile, in "Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds," John Lennon sings of "A girl with kaleidoscope eyes," clearly the "swinging city" was also a "Tripping City."

And on that colorful, mind-warping note, I'll see you next week in history!



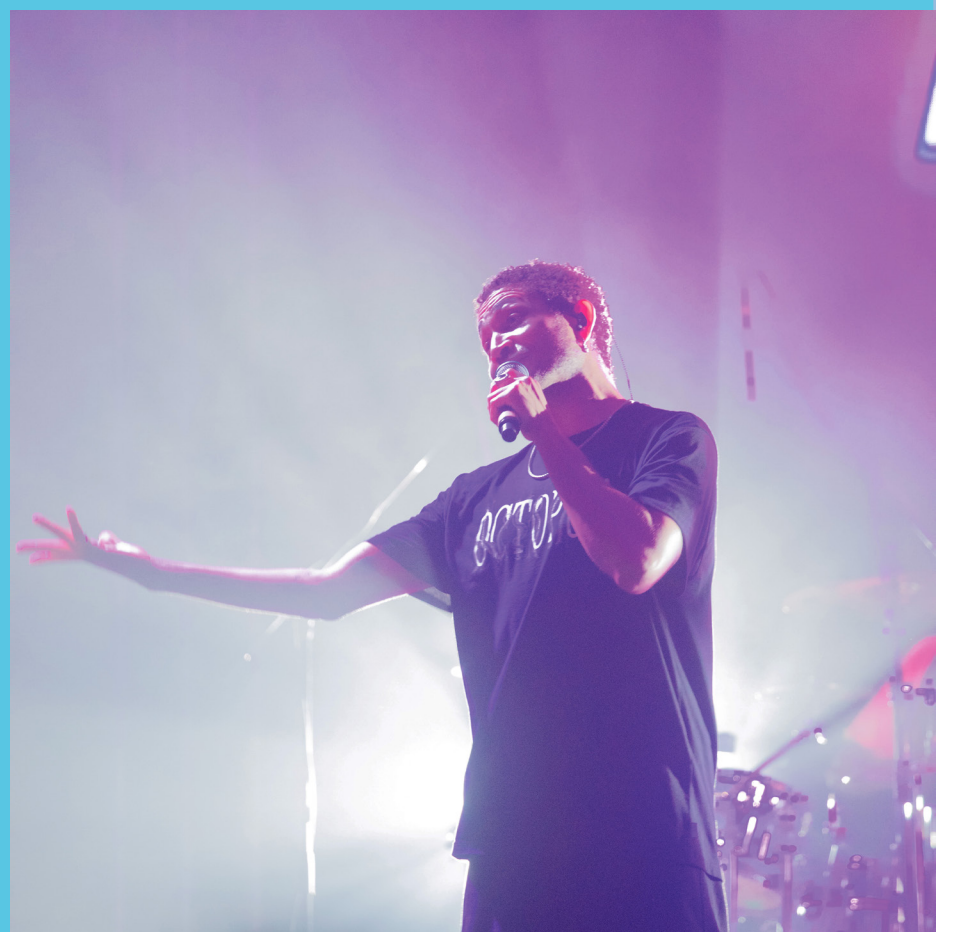
FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Life

@dailycampuslife

UConnic PHOTO GALLERY



UConnic music festival on April 11, 2024 at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn. UConnic was this past week sponsored by SUBOG, the main performers were Bryce Vine and Swae Lee. PHOTOGRAPHY BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS





Opinion

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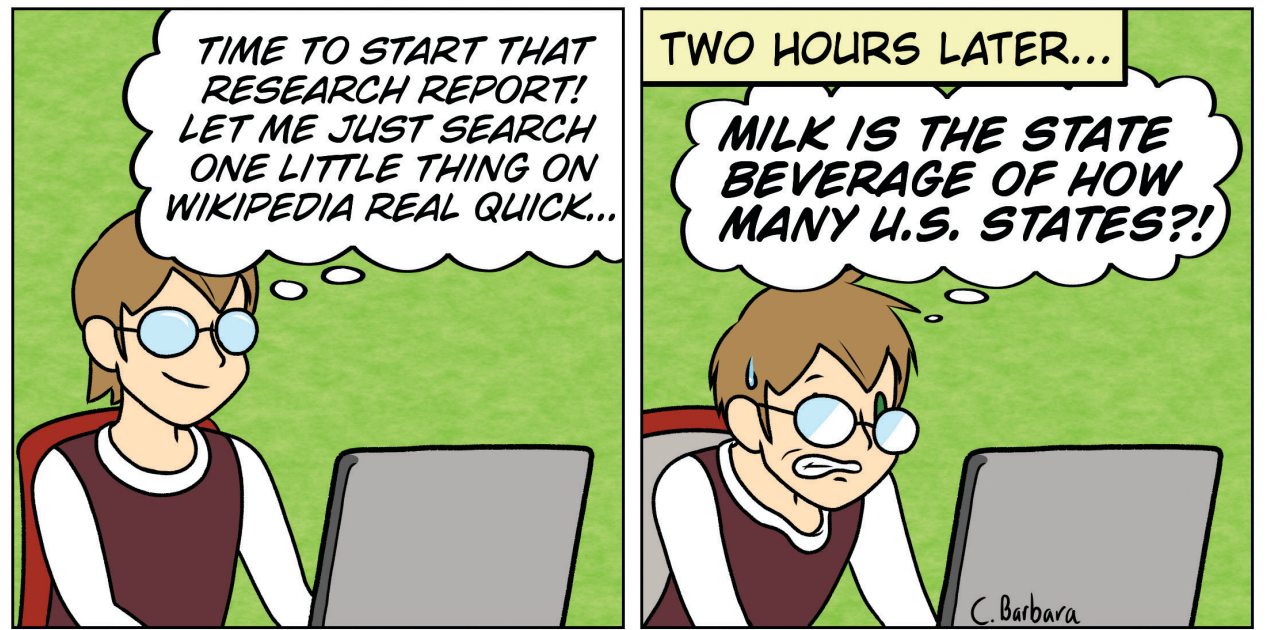
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CARTOON BY CHRISTIAN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



As a freshman at the UConn, seeing both of our teams do well during March Madness was the highlight of my year. It was truly inspiring to see an increase in interest in the women's side of the tournament. For so many young female athletes, players like UConn's Paige Bueckers, LSU's Angel Reese and Iowa's Caitlin Clark have become important role models.

The more I watched the tournament, the more I learned about the nuances of basketball and the social response to the actions of players both on and off the court. Seeing the large-scale reaction to these actions highlighted the long-standing imbalance in the treatment of players depending on their race and gender.

I first began thinking about this imbalance during the UConn versus Iowa women's game. To ensure a win at the end of the game and run the clock, Clark threw the basketball off of Bueckers' back. At my watch party, the people around me praised Clark for this classic but crafty move, but I was less than impressed. While strategic and unique decisions make the game exciting, I couldn't help but feel that that move was unnecessary, un-sportsmanlike and classless.

That got me thinking: If Reese did the same thing, how would people have react? So, I took a deep dive into sportsmanship, celebrations and media coverage. What I found revealed an interesting disparity in how the media treats athletes from sport to sport and, more importantly, individual to individual.

For this entire season, Reese has been slammed on social media for her pregame chants and celebrations. People responded to a mildly profane "Beat they a**" chant by calling Reese "ghetto" and "trashy." When Clark celebrates with the "can't see me," dismisses opponents by waving them off or screams "shut the f*** up" across the court, she is praised as a player who possesses competitive greatness and a passion for the game.

Reese reports that for the past year, she has been sexualized, threatened and ridiculed by basketball fans. After LSU's elimination from this year's tournament, Reese's teammates defended her in a tearful press conference, as Flau'jae Johnson and Hailey Van Lith had nothing but praise and admiration for



Iowa guard Caitlin Clark (22) drives to the basket past UConn guard Nika Muhl (10) and guard Ashlynn Shade (12) during the second half of a Final Four college basketball game in the women's NCAA Tournament, Friday, April 5, 2024, in Cleveland. AP PHOTO/MORRY GASH

LSU forward Angel Reese (10) looks to pass against Iowa forward Addison O'Grady (44) during the third quarter of an Elite Eight round college basketball game during the NCAA Tournament, Monday, April 1, 2024. AP PHOTO/MARY ALTAFFER

their teammate. They wiped her tears as she expressed her unhappiness at how she has been represented and how she feels unable to defend herself.

While Reese experienced this mistreatment, Clark received brand deals and was praised on social media and sports outlets for being a role model for young women. Thousands of people have bought Clark's merchandise and have ignored her behavior on the court.

The media representation of athletes does not just differ between those of different races. The unequal treatment of athletes is also apparent when we compare men's sports to women's. In 2018, Irish fighter Conor McGregor threw a dolly through the window of his opponent's bus. While McGregor was raiding the buses, various team members and fighters were injured. This wasn't the first time that McGregor had been disrespectful. During press conferences and interviews, he verbally attacks his opponents and their families.

While McGregor was punished by the Nevada State Athletic Commission and the law for his violent actions, UFC fans everywhere praised the Irishman for his entertaining personality and passion for his job. While performing community service as part of his plea deal, those at the church reportedly "loved" the loud and profane fighter.

A similar dynamic is noticeable when looking at Tom Brady's behavior during his time with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. After every sack or missed pass, Brady can be seen throwing a temper tantrum on the field. He smashes his helmet against the bench and screams in the faces of his teammates and the officials. Again, Brady hasn't received much backlash for this behavior, as he continues to be revered by fans nationwide for his legacy.

While I am excited that women's sports are finally getting more recognition both through viewership and on social media, it saddens me to see the inequality in the treatment of female and male players, and even between female players. It is my hope that as sports become more equal as a whole, the media and society will

adjust their thought pattern to properly reflect the work that these athletes put into their craft. With the sacrifices that these athletes make, I think that it is fair to let them celebrate however they wish without backlash, within reason of course.

Sportsmanship has a sad double standard

by Evelyn Pazan | CONTRIBUTOR | SHE/HER/HERS | evelyn.pazan@uconn.edu

Opinion

Photo of the Day | UConn bound!



Families visit the University of Connecticut Storrs campus for UConn Bound Day on Saturday, April 13, 2024. Newly accepted students get the opportunity to tour the campus and its facilities as they decide which school they want to commit to.
 PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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- ACADEMIC BUILDINGS
- UConn BUILDINGS

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

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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.

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Sports

WOMEN'S LACROSSE:

Huskies capitalize on UAlbany opportunity in 15-10 victory

by **Bridget Bronsdon**
STAFF WRITER
SHE/HER/HERS
bridget.bronsdon@uconn.edu

The women's lacrosse team is officially on a roll and has created their longest winning streak of the season following a 15-10 triumph over UAlbany.

It was a sweet Saturday afternoon victory for the Huskies as they put their sixth-straight win against Albany in the books. With six different scorers on the board and a consistent attacking pattern, the Huskies flew through the match.

Before stepping onto the field, UConn (8-5) had the slight advantage of a winning streak and a more favorable season record than Albany (4-9), but the Huskies made sure their skill on the field did the talking. Soon enough, it did. It quickly became clear that UConn would be in control of the match as the Great Danes were challenged to rise to UConn's level of gameplay.

The Huskies came out of the gates strong and quickly set the tone. In the first quarter alone, the squad outshot the Great Danes 7-3 and won five draw controls compared to Albany's.

Rayea Davis was the first to find the back of the net just three minutes into the match granting the Huskies an early lead. Just moments later, the Huskies regained possession as Madelyn George won the draw control. For the next 10 minutes, UConn was exceptional in weaving around Albany's defense and inching closer to the goaltender. However, the Great Danes hit the sweet spot with just five minutes left in the quarter. The group netted three consecutive shots in three minutes.

The Huskies, however, were not intimidated by Albany's edge and quickly capitalized on a moment of weakness. After another draw control by George, the attacking line made swift work of the Great Danes, with Abby Charron assisting Eliza Bowman to net UConn's second.

Although they were heading into the second with a slight deficit (2-3), the Huskies have been in a trailing position before and understand the level of intensity needed to turn the tide.

Although Albany started the second with a bang and netted their fourth goal, UConn quickly quieted the celebrations and became close with the Albany goaltender. Getting outshot 4-10 was the least of the Great Dane's worries as UConn was able to net four shots in the quarter.

Soon enough, the Huskies ran circles around Albany and turned on the heat. By the end of the second, Kate Shaffer was on the board, with Bowman scoring another and Davis adding two.

The third quarter became slightly more neck-and-neck for the duo, and although both groups netted three goals, UConn maintained the upper hand. The Bowman, Davis and Shaffer trio proved to be an unstoppable offensive force as they ran the attacking line with accuracy and efficiency. The three attackers were all over the field and seamlessly worked the offensive plays like a well-oiled machine.

With a 9-7 lead and 15 minutes left to play, another victory was just within reach for the Huskies. Soon enough, the Great Danes rendered defenseless to UConn's advances as consecutive goals 10, 11 and 12 came in like clockwork.

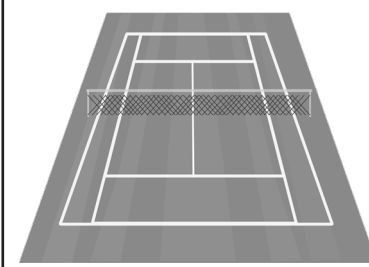
Although Albany made a few notable advances and scored three more, it was no match for the Huskies as they finished 15-10.

Bowman was the standout athlete throughout the match as she swiftly directed the attacking line to success. With six shots and four goals, the graduate student is rounding out her time as a Husky perfectly.

This week, the Huskies will have a slightly quicker turnaround and will take on UMass (9-4) on Wednesday. Since the two have nearly identical season records and a history of rivalry, the contest may be one of the fiercest this season. With just three contests left before the Big East Championship, UConn must capitalize on every opportunity to finish on top.



UConn defeats Villanova at Storrs with a final score of 16-6. The Huskies took a huge early lead and didn't let up, even in the cold weather.
PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/
THE DAILY CAMPUS



WOMEN'S TENNIS: HUSKIES SHUT OUT SETON HALL FOR SENIOR DAY

by **Avery Becker**
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
avery.becker@uconn.edu

After winning against Villanova on Sunday, April 7, the UConn women's tennis team looked to ride that high into another Big East win against Seton Hall on Friday for their annual Senior Day.

Connecticut honored seniors Varsha Rathore of South Windsor and Nansi Toskova of Montreal, Québec.

Starting with the singles competitions, junior Olivia Wright dominated her match-up versus her Seton Hall opponent, Anastasia Sereda, in two straight sets.

That set the tone for the Huskies in the rest of the singles competition, with a majority of the team also beating their opponents in two straight sets, clinching all six of the singles points. Isabella Asenov sealed the deal for the Huskies in six singles, winning her sets 6-2, 7-5.

As the team headed into the doubles competition, the pair of Wright and junior Maria Constantinou, along with junior Isabel Petri Bere and freshman Caroline Hinshaw, beat their opponents 6-1 to clinch the doubles point.

The Huskies went on to win this match 7-0.

At the conclusion of this season, the Huskies finished with a record of 12-7, one of the best recent records in the UConn Women's Tennis program history. In Big East play, they finished 4-3.

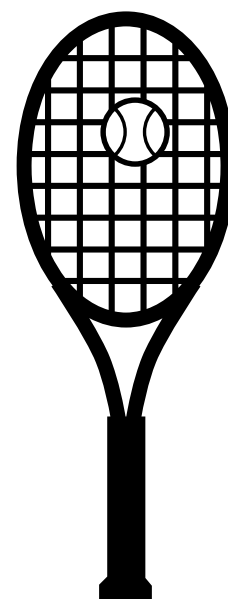
"We continued our strong doubles play, winning at one and two convincingly. This momentum carried us into some great starts in the singles matches...The final three matches were a little more competitive, but Bella, Maria and Isabel came through in some close matches to win them all," head coach Glenn Marshall said after the match, "It was a great day all around, and we got the chance to celebrate our two wonderful seniors, Nansi and Varsha."

This season certainly had some highs and lows, but with two highlight victories against Seton Hall and Villanova, it ties a bow on a special season for the Huskies and ends it on a high note.

Connecticut is now moving into the postseason, and they'll have the first round of the Big East Championships coming up, which will be on Thursday, April 18.

Each Big East program will be tough matchups for the Huskies, but these two wins against fellow Big East foes will give Marshall and his team confidence heading into the postseason.

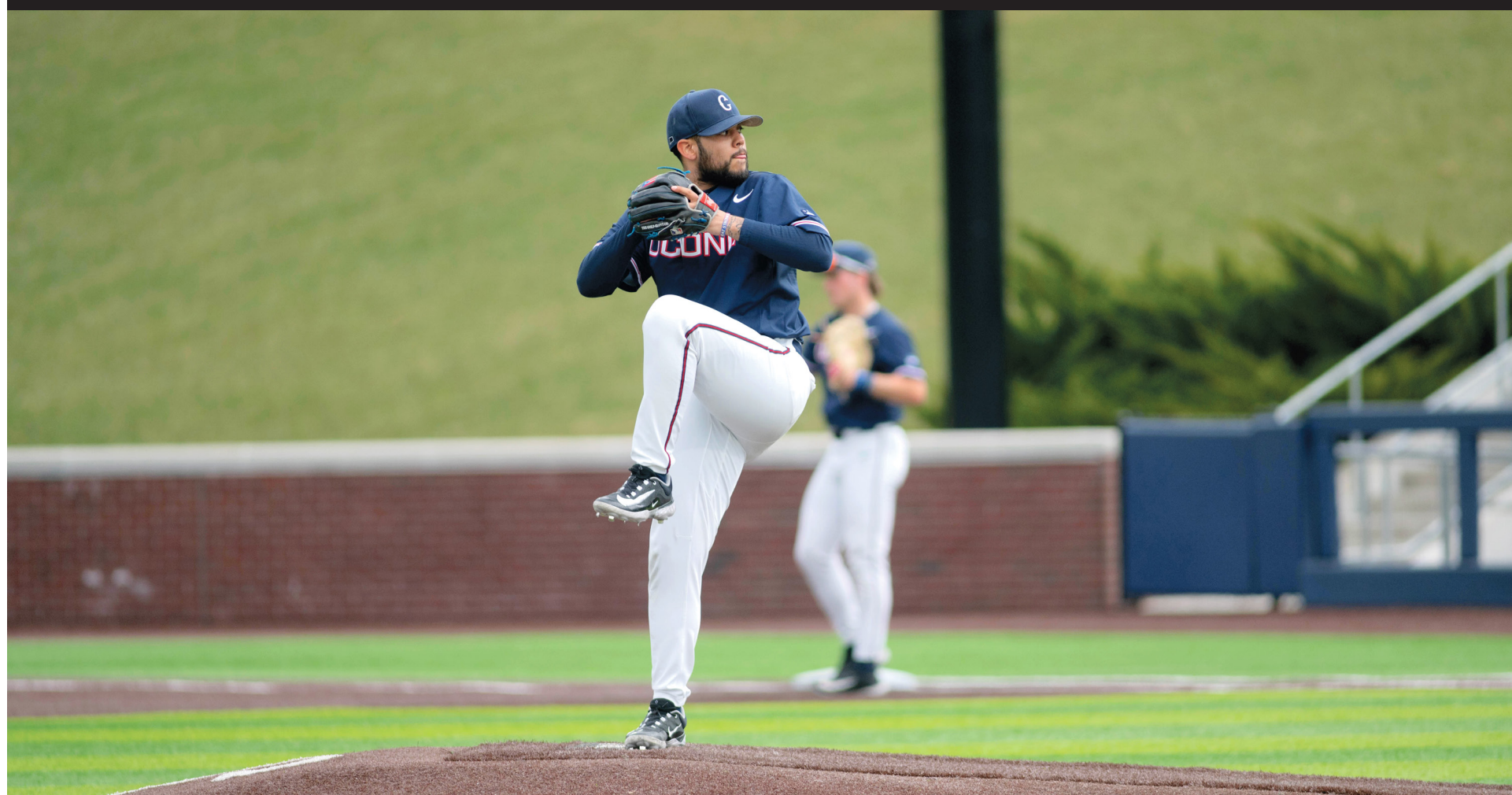
All matchups from the tournament can be streamed from FloSports.



CARTOONS COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

Sports

Photo of the Day | Bring out the closer. Two weeks left.



UConn baseball wins their home game against University of Maine at Elliot Ballpark in Storrs, Conn. on April 10, 2024. The Huskies managed a blowout with a final score of 20-2.

PHOTO BY MERCER FERGUSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Golf:

Huskies cap off the year with a strong performance

at the Rutherford Invitational



UConn men's golf hosts their invitational at Greathorse Country Club in Hampton, Mass. on Oct. 1, 2023. The invitational will play out for the next two days.

PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Connor Sargeant

STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
connor.sargeant@uconn.edu

The UConn men's golf team finished a strong regular season with many dominant performances. The program's most recent outing was at the Rutherford Invitational, where the team finished second in a field of 14.

The Huskies were led by Jimmy Paradise and Tommy Dallahan, who both put together top-10 performances. Paradise got off to a quick start for Connecticut, shooting an excellent 73 in the first round, including five birdies. Dallahan also got off to a hot start, finishing even par for the day, which was all the more impressive considering the degree of difficulty of the Penn State Blue Course.

As a unit, the Huskies finished eight over par on the first day, a much higher total than they are accustomed to. However, they still found themselves in a battle for first place in Penn State all weekend long. Connecticut struggled to get it going on Saturday, as they finished a whopping 17 over par. Despite that, they put the first two

rough days behind them and strung together an excellent Sunday. Dallahan led the way for UConn, finishing an excellent two under par on the day. The senior performed so well this weekend that he tied for second in a field of 65. Not far behind him were Bradley Swaka and Paradise, who both finished three strokes behind him to cap off a successful weekend.

The Huskies finished in second place as a unit, 10 strokes behind the Nittany Lions. This was an encouraging performance, considering the regular season is over, and the team will compete in the Big East Championship.

Coming into this tournament, Connecticut has struggled to capitalize on the par fours, as statistically speaking, they perform the worst on these holes. However, UConn is not the only school that has run into trouble here. By far, hole No. 18, a long 475-yard par four, threw everyone for a loop. In fact, no one finished below par on this hole, with over half of the golfers finishing with a bogey or worse. Another long par four that seemed to be giving the golfers problems was

hole seven, which again saw nearly everyone finish over par. Despite these challenging holes, there were opportunities for the golfers to improve their scores. Hole nine saw 14 eagles all weekend long, yet tournament leaders, Penn State, still finished six over par.

This was an encouraging performance for the Huskies, with the program leaders Dallahan and Paradise putting together solid performances on the links. Even then, no golfer had a "bad performance," with all of them finishing near each other on the scorecard. This outing is a nice way to finish off a solid year for the Huskies, which saw them finish in third place three times and many different finishes near the top of the podium. The program will next suit up in the Big East Championship on April 27-29, where they will look to improve upon last year's disappointing ninth-place finish. With this latest performance and the Huskies winning Big East match play earlier this year, Connecticut is in the best position possible to bring back a Big East championship to Storrs, Connecticut.

TRACK AND FIELD: HUSKIES DOMINATE NORTHEAST CHALLENGE ON SENIOR DAY

by CJ Dexter | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS | christopher.dexter@uconn.edu

Coming off the program's recent success in the South Florida Invitational and Dog Fight Challenge, the UConn track and field team returned home to host the Northeast Challenge on senior day.

Despite the challenges the weather created, the rain and cold temperatures could not put out the red-hot Huskies as the men's and women's respective teams took first place.

The men's squad finished with 129 points, 56 points ahead of the second place-finishing Albany Great Danes, who tallied 73 on the weekend. Rhode Island rounded out the top three on the men's side with 69 points. The women's team finished with 161.5 points, with Albany (113) and Dartmouth (64.5) following behind.

On the men's side, graduate student Travis Snyder continued his impressive season with a record-breaking performance in the pole vault, slashing an outdoor school record of 5.46m. Freshman Josh Mooney impressed in his first career outdoor multi-event, dominating the decathlon with 7026 points.

The men also saw first-place finishes in both the long jump and high jump, helped by impressive showings from Kasey Sav-

age and Mawali Osunniyi. Savage led the way with his 7.44m leap in the long jump, while Osunniyi finished with 2.14m in the high jump.

On the women's side, Caroline Towle achieved a new personal record in the 1500m, stamping a 4:39.25 to take third in the event. Junior A'lyyah Thomas continued to build on her impressive season with standout performances in the long jump and 100m hurdles. Thomas, a native of Linden, New Jersey, took first place in both events with a 6.46m in the long jump and a 13.54 mark in the 100m hurdles.

In the 4x400, the group of Jalah Cooper, Caroline Rice, Anna Connors and Jessica Starr ran their way to a second-place finish, clocking a 3:55.42. Connors also impressed in the 400m and 200m as well, taking fourth place and first place respectively. Junior Alyssa Elliot closed out the weekend with a second-place finish in the women's heptathlon, tallying 5298 points.

The Huskies will look to stay hot when they head to Columbus, Ohio for the Jesse Owens Classic on April 19-20. For coverage and live results, follow @UCONNTFXC for updates throughout the meet.



UConn track and field competes in the Northeast Challenge in Storrs, Conn. on April 12, 2024. The Huskies finished the weekend with 34 top five finishes and 10 first places.

PHOTO BY MERCER FERGUSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

SOFTBALL: HUSKIES TAKE SERIES OVER CREIGHTON ON SENIOR DAY

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

After losing a road series to St. John's last week, the UConn softball team (22-19, 10-5 Big East) traveled back to Storrs to take on Creighton (25-18, 9-6 Big East).

Creighton came into the series, winning their last two Big East series against Georgetown and Villanova.

Creighton senior Madeline Vejvoda was named the Big East Player of the Week on Monday after recording seven hits with three doubles, three runs batted in and two runs scored. The Bluejays became the first Big East foe to take down Villanova, coming to Storrs with a lot of momentum.

The series began on Friday night with all three games taking place at Burrill Family Field.

UConn senior Hallie Siems started in the circle for the 20th time this season. She controlled the four innings the Stuttgart, Arkansas native pitched, giving up two runs on three hits with five strikeouts in her ninth win of the season.

It was Connecticut's game from the start. They jumped on the Bluejays early, scoring five runs in the first inning. Junior Rosie Garcia began the rally, doubling off the top of the wall in center field, driving in junior Lexi Hastings, coming off a Big East Weekly Honor Roll week. The San Fernando, California native crossed home plate off a ground out from catcher Lauren Benson. Sophomore Haley Coupal hit a single down the left field line to score sophomore Hope Jen-



UConn softball loses their second game against Creighton at the Burrill Family Field in Storrs, Conn. on April 13, 2024. The Huskies went 2-1 for their entire three game series with Creighton over the weekend.

PHOTO BY MERCER FERGUSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

kins from third base. Coupal, along with senior Jana Sanden, scored off a double off the left-center field wall by senior Giuliana Abruscato to cap off the massive inning.

UConn sophomore Grace Jenkins came home from third base off a wild pitch, and Benson hit a two-run single to right center field to add three more runs in the second inning.

Creighton would close the deficit to eight runs in the third inning, but the deficit was too big.

UConn's lead increased after two runs scored in the bottom half of the third inning. Hastings recorded her first triple of the season, which scored Abruscato from second base. Jenkins hit another double to drive Hastings in and put the

game in run-rule territory at 10-2.

Hope Jenkins came in to close the game in the fifth inning thanks to the run rule. It was her 15th appearance of the season as a pitcher.

Saturday's game did not have the same offensive performance.

Connecticut pitcher Payton Kinney, who made the Big East Weekly Honor Roll on Monday, made her 13th start of the season. The Bradenton, Florida native was dominant in the 7.1 innings she pitched, only giving up two hits and recording a career-high in strikeouts with 15. After giving up a double in the first inning, Kinney retired 18 straight Bluejays.

It was a pitcher's duel between the two teams. UConn was in second place in the

conference standings, while Creighton was behind them in third. Both teams combined for only three hits through the first five innings.

Hastings broke the scoreless tie in the sixth inning after an inside-the-park home run, her second inside-the-park homer this season. Creighton knotted the game up at one run with a solo shot by Vejvoda, sending the game to extra innings.

Kinney was replaced by graduate student Meghan O'Neil in the eighth inning. The Forest, Virginia native only stayed in the circle for 0.2 innings, giving up one hit and striking out one batter.

Creighton jumped out in front with an RBI single.

UConn had the tying run on third base but could not keep the game going as they lost 2-1

in eight innings despite only allowing three Creighton hits.

The series finale on Sunday would result in the winner taking second place in the Big East standings.

Siems got her 21st start of the season, going the first five innings with five strikeouts and allowing five hits.

Hope Jenkins broke the game open in the first inning with an RBI single, driving Garcia in to score.

UConn had a 2-0 lead after the third inning as Sanden brought in Hastings to score with an RBI single. The series was in the Huskies' hands after a two-run shot by Hope Jenkins, driving in Sanden. Hastings homered to center to score Coupal and sophomore Savannah Ring.

Despite allowing seven hits, Connecticut did not allow a single run, winning 7-0. Siems got to double digits in wins, becoming the first Husky to reach 10 wins this season.

Since the all-time series began in 2021, UConn has only lost twice. Their first game against the Bluejays was a 2-1 loss. Saturday was their second loss, also with a 2-1 final score. Since the Huskies won the second game of a double-header on March 20, 2021, they went on a nine-game winning streak. Following their win on Sunday, they lead the series 10-2.

Connecticut will have its final non-conference road game on Wednesday as they travel to Amherst, Massachusetts to take on the University of Massachusetts.

It will be a cross-town battle for Creighton as they return home to take on the University of Nebraska Omaha.

BASEBALL: HUSKIES TAKE SERIES IN DRAMATIC FASHION OVER JOHNNIES

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

In what has been the UConn baseball team's most dramatic end to a series up to this point in the season, the program had an excellent weekend on the diamond, winning two of three in a series against the St. John's Red Storm.

Going into the three-game set, the Huskies had won their last four games. A successful series against the Johnnies would most certainly help them continue a stretch of great baseball for this squad. Starting with matchup No. 1 on Friday afternoon, the team was able to truly rise to the challenge in front of the Elliot faithful.

With Gabe Van Emon tabbed to start the series, he'd make it through just 1.1 innings before junior right-hander Ian Cooke was tasked with containing the damage of a bases-loaded, one-out jam. By the time the squad headed toward the bottom of the second, they'd be in a quick 4-1 deficit. Despite a Paul Tammaro double to bring in the Hook C's first run of the contest, the bats would have to continue to rake to take back control of this ball game.

Yet, just as trouble arose, Connecticut quickly responded via the bat of Maddix Dalena after the power-hitting first baseman sent a ball to deep right field to cut the deficit to one, 4-3. However, the real damage from UConn's bats had yet to be done.

The Hook C offense would explode for four runs in the third inning, mostly via the way of the long bomb. Three of those four runs would come off two big home runs from both Luke Broadhurst and Korey Morton, with the latter bringing in two of those runs. When you add a throwing error from Johnnies' third baseman

Blake Mayberry, that would help the Huskies take a 7-4 lead in the ballgame, a lead they would never surrender.

While the offense was undoubtedly the talk of the town in Friday's eventual 11-4 win over the Red Storm, the pitching was equally stupendous following some trouble in the second inning. Not only did Cooke respond in a massive way, but he pitched an incredible 7.2 shutout innings for his squad while giving up just two hits. His 14-strikeout performance was undoubtedly a game-changer for his team in Friday's win, earning him the game ball from manager Jim Penders.

"Ian got the ball because the game just changed when he came in," Penders told Director of Baseball Chris Jones following the win. "He's lights out. That's what he's capable

of doing. We know that he can do that, and he just looked like a more confident pitcher tonight."

Unfortunately for the Huskies, following their decisive win over the Red Storm in game one, their opponents would answer in game two.

Unlike in game one, where Connecticut got some big help from their arms, that wouldn't quite be the case in game two. Senior Garrett Coe, fresh off a seven-inning pitching performance against Xavier, would struggle against the Red Storm, giving up six runs in five innings. While the offense was having another great performance overall, grabbing seven runs on the day, the Huskies bullpen would unravel for nine more runs. That would put the game firmly out of reach for Penders and Co., ultimately ending with a 15-7 win for St. John's.

That put some massive pressure on the Huskies in the rubber match, with the winner taking the series.

The ball for Sunday's game was in the hands of Stephen Quigley, and in a once again unfortunate reality for the Huskies, the team would fall behind after St. John's grabbed five runs off the Connecticut starter in just 4.1 innings of action. UConn's offense wasn't far behind, though, and fans can thank Tammaro for some clutch hitting on Sunday.

The Huskies infielder was effective on Friday with a 2-4 night but did struggle on Saturday in the team's loss. In the series decider, Tammaro played some hero ball, batting in the team's first two runs of the game and helping to cause a Johnnies' error on the base pads to bring in a third run.

However, despite some terrific play by the New Jersey native on Sunday, St. John's refused to go

away. Heading into the bottom of the sixth, UConn trailed the Red Storm 7-3, yet their confidence never wavered. With the Johnnies firmly in their bullpen and looking for their arms to silence the Husky bats, they'd ultimately fail to do so.

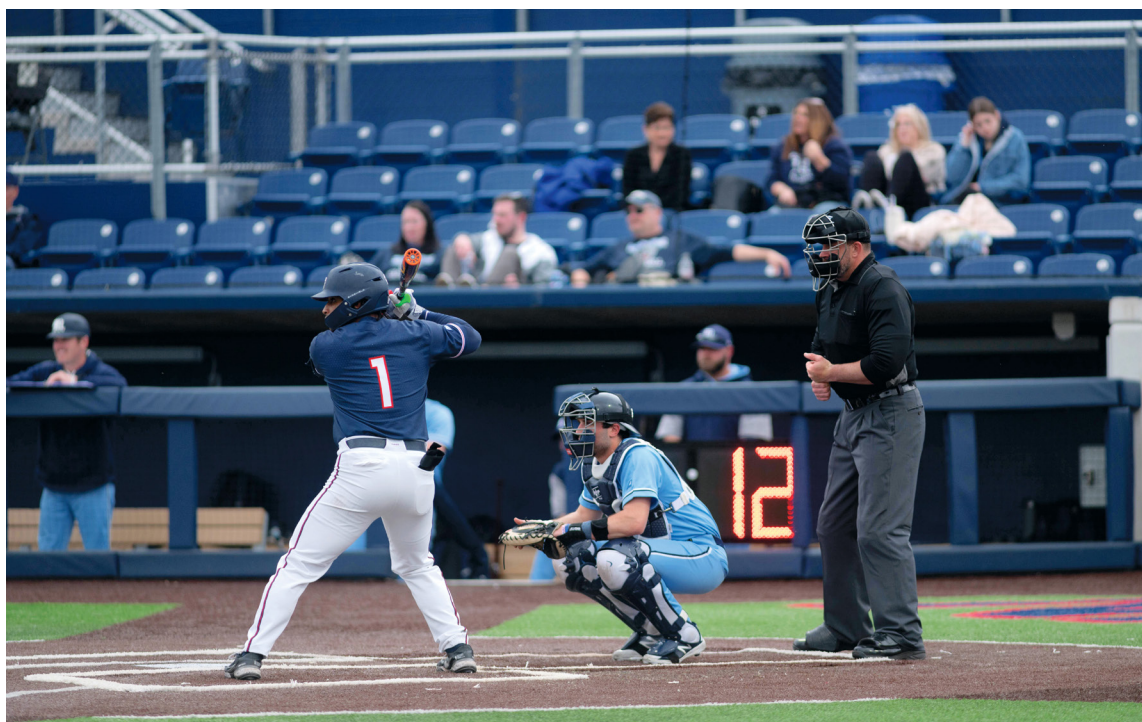
Connecticut would grab two additional runs in the bottom of the sixth thanks to a bases-loaded walk from Matt Garbowski and some more clutch hitting from the one and only Tammaro. Yet, unbelievably, the UConn infielder would embody the word clutch as he'd continue to electrify the Elliot Ballpark crowd when it mattered most.

In the bottom of the seventh, it was Tammaro again, this time via a three-run bomb that would give his squad the lead, 8-7. Just like that, Connecticut had the edge in this ball game.

But, just as St. John's showed the day prior, they've got a stellar offense of their own. With Brady Afthim on the mound, freshman Jayder Raifstanger would launch a ball to deep left field to tie the game at eight. Just as fast as UConn had the lead, the game would take everything from both squads to string out a win.

After Afthim recovered and pitched a scoreless top of the ninth, that set up a situation for the Hook C to walk off the game. After walks from both Dalena and Matt Malcom, the pressure was on for the hot bat of Tammaro with two outs in the inning. On a 1-0 count, Tammaro delivered for Connecticut, smacking a pitch to deep left field, just out of the hands of outfielder Garrett Scavelli's glove to walk it off for his squad, 11-8.

Coming off an incredibly productive series for the Hook C, they'll stay at Elliot Ballpark and face off against Kansas State on Tuesday evening at 6:05 p.m.



UConn baseball wins their home game against University of Maine at Elliot Ballpark in Storrs, Conn. on April 10, 2024. The Huskies managed a blowout with a final score of 20-2.

PHOTO BY MERCER FERGUSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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