



UCONN GRADUATE BECOMES CONNECTICUT SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

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

University of Connecticut graduate Maria Miranda was chosen as the 2024 Small Business Person of the Year for her brand management firm.

Miranda created her business, Miranda Creative, 35 years ago—two months after she graduated from the UConn School of Fine Arts in 1988. Miranda said her agency strives to create authentic client and community relationships, with an emphasis on diversity and inclusivity.

“We help clients maintain a consistent tone and appearance across all media as a way of helping markets best understand the core values of the organization,” Miranda said.

Miranda received the honor of Small Business Person of the Year for Connecticut out of thousands of small businesses in the state. Now, she will compete for the National Award at a two-day ceremony in Washington, D.C. on April 28 and 29.

National Small Business Week will be celebrated from April 28 to May 4 to highlight the resilience of America’s entrepreneurs, and the services that the Small Business Administration has to offer, according to the SBA website. In Connecticut, Miranda will join other Connecticut National Small Business Week winners at a Small Business

Resource Expo and award ceremony on May 2 at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell.

“An SBA Small Business Person of the Year demonstrates resilience, employee growth, innovation, ability to overcome challenges, and dedication to community. These qualities have been rooted in Miranda Creative since its inception,” Catherine Marx, SBA Connecticut District Director, said.

SBA’s stated mission is to provide assistance to small businesses and give them support to start and grow their organizations, backed with the strength of the federal government.

“Through Maria’s leadership Miranda Creative is acknowledged for its unwavering commitment to excellence. As an innovator and job creator, Maria’s creativity propelled the American Dream for herself, her team, and her small business clients. Indeed, all of us experience her award-winning content daily through our phones and on billboards throughout Connecticut,” Marx said.

Miranda is a Connecticut native and resides in Norwich, where the primary office is located, but Miranda Creative has 30 team members throughout the US.

Miranda said team members come from all areas of the country and are in different times of their lives.

“At Miranda Creative, we

don’t believe in the generational label. We believe that everyone is a perennial. You could be a young person with an older mind or an older person with a younger mind. So we work with every generation,” Miranda said.

However, Miranda added she has a special space in her heart for young people, since that was the age she began working for herself.

Miranda said she has always wanted to be a creative communicator and has had a strong interest in design communication from a young age. After visiting different universities with strong graphic design programs, she picked UConn, where she said was the best match for her. At UConn, she said she took advantage of every opportunity that was offered.

“UCONN IS THE HOME OF CHAMPIONS”

MARIA MIRANDA

“I took a number of dance classes to give me confidence. I took photography with some of the best instructors I’ve ever met and that taught me how to prepare my visual eye. I participated in a number of groups and community organizations where I developed friendships that have lasted my entire life. UConn has made everything



Maria Miranda recently won Connecticut’s Small Business Person of the Year this week. She is a UConn graduate and owns Miranda Creative, a company that helps brands market themselves. PHOTO COURTESY OF NORWICH BULLETIN

possible,” Miranda said.

A life changing moment for Miranda during her sophomore year, when she was hit by a drunk driver and broke her jaw. She said she had to take time off of school for surgeries and physical therapy and finished her last few years at UConn in a hybrid format. During this time, she took a class that allowed her to rethink her degree path.

“The instructor of the class convinced me to pursue a degree in fine arts with a minor in marketing and that’s what led me to be successful when I graduated [UConn] in August 1988 was to be a hybrid.”

Now, over 30 years later, Miranda is looking toward the

future, and said she hopes to set up Miranda Creative for the next chapter—to become an employee-owned company.

“That would be my way of coming full circle, to creating future business leaders of the year, to promoting the company to employee-owned and creating a number of entrepreneurs in their own right,” Miranda said.

Miranda credits UConn for her success and for getting her to where she is today.

“UConn is the home of champions,” Miranda said. “UConn creates many champions in many spaces, including the creative arts and I think that UConn should celebrate all of their winners.”

UConn’s on-campus art museum offers a homeschool program

by Hallie LeTendre
STAFF WRITER
hallie.letendre@uconn.edu
SHE/HER/HERS

The Benton Museum, located on the University of Connecticut’s Storrs campus, offers homeschooling programs for aspiring young artists.

Today, The Benton will be putting on an Undersea Fantasy program for homeschooled youths around the area.

The Benton offers various workshops for students who are interested in the arts and want to explore beyond what they’ve done at home or through their homeschooling program.

Today’s event will run from 10:30 a.m. until 12 p.m. It will focus on watercolor painting and artwork with undersea themes. The event is \$10 per student.

All homeschool workshops that The Benton offers are designed for students ages six to 12. The workshops offer view-

ing opportunities of special exhibitions, creative writing activities and the opportunity for students to try new art techniques, the event webpage said.

If you are interested in registering your homeschooled youth for The Benton’s program, contact Mollie Sixsmith at 860-486-1711.

The Benton Museum is open every day of the week with free admission. For more information about the museum visit their website.

Currently, The Benton has exhibitions regarding climate change, celebration of art with women and Women’s, Gender and Sexuality studies open to the public.

Opening today is a master of fine arts thesis exhibition regarding studio art and digital media and design.

More details about the museum, its exhibitions and upcoming events can all be found on their website.

For-profit school accused of preying on Black students reaches \$28.5 million settlement

(AP) - A for-profit college accused of targeting women and Black students with false advertising about how long it would take to complete a degree, then extracting millions of dollars in extra tuition payments, agreed to a \$28.5 million settlement announced Thursday.

The class-action lawsuit alleged that Walden University generated millions of dollars in excess tuition and fees by prolonging projects required for Doctorate in Business Administration degrees.

“Students alleged that Walden masked deception as diversity by targeting their DBA degrees at Black and female students who were hoping to advance their careers,” said Aaron Ament, president of the National Student Legal Defense Network, which filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Maryland with civil rights law firm Relman Colfax.

Walden is the latest for-profit college to face repercussions

over allegedly misleading students about costs. Other for-profit schools have faced action from the federal government over accusations of deception, including Ashford University and DeVry.

Walden, an online university, said in a written statement that it agreed to the settlement “in pursuit of the best interests of all parties involved.” The school said it remained committed to helping students with their professional goals.

In total, the lawsuit estimates Walden extracted over \$28 million in excess tuition and fees from students. It alleged that Walden misrepresented how long it would take to complete the doctoral degree and the number of credits required, specifically for a capstone project component of the program.

In the proposed settlement, which requires court approval, Walden also agreed to disclose cost and completion time on its website and restructure

its dissertation committees. An estimated 3,000 students would be eligible to request compensation under the settlement, said Tara Ramchandani, a lawyer for the plaintiffs.

The National Student Legal Defense Network argued the school’s tactics amounted to “reverse redlining,” a reference to housing discrimination practices that disproportionately target minorities, by its focus on attracting women and Black students into the program.

For example, Walden disproportionately targeted its advertising towards predominantly Black cities, according to the lawsuit. Forty-one percent of students in the university’s doctoral programs were Black, seven times the national average, according to the student defense network.

Ament said the case was one of the first where a federal court ruled that reverse redlining protections could be applied to higher education.

For more...

dailycampus.com

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

[The_DailyCampus](https://www.facebook.com/The_DailyCampus)

[The Daily Campus](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Subscribe to...

Daily STUDENT RECITAL | PAGE 6
Performance by Sangwoo Park

Daily MASS MOOD | PAGE 7
Cultural organizations should embrace politics

Daily MBB RECAP | PAGE 12
30-0 run in beatdown win

THE DAILY CAMPUS
8 AM BLAST
NEWSLETTER

News

US Jews upset with TRUMP'S LATEST RHETORIC say he doesn't get to tell them how to be Jewish

(AP) - Since the start of his political career, Donald Trump has played on stereotypes about Jews and politics.

He told the Republican Jewish Coalition in 2015 that "you want to control your politicians" and suggested the audience used money to exert control. In the White House, he said Jews who vote for Democrats are "very disloyal to Israel."

Two years ago, the former president hosted two dinner guests at his Florida residence who were known to make virulent antisemitic comments.

And this week, Trump charged that Jewish Democrats were being disloyal to their faith and to Israel. That had many American Jews taking up positions behind now-familiar political lines. Trump opponents accused him of promoting antisemitic tropes while his defenders suggested he was making a fair political point in his own way.

Jonathan Sarna, American Jewish history professor at Brandeis University, said Trump is capitalizing on tensions within the Jewish community.

"For people who hate Donald Trump in the Jewish community, certainly this statement will reinforce their sense that they don't want to have anything to do with him," he said. "For people who like Donald Trump in the Jewish community, they probably nod in agreement."

To many Jewish leaders in a demographic that has overwhelmingly identified as Democratic and supported President Joe Biden in 2020, Trump's latest comments promoted harmful antisemitic stereotypes, painting Jews as having divided loyalties and that there's only one right way to be Jewish religiously.

"That escalation of rhetoric is so dangerous, so divisive and so wrong," said Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, the largest U.S. Jewish religious denomination. "This is a moment when Israel needs there to be more bipartisan support."

But Matt Brooks, CEO of the Republican Jewish Coalition, said the former president's comments must be heard in context of the Israel-Hamas war and Democratic criticisms of the state of Israel.

"What the president was saying in his own unique style was giving voice to things I get asked about multiple times a day," Brooks said. "How can Jews remain Democrats in light of what is going on?"

He contended the Democratic Party is "no longer the pro-Israel bastion it used to be."

More than 31,800 Palestinians have been killed in the Israeli offensive that followed Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel, in which militants killed some 1,200 people and took hostages. Much of northern Gaza has been leveled, and officials warned famine is imminent.

Trump's comments followed a speech by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, the country's highest-ranking Jewish official. Schumer, a Democrat, last week sharply criticized Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's handling of the war in Gaza. Schumer called for new elections in Israel and warned the civilian toll was damaging Israel's global standing.

"Any Jewish person that votes for Democrats hates their religion," Trump retorted Monday on a talk show. "They hate everything about Israel."

A cascade of Jewish voices, from Schumer to the Anti-Defamation League to religious leaders, denounced Trump's statement.

In a statement to The Associated Press on Wednesday, the Trump campaign doubled down, criticizing Schumer, congressional Democrats' support of Palestinians and the Biden administration's policies on Iran and on aid to Gaza.

"President Trump is right," said Karoline Leavitt, national press secretary for the Trump campaign.

Jeffrey Herf, an antisemitism expert at the University of Maryland, disagrees with Schumer's call for a ceasefire in Gaza, but believes most Democrats support Israel — and he said a second Biden term would be better for it than a second Trump one.

"If (Trump) loses the 2024 election, his comments prepare the way for blaming the Jews for his defeat," Herf said. "The clear result would be to fan the flames of antisemitism and assert that, yet again, the Jews are guilty."

Sarna saw Trump as trying to appeal to politically conservative Jews, particularly the small but fast-growing Orthodox segment, who see Trump as a defender of Israel.

Also, about 10% of U.S. Jews are immigrants, according to a 2020 Pew Research Center report. Sarna said significant numbers are conservative.

At the same time, Democrats face the tension be-



Republican presidential candidate and former President Donald Trump speaks at an annual leadership meeting of the Republican Jewish Coalition, Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023, in Las Vegas. Trump charged that Jews who vote for Democrats "hate Israel" and hate "their religion," igniting a firestorm of criticism from the White House and Jewish leaders, on March 18, 2024.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN LOCHER/AP

tween their Jewish constituency, which is predominantly pro-Israel, and its progressive wing, which is more pro-Palestinian.

Sarna said that while it may seem odd to focus so much attention on subsections of a minority population, "elections in America are very close, and every vote counts."

Conservative commentator Ben Shapiro said Tuesday on his podcast that Trump "was making a point that, frankly, I have made myself, which is that Jews who are voting Democrat do not understand the Democratic Party." Shapiro, who practices Orthodox Judaism, contended the party "overlooks antisemitism" within its ranks.

Rabbi Jill Jacobs, the CEO of T'ruah, a rabbinic human rights organization, said Trump has no business dictating who's a good Jew.

"By insinuating that good Jews will vote for the party that is best for Israel, Trump is evoking the age-old antisemitic trope of dual loyalty — an accusation that Jews are more loyal to their religion than to their country, and therefore can't be trusted," she said. "Historically, this accusation has fueled some of the worst antisemitic violence."

In his own time in office, Trump's policy "of support-

ing Prime Minister Netanyahu and the settler agenda only endangered Palestinians and Israelis and made peace more difficult to achieve," Jacobs said.

Pittsburgh-based journalist Beth Kissileff — whose husband, a rabbi in the Conservative denomination of Judaism, in 2018 survived the nation's deadliest antisemitic attack — said it was highly offensive for Trump to be a "self-appointed arbiter" of what it means to be Jewish.

"Chuck Schumer had every right to say what he said," Kissileff added. "Just because we're Jews, it doesn't mean we agree with everything the (Israeli) government is doing. We have compassion for innocent Palestinian lives."

Brooks, of the Republican Jewish Coalition, defended the former president against antisemitism charges, pointing to his presidential record as an example of proof.

Trump pursued policies that were popular among American Christian Zionists and Israeli religious-nationalists, including moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem and supporting Jewish settlements in occupied territories. His daughter Ivanka is a convert to Orthodox Judaism, and her husband and their children are Jewish. The couple worked as

high-profile surrogates to the Jewish community during Trump's administration.

Trump's core supporters include white evangelicals, many of whom believe the modern state of Israel fulfills biblical prophecy. Prominent evangelicals who support Zionism have also been criticized for inflammatory statements about Jewish people.

Sixty-nine percent of Jewish voters in 2020 supported Biden, while 30% supported Trump, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of the electorate conducted in partnership with NORC at the University of Chicago. That made Jewish voters one of the religious groups where support for Biden was strongest. Also, 73% of Jewish voters in 2020 said that Trump was too tolerant of extremist groups.

Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson said Trump's comments are "in a complex middle zone" — not explicitly antisemitic, but reliant on such tropes.

American Jews base their votes on a complex mix of issues and values, "among them inclusion, diversity, climate change, civil rights," said Artson, a leader within Conservative Judaism. "While they love Israel diversely, many of us also care about the wellbeing and self-determination of Palestinians."

The Daily Campus

Printing since 1896, The Daily Campus is the oldest and largest independent student publication at the University of Connecticut. The Daily Campus circulates 5,000 newspapers daily and strives to serve the student body by delivering accurate, relevant and timely news and content, both in print and online at DailyCampus.com. Our staff is comprised entirely of students, with roughly 200 undergraduates gaining professional development while contributing to the daily production of the paper, with positions including writers, photographers, copy editors, page layout designers, graphic designers, advertisement representatives, receptionists, delivery drivers and digital producers. Thanks for reading.

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

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

Monday, April 1, 2024

Copy Editors: Rori McCarthy, Joanna Giano, Sara Bedgian and Emily Sharkis
News Designer: Aish Benzy
Life Designer: Pankti Bhagat
Sports Designer: Colbi Loranger
Opinion Designer: Emily O'Bannon
Photo Producer: Elizabeth Farrenkopf

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

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

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

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

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

Prefer to read our content online?

Check out our newly redesigned website at dailycampus.com and follow us on social media.

Instagram · The_DailyCampus
Facebook · The Daily Campus
Twitter · The_DailyCampus

Want to write or photograph for The Daily Campus?

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

Opinion (Meetings at 5 p.m.)

opinion@dailycampus.com

News (Meetings at 6 p.m.)

news@dailycampus.com

Life (Meetings at 7 p.m.)

life@dailycampus.com

Sports (Meetings at 8 p.m.)

sports@dailycampus.com

Photo (Meetings at 10 p.m.)

photo@dailycampus.com

Artists (Meetings at 10 p.m. on discord)

artists@dailycampus.com

UConn Basketball Capital of the World Word Search

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | C | D | N | C | A | A | S | E | I | K | S | U | H |
| N | L | R | F | R | E | E | T | H | R | O | W | I | T |
| U | K | I | G | B | U | E | C | K | E | R | S | T | E |
| B | F | B | N | I | H | C | S | R | R | O | T | S | D |
| B | O | B | T | G | O | B | I | G | E | A | S | T | E |
| R | U | L | I | G | A | M | P | E | L | S | A | A | F |
| E | L | E | P | N | S | N | O | F | F | E | N | S | E |
| T | R | T | O | E | R | H | U | R | L | E | Y | E | N |
| N | D | O | F | T | N | H | G | M | N | E | N | U | S |
| E | I | U | F | C | O | U | R | T | H | R | J | O | E |
| C | Y | M | N | O | J | U | M | P | S | H | O | T | M |
| L | E | L | P | K | E | E | D | N | U | O | B | E | R |
| X | T | H | R | E | E | P | O | I | N | T | E | R | C |
| F | G | D | M | U | B | A | U | R | I | E | M | M | A |

- HOOP
- NCAA
- TIP OFF
- COURT
- BIG EAST
- AURIEMMA
- THREE POINTER
- CLINIGAN
- XL CENTER
- STORRS
- DUNK
- DEFENSE
- HURLEY
- NET
- JUMP SHOT
- FREE THROW
- BUECKERS
- REBOUND
- OFFENSE
- GAMPEL
- DRIBBLE
- HUSKIES
- FOUL

MADE WITH THEWORDSEARCH.COM



TBH

I

VOLUNTEER

FOR

MYSELF

Be a Change Maker. Volunteer Today!

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

This study involves:

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

*Based on 7 planned visits, inclusive of screening

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

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

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

Study Number C5561001

800-254-6398

NewHavenCRU.com



CLASSIFIEDS

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

Be a Change Maker. Volunteer Today!

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

This study involves:

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

**Based on 7 planned visits, inclusive of screening*

Study Number C5561001

800-254-6398
NewHavenCRU.com



TBH

I

VOLUNTEER

FOR

MYSELF

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

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

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



Pfizer

Clinical Research Unit
New Haven

Get ready for summer with Kevian Kraemer's 'seventeen'

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

Kevian Kraemer, an 18-year-old from Asbury Park, New Jersey, rose to fame for his astounding musical capabilities with the help of Jon Leidersdorff as his mentor. He started gaining traction on TikTok as he turned his snippets into finished songs, then published them on the social media platform to gain a following. Finally, after a long wait and many teasers on Instagram and TikTok, Kraemer released his first EP, "Seventeen," which has six songs, on March 29, 2024.

Track list opener, "Attention," perfectly resembles that of the beginning of summer. It's got a beachy vibe — one that you can run to. "Attention" starts with a chord progression strummed on the guitar that immediately sets the tone and emotion behind it: Light-hearted and upbeat. With a catchy introduction,

his lyrics will pull first-time listeners in like a magnet.

"I'll tell you once, but not again / You touch me like you love me / But you're telling people we're just friends"

This idea of the modern "talking stage" warrants uncertainty and confusion, as Kraemer sings. Yet despite this stressful, typically temporary situation in looking for a long-lasting relationship, the company that they bring becomes addicting.

"I never craved attention / Until I tasted some of yours / We go back and forth and I'm losing hope / You love me when you're lonely"

Kraemer is criticizing modern romance and its tendency to be unconventional. According to Cosmopolitan, this "talking stage is intentionally ambiguous, often emotionally exhausting, and, sorry, no one is safe from it." Avoiding something that may or may not develop into something bigger is reasonable, but acting as if someone doesn't exist, as Kraemer mentions, is not.

A bit like "4runner" by Brenn! and incredibly similar-

sounding to "You Know It" by Colony House, "Attention" will undoubtedly get your blood pumping and feels like the wind blowing through your hairs in a fast-moving car.

The third song, "Restart," reinforces the fast-paced tempo with its instrumental backing-track of an electric guitar and a solid drumbeat. The energy, however, is tricking listeners into thinking it's going to be lighthearted, while the words outrightly juxtapose the upbeatness.

"Cause spending all day in your bed / Has taught me a very important lesson / It's so hard to love when it feels just like a gun / Held to your chest"

Kraemer sings not of how love can be toxic, but of how love is poisonous. Maybe, just maybe, if he was in love with someone else, it wouldn't feel "just like a gun," as he puts it. Finding the right person is difficult, I'm sure Kraemer knows this well, but there's a reason why the right person is called the "right" person.

A gentle alternation from the liveliness in Kraemer's other

songs is found in the fourth track, "June Is Getting Old." Played by an addicting melody between the candied relationship between his guitar and voice, "June Is Getting Old" is all about coping with heartbreak and leaving someone you once loved. Solemn but sweet is the perfect way to describe this song. In the acoustics, you might find yourself drifting off to sleep or feeling like you're soaring on a cloud.

"One more memory / One last thing to mourn / If fall was laughing / June is getting old"

Kraemer sings in such a way that makes you feel exactly what he feels. The crescendos and decrescendos of his guitar ascend and descend alongside the strength and emotion in his voice, illuminating that he's truly singing from the heart. "June Is Getting Old" sounds exactly as it seems: Wistful.

We're so scared of not doing something the right way, but stumbling through life and figuring it out is really the only way to do it. Right or wrong, method is not what matters, but purpose is. The tracklist

finale is all about living your teenage years as a teenager and nothing else. Living life as if it's the first time is a surreal concept, but it's the only way to go about it. Kraemer sings,

"Heartbreak and mistakes and who's fucking who / We say a lot, but honestly, we don't have a clue / About what's important / So we just ignore it / 'Cause I don't know what's important, so we just ignore it"

A perfect ending to the EP named "Seventeen," "Teenagers" is a lyrical explanation of what modern adolescence is: A time to bend the rules and experiment.

As a new, yet incredibly talented alternative-indie-pop artist, Kraemer has already gained 134.4k listeners on Spotify. With his maturing voice and his finely tuned guitar skills, he'll blow away the crowd with his next songs. If you're a fan of Colony House, Cage The Elephant or Declan McKenna, you might be a fan of Kevian Kraemer, too!

Rating:



von der Mehden Recital Hall welcomes SANGWOO PARK

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

On March 30, Sangwoo Park performed the final free recital of the 2023-2024 academic year.

Park is a graduate student pursuing a doctorate in musical arts at the University of Connecticut. Some other prior performances hosted by von der Mehden include Evan Timnev, an undergraduate student who had a voice recital, Luigi Polcari, a graduate student who had a cello recital and Michael Eby, a graduate student who had a violin recital.

There was no introduction to Park's performance. He simply bowed after entering the stage and started playing the three-movement "Piano Sonata No. 23 in F minor, Op. 57" by Ludwig van Beethoven.

The first movement, "Allegro assai," made it evident that this wasn't an average recital. Park reverberated emotion through the piano he was playing as well as his movements and facial expressions. His short hair shook with the intensity of the piano notes he memorized. It felt like the audience was intruding on a personal performance.

"Andante con moto," the second movement, began after a short and eerie pause. It sounded somewhat original and not connected to the first movement due to how peaceful it was. A section of the composition was reminiscent of "Clair de Lune" by Claude Debussy. Just as the audience became well-acquainted with the calmness, the third and final movement began like a relapse of negativity.

"Allegro ma non troppo-Presto" was jarring. While the melody was like a leaf in the wind fluttering by, the bassline was like a large and heavy rock. There was a sense of panic and fear within the rendition of the composition

that was mostly left unresolved after the piece was over.

Park performed Maurice Ravel's "La valse, poème chorégraphique" next. He was feeling the music so much his body circulated as he played. There was a moment that was reminiscent of the piano in "Doll Eyes" by Komm, Süßer Tod. It was peaceful at times, but the composition ended on a turbulent note abruptly.

The final composition Park performed was Franz Liszt's "Piano Sonata in B minor, S. 178." While it started soft, it quickly intensified. Park began blinking his eyes to the rhythm of the music. There was somewhat of a triumphant twist in the composition, but it was soured by the overpowering negativity of the rest of the song. The composition fluctuated between serenity and chaos. There was an extremely loud and fast-paced moment that was simultaneously ear-grating and entrancing. It was followed by a quiet moment where a singular note was played. As the emotions fluctuated between opposites, Park looked like he was in pain.

"Thank you for coming today," Park said after the performance while trying to calm down.

For the few who attended the recital, it seems that all of them were immersed in the music and in the world that Park painted. An audience member likened the performance to a psychedelic that one could "Instantly sober from" due to how their mind drifted away into emotional thoughts as Park played. Some of Park's friends and teachers congratulated him after the performance.

When asked about past performances, Park said "I just played in Korea. First time in UConn."

When asked if he'll perform at UConn in the future, Park said "Maybe next year."

The prestige of Shabazz Palaces is crumbling

"I am uncertain how Shabazz Palaces has downgraded this much"

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

Ishmael Butler, of former Diggable Planets fame, has released his third album of the 2020s, titled: "Exotic Birds of Prey" under the Shabazz Palaces moniker. The group previously consisted of Butler and Tendai Maraire, though it became a solo act for Butler sometime between 2017 and 2020. They are most known in hip-hop circles as the architects of "Black Up" in 2011, the socially conscious and esoterically produced album once heralded as one of the best albums of that year by many publications. Unfortunately, the group has steadily declined ever since.

Those unfamiliar with Butler's old and newer work may find interest in the fact that he is the father of Lil Tracy, the former right-hand man to Lil Peep. The father and son have collaborated on "Woke Up in a Dream," a track from Shabazz Palaces' last album, "Robed in Rareness," and possibly on the first track from this new album, "Exotic BOP." The influence of contemporary artists is recognizable based on Butler's bars, such as: "My outfit's the event," along with Travis Scott-esque crooning throughout the track. One must wonder if the 54-year-old Butler is still a student of his peers, favoring to borrow his style from other successful artists instead of advancing his own.

Furthermore, I would assume the crooning is done by featured

artist Purple Tape Nate, but it is hard to distinguish who is saying what, between the murky production and similar voices of the artists. This may be due to Purple Tape Nate's potential identity (you guessed it: Lil Tracy!), which has yet to be confirmed by anyone. Internet sleuths have hypothesized he is Butler rapping in another voice, comparable to J. Cole's alter-ego, kiLL Edward. However, considering Tracy is in a music video of "Fast Learner (ft. Purple Tape Nate)," this is the likely answer. The mystery is less intriguing than figuring out the identity of MF DOOM's friend, Mr. Fantastik, but we will hold off on the DOOM comparisons for now.

The following song, "Angela" bolsters a throwback beat, characteristically wonky like those found on Diggable Planets albums, except there is a void generated by the lack of thought-provoking lyrics that once defined Butler's '90s rap group. By the third track, "Myths of the Occult," it is clear that this new record is far from cohesive. Its 23-minute runtime is not a far cry from the nearly 35-minute "Black Up," except each song on "Exotic Birds of Prey" takes forever to get started. Japreme Magnetic, a rapper who is undoubtedly separate from the Butler family, performs the best verse on the project, which may or may not be worth including on a playlist if you are willing to sit through an introduction for a two-minute song.

Besides its usage of muffled vocals, nothing notable can be

said about the four-and-a-half minute "Goat Me". He is the real goat in this conversation. Look at his new picture on Spotify! Anyway, the guitar riffs on the next song, "Well Known Nobody" do not work well on this emotionally disconnected album with a predominantly digital soundscape. "Synth Dirt" is a not-so-subtle nod to "Bistro" off Madvillainy by Madlib and the late MF DOOM, serving as a verbal introduction to the people behind the music. The humor and wit of the Madvillainy cut is absent on Butler's rendition, claiming his own music is "eclectic," and the purpose of it is pointless given he is now the only surveyor of sounds behind Shabazz Palaces. The replay value of this album as a whole is essentially nailed in the coffin by this unnecessary song.

The MF DOOM inspiration is solidified by the final track, "Take Me to Your Leader," a reference to one of DOOM's best projects, made under his King Geedorah pseudonym. The lyrics are seductive, an odd and strangely welcome addition for something human the listener can latch onto. The beeps and boops that make up the majority of the beat is superseded by a fluttery passage that reminds me of a Flying Lotus song, with about half the complexity. Feeling like one of the only finished tracks on "Exotic Birds of Prey," I am uncertain how Shabazz Palaces has downgraded this much, and why Butler is still producing with this tiresome aesthetic.

Rating:





Life

@dailycampuslife

‘Stardew Valley’ is the perfect escape from final exams

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

Hello and welcome back to The Backlog, where we review video games based on a certain genre or word each month. The Spring 2024 semester is finally drawing to a close; honestly, I feel like it went by very quickly. But alas, with the end coming it means that professors are scrambling to make every assignment have similar due dates. For students who are looking for an escape from reality, this month’s reviews of “relaxing” games are just for you.

“Stardew Valley” was initially released in February 2016 and has taken the world by storm since. It was nominated for the BAFTA Games Award for Best Game and the Game Award for Best Independent Game. The 8-bit aesthetics harkens back to an appreciation of retro games, one series that comes to mind being the early Pokémon games.

The main mechanic of “Stardew Valley” is farming and livestock, where players can harvest crops each season and/or raise livestock and sell their products. Each product takes different amounts of time to grow and has varying values. Some crops like cauliflowers and melons can only be harvested once, and then reseeded. While other crops like green beans and hops can grow continuously once they reach their first harvest. My strategy to have a constant profit is planting blueberries and cranberries in the green-

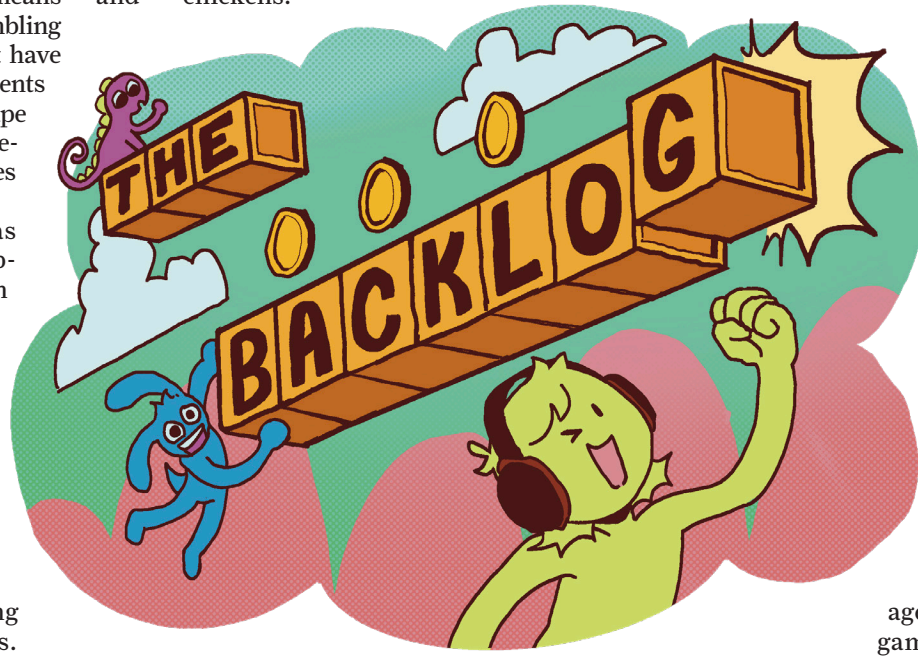
house (once you’ve rebuilt it) so that they can grow year-round. I adore the livestock feature in “Stardew Valley;” the animals will only die if you are not careful with them, as if they are left outside overnight, they may get attacked and killed by wild animals. The main types of animals that you can raise are basic barn animals like cows and chickens.

When you arrive at your new home you are greeted by Lewis, the mayor. He explains everything you need to know. One of the first quests you can complete is meeting and greeting everyone in the community. The NPCs play a big role in “Stardew Valley,” in fact it’s likely what makes the game so attractive to players of all types.

cutscenes that expand upon each character. On the surface they seem to be stereotypical characters you’d find in a dating simulator. Alex is a jock, Haley is the popular mean girl and Sebastian is a dark and gloomy loner. Getting to know each character reveals more about their personalities and their relationships with other NPCs.

Beyond the dating/farming simulator, “Stardew Valley” does contain combat. It’s reminiscent of “Terraria” in that enemies will approach the player and all you can do is swing a sword at them. The enemies are found in various areas like the Mines, Skull Cavern and later the Volcano Dungeon. The enemy difficulty increases as you progress through “Stardew Valley” and finding new areas will bring new challenges and new rewards.

Despite being out for nearly a decade, “Stardew Valley” has managed to remain popular for gamers due to constant updates that expand upon the game. The 1.6 update was released on March 19 for PC, the update for console and mobile will likely come later in the year. It includes a range of new crops, holidays and other quality of life updates. It makes the experience much longer with new things to discover and enjoy. The game is never-ending, although if you’ve played it for weeks or months at a time — like I have — you might’ve found yourself feeling bored or no longer challenged. Hopefully the 1.6 update revitalizes old players and brings in new ones.



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

But some become more exotic and lucrative, like ostriches and dinosaurs.

Spoilers for “Stardew Valley” story beyond this point!

The game begins with the opportunity to customize your character, players can get as creative as they please with their pixelated sprite. After that, the player finds themselves stuck in their dead-end job at Joja Corporation. As a start to any farming game, we come across a letter from our deceased grandfather who left us his farm in, you guessed it, Stardew Valley.

You have the ability to be friend, date, marry and divorce people in this quaint little town. There is a limit to who you can marry, there are only so many bachelors and bachelorettes in Stardew Valley, but the developer, Eric “ConcernedApe” Barone, made sure that the dating aspect would remain a gender-neutral area. As a wholesome and relaxing experience, there is no discrimination in “Stardew Valley.”

By giving gifts to NPCs twice a week, you gain hearts with them and eventually find

Rating:



‘Foreign Policy Seminar 149:’ How the use of the atomic bomb was racialized

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

Content warning for mentions of mass murder and racism.

On Friday, March 29, Matthew Jones of the London School of Economics and Political Science gave a seminar on foreign policy in the Wood Hall basement.

According to his website, Jones’ historical inquiries include “British and American foreign and defense policy in the twentieth century, as well as the Cold War more generally.” He is the author of multiple monographs on history spanning from the 1940s such as his debut book “Britain, the United States and the Mediterranean War, 1942-44” to 1970 in the case of his latest book, “Volume II: The Labour Government and the Polaris Programme, 1964-70.” He is currently writing a third volume.

Associate professor and department head of history Mark Healey welcomed the audience

and introduced Board of Trustees distinguished professor of history Frank Costigliola. Costigliola briefly explained how the Foreign Policy Seminar series began in 1985 and how these seminars and lectures are meant for personal enrichment and education. He introduced Jones by saying how he was chosen by the prime minister of the United Kingdom to be the Cabinet Office’s official historian of the UK strategic nuclear deterrent, meaning that he has the privilege of seeing confidential documents.

Jones’ lecture covered the intersection of race and nuclear weapons in Asia from 1945 to 1965. He began the lecture by setting the scene in World War II right after the United States dropped nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan. He described this bombing as “The most graphic demonstration of American power.”

The talk delved into the stereotypes that Americans had of the Japanese in the media. He claimed that the Japanese

were just as guilty as Americans in using stereotypes to dehumanize the people they oppressed, as Japan was an imperialist nation as well.

Jones said that to some the atomic bomb was not only seen as a way to prevent the deaths of American soldiers in an invasion, but also as a means of revenge for the Pearl Harbor bombing. Furthermore, the atomic bombs that the United States dropped were accused of being for Japan and not Germany due to racial prejudices because Japanese lives meant less to the American government. To some, the atomic bomb was a weapon of White supremacy.

Jones provided the perspective that the bombs were dropped “to terrorize the Japanese to surrender.” He later stressed that the Japanese government’s decision-making has to be understood when thinking about the purpose of the United States had when dropping the bombs. Some thought that the Japanese surrender could be seen as a way

to avoid human extinction via a nuclear war. Many Asian citizens and governments were generally disillusioned and alienated from the West after the bombs were dropped.

Jones then shifted the view to the Black American population’s reaction to the massacre, quoting Langston Hughes, who said “The Germans were spared from the bomb because they were White.”

The lingering after-effects of World War II seeped into other wars. There were anti-American sentiments in India during the Korean War according to the New York Times. Some had wondered if America was going to drop a nuclear bomb on Korea, especially because the American usage of the bomb had become so racialized.

There were many reasons why America didn’t use an atomic bomb in Korea, Jones explained, but it was not just because of the racist connotations it would have had. “Any nuclear usage would carry such political consequences,” Jones said.

According to Jones, a “Powerful source of estrangement between America and Asia” should continue to be addressed.

The event closed with a Q&A session for audience participation. When asked if the atomic bombs saved more Japanese lives, Jones personally believed it wasn’t the case. Someone asked why Pacific people weren’t considered Asian by America, to which Jones couldn’t give a definitive answer but said that America couldn’t test nukes anymore because it would be unpopular with the United Nations.

The event ended with a final question from an audience member who mentioned the sentiment that if Japan had bombs, they would have dropped them on the U.S. They asked if this sentiment was prevalent in American society, to which Jones mentioned “Thank God for the Atomic Bomb,” an essay that defends the usage of the bombs because it saved American lives if they had an invasion of Japan.



Opinion

The Daily Campus

EDITORIAL BOARD:

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

Nell Srinath..... OPINION EDITOR

Dan Stark..... ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

Luke Feeney

Tomas Hinckley..... WEEKLY COLUMNISTS

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



COMIC BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD EMBRACE POLITICS

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

Nell Srinath is the Social Media Manager for Queer Asians and Allies.

Within the CVS receipt-length list of things I do at the University of Connecticut is a little organization called Queer Asians and Allies (QAA). Consisting of cultural celebrations, game nights, PowerPoint parties and the occasional diaspora kid vent session (catered by Hello Kitty grilled cheese sandwiches), this tier-II club gives me much needed respite from nonstop writing or heckling university administrators. It is incredibly refreshing to connect with people who share the intersecting identities of being Asian and a member of the LGBTQIA+ community over the (sometimes clichéd) idiosyncrasies of our upbringing: cut fruit, plastic bags inside another plastic bag, no-shoe households, learning that your childhood nickname was actually a curse word and so forth.

I even welcome the legwork involved in running a student organization. The group's social media, which I manage with other members of the executive board, is, for the most part, light-hearted and doesn't grab you by the shoulders to scream about the societal grievances of Asian people who are members of the LGBTQIA+ community. Tearing it up on Canva a few times a month to make presentations for our meetings is the highlight of my Thursday afternoon. Coming up with and participating in silly activities ("Chat GPT Mad Libs" and "Stupid Shark Tank" being the ones I'm most proud of) requires no small amount of brain power, but it can be preferable to contemplating man-made horrors beyond our comprehension — see previous installments of "Mass Mood." In sum, much of QAA and other cultural organizations' activities have the outward appearance of being apolitical.

But as a cultural organization, QAA is inextricably tied to our identities as — you guessed it — queer and Asian people. This is readily apparent in most of our meetings, where discussions about these intersecting positionalities also reveal how they clash. Although Asians and Asian Americans are diverse with respect to their views on LGBTQIA+ issues, there is no doubt a conservative tinge to older generations. For example, polling by Pew Research Center in 2022 indicates that about one-third of Asian adults in the United States feel views on gender identity are "chang-

ing too quickly." Considering this, it's easy to understand the calculus a queer or trans Asian youth has to do when considering coming out and how common this experience must be. Our cultural values, being formed by histories of power and economic relations, are utterly political.

These identities are additionally impacted by policies that try to govern queer and trans bodies; by economic factors that enable wealthy Asians to migrate where poor Asians cannot; and by foreign policy hostile to Asian countries that result in racialized hatred and violence. We certainly can't ignore how Black people have shaped queer culture and resistance and how assimilation in a country founded on white supremacy necessarily means participating in, capitulating to and struggling against it at different times for different people.

Additionally, some of our national backgrounds only exist because of colonialism, which serves to unite peoples in a shared struggle in some instances and divide them with artificial, political borders in others. Politics are unavoidable in cultural organizations. Making room for political education and action optimizes our ability to do good in and beyond our communities.

On Thursday, March 28, QAA hosted an open discussion on pinkwashing and how it relates to the queer, Asian community. Pinkwashing refers to the appropriation of LGBTQIA+ struggles, or an appeal to our rights, in order to justify state violence. The term was coined by scholar Sarah Schulman to explain how the state of Israel "[conceals] the continuing violations of Palestinians' human rights behind an image of modernity signified by Israeli gay life."

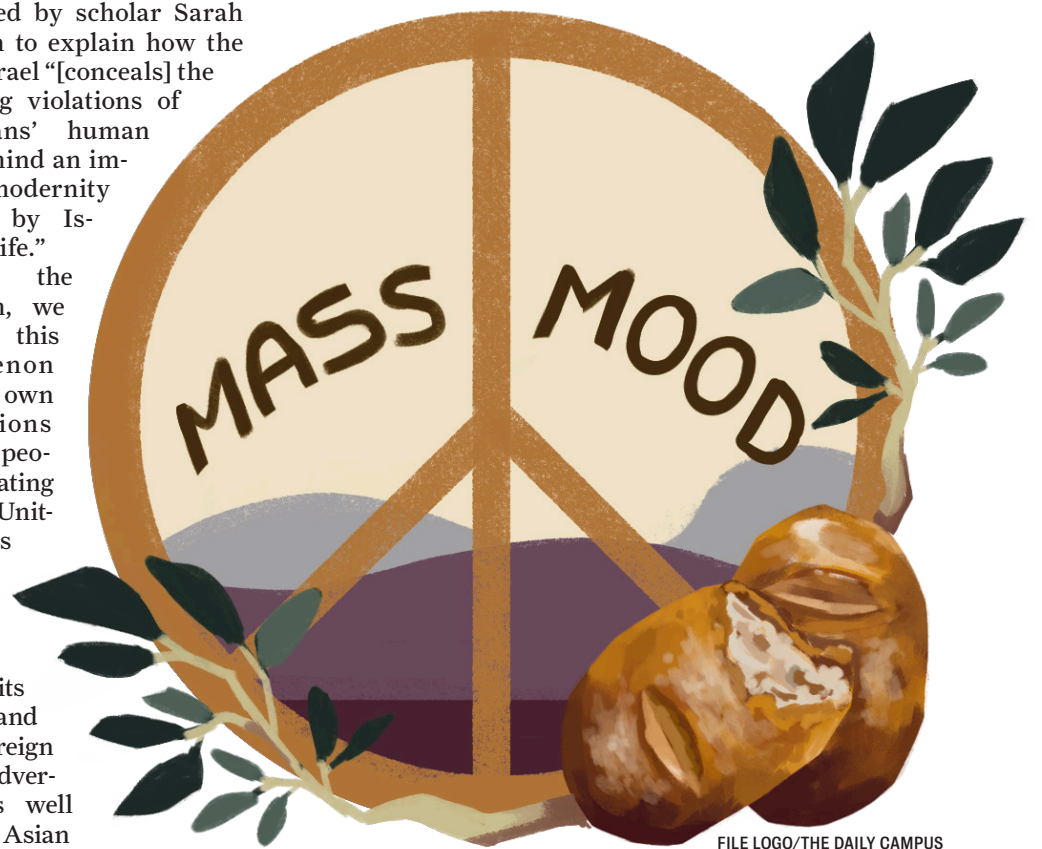
During the discussion, we projected this phenomenon onto our own observations as Asian people, debating how the United States employs pinkwashing in its military and against foreign policy adversaries, as well as how Asian

countries like Thailand may appropriate queerness in other ways to spur tourism without challenging homophobia in Thai society more broadly.

QAA has had other discussions on getting involved in activism, confronting anti-Black racism in the Asian community and even gentrification. Implicit in many of these conversations is the desire to recognize the privileges we have as Asian people in a wealthy, militarily hegemonic country. Similarly, we tend to moderate these discussions with the desire to uplift those in and outside of our student organization bubble with the least power. Often, connecting the dots between our national-ethnic backgrounds and politics is more energizing than if we ignored the latter altogether.

Of course, politics can be divisive. Rather than shying away from politics on that account, cultural organizations should provide opportunities for friendly debate. Individual members may walk away with their biases challenged and more knowledge on a subject that is relevant to their community. Build consensus where consensus exists. Make community agreements where the community agrees. QAA doesn't intend to be the vanguard party of queer Asian people (yet); our goal is to build community.

Not insulating ourselves from politics makes us more resilient to political developments that happen in our lifetimes. Knowledge and discussion empower us to confront oppression, and the struggle against oppression is ultimately the reason many of these organizations exist in the first place.



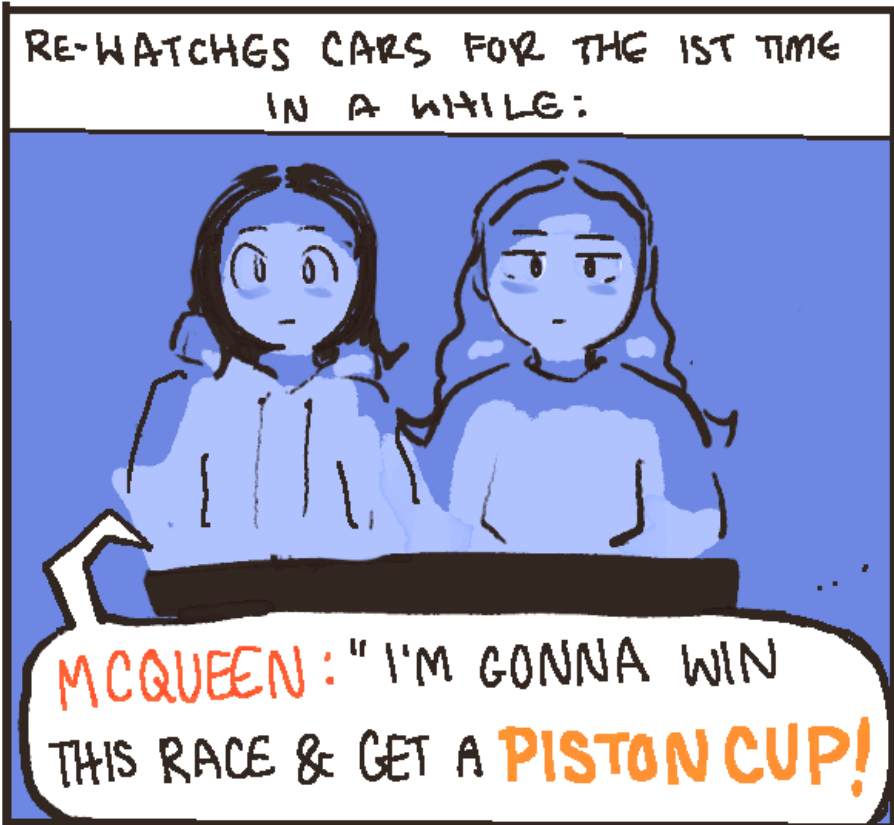
FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Opinion StudyBreak

Photo of the Day | Swan Lake sunrise

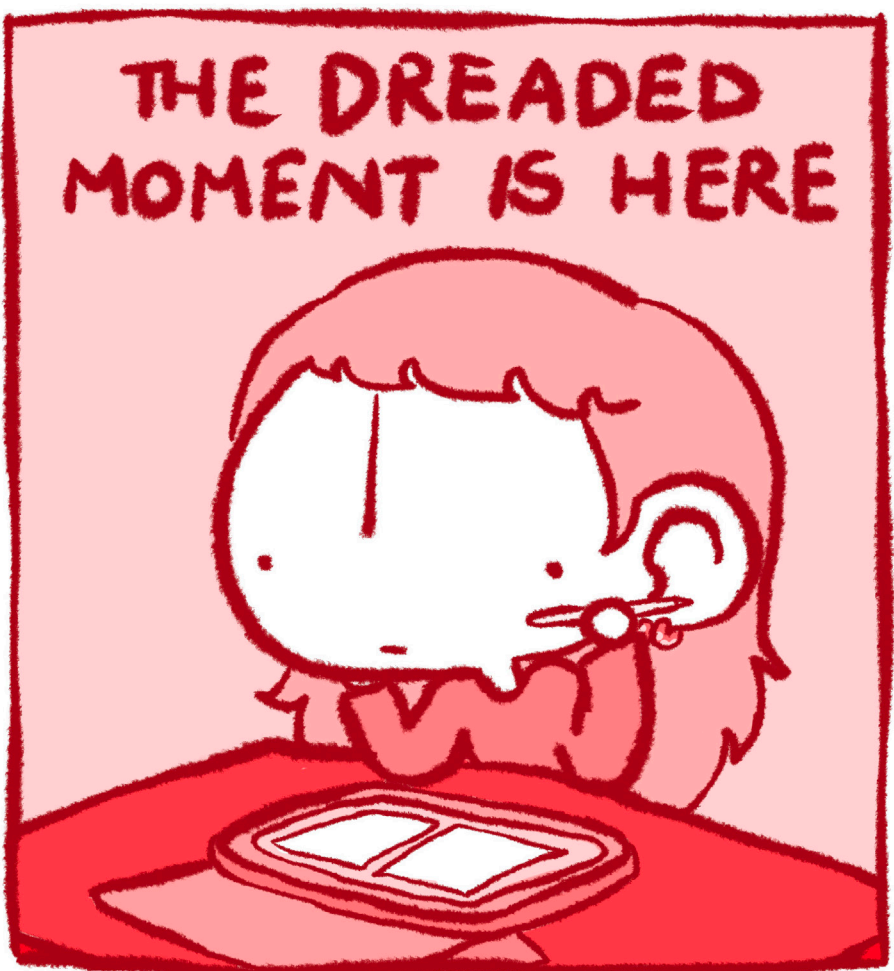


A quiet Monday at Swan Lake on the UConn Storrs campus. After Easter weekend, students rooted for the UConn women's basketball team in their Elite Eight matchup against USC and await the UConn men's basketball team in their Final Four matchup against Alabama.
PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

THE DAILY CAMPUS COMICS



COMIC BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Bridget's Bulletin:

A recap of the Red Sox' first 2024 regular season series

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

For the first time in four years, the Boston Red Sox enjoyed an Opening Day win. Thursday evening the Red Sox squared up against the Seattle Mariners and found their first ticket to success in the regular season.

The last time Boston enjoyed immediate success was their 2020 contest against the Orioles where they earned an unusually high number of runs to finish 13-2.

This year, the contest was a bit closer as Opening Day was the immediate success Boston fans have been waiting for for quite some time.

However, the top of the first had Boston sweating. Jarren Duran, Rafael Devers then Trevor Story went one, two, three in a matter of moments. A routine fly ball and two strike-outs sent the Mariners up to bat.

While the first two innings were a scoreless affair, the second was where things began to pick up.

Enmanuel Valdez, who was drafted to the Red Sox in 2023 got the momentum going with a base hit at the top of the third. After a strike-out from Duran, Devers stepped up to the plate hopeful of earning his first home run of the season. Luckily, that's just what he did. Silencing the Seattle fans, Devers ran in Valdez to put the Red Sox on the board 2-0.

That battle of the east- and west-coasters started to heat up in the fourth.

A hit from Ceddanne Rafaela with runners on second and third brought in Tyler O'Neill. Rafaela's throw tapped O'Neill on the head while he slid into home; luckily, this mishap brought in another Boston run.

Seattle finally answered. A home run with a runner on first brought in two for the Mariners.

The fifth and

than Boston fans could have asked for after last season's drought. Up at bat, Rafaela and

ford of the Mariners. Seattle pitcher George Kirby had upwards of six strikeouts and was remarkably dominant on the mound, routinely throwing back-to-back strikeouts. The pitcher had an exceptional season debut.

Saturday's contest once again had Boston on the edge of their seats. The 3-4 finish favored the Mariners early on.

A bunt from Crawford got him to second and then a base hit from Mitch Haniger ultimately brought Crawford

shined through.

Heading into the final game in the series and at a 1-2 deficit, a win was critical for Boston.

The second inning quickly proved to be the only close scoring period of the match.

A fly ball down the leftfield line brought in O'Neill for his second homer of the season. Then, a ground ball from the Mariners snaked through center field and was enough to tie up the scoreboard 1-1.

Soon after, the Mariners went cold and were unable to gain any successful traction. The fourth sealed the deal for Boston as they nailed three runs and then another in the sixth. A shutout that started in the third inning earned Boston a 5-1 victory.

After ending the series in a 2-2 tie, the Red Sox are showing some promise, especially from Rafaela, who has already proven to be an exceptionally diverse player. Devers has also been an anchoring team leader just one weekend into the season.

This week, Boston is scheduled for their second series against the Oakland Athletics and will look to establish an early streak.

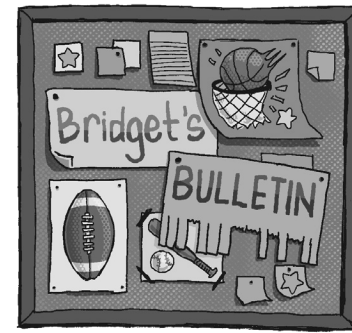
Boston fans sat in stands trailing the seventh in two runs for the Mariners while Boston scored their final point in the eighth. The 6-4 success was more

sixth in - nings plated two more runs for ton as attle quite the

5-2. The seventh in two runs for the Mariners while Boston scored their final point in the eighth.

Devers were early standouts, leading the team in runs. Friday's contest was a dramatic 180 for the running Red Sox as they were out

IMAGE COURTESY OF @REDSOX ON TWITTER



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

The Puck Drop: A glimpse into the NHL playoff race

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

It seems as if this NHL season has gone by in the blink of an eye, and teams and fans are eyeing the start of the playoff race.

If you are unfamiliar with how the playoffs work in the NHL, here's a briefer. Of the 32 teams in the league, only 16 of them will be able to participate. In each division, the top-three teams make it in, totaling 12 teams. The rest of the spots are decided by wildcard spots within the four divisions.

As of right now, each of the divisions except the pacific division have their two top teams clinched for the playoffs. Sitting at the top of the Atlantic Division are the Boston Bruins and Florida Panthers.

After the Bruins' record-breaking season last year where they won the Presidents' Trophy and established a new record for regular season wins, they followed it up with another stellar season.

Sitting in fourth place in the league, they notched 43 wins and 17 losses in 75 games played. With their elite goaltending tandem of Linus Ullmark and Jeremy Swayman, along with sleek goal-scorer David Pastrnak, they are a team to keep your eye on as the post-season progresses.

Next up with the Metropolitan Division, the New York Rangers and Carolina Hurricanes are your top two teams.

The Rangers, sitting at the top, have their eyes set on the Presidents' Trophy. They have had an incredible season compared to the past few years. With the new addition of the aggressive forward Matt Rempe and their unparalleled tandem of Artemi Panarin and Mika Zibanejad, these New York foes are going to be chosen as the Stanley Cup favorites in many NHL fans' brackets.

Now moving onto the Western division, the Dallas Stars



IMAGE COURTESY OF @NHLBRUINS ON TWITTER

and 2022 Stanley Cup Champion Colorado Avalanche hold the top two spots.

In terms of the league standings, the Stars are just below the Rangers, at the No. 2 spot. Just like the Bruins, the Stars have a special goalie tandem with Jake Oettinger at the forefront and Scott Wedgewood as the backup. The team has been able to notch 47 wins and 19 losses in 75 games played. The Stars are looking for another Stanley Cup to their name after winning in 2018 and it'll be interesting to see how their postseason pans out.

Lastly, the Pacific Division. The Vancouver Canucks are the only team so far to have clinched a spot in the playoffs. The Canucks are usually a team you see sitting at the bottom of the standings, but with new captain defenseman Quinn Hughes and new head coach Rick Tocchet, they have had quite the run this season with 46 wins and 20 losses.

Even though the second spot in the Pacific Division hasn't been clinched, the Edmonton Oilers have their eyes on it. After a scary start to their season, they moved their way up to eighth in their league and look like a team capable of going far in the playoffs.

In terms of wildcard spots, the teams vying for a clinch include the Capitals, the Golden Knights, the Jets and the Leafs.

As we reach the end of the regular season, NHL fans should keep their eyes glued to the league standings and the last few games as they start making plans for their playoff brackets.



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

Sports

Photo of the Day | Men's basketball



The UConn Huskies beat the San Diego State Aztecs in the Sweet Sixteen at TD Garden 82-52 on Thursday, March 28. PHOTO BY JORDAN ARNOLD, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The Weekly Reed:

Early Season Overreaction: Red Sox starting vastly improved

by Noah Reed
HE/HIM/HIS
STAFF WRITER
noah.reed@uconn.edu

With baseball season in full swing, I think one of the more important storylines to carry over from the offseason throughout the year will be with the Red Sox' starting pitching. Most baseball fans were left surprised by the lack of talent, especially with pitching, that Boston did not bring in. Firing Chief Baseball Operator Chaim Bloom and replacing him with former player

eral openers), eight of which made more than nine starts and all of which had ERAs above 4.00.

This offseason, with the newly appointed Chief Baseball Officer Breslow, many thought this was the year the team

the Minnesota Twins organization, was brought over to become the new director of pitching for Boston. Lastly, Kyle Boddy of Driveline

with new technologies and different ideas. While not as flashy as signing players like Blake Snell and Jordan Montgomery, this is how the Red Sox believed they would best improve their pitching for 2024 and beyond.

So how has it been

a whole looked quite impressive, with the lone exception of Joely Rodriguez who has a 13.50 ERA through three appearances so far.

Comparing this to how the Red Sox season started last year, it's a complete 180. To start 2023, Kluber only went 3.1 innings while allowing five runs in Boston's 10-9 opening day loss against Baltimore last year. Chris Sale pitched in game two, but he didn't fare any better. Sale went just three innings and allowed seven runs, but the Red Sox were able to squeak out a 9-8 win off an

Craig Breslow made it seem like the team was ready to spend, but that just wasn't true. Boston is running out a starting rotation, fronted by newly extended Brayan Bello and followed by Nick Pivetta, Kutter Crawford, Garrett Whitlock and Tanner Houck. These are all players who have been with the team since at least 2022. Lucas Giolito was brought in as the big pick up for the team, but an injury to his throwing arm has lessened his chance for playing in 2024 at all. Despite the lack of changes in the rotation itself, I wanted to take the time to break down why the pitching should still be a drastic improvement in 2024 and point out signs of hope in their first series.

Looking back at 2023, the Red Sox' pitching was their main problem. Boston had zero complete games, finished well below league average with just 47 total quality starts and had starters average 4.8 innings pitched per game started--fifth worst in the league. All of this contributed to a below-average team ERA of 4.52. Corey Kluber, Boston's opening day starter, went on to pitch in just 15 games, making six relief appearances on his way to a 7.04 ERA. The Red Sox had 17 different players start a game for them in 2023 (including sev-

would spend on pitching, especially with Breslow's background as a former MLB pitcher in Boston. Besides Giolito, most of the pitching additions have been small depth moves, including Greg Weissert, Isaiah Campbell and Justin Slaten. The real moves to improve the pitching, however, seem to be coming more from off-the-field moves instead, mostly aimed at improving the structure of how the Red Sox develop and approach pitching on all levels of their system.

Breslow brought in a former teammate and good friend of his, Andrew Bailey, from the San Francisco Giants to replace Dave Bush as the Red Sox' pitching coach. Justin Willard, formerly with

Baseball was hired as an advisor to Breslow, with the goal of improving the Red Sox' pitching organizationally

working so far for the team?

Through their first four games of the year, the Red Sox split the series with the Seattle Mariners. Each starting pitcher went at least five innings allowing five total runs combined across 22 innings pitched. Brayan Bello started the year with a five-inning performance allowing two earned runs. Pivetta followed it up with a six-inning show, striking out 10 with just one earned run. The Red Sox then turned the ball to Crawford and Whitlock to close out the series with Crawford throwing six innings of one run ball and Whitlock going five while striking out eight, a feat he didn't accomplish all of last season. The pitching staff as

Adam Duval walk-off.

To close the opening series, the ball was handed over to Houck, who had the best performance of the three, pitching five and giving up just three as the Red Sox went on to win 9-5.

2023 saw the Red Sox give up 23 runs in the first three games with each game having to use more than five pitchers. As for 2024, the Red Sox finished their four-game set giving up just 10 runs and had two games where they used four pitchers or less. Starters going deeper into games was the biggest area of concern for Boston a season ago. Pivetta and Crawford, despite pitching in the two losses, picked up quality starts in their six-inning appearances. Through their first four games, the Red Sox are second behind the New York Yankees in team ERA at 2.04.

While the team, much to fans dismay, didn't add a big-name pitcher this offseason, the improvements around the pitching and its development seem to be working out really well. While it is only April and the season is far from over, I'm expecting this Red Sox rotation to prove their doubters wrong.



The Red Sox celebrating a hard earned win on March 31, 2024. The team scored 4 more runs than their opponents, the Seattle Mariners.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @REDSOX ON TWITTER

Women's Lacrosse: Huskies dominate Marquette for first conference win

by **Stratton Stave**

HE/HIM/HIS
SPORTS EDITOR
stratton@uconn.edu

Sometimes, all you need is a get-right game. That was the case for the University of Connecticut women's lacrosse team. After getting blasted against No. 12 Denver last week in the Rocky Mountains, the Huskies returned home to face off against Marquette. In a season where wins haven't been as common as they often are for Connecticut, this 17-7 one sure was sweet.

While they didn't necessarily dominate from the opening draw, they did get off to a nice start. Lauren Barry scored two of the team's first three goals as they jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the early portion of the game. The Golden Eagles responded quickly with a pair of scores, but Susan Lafountain's goal calmed the storm going into the second frame.

Meg Bireley cut the advantage to one again in the opening seconds, but that awoke something for the Huskies. The home side went nuclear, finishing the half on a 6-1 run. Rayea Davis played a huge part in the push, as she converted on two free position goals to kick it off, along with one more later

on. Their six-goal differential going into the break was nice, but they didn't stop there.

Connecticut's defense was stout in the third quarter, not allowing any goals through.

Davis had an exceptional afternoon, absolutely torching the Golden Eagles for whatever she wanted. It did help that three of her five goals came from free positions, but

Another Husky who had herself a day was Lafountain. Though she didn't have the assisting performance that Davis did, the senior poured in 4 goals to bring her season total

season, played really well off the bench. It didn't take long for the sparkplug to see her name called and she found the back of the net early and often. She finished with four scores,

playing with an attack-first mindset. Though do-it-all players are necessary, having someone who you know is going for a goal is helpful.

Also notable was Shaffer connecting just once on her 5 shots, getting into a habit of having on and off nights. While she stepped up big against Denver, she couldn't put the pieces together Saturday. It helped that she didn't need to have a big night for the Huskies to grab the blow-out victory, but a string of consistent games would be a welcome sight for the Huskies.

Looking holistically, it was a great win for UConn. Marquette isn't great, but there are no gimmes in the Big East. The toughest part of their schedule is out of the way, so if they can really hone in

and string together some victories down the stretch, they could make a push for a conference tournament run.

Their chance to turn this win into a winning streak will come right back at home against Villanova on Wednesday.



UConn women's lacrosse plays Marquette in Storrs, Conn. on March 30, 2024. The Huskies finished with a win 17-7.

PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

On the offensive end, they peppered the opposing keeper. Star Kate Shaffer netted one of the team's four goals in the period, as the 10-score advantage rendered the contest all but finished. The fourth quarter ended tied, but the Huskies had many of their reserves in.

she also dipped her hand into the passing department. Davis recorded four assists in her first nine games combined but went crazy on Saturday with five. 10 points in one outing is a career-best for the redshirt sophomore, who appears to be the future of the program.

to a team-third 22. Lafountain has stepped up nicely this year, with this game as just another example of what she can bring on any given day. She's also delivered consistency, going just 2/10 games without a score.

Barry, who has seen an increase in playing time this

Track and Field: Huskies deliver strong results in Dog Fight Invitational, Raleigh Relays

by **CJ Dexter**

HE/HIM/HIS
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
christopher.dexter@uconn.edu

Over the weekend, the UConn track and field team hosted the Dog Fight Invitational right in Storrs, while sending a smaller squad to the Raleigh Relays in North Carolina.

Both the men's and women's respective squads took first place in the Dog Fight as 41 Huskies secured top-five placements over the three days of competition.

The men's team finished with 170 points, with Albany (125) and Maine (107) rounding out the top three in the Dog Fight. The women's side tallied 186.75 as Albany (151) and Northeastern (105) followed behind.

On the men's side, Connecticut dominated the high jump, with the trio of first-year Mawali Osunniyi (2.09m), first-year Dar Jankovic (2.04m) and junior Kasey Savage (2.04m) respectively taking the top three finishes in the event.

Junior Travis Rioux recorded a 60.46m in the hammer throw, which earned him a personal best and a second-place finish. Also having himself a day was Connor Hayford, who took first place in the javelin throw event with a 62m stamp. Senior Gabriel Fountain finished just behind Hayford for third with a 58.93m in the event.

On the women's side, Chloe Thomas' new personal best of 15:35 in the 5K event at the Raleigh Relays earned her a second-place finish. In the 4x400 event (of the Dog Fight), the team of Mia Powell, Anna Connors, Jalah Cooper and Jessica Starr hit a season-best mark of 3:48.11 to take first place.

Additionally, the dominance in the hammer throw carried over to the women's team,

with junior Natalia Surdej also setting a new personal best of 62.48, good for first place. Junior Jailya Ash also set a personal best for the women's squad, stamping a 13.29 in the 100m hurdle event. In the 800m event, five Huskies finished within the top eight as senior Jenna Zydanowicz (2:12.04) took first, junior Madison Relyea (2:15.99) took third, first-year Calista Mayer (2:17.41) finished fourth, sophomore Danielle Adams (2:19.15) finished sixth and sophomore Caroline Rice (2:19:78) finished eighth.

The defending Big East champs will look to continue their stretch of dominant play in South Florida, with the men slated for April 5 and the women set for the following day.

UConn hosts the Dog Fight Invite at Storrs on March 30, 2024. The men took first place totaling 170 points in 20 scored events. The women finished first putting up a huge total of 186.75 points in 19 scored events.

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS





Sports

Men's Basketball: Huskies ride 30-0 run in beatdown of Illini; advance to Final Four

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

When the University of Connecticut men's basketball team stepped onto the hardwood for the first time this season, it was with immense expectation that they'd be one of the most feared teams in the nation.

Yet, following this team's 77-52 win over the Illinois Fighting Illini at TD Garden, they've stepped up to a whole new level.

What makes this win so special, other than the fact that the program is advancing to its second straight Final Four, is how this team looked in the first half. Sure, Donovan Clingan looked like a man amongst boys early on, securing plenty of big buckets in the paint including an and-one layup that caused TD Garden to erupt.

But the team wasn't playing up to the standard that its elite offense is known for. Other than the dominance of the Great Wall of Bristol, the Huskies shot just 6/23 from the field and a poor 1/11 from the 3-point line. Meanwhile, Illinois wasn't shooting the ball well and were getting some crucial points despite Connecticut's hard-nosed defensive mentality.

A big story surrounding this matchup was the defensive battle between Terrence Shannon Jr. and Stephon Castle. With how the dynamic Illini guard can score the basketball, the No. 1 team in the nation had quite the challenge in how they would contain their opponent's star player.

But, Castle answered that call to action by playing a level of defense that has made him one of the talks of the

it ended up being just what the doctor ordered for coach Dan Hurley and this squad.

"I mean, Steph just made it really, really tough on him. He chased him off the line. We did a great job in transition. One of his two buckets was a flash in transition, he got there so fast. Then whenever he did get the edge, we had rim protection there. You had Donovan there, you had Samson there. But Steph, there's a reason why, in the basketball world, people are as high on Steph as they are. He's a winning player, and obviously, he's got an incredible career in the NBA ahead of him. He's been the anti-five star freshman. He does whatever the team needs for us to win," said the Huskies coach following the win.

Although the Huskies did their job on that end of the floor, one player that gave Connecticut trouble was Marcus Domask, who scored 15 points on 6/9 shooting. Illinois' second-leading scorer ended up being an integral piece in keeping the game close in the first half. His triple with 11:27 to go would keep the game close in the first half, but his biggest moment would come with 1:49 to go on a jumper to tie the game.

Going into halftime, UConn had a five-point lead, but it was clear that the team was not playing up to the level of basketball that many fans have come to expect out of this Huskies squad. While Hurley may not have known

what his team was thinking at that moment during the halftime huddle, he knew they had the talent to get the job done.

"I don't know what they were thinking, but we just had tremendous respect for Illinois. Brad and their program and the team, I obviously would have

elite. Our offense is elite. We rebound the ball. These guys play every posses-

energy out of a hopeful Fighting Illini squad that looked to grab the edge in the second half. Yet, UConn did everything right.

Their offense looked second to none. After a 33.3% shooting performance in the first



town as an NBA Draft prospect. Shannon Jr. had just 2 points on 1/7 shooting, and when you combine the strong play of Clingan on that end of the court in the paint,



half, that number jumped up to 70% and once again, it was Clingan who was the biggest culprit in helping out his team. The Bristol native dazzled the crowd with 13 second-half points, and his size was simply too much for Illinois.

Other than Clingan, UConn had more of their offensive weapons step up big time in the final 20 minutes, especially Alex Karaban.

Karaban's 10 points for the Huskies were massive, but his and-one slam with 13:43 to go may have been even bigger. As the Southborough native drove down the lane, a nearby Shannon Jr. looked to stop the Connecticut forward from scoring. Yet, that defensive attempt would be too little, too late as Karaban dunked the ball home to bring his team's run up to a 27-0 scoring outburst.

"It was a special level of basketball that we were playing," said Hurley.

From there, the Fighting Illini simply had no chance despite their effort. UConn's 30-0 run combined with some stupendous defense would simply be the difference maker in what was one of the most complete offensive performances by the team this season.

Connecticut certainly isn't done just yet. They're motivated to grab these last two wins in Phoenix and play for the members of this team that have yet to taste the success of a National Championship such as Cam Spencer or Castle. If you know this team, they're not going to stop until they seize every possible winning opportunity.

"We just motivate each other, playing for one another. This is a group of guys that love to play together and be on the floor together," said Clingan.

UConn beats Illinois in the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament in Boston at TD Garden 77-52. UConn moves onto the Final Four making this their seventh Final Four appearance in the program's history.

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

been thrilled just to get out of here with a win. Our defense is

sion like it's the end of the world. Kimani and Luke prepare these guys with scouts at a quality level that any head coach in the country would be proud to put forth. Those two guys are amazing. We've got NBA-level players who are just willing to share and have created an unbelievable culture. We're going to be tough to beat," said Hurley.

In the second half, the Huskies certainly looked tough to beat, maybe even impossible with the level they were playing at. Connecticut had the entire nation in awe as the program went on an improbable 30-0 run to take the

Looking for the Women's Basketball recap?
Visit DailyCampus.com