



Apartment complex on Storrs Road to open Fall 2025

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

The Standard at Four Corners apartment complex, located at the intersection of Routes 195 and 44, will be opening in Fall 2025 with a mix of student and local family apartments.

The development will include 392 residential units and approximately 15,000 square feet of commercial space located on 1717, 1733, and 1753 Storrs Road. The apartments, located near the University of Connecticut, have been designed as student rental apartments, but are also open to the public, according to The Standard website.

“Nestled in the heart of a vibrant college neighborhood, bustling with restaurants, bars, cafes, and boutiques, our apartments near UConn are the perfect choice for students looking to immerse themselves in the ultimate collegiate lifestyle,” the website reads.

Although the developers are aiming to build the apartments to provide housing for students, the town of Mansfield is ensuring affordable housing is available to families as well.

“We obviously like students because we all live in Mansfield and UConn is here, but we wanted to make sure that these units were also available to families who needed housing. So our regulations require that a certain percentage of the units are designed for multi-generational families,” Jennifer Kaufman, Mansfield senior planner and inland wetlands agent, said.

The project is being developed by Landmark Properties and Manulife Investment Management, with Landmark Construction serving as general contractor. Landmark Properties purchased the property for \$6.8 million in a sale recorded on Nov. 28, 2022.

Kaufman emphasized that Mansfield zones the property and the complex had to follow significant town regulations. However, the complex is not a town project,



Construction continues on The Standard at Four Corners apartment complex in Storrs, Conn. on Friday, April 12, 2024. The development will offer housing to University of Connecticut students as well as the general public and are expected to open in Fall 2025. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

and is being done by a private developer on private property.

There are seven apartment buildings in the complex. Three of the buildings located adjacent to Storrs Road will have a commercial retail component, which could include shops, restaurants and businesses, according to architecture and building design.

The Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission granted the Standard at Four Corners, LLC and Haven Communities a special permit for the mixed-use development in February 2022.

In addition to the commercial retail component, there will also be other community amenities open to the public, including a park area with multi-use lawn games and a linear park with fire pit patios, bench swings and gardens. There will also be a dog park and a conservation area to overlook the existing pond and surroundings, according to the developmental plan.

Private amenities available to new residents include a fitness center, clubroom, study spaces and an outdoor pool, including an outdoor kitchen and bar area

and private multi-use lawn. In addition, the complex will incorporate energy conservation features including energy efficient light fixtures and appliances, satisfying the minimum requirements of Energy Star Certification. Kaufman said they received a density bonus where they were able to get more units for doing some sustainability measures.

With the complex being close to campus, Kaufman said the town is looking for ways to encourage residents to walk or bike to campus.

“There will be a sidewalk all in front so you can walk from the Standard to Four Corners and you can cross the street and then go down Discovery Drive so there will be a safe way for folks to get from The Standard on foot or bike to campus,” Kaufman said.

Kaufman said the town is trying to get funding to fund a sidewalk all the way down Route 195, as well.

“We also have received some funding from the federal government to fund a path from 195 all the way down to campus because the sidewalk ends at North Tower Loop Road and now we’re trying to get a

sidewalk on 195 because we want to encourage people to get to campus without using a car,” Kaufman said.

The Planning and Zoning Commission approved the signage and parking management plan on March 4, 2024, which would include spaces that would be restricted for commercial parking, bicycle parking for commercial businesses, time limits and proposed enforcements, according to the commission staff memo.

The complex will offer ground-level surface parking and a five-story parking structure to provide a total of 665 residential parking spaces, according to the developmental plan. The retail biking plan will include 466 enclosed spaces and three outdoor bicycle racks.

The new traffic capacity analysis on Storrs Road shows a minimal impact on the overall operations of the intersections and are projected to operate at the same conditions, according to McMahon Associates, who prepared a Traffic Impact Study for the complex.

Those that are interested in learning more can join the VIP Interest List on their website.

HOW TO CELEBRATE PASSOVER ON CAMPUS

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

Yesterday was the first day of Passover this year, and the University of Connecticut is doing several things for students who celebrate throughout its duration.

First, UConn dining services will be serving Passover meals today until next Tuesday.

The meals will be available in the NOSH Kosher Kitchen, which is located in Gelfenbien, or Towers, dining hall.

Students and anyone else interested in the service must sign up to receive the meals. There is a sign-up form available online for those interested in completing it.

The meals can be paid for using a student meal plan, meaning there will be no charge directly to the student. Additionally swipes, points and flex passes can be used.

For those who do not have a meal plan, the service accepts credit cards, checks and fee bill charges for forms of payments.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be available until next Tuesday. Those who sign up have the option to select which meals they want to opt in for.

Tonight, there will be a Seder hosted by Chabad at UConn. Those interested in attending can sign up for a spot online. The event begins at 8:30 p.m. with free food provided.

For those who were not interested in attending an event but wanted to contribute in some way, Chabad provided a donation form, which closed last night.

The donation money will be used to provide meals for tonight’s Seder dinner. More information regarding what exactly will be provided through donations can be found on their website.

Protests over budget cuts continue at Board of Trustees meeting

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

On Wednesday, April 17, 2024, in the Wilbur Cross Building’s North Reading Room, the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees held their final meeting of the spring semester. As with the Feb. 28 board meeting, representatives of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and Graduate Employee & Postdoc Union (GEU) turned out in numbers and gave several speeches in protest of controversial cuts of 15% to UConn’s academic operational support budgets.

Representatives of the public were provided with a 30-minute window to offer prepared remarks to members of the Board of Trustees in attendance, including President Radenka Maric and CFO Jeffrey Geoghegan. Undergraduate, graduate, and faculty protestors lined the walls of the guest seating section, carrying posters and fliers imploring university leaders to

stop the cuts and fight for their continued status as a flagship research institution.

Prior to speeches from the assembled AAUP and GEU members, Undergraduate President of the Student Body at UConn’s Avery Point campus, Zachary Boudah, issued brief remarks regarding an ongoing attempt to strengthen regional campus representation in key governing institutions at UConn.

Boudah, the first student from a regional campus ever to sit on the University Senate, called for the Board of Trustees to adopt proposals which would delegate significant authority to regional student governments. Chief amongst these privileges would be the ability for regional campuses to nominate their own representatives for the University Senate, a process previously controlled by USG at Storrs.

Following Boudah’s remarks, English Department Head and AAUP stalwart Clare Costley King’oo began a series of public comments regarding the cuts, urging the

university to consider their effect on the mental and physical health of faculty and staff.

“When I arrived, it was an exciting time,” King’oo said, “The university was growing, we were able to hire, and we were able to bring in more students—but faculty hiring has not kept up with the increase in student enrollment.

“We are facing a moment now [with the cuts] where we are expected to take in a larger number of students with fewer faculty and fewer staff members,” she continued, “I have not seen such poor well-being, such poor health [among professors], as in the last two years.”

Citing the example of one English department professor who continued to teach online classes even while consigned to a hospital bed, King’oo emphasized the resilience of her faculty while also highlighting a disturbing uptick in physical and medical emergencies.



Individuals attend the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees meeting in protest of controversial budget cuts on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 in the Wilbur Cross building on the UConn Storrs campus. Representatives spoke out against the cuts to UConn’s academic operational support budgets. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

See BUDGET, p. 2

For more...

dailycampus.com

[The_DailyCampus](#)

[The_DailyCampus](#)

[The Daily Campus](#)

Subscribe to...

Daily THE BACKLOG | PAGE 4
Play ‘Unpacking’ while packing up the semester

Daily LAST MOOD | PAGE 7
Thanks, USG

Daily BASEBALL | PAGE 12
Momentum ahead of UMass and Hofstra games

THE DAILY CAMPUS
NEWSLETTER
8 AM BLAST

News

Biden marks Earth Day by going after GOP, announcing \$7 billion in federal solar power grants

TRIANGLE, Virginia (AP) — President Joe Biden marked Earth Day by announcing \$7 billion in federal grants for residential solar projects serving 900,000-plus households in low- and middle-income communities — while criticizing Republicans who want to gut his policies to address climate change.

Seeking reelection in November, Biden said, “Despite the overwhelming devastation in red and blue states, there are still those who deny the climate is in crisis.”

He took specific aim at supporters of former President Donald Trump’s “Make America Great Again” movement.

“My MAGA Republican friends don’t seem to think it’s a crisis,” Biden said Monday during a visit to Virginia’s Prince William Forest Park, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) southwest Washington. “They actually want to repeal the Inflation Reduction Act, which provides the funding for the vast majority of these projects, and roll back protections for clean air and clean water.”

The president also used the trip to announce that nearly 2,000 corps positions are being offered across 36 states as part of his New Deal-style American Climate Corps green jobs training program, including jobs offered in partnership with the North American Building Trades Unions.

Biden used executive action last year to create the American Climate Corps modeled on Roosevelt’s New Deal.

“You’ll get paid to fight climate change,” he said Monday.

Biden made the announcements in a shady spot in Prince William Forest Park, which was established in 1936 as a summer camp for underprivileged youth from Washington. That

was part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Civilian Conservation Corps to help create jobs during the Great Depression.

The solar grants are being awarded by the Environmental Protection Agency, which unveiled the 60 recipients. The projects are expected to eventually reduce emissions by the equivalent of 30 million metric tons of carbon dioxide and save households \$350 million annually.

Biden’s announcements come as he is working to energize young voters for his reelection campaign. Young people were a key part of a broad but potentially fragile coalition that helped him defeat then-President Trump in 2020. Some have joined protests around the country of the administration’s handling of Israel’s war with Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

After his speech, Biden was asked by reporters about protests against Israel’s handling of the war and replied, “I condemn the antisemitic protests.” But he also added, “I also condemn those who don’t understand what’s going on with the Palestinians.”

The White House issued a statement over the weekend denouncing “harassment and calls for violence against Jews.” Protests on college campuses, including those of Columbia and Yale Universities, prompted scores of arrests.

Biden’s campaign is hoping that his climate efforts can energize young voters ahead of November. Senior administration officials said young Americans are keenly invested in the Biden climate agenda and want to help enact it and that the Climate Corps is a way to do so.

Solar energy is gaining traction as a key renewable energy source that could reduce the nation’s reliance on fossil fuels. Not only is it clean, but solar

energy can also boost the reliability of the electric grid.

But solar energy can have high costs for initial installation, making it inaccessible for many Americans — and potentially meaning a mingling of environmental policy with election-year politics.

Forty-nine of the new grants are state-level awards, six serve Native American tribes and five are multi-state awards. They can be used for investments such as rooftop solar and community solar gardens.

“Broad community-based solar is our brightest hope for protecting people and our climate from the scourge of fossil fuels,” said Jean Su, director of the Energy Justice program at the Center for Biological Diversity. “These targeted investments mean low-income families get clean energy that is affordable, resilient and protects our ecosystems. It’s great to see President Biden jumpstart this landmark program.”

The president has often used Earth Day as a backdrop to further his administration’s climate initiatives. Last year, he signed an executive order creating the White House Office of Environmental Justice, meant to help ensure that poverty, race and ethnic status do not lead to worse exposure to pollution and environmental harm.

He has tried to draw a contrast with GOP congressional leaders, who have called for less regulation of oil production to lower energy prices. Biden officials counter that GOP policies benefit highly profitable oil companies and could ultimately undermine U.S. efforts to compete with the Chinese in the renewable energy sector.

The new awards came from the Solar for All program, part of the \$27 billion “green bank” created as part of a sweeping climate law passed in 2022.



President Joe Biden speaks at Prince William Forest Park on Earth Day, Monday, April 22, 2024, in Triangle, Va. Biden announced \$7 billion in federal grants to provide residential solar projects serving low- and middle-income communities.

AP PHOTO/MANUEL BALCE GENETA

The bank is intended to reduce climate and air pollution and send money to neighborhoods most in need, especially disadvantaged and low-income communities disproportionately affected by climate change.

Among those receiving grants are state projects to provide solar-equipped roofs for homes, college residences and residential-serving community solar projects in West Virginia, a non-profit operating Mississippi solar lease program and solar workforce training initiatives in South Carolina.

The taxpayer-funded green bank has faced Republican opposition and concerns over accountability for how the money gets used. EPA previously disbursed the other \$20 billion of the bank’s funds to nonprofits and community development banks for clean energy projects such as residential heat pumps, additional energy-efficient home improvements and larger-scale projects like electric

vehicle charging stations and community cooling centers.

Sens. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Ed Markey of Oregon spoke at Monday’s event along with New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, all leading voices in the progressive wing of the Democratic Party. Ocasio Cortez referenced “peaceful protests” elsewhere while arguing, “It was the power of young people who have made today possible.”

St. John reported from Detroit.

Alexa St. John is an Associated Press climate solutions reporter. Follow her on X, formerly Twitter, @alexa_stjohn. Reach her at ast.john@ap.org.

The Associated Press’ climate and environmental coverage receives financial support from multiple private foundations. AP is solely responsible for all content. Find AP’s standards for working with philanthropies, a list of supporters and funded coverage areas at AP.org.

BUDGET, cont. from p. 1

Fred Biggs, also a professor in the English Department and the next to speak, addressed President Maric directly and asked her to “repeal [her] five-year financial plan” at the beginning of his remarks.

“Academics aren’t opposed to change,” Biggs said, emphasizing the educational strides taken by the English department since he arrived at UConn 30 years ago, “but new ideas don’t inherently drive progress.”

“UConn is making changes overwhelmingly opposed by the faculty,” he emphasized, encouraging the university to end all contracts with consultants

and connect openly and transparently with faculty.

Mary Beth Allen, an assistant professor in the Department of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages, urged the university to mobilize and fight for “the permanent funding we all need to survive.”

“People who are currently working at UConn will lose their jobs,” Allen warned, “This is what we are talking about when you call for 15% for academic units over five years.”

According to Allen, operating costs for many departments in CLAS are 95% or more personnel and salaries, meaning “there is no way to avoid layoffs” were cuts to go through.

Departments were taking on

increased costs even as a budget crisis loomed on the horizon. Allen cites a particular “cluster hire” in the field of AI, made only months before university officials revealed they were in the red.

“Faculty meetings are no longer about education,” she said, “They are doomsday meetings where we wonder which one of us will lose our job first and which graduate programs will be phased out.”

“Will you find another way to balance our budget, one which protects the quality of a UConn education?” she demanded of the Board of Trustees, to rapturous applause, “[The UConn of the future] is not the kind of place I would send my own child for an education.”

Bradley Simpson, an associate professor and Director of Graduate Studies in History, offered a portrait of how budget cuts would affect graduate students, a topic that has been at the centerpiece of Labor Coalition activism.

Projections indicate budget cuts would lead to a decline in graduate student enrollment and fewer TA positions. This, as a result, would lead to larger class sizes and increased workload for those graduate students who do remain, with trickle-down effects on undergraduate education.

“Let’s be clear; these budget cuts are a conscious choice to radically undermine the teaching and research capacity of this university,”

Simpson said, “There is no way to meet these requirements, not just [for] the History department, but all departments on campus.”

“It will mean the end of most graduate programs at this university.”

These cuts, Simpson warned, are causing prospective graduate students to think twice about coming to UConn out of fear of not being supported.

“If we go through with these budget cuts,” Simpson said, “it’s incumbent upon us to explain to Connecticut families that they will be subject to increased loans for increased graduation times.”

“UConn will be crippled for years, if not decades to come.”

The Daily Campus

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

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

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

Monday, April 22, 2024

Copy Editors: Rori McCarthy, Mario Boozang, Sara Bedigian, Emily O’ Bannon, Madeline Papcun, and Raquel Montelindo

News Designer: Connor Lafferty

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 SMOC
Maddie Archaubeau
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

Study Break

THE DAILY CAMPUS CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Dynamism
- 4 Eatery with a chalkboard menu
- 10 Free TV spot
- 13 "Origin" writer/director DuVernay
- 14 Off-the-cuff performance
- 15 Final push?
- 16 Digs for a member of a string quartet?
- 18 Roll-call call
- 19 "At Wit's End" writer Bombeck
- 20 Spherical body
- 21 "Ant" on a celery "log"
- 23 Scand. land
- 25 Flakes on plans
- 26 Digs for a gym rat?
- 32 Lauder in the cosmetics aisle
- 33 Measurement given in degrees
- 34 ___ Lanka
- 36 OPS or RBI
- 37 Prunes
- 38 Sparks or Fire
- 39 Like sparks and fire
- 40 ___ Monica Pier
- 41 Mazda roadster
- 42 Digs for a Greek mythology buff?
- 45 Entrepreneur ___ C.J. Walker
- 46 Language in which to order larb
- 47 Puts one's feelings on display
- 49 Woebegone
- 51 Hand-held coolers
- 55 Checkout lane purchase
- 56 Digs for a dancer?
- 59 Starchy snack bites, for short
- 60 Tennis star Andre
- 61 Periodontists' gp.
- 62 "Without further ___ ..."
- 63 Like some work from home
- 64 "___ your piece"

DOWN

- 1 Four-minute mile, for one
- 2 CCR's "Have You ___ Seen the Rain"

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

By Matthew Stock & Wendy L. Brandes

4/23/24

- 3 Acai tree, e.g.
- 4 Info on a profile page
- 5 Post-triathlon lament
- 6 Barrel racer's accessory
- 7 Chi-Town paper
- 8 Turn brown, maybe
- 9 Clothes with bibs and braces
- 10 Film similar to cling wrap
- 11 Garment that may be nine yards long
- 12 Grace ender
- 15 Cook-off entry
- 17 Small surgical knife
- 22 Congressional staffer
- 24 "Rah," in fútbol
- 25 Signature Golden Arches offering
- 26 Sports bib material
- 27 "We totally agree"
- 28 "Liberty and Prosperity," for New Jersey, e.g.
- 29 Bailey's circus partner
- 30 Curriculum parts
- 31 Shred, as cheese

Monday's Puzzle Solved

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

©2024 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

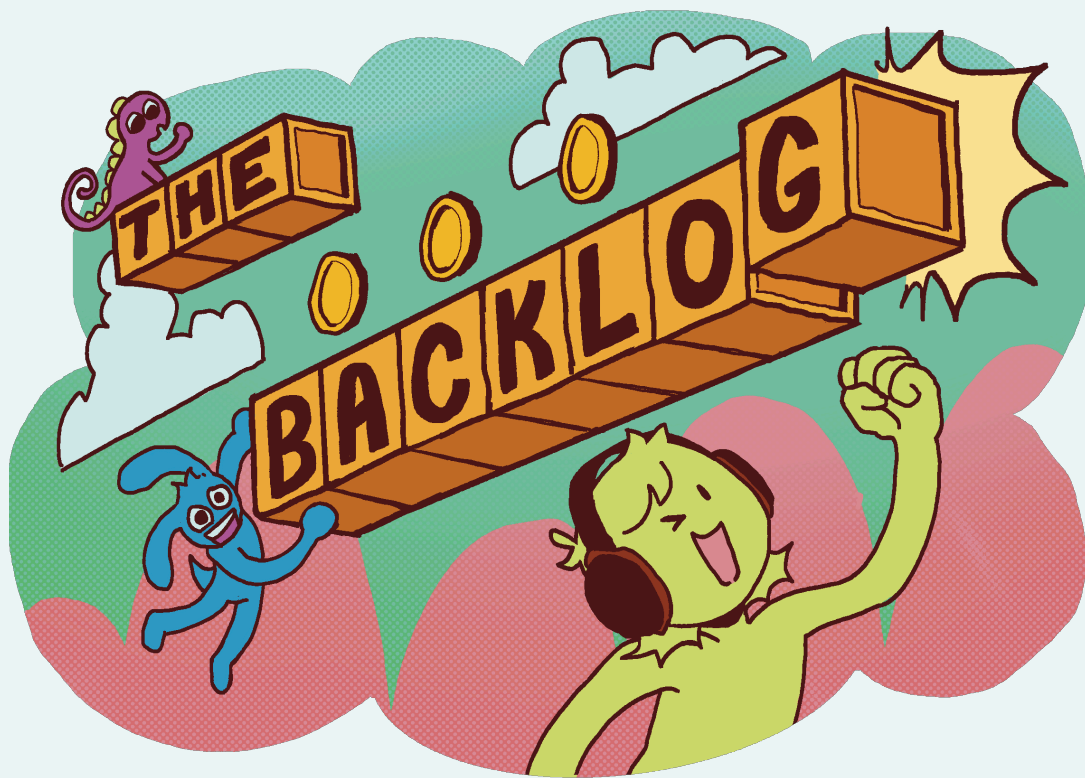
4/23/24

- 35 Big big-screen format
- 37 Eatery with small plates
- 38 WNBA game start
- 40 59-Across, perhaps
- 41 UFC sport
- 43 eHarmony matches
- 44 Like Yellowstone, among National Parks
- 47 "At Last" singer James
- 48 Atmosphere
- 49 Shut with a bang
- 50 Additionally
- 52 Woebegone word
- 53 Nothing at all
- 54 "Hang around a bit longer!"
- 57 Just a number, for some
- 58 Cause for overtime

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.

Play ‘Unpacking’ while packing up the semester



HALEIGH SCHMIDT, ASSOCIATE ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Desirae Sin**

SHE/HER/HERS
STAFF WRITER
desirae.sin@uconn.edu

Hello and welcome to the last edition of The Backlog for the semester. Bringing back this column has been the highlight of my junior year, as I finally had an outlet to spew my video gaming knowledge. For the last article of the semester, I thought long and hard about how to end it. Should I cover a big AAA game that everyone has heard of, or should I explore unknown names that deserve more recognition? I settled on a popular game among streamers that still has the creativity and love of an indie game. Let's explore “Unpacking” and its story.

Released in November of 2021 by Humble Bundle and developed by Witch Beam, “Unpacking” is a puzzle game that goes through the life of an unnamed woman. “Unpacking” received several accolades and awards, such as EE Game of the Year from the BAFTA Game Awards in 2022 and Game of the Year from the Indie Live Expo Awards 2022 and Australian Game Developer Awards 2021. Unlike other games reviewed previously, “Unpacking” is avail-

able on the majority of platforms including the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation, Xbox, PC and mobile devices.

The gameplay consists of moving items into a new location, showcasing various points in time for our unnamed protagonist. It begins in 1997 as the player organizes a child's bedroom. As you complete each year, a photo is taken of your work with a message from the protagonist, making a note of her mentality and situation each time.

Something that I believe all video games need is a suitable soundtrack. The soundtrack for “Unpacking” perfectly reflects the calming nature of organizing and filling these empty rooms with life. Background music is usually overlooked in games and I wanted to commend “Unpacking” for its attention to detail. For those who like to listen to music while studying, the soundtrack is available on Bandcamp, Spotify, iTunes, Amazon Music and more.

Spoilers for “Unpacking” beyond this point!

While “Unpacking” grants a good amount of freedom for how you wish to organize the protagonist's belongings, some items must be in certain

areas, and the game uses this to its advantage. As you organize larger areas you find that some items have to be placed in certain rooms. The bathroom stuff goes in the bathroom for obvious reasons, but the game uses this feature to show who the protagonist is living with. In 2007 we see her move into an apartment with roommates for her college years, and the environment is everything you'd expect of a shared apartment. Overcrowded shelves with very little space — Witch Beam captures the essence of college life with just a few rooms.

The change in the protagonist's luggage shows that she initially was a very sporty, active person through the climbing gear and frisbee, but later on, she suffers from chronic pain as shown through the medication, a wrist brace, a walking stick and a heating pad.

The moment that all players gasp at is in 2010 when the protagonist moves in with her first partner. It's immediately clear that the partner did not prepare for the protagonist to move in, leaving very little room for any items to be placed. This time you can move the objects that are already placed,

but it's up to the protagonist to make room for herself, which shows how their relationship dynamic works.

Not to mention the difference in their aesthetics, the protagonist's items are full of color and personality, while the partner's aesthetic uses a lot of black with minimal details. At this level, there is no place to hang the protagonist's diploma. The only place you can put it is under the bed, which is heart-wrenching for all players. Even without any dialogue, we can tell exactly what is going on.

Shortly after, in 2012, the protagonist leaves her relationship and moves back in with her parents. Over the years she finds her own place to live and eventually, has her second partner move in as well. In the end, the protagonist is the author of a children's book and is awaiting the arrival of her child with her wife. Despite the ups and downs of her life, the game concludes on a happy note with our protagonist finally creating a place that feels like home.

Just as we prepare to leave campus and move on with our lives, I hope “Unpacking” is a relaxing experience. Hopefully, you will also organize and make a place your home.

Rating:



IMAGES COURTESY OF @UNPACKINGALIFE ON TWITTER

Life Roundtable: What else is UConn the capital of?

We're nearing the end of the spring semester, and while that can be tough or exciting — depending on how you look at it — at least we're the basketball capital of the world... But wait, we're the Life section! We don't cover sports here, so what else is UConn the true capital of? Let's see what Life writers conjure up.

Benjamin Lassy, Life Editor: Microsoft

Through my time at UConn — now spanning three years — I know we're more than just the basketball capital of the world. We might as well be the capital of Microsoft.

I am still baffled by the priorities of the university budget makers, but I won't get into my thoughts on that here. Just think, next year we won't have access to the Google Suite through our UConn accounts... It's a dreadful thought. Of course, it's a battle between two evils: Which massive conglomerate do we support? There isn't much of a choice for students, though. That's what frustrates me.

With confidence, I can say that for the foreseeable future, Bill Gates might as well move into his new capital. No matter where you stand on the matter, Google tends to have a more user-friendly layout, and on top of that, Microsoft account access is often much slower and clunkier than Google's. I'll admit, Microsoft is catching up slowly but surely. As a history major, though, I think I'll look fondly at the times before the capital relocated...

Karla Perez, Associate Life Editor: Dining disappointments

Even without a meal plan this year, I still hear "Dining Paws lied to me!" at least once a week. The app that supposedly gives students previews of the weekly menus for all the dining halls has proven itself unreliable time and time again. Frustrated and saddened emotions overwhelm the student body when they see a fish filet where General Tso's chicken was supposed to be. But at least the Student Union is a good fallback, right? Sure, so long as you weren't planning on attempting to use a flex pass at One Plate, Two Plates. In case you've been living under a rock, One Plate, Two Plates no longer allows students to use a flex pass for their fan-favorite chicken tenders and fries. They are a points-only establishment now. If not basketball, UConn is the capital of dining disappointments.

James Fitzpatrick, Staff Writer: Bad Wi-Fi

There are plenty of things this school does right, but they appear to be incapable of providing a stable Wi-Fi connection for their students, who happen to predominantly work on their computers in 2024. Believe it or not, Wi-Fi networks grow more congested when a surplus of students are on them, hence the gruesome twosome of "UConn-SECURE" and "eduroam." The problem is that both networks are incredibly shaky when attempting to keep devices connected, so much so that UConn's guest network is often the best alternative for people to use — after you accept the terms and conditions for the hundredth time, of course.

The room I am currently writing this in (ITE C80) has my phone on SOS, and the building I spend most of my time in constantly drops connection the moment I leave my dorm room! That is not to mention Homer Babbidge Library, which experienced multiple crashes on all networks when I was there. Maybe I am projecting my grievances on T-Mobile still being shit after their merger with Sprint, but either way, Wi-Fi is supposed to be a superior service to data, yet both fail me whenever I am at school.

Desirae Sin, Staff Writer: Parking services

There is only one correct answer to this question. While UConn is famous for their men's and women's basketball teams, they are also notorious for their Transportation/Parking Services department. In no other college (as far as I know) will you find parking services giving students more of a hard time than UConn. Everyone who owns a car on campus is routinely fighting for their lives, scouring the parking lots for open spaces and praying that the UConn car with cameras attached doesn't find you. It's the most dangerous game of cat and mouse, with your bank account on the line.

Despite the mixed demographic in the student body with varying opinions, every single one of them will tell you that UConn's system for parking citations, parking permits and overall transportation is by far the most idiotic thing ever conceptualized. One day I saw a man park his car by the Nursing building for only five minutes before coming back and Parking Services still managed to give him a citation. The devil works hard, but UConn's Parking Services work harder.

Patrick Boots, Campus Correspondent: Ice cream

The University of Connecticut is really the Ice Cream Capital of the World.

The weather is getting warmer, the foliage is appearing and the UConn Dairy Bar is getting ready to scoop up smiles with a tasty variety of homemade flavors.

Did you know that we had an ice cream parlor on campus? It's just a short walk up the main drag on the corner of Manter Road and Horsebarn Hill Road, across the street from the Floriculture department (the cows are your landmark).

There are classic flavors such as cookies and cream, raspberry, chocolate brownie fudge, mint chip and plain 'ol vanilla — plus custom specialties like Husky Tracks, Hazelnut MOOcha and Jonathan the Husky Supreme. I'm willing to believe this year's senior scoop, "Basketball Capital of the Swirl'd" may have had something to do with our teams' success, too. Just saying.

You can also partake in the Dairy Bar On Wheels outside of student events, at One Ton Sundae or the Dairy Bar Too when it operates inside the Student Union.

You can't officially call yourself a UConn student until you've enjoyed some of the Dairy Bar's magical treats. UConn Animal Science's Kellogg Creamery has been consistently award-winning for over 65 years, and I personally think the Dairy Bar ice cream is the best in Connecticut — if not the world.



Life

@dailycampuslife

We're back-to-back national champions... but we're pretty good at jazz, too!

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

The UConn men's basketball team may have made headlines for upholding their National Championship title in April, but as the UConn Jazz Ensemble reminded us this Sunday, Huskies excel both on and off the court.

Under the direction of Professor John Mastroianni, the 20-member ensemble transformed the nearly full von der Mehden Recital Hall into a smoky night club, a big band ballroom and even a lonesome western prairie with their diverse repertoire.

The group started off strong with an invigorating rendition of Paul White's "Just Improbable," a peppy track that allowed for almost every section to share the limelight. Their second piece, "African Skies" by Michael Brecker, featured tenor saxophonists Michael Farina and Noah Lafond, as well as Jack Sherman on guitar. The performers' bright, sparkling tone was indeed reminiscent of a blazing desert sun, or perhaps a clear blue horizon over the grasslands.

The third number, Duke Ellington's "In a Mellow Tone" is based on the 1917 song "Rose Room," which was recorded in 1932 at the height of America's Swing Era. Today, it is known as a "jazz standard," or a composition considered so repre-

sentative of the genre that it is almost universally known by musicians and listeners alike. With so many different interpretations in circulation, it can be difficult to stand out, yet the Jazz Ensemble passed the challenge with flying colors. Saxophonists Aidan Caron and Matthew Calorossi did an excellent job of putting their own spin on the piece through improvisation, while the enthusiasm and intensity of the trumpet, trombone, bass and drum sections succeeded in putting the "big" in "big band."

After another jaunty, driving track, "Ding Dong Ding" by Bob Brookemeyer, Mastroianni announced that the next three pieces would all be original compositions or arrangements by members of the Jazz Ensemble. As a concertgoer who is otherwise uninvolved in UConn's music programs, I greatly enjoyed tuning in to the compositional aspect of music-making. The composers' pride in their work truly imbues every note with passion.

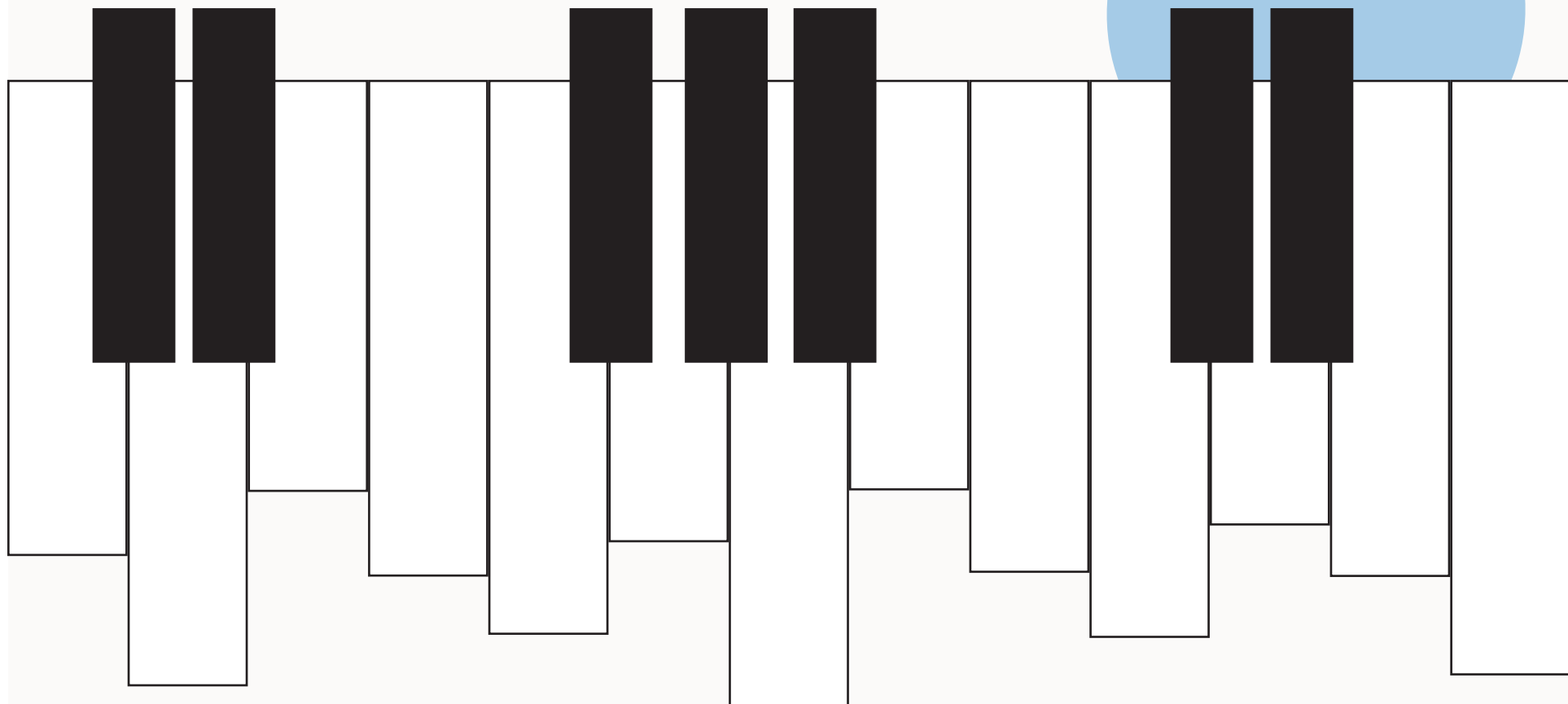
The first of these pieces was Farina's arrangement of Manuel de Falla's "Will O' the Wisp." This ominous, moody number was full of suspense and had me on the edge of my seat. Farina's arrangement was followed by an original composition by Mastroianni

himself, written four years ago during the COVID-19 pandemic, appropriately titled, "My Zoom Room." Its hurried, rapid tempo perfectly encapsulates the feeling of being cooped up for months on end.

My personal favorite song of the evening proved to be Aidan Caron's version of the cowboy anthem, "Home on the Range." Instead of naming the song outright in his introduction, Mastroianni challenged the audience to identify it themselves. I recognized the tune almost instantly, though the stylistic changes imposed by the jazz genre provided a refreshingly unique take on a classic song.

The Jazz Ensemble concluded the program with another Duke Ellington jazz standard, "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)," after which Mastroianni wrapped up the evening by thanking his students, the audience and the Director of jazz studies Earl MacDonald, who was also in attendance.

"We appreciate you spreading the word...about the great things that are happening here at the University of Connecticut. And yeah, we're back-to-back national champions, but as Earl and I say... 'we're pretty good at jazz, too!'" he said, eliciting cheers and smiles from around the hall.





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

LAST MOOD: THANKS, USG

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

I understand that this might get lost on The Daily Campus readership, but please indulge this weary old author as they pen their last ever column and reminisce about their time at this incredible newspaper. I promise that I can be accidentally insightful at times.

At this time of this column's publication, I will have written 85 by-lined articles and a few dozen editorials for The Daily Campus. I'm most certainly not the most prolific writer at the paper (there are at least three writers for the Sports section that beat me by a factor of two or three), but regardless, I sometimes find it hard to believe how much time and effort I've put into this volunteer position-turned-job. If you've ever seen a lanky South Asian person staring at the desktop computers in Bookworms Cafe until the fluids in their eyes evaporate, they were working on cranking out one of those many articles.

Reminiscing about my commitment to the paper — and worry not, there's still the Graduate Edition — has

opened my padlocked vault of memories concerning activist steps and missteps through my time at the University of Connecticut. For the past four years, I've worked with several activist organizations (each one making me less desirable in the petit bourgeois job market than the last) trying to move university of

leadership on issues of sustainability, gender and sexual justice, anti-war and militarism, housing justice, anti-racism and more. I've yelled outside the library, carnival barked in the Student Union and given more Involvement Fair elevator pitches than I can count. I've amassed more niche institutional information about this university and how it works — particularly its cursed bromance with war profiteers and the fossil fuel industry — than any one student should need to know, and even then, I haven't even begun to scratch the surface of how a university with so much corporate and military backing can hemorrhage so much cash.

This is all to say, I have a lot to reflect on. But before I laid down in the mouse trap of campus politics and grabbed the cheese, I had an unlikely stint with an even less likely group: Undergraduate Student Government.

Just over three years ago, I co-authored a resolution with the USG Sexual Health & Education subcommittee titled "A Statement of Position Regarding the Rights of Queer and

Trans Students at UConn." On my part, the resolution was borne out of an accident. Babbling my way through an interview for an advocacy job I didn't end up getting, I pitched the improvised idea of organizing a virtual town hall for members of UConn's LGBTQIA+ community to share where UConn falls short in its treatment of queer and trans people. From that town hall, which we ended up hosting in March 2021, we gathered enough firsthand input from UConn students to create a list of demands of the administration of former President

Thomas Katsouleas. These included an easier name change process for trans students, expanding gender inclusive housing, strengthening mental and physical healthcare for LGBTQIA+ students and more. I explicitly remember the atmosphere of the USG Webex call when it passed. It was the last meeting of the semester, and the Executive Board exchanged niceties and words of encouragement as the sun set on USG 2020-2021.

To this day, I don't think that legislation did anything. It was at that point that I learned USG is not a particularly powerful organization. Beyond distributing funds for clubs and sponsoring events for the student body, USG's power is inherently advisory, confined to cranking out resolutions and statements of position ad nauseum while the university's institutional harm remains. UConn can continue doing research and development for the U.S. military; meanwhile, USG will continue its righteous crusade to rename Koons Hall for its incidental resemblance to a racial epithet and to reprimand the Student Recreation Center for sometimes not playing music on the weight floor. Occasionally,

they

will be uncritical, pseudo-activist mouthpieces for the administration while it rips off students. At best, student government is an executive janitor for UConn's administration and board of trustees; it exists to clean up the messes created by our leaders, but not make fundamental changes.

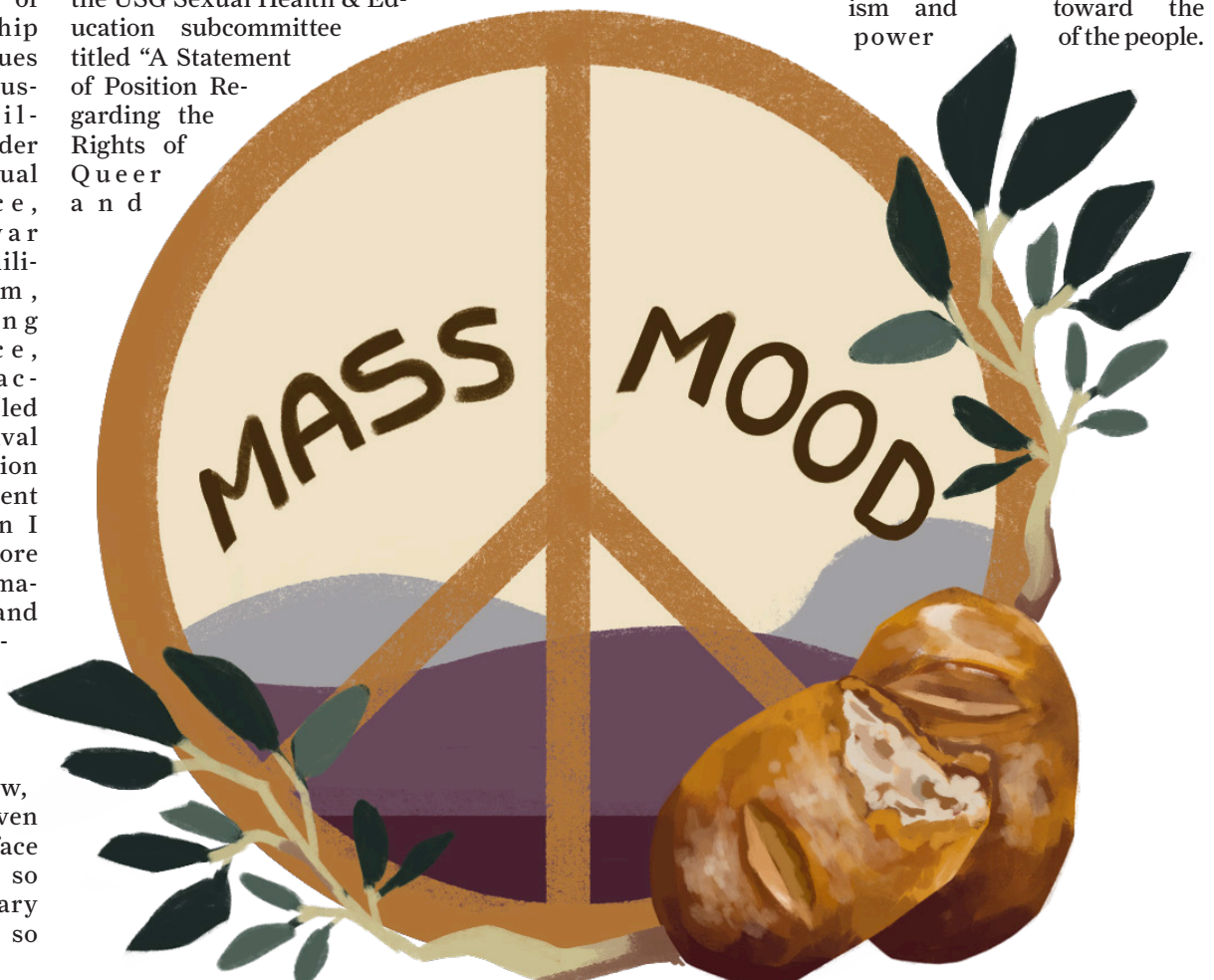
However, for all the shit I've given USG during my involvement at UConn, I have something to sincerely thank them for:

HOWEVER, FOR ALL THE SHIT I'VE GIVEN USG DURING MY INVOLVEMENT AT UCONN, I HAVE SOMETHING TO SINCERELY THANK THEM FOR: TEACHING ME THAT THE BEST WAY TO FORCE INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE IS THROUGH GRASSROOTS PEOPLE POWER.

teaching me that the best way to force institutional change is through grassroots people power. Having

recently been down to Yale during its occupation of Beinecke Plaza to protest the investment of its endowment in military contractors and the State of Israel, I was moved by the dedication of students organizing autonomously and realizing the power they hold as a collective. Though nearly 50 protesters were arrested for their peaceful encampment, this demonstrates that enough collective action by students against institutional injustice can constitute a legitimate threat. The inefficacy of UConn's student government is in stark contrast with activists at Yale and Columbia, whose own student government overwhelmingly passed a divestment referendum in response to a weeklong encampment on various university lawns. Their struggle isn't for the purpose of building a resume, but to end the real, devastating oppression happening before our eyes.

In my final days at UConn, I'm heartened by the actions of students around the country breaking with the status quo of complacency and performative activism. I want to extend endless gratitude to all the student organizations that averted my eyes from toothless reformism and toward the power of the people.



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Food for the pack



UConn dining's food truck sits on Fairfield Way on the UConn Storrs campus. The truck will be serving the UConn community as the semester comes to an end and students prepare for finals.

PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

CULTURE SHOCK

REFUSING THE WEAPONIZATION OF JEWISH IDENTITY

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.

On April 2, Hillel at the University of Connecticut began "Israel Fest" in celebration of the State of Israel and roughly coinciding with the anniversary of Israel's formation. A month later in May, Israelis and Zionists will celebrate Israeli Independence Day while Palestinians commemorate the Nakba. The Nakba, occurring in 1948 as a result of the creation of Israel, saw the forced displacement and dispossession of over 700,000 Palestinians and the massacre of thousands more by Zionist militias that would become the Israeli Defense Forces.

While UConn Hillel is commonly understood as a Jewish religious and cultural organization, its own mission states that it also aims to encourage Jewish students to make "enduring commitments" to the State of Israel. To fulfill this mission, Hillel hosts an "Israel Fellow" from the Jewish Agency for Israel, whose job it is to be the "face of Israel" and "[promote] Israel advocacy," and is required to have served in the Israeli military. Students associated with Huskies for Israel and Students Supporting Israel, two nationalist political organizations, worked closely with Israeli Defense Forces veterans and the "Israel Fellow" from Hillel to orchestrate "Israel Fest."

As part of the festivities, Hillel also hosted Charlotte Korchak, a professional apologist for the State of Israel and long-time employee of Stand With Us, an anti-Palestinian hate organization that denies the Nakba. The Israeli newspaper Haaretz describes Stand With Us as "rightist," and a partner of far-right antisemitic hate groups such

as Christians United for Israel, whose leader John Hagee once stated that "God sent Adolf Hitler to help Jews reach the promised land." Stand With Us receives funding (sometimes covertly) from the far-right, openly racist government of Benjamin Netanyahu to toe the government line, and worked with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs to publish a video defending Israel's illegal settlements in the occupied Palestinian West Bank. Korchak also recently went viral in far-right segments of the internet for berating an anti-Zionist Jew who attended one of her speaking events. The list of Stand With Us' anti-Palestinian and antisemitic actions and connections could go on, but suffice to say they are a hateful, nationalist, political advocacy organization — not a Jewish religious or cultural organization.

I was one of several dozen students — including Palestinian refugees and Jews — peacefully protesting both the display on Fairfield Way and the Korchak event. Signs held by the protesters included statements such as "Israel killed my family" and "13,000+ children killed." Several protesters explicitly stated they were protesting the uncritical celebration of the State of Israel amidst its genocide of the Palestinian people — which has killed upwards of 35,000 Palestinians, over 13,000 of them children — not against Jewish people, culture or religion. Despite this, UConn Hillel released a statement April 12 on their Instagram story claiming that the protests were "fundamentally antisemitic".

Their reasoning? "Israel is a critical part of [Jewish students']

religious, cultural, and ethnic identity that goes back thousands of years." Regardless of the fact that the State of Israel has only existed for 75 years, and that Zionism, the political ideology behind the state, has existed for less than 150, the modern state of Israel is not an inherent part of Jewish identity — certainly not for this Jew. It is true that Jews have lived in the region for thousands of years, that many Jewish religious and cultural traditions have their basis in the local ecology and neighboring cultures as a result and that many locations are religiously and historically significant. None of this is rooted in Zionism or requires support for the State of Israel, which is an ethno-nationalist apartheid state. Nor could this ever justify the 1948 Nakba, 1967 Nakba, ongoing genocide and the "second Nakba" in Gaza or recent spree of pogroms in the West Bank, all perpetrated by the State of Israel against the Palestinian people.

No Jew should feel coerced into supporting Zionism, the State of Israel or its actions. The conflation of Jewish identity with the state of Israel and its (at times fascist) actions is dangerous and antisemitic, laying blame for them on Jewish people as a whole. Contrary to Zionist assertions, Zionism is far from a settled issue in the Jewish community. Jewish anti-Zionism stretches back over a century and spans the political and religious spectrum, from secular socialists to Hasidic dynasties. Jewish anti-Zionist communities are growing locally, too, from Wesleyan University's Judaism On Our Own Terms to New Haven's Mending Minyan. It is not the fault of Palestinians that the state which oppresses and kills them claims to do so in the name of the Jewish people, and activists at UConn correctly differentiate between

that state and the Jewish people, even when Zionists do not.

The statement released by Hillel further perpetuates this antisemitic conflation, fosters a dangerous environment for Jewish students, and alienates Jewish students who do not share in Hillel's celebration of Israel. The efforts of Zionists to conflate Judaism with Zionism erase large swathes of the Jewish past and present and foreclose on countless possibilities in the Jewish future.

Furthermore, this latest statement is part of a continuing pattern of UConn Hillel attacking Palestinian, Arab and Muslim students and their supporters at a time when those same students have been receiving racist and Islamophobic hate mail and death threats. Hillel's statement uses Jewish identity as a cudgel against Palestinian students and their supporters, chills free speech and silences legitimate criticism of Israel and Zionism,

even at the expense of Jewish students. I reject the fundamentally anti-Palestinian assertion that the well-being of the Jewish people is incompatible with a liberated Palestine from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. I reject the fundamentally antisemitic assertion that Israel and its actions are synonymous with the Jewish people. I refuse to have my Jewish identity weaponized against my Palestinian siblings or superseded by Zionism.

UConn Hillel Student Board Letter to University Administration Following Recent Antisemitic Events At UConn

"We are all proud of the four days of vibrant, positive, and educational programs our community hosted this past week as part of Israel Fest, but it must be recognized that attacking Jewish students who are peacefully expressing their authentic relationships with Israel is fundamentally antisemitic. To many students, Israel is a critical part of their religious, cultural, and ethnic identity that goes back thousands of years. Targeting Jewish students because of their commitment to learning about Israel is an attack on the identity of Jewish students and an affront to the idea that **no student should be targeted because of their identity.**"

"Both Jewish and non-Jewish students were targeted and harassed by students who knowingly broke both University policy and the Student Code of Conduct."

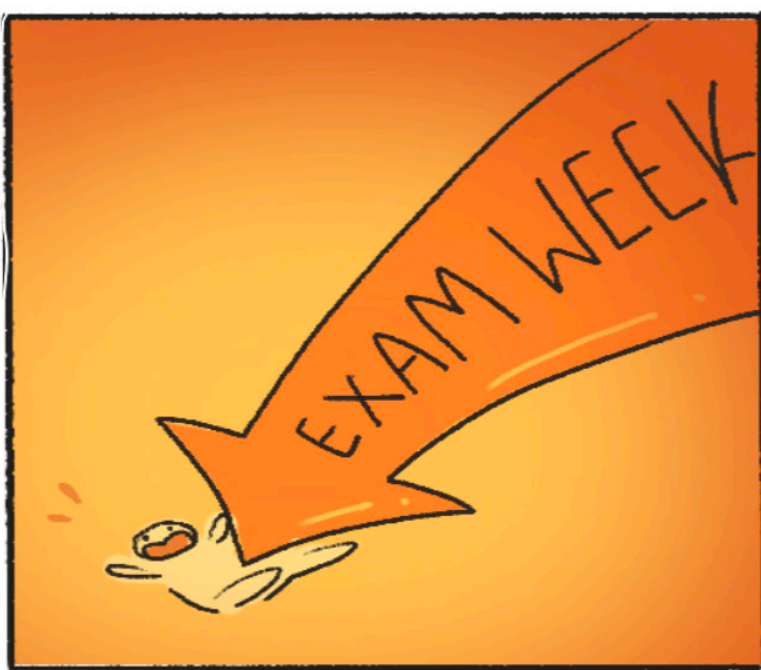
"We are urging the UConn Administration to uphold their ethical, moral, and legal duty to protect Jewish students at UConn. We implore them to hold students and student groups who violated university rules and targeted our community accountable. We are asking them to prioritize campus-wide educational efforts that focus on the Jewish experience and teach our community to identify and counter antisemitism and hate of all types. The administration needs to make it clear that **there is no room on our campus for hatred and harassment of fellow students.**"

UConn Hillel student board released a statement on their Instagram story on Friday, April 12, 2024. IMAGE COURTESY OF AUTHOR

SUBMIT TO CULTURE SHOCK

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

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



COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



The UConn women's tennis team playing against Sacred Heart University in Manchester Conn. on Feb. 29, 2024. The Huskies brought home a win against the SHU players going 5-2 on a windy Thursday afternoon.

PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Bridget's Bulletin: A spring sports superlatives roundup

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

With the spring season coming to a close, what better way to rehash the highs of the spring than with superlatives for each team? While just one award can't summarize the totality of their year, the spring athletes at the University of Connecticut have made some impressive feats worth recognizing.

Baseball: Better late than never

The baseball squad got off to a rough start as they consistently fell in late February and early March. While struggling to find their momentum and coming up short more often than not, the group just needed to find their rhythm. A true change began on an April Fools' Day 14-6 victory over Central Connecticut. From there, things started to pick up. As of late, conference wins against Xavier, St. John's and Georgetown have been the icing on the cake for the well-earned group. Although it may have taken the Huskies a little extra time to find their groove, sometimes the best things are worth waiting for. Their patience and resilience have paid off as they are No. 1 in the conference.

Softball: The March Madness special

March Madness took on a different meaning for the softball squad as they went on a 13-game undefeated run throughout the month. Their success began at the Rainbow Wahine Classic where Cleveland State, Hawaii and New Mexico were all taken down by the Huskies. From there, the success continued to build and ultimately reached a pinnacle with a three-game Butler series. UConn came out on top 9-0 and 10-8 in the first

two matches but ultimately fell 1-2 in the finale. Despite this, UConn has dominated the conference and falls at No. 2, just behind Villanova. Later this week, the two will have a chance to go head-to-head for a chance at the top spot.

Golf: Straight shot to the top

Few teams immediately soared to the top of the conference, but the men's golf group did just that. In February, the Big East Match Play sent the Huskies straight to No. 1 as they took down Butler, Creighton and Seton Hall. However, this wasn't the Huskies' first rodeo, as they've now clinched the title for three consecutive years. Earlier this season, UConn took their straight shot to the top in the UConn Invitational, beating out Boston College, Holy Cross, Siena College and nine others. Next weekend, the Huskies will be traveling to Hardeeville, South Carolina for the Big East Championship.

Lacrosse: Biggest shoes to fill

The women's lacrosse group has been led by an upperclassmen rodeo spearheaded by graduate students Kate Shaffer, Eliza Bowman, Jenna Giardina and seniors Susan Lafountain, Lauren Barry and Abby Charron. Although scoring isn't everything, the cavalry of upperclassmen has turned their attacking line into a well-oiled machine that has gotten better and better with every week. The group has made sure to share the love as a majority of the graduate students and seniors are consistently adding points to their resumes. Next year, the underclassmen will have big shoes to fill, but it appears that they've been learning from the best. Sophomore Rayea Davis, who leads the team with 41 goals, will most likely be taking on the big role.

Track and field: Unsung heroes

It's no secret the Huskies have dominated the track and field conference for years as they're now preparing for a chance at a fourth consecutive Big East Championship. While there is no "I" in team, the individual competitors certainly are some of the most decorated athletes in UConn athletics. With countless athletes in the all-time record books and occupying the top seeds in the conference, the track and field crew are the competitors to beat. Not to mention, the winter squad put up an impressive feat as the team earned 11 winter championships, which is the most in school history.

Tennis: Dynamic duos

While some programs are still busy wrapping up their season, the tennis crew had an explosive end to the year with a 4-0 victory over Creighton and then a 0-4 loss against Xavier in the Big East championships. The athletes appear to be two peas in a pod as they've excelled in nearly every doubles match of the season. The doubles success began from their very first contest against Quinnipiac and remained constant until their season finale with Creighton. As for the squad, their lucky number seems to be two.



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



The UConn women's lacrosse team takes home a win against Butler with a final score of 21-11 in Storrs, Conn. on April 20, 2024. The sunny day allowed the team to celebrate their senior day with friends and family.

PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The Puck Drop:

Cutter Gauthier makes his NHL Debut

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

In January 2024, it was revealed that the Anaheim Ducks' Jamie Drysdale and a 2024 second-round NHL draft pick would be traded to the Philadelphia Flyers for 2022 fifth overall pick Cutter Gauthier.

This was something that the NHL world had never seen before – a prospect who has never played a game in the NHL being sent to a different team.

After the 2022 Draft in Montreal, Gauthier insisted that he did not want to play in the NHL in a Flyers' jersey.

"He looked at us at the draft and told us that he was built to be a Flyer. Wanted to be a Flyer. A few months later, he told us that he didn't want to be a Flyer," General Manager Danny Briere said after Gauthier was traded. "We tried to get in touch with him many times, they would not communicate as far as the Gauthier side."

Gauthier, a forward out of Scottsdale, Arizona, spent two years of his collegiate career at Boston College before officially becoming a Duck. During his tenure in Chestnut Hill, the new Flyer notched 53 goals and 47 assists, totaling 100 points.

Along with freshman Will Smith, Gauthier was the focal point of the Eagles' offense this season and led them to both a Hockey East Championship and the National Championship. Shortly before the Championship game, Gauthier was named the 2024 Hobey Baker Award recipient.

The Eagles ended up being shut out by Denver in the National Championship game, 2-0.

On April 18, when the Anaheim Ducks took on the Vegas Golden Knights, Gauthier made his NHL debut in the Ducks' final game of the season.

The Arizona native was able to end his team's season on a high note with an assist for the game-winning goal.

After a pass from behind the net from fellow rookie and 2023 NHL Draft pick Leo Carlsson, Gauthier saw his teammate Jackson LaCombe's availability, passed it up the ice and LaCombe got the puck past the net with a one-timer.

This goal would bring the game 2-1 at the beginning of the third period, sealing the deal for the Ducks as the Golden Knights would not be able to respond.

Even though Gauthier's entrance into the NHL was not the most conventional way we've seen in past years, his impact was immediately felt by his team.

With younger players like Gauthier, Connor Bedard, Adam Fantili, Leo Carlsson, Luke Hughes, Matt Rempe, Will Smith and Ryan Leonard, the hockey world is entering a new wave of the NHL that is sure to be an exciting one.

I've said it once and I'll say it again: you better have your popcorn ready, hockey fans.

Alas, as I close this article out, it will be the last edition of The Puck Drop this school year. To everyone who reads these articles, thank you and see you all next year!



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

Sports

Photo of the Day | Tough battle



On March 2, 2024, the UConn men's hockey team faced a 4-2 loss against the Northeastern Huskies at the Toscano Family Ice Forum. The two goals were scored by Samu Salminen and Oliver Flynn.
PHOTO BY LUISA MASSASSO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

SOFTBALL:

Huskies set to host Boston College for midweek matchup in Storrs

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

After securing the series win over Seton Hall on the road, the UConn softball team will get right back to work to host Boston College on Tuesday. It will be a cancer awareness game at Burrill Family Field at the Connecticut Softball Complex.

The Eagles are entering this series with a 25-19 overall record and 5-13 in conference action. They are coming into this game on a six-game losing streak after being swept by No. 14 Florida State and No. 18 Virginia Tech in two three-game series. The ACC is one of the hardest divisions in college softball as they have five teams in the top 30 of the national rankings so Boston College has struggled to find a flow in this season's conference play.

The Eagles and the Huskies faced off earlier this season in Massachusetts. BC defeated UConn 2-0. Boston College was able to secure two runs off a passed ball and an RBI single. Sophomore Halie Pappion led the Eagles on the pitcher's mound as she allowed just three hits and a walk. In the game, she had three strikeouts on her 2.34 ERA.

Prior to these matchups, Boston College and UConn have met 68 times with the Huskies leading the all-time series, 46-22. UConn holds a 20-11 home record when facing the Eagles. However, Boston College has won the past two meetings against UConn as they took the victory 4-3 at the Harrington Athletics Village in 2023.

This week in the Big East accolades, two Huskies were honored. For the third week in a row, Lexi Hastings was



UConn softball takes on Yale on March 20, 2024, in Storrs, Conn. The Huskies walked away with a 9-5 win.

PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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

named to the Big East Honor roll. She put together five hits and three runs for a .357 batting average in the Huskies weekend series against Seton Hall. Hastings was active on the bases as she stole four over the weekend to add to her season total of 25. The junior outfielder had a hit in each game and scored three of UConn's six runs.

Another Husky that was honored by the Big East is Payton Kinney. The senior pitcher tossed 8.1 innings at Seton Hall this weekend. She had a 0.00 ERA and held hitters to a 0.74 batting average. Kinney picked up a pair of wins and struck out 10 Seton Hall hitters across two appearances. She secured the series for the Huskies on Sunday after entering the game in a bases loaded 0-0 score situation. In the pressure filled game, Kinney struck out two straight hitters to keep the game scoreless and the Huskies went on to win 2-0.

UConn improved their overall record to 25-20 (.556) after the series win at Seton Hall. The Huskies (12-6) now sit at second place in the Big East rankings behind Villanova (16-2). Villanova is on a three-game winning streak and UConn is on a two-game winning streak. The Huskies have a huge weekend ahead as they will host the Wildcats in a three-game series after facing Boston College.

UConn will face off against Boston College for the midweek matchup at 6:00 p.m. at Burrill Family Field at the Connecticut Softball Complex in Storrs. It will be the first time the Huskies played at home in four games. The non-conference matchup will be available to stream on UConn+.

The Weekly Reed:

Standing on my soap box about the Red Sox

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

In my final edition ever of The Weekly Reed (sad, I know), I wanted to focus on the one thing that I wrote most of my columns on, the Boston Red Sox.

As a lifelong fan of the organization, it's been rough for the last couple of years watching what has happened to this once storied franchise. Heck, I went to an event this past week to see former Yankees manager Joe Girardi speak and even he ragged on me for the team's performance over the last few seasons. As everyone knows, this team has not been the same power-house that it was during my childhood of the early 2000s. I've been lucky enough to witness four World Series titles in my lifetime (2004, 2007, 2013 and 2018), though I only remember the last two. The question that a lot of people have is how this organization gets back to the level they once were, and to be honest, I don't really know. However, I wanted to take my last column to voice my concerns over how ownership has handled fans and the team the past few years.

With how horrendous pitching has been the past few years, something that has clearly aided in this year's early success is the change of pitching coach. Andrew Bailey took over the position this offseason and has done wonders to the pitching staff, helping bring Boston starters' ERA to the lowest in the entire league. As I've mentioned in other articles this year, the team didn't even make significant changes to the rotation, returning five starters from last year. What was clearly a hindrance on the pitching staff for the past few years was allowed to hurt them for way too long: former pitching coach Dave Bush. Fans were really exposed to just how bad Bush was after Ryan Brasier joined the Dodgers halfway through last season. In 20 games with Boston in 2023, Brasier owned a 7.29 ERA, good for an ERA+ of 64. He joined the Dodgers organization in June and was called up at the end of the month. He ended the year appearing in 39 games for Los Angeles, finishing with a 0.70 ERA and 633 ERA+ with the Dodgers. Brasier isn't even the only example

as Jeffrey Springs went from an awful 7.08 ERA guy in 2020 to a pitcher who made 25 starts with a sub 2.50 ERA (2.46 to be exact) just two years later with the Rays. Even with this year's team so far, Tanner Houck and Kutter Crawford are absolutely thriving with Bush gone. Houck just pitched a Maddux (complete game under 100 pitches) and has a 1.35 ERA in four starts after having a 5.01 ERA last year while Crawford has a 0.66

ERA in five starts. Red Sox pitching was its weakest link between 2020 and 2023, and as soon as Bush left the same staff has completely rebounded and proven to work well. Bush

was employed for way too long and the organization seemed to have no clue that he was the issue which says a lot about their lack of awareness.

The relationship between the ownership and the fans has been nothing short of an embarrassment since the team traded Mookie Betts to the Dodgers prior to the 2020 season. As many journalists in the Boston area have called out, John Henry, the principal owner of the team, has not had a ny me-dia

availability since the trade. What was especially highlighted this offseason was the lack of awareness or care from the ownership group in what they were saying to their fans. The whole "full throttle" comment by Tom Werner, CEO Sam Kennedy calling the fans doubting their intentions "wrong" and "a liar", John Henry remaining nowhere to be seen and the team made no big additions to their roster. When asked about improving the team, new CBO Craig Breslow was usually thrown under the bus with ownership saying he was the one making the decision. Everyone knows that the Red Sox are actively trying to stay under the luxury tax. Everyone knows that Craig Breslow is working with a hard budget made by Henry and company to keep that a reality. Ownership has continued to deny that fact and called out fans for believing it. Selling the "Fenway experience" was the biggest selling point from ownership this past year, and as a fan who has seen Fenway overtaken by road fans the past two seasons it seems to be working.

An underrated relationship that I think is clearly being impacted is that of the ownership and the players. The last few years, players have openly called out ownership for not spending whether that was at a trade deadline or in the offseason. Former shortstop Xander Bogaerts did it in 2022 at the deadline, Kenley Jansen did it in 2023 at the deadline and then again in spring training this year. Even star third baseman Rafael Devers, a player who rarely voices frustration, called out the lack of additions this past offseason. Players are clearly frustrated with the direction that the team is headed in and ownership doesn't seem to care. This can hurt the team's ability to sign players in the next few off-seasons because there isn't a clear time when this rebuild is going to end and ownership hasn't treated their own players well for about four seasons. 2024 was supposed to be the year that pitching was brought in, but because Breslow took over for Chaim Bloom that was stopped and another bridge year was created.

The organization is a mess. Fans are hating it, players are hating it and there isn't a clear light at the end of the tunnel. Relationships can be rebuilt but trust has been broken from many different sides. Boston is 13-10 somehow despite awful defense once again, but the only thing that can heal these wounds is winning.



IMAGES COURTESY OF @REDSOX ON TWITTER

CLIPART COURTESY OF OPENCLIPART

SOAP



Sports

Baseball: Momentum ahead of UMass and Hofstra games

by Nicholas Spinali
HE/HIM/HIS
STAFF WRITER
nicholas.spinalli@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut baseball team, fresh off a very successful weekend, will return to their home turf in Storrs where they will look to stay hot in two midweek games against the University of Massachusetts and Hofstra University.

The Hook C is 11-3 in 14 games since the first day of April. This past weekend, the team swept Georgetown in three games, beating the team with the best record in the Big East on the road. Despite a 20-18 overall record, the strong weekend propelled the Huskies to 7-2 in Big East play. They are now in first place in the conference.

In a 7-6 win on Friday, Ian Cooke had a solid outing in his first start since being reinserted as head coach Jim Penders' Friday starter. He pitched five innings and allowed four runs while striking out 10 batters, his second straight game with double-digit Ks. Luke Broadhurst and Caleb Shpur lead the offense with three RBIs each, including a tie-breaking home run by Broadhurst in the ninth. Corey Morton also homered in the contest. Braden Quinn was outstanding out of the bullpen, striking out all six of the batters he faced over a scoreless eighth and ninth inning en route to his second win this season.

The Huskies took advantage of five errors by the Hoyas to take game two 5-4 on Sunday. Bryan Padilla pulled through on a day where the Husky offense managed a combined three hits. He had two, including a game-tying home run in the fourth and a two-

RBI single to take the lead in the eighth. He had four RBIs total. Connecticut starter Garret Coe was outstanding in his fifth win of the year. He

bulldozed through 7.2 innings after allowing three runs in the second, striking out nine batters. Brady Afthim worked a perfect ninth to secure his first save of the weekend.

A 7-6 victory secured the sweep after a big fourth inning gave UConn a lead before a Tyler Minick two-run home run in the fifth gave his team seven runs in the game. Maddix Dalena (two), Shpur, Broadhurst and Morton also had RBIs in the game. Hook C starter Stephen Quigley allowed three runs over 4.2 innings in the no-decision. The Hoyas offense made the game interesting by pulling within one run late, but Afthim shut the door in the ninth for his fifth save of the year. Jack Sullivan was credited with his second win of the year out of the pen.

Gabe Van Emon is likely to receive a start after pitching in Connecticut's midweek slate last weekend. He hasn't reached the third inning in any of his last three starts; he'll hope the out-of-conference games will provide a bounce back. He's 1-4 with a 6.81 ERA in 11 games (seven starts) this season. UConn's

(32) and slugging % (.590). Aside from his two hits and home run on Friday, the third baseman had two more hits and another RBI on Sunday. He'll look to keep momentum on his and his team's side ahead of the midweek games.

At 14-21 overall and 5-7 against Atlantic 10 opponents, the UMass Minutemen are in eighth place out of the 11 teams in the conference. They won their series last weekend, claiming victory in the first two of three games against George Mason in Fairfax, Virginia. Carter Hanson had five RBIs over the weekend while Michael Toth had three to lead the offense. The Minutemen bullpen held strong in each of the two wins.

Sam Belliveau should draw the Tuesday start after pitching just one inning in his previous outing on Friday against

George Mason. He is 2-5 overall this season in nine starts, posting a 6.47 ERA. If not Belliveau, then Justin Mastaleraxis is a candidate for the nod. He's 3-1 with a 4.94 ERA in seven outings (six starts) this year.

Catcher/designated hitter Mike Gervasi has been a beast at the plate for his Minutemen this year. He's compiled a .309 batting average and leads his team with 10 home runs and 27 RBIs. He's also first for UMass in total bases (68), slugging % (.618) and on-base plus slugging % (1.024). Gervasi will pose a threat in the heart of the Minutemen's lineup on Tuesday.

A 14-25 overall record and 5-10 conference record have the Hofstra Pride in 10th place of the 12 teams in the Coastal Athletic Association. They claimed a series win in a three-game set against Campbell last weekend, including a walk-off 10-inning victory on Sunday. The Pride offense did enough to hold off Campbell by putting up 28 total runs in the series.

I t

nings. It could also be a bullpen day for the Pride, who have deployed names like Joseph Curreri, Tanner Sanderoff and Penn Sealey for multiple starts apiece throughout this season.

Both games will be hosted by the Hook C at their home field in Elliot Ballpark. Tuesday's bout against UMass is scheduled for 6:05 p.m. while the Hofstra match on Wednesday is set for 3:35 p.m. Both games will be available for streaming on UConn+.



IMAGES COURTESY OF @UCONNBSB ON TWITTER