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Monday, April 8, 2024

UConn Bound Day brings admitted students to campus

by Sara Bedigian

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The University of Connecticut hosted over 2,000 admitted students at Storrs on Saturday for UConn Bound Day.

The program began at 9 a.m. with a welcome ceremony at Gampel Pavilion. The day continued with different presentations and showcases for admitted students to learn about academics, residential life and financial aid in various locations around campus. Campus tours departed every 15 minutes from the Homer Babbidge Library, where students could view popular locations around campus.

Students could also get tours of the Student Recreation Center, departing every five minutes outside of the entrance. There was also a learning community showcase and Innovation Zone tours in the Peter J. Werth Residence Tower.

Students explored their majors through various school and college presentations. There was a pre-law advising presentation at the Dodd Center and a pre-medical advising presentation at Schenker Hall. Students who were admitted as undecided majors could attend a presentation from the Academic Center for Exploratory Students.

The Student Union also held events throughout the day, including a Campus Connections Expo, where various campus organizations tabled to showcase what students could get involved in when they arrive on campus in the fall. Organizations, including the Daily Campus, UCTV, SUBOG,



UConn Pharmacy welcomes Future Huskies at UConn Bound Day on Saturday, April 6, 2024. Another UConn Bound Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, 2024, where admitted students will have the opportunity to experience campus. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNPHARMACY ON INSTAGRAM

UConn Athletics Bands, South Asian Women Empowerment

Association and the Pakistani Community at UConn, provided students with the opportunity to learn about campus life. Other departments, including Experiential Global Learning, the First Year Experience and the Center for Career Development, provided more information about available resources and opportunities.

Admitted students also had the opportunity to visit the seven cultural centers and programs on campus, which are located in the Union.

Various students, faculty and staff from departments across the university volunteered their time to help run presentations,

showcases and panels. The Lodewick Visitors Center tour guide staff and Husky Ambassador volunteers also helped coordinate the days' events.

Admitted students could ask Husky Ambassadors questions to receive a coin to redeem for a free scoop of ice cream at the Dairy Bar.

The day ended with a conversation with UConn alumni at the Student Union Theatre.

There is another UConn Bound Day on Saturday, April 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admitted students may register through their applicant portal.

PARTIAL SOLAR ECLIPSE TO BE VISIBLE THIS MONDAY

by Gabriel Duffany

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On Monday, April 8, a partial solar eclipse will be visible from Connecticut, reaching its peak at 3:28 p.m. Although only 92% of the sun will be obscured for CT viewers at the event's height, many in northern New England will experience total darkness along the eclipse's direct path.

Detailing the effects of a total eclipse, University of Connecticut Assistant Professor in Residence of Physics Matt Guthrie said, "All of the sun is covered by the moon, and you can look at the phenomenon with your naked eye. You'll be able to see the sun's corona, which is too dim to see unless during an eclipse event, the surface temperature of the Earth drops considerably, animals start to act strangely, and for about three minutes, it feels like night."

The last total solar eclipse visible from the U.S. was seven years ago, in August 2017. Though relatively recent, this astronomical occurrence is deceptively rare, with the previous total eclipse in the U.S. taking place in 1979.

"Total solar eclipses are incredibly rare events for a few reasons," Guthrie said. "First, from an astronomical perspective, Earth is the only place in the universe we are aware of that has the in-

credible coincidence that the moon is the exact size in the sky as the sun."

"They are also rare for people to experience because most of Earth is covered by water. The Earth gets about two solar eclipses per year, but it's rare that any single person will be living in a place where it's convenient to see it. Total solar eclipses happen about every 18 months," Guthrie said.

"We'll have solar telescopes, a pinhole camera installation, and an activity to make pinhole cameras," Guthrie said.

For those on the UConn Storrs campus, an eclipse viewing event will be hosted by the Physics Department atop Horsebarn Hill on Monday from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. Short of witnessing total darkness, the event will feature a number of activities for eclipse enthusiasts to enjoy.

es available for purchase at \$3 per pair.

Though observers in Connecticut will not experience the full breadth of midday darkness, the significance of this year's eclipse should not be discounted. The next total solar eclipse visible from New England will not be until 2079 - a considerable 55 years from now.



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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CT ETHNIC SYMPOSIUM | PAGE 6
Asian American students showcase immigration stories through art



EDITORIAL | PAGE 7
Praise for RTX 'diversity' is cynical and deceitful



MEN'S BASKETBALL | PAGE 12
MBB Recap



THE DAILY CAMPUS

NEWSLETTER

Connecticut Secretary of State's office recruiting next gen poll workers for 2024, 2025 cycles

by John Haslun

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The Office of the Connecticut Secretary of State is offering a new two-year job opportunity for undergraduate students in Connecticut. The program, named Next Gen Elections, plans to train approximately 40 students as poll workers for the November 2024 and 2025 state elections.

Next Gen Elections promises "moderator-level training, giving

students all the tools they need to run a voting location or serve in any poll worker position." Students will be expected to gain valuable experience in leadership, résumé-building and the democratic process, which will be beneficial for any applicant interested in future civic engagement. Additionally, participants are offered networking opportunities with election officials and town leaders, both on the job site and during a "virtual kick-off" and "post-election in-person convening." "This is a historic time in CT elections,"

said Office of the Secretary State Outreach and Engagement Manager Annie Black. "Young people will be at the forefront."

During the eight-hour, primarily virtual training period, students will be mentored by an assigned Registrar of Voters, an elected official tasked with maintaining Connecticut's voter registration system, leading poll workers, and reporting election results.

As Next Gen Elections is a two-year program, participants must be enrolled at the University of Connecticut until at

least November 4, 2025. Participants are required to work at least 20 hours during both the 2024 and 2025 elections.

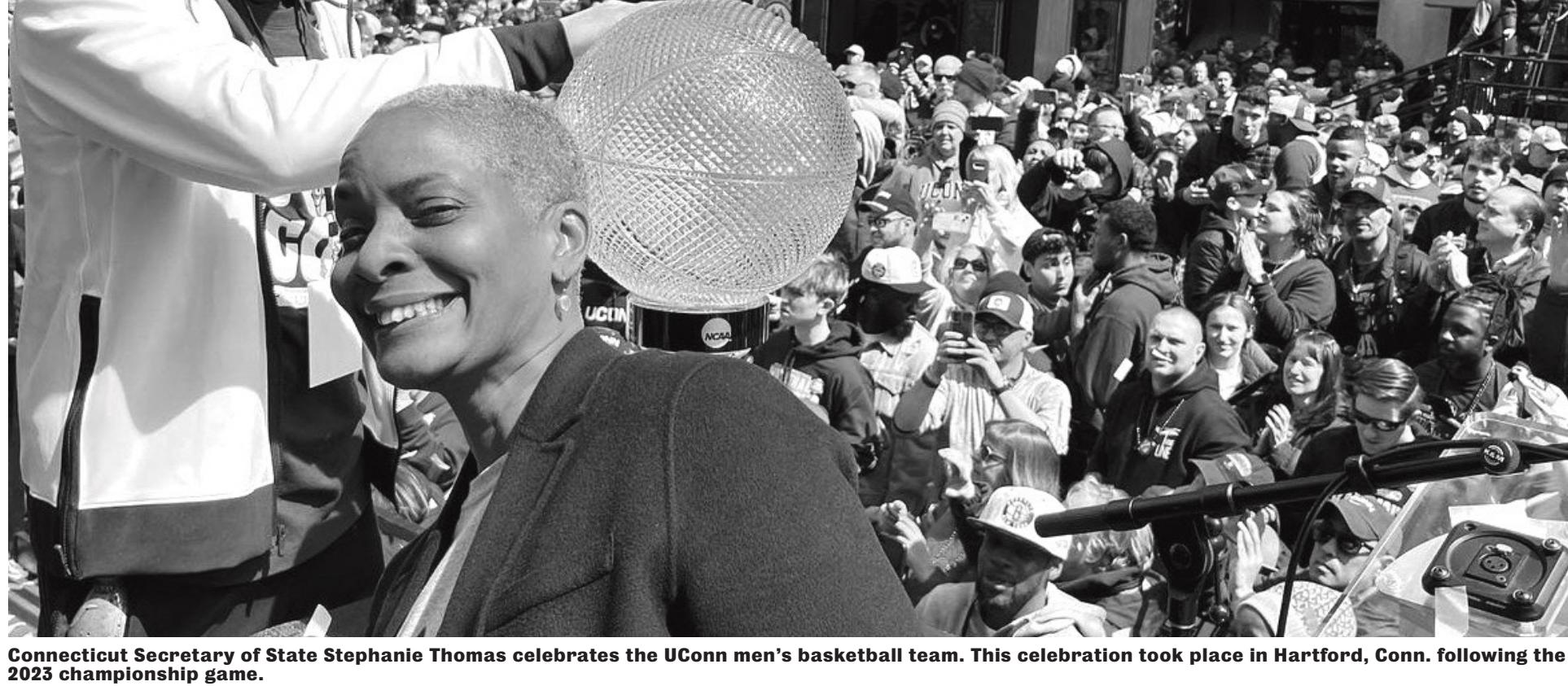
Students will be compensated at a rate of \$18/hr for both training and work at the polls and are subject to United States work eligibility requirements. Prospective moderators with Next Gen Elections must be registered to vote in Connecticut.

Students will also be reimbursed for any travel costs accrued over training, working hours and post-election convening.

There are no GPA or major requirements for the program, but the Secretary of State's Office recommends students be driven, motivated and excited to serve in a leadership role as an election moderator.

"Civic engagement is a valuable life lesson," said Black, "We encourage students of all disciplines to apply, not just those who foresee a career in government."

Applications are due by 11:59 P.M. on April 25, 2024. More information can be found at civics101@ct.gov.



Connecticut Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas celebrates the UConn men's basketball team. This celebration took place in Hartford, Conn. following the 2023 championship game.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @VOTESTEPHANIETHOMAS ON INSTAGRAM

The National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum unveils a UConn March Madness bobblehead

by Gianni Salisbury

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According to Phil Sklar, co-founder and CEO of the National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum, the museum unveiled an officially licensed University of Connecticut Huskies Basketball Dancing in March Bobblehead to celebrate the men's and women's basketball

teams' runs to the Sweet 16.

The bobblehead, announced on March 28, is now available on the National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum's Online Store website for \$40, with a shipping charge of \$8 per order. According to Sklar, shipping is planned for September.

The bobblehead will feature UConn's mascot, Jonathan the Husky, dancing on a basketball court in front of a basket-

ball textured background with the words "March" on display next to a basketball and a bracket, according to Sklar.

Sklar expressed his excitement for the release of bobbleheads, saying, "This bobblehead is the perfect way for UConn fans, alumni, students, faculty, and staff to celebrate March Madness each year and show off their school pride year-round!"

The bobblehead is now the 7th

addition to the UConn collection of bobbleheads at the Hall of Fame and Museum, which opened in 2019, according to its website.

The Jonathan bobblehead is a part of the Hall of Fame and Museum's Dancing in March Series, featuring a dozen teams currently making deep runs in March, according to its website. Other teams featured in the series include the Purdue Boilermakers, the Clemson Tigers, the Marquette Golden Eag-

les, the LSU Tigers, the Iowa Hawkeyes and many more.

Both the UConn men's and women's basketball teams have made it far in the tournament. The women's team reached the Final Four, but they lost 69-71 in a tight game to Iowa this past Friday. The men's team beat Alabama 86-72 on Saturday and will play Purdue in the National Championship game on Monday.

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.

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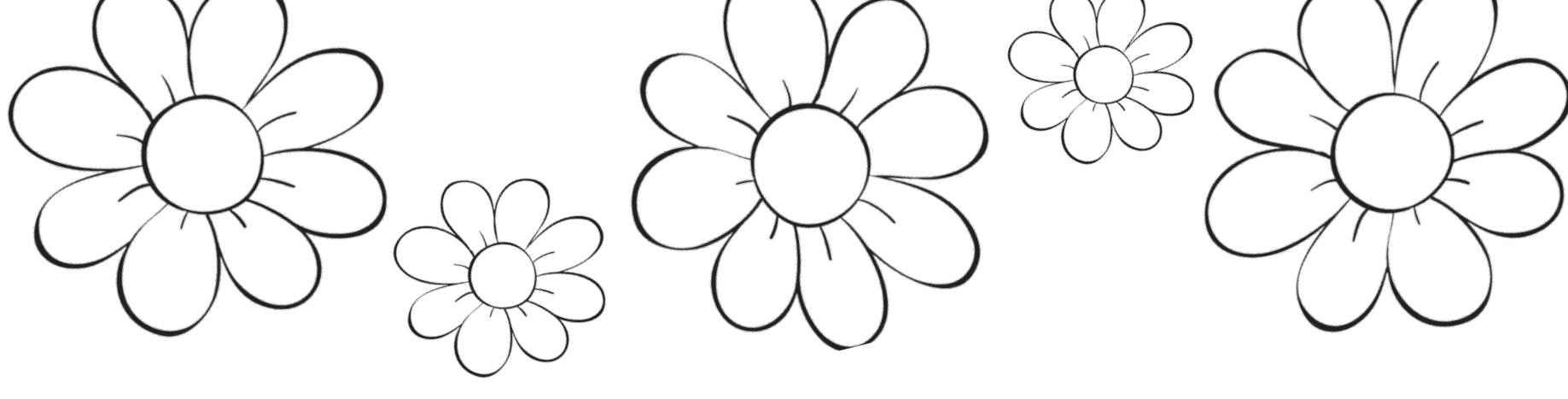
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B	Y	P	T	R	R	M	R	Z	R	D	U	S	Y
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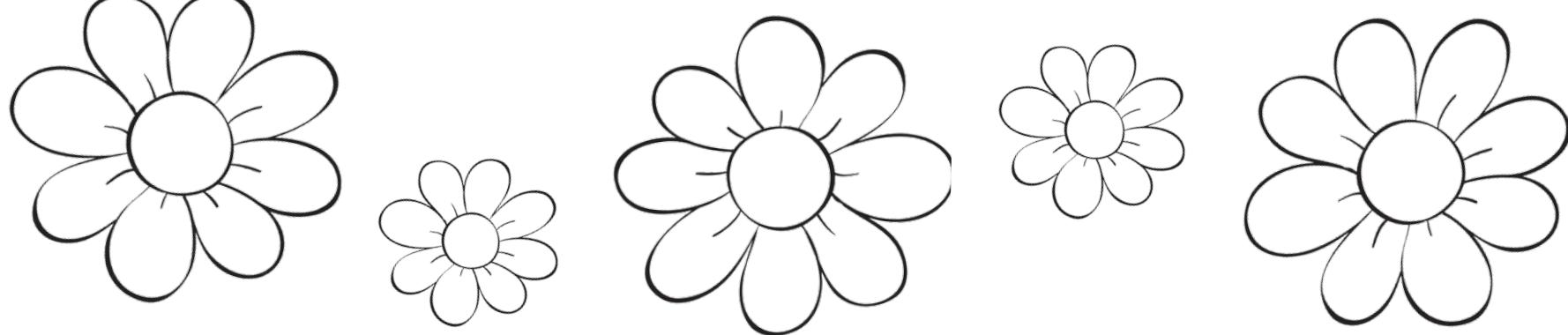


IMAGE COURTESY OF QUALCOMM INSTITUTE

Center for the Study of Popular Music holds panel discussion of AI in music

by Henry St. Pierre | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | henry.st_pierre@uconn.edu

One of the biggest debates across the world right now is what to do about artificial intelligence. While AI is undoubtedly a massive technological leap forward, millions of people across the world believe that artificial intelligence could pose a threat to their livelihoods. With recent developments within the past few years, AI has been able to create works of art, both visual and aural, that make many feel uneasy. Many worry that society will no longer rely on artists to create art, instead using AI to create it instantaneously for free.

On April 4, the Center for the Study of Popular Music hosted a panel discussion on the future of AI in music. Featured were Dr. Mitchell Green, University of Connecticut professor of Philosophy, Dr. Aaron Dial, postdoctoral research fellow at Purdue University and Dustin Ballard, creator of the "There I Ruined It" social media channel.

The three gave presentations based on their own views and personal research on the topic

before holding a short Q&A discussion. Dr. Green presented a history of humanity's relationship with automation in the arts, discussing the invention and popularization of the drum machine in the 1980s and the explosion of autotune during the late 2000s. Dr. Green also noted the misnomer of artificial intelligence, saying, "A better term is cultured intelligence," stating that artificial intelligence isn't exactly artificial in the same way that we think of other artificial things. He touched upon the idea of exact technical skill, being that it's incredibly debated. John Cage's 4'33" can be considered a high work of art — despite it being a composition consisting of just four minutes and 33 seconds of silence — while art done by AI lacks the humanistic feeling of art, even though it may be technically superior.

Dr. Dial presented his thoughts through the lens of how this advancement in technology affects African-Americans, specifically

using the robotic rapper known as "FN Meka." This robot/avatar was developed by the company Factory New and gained prominence through TikTok. Factory New had originally claimed that FN Meka's songs and lyrics were completely generated through AI based on hundreds of thousands of other songs and albums. However, this claim was eventually proved wrong. Houston-based rapper Kyle the Hooligan announced his involvement as the sole writer and vocalist for all of FN Meka's recorded material, resulting in Factory New finding a replacement voice immediately.

Dr. Dial's presentation went further into the exploitation of black culture throughout history, as well as a prediction for the future. The robotic rapper was developed by a group of white businessmen, which Dr. Dial said was "eliminating the source, black people, from black culture." He compares the exodus of black culture to eugenics, destroying the originators of one's own identity.

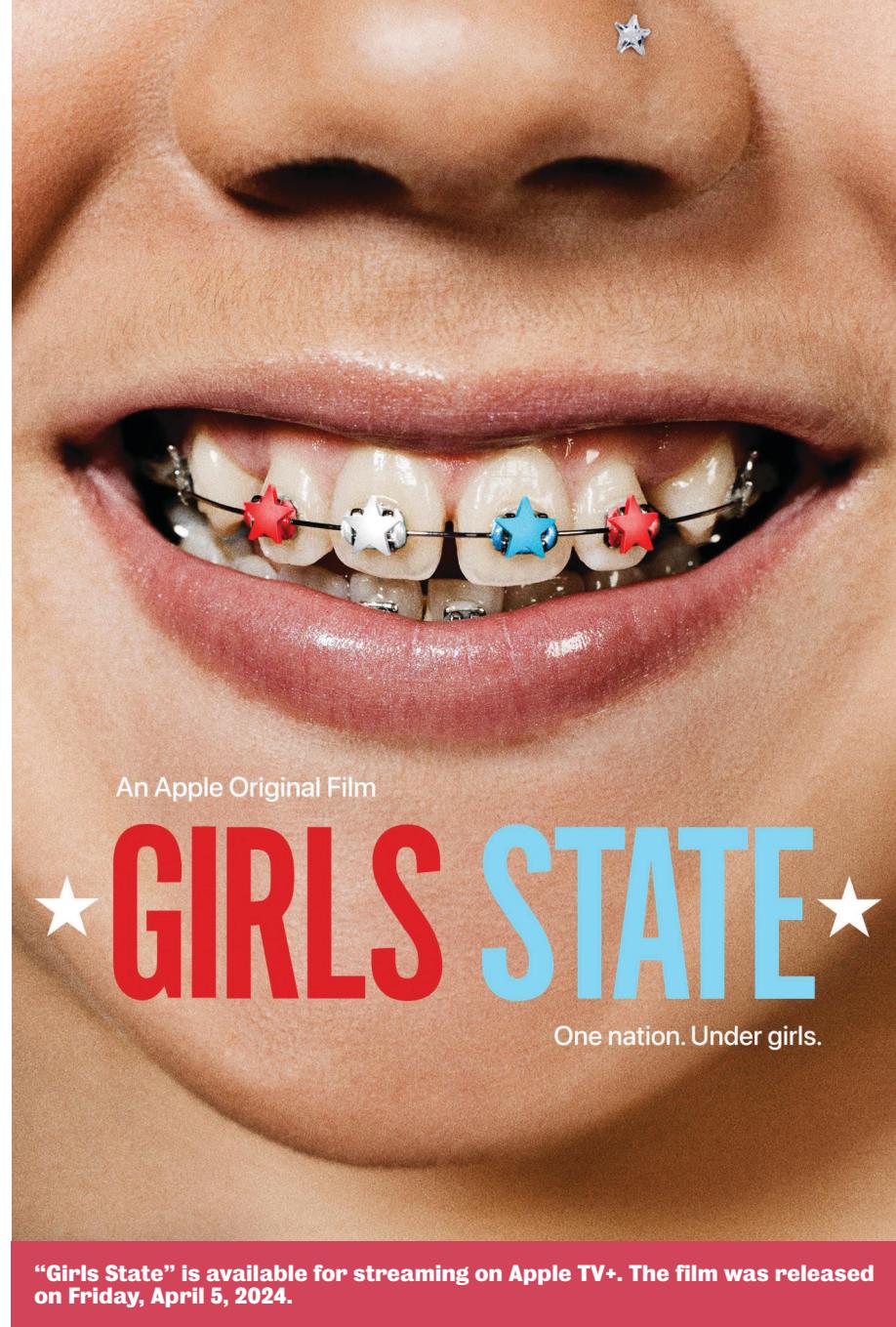
Ballard, the creator of "There I Ruined It," spoke last, ending on a more lighthearted note. Ballard touched on his own experiences with AI being crucial to his brand and some of the trouble it's gotten him into. "There I Ruined It" can be found on YouTube, Instagram and TikTok, among other social media platforms, centering around comedic vocal covers of famous singers and songs, all using the power of AI voice mimicking. One of Ballard's videos was even used during a congressional hearing to condemn the use of AI deepfakes in music. Ballard's work has also attracted the attention of several music conglomerates, prompting some to threaten legal action and issue takedowns of several of his videos, though they are protected under parody law.

Another topic that Ballard delved into was the process behind making his videos. Many people assume that an AI-generated voice needs no prior work, just some lyrics and a song to play in the background. This is not the case,

as Ballard has to get over several hurdles to create a polished final video. Most of the voice models used in "There I Ruined It" videos are developed by Ballard himself, and he still has to provide his own singing voice so the AI has something to base off of. "When I do get criticisms online for using AI, it's almost always about laziness," says Ballard. He also emphasized the double standard for music. While a guitarist can pick up different guitars with different effects and generate completely different sounds, vocalists are expected to do with what they have, which he says is often unfair.

After the three presentations, a short Q&A was held, where some asked questions clarifying points made or posing entirely different scenarios. The three presenters had somewhat differing opinions on how to tackle the issue of AI involvement in music; however, they clearly all shared the same love and enjoyment of the art form, still showcasing some optimism about the future of the industry.

'I'd be the man: 'Girls State' Review

by Sarah Barker | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | SHE/HER/HERS | sarah.barker@uconn.edu

ferences between "Girls" and "Boys" state as the girls are openly frustrated over the stronger enforced dress code, the buddy system, and not feeling like they're able to talk about real issues. Considering this is a place to build a government and empower the youth, caring about how short shorts are should be the last thing that matters. Girls from all over Missouri came to talk about politics and government, having rules and counselors who stifle that diminishes the larger goal.

By the end of the week, we see a full trial go through to the Supreme Court. It ends up being an abortion case, taking a shockingly similar appearance to the debates in the U.S. Supreme Court.

All candidates for governor get to give a speech at the end of the week, and we see Emily, Cecilia and Faith finally showcase their hard work to the group. Emily, frustrated about falling short in the election, puts her energy into an article she writes for the Girls State newspaper. She writes about the inequalities between Girls and Boys State, talking to participants from both. As the film ends, the boys and girls come together for the State Fair and a night of music and fireworks to celebrate the week. The end credits are backed by "The Man" by Taylor Swift — the cherry on top of this powerful documentary.

As someone who isn't nearly as passionate about government and politics as these girls, this film felt so empowering and relatable. A lot of these girls made points about feeling less in spaces because of gender. And unwanted in the political space, women aren't allowed to be as loud as men. Even in the film itself we see how boys and girls are treated differently, particularly in governmental spaces. I think this is an important watch. Seeing how much care and passion the girls have was inspiring.

Rating: 5/5

Basic Idea (Tonic)

Basic Idea Repeated (Dominant)

Center for the Study of Popular Music holds panel discussion of AI in music

by Henry St. Pierre | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | henry.st_pierre@uconn.edu

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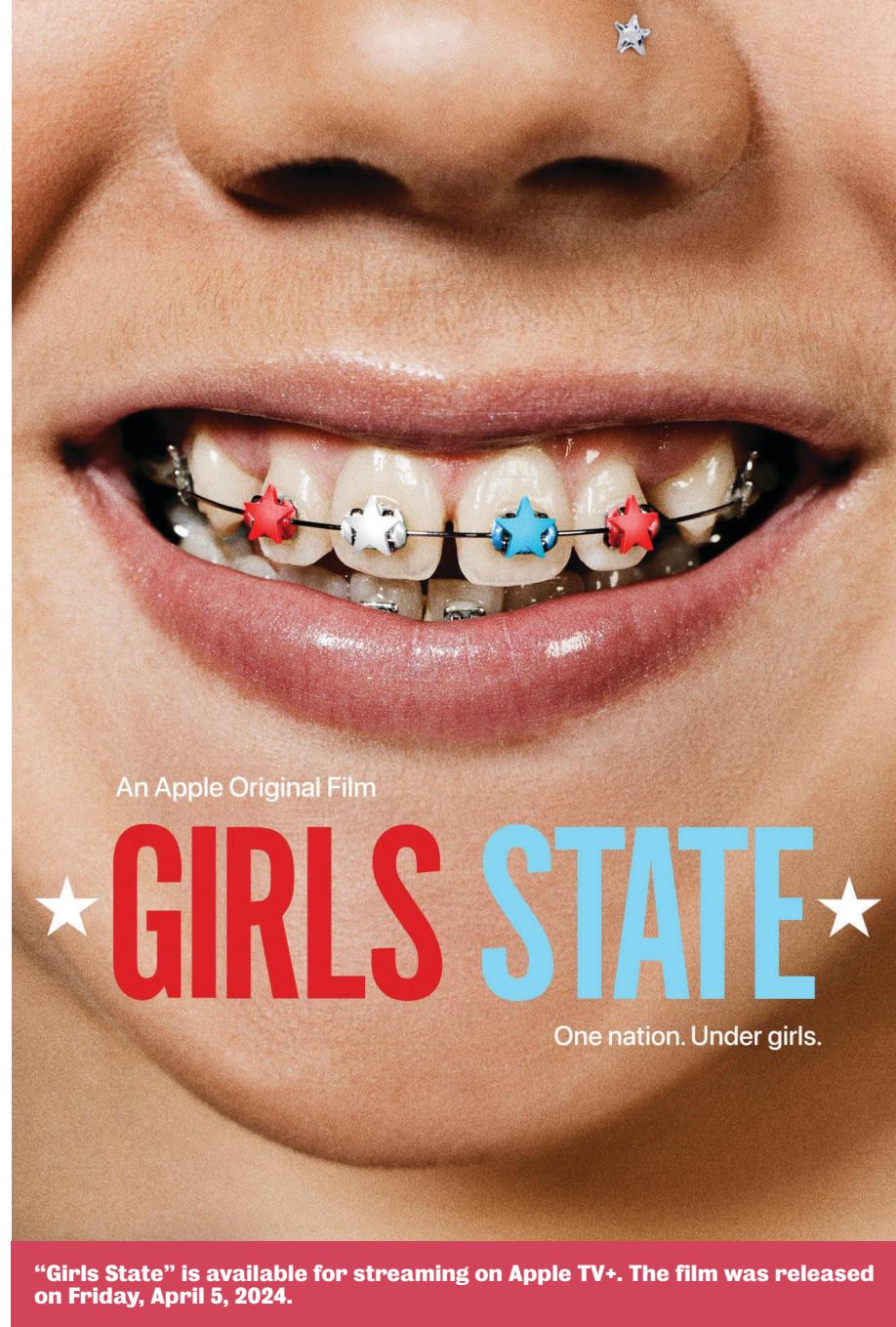
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This Week In History: April 7 – April 13

“Auguste Deter”



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

Hello, and welcome back to This Week in History! One of the most curious areas of history — which somehow I have hardly covered in this column — is the history of medicine. The history of human experience is defined by the ability to harness physical strength and energy, but of course, bodies fail. This week, I want to zoom in on one terrifying yet fascinating medical contribution and a glimpse into the mind of a renowned scientist faced with breaking down a belief in the medical field for millennia.

To cast ourselves back in time, let's consider a time before the history we're looking at took place. To do so, I will refrain from labeling the disease or scientist, as that would clue you in on what's to come, but consider this: What happens as you get older?

Plato and other classical Greek thinkers laid out human life in cycles, in essence describing categories such as infancy (ages 0-6), adolescence (7-21), adulthood (22-49), middle age (50-62), senescence (63-79), and ultimately, old age (age 80 or older). These early thinkers used logic to determine age groups. The body is youthful in its infancy up until an individual reaches their 20s, which, until 50, is their bodily peak. Of course, the peak does not stay forever, and as one enters senescence and old age, one declines both physically and mentally.

It was logical: old age naturally produces a memory decline. If you have an older family member, you understand they may forget things. As one's physical strength peaks, so does their mental capacity, and vice versa. How else could that decline happen?

That question was ultimately answered in the life of Auguste Hochmann (married name, Deter).

Deter was born in May 1850 in Kassel, in the then-independent Electorate of Hesse, Germany. She was not of noble status, and she worked as a seamstress from a young age and married at 23 — a very typical life for a mid-19th century young German woman.

The couple moved to Frankfurt and lived in an apartment on Morfelder Landstrasse, a dense city street close to her husband's work and nestled near the river Main.

Her husband, Karl August Wilhelm Deter, worked as a railway clerk and proved to be a loving and caring partner. The two then had a daughter, Thekla. In research conducted by scholars Sean Page and Tracey Fletcher, Karl Deter "states they were 'happy and harmonious' that she [Auguste] was 'rather amicable' and 'constantly hard-working and orderly.'"

In theory, that's the end of "This Week in History," but only a decade later, in 1901, Deter screamed incoherent sentences as her memory failed in the halls of the Städtische Anstalt für Irre

und Epileptische — or the State Asylum for Lunatics and Epileptics in Frankfurt, Germany. There, Deter would spend the last five years of her life.

Deter ate meals such as meat and cauliflower. When a doctor asked what she was eating, with a mouthful of meat, she would reply, "Spinach."

Next, Deter lost her object permanence — if she saw an object and looked away, it was gone. Even still, if asked a question about her symptoms, she simply stated, "So to speak, I lost myself."

Deter had lost more than herself; Karl Deter had been increasingly concerned about his once loving and strong housewife. She stopped cooking, accused him of violating the marriage, and largely declined into an incoherent state.

Doctors were observant — though also frightened — at what Deter had become. "I don't stab myself. I will not stab myself," the poor lady shouted while running out of her room. To Plato and the early Greeks, such a state came with old age — Deter was 51.

Karl Deter couldn't afford her prolonged care at the facility, so he agreed to give the hospital the right to keep her medical records and brain after her death in exchange for continued treatment.

Doctors couldn't save Deter, but in a groundbreaking effort, they described and categorized her symptoms, behaviors and decline. Dr. Alzheimer led the work.

That name will no doubt cue many readers into the disease that was being examined in Deter; after all, it bears his name. However, Alzheimer did not write down his own likeness when describing the symptoms he observed (wouldn't that be a bit egotistical?) instead, he considered the case to be "presenile dementia" — much to the destruction of long-held beliefs on the natural course of old age.

Alzheimer observed and cared for Deter between 1901 and 1903, keeping detailed notes:

"In speaking, she [Deter] uses gap-fills and a few paraphrased expressions ("milk-pourer" instead of cup); sometimes it is obvious she cannot go on. Plainly, she does not understand certain questions. She does not remember the use of some objects."

However, after Alzheimer's departure, Deter's health failed. She died due to infected bedsores this week in history, on April 8, 1906. She was the first to be diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

Alzheimer examined neuritic plaques and tangles in the structures of the brain. Through his close observations and Deter's strength to live through her illness, what we now know as Alzheimer's disease became diagnosable. While still in need of a cure, defining the illness and breaking down long-held views on old age were all thanks to the life of Auguste Deter.

Life

THE LONG WEEKEND: 'PAPER MOON,' 'QUIET ON SET' AND 'IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES'

by Xander Serrano | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

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I hope everyone has been supporting our men's and women's basketball teams as they compete in the March Madness tournament. I assume we have all been keeping up with the P. Diddy case on social media and asking ourselves, "Why?" and "How?" (You'll understand if you listen to his songs and read the lyrics). Take some time off the X (formerly Twitter) feed, and hear me out on some of my media recommendations this week.

THE MOVIE: "PAPER MOON"

Cinema in the 1970s peaked with break-out projects from directors like Martin Scorsese, Steven Spielberg, Francis Ford Coppola, John Carpenter, Sidney Lumet and Peter Bogdanovich. During this age of cinema, this small batch of directors had their own style and clear vision of how their films should impact cinema in the future and deliver films we love.

Credit to Max for having an entire section dedicated to Turner Classic Movies. I stumbled upon Peter Bogdanovich's 1973 comedy-drama "Paper Moon." This gem, known for its unique charm, was a delightful surprise. Set in 1930s Kansas during the Great Depression, real-life father and daughter Ryan and Tatum O'Neal come together as a pair of con artists — Moses Pray and Addie Loggins.

Pray, nicknamed "Moze," somehow gets the task of delivering nine-year-old Loggins to her aunt's house in Missouri after her mother's death. Moze's attempts to take the little girl's money backfire, and he is forced to take her on as his partner as the two swindle their way through the country. Things worsen once the duo meets the burlesque dancer Trixie Delight, played by Madeline Kahn.

Shot in black and white, the "Paper Moon" cinematography of "Paper Moon" speaks to its beauty and represents the Great Depression era it intended to recreate. Tatum O'Neal steals the screen in every scene, earning her an Oscar for supporting actress and making her the youngest recipient at 9-years-old.

What makes this film a classic is not just its lack of political correctness or excessive love. It's the depth of its story and how it portrays Loggins smoking cigarettes, using profanities and swindling adults. These elements bring out the charm in the story and make for great comedy, leaving a lasting impact on the audience.

THE SHOW: "QUIET ON SET: THE DARK SIDE OF KIDS TV"

From praising the film "Paper Moon" — a story which involved a child actor and her father — to talking about the lack of a relationship between a child and their parent on the new Max documentary "Quiet on Set: The Dark Side of Kids TV." The documentary unveils the behind-the-scenes physical and mental abuse during the late 90s and early 2000s child actors experienced on the Nickelodeon television sets. For the generation that grew up with shows like "Drake & Josh," "Zoey 101," "iCarly" and "Victorious," we were unaware of the creepy things happening once the cameras were not rolling.

It is interesting to watch some of the things now that went on over our heads while we were watching the show as kids. The documentary interviews cast members from "The Amanda Show" and "All That" who were child actors and have since left Hollywood and their acting careers behind due to the trauma they suffered at the Nickelodeon studios.

The most challenging part of understanding the documentary is how neglectful the parents of these child actors were and how they lived vicariously through their children with hopes of living economically off them one day — not knowing they were being abused at the hands of those who were trusted the most.

THE ALBUM: "IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES"

If you're a fan of soft rock, Michael McDonald's body of work is a prime example of the genre. Perfect for sunny days or when you're not in the mood for any music that might be too harsh of a sound. McDonald's sound fits the subgenre of "yacht rock," from the first track to the last; his first studio album, "If That's What It Takes," delivers all the hits. As the lead singer of the Doobie Brothers, McDonald gave us hit songs like "Minute By Minute" and the timeless "What A Fool Believes." His soulful baritone gave us classics from his album like "I Keep Forgettin' (Every Time You're Near)," "I Gotta Try," or "That's Why." McDonald's outlook on heartbreak breaks through in the album's biggest hit, "I Keep Forgettin,'" as it has more of an R&B influence than his previous work. The album "If That's What It Takes" allows McDonald to perform romantic ballads, which his voice matches up for.

I recommended a loving comedy film and a soft rock 80s album to a dark documentary. You call it a range of emotions... I call it an average Monday.



"Quiet on Set" is available for streaming on Max. The show presents interviews with stars such as Drake Bell and Shane Lyons.

IMAGE COURTESY OF IMDB



Life

@dailycampuslife

ASIAN AMERICAN STUDENTS SHOWCASE IMMIGRATION STORIES THROUGH ART

by Desirae Sin

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The Humanities Institute at the University of Connecticut held its

annual Connecticut Ethnic Studies Symposium on Friday, April 5. For the first session, one of the panels was titled "Asian American Art and Storytelling" and moderated by Jannatul Anika.

The first presentation, "Sore Waters," was by Irene Pham. They created a website to compile their "graphic memoir" about their life and connection to their family. Their family fled



Pictured is the CT Ethnic Studies Symposium from April 5, 2024. UConn students Irene Pham, Khadija Shaikh and Rilee Roldan presented their projects in the panel "Asian American Art and Storytelling" in Storrs Hall.

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

On Friday, April 5, the Rainbow Center hosted its annual Lavender Graduation, which celebrates the academic success of queer and gender-diverse students at the University of Connecticut.

According to the Human Rights Campaign, Dr. Ronni Sanlo, a Jewish lesbian who was denied the opportunity to attend the graduations of her biological children because of her sexual orientation, created the first Lavender Graduation with the help of the University of Michigan dean of students.

According to Ian Shick, the assistant director of the Rainbow Center, about 75 people attended the Lavender Graduation. Approximately 30 to 35 graduates and 40 to 45 non-graduates were invited. Shick also said, "People should celebrate this, no matter if they're out or not."

Graduate assistant of the Rainbow Center, Lene Reynolds, gave the land acknowledgment and introduced the Director of the Rainbow Center, Kelsey O'Neil.

O'Neil said that there were "Only three graduates that year," referring to the first Lavender Graduation. They then explained the significance of the color lavender, saying it's a

color Graduation could make a positive despite the oppression queer and transgender people face.

UConn has celebrated an annual Lavender Graduation since 2008 according to O'Neil. They then welcomed the Director of the African American Cultural Center Alicia McKenzie to the stage.

"I hope that tonight brings you a sense of completeness," she said.

Shick explained how their motivation to work is their passion in their community and finishing college. They encouraged the audience to "Be the queerest you, the transest you, be you."

The keynote speech was given by Nishelli Ahmed, the program manager of mental health

Vietnam in 1975 after the fall of Saigon. From this crisis came the creation of Vietnamese nail salons by the actress Tippi Hedren. Pham brings this up because their mother is a nail technician and deals with pain in her hands. "It's pretty exhausting work; my dad is an engineer, so they both have to do precise movements," Pham stated.

Another aspect of Vietnamese culture that Pham mentioned is their cuisine. Because of the coastal nature of the country, many of the dishes are centered around seafood. Pham recounted times when they would go to Hammonasset Beach to collect snails to steam or go crabbing by dangling a chicken leg on a string.

Water has a deep connection with Vietnam and with Pham personally. They spoke about how water and the ocean had been integrated into their life for a long time. "Swimming is something that takes care of my body by also being a metaphor for how we belong to it, as well as a geopolitical liquid that influences who I am," Pham said.

The second presentation was by Rilee Roldan, titled "(Re)Connection." Their story begins with their parents, who migrated to the United States. Roldan explained how they were able to visit the Philippines for the first time last summer. They stated that being able to visit their motherland and come to terms with their conflicting feelings forced them to "channel those diasporic feelings into art."

Roldan grew up in a predominantly white town in Connecticut. "I always felt a disconnection between me and my Filipino identity," they commented. This was further reinforced by the fact that Roldan's family purposely avoided using their native tongue. Their visit to the Philippines inspired them to reconnect with their lost identity. Roldan joked by stating,

"I thought, 'Let's do some therapy with paint!'"

They displayed a few art pieces they created for the project, one of which was a collection of five "balibayan" boxes. Roldan explained that these are "boxes that are sent by overseas Filipinos to their family back home filled with all sorts of items and goods."

The final presentation, "An Ode to Curry Patta: An Indian American Environmentalist's Anthology," was by Khadija Shaikh. Her project centered around the connection between "curry patta," or the curry leaf plant, and her family's history. "Curry Patta symbolizes in my family as a means of connection to culture, a connection to the Indian motherland," she said.

When her family initially moved to the U.S., they had trouble adjusting to the food. Shaikh stated that her family searched for food from their homeland and brought some of their own. The curry plant was one of these attempts, yet they found that it did not handle the New England weather well. From trial and error, her family has grown many curry plants, some nearly as tall as her.

The plant isn't just a source of food; it's become a vital part of her family. "Curry patta was a sign of acceptance," Shaikh stated. She mentioned how it's become a symbol of the relationship between daughters-in-law and mothers-in-law. The new additions to her family initially had conflicting recipes or ideas between the mothers-in-law, but over time, their mothers-in-law gifted them the curry plant as a way to bridge the gap.

Her family's resourcefulness made her realize that sustainable practices weren't a Western concept. "This anthology is an ode to those who came before me and those who will come after me. Our stories are valuable and worthy to be contributed to the environmental movement. The solutions to the anthropogenic climate change can be found in our livelihood," Shaikh concluded.

& health equity initiatives at UConn's Student Health and Wellness. She said, "I wanted to tell you all about my tumultuous experience as a queer Muslim," promising that the end of the keynote would relate to the audience.

Ahmed acknowledged how she used to live in Florida and how scary it is to live there as a queer person. She also said that

English was her second language, saying that she lost her

CLIPART COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL

accent after a while. She said, "There is a back and forth between a child of immigrants and their parents" when it comes to the multiple cultures they are exposed to and which ones to identify with. She tried to understand Islam, attending Sunday school and learning Arabic before what she described as an Islamophobic period in her life.

Luckily, a friend snapped her out of her hatred that seemed to be self-loathing.

Ahmed then read "We Have Always Been Here: A Queer Muslim Memoir" by Samra Habib, which helped her feel seen. She said, "chosen families are a cornerstone of queer

culture as blood families may not accept them. The fact that you can create a community for yourself is beautiful."

She then talked about how difficult college has become both academically and financially, how society tells us we need to go to college to be successful, and how marginalized groups have it incredibly difficult as students. Nearing the end of her speech, she said, "When you chose a chosen family, you chose yourself."

Rilee Roldan, an eighth-semester fine arts major, was gifted the "Shining Star at the UConn Rainbow Center" award for his positivity and welcoming attitude. The "Outstanding UConn Undergraduate Student Leader" award went to two recipients: Nell Srinath, the opinion editor of The Daily Campus and chair of UNCHAIN; and Justin Christie, president of UConn's Black Queer Student Association. Dr. Laura Donofrio, an associate professor in the human development and family studies department at UConn, won the "Outstanding UConn Professional or UConn Staff Member" award.

The graduates had their names called and were given certificates and lavender stoles while slides with their names, pictures, majors and minors were displayed. There was a reception at the Rainbow Center after the ceremony.

"Be the queerest you, the transest you, be you"

IAN SHICK,
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE
RAINBOW CENTER

combination of the pink triangle used by the Nazis to symbolize gay men and the black triangle that the Nazis used to mark lesbian women and other so-called anti-social groups. The hope was that the Laven-

UConn Rainbow Center hosts 2024 Lavender Graduation

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



Opinion

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► Editorial

PRAISE FOR RTX 'DIVERSITY' IS CYNICAL AND DECEITFUL

The University of Connecticut Board of Trustees has steadily strengthened the connection between UConn's College of Engineering and the war industry throughout the past few years.

The board of trustees recently voted to rename the G1 Cleanroom in the Science 1 Research Center to the "RTX Research Center" at their Feb. 28 meeting, according to the Daily Campus. In 2022, the board also voted that the United Technologies Engineering Building be renamed after RTX subsidiary Pratt & Whitney. UConn has also historically hosted a yearly "Lockheed Martin Day" on campus wherein the connection between the two groups is celebrated, and students are shown the supposed benefits of contributing to the military-industrial complex. Currently, RTX is also de facto represented on the board of trustees itself by Bryan K. Pollard, the company's Associate General Counsel.

The decision to dedicate the research center to RTX is largely the result of the company's charitable donation to the university. Radenka Maric's recommendation explicitly mentions "this gift," referring to RTX's manifold contributions to the UConn Foundation, the private, non-profit organization that manages UConn's endowment. While the dollar value of RTX's philanthropy is hereto-

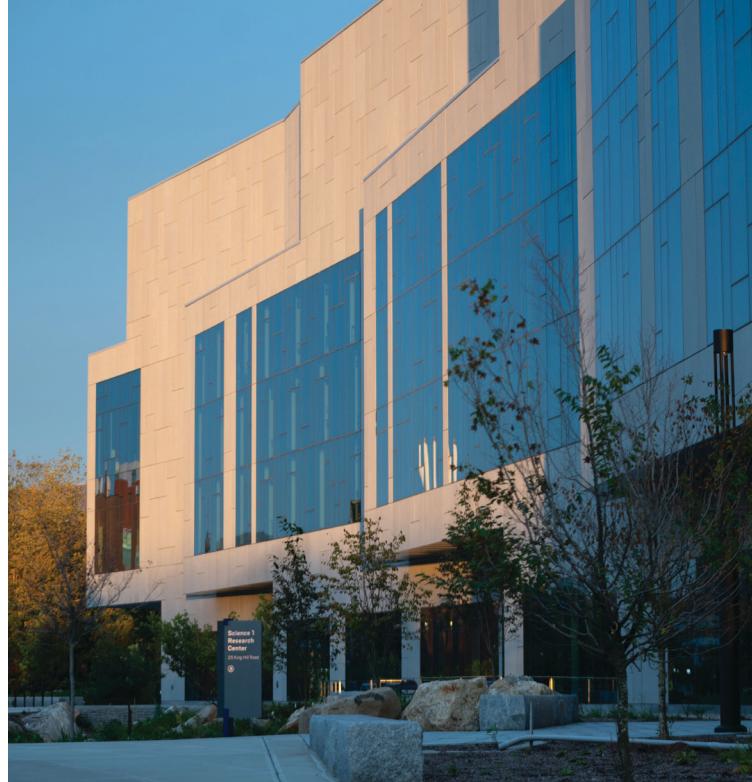
fore unknown, as the public is largely not privy to the Foundation's finances, RTX subsidiaries have endowed at least eight faculty members, according to the Foundation's website.

However, in her glowing praise of RTX, Maric provides a curious emphasis on the company's "focus on diversity, equity and inclusion," having "provided scholarship support to underserved students within the College of Engineering."

RTX funds scholarships prolifically across the country. In 2020, the company launched a scholarship program with the Executive Leadership Council — an organization of "Black CEOs and senior executives at Fortune 1000 and Global 500 companies" — that promises \$10,000 per year to sophomores and juniors studying business and engineering.

In 2021, RTX — then Raytheon — also sponsored six scholarships to students in the National Society of Black Engineers and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, which the UConn Center for Career Development advertised. These scholarships appear to be opportunities for young professionals of color to launch careers in predominantly white fields, even if these fields happen to profit from global violence.

See EDITORIAL, p. 8



Science 1 Research Center renamed the G1 Cleanroom "RTX Technology Research Center" on Feb. 28, 2024. Individuals and The Daily Campus Editorial Board have voiced concerns about Raytheon's involvement regarding issues of diversity and inclusion.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

MAKE DIFFERENT POLITICAL PARTIES FOR THE LOCAL LEVEL

by Youssef Macary | STAFF WRITER
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Everyone has heard about the increasing polarization within our country. People are becoming more and more divided, and that's impacting people's daily lives. The Republican vs. Democrat debate is a contentious one, to the point where I would argue that it can impede basic civility. However, at the local level, we should not have this intense hatred for one another. When considering municipal elections, everyone is a part of one community — people are neighbors. To this end, a set of different or no political parties could help diffuse tension on a more local level.

To start off with a disclaimer: this concept is an idea, and never likely to be instituted in practice, at least not on a large scale. The dominance of the Republican and Democratic parties makes it difficult to completely disconnect them from a more localized level. While there may be exceptions, this idea would be extremely difficult to implement across the country. That said, it has its merits and is worth considering.

Republicans and Democrats do not like each other. This is a simple fact. In 2019, the Pew Research Center found that "55% of Republicans and 47% of Democrats view members of the other party as more immoral than other Americans." The political divide in the United States has become a major issue, to the point that people of opposite parties view one another as bad people, and that's not okay. Even I admittedly see people differently based on which end of the political spectrum they fall on, and these preconceptions about other people are a terrible thing that is ingrained in the polarized culture of the United States. This all happens despite the fact that we're all human beings who, for the most part, have good intentions for the direction we want our government and country to go.

At the local level, there should not be this amount of polarization. Not only is it not good for people's interactions with one another, it just does not make sense. The issues argued at the national level are exceedingly different than those at the local level. People think of Republicans as in favor of the right to bear arms, pro-life and in favor of increased privatization. On the other hand, people think of democrats as pro-choice, in favor of increased government healthcare and support of LGBTQ+ rights. These are largely national and statewide issues, but not all of them are relevant at the municipal level. The decisions made there are a lot more local, such as those concerning the school system. Bringing our preconceptions and disagreements about national and statewide topics to an arena where most of the issues we would think of are not relevant is counterproductive.

Instead, we should have a system where, at the municipal level, there are different parties or no parties at all. If there are parties, they should have stances more tailored to the specific issues impacting a town. This system would have two major benefits. To start, it would shed the toxic debate between the larger parties, at least when it comes to more local debate. People won't see their neighbor listed as a Democrat or Republican on the ballot and have as harsh feelings towards them, assuming the new system does not become just as polarized. Also, it makes the debate that is had at the local level more productive. Overall, this system would be a way for us to take our negative feelings about politics aside and focus on making local politics more civil and relevant, helping to improve communities at large.

A SET OF
DIFFERENT
OR NO
POLITICAL
PARTIES
COULD HELP
DIFFUSE
TENSION
ON A MORE
LOCAL LEVEL

Photo of the Day | Makin' my way downtown



A purple sky sets in Downtown Storrs Conn. on April 7, 2024. The evening was quiet on this particular Sunday as the students of the University of Connecticut geared up to enjoy yet another national championship basketball game for the second year in a row.

PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PRAISE FOR RTX 'DIVERSITY' IS CYNICAL AND DECEITFUL

EDITORIAL, cont. from p. 07

The Daily Campus Editorial Board has written before about the gross moral and ethical failure that is the war industry at UConn. President Maric's cynical and lazy appeal to the company's commitment to diversity whitewashes how partnerships with arms manufacturers go against the values and integrity of UConn by highlighting a small and shallow example of corporate "good" through DEI practices.

The problem is that RTX and all military contractors cannot reasonably be said to be promoting "diversity" or "equity," when in fact, they are one of the largest contributors

to global instability, violence, and human rights abuses. To put it simply, giving out scholarships to underrepresented students does not make up for

THE PROBLEM IS THAT RTX AND ALL MILITARY CONTRACTORS CANNOT REASONABLY BE SAID TO BE PROMOTING "DIVERSITY" OR "EQUITY," WHEN IN FACT, THEY ARE ONE OF THE LARGEST CONTRIBUTORS TO GLOBAL INSTABILITY, VIOLENCE, AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

wiping out the lives of people across the globe through the sale and use of their weapons.

Mathematically, they are directly responsible for decreasing diversity by literally decreasing the amount of people on this Earth. It is a stain on the meaning and value of diversity itself that the word be used to describe war profiteers. President Maric provides an embarrassing justification for this decision to further entrench this university with these companies, and her statement must be addressed.

UConn disappointingly seems to either entirely misunderstand one of the key values they claim, or are simply unable to defend their decisions from a moral standpoint and must resort to cheap tactics to justify their actions.

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/>



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

BASEBALL: COMEBACK TO WIN SERIES AGAINST XAVIER

by Nicholas Spinali

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After a rough performance to begin the weekend on Friday, the University of Connecticut baseball team returned for two strong wins in their first bit of conference play this season. They managed a series win, dropping the first game before winning out in a three-game set against the Xavier Musketeers at Elliot Ballpark in Storrs, Connecticut.

A tough first three innings were enough to sink the Huskies on Friday. The Musketeers' offense erupted for five runs in the top of the first inning before putting another four up in the top of the third, putting Connecticut in a nine-to-nothing deficit early. Xavier rifled off three straight hits to start the game with Matt McCormick's single driving in a run. A sacrifice fly made the score 2-0, and later, with two runners on, Aedan Anderson tripled to right center to scamper two more runs home. He would score on a groundout to give the Musketeers a 5-0 lead.

With two outs in the top of the third, Jared Cushing singled home another run before Stack lifted a home run to right field to score three more runs and chase Van Emon from the contest, giving Xavier a comfortable 9-0 lead. Ian Cooke entered in relief and was outstanding in silencing the Xavier bats from thereon out. He finished the game with 5.1 innings of no run ball, striking out nine batters.

Musketeers starter Luke Hoskins was tremendous on the bump as he managed eight innings, allowing just

one run to the Hook C. He was credited with the win alongside his five strikeouts and just five hits allowed.

UConn finally got on the board late after Maddix Dalena hit a solo homer off of Hoskins in the bottom of the eighth. He sparked a mini-rally as in the bottom of the ninth against the Xavier bullpen, Matt Malcolm hit a pinch-hit RBI double before Tyler Minick hit an opposite-field home run over the left-center field wall for two more runs. Dalena cranked another solo home run to make the score 9-5, but that's where the rally ended, and the Huskies officially dropped game one of the set. Van Emon received the loss after failing to get out of the third inning.

Game one's late-game rally gave Connecticut momentum heading into Saturday's game, too. In the bottom of the first, Luke Broadhurst singled in a run before a Mark Garbowski double chased two more runs in, giving UConn their first lead of the series at 3-0. Dalena hit his third solo home run of the weekend at the bottom of the fourth and in the bottom of the fifth. Korey Morton sacrifice fly and Broadhurst RBI double gave the Hook C a commanding 6-0 lead. They made it 7-0 after a Bryan Padilla run, scoring a single to center in the bottom of the sixth. Xavier managed two runs in the top of the eighth when Connor Misch drove a two-run home over the left field wall, but Malcolm would score on a wild pitch in the bottom of the frame for good measure to

the Musketeer's offense after they performed well in the series opener. He navigated 7.1 innings, allowing just the home run to Misch en route to the win.

Xavier starter Logan Schmidt was in line for the loss after yielding 10 hits and six runs to Connecticut in the contest. The UConn offense finished the day with 13 hits in total.

A morning game on Sunday closed out the series. It truly was a morning game as the bats took a while to wake up on both sides in what amounted to a pitcher's duel. Hook C starter Stephen Quigley was outstanding, scattering seven hits over seven innings while also striking out seven batters. The Musketeers employed an array of pitchers, including Jake Hooker, Jonathan Kelly, Alex Vera and Nick Boyle. In the end, Boyle received the loss after allowing a Paul Tammaro single to score Caleb Shpur in the bottom of the eighth frame. UConn's Braden Quinn was credited with the win, while Brady Afthim worked his third save of the season in a tight 1-0 contest.

The final two games showed a strong performance from the Huskies after a slow performance at the start of game one. They are now 2-1 to start conference play, placing them in third place in the Big East in the early going. Their overall record has improved to 12-16, while Xavier's record drops to 15-16.

The Hook C will return for two midweek matchups at Elliot this week. They'll begin by hosting Bryant on Tuesday before welcoming Maine on Wednesday. Both games are set for 3:05 p.m.



UConn Baseball wins their matchup against Xavier at Elliot Ballpark in Storrs, CT, on April 6, 2024. The Huskies took an early three-to-nothing lead in the first inning and led the entire game, winning with a final score of 8-2.

PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Softball: UConn avoids sweep, lose two out of three to St. John's

by Noah Reed

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This past weekend, the Connecticut Huskies took a trip down to Queens, New York to face the St. John's Red Storm in a three-game series. Coming into Friday, St. John's had lost each of their last seven meetings with the Huskies, including a first-round Big East Tournament game last year.

The Red Storm entered the series on a four-game winning

streak, having swept DePaul the weekend prior. St. John's pitching held the Blue Demons scoreless across 19 innings while their offense scored 15 to improve their conference record to 8-4 on the year. With their pitching the best it's been all year, St. John's looked to ride this momentum into three big conference games.

UConn came in continuing their roller coaster of a season. Since their big 13-game winning streak, UConn has struggled in the following games. Coming into

the weekend, the Huskies were 2-5 in their last seven games and had just lost 2-0 on the road to Boston College. UConn's pitching has been impressive despite the lack of results, with a team ERA of 2.71 in their last seven games.

Three of their five losses, however, came in one-run games, highlighting the issue with run production.

With St. John's great showing of pitching recently and UConn struggling in close games, the Red Storm looked to take advan-

tage and take some away from the Huskies. Here's how this weekend's games went:

UConn 1 St. John's 4

After silencing DePaul's bats last weekend, St. John's picked up right where they left off. UConn was held scoreless through the first five innings by pitcher Ana Serafinko. Backed by a first-inning three-run blast from catcher Celia Macari, Serafinko dominated the Huskies bats. She ended up throwing a complete game while striking out 10, with a sixth-inning Grace Jenkins solo shot the only blemish of the day. St. John's was quick to respond with a solo home run of their own off the bat of London Jarrad to take a 4-1 and never looked back. Payton Kinney picked up the loss for Connecticut, her fourth of the year, after going six innings and allowing four earned runs. UConn was able to piece together five hits off Serafinko but not much else, with Lexi Hastings being the only Husky with a multi-hit afternoon.

UConn 1 St. John's 5

Game two was much of the same for Connecticut, as the Red Storm jumped out early and never looked back. Serafinko once again dominated the Huskies, but this time, it was her bat that did the damage. St. John's opened up the scoring in the bottom of the first off a Serafinko double to right, bringing in London Jarrad and Jess Bianco to give them a 2-0 lead four batters into the game. The sophomore came up to bat once again with a chance to build the lead with runners on first and second. An error by Savannah Ring allowed a run across the plate to bring the lead to 3-0. Serafinko and Jarrad were brought in a few batters later off a Melanie Santos single to the right and just like that, the Huskies were down five at the end of the second inning. The Red Storm pitching was yet again lights out, with Loreley Francia picking up her ninth win of the year, going five with one earned run, which came off a Jana Sanden double in the sixth to drive in Rayah Snyder.

UConn 8 St. John's 3

Just like the previous two games, St. John's scored first. Cassidy Stouffer doubled off Hallie Siems in the bottom of the first, bringing in Jarrad to give St. John's yet another first-inning lead. Jarrad came up in the bottom half of the second inning, this time driving the runs in herself with a sharp single to center that brought around Amy Mallah and Elanna Lysiak. UConn found themselves in a 3-0 hole heading into the third, but unlike the first two games of the set, the Husky bats woke up. Rosie Garcia got the Huskies on the board with a two-run triple in the third, scoring the Jenkins sisters. Connecticut would tie the game an inning later off a Lexi Hastings infield single that, with the help from an error from Red Storm shortstop London Jarrad, drove in Kaitlyn Kibling. It took until the sixth inning of Sunday's game, but UConn finally found their first lead of the series. Jana Sanden had a bases loaded single followed by a Hope Jenkins double to tally three more runs for Connecticut, pushing the Huskies out in front 6-3. UConn struck twice more in the seventh, off of singles from Lexi Hastings and Grace Jenkins, while Meghan O'Neil shut the door on St. John's for her fourth save of the year as the Huskies were able to avoid the sweep.

As for the upcoming schedule, UConn is set to come back home to take on the Creighton Blue Jays this coming weekend. Creighton, 8-4 in Big East play, is another team that they'll head into the weekend with a long winning streak against, winning each of their last eight meetings. Just like St. John's did this weekend, the Blue Jays come in hoping to end that with a couple of wins of their own. The series begins Friday at 7 p.m. and continues through Saturday (2 p.m.) and Sunday (12 p.m.) here in Storrs at Burrill Family Field. All three games are available to stream on FloSoftball.



UConn Softball faces off against Providence in a double header at Burrill Field in Storrs, CT on Saturday, March 30, 2024. The Huskies took a close win in game 1, but fell short to Providence in the second game of the series.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY MOLLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Photo of the Day | Baseball season is here



The UConn baseball team matches up against Xavier in the cold weather of Storrs Conn. on April 5, 2024. The Huskies were braving the wind but unfortunately could not bring home the win on this Friday afternoon going 5-9.

PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

TRACK & FIELD: HUSKIES HAVE A STRONG SHOWING AT USF INVITATIONAL

by Jackson Crainich

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The UConn track & field teams traveled to Tampa Bay, FL this past weekend to compete in the USF Invitational. The meet played host to numerous universities, including Boston University, Pittsburgh, Murray State, Rutgers and many more. It was a two-day event, as the men's meet took place on Friday, followed by the women's meet on Saturday.

The men's team had a successful weekend, as the Huskies totaled 13 athletes, placing in the top-five of their event, including two first-place finishes.

In the 800m, senior Muhamed Sharif finished first with a time of 1:49.99 seconds, beating South Florida's Karim Belmahdi by less than a second.

The Huskies also saw an impressive performance out

of freshman Kyle Johnson, who placed first in the triple jump with a mark of 15.52m.

Just behind Johnson were Kasey Savage and Joron Harrell, who placed third and fourth. Dar Janovic placed second in the high jump, leaping two meters and tying with Edward Waters Anthony Glover. Travis Roux and Alex Krause both had strong results in the hammer throw, placing second and third. Marc Morrison received third place in the long jump, with a strong result of 7.64m. Travis Snyder placed third in the pole vault, while teammate Garrett McHeard came in third in the shot put.

The women's team also saw some success in South Florida, finishing with six top-five and two first-place results.

Junior Natalia Surdej came in first in the hammer throw with an impressive mark of 60.12m.

A'liyah Thomas then followed that up by placing first in the long jump with a distance of 6.46m, just edging out Pittsburgh's Ilse Steigenga, who finished with a result of 6.45m.

Sofia Wittman tied for third in the pole vault with South Florida's Madeline Dutz. Jasmine Barrow placed second in the triple jump, finishing just .05m behind Jacksonville's Ma'kala Davis. Emily Alty's mark of 45.50m on the discus throw resulted in third place, as Madison Relyea finished in second in the 1500m.

The Huskies look to have another strong showing next weekend, as the team will split up to compete in two events.

While half of the team will remain in Storrs to host and compete in the UConn Northeast Challenge, the other half will travel to Durham, NC, to take part in the Duke Invitational.



UConn hosted the Dog Fight Invite at Storrs on Saturday. At the UConn Dog Fight, 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

Women's Lacrosse: Huskies use explosive third quarter in romp of Xavier

by Stratton Stave

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Big East play is in full swing, and UConn women's lacrosse has never looked better. The Huskies faced off against Xavier on Saturday and didn't have any problems. Connecticut cruised to a 19-7 victory, leaving nothing to chance.

The scoreboard reflected the game's total effort, with UConn slowly wearing the Musketeers down. They notched more than 2X Xavier's shots on goal and turned the ball over seven fewer times. Their attack was relentless, which is exactly how it needs to be in a road game.

The Huskies, who have largely taken turns letting players have great games, saw a phenomenal one from Susan Lafountain against the Musketeers. The senior enjoyed a career day, scoring five goals on 10 shots. She's increased her scoring each year as a Husky and had it going early and often. She had a hat trick by the half, and thanks to her efforts, she didn't need to do much in the final quarter.

Along with Lafountain, another UConn player who shined was Eliza Bowman. The Johns Hopkins transfer found the back of the net four times, her best mark in her first season as a Husky. Getting Bowman going is huge for UConn, as they need all the scoring they can get down the stretch. Perhaps this



The UConn baseball team matches up against Xavier in the cold weather of Storrs, Conn. on April 5, 2024. The Huskies were braving the wind but unfortunately could not bring home the win on this Friday afternoon going 5-9.

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

will be a coming out party for the grad student, whose comfort in Storrs seems to be increasing.

Abby Charron did a little bit of everything in the matchup, notching three goals and finding her teammates for three assists. Now, with 10 points over the last two games, Charron has been emerging as one of the top options on the team, especially as a facilitator. She leads Connecticut in assists and has been particularly effective recently.

Neither team had much success in finding goals early, with a scoreless first five minutes of action. But once it started, there was no stopping it. Lauren Barry struck first, but Xavier's Lola Mancuso answered back within the minute to tie things up. It took fewer than three minutes for UConn to knock in as many goals, helping them finish the opening quarter with a 5-2 lead.

Connecticut looked poised to completely break the game

open in the second frame, scoring five straight goals. They were up 10-2 before the quarter was even halfway through, but then came Xavier. The Musketeers did their best to will themselves back into the game, scoring the half's final three goals to cut their deficit to just five.

That was all they could muster, though, as the Huskies went ballistic in the third period. Six different UConn players scored during their 7-0 run that all but sealed the deal.

The fourth quarter was uninteresting with the contest decided, as neither side moved the needle.

It's also of note that top scorers Kate Shaffer and Rayea Davis combined for two goals. It's a welcome sign that UConn can do well without incredible performances from their stars. If they're all on, it means trouble for the opposition.

Now the Huskies look forward to a break from conference action with a pair of road games against SUNY Albany and UMass.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: HUSKIES FALL TO CLARK AND IOWA AMID CONTROVERSIAL CALL

by Stratton Stave

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When you sit by the chalkboard, trying to think up a perfect script for the way a marquee matchup is going to go, your mind naturally goes toward stars making big plays in key moments. Unforgettable shots from the best of the best as heart rates around the nation rise in unison. The thing that fans want the least, though, is the referees taking over the spotlight. In Friday's Final Four matchup between UConn women's basketball and Iowa, those in stripes made the key play down the stretch, creating an eyesore ending for all who chose to indulge.

As Husky point guard Nika Mühl hit a trey with 40 ticks left on the game clock, Connecticut's deficit fell to just one point. This was the shot-making that every viewer signed up for. Then came a barrage of Huskies at Hawkeye forward Hannah Stuelke, with UConn's Aaliyah Edwards disrupting and Mühl emerging with a steal. After a UConn timeout, it was all set to come down to one shot with nine seconds left.

Head coach Geno Auriemma ran some offense as the Huskies looked to get star player Paige Bueckers free. Edwards set a screen as time wended down, and Bueckers began to line up a shot that had the chance to immortalize her in Husky history. But before she could fire, the sound of a whistle reverberated throughout Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse. An illegal screen on Edwards.

Whether or not it was the correct call is tough to determine, but it was a big moment to make it in. Iowa's Caitlin Clark made the first free throw on an ensuing foul but missed the second. The rebound went straight into the hands of her teammate Sydney Affolter, and just like that, it was curtains for the Huskies. UConn's chance to shine on the biggest stage had vanished.

"There's probably an illegal screen call that you could make on every single possession," Auriemma said post-game. "I just know there were three or four of them called on us, and I don't think there were any called on them. I guess we just gotta get better on not setting illegal screens."

Edwards wasn't terribly appreciative of the call either.

"My point of view, it was pretty clean," she said.

Even with all the discussion about the officiating, Bueckers wanted to re-shift the focus to the actual game and those who competed.

"I'm just frustrated with the loss," Bueckers noted. "I mean, we can talk about officiating, but players play, players decide the game."

It's not like UConn didn't have their chances. In a game where the incoming storyline was the head-to-head between National Players of the Year Bueckers and Clark, neither played particularly well. Clark, averaging 32 points and nine assists, had a putrid first half that saw her manage six points on zero threes. Bueckers had her moments here and there but wasn't amazing with 17 points on as many shots.

These struggles weren't a product of off days, with the respective defenses making it their goal to frustrate Clark and Bueckers. Mühl spent her game face-guarding Clark, and it worked. The two-time Big East Defensive

UConn's dance comes to an end at the hands of Iowa in the Final Four in Cleveland. A hard fought performance against Iowa brought the Huskies within a two point game, closing out the game and the season with a final score of 69-71.

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

POTY made sure Clark never got comfortable, especially as she continued to force the issue. She finished with 21 points on 18 shots but looked far from the player that fans had gotten used to, with few of her signature deep shots finding the bottom of the net.

Mühl reflected postgame on just how difficult it is to defend Clark with all that she does well.

"I feel like just her confidence, and obviously she's a great player, one of the greatest to play this sport," Mühl said on what makes Clark so talented. "I feel like she makes everybody around herself better. So, yeah, just overall, I would say her confidence and her ability to, you know, involve other players."

In lieu of the stars being clamped, others stepped up. For Iowa, it was Stuelke, who was a steady hand throughout game. She notched 23 points and on just 12 shots, a testament to her efficiency under the bright lights.

The Huskies enjoyed a fantastic night from KK Arnold, who played one of the best games of her young career. After scoring four points in the Elite Eight against USC, the freshman was essential to Connecticut's effort. She connected on timely shots and passed well to the tune of 14 points and five assists. Arnold didn't force anything and played within herself, which should be a nice confidence booster into her sophomore season.

Along with Edwards' role in the pivotal play in the contest, she didn't play her best game either. The All-America selection was solid, but uninspiring with 17 points on 15 shots. The Huskies have gotten used to efficiency and scoring from Edwards, but Iowa did a good job neutralizing her, sans a nice stretch towards the end of the third frame.

The Huskies played well defensively from the jump, but it felt like they missed countless opportunities to capitalize on the best scorer in the sport's history playing poorly. They walked out of the first quarter with a five-point lead that felt like it could have been 15, with much left on the table.

Connecticut finally seemed to crack the Hawkeyes' defense early in the second, with a Bueckers triple improving their lead to 12. Iowa used the quarter's final five minutes to settle down and trim it to just five.

The rest of the contest was spent with the teams going back and forth as Iowa steadily gnawed at the Huskies' advantage. The teams traded buckets, but the Hawkeyes always seemed to sneak in one extra. What was a UConn lead slowly became a tie game, and then Iowa found themselves ahead.

Six straight points from Iowa ballooned their lead to nine, but a free timeout for a review took the wind out of Iowa's sails. The Huskies used this as an opportunity to get all the way back into things, with a chance to win before the aforementioned controversy.

This loss marks the end of the team's season, as well as the conclusion of Mühl and Edwards' careers. Connecticut spent much of the year shorthanded and, in the grand scheme of things, overperformed nicely.

A healthy team awaits in November as they will look to finally get all their talent off the injury list and onto the court.



Daily

Sports

MEN'S BASKETBALL: UCONN DANCES BACK TO SECOND STRAIGHT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WITH 86-72 WIN OVER CRIMSON TIDE

by Connor Sargeant

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The UConn men's basketball team has officially danced their way into a second straight National Championship appearance. Despite a "steel cage match," as head coach Dan Hurley would call it, Connecticut came out on top, winning their Final Four matchup against the Alabama Crimson Tide in convincing 86-72 fashion.

Similar to the Huskies Elite Eight matchup against Illinois, the first half of Saturday night was razor close; it saw seven lead changes and nearly three minutes where these programs were tied. Early on, it was evident that the Connecticut game plan was to establish themselves down low on both sides of the floor. At one point, Donovan Clingan was on pace to finish with 40 blocks, stuffing both Alabama big men Grant Nelson and Nick Pringle. Not only was he filling up the box sheet defensively, but the Bristol native also wreaked havoc offensively, finishing with eight points on 3-5 shooting. Although that was not his most impressive feat, Clingan's disruptive offensive presence also saw Nelson pick up two fouls early on, causing him to miss a chunk of time.

Despite Clingan's hot start, UConn struggled to contain the Crimson Tide offense. Alabama shot the lights out early, finishing an absurd 8-11 from downtown. Second-team All-America guard Mark Sears did not get off to the hottest start, failing to score for the first seven minutes. However, once he did, he was lethal. Sears finished with 11 first-half points, on a perfect 5-5 from the field.

Conversely, the Huskies couldn't get going from three, a problem they've struggled with throughout the tournament. The program finished 5-15 from three, yet they led by four points at the end of the half, largely due to Stephon Castle's offensive performance.

The freshman guard got it done everywhere. He scored 13 points in the first half thanks to numerous offensive slams, tough layups and a pair of threes. This was a positive sign for Connecticut, as Castle is less known as a shooter than he is as a slasher, although he torched the Alabama defense when left wide open.

Despite the good feelings early on for Connecticut, there was concern for lead guard Tristen Newton.

The reigning Bob Cousey Award winner struggled to get it going scoring wise compared to what he is accustomed to, finishing with six points on 2-6 shooting. Despite his scoring struggles, Newton found other ways to make himself valuable, playing solid defense and walking away with four first half assists. Forward Alex Karabian put it bluntly about how impactful a player Newton is, even if he isn't shooting like he is used to.

"He's always looking to create for others, and that is what makes him the best point guard in the country," said the Huskies redshirt sophomore.

Despite Alabama's scorching performance from downtown, head coach Dan Hurley expressed confidence that the tide was turning, no pun intended.

The UConn men's basketball team plays against Alabama in Phoenix, Arizona on April 6, 2024. The game ended with a score of 86-72, resulting in a win for the Huskies.

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

"Our identity is to be pretty relentless. We might not break you for 18 minutes, 25 minutes, but at some point, if what we're doing at both ends and on the backboard is at a high level, it just becomes hard for the other team to sustain it."

The second half for the Huskies was similar to the first. Castle kept finding ways to score, and the Crimson Tide were still hucking up threes, with one slight caveat: the threes were not falling.

Alabama finished the half 3-12 from beyond the arc, and the effects were palpable. The program needed to find other ways to score, and the offense leaned on Nelson, who kept up his solid first half with 12 second-half points and eight rebounds in 20 minutes of work. Sears also proved to be a thorn in Connecticut's side, putting up 13 points of his own. Outside of that, Alabama's scorers only combined for seven points.

Clingan kept the momentum from the first 20 minutes, rolling into the second half. The 7-foot-2 big man put up 10 points in 15 minutes of work. His performance was all the more encouraging because whenever the momentum had shifted back to the Crimson Tide, Clingan was there fighting and scraping in the paint for a tough bucket.

Additionally, Karabian stepped up his offensive performance in a big way, accumulating 10 points and four rebounds in nearly 20 minutes of work. His performance was massive, considering he only took one shot in the first half. The Husky starting forward noted that he was more so concerned with how he played on the other end of the floor, and his defense was a major reason why the final score was what it was.

What makes a championship squad historic is its ability to explode and go on quick, unseen runs, even in the toughest of environments. Connecticut's ability to "pull away" was the deciding factor Saturday night. At the 12-minute mark, the program flared in a big way, going on a quick 8-0 run and never looking back from there.

That run put Alabama on the ropes, and it seemed that no matter who had the ball for UConn, they were finding the bottom of the net. Whether it was Newton cashing in a big three or Clingan slamming in second-chance points, the Huskies always had a player making game-winning plays.

While the 14-point scoreline would say otherwise, Saturday's Final Four victory was no easy task. This was the closest game the program has had in a while, and throughout it, Connecticut faced significant adversity. They were without their crowd for the first time all tournament long and yet managed to make it through.

UConn is in tremendous shape and has made March Madness look easy throughout their run. The team's latest win over the Crimson Tide is massive and sets them up for yet another National Championship appearance against the Purdue Boilermakers. The UConn Huskies are one step away from bringing the basketball capital of the world, Storrs, Connecticut, its sixth National Championship in program history.