



“We’re Still Here”: UConnDivest holds first Gaza solidarity conference of the academic year

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At noon on Monday Aug. 26, a collective of current and former students gathered beside the University of Connecticut’s historic Spirit Rock, newly relocated to the South Campus Quad, with the purpose of, “supporting divestment, opposing repression, and calling for the charges against the UConn 26 to be dropped,” according to UConnDivest’s official press release.

Since the dissolution of the Gaza solidarity encampment and the arrest of 26 UConn alumni and students last April, the resolve of protestors to secure university divestment from military industries has been fortified.

“The arrests emboldened us to keep going,” said undergraduate student Zaki Aryan. “Just because the summer is over doesn’t mean the genocide is over in Gaza. The police activity made us a lot more motivated to do something.”

Among the crowd of impassioned students were representatives from the UConn administration including the Dean of Students Dr. Fany DeJesus Hannon, the Associate Dean of Students Maureen Armstrong and the Interim Assistant Vice President for Student Life Cyndi Costanzo. Prior to the event’s commencement, university officials briefed student protestors that rules regarding amplified sound had been recently updated, with noncompliance to this policy having been cited previously against Gaza solidarity demonstrations on campus.

The use of amplified sound is now limited to 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. during the week and 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. during the weekend, a change that received criticism for potentially limiting the right to free speech and assembly particularly for those with hearing disabilities and among large crowds.

Protestors spoke both through direct speeches and with written calls to action, most notably with the words, “We Are Still Here,” and “Free the UConn 26” spray painted on the Spirit Rock at the start of the demonstration.

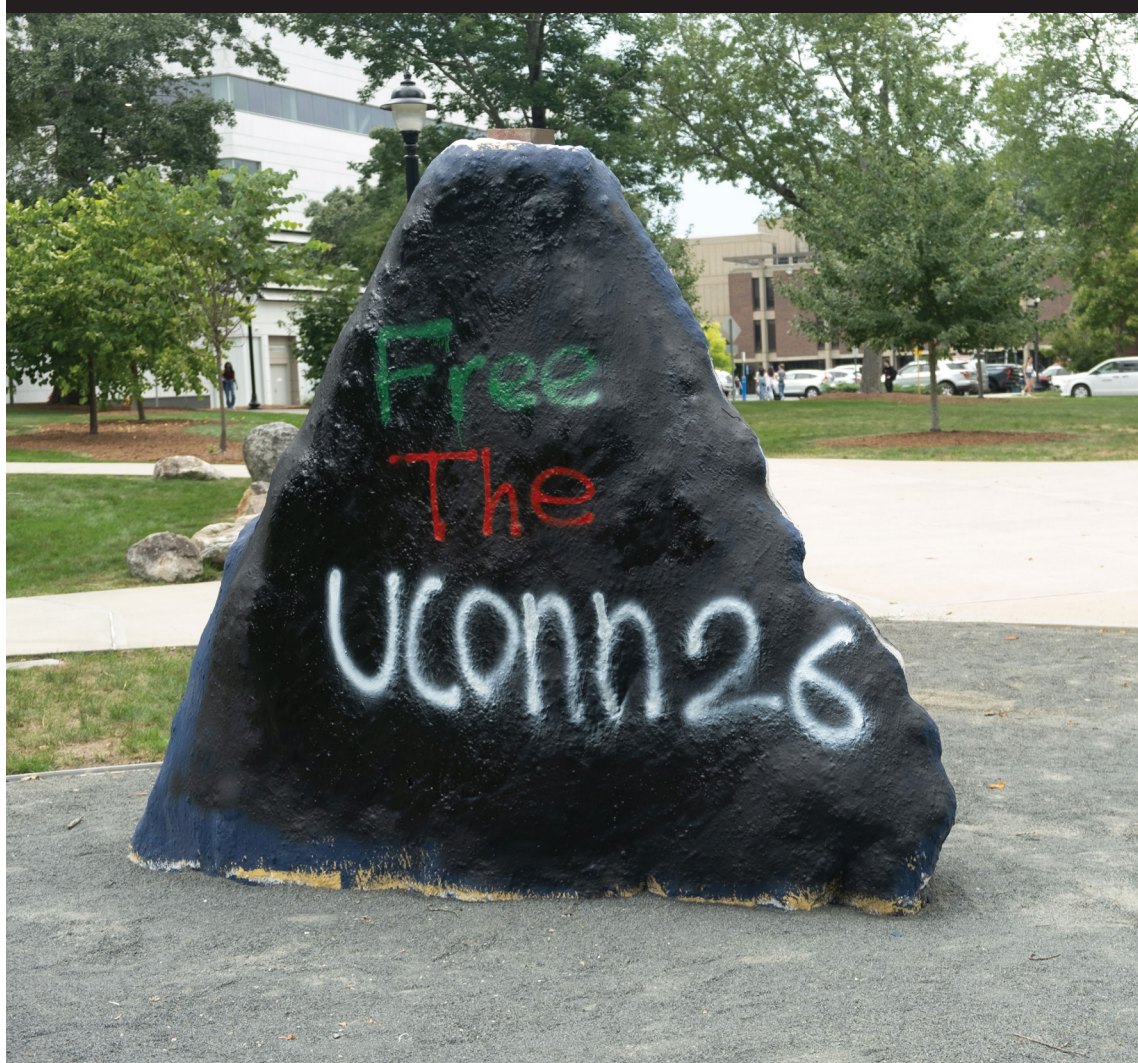
With one sign reading, “We are skipping our lessons to teach you one,” the decision to host a conference on the first day of the academic calendar was calculated.

“We offer special solidarity to our fellow students and scholars in Gaza who are seeking to preserve their communi-



Students paint rock on campus as an show of solidarity with the people of Gaza. The event took place at noon by the University of Connecticut’s Spirit Rock.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MERCER FERGUSON, GRABS PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Students paint the Spirit Rock as an urge for President Radenka Maric to dismiss charges on the UConn 26. These 26 students were detained earlier this year during protests.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MERCER FERGUSON, GRABS PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

ty memory in the face of genocide, scholasticide, and mass atrocity,” said undergraduate student Ashten Vassar-Cain of Librarians and Archivists for Palestine. The United Nations reports that over 80 percent of schools in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed.

In addition to calls for divestment, protestors upheld that the 26 community members arrested last April were acting within their First Amendment rights to free speech and assembly.

All individuals detained during the encampment were offered Accelerated Rehabilitation by the State Attorney’s office, a pretrial diversion program granting an eventual erasure of criminal records in exchange for the admission of guilt. Accelerated Rehabilitation may only be completed one time, with any subsequent offenses receiving more severe punishment.

In her speech before the crowd, Assistant Professor Melanie Newport of UConn’s Department of History posed the question, “Do our students need to be rehabilitated?” The audience’s response was an overwhelming, “No.” Of the 26 arrested, only one opted to accept the offer of Accelerated Rehabilitation, confirmed Newport.

Despite the May 20 resolution of the University Senate urging President Radenka Maric to dismiss the charges against the aforementioned UConn 26, the University maintains that the charges will stand.

“UConn supports the state’s attorney’s recommendation to let the students apply for the court’s first-time offender program if they choose to exercise that option,” said University Spokesperson Stephanie Reitz. “It allows for dismissal of the charges if they complete the court’s requirements. Given that the cases are under the court’s purview, UConn defers to the judicial system regarding the proceedings for those who elect not to seek that option.”

Opponents of UConn’s decision to continue prosecution have cited the dismissal of similar charges at institutions around the nation, including at UT Austin and Columbia University.

Coinciding with Monday’s conference was a planned sit-in at Radenka Maric’s office in Gullely Hall, however protestors were refused entry to the building upon arrival. University officials have instead promised to hold a meeting with those individuals on Tuesday, Aug. 27 to discuss their concerns in greater detail.

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NEWSLETTER

News

State News: Hazardous weather continues, pedestrian bridge honors lost pets

by Aiza Shaikh | NEWS EDITOR | SHE/HER/HERS | aiza.shaikh@uconn.edu

HAZARDOUS WEATHER CONDITIONS IN CONNECTICUT

The National Weather Service issued a severe thunderstorm watch for the entire state of Connecticut Monday morning, effective from 1 p.m. through 7 p.m.. Gusty winds and hail accompanied the severe thunderstorms in several towns, according to NBC Connecticut. Multiple roads were also closed down due to obstruction from fallen trees and downed wires. Connecticut has seen historic flooding the past few weeks, with two killed and hundreds of residents evacuated after a series of flash floods. State Governor Ned Lamont issued a state of emergency last week, which was downgraded to a flood warning in areas of western Connecticut including Waterbury, Danbury and Fairfield.

NEW STATE GRANT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES AFFECTED BY FLOODING

The state of Connecticut announced the launch of a \$5 million grant program that would fund small businesses that were impacted by the historic flooding in Western Connecticut. Individual grants of up to \$25,000 will be made available to small businesses and nonprofit organizations that were damaged due to flooding in the following counties: Fairfield, Litchfield and New Haven. The grants are meant to cover essential recovery expenses such as cleaning efforts and replacing equipment and lost inventory.

idea to construct an “Over the Rainbow” pedestrian bridge. The bridge serves as a memorial for local pet owners looking to honor the memory of their late pets. With the help of scouts and their leaders, and a total of more than 600 hours of construction, the bridge came together, a project that first began in June. The bridge also has a Facebook group for others to join and post pictures of their pets.

ECSU WELCOMES ITS LARGEST CLASS OF FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

The University of Connecticut was not the only university in the area to have welcomed a record number of first-year students in the Class of 2028. Eastern Connecticut State University moved in 700 students on campus this past weekend, with a total of 812 first-year students. This class is ECSU’s largest since the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The first-year students join the 1,400 other continuing students, a total campus population of more than 2,200.

NEW ‘RAINBOW BRIDGE’ MEMORIAL HONORS PETS

After the loss of her dog, a Torrington resident came up with the

Eastern Connecticut State University welcomes a record number of first-year students. The university welcomed its students back to campus this past weekend.
PHOTO COUTESY OF @EASTERNCTSTATEUNIV



The Daily Campus

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Tuesday, August 27, 2024

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Study Break

DAILY CAMPUS CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Stopped slouching in a chair
- 6 Little troublemaker
- 9 Young horses
- 14 Steak named for its shape
- 15 Lousy grade
- 16 Wipe from memory, as an unpleasant image
- 17 Like the motors in most small appliances
- 20 Dinero unit
- 21 "Xanadu" band, familiarly
- 22 Bobbing, say
- 23 Knock
- 25 Ala. neighbor
- 26 Playing surface that is 44 feet by 20 feet
- 35 "SNL" alum Gasteyer
- 36 Mickey Mouse's dog
- 37 Less wild
- 38 Rain delay sight
- 40 Drum kit component
- 42 "Bye-bye!"
- 43 "Count me out"
- 45 Cary of "North by Northwest"
- 47 Hosp. scan
- 48 Misleading image
- 51 Mined resource
- 52 ESPN sister station
- 53 Manatee relative
- 57 Snapchat snap
- 59 Harvest
- 63 Euphemism for rude expressions, and what can be found at the starts of 17-, 26-, and 48-Across
- 66 "It's the truth!"
- 67 Eisenhower's nickname
- 68 Doolittle of "My Fair Lady"
- 69 Double curves
- 70 Spearheaded
- 71 Freezing rain

DOWN

- 1 "One ___ at a Time" (Jordin Sparks song)
- 2 Up to it
- 3 "Head, shoulders, knees, and ___"

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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17						18				19				
20						21				22				
			23	24				25						
26	27	28				29	30				31	32	33	34
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53	54	55	56				57	58			59	60	61	62
63						64				65				
66						67				68				
69						70				71				

By Grant Buroughs

8/27/24

- 4 Open, as a wine bottle
- 5 Favorite
- 6 Star with lots of fans
- 7 Note to the staff
- 8 Green vegetable in aloo matar
- 9 Interesting bit of trivia
- 10 Scott Turow book set at Harvard
- 11 Regarding
- 12 "Star Wars" rebel leader
- 13 Breakaway group
- 18 Drives off
- 19 Temerity
- 24 Mont Blanc, e.g.
- 25 Like some fabric patterns
- 26 Grilling site
- 27 Like some mobile purchases
- 28 Gemstone weight
- 29 Make a mess of
- 30 Video game pioneer
- 31 Feedbag bit
- 32 Taste quality of soy sauce and miso
- 33 Nostalgia-inducing
- 34 Lionel product

Monday's Puzzle Solved

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

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8/27/24

- 39 Tire fig.
- 41 Interweave
- 44 Wall-mounted light fixtures
- 46 Unwieldy boat
- 49 Cry of frustration
- 50 Ancient document
- 53 Great __: big dog
- 54 Sci-fi sightings
- 55 Some hair products
- 56 Toddler's injury
- 57 Fish with a pointed snout
- 58 Frosted, as a cake
- 60 New York canal
- 61 Wood-shaping tool
- 62 College Board exam for sophs
- 64 Vinaigrette base
- 65 "Fantastic Mr. Fox" director Anderson

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THE DAILY CAMPUS

SUDOKU

Sudoku By The Mepham Group

Level **1** 2 3 4

	3			1				
				5	4		1	8
			2				4	
			6	2		3		
6		2				4	9	1
		1		4	5			
	1				8			
2	9		4	7				
				6			3	

Solution to Monday's puzzle

8/27/24

9	3	1	8	7	4	6	2	5
2	7	4	6	5	9	3	8	1
5	6	8	1	3	2	4	7	9
8	5	9	4	2	3	1	6	7
6	1	3	7	9	8	2	5	4
4	2	7	5	1	6	8	9	3
1	9	6	3	8	5	7	4	2
7	4	2	9	6	1	5	3	8
3	8	5	2	4	7	9	1	6

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit sudoku.org.uk.



FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The Backlog:

SUMMER'S GREATEST HIT, 'ELDEN RING SHADOW OF THE ERDTREE'

by **Desirae Sin**
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Welcome back to “The Backlog,” a weekly column where I review video games based on a certain genre each month. As the first edition of the semester — and the only one for the month of August — I thought it would be fitting to cover what I consider this summer’s biggest game. Even though it’s not a standalone title, “Elden Ring Shadow of the Erdtree” is undoubtedly the biggest video game expansion to come out this year.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the world was forced to stay indoors and switch to being at home. Because of this, video games flourished, becoming popular among those who weren’t previously die-hard gamers. Originally released in Feb. 2022, “Elden Ring” took the world by storm as FromSoftware’s latest hit. Anybody familiar with the “Dark Souls” franchise might immediately recognize the studio, as they’ve essentially created the genre of “Dark Souls”-esque games. These types of games involve difficult bosses, the freedom to create different character builds and a revival system that allows you to continuously try again.

My family and I weren’t immune to the influence of “Elden Ring,” but I’d like to note that I am immensely bad at “Elden Ring.” I took a very long time to defeat the boss, Margit because I adventured throughout Caelid way more than I should have, especially since I was under the recommended level. To the dismay of my brother, I refused to use any weapons besides two katanas because I thought it looked cool. Even though I am not an especially skilled player, “Elden Ring” has still been a fun experience for me, and I appreciate how long it’s taken me to progress through it.

“Shadow of the Erdtree” released this year in June and is “Elden Ring”’s only DLC so far. Even though it’s an expansion, I’d argue that it’s almost another game entirely. The Lands Between comprise the main area of “Elden Ring,” and include eight distinct regions. The location of the DLC, the Land of Shadow, is about the size of one or two of these regions combined. Yet the amount of content stuffed into the map is immense, leaving players with a lot to find and fight.

What makes “Shadow of the Erdtree” memorable is the amazing boss fights. “Elden Ring” contains unique and powerful enemies, each one having their own gimmick and lore. FromSoftware took what they learned from “Elden Ring” and dialed it up to 11 in “Shadow of the Erdtree.” As the game is very lore heavy, it’s difficult to avoid spoilers. But there is one boss I believe is worth mentioning and comparing. In the main game there is a secret boss, Dragonlord Placidusax. In summation, you go backwards in time to fight one of the most powerful dragons to exist. As a two-headed dragon with powerful attacks, players adored this secret boss fight.

To harken back to this fan-favorite, the DLC includes another optional boss, Bayle the Dread. In a way, this drake is the equivalent of Placidusax, as they injured each other in a previous, epic match. That doesn’t stop them from being difficult opponents, but what makes Bayle even more memorable is his biggest hater. Even those who haven’t played the game might know the quote: “Curse you Bayle!” An NPC that quickly became a favorite among fans

is Igon, a drake warrior you find crying out, screaming his vengeance towards Bayle. In some boss fights you can summon NPCs to aid you. Even the most summon-hating gamers gave Igon the chance to use his hail of harpoons on Bayle.

One of my favorite bosses of the DLC, albeit one of the easier ones, is the Divine Beast Dancing Lion. This creature is essentially the first big boss you come across, but I think it’s a great way to reintroduce players to “Elden Ring.” The design of the creature is both terrifying and graceful, resembling Chinese lion dancing, where performers wear a giant costume and act parts of the creature’s body. The fear I felt when the Dancing Lion gave me nearly no time to summon my mimic tear was jarring, but it quickly became my favorite boss fight with its use of lightning, wind and frostbite.

Even though the new bosses, weapons and ashes of war (special moves) are a big part of the DLC, I adore the environment most. The opening brings back the feeling of playing “Elden Ring” for the first time, coming into a land which has seen many deaths and wars, yet somehow retains a sense of beauty and adventure. This feeling is perfectly captured at the Gravesite Plain.

By just walking through you come across new enemies immediately. One of my favorites is the Furnace Golem, which you’re likely to notice off in the distance. Trying to take on one of these things is like fighting an oven with arms and legs. It carries a lot of weight and if you’re not careful, they’ll easily kill you.

The world of “Elden Ring Shadow of the Erdtree” is vast, and I could go into more

detail about all the different fights and weapons you can use. It’s mostly meant to be a single player experience, and it’s a fitting way to interpret the mystery of the Land of Shadow. I will not rate a game solely on my ability to complete it, as “Shadow of the Erdtree” is meant to be a difficult experience for those who’ve finished the main game 10 times over. The best way to experience it is to play it for yourself.

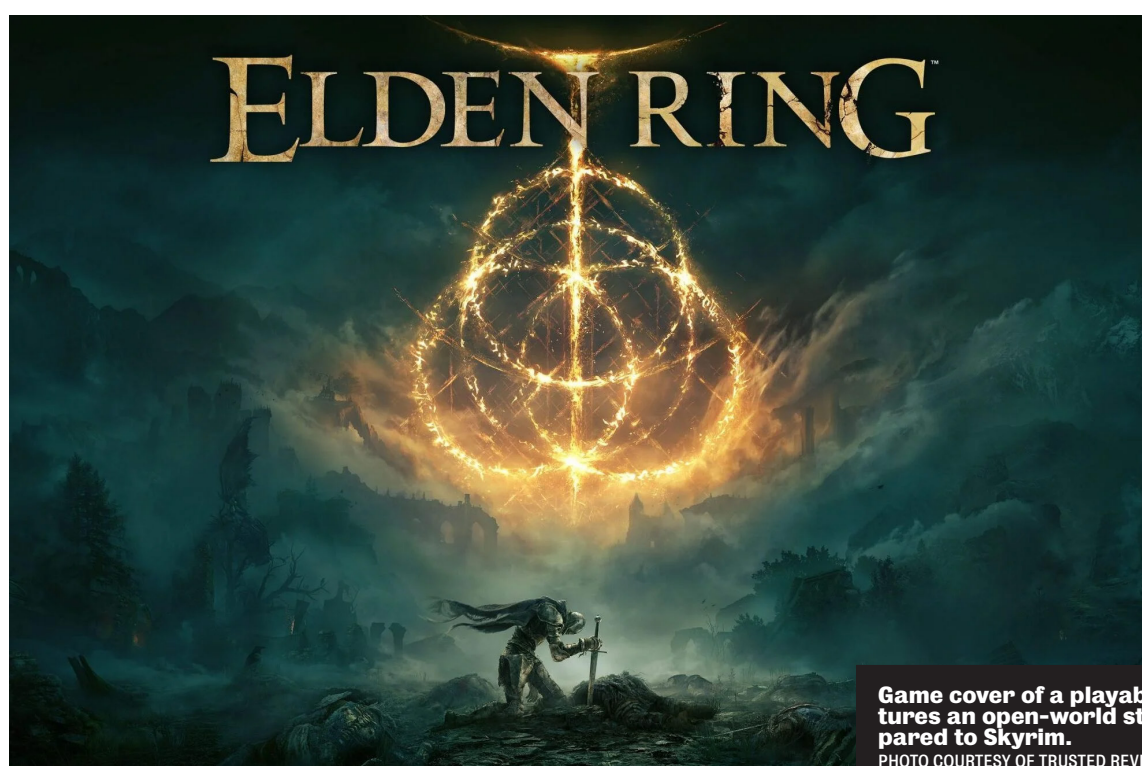


PHOTO COURTESY OF ELDEN RING WIKI

5/5 Scadutree Fragments

Screenshot presents a beloved character, Witch Rennia. In ‘Elden Ring Shadow of the Erdtree’, she gives the character a special ability.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR



Game cover of a playable character. It features an open-world style of play, often compared to Skyrim.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TRUSTED REVIEWS



Life

@dailycampuslife

‘J - The 1st Album:’

A HIT ALBUM DEBUT BY FELLOW NUTMEGGER JAEHYUN

by Thatcher Slocum
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My only introduction to Korean before Aug 26, 2024 was the beautiful script of Hangul (come on — that’s the most beautiful script any language has ever seen, one that is deserving of its own article), but I’ve been catching wind of something called K-pop lately — and what better introduction than Jaehyun’s debut album, “J - The 1st Album” (it may sound like heresy to some, but yes, this is my first time listening to K-pop).

Before getting into the album itself, it’s important to have some background on the artist. Jaehyun, born Feb. 14, 1997 (Valentine’s Day!?) is a member of the K-pop group NCT. In recent history, he’s been hitting hard with some sick singles, but had never curated his own album. That is, until now, when history was made with the release of “J - The 1st Album.” And — get this — he spent the ages of five to ten (possibly the first five years of his consciousness) living in Connecticut. He hasn’t come back since, but when asked in an interview with Young Hollywood in 2019 during NCT 127’s tour, which is a subunit of NCT, he said, “I hope to go there again.” UConnic anyone?

“Smoke” is a series of expertly curated beat drops over a nonchalant track. I was NOT ready for the beat drop at 2:21. It was divine.

It’s hard to describe his next song, “Roses.” It’s a slow, soulful track punctuated by bassy instrumentals and heavenly, drawn-out background vocals.

Following it up is “Flamin’ Hot Lemon,” which maintains a constant, low-key vibe that’s perfect for studying. Just cruising through the sound cosmos to help me cruise through some calculations.

“Dandelion” is upbeat with hard-hitting lyrics and a seamless blend of English and Korean throughout (so seamless I almost didn’t notice the language transitions). The smooth flowing rhythm of Korean really shines here.

His next track is perfect for the album’s middle. “Completely” is more tender; Jaehyun’s vocals stand out as he’s backed with a gentle yet impactful piano riff.

“Easy” is a beautiful track that returns to the vibe of “Dandelion” while turning down the optimism from overflowing to a more laid-back tone.

As a former trumpet player, I’m a huge fan of his penultimate song, “Can’t Get You.” Listeners are sure to enjoy the added brass instrumentals spicing up the album while still maintaining Jaehyun’s soulful style, reminiscent of R&B.

As a former trumpet player, I’m a huge fan of his penultimate song, “Can’t Get You.” Listeners are sure to enjoy the added brass instrumentals spicing up the album while still maintaining Jaehyun’s soulful style, reminiscent of R&B. To Jaehyun, my first and forever favorite K-pop idol.



Jaehyun at Dream Concert on June 4, 2016. The event in his career took place 9 years after his last step in Connecticut at the age of ten. IMAGES COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Jaehyun’s debut album strikes the listener as chill and low-key, with more upbeat bits contrasting with tender vocals and killer instrumentals on each song. A masterpiece that can be listened to on repeat (trust me, I listened to it many, many times while writing this review), it’s nirvana for K-pop fans and highly agreeable at worst for those who haven’t been bitten by the K-pop bug.

To Jaehyun, my first and forever favorite K-pop idol.

Rating





Opinion

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FEEL LESS, INVEST FOR LONGER

by Evelyn Pazan
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The recent up and down of the S&P 500, tensions over interest rates and a highly charged election year have many young, college-aged investors feeling confused and skeptical about their investment decisions. In these tumultuous times, students tend to focus on their emotions, attempting to time the market with unfounded assumptions about their favorite companies. This can lead unsuspecting students into speculative, frequent and impulsive trading. The reality is that these tactics are typically unsuccessful for young investors with developing brains, and they certainly are not effective for students working with limited funds and time.

UConn students and young investors should be focusing on long term investments with growth or value potential that they can confidently hold onto. This requires discipline, emotional control and a lot of research, but they provide a good basis for learning and a lower maintenance investment option.

Investors of all ages struggle with balancing influences of the head and heart. Some investors can become particularly attached to a company and hold onto it for far longer than they should. These investors often convince themselves that the company will recover or a miracle will happen. It usually will not. Other investors have the opposite problem: they are undereducated and too fearful to invest. This tends to be the issue that most students face.

Students new to investing can combat this by further educating themselves on the basic economic and financial concepts that guide the decision-making process. Whether choosing to invest in growth or value stocks, students need to

understand the effect that Federal Reserve decisions, the business cycle and management politics can have on a company. Once they are comfortable with these concepts, they will be more confident in their investing decisions, even during periods of short-term uncertainty. Students must be willing to keep their emotions at bay during these times and refrain from pulling out of positions that are facing temporary headwinds. If they pull out, they could miss huge opportunities when the company inevitably comes out on the other side.

An example of this is with the household name Apple. In the 1990's, Apple experienced a massive decline in sales and a failing management team. They were being crushed by Microsoft in the computer market, and it seemed like Apple was hopelessly fighting for salvation. An emotional investor would have looked at this situation and pulled out immediately. A more perceptive and stable investor would have seen a good company with poor execution. Apple had forgotten their purpose, only remembering when Steve Jobs returned as CEO. Apple is a good reminder that we can't expect to see between the lines of every investment opportunity. Young investors should realize that while the future of a company can be influenced by its history, it is not the end all be all. young investors need to realize that while the future of a company can be influenced by its history, it is not the end all be all.

Choosing to focus on long-term investments is also beneficial to the development of student investors and can help them find their style. Students who invest based on speculation may have some general knowledge, but they lack the research skills and

depth of knowledge that makes a smart investor. By diving deep into a few companies, student investors expand their knowledge about various industries and competitors that will ultimately make their research process more efficient in the future. As students learn about one company, they inadvertently learn about many other companies in that industry

through market trend research and competitor analysis. This is a wonderful way for new investors to become educated quickly.

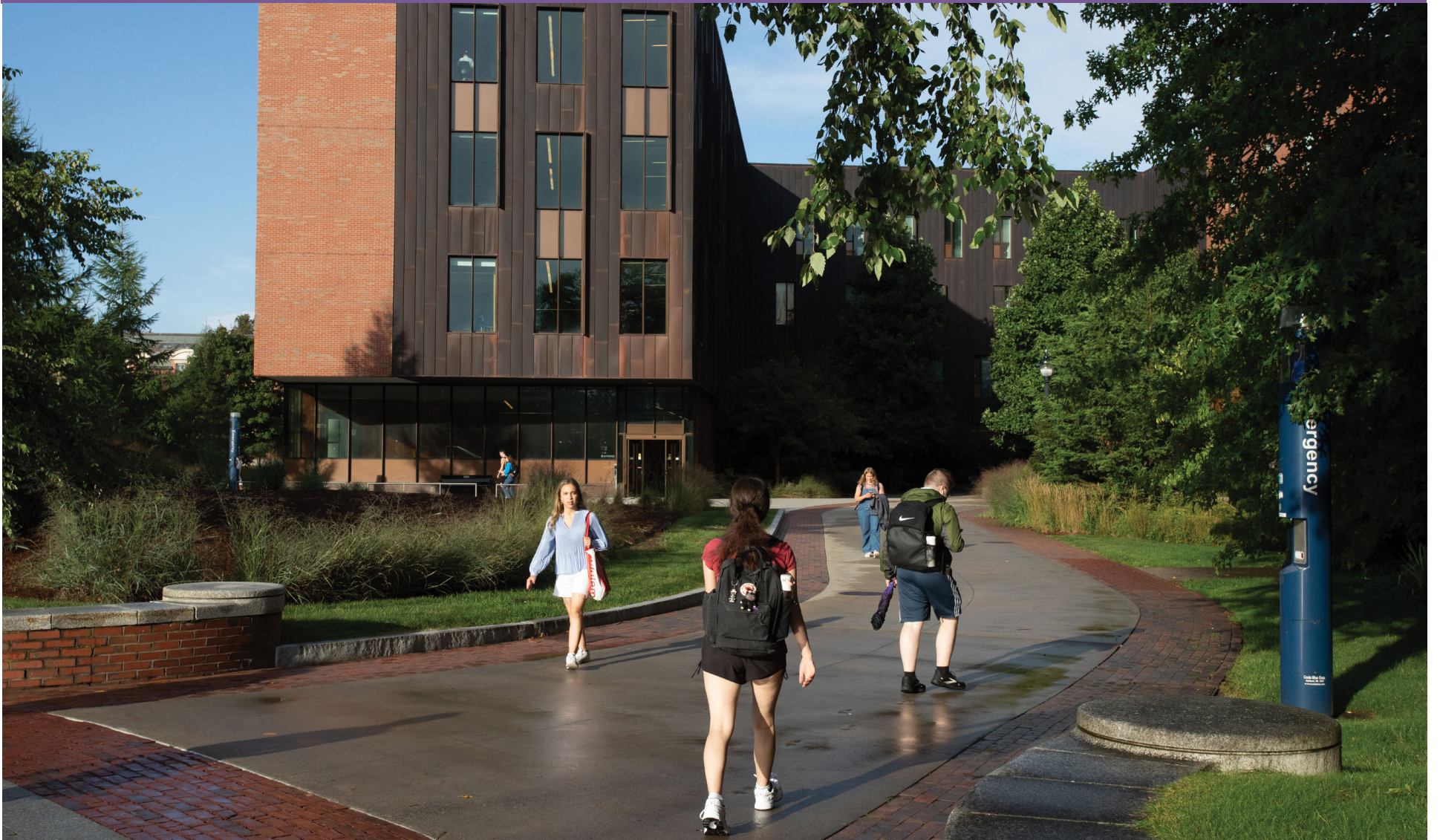
Ultimately, student investors have limited time and energy to spend worrying about how their investment decisions will work out on any particular day. It is much easier and stress-free to spend that time developing a convincing and research-backed investment thesis that is not vulnerable to sudden emotional impulses which might occur in the coming years. By balancing the emotional and technical sides of ourselves when investing, students can

capitalize on both mathematical proof and their gut feeling, which is correct on occasion, allowing students to hold their positions for longer and realize great long-term gains.

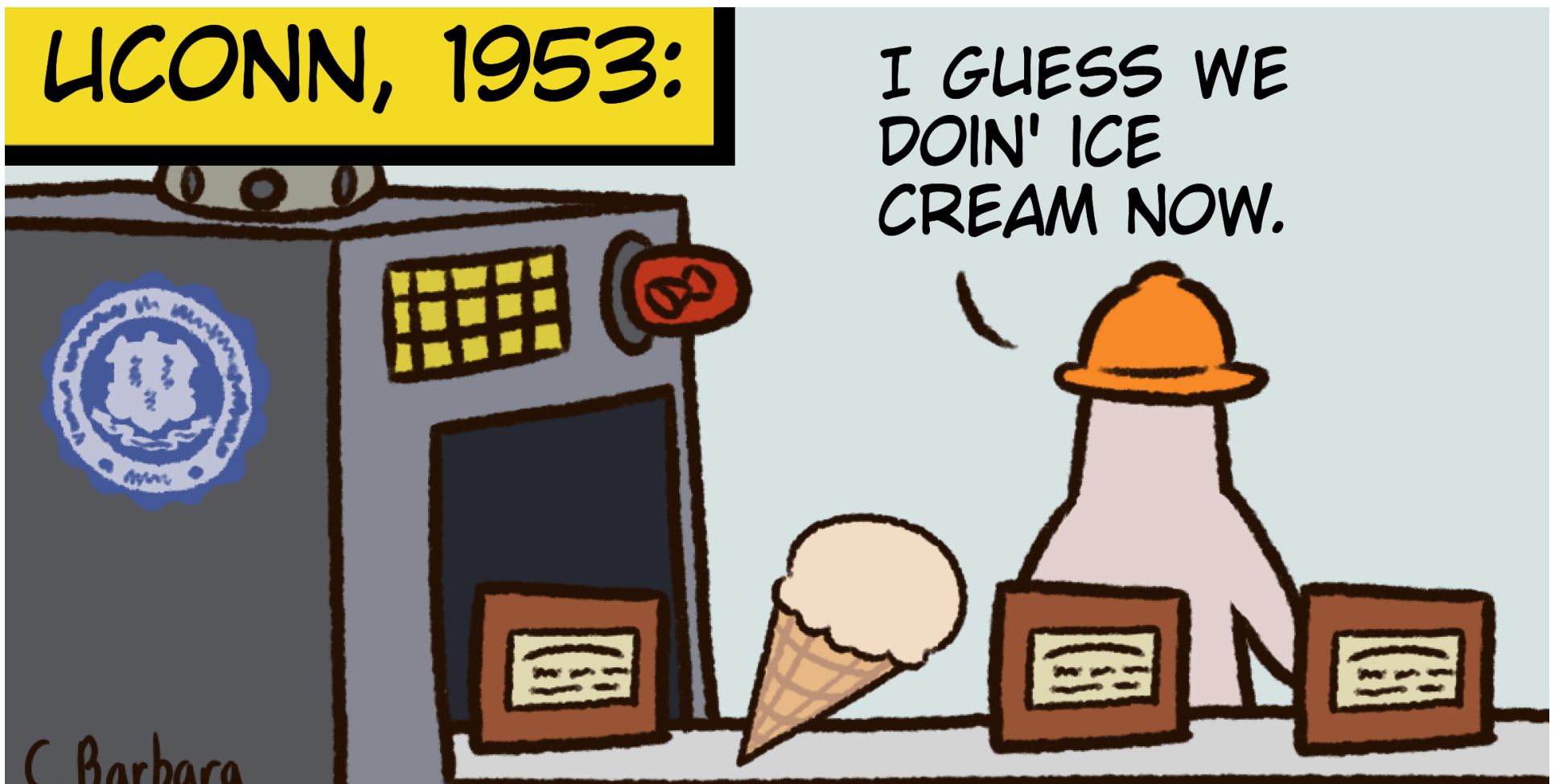


Opinion

Photo of the Day | Strolling into the new semester



Students walking by Susan B. Herbst Hall. The university welcomed a record breaking number of freshmen this year.
PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY CHRISTIAN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

DAILY CAMPUS



The next captains of the Ice Bus



UConn comes back from being down 1-0 in the first period to a tie in the 2nd period. UConn ends up winning the game against UMass 3-1 at Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, CT.
FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

CLIPART COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

by **Ava Inesta**
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As summer is almost coming to a close, hockey season is right around the corner. With that, brings new captains of the Ice Bus. The UConn men's hockey team is coming off a 15-19-2 season, with a 9-14-1 record in conference play. Back at the end of May, the team announced their new dual captains to be fifth-year players Hudson Schandor and John Spetz.

Hudson Schandor, forward
Out of North Vancouver, British Columbia, Schandor has been one of the key pieces to this Huskies roster. He has made a name for himself as a dynamic forward with the Huskies and he is now entering his fifth season with UConn. Schandor contributes strongly on both offense and defense for the Huskies which makes him so valuable to the team. From the start, Schandor has been one of the anchors of this team. In his freshman season he appeared in 22 games. That same year, Schandor finished third on the team in scoring with 14 points off of six goals and eight assists. Furthermore, he was tied for fifth among Hockey East rookies in scoring. Schandor also contributed heavily to power players. He was ranked second on the team with seven power play points as he scored twice and dished five assists. In the 22-23 season, Schandor played in all 35 games for the Huskies as a junior. He scored 11 goals with 21 assists which totaled 32 points. Schandor had eight multi-point games and three multi-goal games as he generated 75 total shots. Schandor was awarded the Len Ceglarski Individual Sportsmanship award that year. Last season, Schandor played in 34 games for UConn. In those games, he rounded out five goals, 16 assists, which totaled 21 points on the season.

John Spetz
Spetz is originally from Oak Ridge, New Jersey. He has been a valuable part to the UConn team for the last four seasons and has made the decision to return for a 5th season alongside co-captain Schandor. As a defenseman, Spetz is known for his reliability on the ice in the Huskies' blue line. He has strong positional play, effective puck movement, and a large physical presence that consistently protects the net. In his freshman campaign, he led all Husky defensemen in scoring 11 points off of three goals and eight assists. He was a huge part of UConn's power play unit as he collected a goal with five assists. He finished the season as a +3. Additionally, he was the team leader in blocked shots with 53 and the first in the Hockey East Conference as he averaged 2.4 per game. Spetz's effectiveness only continued in his time with the Huskies as each year went by. In the 2022-23 season, his junior year, Spetz played 35 games. He finished the season scoring two goals and 10 assists for 12 points. Finally for last season, Spetz played in 36 games for the Huskies. He combined for two goals, four assists, which rounded to six total points on his senior season.

Both Schandor and Spetz have unfinished business with the Huskies and will be the leaders of the team this season. It's even better that this is not Schandor's first go around at being in this type of leadership position. He was captain last season in a tri-captain situation and was an alternate captain in the 22-23 season. But as for this upcoming season, the Huskies have a whole new freshman class, new transfers, and many returners on this year's roster that are more than ready for another season of UConn hockey.



The UConn men's hockey team faces UMass at the Toscano Family Ice Forum. The Huskies will be back for the 2024-25 season competing against Colgate on Oct. 5, 2024. FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sports

Photo of the Day |



UConn students roaming Fairfield Way as the first day of classes comes to an end on Aug. 26, 2024 in Storrs Conn. Although the day was rainy, first-year students ventured outside to find their classes. PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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Sports

Sam's Section: Predicting the Power 4 conference champions in college football

by **Sam Calhoun**
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College football is back! Week one wrapped up, including a thrilling game where Georgia Tech upset No. 10 Florida State in Dublin on Saturday. That was quite a way to kick off a new era in college football. For those who do not follow college sports, conference realignment has impacted every part of the country. The Pac-12 Conference, my favorite football conference, dissolved after everyone but Oregon State and Washington State left for either the ACC, Big Ten or Big 12. Many of the divisions in conferences were dropped, which will allow for the two most deserving teams to play for their conference championship. In this article, I will go over my picks for the ACC, Big Ten, Big 12 and SEC.

ACC: Miami (FL) over Clemson

Miami is projected to finish third according to the preseason poll, behind Florida State and Clemson. I am a bigger fan of Miami because of their balanced attack on offense and defense. Cam Ward, the preseason ACC Player of the Year, is expected to be one of the best quarterbacks in college football. His main target also made the preseason all-ACC team: Wide receiver Xavier Restrepo, who finished the season with a stat line of 85 receptions, 1092 yards and six touchdowns. On defense, the Hurricanes are led by linebacker Francisco Mauigoa and defensive end Rueben Bain Jr. Head coach Mario Cristobal has arguably his best team since he began in Coral Gables in 2022. In my eyes, Clemson is the best defensive team in the league, with Barrett Carter as one of the best linebackers in the nation. However, they lack a reliable offense. That has been a trend for head coach Dabo Swinney in past years since losing quarterback Trevor Lawrence to the NFL.

Big Ten: Ohio State over Oregon

The only reason I hesitated picking Ohio State was their quarterback situation. Kansas State transfer Will Howard looks to be the QB1, but I am not sold on him helping the Buckeyes become a national title



UConn Football faces off against Sacred Heart University at Rentschler Field on November 18, 2023. The Huskies took a large victory for their senior day with a final score of 31-3.

PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, GRABS PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

contender. However, I am sold on the rest of the team. I love the running back depth that includes TreVeyon Henderson and Ole Miss transfer Quinshon Judkins. While wide receiver Emeka Egbuka stands out as one of their best players, you should not sleep on Ohio State's WR2: Jeremiah Smith, a freshman who was the No. 1 player in his high school class according to 247Sports. The team also has one of the country's best offensive lines, led by first-teamer Donovan Jackson. The Buckeyes have arguably the best defensive line in the country with J.T. Tuimoloau, Tyleik Williams and Jack Sawyer. They have an excellent secondary unit that includes Denzel Burke, Caleb Downs (transfer from Alabama) and Davison Igbinosun. Howard makes me scratch my head because he has a lot of pressure on him after passing for roughly 2600 yards last season at Kansas State, but I love the rest of the team. There is no reason

for them to lose as many as two games this season despite their difficult strength of schedule. Dillon Gabriel looks to be the best quarterback in the country this season, with a premier target in Tez Johnson at WR1 and a secondary receiver in Evan Stewart. While linebacker Jeffrey Bassa leads the defense, there is no one else on the All-Big Ten preseason team, according to USA Today.

Big 12: Oklahoma State over Utah

I was intrigued to pick Utah, but I think Oklahoma State has a strong chance to win the Big 12 with the group they have. While quarterback Alan Bowman is not on the same level as Colorado's Shedeur Sanders, Utah's Cam Rising or Kansas's Jalon Daniels, there's still a good reason to believe Bowman can be the best quarterback in the conference, being named to the preseason watch list for the Manning Award and the Johnny Unitas Golden

Arm Award (both awarded to the nation's best quarterback). The Cowboys have the best running back in college football in Ollie Gordon II. However, the wide receiver duo of Brennan Presley and Rashod Owens can be lethal, with both on the Fred Biletnikoff Award (nation's best receiver). The Pokes have the best linebacker unit in the Big 12, with Nick Martin and Collin Oliver named to the preseason all-Big 12 team. Despite no honors for the rest of the team's defense, Oklahoma State stood out as the best team in the Big 12. Rising is a Big 12 Player of the Year caliber player (assuming he stays healthy), but I do not trust the lack of weapons stacked against other teams in the conference. In my opinion, the Big 12 is the most wide open.

SEC: Georgia over Texas

It is the safe pick, but I believe that Georgia is the best team in the SEC and has the best chance at the national championship. The first name

that jumps out is quarterback Carson Beck, considered one of the favorites for the Heisman Trophy. While he does not have an Emeka Egbuka or Xavier Restrepo to throw to, he can rely on running back Trevor Etienne, wide receiver Dominic Lovett and tight end Oscar Delp. Delp is an interesting player to keep your eye on because of the Bulldogs' rich history at tight end. The program has seen a tight end drafted in the last six NFL Drafts, including Brock Bowers and Darnell Washington in the previous two years. On defense, I am a big fan of linebacker Mykel Williams and safety Malaki Starks. I consider those two arguably the best at their respective positions. Defensive lineman Nazir Stackhouse looks to be one of the best defensive linemen in the SEC. While I believe Texas has a better offense, I cannot get behind the Longhorns' defense. This SEC Championship would be great to see Beck and Texas quarterback Quinn Ewers go head-to-head.



The UConn Huskies prepare to take on Sacred Heart University. The team will go up against Maryland for the first game of the 2024-25 season on Aug. 31, 2024.

PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, GRABS PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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