

UConn Divest protests university's ties to companies involved in Gaza genocide

by **Liliana French**,
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The UConn Divest Coalition protested the University of Connecticut's ties to companies involved in the genocide in Gaza outside Gulley Hall on Monday. After marching over from outside the Homer Babbidge Library at 12 p.m., the protestors waited for UConn president Radenka Maric until she left the building at 5 p.m.

The protest began with a brief speech by Nell Srinath, a UConn alumnus who graduated in 2024.

Srinath read out UConn Divest's demands, stating, "The reason we're out here is not really for these policies [...] but for the liberation of Palestine," before marching with members of the UConn Divest Coalition to Gulley Hall to demand a meeting with Maric.

This was their second rally of the semester. At the previous rally, the use of amplified sound was restricted from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. during the week and 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. during the weekend. Outdoor activities were barred from disrupting other outdoor activities in a different policy. Srinath did not initially use amplified sound in their speech.

UConn Divest's demands are to end UConn's relationship with companies in the military industrial complex and to sever ties to Israel, according to their Instagram account.

"I want to stress that the policy stuff—the new policy stuff, we see it as a diversion from the real issue here, which is that UConn is complicit in violence and mass atrocity," said UConn Divest member Ashten Vassar-Cain.

"Diseases, like the polio virus had been consigned to history in the Gaza Strip. They've now reappeared due to the collapse of essential services," said the UN Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator for Gaza. Over 41,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, she stated, according to the United Nations website.

At UConn's Career Fair and STEM Career Fair, held Tuesday and yesterday, RTX, Lockheed Martin, Leonardo DRS and General Dynamics

were present, according to employer lists on Handshake. One of UConn Divest's demands, listed on Instagram, is to ban these companies from recruiting at UConn sponsored events, including career fairs.

UConn Divest wrote in an Instagram story on Tuesday, "How many tables are you giving to companies that are killing Palestinians?"

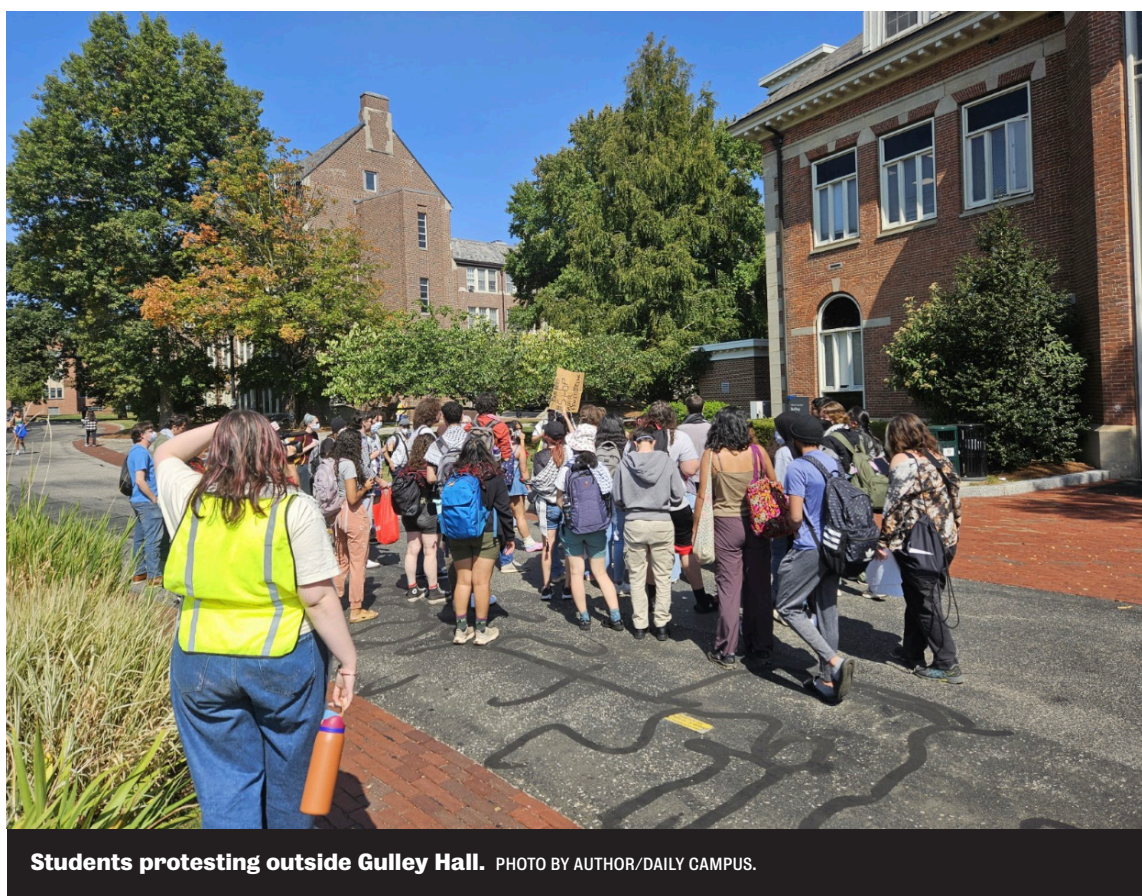
"The transfer of weapons and ammunition to Israel may constitute serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian laws and risk State complicity in international crimes, possibly including genocide, UN experts said," according to a press release by the United Nation Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner.

The press release specifically named General Dynamics, RTX and Lockheed Martin, and called on them to end weapons transfers to Israel. Leonardo DRS was not explicitly mentioned in the press release, though all companies supplying arms to Israel were told to end transfers, even if they had existing export licenses.

General Dynamics is the largest employer of UConn students, with Pratt and Whitney in fifth, and Raytheon Technologies in ninth, according to the UConn careers website.

Defense companies also fund some of UConn's research facilities, according to the UConn website. The Pratt and Whitney Manufacturing Center was built with a \$14.8 million investment, the Pratt and Whitney Institute for Advanced Systems Engineering was built with a \$67.1 million investment, the Collins Aerospace Center for Advanced Materials was built with a \$5.7 million investment, the National Institute for Undersea Vehicle Technology was built with a \$80 million investment and the Project Daedalus Air Force Advanced Manufacturing Initiative was built with a \$28.6 million investment.

UConn Divest has also demanded the resignation of Bryan Pollard, a Board of Trustees member who works as an Associate General Counsel for RTX according to UConn



Students protesting outside Gulley Hall. PHOTO BY AUTHOR/DAILY CAMPUS.

Today, due to "gross conflict of interest." At Monday's protest, Srinath reiterated calls for Pollard's resignation due to an alleged conflict of interest when he voted to rename Science 1 Research Lab after RTX.

University spokesperson Stephanie Reitz did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The protestors called for disclosure of the UConn Foundation's investments, which are not required to be disclosed because they are a registered private non-profit, according to the UConn Foundation website.

"We all feel like we're far away from the problem, being here, being in Connecticut, being students who have the privilege of going to university, but we're not far from the problem when our university and our state are contributing to the problem and selling weapons to the Israeli military," said Vassar-Cain.

The students were also there to protest the new policies and demanded on Instagram that Maric "call on the office of the state's attorney to drop all charges against all persons arrested in the Gaza Solidarity

Encampment," where 25 students and one alumnus were arrested.

After knocking and ringing the door multiple times, Srinath briefly used a megaphone.

"Radenka, Radenka, you can't hide, protesting is not a crime. Radenka, Radenka, you can't hide, we charge you with genocide," chanted students.

Protesters drew chalk messages on the ground outside and directly on the building.

Protest leaders spoke with Cyndi Costanzo, the interim assistant vice president for student life. Law student and UConn Divest member Colin Rosadino stated that Costanzo was there to clarify UConn's policies on the use of amplified sound.

The protest ended at approximately 5 p.m., after students had been protesting for five hours, when Maric left Gulley Hall.

UConn Divest posted a video of Maric leaving on Instagram and wrote, "She ordered a procession of FIVE police cruisers to avoid her constituents."

Reitz said in an email that Maric left at her scheduled time in a non-police vehicle.

Rosadino discussed a meeting between UConn Divest leaders and UConn administrators held on Aug 28.

"I have not been able to meet with anyone specifically regarding divestment," said Rosadino. "When we tried to bring up policy in the meeting that we were offered with Nathan Fuerst and Anne D'Alleve, they said that's not within our realm, we don't deal with the finances, the UConn Foundation is a separate entity — stuff of that nature."

Rosadino said that when UConn Divest members tried to discuss policy changes in the meetings on how students were being treated on campus, Fuerst and D'Alleve said that they would have to talk with other people.

Reitz did not respond to requests for comment.

"We haven't gotten to meet with the people that actually make the decisions," said Rosadino. "Until we're able to meet with administrators substantively about the policies

that we want to see change, we're not going to be stopping, we're not going to stop making our voice heard."

UConn Divest leaders have met with students holding elected positions regarding divestment. Rosadino said that USG President Lorian Touponse was a participant in the Aug. 28 meeting.

"Lorien is continually working to bring concerns about investments to the Foundation directly to them, the administration," said Rosadino.

Rosadino said he had been in contact with undergraduate student trustee Sean Dunn about policies on campus and investments. He said that UConn Divest had not met with Joy Hamer, the graduate student trustee, but was planning to meet with her. Both student trustees are voting members on the 21-member Board of Trustees.

Rosadino said he believed that UConn Divest had met with Nahum Valiente, the student representative for the UConn Foundation and ex-officio member on the Foundation's Board of Directors.

"I think that the school wants people to believe that they don't have a choice, particularly the Foundation," said Rosadino. "They say that well, the indirect investment structure doesn't allow us to specify which companies we're investing in and which ones we aren't, and it would be very onerous to go through the process of importing a policy that includes these ethical considerations. But they do have a choice, and I don't think it's satisfactory just to say that because these investments are set up the way that they are that they are not able to substantially address any concerns surrounding them."

Rosadino spoke about past divestment by UConn from South Africa and Sudan.

"I don't understand what the difference is now. I don't understand why ethical considerations matter more in the 1980s than they do in 2024," said Rosadino.

The Daily Campus is still awaiting comment from Reitz. This article will be updated if a comment is received.



Students marching from Fairfield Way outside Homer Babbidge Library to Gulley Hall. UConn Divest held a protest rally on Sept. 16, 2024. PHOTO BY AUTHOR/DAILY CAMPUS.

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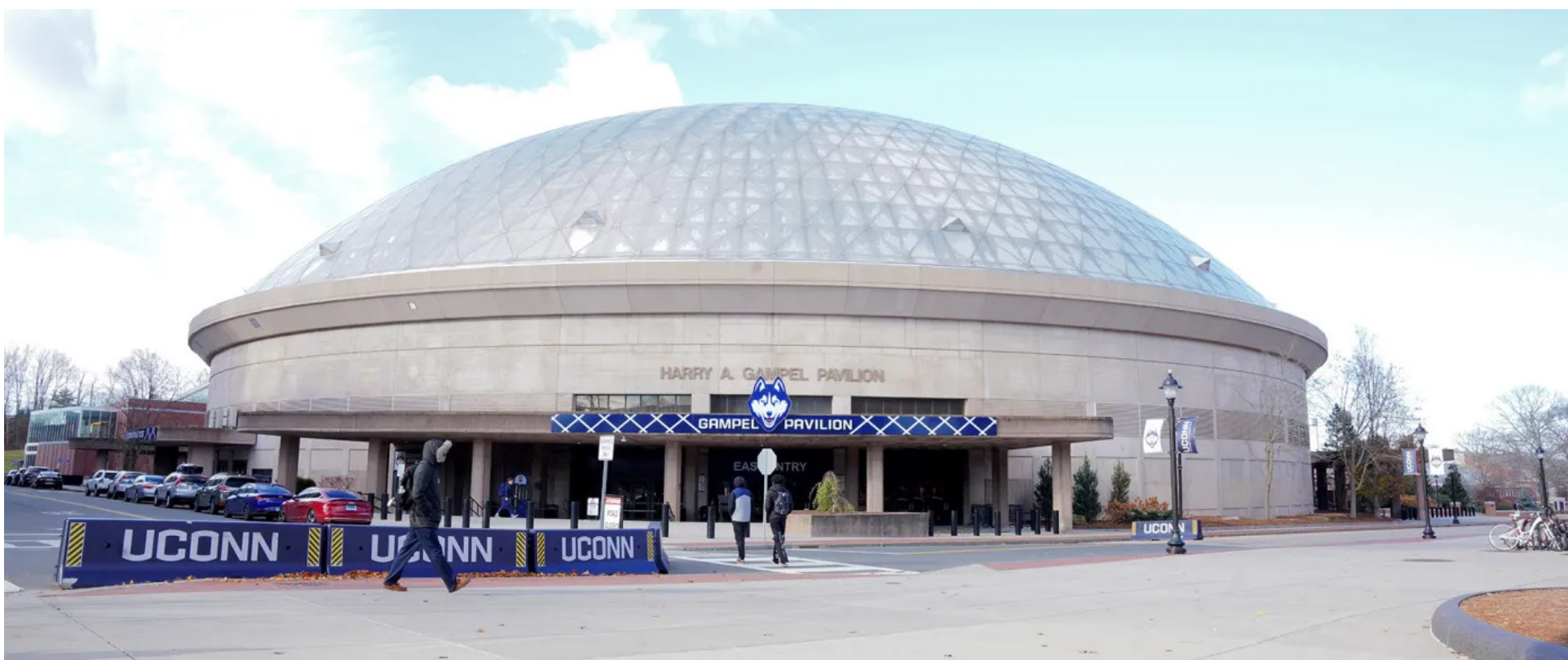
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8 AM BLAST
NEWSLETTER

News

UConn hosts National Voter Registration Day press conference to encourage civic engagement



Students outside Harry A. Gampel Pavilion. It is the largest on-campus arena in New England, where students were invited to register to vote on Sept. 17.
PHOTO BY JORDAN ARNOLD/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Donte Mills,
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On Tuesday, Sept. 17, 48 days away from the election, the University of Connecticut kicked off National Voter Registration Day with a press conference outside Gampel Pavilion. The press conference took place in partnership with the Connecticut Office of the Secretary of the State and Office of the Lieutenant Governor. Local politicians, student government officials and faculty came to inform students about registering to vote and early voting opportunities for students on campus.

The press conference featured a vibrant display of UConn pride with a performance by UConn cheerleaders and the Jonathan the Husky mascot enthusiastically engaging the crowd. The speakers stood before a backdrop of flags and the iconic Jonathan statue. A combination of school spirit and civic responsibility, the setting of the conference emphasized the importance of the event and showcased UConn's strong sense of community and pride in its traditions.

First, Rosa Raudales, the director of outreach and

engagement for UConn, warmly welcomed everyone to the event, thanked the people who made it possible and expressed her excitement for the university's role in promoting civic engagement. She emphasized the importance of voter participation, particularly among students and young adults, as a key element of democracy.

Raudales then presented several distinguished speakers for the day, including university officials, local community leaders and student representatives, each poised to share their perspectives on the significance of voter registration and the power of youth involvement in shaping the future.

"We are celebrating engagement, in particular the engagement of our students who have so much power to influence the present and the future of this country with our vote," stated Raudales.

She then brought the first speaker to the podium, Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut Susan Bysiewicz. Bysiewicz spoke about early voting, a new opportunity for UConn students from Oct. 21 through Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 through Nov. 3 at the school bookstore. She then spoke about why it was important for young people to share

their unique opinions.

"Young people can make a huge difference in Connecticut provided they make their voice heard by voting," said Bysiewicz. "18-29 year-olds make up almost 20% of the registered voters in our state so your impact can be very powerful."

Next to speak at the podium was Tadarrayl Starke, vice provost for student success at UConn. He explained that voting is not a right that he takes lightly, providing a small anecdote of when his mother went out of her way and struggled to get the privilege to vote. He also spent part of his speech encouraging young people to get active in voting.

"Today we celebrate and work towards helping new people gain the power responsibility of the ballot. I encourage all students who are eligible to register to vote if you're not [already registered] and then use your voice of your vote to impact change in all levels of government," said Starke.

Next speaker was Secretary of the State of Connecticut Stephanie Thomas, who spoke more on early voting at UConn and civic engagement with students.

"Our office has chosen to focus its effort today on college students because they're often at a time in their lives

where they are just starting to learn what their unique voice is and figuring out how they can make that voice heard," said Thomas. "Learning how our government works and interacting with our elected leaders is what a representative democracy is all about, and registering to vote is an important milestone in that process."

The speaker after Thomas was Haritha Subramanian, a UConn junior. She is the youngest elected official in Farmington, according to Bysiewicz. Subramanian spoke on voting from the perspective of a Gen Z student voter.

"The impact of the decisions being made today on our future cannot be understated and I know I am not alone when I say every young person feels the burden on our shoulders every election cycle," said Subramanian.

The last speaker was Lorien Touponse, undergraduate student body president at Storrs, who represents external affairs in the student government. Touponse adds to the student perspective in terms of voting and further advocates for the early voting option available at UConn.

"I can't tell you how proud I am that my team and the wonderful people here have been able to make this happen," said Touponse,

thanking her team.

After finishing their speeches, the speakers asked if there were any questions from the audience.

At the end of the conference, The Daily Campus spoke with Thomas regarding the importance of educating about voter registration.

"Almost everyone in Connecticut is uneducated about voting and the election process because no one ever teaches it," said Thomas. "... Instead of shying away from it, I encourage all students to lean in and become civic learners throughout their entire lives because no one reaches out to teach you about this stuff...Our voices are the only thing we have to make sure our representative democracy actually represents us."

Thomas also emphasized how important it is for people to remain involved throughout the rest of the year.

"So not only is it important to register to vote and vote in every election, but [also] stay involved the other 364 days a year...Representatives need to hear from each of us to know our values and what laws we want to see enacted, so go Huskies, go vote," added Thomas.

The Daily Campus

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The Daily Campus Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Vodka cocktail, familiarly
- 6 Land area unit
- 10 Lose one's footing
- 14 Surfer's place
- 15 Word after sonic or baby
- 16 Most common number in a data set
- 17 The shady lawyer tried to ___ a client's eyes, ...
- 20 Street in a Wes Craven title
- 21 Ships' frames
- 22 Store for folks who like to assemble
- 23 Jeweled ornament
- 25 Healer of all wounds, so they say
- 27 John Quincy ___
- 30 Exodus figure
- 33 ... and was confident nobody would ___ the scheme ...

- 37 Curmudgeon
- 39 Expect
- 40 2016 Olympics city
- 41 Operate a car
- 42 Migratory bird
- 43 ... and sure the client would ___, ...
- 45 Not-to-be-questioned beliefs
- 47 Smooth and confident
- 48 Sounds of grief
- 50 Musician with pipes
- 54 Food that might be soft-shelled
- 56 Ice dancer Virtue
- 59 Single-stranded molecule
- 60 ... but I saw everything, so I'm the ___!
- 63 Noodle variety
- 64 "La Bohème" character
- 65 Evaluate visually
- 66 Intent look
- 67 Event for seniors
- 68 Guys

DOWN

- 1 Got by
- 2 Eyes, in Latin

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63						64					65			
66						67					68			

By Nancy Stark & Will Nediger

9/19/24

- 3 Alabama River city
- 4 Bad start?
- 5 Precisely
- 6 Brother of Cain
- 7 Billowy cloak hood
- 8 Bird's perch
- 9 Mopey rock genre
- 10 Deceptive tactic
- 11 Lyricist's subject, often
- 12 Possible solution
- 13 As ordered by
- 18 Dog's best friend
- 19 67-Across conveyance
- 24 Milieu for single people
- 26 Texter's qualifier
- 28 Seconds or thirds
- 29 Huffy moods
- 31 "The Boys" developer Kripke
- 32 Goalie achievement
- 33 "___ got your tongue?"
- 34 Was in a red state?
- 35 Edible purple corm
- 36 Stir-fry protein

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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9/19/24

- 38 Cot, for one
- 41 Colored outside the lines, say
- 43 Talk on and on
- 44 Cold yogurt drink
- 46 Habitat for heather
- 49 Help on the way to the top?
- 51 Generosity opposite
- 52 Come after
- 53 Shop class tools
- 54 "Behold my brilliance!"
- 55 The whole shebang
- 57 Muppet host of "The Not-Too-Late Show"
- 58 Do laps in a pool
- 60 Make silly faces, maybe
- 61 Nanny's handful
- 62 Tisch Sch. of the Arts home

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ANSWERS:

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

Sabrina Carpenter: From 'Girl Meets World' to pop star on the rise

by Michelle Pawlos

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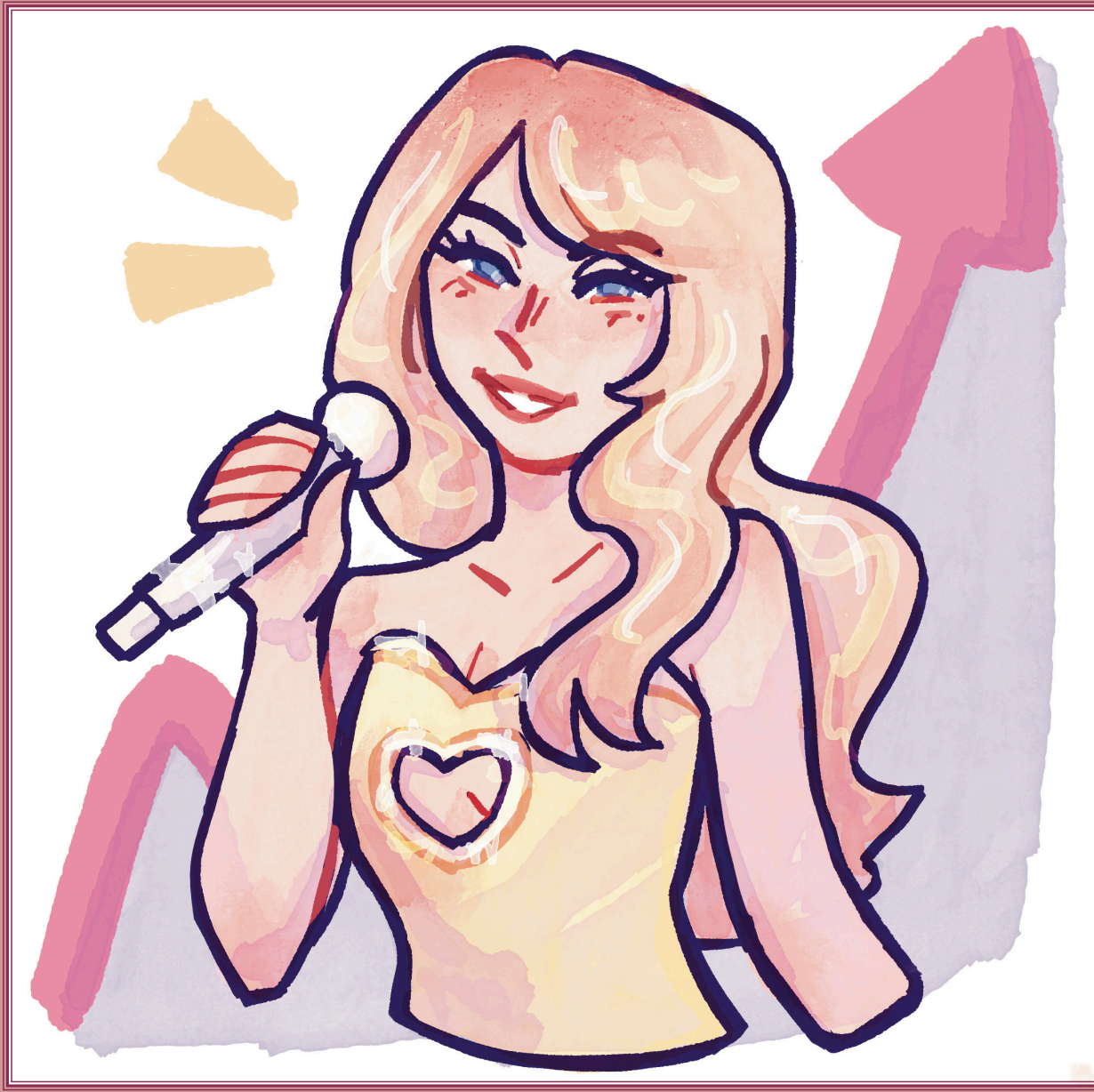


ILLUSTRATION BY COLBI LORANGER, ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

It seems like whenever I turn on my car radio, a Sabrina Carpenter song is playing. Carpenter began her career as an actress in 2011 with a guest appearance on “Law and Order: Special Victims Unit.” After a few more acting roles, there was not much to hear about Carpenter. A lot of her fanbase was young and had since grown up. So why did Sabrina Carpenter become so popular again?

Many people know Sabrina Carpenter from “Girl Meets World,” a spinoff of the ‘90s sitcom “Boy Meets World,” where she stars alongside Rowan Blanchard. That same year, Carpenter started releasing music that became popular with to her large fanbase from the show.

Carpenter’s most viewed music video on YouTube was the 2017 release “Thumbs” until her most recent videos surpassed the view-count. Carpenter’s music remained very popular during her time on “Girl Meets World” and for a few years after.

She collaborated with numerous artists, such as Alan Walker on the song “On My Way” and Sofia Carson on “Wildside” which was used for the movie “Adventures in Babysitting.”

In 2021, Olivia Rodrigo released a song titled “drivers license.” The song is about Rodrigo’s breakup and many speculated that the song was also about Carpenter due to the following lyrics: “And you’re probably with that blonde girl/Who always made me doubt/She’s so much older than me/She’s everything I’m insecure about.” This had gotten under fans’ “Skin,” and Carpenter received a lot of backlash due to rumors that she may have interfered with the relationship between Rodrigo and Joshua Bassett.

The song has now surpassed a billion streams and was widely popular in 2021. Because of its popularity, it put Carpenter back into the spotlight, though not in a good way. In response to the backlash, Carpenter re-

leased “because i liked a boy” in 2022, where she revealed that she had received numerous death threats and derailing comments. This response caused a lot of people to sympathize with her.

That same year, Sabrina Carpenter launched her first perfume, Sweet Tooth, along with a new album, merchandise and tour dates. “You Can’t Blame a Girl For Trying” (and succeeding) to build a loyal fanbase through a strong presence on social media and constantly coming out with something new. Carpenter’s packed schedule demonstrates that her popularity isn’t just “Nonsense.” It shows her constant activity and innovation, which many find captivating.

Social media often boosts songs to fame, which is true for many of Carpenter’s recent songs. Fans resonated with “Espresso,” sparking trends that included attempts to recreate the song’s riffs. Her song “Feather” inspired a viral dance trend with people mimicking her iconic concert performance. Carpenter has done a good job of figuring out a young audience’s “Taste” for music and what is popular; people find her and her songs very relatable. “Please Please Please” gained significant attention as well, especially because it featured and confirmed her relationship with famous actor Barry Keoghan, one that caught many by surprise.

Carpenter’s talents and recent accomplishments have helped

her build a successful career. The former child actress is one of the most popular singers of our generation. Last week, her song “Espresso” won the MTV Video Music Award for Song of the Year, beating artists such as Taylor Swift, Post Malone and Kendrick Lamar. I’d keep my “Eyes Wide Open” if I were you because it seems that Sabrina Carpenter keeps coming in with hit after hit.



Life

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AUTUMN LEAVES OR AUTUMN READS?

by Grace Jos
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As the world withers in its amber and gold attire, we often find ourselves yearning for the comforting embrace of a cozy book. Autumn invites us to cozy up with stories that mirror the season's own transformation as the leaves wilt. As I attempt to romanticize my small dorm room located in the middle of a dairy farm, I find myself resorting to novels that give me a sense of solace and nostalgia.

These Victorian and modern classics echo the bliss of ideas like beauty or decay by painting pictures of neoclassical libraries, grotesque art galleries and a philosopher's choir. Here are some literary treasures that harmonize with the fall ambiance, offering both solace and inspiration.



ILLUSTRATION BY HANNAH BRUNO, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

“The Picture of Dorian Gray” by Oscar Wilde

“The Picture of Dorian Gray” follows the life of Dorian Gray, a young man of extraordinary beauty who becomes immersed in his own graceful image; he finds himself enthralled by the elegance of his youth. Though Gray is beautiful, he often indulges in a life of excess and moral corruption. “The Picture of Dorian Gray” offers a compelling exploration of beauty, vanity and moral consequences.

The novel dives into a life devoted to vanity and self-indulgence, ultimately leading to a tragic conclusion. Wilde’s gothic tale serves as a poignant reminder of the dangers coinciding with the superficial allure of perfection.

As our protagonist contemplates the persistence of beauty, a riveting story unfolds. This shirt classic is perfect for this introspective time of year

“The Secret History” by Donna Tartt

Set in the small New England university known as Hampden College, Richard Papeen finds himself whirled into an elitist group of Hellenistic students who dabble in an improper form of philosophy.

It’s a book that delves into the aesthetics of dark academia and as the murder mystery unfolds, the plot only thickens. Papeen finds himself exploring the darker sides of human nature as he plays into the seductive power of beauty.

My first time reading this novel was in the fall of my freshmen year, and it has now truly become my epitome of an autumn classic. I believe this is the time of year where we are the most inclined to be academically motivated, and “The Secret History” exposes the seedy underbelly of how ominous the art of intellectualism can be.

Tartt wrote what is arguably the best novel of the 1990s. It’s an existentialist’s bible with a lovely balance between moral ambiguity and the results that follow.

“Wuthering Heights” by Emily Brontë

The world-renowned book “Wuthering Heights” centers on the intense, tumultuous relationship between Heathcliff, an orphaned foundling and Catherine Earnshaw, his childhood companion.

Set on the Yorkshire Moors in England, this gothic classic resembles all that is fair in love and war. The destructiveness of love intertwines with the futility of revenge, creating perhaps the most popular Victorian classic to date. The somber landscapes that coincide with an all-consuming tale of love embodies the autumn aesthetic we love to romanticize.

Brontë displays how the pursuit of love and beauty is not always successful and how that can stem into generational trauma. “Wuthering Heights” is a psychological nightmare that is practically gut-wrenching. If a horrifically immersing Victorian novel on a crisp fall evening doesn’t scream autumn to you, I don’t know what does.

“Perfume: The Story of a Murderer” by Patrick Süskind

“Perfume” follows the life of Jean-Baptiste Grenouille, an orphan born with an extraordinary sense of smell in 18th-century France. Grenouille becomes obsessed with creating the perfect fragrance, leading him to commit a series of murders to capture the essence of his victims. The novel explores Grenouille’s descent into madness and his intense fixation on the smell of women.

A few weeks ago, I picked up my copy of “Perfume” for the first time. After this grim yet exquisite read, I am perplexed as to why this novel is not more well-known. It has all the classic components of a spooky horror story with an obscure side quest for perfection among the senses.

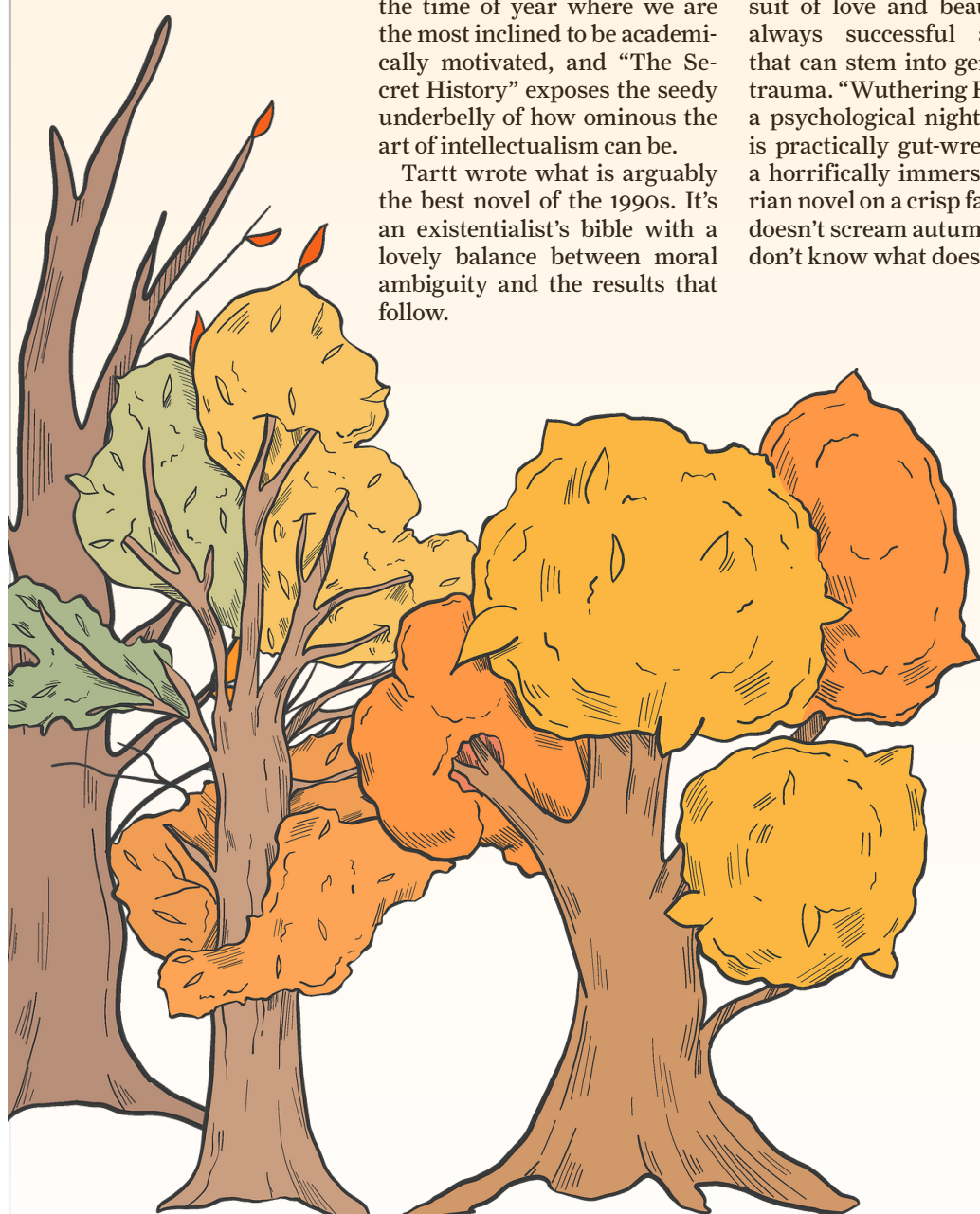
Patrick Süskind’s “Perfume” offers a sensory-rich exploration of obsession and beauty. The novel’s intricate depiction of scent and its dark, philosophical themes make it a compelling read for the reflective and enigmatic spirit of the fall season.

“Frankenstein” by Mary Shelley

We all know and love the big scary green monster in “Frankenstein.” He seems to be on display left and right as Halloween creeps up on us, which is why I believe “Frankenstein” written by Mary Shelly, is a perfect read for this time of year.

“Frankenstein” tells the story of Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist who becomes obsessed with creating life from the dead. A frightening and melancholic tale unravels as the disfigured creature wanders aimlessly in search of a human connection.

Shelly explores ethical concepts and how they play into the trials and tribulations of scientific discoveries. Frankenstein is sometimes considered a science fiction novel but can also be categorized as a gothic classic for its supernatural elements. The interlaced motifs of this novel make it an ideal companion to the introspective mood of the spooky season. I can’t imagine a better book to curl up with on a chilly October night.



Images courtesy of Creazilla



Opinion

The Daily Campus

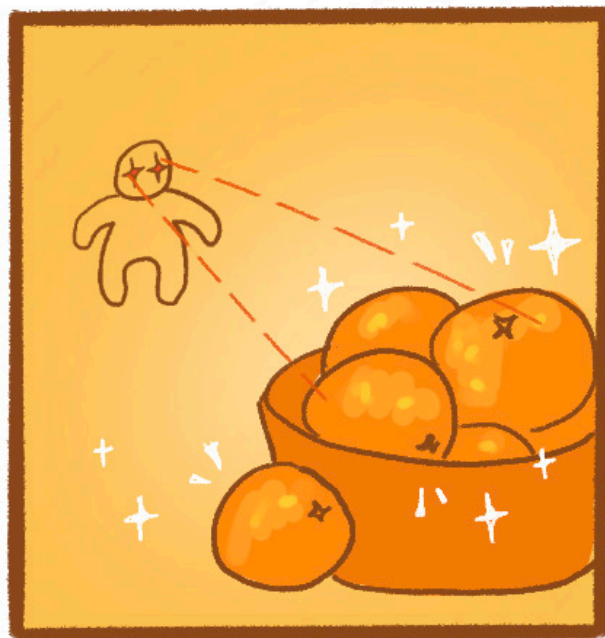
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COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

"I know you get deja vu" Olivia Rodrigo is Taylor Swift's true pop daughter

by Raegan Skelly | SHE/HER/HERS | CONTRIBUTOR | rcs23008@uconn.edu

2024's collection of female pop artists is nothing short of spectacular. Names like Sabrina Carpenter, Gracie Abrams and of course, Olivia Rodrigo come to mind. Even with the genre overflowing with new talent, there is someone looming large: Taylor Swift. Every time a young, rising female popstar hits the Spotify charts, people question who the next Taylor Swift will be. This question is not worth answering, because there is simply no way to replicate her success. The better question is who fits the role of Swift's "pop daughter." This is referring to a younger pop artist who is heavily influenced by an older artist's work, much like a mother raising their daughter. The only answer would be Olivia Rodrigo.

Many would say Swift's The Eras Tour opens Gracie Abrams and Sabrina Carpenter are top contenders. Both were invited on stage for the surprise-song section of her Eras Tour show, and Swift also featured on Abrams' sophomore album, "The Secret of Us," in June 2024. In comparison, Swift and Rodrigo don't seem to have a personal relationship. People have caught on to the fact that Rodrigo was a very vocal Swiftie who has toned down her praise in recent years.

Yet, Swift's personal relationships with these artists have nothing to do with their eligibil-

ity as her pop daughter, as this title centers on artistic similarity. Abrams is illegible due to her genre being better described as "bedroom pop," which focuses on softer vocals and melodies. It doesn't help that Abrams isn't on the same level as Swift, Carpenter or Rodrigo internationally. She hasn't topped the Billboard charts or gotten a major nomination besides Best New Artist.

Carpenter is a recent addition to this conversation, having a breakthrough year with her album "Short N' Sweet." Even though Carpenter's current sound and popularity are reminiscent of Swift's "1989" dominance, the content and tone of her lyrics are a different beast. Carpenter's latest albums gained popularity due to their cheeky lyrics and playful tone, as evident in her summer hit "Espresso." "Short N' Sweet" is witty, confident and filled with innuendos. This difference is crucial to the comparison because, even with her 11 studio albums,

Swift's music is rarely suggestive. With her current era, Carpenter is not revealing her deepest, darkest secrets, but is instead keeping her confessions close to her heart.



IMAGE COURTESY OF @OLIVIA RODRIGO ON INSTAGRAM

This leaves Rodrigo, whose discography and career trajectory fit the bill. Swift and Rodrigo sold out their first world tours and were nominated for Best New Artist at the Grammy Awards, with Rodrigo

taking home the award. On the Grammy topic, both won most of their nominations early on, with Swift winning four out of her first nine nominations and Rodrigo three out of her first seven nominations. Since their debuts, it seems everybody knew they had star potential. For Rodrigo, she started her career on top, with her first single topping the Billboard chart for eight weeks and being named Time's Entertainer of the Year in her first year as a singer-songwriter.

Rodrigo's debut single "drivers license" is what initially drew Swift comparisons, as it is a heart-wrenching ballad about a recent breakup—something Swift has been perfecting since her own debut, "Tim McGraw." The best skill these artists share is how they can make every song relatable yet still personal. They use specific details that prove authenticity, because why would anyone make up leaving a scarf at someone's house?

Swift and Rodrigo are neither the first, nor the last artists to write break-up ballads, but the way they do so is connected both lyrically and sonically. Specifically on Rodrigo's debut album and the "SOUR" album released in 2021, Swift's influence is front and center. Her second single "deja vu" drew similarities to Swift's song "Cruel Summer" due to both songs having similar bridges. When asked if she took inspiration from the track, Rodrigo said "I love the yell-y vocal in it, the harmonized yells she does... I wanted to do something like that."

The most concrete tie to Swift in "SOUR" doesn't come from "deja vu" but instead on "1 steps forward, 3 steps back." Rodrigo and producer Dan Nigro interpolated chords from "New Years Day," a song from Swift's 2017 album "reputation" as the foundation for the track.

There are many captivating pop stars out right now, but Rodrigo is the only one with Swift-esque potential: the accolades, Billboard success, lyrics and sound needed to sustain a career of that magnitude.

It's important to realize the potential that comes with this title. If Rodrigo can resemble Swift's control of the pop market, how will things fare for the newer pop girls to come?

UConn hosts controversial guest Mehmet Naci Inci

by Ashten Vassar-Gain
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Across the nation, all eyes are on university presidents as students continue to protest the violence committed by the Israeli armed forces against Palestine. Following the controversial de-encampment and arrest of 26 students in April, University President Radenka Maric has made yet another alarming choice. Just three weeks ago, the University of Connecticut hosted Mehmet Naci Inci, current rector of Bogaziçi University in Istanbul, Turkey. Advertised as a potential partnership for education and research, this rings the alarm for supporters of academic freedom.

Bogaziçi University has been making headlines since 2021 for the violent repression of students and faculty protesting the appointment of former rector Melih Bulu by Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Before Bulu's direct appointment, the university rector was an elected office. Controversy stems from Bulu's past in weapons manufacturing and as a politician in the right-wing Justice and Development Party (AKP), which Erdogan co-founded in 2001. Many consider this appointment process a threat to the academic freedom

and the integrity of the prestigious institution. Protestors demanded that free and democratic elections return to the university, which was met with mass arrests, tear gas, pepper spray and rubber bullets. LGBT students who raised a rainbow flag were arrested, called "perverts" by AKP interior minister and denounced by Erdogan, who likened the protestors to "terrorists" for their participation in the demonstration.

After six months of protests, Naci Inci replaced Bulu as the presidentially-appointed rector of Bogaziçi, despite a 95% vote of no confidence from faculty. Once appointed, Naci Inci fired three democratically elected deans for supporting the demonstrations, contributing to campus tensions. In 2022, the Scholars at Risk Network condemned Naci Inci's actions and "remind[ed] Turkish state authorities of their obligations under national and international law to respect academic freedom and institutional autonomy and call[ed] on them to demonstrate an unequivocal commitment to promoting and protecting the same." At the time this letter was written, more than 600 students had been arrested. Protests against Naci Inci are ongoing. Once ranked in the top 10 for student satisfaction,

Bogaziçi's rating fell over 60 placements in the last five years.

Turkish President Erdogan, who has been hand-picking his political allies to lead universities, has also repeatedly denied the Armenian genocide, during which an estimated 600,000 to 1.5 million Armenians were systematically displaced and murdered by the Young Turk government. Academics were among the first to be rounded up by the regime. In 2008, Erdogan spoke publicly about the atrocity stating, "We did not commit a crime therefore we do not need to apologize." President Biden's public recognition of the Armenian genocide in 2021 resulted in criticism from the Turkish leader, who is responsible for doubling Turkey's trade with Russia in the aftermath of the invasion of Ukraine.

Quick to denounce the violence against Ukraine, UConn president Radenka Maric has been scrutinized for her silence on the violence against Palestine and a series of controversial new policies that students say are a targeted response to pro-Palestinian activism. Maric claims the university is "committed to inclusion with emotional intelligence in benefiting the greater good." Since she took office in 2022, students have expressed serious

doubt about this commitment, hosting frequent rallies opposing her decisions as university president.

Most recently, she has been accused of Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian racism, receiving negative attention for her role in the arrest of 26 peaceful protestors. Despite the University Senate passing a resolution in support of dropping the charges against the "UConn 26," Maric has maintained her silence. Another demonstration took place outside Guley Hall on Monday, Sept. 16. Students chanted "meet with us" after weeks of attempting to schedule meetings with the president. Unfortunately, Maric remains unreachable to the students she is responsible for representing.

While students continue to demand a conversation with the UConn president, Maric has been busy fostering relationships with other repressive university leaders. In a LinkedIn post, UConn Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Ann D'Alleva boasted that hosting Naci Inci promises "many exciting opportunities to collaborate on education and research." It's strange to advertise a partnership with a contentious leader like Naci Inci amidst continued coverage of stu-

dent demonstrations and repression on UConn's own campus. What makes this even worse is how welcoming President Maric is to opponents of academic freedom. She also seems to have no issue taking inspiration from a leader appointed by a party that is infamous for genocide denial.

UConn prides itself on being a diverse community and considers itself a champion of academic opportunity. A collaboration like this threatens to undermine these ideals and points to a substantial disconnect between the actions of university officials and the interests of students.

Students are left wondering: what will it take to have their voices heard? Perhaps more sinister, they wonder how far university officials will go to silence them.

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Ice cream time



The UConn Dairy Bar the morning of Sept. 18, 2024. The UConn Dairy Bar was opened in 1953 to sell dairy products that were made by the UConn Creamery. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The fate of “blackness” in American politics

by James Watson | HE/HIM/HIS | CONTRIBUTOR | mip24003@uconn.edu

In the United States, identity politics is now more powerful and prevalent than ever before. This shift began when the 44th president of the United States, Barack Obama, instituted a foundational upheaval in American Politics by becoming the first black man to hold the executive office.

Today, after twenty years, four presidents and two terms in office, another person of color is running for office. The biggest question is: What has America learned since Obama?

As the son of an American mother and Kenyan father, former President Obama fell squarely outside of the traditional mold of what it means to be a “Black American” in the country. According to population data, there are approximately 47.9 million Black Americans in the country today, comprising of 14.7% of the population. Over 90% of this cross section of the population are classified as “African Americans”—U.S. citizens who have ancestral ties to an original enslaved population in the U.S. in prior centuries.

Obama, however, is not the

typical “African American.” Having a father who is descended directly from the African continent and growing up in Hawaii means he has not shared a lot of the orthodox Black American experience. Many people fail to recognize this fact, just as they fail to recognize the difference in experiences of individuals both within and between races.

In a publicly aired conversation with the National Association of Black Journalists on July 31, former President Donald Trump asserted that Vice President Kamala Harris “became a black person” to support her presidential election bid, following up by aggressively questioning “is she Indian, or is she black?” The fact that a presidential candidate can make such an accusation in a public forum is concerning.

Trump first gained political recognition in 2008 by questioning Obama’s citizenship rights, implying that he did not fit the requirements to be in office. Obama’s status as the first Black president invited these questions around his decision-making that other presidents may not have faced.

Harris faces the same challenges in the 2024 election, as she is the first Asian, Black and female individual to run for head of executive. 106 women of colour have been elected to the United States government in current statistics. However, with a total of over 11,000 individuals being elected to congress since 1787, this demographic is less than 1% of the American government in recorded history. This also makes it the smallest identity group in the American political system by some margin.

It is therefore clear that America has a difficulty accommodating those outside of a traditional American politician.

Harris will have the shortest run of any presidential candidate in history, having just a three-month lead time

in advance of the election. However, she has also raised more funding in a shorter time span than any candidate in history, receiving an incredible \$36 million within 24 hours of the Harris and Walz joint ticket being announced. Coming from a political scenario many prominent members of the Democratic party hailed as highly unlikely, she is remaking what it means to run for president.

The Harris campaign identified itself as “charting a new course” in American politics. By framing herself as the change candidate, she has put a significant amount of runway between herself and the political turmoil of the near decade since Trump officiated his political career. In five weeks, she has reinvigorated hope for so many, lifting the entirety of the Democratic party up with her.

By extension, it feels as though she is carrying the voices of an increasingly dynamic, diverse and mobile non-white population in the country. In the 2020 presidential election, an average of 4 in

10 voters were non-white, and this statistic is only increasing. The question of whether these voters bring their allegiance will be the crucial determinant of the fate of the 2024 election, and with it, the fate of what it means to be a racial minority in the country.

In the last twenty years, the composition and politics of the United States have undergone foundational shifts. Two decades of political contest have showcased the significance of minority figures who operate outside traditional molds for office. They are doing so for good reason. As Harris states, all Americans hold a crucial choice in their hands: whether to go backwards, to a past that does not reflect America’s complex cultural and racial mix, or to move forward toward a new dawn for America.

Soon, Americans will have an opportunity to shape the racial narrative of the nation and present the country as the best version of itself. A version where a black woman is the epitomised model of American leadership.



What to make of the Tua Tagovailoa situation

SERGEANT'S



LOGO BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Connor Sargeant
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As unfortunate of a reality as it is, football at any level, from Pop Warner to the NFL, carries an inherent risk. With every collision to the head, there is a chance of concussion, brain damage, chronic traumatic encephalopathy and other neurodegenerative diseases. As a result, the NFL has instituted many rules in past years to deter late or big hits, including increasing the proportion of flags thrown for roughing the passer or initiating unnecessary roughness. This season, players are allowed to wear Guardian Caps, which the league claims will reduce the force of head contact by 20%. Despite this, most of the players have rejected this innovation, citing issues with its style or how heavy it is. It will be many years before protective equipment like this becomes mainstream and even then, the risk of long-term brain injury is not going away soon. One player who does not wear the Guardian Cap and has fallen victim to concussions is Tua Tagovailoa. Last Thursday, the All-Pro quarterback picked up his fourth documented concussion in the past five years. Despite this, the 26-year-old has no plans to hang up the cleats. While some folks believe his decision to stay is unwise, Tagovailoa's choice is not as simple as one may think.

Tagovailoa's last concussion was in week three of the 2022 season, when the former Crimson Tide quarterback got shoved hard to the ground after getting a pass off. Tagovailoa was clearly shaken up; when he got up, he collapsed immediately and had to be held up by his teammates. It was a scary moment, but the scariest part was when he returned for the next offensive series. Originally he was diagnosed with a head injury, but medical personnel later determined it to be a back alignment issue, so he was allowed to rejoin the contest. However, four days later, Tagovailoa was ripped to the ground on a brutal hit.

The signal caller exhibited the "fencing response," a common reaction to a traumatic brain injury, and he had to be carted off the field. This led to the NFL altering its concussion protocols to enhance player safety and the NFLPA firing the independent doctor who cleared Tagovailoa to return to action. Even leading up to this game, many people questioned whether the signal caller should have even suited up in week four. Later that year, the Dolphins quarterback encountered even more problems.

In week 16 of the 2022 season, Tagovailoa played a full game against the Green Bay Packers. It was determined postgame he suffered a concussion at some point in the contest, which ended his season.

Just a week ago against the Buffalo Bills, Tagovailoa scrambled for a first and led with the crown of his helmet. His head smashed into the chest of Damar Hamlin and bounced off the turf, where he exhibited the "fencing response."

While it may seem straightforward that Tagovailoa call it a career, an interesting discussion took place last Friday on ESPN's "Get Up" which included former players Ryan Clark, Chris Canty and Bart Scott. These athletes shared their own experiences with injuries and the decision Tagovailoa must make. Clark also noted that this situation is anything but straightforward.

"What you're asking a man to do is give up his lifelong dream that he's worked for," said Clark. "He can't know that he's going to get another concussion; he can't know that he will be in a place to where he's not functional for his family, for his children, for his wife. He can't know that, he can't predict that. So he's going to have to make this decision on what's so present, what's so now, which is I love this game, I want to play this game, this is how I feed my family, as opposed to what it means for my future and that's difficult, and so you have to tell him that right now it's about getting all the

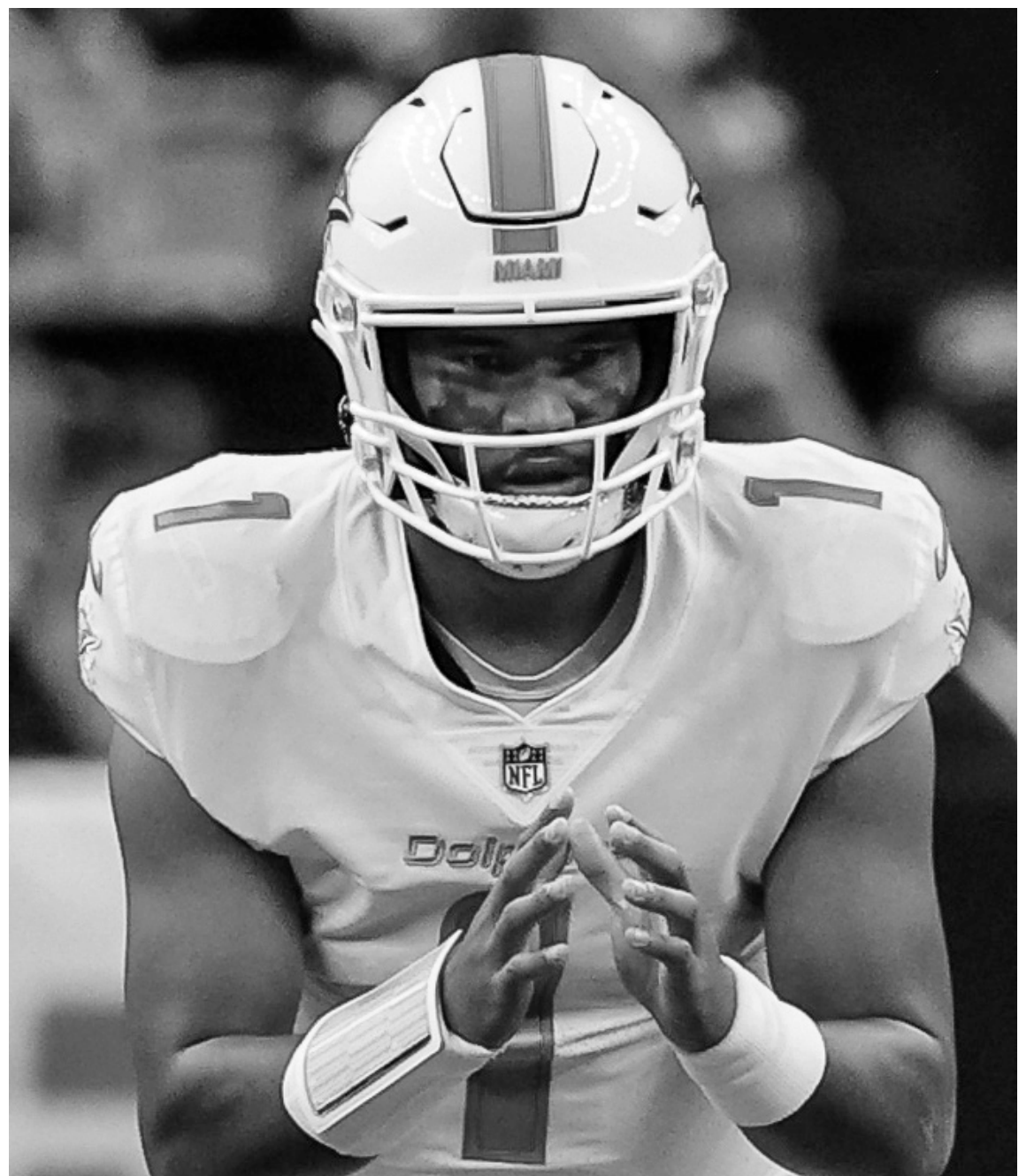
information, it's about getting a clear head and making a non-emotional decision on whether you play or not going forward."

While some former players like Dez Bryant have been very vocal that Tagovailoa should step away from the game, Clark's thinking is rational. No doubt the decision to call it a career, especially at the young age of 26, is difficult. The dream of being immortalized as one of the game's greats and the years of sacrifice put into reaching

the NFL are major reasons for sticking around longer than necessary. Yet, as so many former players like Bryant have said, at the end of the day it's just a game. Tagovailoa has much life to live beyond football and this is a decision that goes beyond football. Not to mention, someone as talented as Tagovailoa could get a job coaching, on TV or even in podcasting. Therefore, retirement doesn't necessarily mean the signal caller is "done" with football.

While he has no plans to re-

tire, his decision may change during the remaining time before his eventual return. It is ultimately up to him and the medical professionals. If Tagovailoa decides to return to the field, he needs to be educated on the risks he is undertaking considering his past medical history and how that will affect the rest of his life. If the benefit of playing around 10 years more of football is worth the long-term risks to his health, then he should do it; if not, he should reconsider his career choice.



Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa calls for the ball against the New Orleans Saints at Caesars Superdome in New Orleans, Louisiana. The game ended in a victory for the Dolphins, with the final score being 20-3 on Dec. 27, 2021.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Sports

Photo of the Day |



UConn men's soccer team takes on MJIT at home on Aug. 29, 2024 at Morrone Stadium. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Volleyball: The Huskies look to extend their undefeated record on the road

BY JULIA SASSO
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The UConn women's volleyball team is looking to continue their undefeated campaign this week as they go on the road to Durham, N.H., where they'll face the University of New Hampshire and Brown University. After, they will come back home to take on Central Connecticut State University.

On Thursday, the Huskies will take on the University of New Hampshire at 6 p.m. The Wildcats have had mixed results at the start of this season with a current record of 4-5. UNH is looking to make

up for their two narrow losses last weekend, and fully turn their season around. The Wildcats bring graduate student Hannah Serbousek who leads the team with 94 kills and 11 service aces. New Hampshire's defensive roster will include another graduate student, Kelly Kaufmann, who leads the team in blocks with 49 this season. These programs have faced each other eight times before; the Huskies have won seven of these matches with six of those wins being consecutive.

Next up for UConn is Brown University on Friday, Sept. 20 at 4 p.m. Although

Brown started their season on a positive note, winning two out of their three initial games, their season took a turn for the worse when they lost their next three consecutive games. They currently stand with a 2-4 record. The Brown Bears' roster will be composed of many key players. One crucial piece is junior Mariia Sidorova, who leads the team with 90 kills. They will also bring some key defensive players such as senior Beau Vanderlaan, who leads the team with 34 blocks. Brown and UConn have only faced each other three times before with the

Huskies winning two of the games.

On Saturday, the Huskies will make their way back to Storrs to face Central Connecticut State at noon. Central Connecticut has had a difficult season so far, losing six out of their seven games. However, they began to turn that tide last weekend when they beat Holy Cross. The Blue Devils are looking to continue their positive momentum and accumulate more wins as they come to Storrs. Their roster includes junior Weronika Poczynek, who leads the team with 80 kills and is second overall

with 73 digs. Freshman Olivia Keckler will also be joining CCSU for this matchup; she just won NEC Freshman of the Week the past week and is third on the team with 56 kills. The teams have come face to face four times before and UConn remains undefeated against the Blue Devils.

Thursday's match against New Hampshire will be streamed on ESPN+. Saturday's game against Central Connecticut will take place at the UConn Volleyball Center in Storrs and will be streamed on UConn+.



The UConn Huskies gained a win against Sacred Heart in three sets on Sept. 15.

PHOTO BY MERGER FERGUSON, PHOTO PRODUCER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Ranking the Bryce Young trade



Carolina Panthers quarterback Bryce Young in his rookie season. Young signed a four-year contract with the Panthers in July of 2023.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

BY MATTHEW CHMURA

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On Monday, the Carolina Panthers announced the organization is benching former No. 1 overall pick, Bryce Young. Andy Dalton, the long-time veteran, will take the reins as the starter for the near future. This decision comes after the Panthers started the year 0-2 and Young has struggled immensely. In week one against the Saints, the Panthers were annihilated 47-10 at home. Young, the second-year QB, went 13-30 and threw for 161 yards with two interceptions. Both interceptions were due to poor decision-making and were not up to the standards of an NFL-level quarterback. After the game, head coach Dave Canales and veteran players on the team like wide receiver Adam Thielen threw

their support behind Young. In week two, Young and the Panthers hosted the Chargers and his struggles worsened.

While Young completed 18 of his 26 passes, he only threw for 84 yards and had an interception. The only bright spot was that his offensive line played better, allowing only two sacks—half of what they allowed last week. The Chargers won the game 26-3 and questions had to be answered on the Panthers' side.

In alignment with what he said after week one's debacle, Canales said, "Bryce Young is our quarterback." A day later after watching the film and meeting with trusted advisors, Canales pulled the switch on Young. Immediately after the decision was announced to the public, social media went ablaze. NFL fans and reports alike were quick to look back at the trade that landed Young in Carolina. In 2023, the Panthers traded for

the first-overall pick, which they used to select Young in exchange for star wide receiver D.J. Moore for the 2023 first and second-round picks and a 2024 first-round pick. The picks turned into Darnell Wright, Tyrique Stevenson and Caleb Williams. Wright has turned into a solid offensive tackle; Stevenson is an up-and-coming corner and Williams is arguably the best quarterback prospect of all-time. Moore had a career-high in all three major categories in his first season with the Bears with 96 catches for 1,364 yards and eight touchdowns. Moore is a true WR1 for most teams in the NFL, so his departure was unfortunate for Young.

Without Moore, Young was horrible in his rookie season. Young threw for only 2,877 yards and 11 touchdowns, and he was intercepted 10 times and sacked 68 times. After just one season, the

trade was a disaster for Carolina. In addition, the second overall pick in the class, C.J. Stroud, quickly became one of the best QBs in the league. Stroud threw for 4,108 yards, 23 touchdowns and only five interceptions. The emergence of Stroud as one of the league's best and the miserable start to Young's career led many to believe the trade to acquire Young was among the worst ever.

There have been many historically bad trades in NFL history, so let's look at a few. In 2020, the Houston Texans acquired David Johnson and a second-round pick for DeAndre Hopkins and fourth round pick. Johnson struggled mightily for two seasons in Houston before retiring, while Hopkins was a star in Arizona before joining the Titans. This trade cost then-head coach and general manager Bill O'Brien his job. In 2007, the Raiders stranded

Randy Moss for a fourth-round pick. Moss, one of the greatest wide receivers ever, set the individual touchdown record in 2007 and was named a first-ballot Hall of Famer in 2018. Russell Wilson was traded to the Broncos for four picks in the first and second rounds. Wilson only spent two seasons in Denver, failing to reach the playoffs in both. He signed a league-minimum deal with the Steelers in the offseason and has yet to start a game due to injury.

Where does the Bryce Young trade fall in comparison to these trades? The truth is, it is still too early to tell. Young just started his second year and may end up being worthy of the pick after all. For now, this trade is on pace to go down as the worst in NFL history if Young and the Panthers fail to turn the ship around.





Sports

Men's Golf: Sunday collapse drops UConn to 8th at Bethpage



A golf ball on the edge of a hole. Golf has become an easily accessible sport due to the lack of athleticism required and mixture with leisure.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FREERANGESTOCK.COM

BY MATT DIMECH

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The University of Connecticut men's golf team opened their season in the Doc Gimmler Red & Black at The Bethpage State Park Red and Black Course in New York. The event ran Monday through Tuesday, and UConn finished eighth of the 12 collegiate teams at the event. The Huskies shot an accumulative 29 over par through three rounds.

The first two rounds on Monday were played on The Red Course. UConn got off to a hot start in round one, and the team combined to shoot two under, placing them atop the leaderboard.

Sophomore Alex Heard led the way, shooting a 67 (-3), which had him tied for third place overall. Three birdies on the back nine punctuated Heard's opening round performance. Junior Connor Goode contributed to the Huskies' first place performance, finishing at a 69 (-1).

St. John's senior Peicheng Chen shot a 65 (-5) to claim first place in the player leaderboard.

In the second-round of the day, UConn's momentum slowed as they finished one stroke over par, which bumped them down to fourth place overall.

Sophomore Bradley Sawka matched his teammate Heard's score from round one, posting a 67 of his own (-3). Sawka is coming off an impressive freshman year, where he was positioned as the team's number three golfer. He put together four birdies on the front nine and managed a fifth along with a pair of bogeys on the back nine. This bumped Sawka up to a tie for third overall in the tournament through the first two rounds, sharing the position with Heard, who came in for a 70 (E) in his second round. Goode shot a 72 (+2) in his second round.

The third and final round of the event took place on The Black Course. This iconic course has hosted three major championships, including the 2019 PGA Championship where Brooks Koepka won the event for the second year in a row to earn his fourth major championship.

It all fell apart for Connecticut in the third round as the more challenging Black Course got the best of the Huskies. The team shot 30 strokes over par which was tenth place for the day, leading to their eighth place finish overall.

Ray Dennehy had the best third round performance for the Huskies, shooting a 74 (+4) to sit tied at fourth place in the round. This gave Dennehy a 24th overall finish in the event. Goode shot a 78 (+8) in his final round. Two birdies in his final five holes gave him a 20th place finish for the event, which was the highest for the Huskies. Sophomore Matthew Costello turned in a 78 (+8) scorecard in his final round as well, which landed him 35th overall for the event. After an impressive day one, Heard and Sawka both finished with 83's (+13) on The Black Course. Their scores plummeted them to join Dennehy at 24th on the leaderboard for the event.

Chen finished at five strokes under par overall after shooting a 71 (+1) in his final round, giving him the individual victory for the event.

This was a disappointing finish for Connecticut after hovering around the top of the leaderboard for most of the tournament only to fall in the final round.

The Huskies have the opportunity to bounce back in just a few short weeks on Sept. 29 when they host the UConn Invitational at Great-Horse in Hampden, Mass.



A man swinging a golf club out on the green. Invented in 15th century Scotland, the sport has been widely popular around the world.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PICKPIK.COM