



## UConn modifies bus schedules to hire more drivers

by **Aiza Shaikh**  
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As a new semester has begun, the University of Connecticut's Transportation Services has made changes to bus schedules on campus and in the Windham region.

Changes to bus timings first went into effect in the middle of the spring 2024 semester due to "budgetary reasons," according to a UConn Daily Digest post from February 2024. Transportation Services decided on a 10:30 p.m. stop time for all HuskyGo shuttles. Additionally, the Green shuttle will stop at 5:00 p.m. and the Orange shuttle will stop at 7:00 pm. Of the three Yellow line shuttles, one will stop running at 5:00 p.m. each day. Before March 2024, campus shuttles ran until midnight.

The reason for the earlier stop time is reduced use of the campus shuttles after 10:30 p.m., according to Philip Johnson of the Windham Region Transit District (WTRD), which also works with UConn Transportation Services.

"Because of our budget, we've had to adjust how our HuskyGo

shuttles run this fall," Johnson said in an email Friday. "We've tried to keep everything as normal as possible for everyone using the shuttles."

Johnson clarified that there has been no reduction in the number of shuttles on any route since last year, although sometimes shuttles will switch routes due to a shortage of drivers. Transportation Services is in the process of hiring additional drivers.

"We haven't reduced the number of shuttles on any route. However, you might see some shuttles, like 'Yellow 2' move to different routes sometimes because we're short on drivers," Johnson said. "We're doing our best to hire more drivers, and we've just interviewed five candidates."

During peak weekday hours, the Blue, Red and Silver lines have two shuttles, and the Green and Orange lines have one shuttle each. Yellow is the only line with three buses that run during peak hours. Specific timings, route maps and number of buses per line can be found on the Transportation website.

Since the first day of classes, bus lines have experienced some delays and cancellations, according to announcements posted by the WRTD X account. A couple of lines were slightly delayed on Wednesday, Aug. 28, and the Orange shuttle was canceled after 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 28 due to a bus operator shortage. Additional delays and cancellations took place on Friday, Sept. 6 due to "the national bus operator shortage and shift call-outs," according to one of the X posts.

As for routes that travel off campus, Johnson said there is now a new service between Storrs and Willimantic, the 674D and 674 E, that runs in the mornings and evenings. Soon there will be a new version of the 674A/C and the 991 Willimantic-Norwich line, which would allow for buses to come more often, according to Johnson.

HuskyGo shuttles are expected to soon resume service to Gilbert Road, which stopped back in February 2023 due to the construction of Connecticut Hall. This is

still in the planning stages, Johnson said.

Another change Johnson anticipates is the new WRTD routes that have been approved by the state Department of Transportation after two years of working on them. Last July, WRTD made several service improvements to the Willimantic City Bus (Route 671 A/B), which includes more frequent stops and Sunday service.

The shortage of bus operators means that current operators need to work more hours than usual, according to Johnson. He encouraged passengers to thank their drivers.

"Our bus operators are working extra hours to make sure you still have service, so please thank them when you see them," Johnson said.

Johnson also wanted to remind students to seek another bus stop if a bus looks full.

"Lastly, always make sure the bus has completely stopped before you cross in front of it. Our bus operators



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are trained to keep you safe, but we all need to do our part," Johnson added. "Thanks for your understanding and cooperation!"

**CORRECTION: On Tuesday, Aug. 29, The Daily Campus incorrectly printed that there were 3,000 video testimonies by Holocaust survivors, while there were truly 5,700 recorded. The organization apologizes for the mistake and will consider this moving forward.**

## Cause of on-campus Wi-Fi issues remain unknown to UConn ITS

by **Pierce Colfer**  
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Since students' return to campus, many have noticed and reported issues with the University of Connecticut's Wi-Fi. "UConn-SECURE," the network intended for UConn students, has caused many issues for students, ranging from poor service to devices not being able to connect at all.

Claire Lawrence, a third-semester data analysis major, spoke about the issues that students have been having with the Wi-Fi.

"I initially noticed I was having trouble connecting to the Wi-Fi when I moved in. At first, I thought it was just a personal technology issue, until classes started, when I noticed many others were having problems connecting and staying on the Wi-Fi," Lawrence said. "Sometimes it would kick us off, other times the network would fully lose internet, among other issues."

According to Lawrence this has caused issues in some of her classes, especially given that her major is data analysis.

"Most of my work is through online programs, such as Python or ArcGIS, which I need internet to work with. This previous Wednesday, my entire intro to GIS lab could not do our lab work because we couldn't get internet. The professor had to extend the deadline and have us complete the work at home, which was frustrating," Lawrence said.

Although UConn Information Technology Services is looking into the issue, the cause of these problems is still unknown. Michael Mundrane, the vice president for information technology and chief information officer,



Students walking by the Information Technologies Engineering Building on Fairfield Way. Students can use this building as a study spot or for technological support.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONN ON INSTAGRAM

talked about the connectivity issues in an email.

"The issues are caused by an intermittent problem with infrastructure inside the UConn data center. This location holds the highest per-

forming infrastructure at the institution. Many services traverse elements of this facility and are impacted when-

ever the 5-10 minute interruption occurs," Mundrane said. "This infrastructure is highly

complex and the root cause of the problem has not yet been identified."

UConn ITS is currently "aggressively exploring the issue in concert with our key vendors," but Mundrane was

unable to give a timeline on when the situation would be resolved, saying "this issue will be resolved as soon as possible," when asked.

Many students have resorted to using the "UConn-GUEST" network or other networks around campus to try to get their work done, but students say that those networks have their own drawbacks. Lawrence talked about her experience with using these networks.

"I tried the UConn-GUEST network for a bit, but I noticed that sometimes that Wi-Fi also has problems. I am also wary of using a guest network long term. In desperate situations I have had to use my phones service as a hotspot, which occasionally works to send an email or turn in a PDF, but is far too slow to actually do work," Lawrence said.

Mundrane advised against using the UConn-GUEST network in his email.

"The interruptions to login services, which impact many other services, are not long lived. We do not encourage people to drop UConn-SECURE and move to UConn-GUEST, for example, because there are substantial benefits to the former," Mundrane said. "If time is of the essence, then UConn-GUEST is an option. If a few minutes will not unduly burden your activity, then it is probably better to wait to connect."

Mundrane did not give any suggestions to students who weren't able to connect to UConn-SECURE at all.

At the end of his email, Mundrane apologized on behalf of UConn ITS, saying, "ITS apologizes for these periodic service outages and the associated disruptions that they create. We are currently pursuing, and will continue to pursue, any and every correction option available to us."

## News

# Maui's toxic debris could fill 5 football fields 5 stories deep. Where will it end up?



Wilted palm trees line a destroyed property, Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, in Lahaina, Hawaii.

PHOTO BY LINDSEY WASSON/AP PHOTO



Destroyed homes are visible in the aftermath of a devastating wildfire in Lahaina, Hawaii, Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2023.

PHOTO BY JAE C. HONG/AP PHOTO

LAHAINA, Hawaii (AP) — Hinano Rodrigues remembers being 4 or 5 years old, carrying a bucket across a highway to the ocean in the Maui community where he still lives.

At dawn, he would accompany his grandmother to a reef at low tide, where she plucked black snails, spiny lobsters and spiky sea urchins from the craggy rock. In Hawaiian, she would instruct him to break off a branch of kiawe, a type of mesquite, to tease out an octopus hiding in a hole.

It taught Rodrigues, 71, the value of ahupuaa, a Native Hawaiian system for dividing land from the mountains down to the ocean, with the residents of each section living off the land and waters within it.

But now the section where he lives and where his ancestors have always lived — the Olowalu ahupuaa — is also home to a temporary landfill being used to store debris from the deadly wildfire that decimated the historic nearby town of Lahaina last summer, destroying thousands of buildings and killing 102 people. It's enough refuse to cover five football fields five stories high, including soil contaminated with lead and arsenic.

A controversy over whether that site is truly temporary — and over where the debris might finally wind up — has sparked a fierce legal fight with tens of millions of dollars at stake, not to mention a priceless ecosystem rich with coral, manta rays and other sea life just offshore.

"Why would you go put opala like this in a place that's clean?" Rodrigues asked, using a Ha-

waiian word for trash.

Handling debris after large wildfires is always a logistical challenge. After the 2018 Camp Fire killed 85 people and burned down most of the town of Paradise, California, more than 300,000 truck loads were required to transport the debris to three different landfills, said Cole Glenwright, the deputy incident commander of the debris removal operation. The whole process took about a year.

It's taking much longer on Maui, given environmental concerns, how long it has taken to clear destroyed lots, worries about Native Hawaiian cultural sites, and tussling over the ownership of a potential permanent site for the debris.

The temporary landfill in Olowalu is a former quarry on state-owned land and close to Lahaina, which made it a convenient choice for quickly storing the debris being cleared away so the town can rebuild. Officials believe its arid climate will reduce the risk of contamination spreading, and they say they've taken many precautions, including using thick liner and stormwater controls to contain runoff.

Officials have analyzed samples of soil, groundwater and surface water and found no traces of contamination being released, according to a quarterly report released in July.

But the site is just uphill from a coral reef, and some locals fear an ecological catastrophe if pollution does reach the water.

The operation of the site also threatens sacred Hawaiian shrines and altars and des-

ecrates ancient Hawaiian burial sites, according to a lawsuit filed by two people who don't want the debris in Olowalu. One of the plaintiffs is Manoa Ka'io Martin, whose ancestors are among those buried nearby. The other is farmer Eddy Garcia, who worries about contamination of the food he grows, including taro, bananas, pineapples and starfruit.

Amid demands to remove the debris from Olowalu, Maui County is seeking to seize a privately owned former quarry near the Central Maui Landfill across the island to use as a permanent dump site.

That's prompted another legal fight. The company that owns the land, Komar Maui Properties, doesn't want to give it up.

Komar bought the land in 2015 with plans to build a private landfill, but it says permitting issues have stalled development. It is contesting the county's effort to take the property by eminent domain — a process by which governments can seize private land for public use, with fair compensation for the owner. A federal judge has prevented the county from taking immediate possession while the lawsuit plays out.

Andy Naden, general counsel and executive vice president of Komar Investments, the parent company of Komar Maui Properties, says the county moved to seize its land only after learning the Federal Emergency Management Agency would pay "tipping fees" associated with disposing of the Lahaina debris — fees typically paid by weight to landfill owners. Maui County charges a

tipping fee of nearly \$110 per ton for municipal solid waste.

"FEMA is going to dump 400,000 tons into this hole," Naden said. "That equates to \$44 million that the federal government is going to give to whoever has the hole."

Shayne Agawa, director of Maui's Department of Environmental Management, disputed that. He said his department has long been interested in acquiring the land as part of plans to expand the adjacent public landfill.

Agawa, who lives in Olowalu, said the county doesn't want the debris to remain at the temporary site. But it has yet to come up with a backup plan in case the court blocks the county from seizing Komar's land. Officials are looking at other nearby parcels, he said.

To respond to cultural concerns, Maui officials consulted with the county's archaeologist, Janet Six, and FEMA had one of its historic advisors assess the site. Six told The Associated Press she could not rule out the presence of ancient cultural sites or burial grounds, but noted that the area was previously disturbed by mining. FEMA found that no historic properties would be affected.

The lawsuit filed by Garcia and Martin asserted that the construction and operation of the temporary dump has in fact damaged or desecrated such sites by exposing them to toxic material, in violation of Martin's spiritual practices.

Garcia said he feels uneasy as rumbling trucks haul debris up the road next to his farm. He

worries one heavy bout of rain will cause toxins from the debris to contaminate the food he grows.

The pair dropped their lawsuit after the county announced plans for the permanent site in central Maui, but their lawyer is considering their next legal steps while the debris sits in Olowalu.

"I have a feeling they're going to try to make it permanent and just say, 'Sorry, we can't move it to the other site,'" Garcia said.

Further complicating the issue is that the ashes or bones of some fire victims might be mingled in the debris. Raenelle Stewart's 97-year-old grandmother died in the fire. Stewart often wonders if the ashes the family received contained all her remains. The fire debris should be kept nearby, she said.

"I think they should designate a spot in Lahaina for it," she said. "I don't think it's so toxic that the earth can't handle."

Randy Awo, a retired administrator in the state Department of Land and Natural Resources, is a Native Hawaiian resident of Maui. He'd prefer to have the debris shipped out of state — an option officials rejected as too expensive.

Awo called the concerns about remains "a sacred topic" and said he does not want to be insensitive to families who lost loved ones. But, he added, the community must also protect Maui's finite amount of land.

"When our environment is subjected to toxins that threaten life itself," Awo said, "we have to start making decisions that weigh both."

## The Daily Campus

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

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# 'Alien: Romulus' is a terrifying revival of a franchise

by Desirae Sin | SHE/HER/HERS | STAFF WRITER | [desirae.sin@uconn.edu](mailto:desirae.sin@uconn.edu)



ILLUSTRATION BY NICHOLAS D'AMORE, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/ THE DAILY CAMPUS

Recent additions to iconic franchises and series tend to have mixed results. Some movies are beloved by both original and new fans, while others struggle to please either audience. One of the newest franchise revivals is “Alien: Romulus,” which was released this year on Aug. 16.

Immediately, the movie harkens back to the original “Alien” from 1979 with a camera shot of expansive space, credits and title card. Audiences are filled with a sense of nostalgia and wonder, gazing at the empty yet beautiful nature of the cosmos.

Our cast of characters is limited, which is typical of an “Alien” movie. Our heroine, Rain — played by Cailee Spaeny — joins a band of scrappers to find a way off the mining colony she has spent her entire life on. She’s joined by her synthetic companion — they prefer the term “artificial per-

son” — named Andy, played by David Jonsson.

Their goal when searching the deserted outpost, the Renaissance, is to find cryostasis pods and fuel to make the journey to another planet, one where they can finally see the sunrise. Unfortunately, they also find everyone’s favorite parasite — the “facehuggers” — and must escape by traveling throughout the two sections of the Renaissance: Romulus and Remus.

Though just a broad summary, the plot is sprinkled with easter eggs, terrifying action scenes and moments that make the audience gasp. The limited cast makes each moment and death much more sincere. One thing to note is that the crew members are barely young adults. This sets them apart from the casts of previous installments of the franchise, as they were trained, spacefaring explorers working on behalf of

Weyland-Yutani. The goal of the 2024 crew, in contrast, is to leave the company and live their lives.

Spoiler warning for character death in “Alien: Romulus” ahead!

“Alien: Romulus” delivers on the iconic deaths that fans want to see, the first being the “chestbuster” death in which the xenomorph finally leaves its human incubator. The build-up to this first death is filled with tension and knowing looks from the audience, especially as the legless android, Rook, states that the pilot, Navarro, has only a 60-40 chance of survival. In the context of a sci-fi horror movie, those chances are actually zero.

For the first two-thirds of the movie, the sci-fi aspects shine. But the last 30 minutes or so will chill you to the bone. This is the moment when the atmosphere changes, and you

suddenly remember that this is a horror movie. Most people are familiar with aliens like the facehugger or the xenomorph from previous films. But “Alien: Romulus” adds a new monster: the humanoid xenomorph that’s been dubbed the “Offspring” by fans doesn’t feel like an alien; it feels like a demon straight from hell.

As with all big hits, “Alien: Romulus” is subject to negative reviews from critics. Yet even critics cannot deny the spectacular effects used in “Alien: Romulus.” Most of the scenes utilize practical effects, meaning the creatures are real puppets rather than CGI. Even the most detailed puppets can look fake if not done correctly. “Alien: Romulus” is mostly set in dark environments, showcasing the best features of the puppets and props.

On the subject of CGI, “Alien: Romulus” does use it for what is a hotly contested is-

sue. Rook is an android, but his likeness is copied from a previous android in the past films named Bishop. The actor, Ian Holm, passed away in 2020. The movie uses AI technology to recreate his face and voice for the character, while Daniel Betts portrays the facial and vocal movements. This brings up the issue of Hollywood’s use of AI, although Holm’s family expressly gave permission for his likeness to be used in the film.

Despite the ethical debate surrounding the use of AI, it did succeed in creating a feeling of nostalgia.

“Alien: Romulus” succeeds in revisiting a franchise which was thought to be dead, after the confusion in the lore created by “Prometheus” and the lackluster CGI in “Alien: Covenant.” Even if fans are upset with creative choices, “Alien: Romulus” strikes terror in all those who witness it.

## Rating: 4/5

# von der Mehden

## hosts its first recital of the school year with pianist Dr. Ron Squibbs

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab** | SHE/HER/HERS | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | [lilith.rampertab@uconn.edu](mailto:lilith.rampertab@uconn.edu)

von der Mehden recital hall kicked off the 2024-2025 school year with its first recital entitled “Radiance” on Sept. 7 performed by Dr. Ron Squibbs on the piano.

After a preliminary round of applause, Squibbs began the first piece, John Luther Adams’ “Nunataks (Solitary Peaks),” with a single sustained, sour, strained chord, leaving the room full of tense silence. The sound slowly developed into a fuller and fuller sound, growing slightly brighter as time progressed until becoming subdued again. This minimalist dynamic was slightly reminiscent of the piano-based album “12” by the late composer and musician Ryuichi Sakamoto.

Then, Squibbs played a mix of light and deep notes, with mostly deeper notes, adding a lot of weight not present earlier in the performance.

Discordant notes in between the actual melody were painful to listen to, but clearly intentional. It makes one wonder what Adams was thinking about when composing the piece. Was he grieving? Eventually, it sounded as though the

piece was repeating itself. The composition is so suspenseful; there’s no hint as to when the next note is going to be played. Without warning, Squibbs suddenly removed his hands from the piano. He received applause from the audience.

Afterwards, Squibbs provided context to the piece and its composer, Adams, saying “He’s one of the only people I know of who combined the careers of being an environmental activist and a composer.”

When reflecting on the era in which “Radiance” was composed (during the COVID-19 pandemic), Squibbs said the thought process behind the song was: “What exactly is going on and how long are we going to be in this place?”

The first movement of “Radiance” was “Counting the Dead,” which started off innocently enough, but something felt off. The sound could almost be akin to the failure of forced optimism.

The change between “Counting the Dead” and the next movement, “Compassion,” was subtle at first. However, the notes began to differ, and the melody line changed into some-

thing more fluid. The sound eventually became fuller with bass notes. Nonetheless, it still sounded like grieving, like letting pent-up emotions pour out while trying to restrain yourself. The heavy bassline of the piano seemed like a solid structure and the melody sounded as though it was floating on top of it with less and less restraint, but the same level of dismalness. The melody continued to show increasingly less restraint as the movement progressed.

The final movement, “Radiance (Mikaeri Amida),” emphasized the brooding bassline. The subtitle of the piece is a reference to a statue of the Buddha that is looking back as if it is waiting for the souls of the ones we lost. It felt similar to the Dan Salvato piece “My Confession” from the horror visual novel “Doki Doki Literature Club.” The movement felt like a warm but solemn hug.

Then there was an intermission. Organ music lecturer Dr. Angela Salcedo shared her thoughts on the piece: “The final movement inspired me with the single gesture that was symbolic. That single motif was shaped in such a way that it reflected the

looking over the shoulder. Each time the gesture reappeared it was symbolic of the Buddha’s looking back for those who have been left behind. I really felt like I heard that.”

After the intermission ended, Dr. Martin Hebel, a University of Connecticut alum and the composer of “Radiant Pillars,” came on stage and introduced himself. Hebel worked with Squibbs and reflected on his trajectory to becoming a professor at the University of Northern Alabama. “It’s really a privilege to return to UConn and to have Dr. Squibbs perform my piece at his recital,” he reflected. Hebel then explained how he felt compelled to write the stellar piece, citing seeing space with a telescope at a young age and wanting to recreate that feeling. “I evoke the stark contrast” of the great expanse of space, Hebel said.

“Radiant Pillars” started off with a less depressing and hollow sound than the first two pieces performed. There was a repeated contrasting leitmotif that gradually progressed into loud and crashing notes. Then, after a while, there was

a sudden clarity in the notes that brought to mind being lost in a bright environment, aimlessly floating around. Finally, a bright arpeggio of high notes slowly got quieter until the bass notes came in heavy like a hammer and enveloped the melody. Squibbs displayed a bold physical expression while playing this piece.

The final piece of the night was Dane Rudhyar’s “Stars” from “Pentagram No. 3.” “This is the only piece by someone I don’t know personally,” Squibbs said, referring to how Rudhyar is a historical composer who isn’t alive anymore.

“Stars” was rather avant-garde with frequent discordant notes, but nonetheless, it was beautiful and appealing to the ears. There was a certain melody throughout that sounded like a modern composition.

After the performance, the audience was invited backstage.

“His musical artistry in the performance displayed great music artistry in these works where they’re slow and the meter was not well-defined,” Dr. Salcedo commented after the performance.

# ‘A home away from home’: The Rainbow Center hosts 2024 Welcome Back Bash

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab** | SHE/HER/HERS | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | [lilith.rampertab@uconn.edu](mailto:lilith.rampertab@uconn.edu)

On Sept. 6, 2024, the University of Connecticut’s Rainbow Center hosted its annual Welcome Back Bash to officially welcome back the patrons of the center. Pizza and snacks were provided while the guests conversed with each other.

After letting the guests settle in, Nathan Velazquez, a seventh-semester pathobiology major and the programming and events lead for the Rainbow Center, gave a short presentation about the staff of the Rainbow Center, the services the center provides, affiliated organizations and activities available at the event. Velazquez also highlighted some of the upcoming events hosted by the Rainbow Center: The Rainbow Center Symposium with keynote speaker Gabby Rivera, author of the queer and Latina coming-of-age novel “Juliet Takes A Breath” and Marvel’s comic book “America,” will be held on Oct. 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Gender Lab, an event featuring medical and legal professionals who explain how to medically and legally transition genders, a hair stylist that gives free haircuts and tutorials for masculine and feminine makeup. Likewise, the Rainbow Center’s gender-affirming closet will be on full display and available to the public as it always has been. The event will occur in the first week of November. Velazquez also announced that the Gender Lab will be held semi-regularly from now on.

On Nov. 20, the Rainbow Center will pay respects to the transgender individuals who died for Transgender Day of Remembrance, reading the names

of those who died and planting transgender flags in front of the Student Union.

The Rainbow Center will collaborate with the African American Cultural Center for the annual Drag Show on Feb. 22, 2025 at the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. When asked about why the African American Cultural Center partnered with the Rainbow Center, Velazquez said “We had always wanted to bring other cultural centers into Rainbow Center events. That’s why we pointed to the Drag Show, since the Drag Show is the biggest event in Rainbow Center recent history.” The collaboration also allows for more Black representation at the event. He added that over 1,000 tickets were sold last year.

The Out to Lunch lecture series will have another installment this October, according to Velazquez. The details are still currently in the works.

The Rainbow Center stresses the importance of sexual health, providing free safer sex products easily accessible outside of their center and having free and confidential HIV and Hepatitis C testing.

Velazquez then made the audience aware of the organizations that are affiliated with the Rainbow Center, including In-Power, which seeks to empower survivors of sexual assault, stalking, and intimate partner violence; the Queer Collective, which focuses on fostering community within the queer community on campus; Between Women, which is for women and non-binary people who are attracted to women or suspect they are; the Black Queer Student Associa-

tion; Decolores, which is an affinity group for queer and trans Latines; Queer Asians & Allies and oSTEM, which is for queer students in science, technology, engineering or mathematical fields.

Grian Wizner, a seventh-semester secondary English education major and president of Decolores, reflected on the influence the Rainbow Center staff had on the organization. “Kelsey, Ian and Lene have seen all the highs and lows with Decolores, and without their help, Decolores wouldn’t be where it is today.”

The final point Velazquez made is gender-inclusive housing, which caters to transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming students, but also more generally the queer community.

“We’re going to be having queer movie nights about queer history and people showing the intersectionality between queerness and transness and marginalized communities,” Velazquez remembered in a conversation after the presentation.

The audience enjoyed making collages, coloring, playing “Just Dance,” socializing or simply enjoying the atmosphere.

Aqua T., a fifth-semester digital media and design major with a concentration in film/video production, reflected “Some people feel nervous to come to the Rainbow Center, but it’s very, very open. It’s not necessarily just a place to deal with queer issues; it’s a place to exist. A safe space. It’s a home away from home. You can eat here, you can sleep here, you can piss here.”

Daily

Life

@dailycampuslife

# THIS WEEK IN HISTORY: SEPT. 8 - 14

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

As Obi-Wan Kenobi says while surprising the evil General Grievous in Star Wars: “Hello there,” and welcome back to This Week in History! It’s been a little while since I’ve had the honor of sitting down and writing about timely events in history, but this eclectic column is back and the year ahead will no doubt be one for the history books. So, without further ado, let’s dive into some history that happened this week!

What better place to begin than one of history’s most amazing and influential performances: On Sept. 9, 1956, the electric and innovative Elvis Presley debuted on the Ed Sullivan Show.

In the 1950s, Eisenhower’s presidency, in tandem with the effects of the Korean War, yielded stiff cultural expectations. While dance halls and ballrooms were the location of choice for most energetic young folks, in many respects, the music remained unchanged between the ‘40s and early ‘50s. Rock remained on the fringe for the time being, while jazz bands or skiffle still dominated most night club shows.

That all changed when the stomping and shouting of Elvis came onto the stage in 1956. Presley skyrocket-

ed to no. one in the music charts with his January 1956 release “Heartbreak Hotel.” Soon after, his R&B-infused sets would catch America by storm. By late 1956, he was begrudgingly invited to perform three times on the Ed Sullivan Show for a staggering \$50,000 (equivalent to \$500,000 today).

You may have noticed the term “begrudgingly” in the previous paragraph; in fact, that may be an understatement for the initial disdain that Ed Sullivan had for Elvis. Sullivan had initially refused to allow Elvis on his show, citing the backlash that Elvis’ trademark hip movements and gyrations tended to receive. Parents and most adults were shocked by the display of masculinity and sexual expression in Elvis’ shows, and so, knowing his market well, perhaps Sullivan was right to be dismissive.

But, after recurring success, Sullivan knew that Elvis wasn’t just a fad — there was money to be made by publicizing his performance. After finally caving, on Sept. 9, 1956, Sullivan gave Elvis the timeslot he needed.

Staggering even by today’s standards, 60 million viewers tuned into Elvis’ appearance on the show. According to the Ed Sullivan Show’s website, that’s nearly 82% of the TV-viewing audience in America.

As monumental a show as this was, you may be surprised the Elvis’ lines before he plays the closing verses of “Hound

Dog” — “Mr. Sullivan, we know that somewhere out there that you’re looking in, and all the boys and myself and everybody out here, are looking forward to seeing you back on television, and we’ll be seeing you October the eighth when we’re back on your show again.”

That’s right! Sullivan wasn’t hosting his namesake show. Preceding Elvis’ performances of “Don’t Be Cruel” and “Love Me Tender,” the act was actually introduced by British actor Charles Laughton.

It turns out that in early August 1956, Sullivan was in a near-fatal car accident in Seymour, Connecticut. Sullivan, who suffered a broken rib, commented in the New York Times “It’s a miracle that we weren’t hurt worse.”

Consequently, Sullivan wouldn’t appear on his show for a few weeks, meaning that he missed his show’s debut of perhaps the biggest star of the 1950s. Nonetheless, Elvis’ performance still proves to be as thrilling as it was when it was aired live. Just imagine hearing these words come through the TV: “Friends, as a great philosopher once said, you ain’t nothin’ but a hound dog!”

Now, let’s step back from the TV and look to the stars. In 1997, NASA’s Mars Global Surveyor reached Mars. This was an incredible feat, but perhaps the most enduring impact of the achievement was that the spacecraft circled Mars for over

a decade, giving scientists and researchers new information about Mars that led to a general rethinking of its planet systems.

According to NASA’s page for the Mars Global Surveyor, the spacecraft “became the first successful mission to the Red Planet in two decades.” It allowed for a low-altitude orbit of the planet, contributing to its many findings, most major of which being the increased evidence of water on Mars. This came about after possible evidence of water gullies depositing water down hill-sides, as well as various water-directed mineral deposits.

Considering that understanding water on Mars is still a major pursuit of science today, the Mars Global Surveyor provides an invaluable base of knowledge from which NASA can continue to make groundbreaking discoveries.

Yet another reason to be intrigued by the Mars Global Surveyor mission comes from its main scientific objective: to map the interior surface of Mars. In this respect, the images provided by the mission are incredibly impressive, including photos of the massive dust storms that originate from the southern pole of the planet. Thanks to these contributions, we have a far better understanding of Mars’ surface.

Ultimately, on Nov. 14, 2006, a series of computer errors likely caused by battery failure ended the spacecraft’s mission, yet its impact lives on in the knowl-

edge we’ve accrued during its decade-long adventure around the Red Planet.

Finally, let’s return to the surface of the planet and consider some very important history. While on Sept. 11, 2001, the terrorist attack on the Twin Towers in New York is no doubt a vital point in history, a decade later in 2011, another event is also worth remembering.

On Sept. 12, 2011, The National September 11 Memorial & Museum opened to the public.

According to the museum’s website: “Located at the World Trade Center in New York City, the 9/11 Memorial Museum tells the story of 9/11 through media, narratives, and a collection of monumental and authentic artifacts, presenting visitors with personal stories of loss, recovery, and hope.”

Having personally attended the museum, I can say that it is a powerful space, and its artifacts, displays and monuments all evoke an emotional awareness of the tragedy that happened only a little over two decades ago.

So, with that reminder of the importance of preserving history, the first issue of This Week in History for the year comes to a close. This column will have a new release every Monday, each featuring new events, topics and history. See you next week!

## ‘A Good Beginning’:

### A strong finish for music in the 20th century

by James Fitzpatrick

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Welcome to “No Skips,” a spiritual successor to Raquel Montelindo’s column from last semester! I’ll be your new host, where we’ll discuss music albums of the highest caliber that maintain unparalleled quality and consistency throughout their runtimes and can therefore be considered to contain no skips within their track lists. Today, we’ll be praising a record that may surprise some based on my recent opinions of their frontman’s newest album.

The 1999 classic “Ágætis byrjun” by post-rock group Sigur Rós is a feat nearly impossible to surpass for the band or its lead vocalist, Jónsi, in his solo discography. Despite its now 25 years of age, the 71-minute album is sure to calm you and give respite from any frustrating situation by enveloping you in its world of serenity. The cover’s resemblance to the fetus from Stanley Kubrick’s “2001: A Space Odyssey” further draws the parallel that this piece of media will take you to another world, albeit not for long enough.

Before we get onto the music, I’ll preface that most of the song titles will be provided in English for clarity, and I tend not to critique songs that are interludes, intros or outros with the same lens as I do with full tracks. For example, “Intro” on this album is essentially a portion of the title track in reverse speed (by the



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

way, “Ágætis byrjun” translates to “A good beginning,”) while the last track, “Avalon,” uses slowed audio from “Staring Elf.” They’re not playlist-worthy selections, yet they certainly don’t detract from the listening experience, so they get a pass.

“A Pun of Sleepwalkers and Sleep Angels” is a noisy start, with cacophonous guitars and Jónsi’s heavenly crooning battling for attention. There are even moments where Jónsi’s notes and the howling guitar

chords are in sync with each other (likely not a coincidence since Jónsi does most of the guitar work for the band).

The dichotomy of the instruments’ dynamics and Jónsi’s soft-spoken demeanor is a good tone setter for this album, though “Starting Elf” steals the show as the album’s climax, regardless of its placement as the third song. The infectious violin passages carry a cinematic feel that, when paired with Jónsi’s singing, is peak music. The

track develops with digital and bouncy sounds that remind me of Björk’s “Homogenic” from 1997, another Icelandic album that Sigur Rós undoubtedly heard before recording “Ágætis byrjun.”

The acoustic finish to “Staring Elf” segues into “Savior of the Fly,” where the band’s drummer at the time, Ágúst Ævar Gunnarsson, uses brushes on his drums to subdue the song to a degree. The drums aren’t very prominent on this record, and this could be because Gunnarsson left the band after “Ágætis byrjun,” only to be replaced for their next record in 2002. Nevertheless, “Savior...” is a meditative track that exemplifies how you don’t need to understand a singer’s language to find meaning in their music.

“New Batteries” finds Sigur Rós introducing their love for Radiohead, which might have been a shot in the dark to claim if they hadn’t opened on tour with Radiohead at least once in 2000. The song is great though, and any lulls in the track list or songs that are derivative of other bands help in the album’s cause to calm the listener, so it gets a thumbs-up from me.

“The Heart Pounds (Boom Boom Boom)” features upbeat organ notes colliding with swirling electric guitars before Jónsi gets up close and personal with the microphone, eventually closing with a passage of noise.

“It’s Good Weather for Air-strikes” may sound political at first, but the song and music

video don’t really reflect such sentiments. The piano takes two minutes, the strings take another minute and by the time Jónsi comes in halfway through the 10-minute track, it turns into an ending similar to “New Batteries.” Overall, it’s another peaceful track laden with moving pieces that somewhat rivals the song structure of “A Day in the Life” by the Beatles, without much discussion of conflict.

“Olsen Olsen” may as well be called “Opera Opera” due to its orchestral sound, reminding me of Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy” in a modern sense. The song is reduced to the main melody played with a woodwind instrument by the end, as the angelic title track comes in. The acoustic guitar and light snare drums complement Jónsi’s most youthful singing on the record. A bit of anguish on his part makes for a lullaby with a powerful emotional backdrop that, when paired with the final track and “Intro,” gives the full album a cyclical structure: The cycle of life continues.

Finally, I know I bashed Jónsi’s album “First Light” for its lack of vocals, but upon further listening, “Avalon” and its role as an ambient cut concludes the record works perfectly. I have yet to listen to the rest of Sigur Rós’ discography, yet that fact shows how powerful of a stand-alone record this is that I can name it one of my favorite albums of all time without knowing Icelandic or the rest of the band’s music. At the end of the day, it’s all about the vibes.



# Opinion

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# Refusing Zionist propaganda in Jewish communities

by Judah Friedman | HE/HIM/HIS | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | judah.friedman@uconn.edu

I was raised in a fairly standard Jewish upbringing — I spent my early summers at Camp Gan Israel, was a weekly synagogue attendee, attended Jewish Day School for most of my elementary school years and even had my Bar Mitzvah. I deeply valued my ethnic and religious identity. I saw it as my connection to a rich cultural history, shared traditions and a sense of belonging. It was, and still is, an important part of who I am as a person. But unbeknownst to me, for the vast majority of my life, my ethnicity and religion were being weaponized for the purpose of advancing political and ideological goals. This realization left me feeling that my deeply cherished identity had been corrupted and manipulated, transforming something profoundly personal into a tool for external agendas.

The indoctrination of Zionist beliefs started as early as elementary school. I, like many Jewish children, was taught a sanitized version of Israel's history. I was taught of "a land without a people for a people without a land," which framed Israel as the Jewish people's God-given inheritance, dismissing any other national or religious claims as illegitimate. I was taught that upon Israel's declaration of independence, all neighboring Arab nations—described antagonistically as "hostile"—declared war with the intent to destroy the Jewish state and eradicate the Jewish population. I was taught that a Jewish victory was because we were God's chosen people, and we were meant to inhabit the land.

The early Jewish school systems are a terrifying memory for me to look back on. The curriculum frequently emphasized a singular, idealized narrative of Jewish history and the centrality of Israel, frequently glossing over or entirely omitting critical perspectives on these topics. There was no education on the Nakba and no attempt to understand why there may have been resistance to the creation of the state of Israel. This intense focus on reinforcing a specific ideological viewpoint left little room for questioning or exploring diverse viewpoints, creating an environment where dissent was discouraged and alterna-

tive perspectives were marginalized. It's alarming how closely this system resembles the indoctrination tactics used by oppressive regimes that modern-day Jews vehemently oppose.

While my days of Jewish Day School ended after elementary school, I wish I could say that was the end of my consumption of Zionist propaganda.

Like many young, impressionable Jewish kids who internalized the belief that we were isolated in a world that didn't fully understand or accept us, I looked towards major Jewish organizations like the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) for guidance. These organizations were presented as beacons of support and security, promising to safeguard our community from external threats and antisemitism. However, what we get is a more divisive narrative that does more harm than good to the Jewish identity.

Organizations like the ADL have been incredibly successful at changing what it means to be Jewish. The philosophy of our ancestors to build home and community wherever we found ourselves has slowly been replaced by a Zionist perspective that encourages viewing our neighbors with suspicion and asserts that safety can only be found among our own kind. Most troubling is the way Zionism has become conflated with Judaism—leading to the characterization of anti-Zionism as inherently antisemitic. This conflation not only obscures the legitimate critique of political ideologies but also diverts attention away from actual instances of antisemitism. It has led to a situation where legitimate concerns about Israeli policies or Zionist ideologies are dismissed as expressions of hatred toward all Jewish people, thus trivializing real antisemitic incidents and making it difficult to address them effectively. Moreover, this conflation puts a target on Jewish individuals who may not align with Zionist views, as they are often unfairly associated with and blamed for the actions of the Israeli state.

The ADL has labeled common anti-Zionist slogans, such as "for the river to the sea," as being antisemitic and has accused anti-Zionist Jewish organizations like Jewish Voices for Peace of

promoting violence and terrorism. Jonathan Greenblatt, Executive Director of the ADL, even compared a Palestinian keffiyeh to a Nazi swastika. The ADL has successfully established themselves as the premier Jewish organization for civil rights, so it's deeply concerning when they claim to speak on behalf of all Jewish people whenever they go about vilifying Palestinians, pro-Palestinian protestors and anti-Zionist Jewish people/organizations.

I have long distanced myself from Zionism and the associated propaganda, but that doesn't make me any less Jewish. I still strongly identify with my ethnic and religious Jewish heritage. I would love to engage with other members of my community during my college experience, but that has proven challenging. My only option for Jewish organizations on the University of Connecticut campus is Hillel, whose guidelines on Israel policy have made it clear that they are not welcoming to those who seek to criticize the policies and actions of the state of Israel. Whether it be a new Jewish cultural organization that isn't explicitly Zionist like Jewish Voices for Peace, or UConn Hillel distancing themselves from the policies of their international counterpart to allow for a forum of actual political discourse, changes need to be made regarding Jewish cultural organizations on this campus.

I always think back to something one of my elementary school Judaic Studies teachers once told me. She said that the only thing separating the Jewish people of the present from those of the Old Testament enslaved in Egypt, is our ability to ask questions, because "free people ask questions." We, the Jewish people of the modern day, are not free. We have failed to question and resist the censorship of Jewish and Israeli history in our education systems and the conflation of our identity with Zionism. We must liberate ourselves from our enslavement under the settler-colonial, apartheid, ethnocracy that is the Israeli government and its propaganda machine. Zionism is not Judaism. Anti-Zionism is not antisemitism. Free Palestine.

# Opinion

Photo of the Day | Student travels



A perspective of a student looking outward of a UConn bus' front view window. Transportation services are essential to travel around campus.  
PHOTO BY MERGER FERGUSON, PHOTO PRODUCER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## ||||| comics |||||



COMIC BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# FIELD HOCKEY: HUSKIES CONTINUE A HOT STREAK

by **Tyler Pruneau**  
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The UConn field hockey team left no room for their opponent to breathe as they dominated Cornell University last Friday. In a 6-1 finish, the Huskies took their third consecutive win of the season. The defense left everything out on the field, only allowing Cornell to take five shots, two of which were on goal. This gave goalkeeper Natalie McKenna a bit of a break, saving three shots the entire game. Down on the other side of the field, the offense was relentless, nailing 20 shots, 19 of which were on goal.

In the first minute of the game, UConn forward Julia Bressler took a penalty shot after a corner was taken. Bressler took full advantage and not only put up the first point for Connecticut, but her first goal of the season. Soon after, UConn's Juul Sauer proved why she became Freshman of the Week and put one in the back of the net, earning her fourth goal of the season. Sauer's shot was off an assist from Juana Garcia.

Less than a minute later, the Big Red responded quickly with their own goal, putting the score to 2-1, UConn leading by one. Between the rest of the first quarter and the start of the second quarter, the two teams went back and forth until Lila Browne brought the ball up the field and sent it to Sauer. This earned the star freshman her second goal of the game, putting her at five goals for the season. The way Sauer performed this past week suggests she may earn back-to-back Freshman Player of the Week.

Coming down to the end of

the game and being up by four goals, you would think the Huskies would be done, but they were not. In the final minute of the game, Isabel Soeters took a corner and found Sophie Perschk for a freshman-to-freshman connection. Perschk quickly set up the ball for Milaw Clause. Clause then finished off Cornell 6-1. This also put Clause up to two goals for the season.

Throughout the game, Sauer, Bressler and Herb kept the Cornell goalkeeper on her toes. Those three players alone had a combined total of 12 out of the 20 shots that were taken, and all 12 shots were on goal.

In the last two games against Saint Joseph's and the University of New Hampshire, Madi Herb earned two assists. On an assist from Herb, Sol Simone found the net and nailed her first goal of the season against New Hampshire.

The Huskies then finished the Wildcats off 6-2.

The Huskies are continuing to gain momentum as they prepare to go on the road to face Brown University.



CLIPART COURTESY OF GREAZILLA



Sol Simone dribbling the ball down the field in a UConn field hockey game. Simone plays midfield for the Huskies and was born in Argentina. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNHOCKEY ON INSTAGRAM

# Men's Soccer: Hanni and the Huskies remain unbeaten after road win against CCSU

by **Avery Becker**  
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The stands at Arute Field were filled to the brim with Central Connecticut students and fans anxious to see the battle between two Connecticut foes: CCSU and UConn. However, Blue Devils fans' hopes were diminished, with the Huskies coming out with a 2-1 win, thanks to the goal scoring of sophomore midfielder Sabri Hanni and junior forward Eli Conway.

In the beginning minutes of the first half, tensions were high, with both teams struggling to get themselves on the board.

In the eighth minute, senior Scott Testori attempted to open the scoring as he headed the ball in the top left corner off the goal after a pass from junior Charlie Holmes, but it was denied by the

Blue Devils goalkeeper, Michel Pinoncely.

No points were scored until the twenty third minute of the game, when Conway was pushed down by a CCSU defender in their box and the Huskies were awarded a penalty kick.

Hanni took the penalty kick for the Huskies and netted it for his third goal of the season and career. Hanni has had a stellar season so far as a sophomore, after not seeing any game action in his freshman campaign. With this third goal under his belt, he currently leads the Huskies in goals.

About 10 minutes later, the Huskies got themselves on the board again in the thirty-sixth minute. After a flick pass from Testori, Conway ran with the ball and propelled it into the bottom of the net past Pinoncely.

With their lead doubled, UConn headed into the half up 2-0,

but their path to victory was far from over.

In the fifty-sixth minute, CCSU scored their first goal of the game, but that did not stop UConn from working towards extending the goal margin.

Both Kieran Chandler and Michael Suski made attempts, although both were unsuccessful. Chandler's shot was tipped over the bar and Suski's penalty kick opportunity was saved by Pinoncely.

However, UConn held on, and the match finished with a score of 2-1. Sophomore goalkeeper Max Kerkvliet played a crucial role in preventing the Blue Devils from getting back in this one, allowing only one shot to find the back of the net.

"Obviously never easy to win on the road," head coach Chris Gbandi stated. "I'm pretty happy with the guys' energy; it was there, they worked hard. Hard fought 2-1 win. We'll take it and

move on."

With this win, Connecticut remains unbeaten with a record of 3-0-1 on the season so far.

Next up, the Huskies are set to return to Morrone Stadium on Monday, Sept. 9 to take on the Siena Saints.

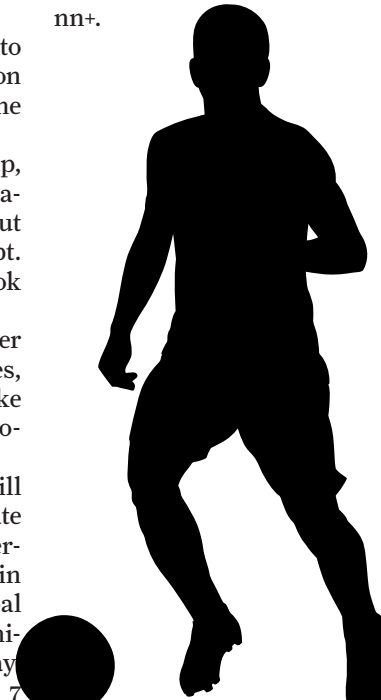
Coming into this matchup, the Saints are 1-1-2 on the season. The last time Connecticut and Siena faced off was on Sept. 4, 2023, when the Huskies took the win 3-1.

With that being the first ever matchup between the two foes, Siena will be looking to make the record between these programs 1-1.

A player the Huskies will have to look out for is graduate student midfielder Nick Fernandes, who leads the team in goals, after scoring the lone goal in Siena's match against the University of Albany last Thursday.

Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. from Joseph J. Morrone

Stadium. If Husky fans cannot make it to the pitch, they can livestream the match on UConn+.



CLIPART COURTESY OF GREAZILLA



A Heated matchup Sunday night for UConn men's soccer ends in a draw. The final score for the game against Long Island University was 0-0. PHOTO BY MERCER FERGUSON, PHOTO PRODUCER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Sports

Photo of the Day | And serve!



Sunday afternoon the UConn huskies gain a win against Sacred Heart in three sets. The Huskies have now played six games this season.  
PHOTO BY MERCER FERGUSON, PHOTO PRODUCER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# McCreven Mashup:

## a college football week 3 preview

by **Jake McCreven**  
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There is something inherently difficult about predicting the result of a college football game. On paper, one team may outclass the other across every position group, have multiple All-Americans on its roster and be a title favorite in both its conference and on the national scene, yet still lose by multiple scores – sorry, Florida State. So, instead of spending the handful of hours it takes to write this article pulling my hair out deciding whether or not Kansas State's offensive line can hold off the Arizona pass rush long enough for Avery Johnson to create, I have decided to preview week three through a different lens. I have taken a little bit of everything from the last two weeks of college football and fused it into one preview capsule for this upcoming Saturday.

**Rising Stars: The Best Underclassmen in College Football**  
Dylan Stewart (South Carolina): Five-star true freshman controlled the line of scrimmage against Old Dominion, displaying freakish bend off the edge and finishing with 1.5 sacks and two forced fumbles. Stewart added another sack to his total against Kentucky this past Saturday while notching a 67.8 pass rush grade.

Ryan Williams (Alabama): The 17-year-old true freshman established himself as the Tide's deep threat, catching both of his targets for 139 yards and two touchdowns in Alabama's 63-0 drubbing of Western Kentucky. Williams brought in another touchdown in a 42-16 victory over USF.

D'Angelo Ponds (Indiana): One of the top transfer defensive backs in college football this past off-season, Ponds opted to follow Curt Signetti to Bloomington after a stellar freshman campaign in 2023. Ponds logged a 68.6 coverage grade in a week two victory against WIU.

Makhi Hughes (Tulane): Hughes followed up a 59-yard outing in week one with a 128-yard, one-touchdown, five-reception game against No. 17 Kansas State this past Saturday. Hughes comes off a 2023 that saw the then-true freshman back rush for 1,378 yards and seven touchdowns.

**Previewing the Games with the Highest Stakes**

Arizona (2-0) @ Kansas State (2-0) – Saturday's matchup between the Wildcats and... the Wildcats will be the second of two Big-12 conference games that will not count towards the actual conference standings. The game, scheduled prior to Arizona's move to the Big-12, will carry enormous amounts of

pressure as both top-20 squads look to gain the all-important head-to-head win over the other. Arizona leads the series 5-1-1 all-time, but the two have not met in over 46 years.

Memphis (2-0) @ Florida State (0-2) – Florida State became just the third team in 35 years to go from the preseason top-10 to unranked in just two weeks, following its 0-2 start. Memphis rolls into Tallahassee behind the strong-armed Seth Henigan and a tough-nosed defense allowing just 8.5 PPG. This matchup represents a critical point between a surging G-5 team and a floundering P-4 squad. Saturday's showdown will test Memphis' ability to contend with an uber-talented roster as well as act as Florida State's last chance to revive an already-fractured season.

West Virginia (1-1) @ Pitt (2-0) – West Virginia rebounded from a 22-point week one loss by handling Albany 49-14. Pitt, for the first time in two years, is more than two games above .500. Both the Mountaineers and Panthers enter week three's "Backyard Brawl" in desperate need of a resume-boosting win. West Virginia has won four of the last five meetings, including last season's 17-6 victory. WVU opens as 5.5-point favorites.

**Reacting to Reactions**  
**Boston College is the ACC's**

**giant killer.**

VERDICT: True, but not really.

The Eagles' upset of then top-10 ranked Florida State last Monday night led to an onslaught of criticism towards the Seminoles after a startling 0-2 start. Following Saturday's 56-0 victory against FCS-Duquesne, the Eagles are now starting to be looked at as the ACC's daredevil – a tricky, slippery team that opposing squads dread lining up against on a week-to-week basis. While Boston College does spin a clever offensive attack centered around the legs of quarterback Thomas Castellanos, the Eagles don't face another "giant" in its conference aside from Louisville in late October, facing only teams ranked sixth or lower in the ACC preseason poll from here on out.

**Texas State is the G-5's best hope for a Playoff upset.**

VERDICT: Not true.

The Bobcats and quarterback Jordan McCloud routed fellow-CFP hopeful UTSA, 49-10 on Saturday. With questions surrounding the strength of Boise State's defense and Appalachian State's early season punching bag performance at Clemson, many now consider Texas State to be the frontrunner for Group-of-Five's inaugural guaranteed bid to the College Football Playoff. While the Bobcats do bolster

one of the more talented rosters in the G-5 and now have a clear path to an undefeated regular season (hardest remaining game vs. Louisiana), fellow bid-hopefuls Memphis, UNLV and Tulane will all have weightier resumes, which may include wins over each other, possible wins over national powers and a conference title with more notoriety than that of the Sun Belt.

**Not every top-10 team is a top-10 team.**

VERDICT: Very true.  
No. 5 Notre Dame scored 14 points and lost to Northern Illinois. No. 7 Oregon has looked skittish at best in its two outings thus far. No. 8 Penn State took three and a half quarters to close out Bowling Green, and No. 10 Michigan lost by 19 at home this past weekend. The top-10 in Monday's AP Poll may look awkwardly different, with (aside from the top three of Georgia, Texas and Ohio State), no other teams being truly set in their rank. Sure, Ole Miss has outscored opponents 128-3 in 120 minutes thus far, but the Rebels have not played a team inside the top 110 in ESPN's preseason FPI. Alabama's deceiving 42-16 win against USF protected the Tide's stock marginally, with the same being true for Missouri (No. 9). Look for a lot of teams entering the top-10 this weekend, including Miami, Tennessee and Utah.



UConn student body cheering on the UConn football team. UConn's football team plays all their home matches at The Rent. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNFOOTBALL ON INSTAGRAM