



UConn organization supports communities through engineering

by **Maanya Pande**
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SHE/HER/HERS

According to their admissions website, the University of Connecticut is home to over 700 clubs and student organizations, according to the admissions website, all offering students unique ways to get involved within the community. Engineering Without Borders is one such club, allowing students to make an impact on their community while utilizing engineering skills, according to club president Cadence Hughes, a fifth-semester student at UConn. Engineers Without Borders (EWB) works on the development of structural engineering projects around the world to support communities that do not have access to necessities. “Some recent projects have been in Peru and Kenya, and we are looking forward to opening a new project,” said Hughes. EWB has had a chapter at UConn for about 17 years, according to board members. The organization works internationally and has 207 chapters just in the United States, according to the international website. The group has



International Project 2 is focused on providing water to communities in Kenya. Attend the meetings with Engineers Without Borders on Mondays to learn about more initiatives.
PHOTO BY @UCONN_EWB ON INSTAGRAM

chapters at many other colleges in the U.S. in addition to UConn. In the past five years, the UConn chapter has partnered with Gambella, Ethiopia, Abra Malaga, Peru and Kenya to get these communities resources they need, according to Hughes. Each project has provided different necessities to the communities. According to the EWB website, the goal of the Peru project was to improve health issues by implementing latrines and educating the people on more hygienic practices. Additionally, EWB works locally through their CLiCK program, according to their website. CLiCK, which stands for Commercially Licensed Co-operative Kitchen, is

based in Willimantic, Connecticut. According to UConn’s informational page, CLiCK works on several different programs hoping to promote long-term sustainability. “This project is currently in the application process to become an official EWB-USA local project,” the UConn EWB informational page says. Currently, Engineers Without Borders is in the beginning stages of a program in Ethiopia, according to their website. The website states that the project is highly focused on irrigation issues within this community. According to the UConn EWB site, the community reached out to EWB-UConn personally due to their heavy dependence on access to water for agricultural needs. This project is listed as the Official EWB-USA International project, according to the EWB-UConn website. The organization meets on Mondays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Room 227 of the School of Business building (BUSN 227). For more information on the group and how to get involved, anyone interested can follow their Instagram or send the organization an email at ewbuconn24@gmail.com.

Connecticut’s minimum wage increases to \$16.35

by **Liliana French** | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | SHER/HER/HERS | liliana.french@uconn.edu



Ned Lamont speaking to his constituents. Ned Lamont is the governor of Connecticut and is affiliated with the Democratic Party. PHOTO COURTESY OF @NEDLAMONT ON INSTAGRAM

Connecticut’s minimum wage will increase from \$15.69 an hour to \$16.35 on Jan. 1, according to a press release from Governor Ned Lamont’s office last Friday. The press release states that the minimum wage increase was required by Public Act 19-4, which was signed into law in 2019. According to a 2019 press release from the governor’s office, the law necessitated regularly scheduled increases in the minimum wage from \$10.10 (when the bill was signed into law) to \$15 in June 2023. Beginning in January of this year, the minimum wage has been tied to federal economic indicators and continues to undergo increases annually. “The Connecticut Department of Labor and Connecticut Voices for Children estimate those increases will raise wages for approximately 130,000 workers this year and more than half a million by 2024,” the 2019 press release said. According to the recent press release, Connecticut Labor Com-

missioner Danté Bartolomeo said that the employment cost index increased 4.2% over the past year, accounting for the 4.2% increase in the minimum wage. “This law that we enacted ensures that as the economy grows, the wages of low-income workers can grow with it,” Lamont said in the press release. “This is a fair, modest adjustment for workers who will invest their earnings right back into our economy and support local businesses in their communities.” University of Connecticut Associate Professor of Economics William Alpert, Ph.D., said that these increases would lower hours and raise prices slightly, but that these increases would be trivial and the impact on university finances would also be trivial. “This is a pretty low increase. You’re going to see directional impacts, it’s going to lower the amount of labor you use, raise the amount of prices that we pay, move technology towards labor-saving stuff,” Alpert said. Automation is one way that companies substitute away from labor, according to Dr. Alpert. “McDonalds now has totally automated restaurants in terms of counter staff,” Alpert said. “That’s because they have higher labor costs. Your self-checkouts in grocery stores are a way to substitute away from labor.”

Experts Weigh In: Why do we care about the vice-presidential debate?

by Samantha Brody | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | sab23059@uconn.edu | SHE/HER/HERS

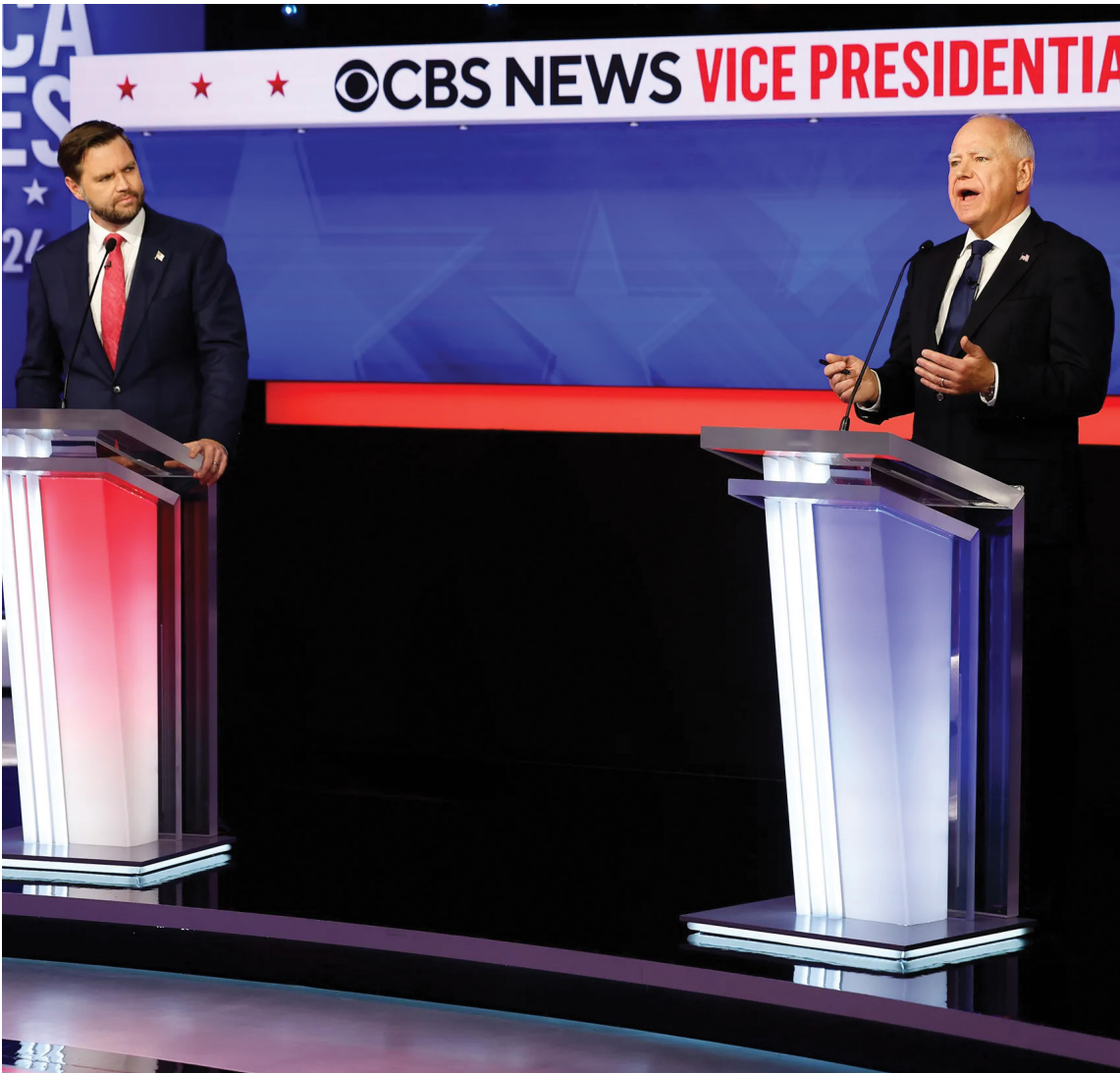
The United States has historically held televised presidential and vice-presidential debates since 1960, according to the official website of the U.S. Senate. Since then, candidates have been warring against one another live on television in the hope that they can sway the average American voter to their side — but the truth is, the debate doesn't change the vote for most Americans.

“Ultimately, does it have any impact on [Americans'] vote choice?” Professor Thomas Hayes, Ph.D., asked in an interview with the Daily Campus. Hayes teaches political science at the University of Connecticut. “What's their takeaway, and who do they think did a better job? And ultimately, does it have any impact on their vote choice? If that's the measure, I think vice-presidential debates don't matter very much. It's very unlikely to change people's vote choice.”

“I think vice-presidential debates don't matter very much. It's very unlikely to change people's vote choice.”

These debates happen every election cycle. The vice-presidential candidates, whose names are not at the top of the ticket, have the unique task of bolstering their running mate and their ideas. Kamala Harris and Donald Trump can debate as much as they like about topics they care about, but JD Vance and Tim Walz specifically must support their party's choice.

In 2019, Vincent Pons, professor at Harvard Business School, Ph.D. in Economics and Master's degrees in Economics and Political Philosophy and Caroline Le Pennec, assistant professor at HEC Montréal, Ph.D. in Economics, published a paper titled “How Do Campaigns Shape Vote Choice? Multi-Country Evidence from 62 Elections and 56 TV Debates.” Surveying



JD Vance and Tim Walz debate the future of American politics at the presidential election approaches on Oct. 1, 2024. Both are running for Vice President alongside Donald Trump and Kamala Harris, respectively. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @APNEWS ON INSTAGRAM

voters and analyzing trends and patterns, the pair ultimately concluded that televised debates did little to affect voters.

“Most importantly, our event study finds that TV debates — for all the interest they generate, the large viewing audience they draw, and the many media commentaries they provoke — neither increase individual vote choice consistency nor reduce the distance to final vote shares,” the paper said. “If anything, TV debates move a small fraction of voters away from their final vote choice, in the short term.”

If televised debates do next to nothing in terms of influencing the way people vote, why should the average American consider watching them?

“Candidates are putting forth their issue positions,” Hayes said in response, when discussing the 2024 vice-presidential debate between vice-presidential candidates Vance (R) and Walz (D). “It's more time for us to get to know the candidates that are running, and the types of policies that might be enacted, depending on which administration is elected.”

“There's such rare moments in American politics where you really get a more unvarnished view of the candidates,” Hayes explained. “In debates, the nice thing is that they don't know the questions that are coming. The moderators, they're not

friendly media sources. A lot of times, candidates go and do interviews in the most friendly way that they can.”

“In debates, the nice thing is that they don't know the questions that are coming.”

“You get to see how they respond, and the kind of examples that they give, on a wide range of things. There's not many debates that we have, and so I think it's an interesting moment to get to know the candidates,”

Hayes said.

In terms of getting to know the candidates, Vance and Walz both had their time to shine. “The event left viewers with more positive views of both candidates than they held pre-debate,” CNN wrote in an article, referring to the results of a poll conducted post-debate. “Both men, the poll finds, are viewed by a majority of debate watchers as qualified to assume the presidency if needed.”

Although the vice-presidential debate likely didn't affect the way Americans will vote in the upcoming presidential election, that doesn't mean it's inconsequential in the eyes of Professor Hayes.

“On the array of things that's in voters' concerns, I don't think the vice-presidential debate is at the top of them,” Hayes noted. “It's about big issues, it's about current events, it's about the economy, it's about how do [Americans] think a Trump administration, or a Harris administration is going to handle those problems.”

This election does have a wide variety of policy issues that voters might focus on. At the vice-presidential debate, moderators asked questions related to abortion, immigration, foreign relations with Israel, climate change, and more. “It's not that it doesn't matter,” Hayes said in reference to the debate. “It's that that matters less than other things,” he said.

The Oct. 1 debate between Vance and Walz will likely do nothing to affect the election. However, Americans can still meet the pair of candidates and learn more about what policies might affect their lives after the election has been decided by watching the debate unfold — although Hayes did stress the importance of utilizing independent fact-checking websites.

“The best way for people to get informed about what the candidates are saying, whether it's true or not, or about the issues, or what the administration's going to be like, is a wide variety of news sources,” Hayes concluded.

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By Ilana Levene

10/7/24

- DOWN
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Easy-to-grow herb in the mustard family
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Saturday’s Puzzle Solved

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PUERTO RICAN WRITER GABBY RIVERA DELIVERS KEYNOTE SPEECH FOR THIRD RAINBOW CENTER SYMPOSIUM

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab**
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On Oct. 4, 2024, lesbian Boricua author of “Juliet Takes a Breath” (which has a graphic novel version created by non-binary Chicane artist Celia Moscote) and Marvel Comics’ series “America” Gabby Rivera delivered a keynote speech for the third annual Rainbow Center Symposium in the University of Connecticut’s Student Union Ballroom.

Prior to the keynote were multiple seminars relating to the queer and transgender experience, where members of the UConn community could trickle in and out while also tending to other commitments in between. “It’s a day-long educational experience about anything queer-related and it’s free,” Kelsey O’Neil, director of the Rainbow Center said.

“We start early in the summer because we need to put a lot of time into it so that we can put as much intentionality and thoughtfulness as possible,” said graduate assistant Lene Reynolds.

Rainbow Center staff were stationed at a table outside of the ballroom with name tags for attendees who registered beforehand, as well as blank name tags and markers of varying colors for those who didn’t register

but still wanted to attend. There were also free T-shirts, pins and bracelets.

Interim Director of the Puerto Rican Latin American Culture Center Michael Vidal gave a land acknowledgment before introducing the keynote speaker. “Gabby is the first Latina ever to write for Marvel,” he said.

When welcomed on stage by Vidal, Rivera opted to hold a microphone instead of talking behind a podium, because it felt more comfortable for her as she paced on the stage.

The title of the speech was “Radical Creativity + Queer Boricua Joy.” Rivera dissected what each of those words meant to her.

Radical creativity is an “open creative space where no matter what genres you’re into or what interests you have, there’s a storyline.”

The word “queer” is used because during the COVID-19 pandemic, Rivera reflected on how the word is used against the LGBTQ+ community. As a result, the queer community is reclaiming the term and spinning it in a positive light.

Rivera used to apply the term “Latinx” in an attempt to be more inclusive, but since the term strips the authenticity and indigeneity of the language due to how the “x” is unnatural for the Spanish-speaking commu-

nity, she opted to use the term “Boricua,” a term Puerto Ricans use to identify themselves.

When referring to what joy means, Rivera clarified that she means “the kind of joy that comes from being a vigil, when you hold hands at a funeral, when you can find solidarity with each other.” Essentially: human connection and unity, no matter how dismal the context is.

Rivera had a picture of her and her grandmothers displayed on the screen. Her grandmother Carmen was a seamstress and worked in sweatshops with little to no regulations. Her other grandmother, Amalia, could speak English, was more white-passing and changed her name to Emily so that white employers would hire her.

Growing up, Rivera was insecure about herself and knew that something was “wrong” when it came to her sexual orientation and lack of gender role adherence.

To make matters even more stressful for the young Rivera, when the HIV and AIDS epidemics began, she recalled, “I got to see my queer elders, the queer men of color, the queens, the girls, die on the news.” Rivera and her family eventually went all the way from The Bronx in New York to Washington, D.C. to contribute to the

national AIDS quilt showing solidarity for victims of HIV and AIDS and their loved ones, since some of her own family members had died from it.

On her feelings about the media she was surrounded by, Rivera said, “All I wanted in media was for the queer character to make it to the end of the movie, and for them to love themselves.” This drove her to create stories of her own so that she could feel seen. “If you’re a writer or a creative and you want to make it in the industry, you don’t have to change anything,” Rivera said. “I fill my stories with love notes for queer kids of color,” she added.

In the books, Juliet learns of Puerto Rican freedom fighters such as Lolita Lebrón. Rivera expressed the need to learn about the freedom fighters who fought for a better world in the hopes of being inspired by them. She mentioned the protest against the corrupt governor of Puerto Rico in the summer of 2020. According to Rivera, the governor said, “How funny would it be if we made Puerto Rico have no Puerto Ricans?” Rivera responded, “Nobody is going to take Puerto Ricans out of Puerto Rico.”

After her success with “Juliet Takes a Breath,” Marvel Comics approached Rivera to see if she could write for the “America”

comic series, which is centered around lesbian Latina superhero America Chavez. Rivera felt unqualified to take on the role and almost declined the offer, but ended up accepting. She referenced the American president of 2017 without mentioning his name, so as to not give him power, saying, “Just because you don’t have experience doing something doesn’t mean you can’t go run with the ball.” The audience applauded.

Rivera talked about how cis-gender heteronormative birth narratives were the norm, so she wrote a lesbian birth narrative in the “America” comics. When told by Marvel to have Chavez fight people since she’s a superhero, Rivera was inspired by seeing a group of white men marching for white supremacy and made them the antagonists. Rivera emphasized the importance of taking care of yourself and resting- instead of always helping people and beating up villains- even if you’re a superhero.

Rivera ended the speech by introducing her baby, saying, “You have the right, the literal destiny, however you want, to build that family.”

After the speech, Vidal directed the audience to the book sale and signing, as well as the final set of events for the symposium.

Godspeed You! Black Emperor reflects on spectating a genocide

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In an ideal world, “NO TITLE AS OF 13 FEBRUARY 2024 28,340 DEAD” would probably not exist, let alone be named what it is as a response to the genocide in Gaza that the world is watching. It’s a tragedy that the death count has increased considerably, and it hurts to put names and faces to these statistics. Nobody should have been killed. Still, dreaming in ideals without taking action to better the world at large does a disservice for everyone in the physical world who are being tortured, hurt and killed as we speak. As much as we try to ignore these brutal truths about human nature, legendary instrumental post-rock band Godspeed You! Black Emperor (often abbreviated to GY!BE) mourns and pays tribute to those murdered in the genocide the best way they know how that isn’t direct advocacy and activism: art.

Don’t be surprised that it’s only six tracks; if there’s one thing GY!BE is notorious for, it’s their long compositions making up for short tracklists. While this may deter many people, especially those not interested in experimental and avant-garde art, those who stay will likely become entranced by the droning, slightly folky and utterly beautiful instrument work.

In some of their work follow-

ing their seven-year hiatus from 2003 to 2010, they opted to split the longer songs into multiple movements in order to get more streaming revenue, most notably for 2017’s “Luciferian Towers.” However, GY!BE chose to keep the longer songs continuous and flowing for “NO TITLE.”

“SUN IS A HOLE SUN IS VAPORS” is a foreboding intro to the album. Greeted with just a droning instrument and electronic humming that sounds like it’s coming from a fridge, such a dreary soundscape is similar to ambient and electronic noise artist Uboa’s “The Origin of My Depression.” A ray of hope reveals itself in the bright, yet somewhat languid guitars. The piece ends more optimistically than it started, having a plucked bass in the mix as well as light cymbal crashing.

“BABYS IN A THUNDER-CLOUD” is a highlight on this record. The way the sound builds up into the lead slide guitar playing a blues-adjacent melody is beautiful. Furthermore, the way the violin develops in the composition is incredible-majestic even. The galloping drums reinforce this majesty. In general, the way GY!BE incorporates other influences and unconventional instrumentation into their post-rock and chamber rock base makes for an enthralling listen that feels logical.

“RAINDROPS CAST IN LEAD,” which may be a euphe-

mism for bombs or bullets falling from the sky, begins with this quiet and awkward whistle sound that pans between both ears. It only begins to really build up three minutes and 45 seconds in. Five minutes and 35 seconds in, the energy dies down and a monologue sample of a woman speaking in Spanish is played over the instrumental. After the monologue, the composition begins to feel a bit like bluegrass music, but in a non-stereotypical way that one would consider country and country-adjacent music. The violin is once again a key instrument in this song, being the lead melody at times as the guitar bubbles underneath. The song eventually builds up into a grandiose wall of sound with a triumphant lead electric guitar melody.

“BROKEN SPIRES AT DEAD CAPITAL” is a comparatively short and desolate ambient track that feels cold and lonely. It strongly captures the feeling of isolation, and later on, despair, without saying anything at all. The cello-like stringed instrument at the end was such a good touch for conveying sharp and negative emotions.

“PALE SPECTATOR TAKES PHOTOGRAPHS” begins intimidatingly with a thumping kick drum and more droning guitars. It wouldn’t be out of place if Michael Gira of the avant-garde rock band Swans began singing on it. This song probably has the scariest us-

age of a bell ever. Six minutes and 18 seconds in, the entire mood of the song changes for something more sentimental and vulnerable, similar to the climax of GY!BE’s song “Sleep” from “Lift Your Skinny Fists Like Antennas to Heaven.” The composition then grows more intimidating again, similar to someone regaining the resolve to stand up for themselves and persevere.

The lead single for “NO TITLE,” “GREY RUBBLE — GREEN SHOOTS,” is surprisingly the final song of the record and not somewhere in the middle considering its promotion. The soaring electric bass was such a great touch to the beginning of the song. When the song builds up, the violin takes the main stage, giving a heart-wrenching yet somewhat uplifting performance.

It’s possible to argue that “NO TITLE” could be a spiritual successor to 2003’s “Yanqui U.X.O.” for how cinematic it is. However, where “Yanqui” is just cinematic post-rock for the sake of being cinematic post-rock, “NO TITLE” is a reflection of current events and how helpless we may feel because of human suffering. The least we can do is memorialize and preserve the memories of the dead in the hopes that something like this will never happen again. Art is simply a catalyst for inspiration and change with engaging ways of preserving memories for the future.

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This Week In History: Oct. 6 - Oct. 12 “Alvin York”



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Benjamin Lassy
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Ordinary individuals are capable of extraordinary things. It's a truth that may not be apparent all of the time, but certainly has evidence in the records of history. Last year, for example, I covered the life of Captain Tom. From World War II battlefields to his garden walks during the COVID-19 pandemic, Captain Tom lived a life of selfless sacrifice even during his 100th birthday. In an equally motivational story, this week we'll explore the life of a truly remarkable individual: Alvin Cullum York.

York's story begins in a big family on a small farm in a small town. Born Dec. 13, 1887, York was one of 11 children raised by William and Mary Brooks York in Pall Mall, Tenn. Right below the state border with Kentucky, the town was in an awkward stretch of territory. Far south from Louisville, Kentucky, yet also far to the northeast of Nashville, Tennessee, Pall Mall existed in an impoverished agricultural territory that in the 1880s had seen little signs of industrial progress.

To paint a picture of Pall Mall, perhaps it's best to see how the York family lived.

In 1911, William York passed

away, leaving the young Alvin largely responsible for taking care of the family. He did so the best he could. First, he began honing his skills as a marksman in the highlands of Tennessee, bringing back food for his family when he was able. Likewise, he took on small jobs in Pall Mall, though the money was so scarce that often these situations didn't work. In effect, York became something of a ruffian — a struggling local kid who was fiercely independent and hardworking, though often took time for himself at the expense of decency and his savings fund.

This situation remained until around 1914. It was then that York came to a nearby Christian church and took on a life as a practicing and morally rigid follower. He corrected his habits, grounded himself and emerged as a man devoted to never practicing violence — sadly, he did so at the worst possible time.

In 1917, the pacifist York was called to the United States draft. One of the bloodiest wars in Europe was unfolding and somehow, a young man in Tennessee was about to get tangled up in it. It's worth noting that if I, or any healthy, college-aged male reading this, was alive in 1917, then we would be in a similar situation to York.

As a devout pacifist Chris-

tian, York first got a note from his pastor, outlining York's life and service in the church, requesting that he be deemed a conscientious objector. York submitted his file, but it was denied. He tried again — it was denied. In a final act of desperation, he attempted once more, but to no avail. His church was not officially recognized as being part of a sect of Christianity, and thus, like so many other innocent young men, York was off to war.

York trained and worked in the 328th Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Infantry Division in Camp Gordon, Georgia, frequently showcasing his marksmanship and endurance.

In one last ditch effort, York sat down with his commanders (who respected York enough to not immediately deny his request to leave the army) and discussed the Biblical evidence supporting both pacifism and the need to fight when called upon. One can only imagine the full debate as it unfolded, but the outcome was ambiguous—York left confused.

How could the Bible, his whole reason against fighting, be used by someone else as their justification for joining the same fight?

In the end, after some days of contemplation, York made his decision.

It was June 27, 1918, and York was among over a million Americans about to take part in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in the coming months. The goal: somehow break the stalemate in the West with Germany and end the war.

For York, however, the goal was much clearer. This week in history, on Oct. 8, 1918, York and a unit of 16 soldiers were sent to capture the Decauville Railroad. If successful, German logistics would have a serious problem supplying the German divisions in the Argonne.

York and his battalion, however, were attacking out of what the Germans called the “Amerikaner Nest” (American Nest) — a pocket behind enemy lines in which York's division had entered. The end goal was to cut off the Germans, but for now, until support came, it was the Americans who were cut off. While the railroad seemed within reach, nearly 50 German machine guns stood in the way.

York commented on the situation, “So you see we were getting it from the front and both flanks ... It was awful. Our losses were very heavy. The advancement was stopped and we were ordered to dig in. I don't believe our whole battalion or even our whole division could have taken those machine guns by a straightforward attack.”

It was at that moment that York and his company led by Sergeant Bernard Early launched a courageous attack to take out the machine guns. They scrambled up the hill as a late barrage of American artillery provided dangerous, though effective, cover. In a stroke of luck, they found a gap in the lines.

Two German commanders were preparing to rotate the command; one eating breakfast was suddenly interrupted at gunpoint by one of the 17 American soldiers, and the other was arrested within a few minutes. The Americans had made it up the hill. Soon, other staff and riflemen of the German divisions in the area were captured, confused beyond belief as to how the Americans got there. So baffling was the interaction that the Germans assumed an enormous American offensive was underway.

However, when nearby German machine gunners caught wind of the situation, they used the nearby hills to save the situation. Ordering the 70 German prisoners with the Americans to duck, they opened fire, kill-

ing six instantly and wounding three. German prisoners were also accidentally shot by their own men.

Amid this bloody exchange, it was York who worked his way toward the German machine gunners in an effort detailed by the Sergeant York Patriotic Foundation, “For the gunners to fire at York, they had to expose their heads above their positions. Whenever York saw a German helmet, he fired his .30-caliber rifle, hitting his target every time.”

Soon, York shouted at the Germans to “give up and come on down,” a plea to prevent the unnecessary killing of any more soldiers. Instead, they charged at him. York defended himself and shot five Germans “like wild turkeys.”

In the end, the Germans, panicked and outmatched, surrendered. They joined a column that carried the wounded Americans and 132 prisoners back to American lines. Upon seeing the column, the American divisional command took up defensive positions, thinking it was a German advance, but that wasn't necessary. It was the prize of York's heroism. Perhaps nowhere else on the frontlines had one individual made such a tangible difference in the outcome of the operation. In the end, the German lines were shattered.

York never did change from his pre-war ways though, remaining through and through a faithful and lifelong advocate for peace. He returned to Pall Mall as a national hero, yet turned down requests to have a movie made about his life (at least until 1941) and instead focused on bringing prosperity to Pall Mall. The legacy of this humility remains today in the Alvin C. York Agricultural Institute, the Sergeant York Patriotic Foundation and the Sgt. Alvin C. York State Park.

COLDPLAY STRIKES BACK WITH 'MOON MUSIC'

by Ayyan Tamjeed
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British band Coldplay returns with the second part of their three-part space-themed album series that started back in 2021 with “Music of Spheres.” Best known for their run of albums throughout the 2000s, they return with 44 minutes of mellow (and dull) pop music, albeit with some good music sprinkled throughout.

The instrumentation is what really sticks in my head after listening to this. All the songs give vibes of serenity and peace. The album starts off with the title track, “MOON MUSIC,” featuring absolutely gorgeous strings paired with some equally gorgeous piano; both instruments are used heavily throughout the album. The song “ALL MY LOVE,” the penultimate track, is a full-on piano ballad, where singer Chris Martin talks about his undying devotion to the song's subject. (Side note: In the music video Martin gives a balloon to a guy busking in a gorilla suit).

But there is more to “Moon Music” than angelic strings. There is some slight experimentation throughout, and I must say that “feelslikeimfallinginlove” succinctly has the

vibes of an ‘80s pastiche. In the closer “ONE WORLD,” the final minute or so feels out of the ‘60s, with the regressed vocal quality and melody sung by Martin supporting that feeling.

There is a vocoder slapped onto the guitar on “AETERNA” and a funky bass on “GOOD FEELINGS,” which help make both songs feel like dance beats. “JUPITER” starts as an acoustic ditty, which is nice. But if there is one thing I want to highlight out of this whole album, it is the first two minutes of the rainbow emoji-titled song, or “ALIEN HITS/ALIEN RADIO.” The song starts off with peaceful tinkling keyboard, then the vocals come in and suddenly the song takes a whole new turn. The drums and guitar come to the front and suddenly a wall of sound starts to grace your ears. Martin stands behind the band, wailing his lines at you. At the very least, please listen to this song if you aren't going to listen to the whole album.

The lyrics are themed around love. In the first track, Martin sings, “I'm trying to trust in a world full of love.” By the final track “ONE WORLD,” he chants, “In the end it's just love,” encapsulating our world in two words: love and death.

In “JUPITER,” a massive

chorus sung by Martin and a choir talks about loving who you love. In the second verse, an orchestra enters, and Martin calls them the “Orchestra of Rainbows.” “JUPITER” also contains an ending sung in Zulu, the words translating to “I Really Love You.” Zulu vocals also appear in the outro of “AETERNA,” singing those same words. I like the fact Martin included these parts onto this album; it gives a new coat of paint to this lyrical subject. The only song that really doesn't talk about love is “WE PRAY,” which may be a protest song, given its inclusion of Palestinian-Chilean singer-songwriter Elyanna on one of its versions and the reference to Virgilio Aguilar Mendez, a Guatemalan teen who was unlawfully accused of the death of a Floridian police officer.

Overall, Coldplay's tenth album is the definition of what has made them loved by millions around the world. It features great music backed by good-hearted lyrics about love sung beautifully by Martin. However, it's not really worth playing on repeat. Regardless, I still commend Coldplay's effort here. They can stand proud.

Fun fact: there are 381 La's throughout this album, do with that information as you will.



ILLUSTRATION BY @ALEXA PAPPAS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

RATING: 3/5

‘The New Sound’: Old, exotic and progressive sound

by Andy Hong
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Geordie Greep, former frontman of the experimental rock band Black Midi, has released his highly anticipated solo debut, “The New Sound,” to critical acclaim. The album represents a major shift from Black Midi’s intense and chaotic sound, introducing a unique mix of progressive rock, jazz and Latin influences. This new direction highlights Greep’s evolving style, proving him to be a creative force in modern music.

The album kicks off with “Blues,” which sets the tone for the eclectic nature of the record. Greep’s signature disjointed rhythms and explosive energy remain, but the addition of Latin rhythms and brass sections brings a fresh, introspective layer to his sound. The use of complex Latin beats throughout the album, especially in songs

like “Terra” and the instrumental title track creates a cinematic feel. Instruments like steel drums, along with intricate horn arrangements, give the album a lush, vibrant atmosphere, making it stand out from Greep’s work with Black Midi.

Lyrically, “The New Sound” continues Greep’s exploration of human nature but sharpens its focus on characters disconnected from reality. In the lead single, “Holy, Holy,” Greep critiques toxic masculinity, portraying a man who believes in his superiority while engaging in hollow relationships. Greep’s theatrical style and the zippy jazz-rock instrumentation highlight the irony in the character’s delusions. Lines like “I bet your pussy is holy too” expose the fragility beneath this facade of masculinity, making the song both biting and humorous.

The theme of disillusionment carries through tracks like “Walk Up” and “Through a War.” In “Walk Up,” Greep offers

sharp observations about prostitution and failed masculinity, while “Through a War” shifts to a more melancholic reflection on love and loss, wrapped in tender, tropical instrumentation. These tracks show Greep’s ability to create flawed, deeply human characters, elevating the album beyond a simple musical experience.

One of the album’s highlights is “The Magician,” an emotional track that looks at the pain of a breakup. The song starts off slowly with a soft piano melody, then gradually grows into a big, dramatic finish with strings, horns and Greep’s powerful vocals. It really captures the sadness and lingering memories of lost love, with Greep’s lyrics digging into the insecurities and fears that come with the end of a relationship. It’s a personal, heartfelt song that shows how much Greep has grown both as a musician and as a storyteller.

While “The New Sound” delves into serious themes, it

doesn’t shy away from moments of humor. Greep’s love for surreal, bizarre characters shines in “Motorbike,” a track about midlife crises and reckless escapism. Seth Evans of band HMLTD takes over vocal duties on this track, adding to its theatrical flair. The chaotic ending, complete with wailing horns and pounding drums, reflects the frantic energy of a man trying to outrun his problems, giving the track both lightheartedness and poignancy.

Quieter songs like “Bongo Season” and “As If Waltz” provide necessary breathing space in the album’s complex narrative. “As If Waltz,” in particular, stands out for its delicate balance between disco and waltz influences, offering a moment of reflection amidst the chaos.

The album’s final song, “If You Are But a Dream,” is a heartfelt ballad that feels very different from the rest of the album. Inspired by 1950s pop and originally performed by Frank Sina-

tra, Geordie Greep loved how the song’s melody and lyrics came together to create a sense of longing and romantic dreaming. For his version, Greep added a brass band sound, similar to Tom Waits, which makes the song feel rich and emotional. This track closes the album on a nostalgic and touching note, while also showing Greep’s ability to blend different musical styles.

Overall, Geordie Greep’s “The New Sound” is a strong solo debut that pushes the limits of modern music. By blending progressive rock, Latin rhythms and jazz, Greep has created an album that’s hard to fit into one genre, while still feeling personal and emotionally deep. His clever lyrics and ability to build rich, layered music make “The New Sound” a major accomplishment in today’s music scene. With this album, Greep shows he’s more than just an experimental musician — he’s a forward-thinking artist with endless creative potential.

Rating: 4.5/5

‘No Skips’: Feeling insufficient with David Thomas Broughton

by Mikayla Murphy CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT SHE/HER/HERS mikayla.murphy@uconn.edu

Hello and hi to another week of “No Skips,” a column where I go over albums in need of recognition that also have no skippable songs. David Thomas Broughton’s “The Complete Guide to Insufficiency” is another one of those records where you can’t tastefully blow past portions of it without just hearing the whole 39 minutes. This singer-songwriter record, like Will Oldham’s work, has an abundance to offer in sound instead of just acoustic accompaniments and strong songwriting.

Coincidentally, it’s nearing 20 years since its initial recording inside a church in Leeds, England, and subsequent release by Birdwar Records. The album is all done in one take, though Broughton didn’t have an audience like Fishmans’ from last week’s review. This quality of “The Complete Guide” gives the five tracks all a chance to ride out and segue into each other, as the lyrical content usually reaches a song’s midpoint before it devolves into humming or a loop of one line.

About the album’s cover — I’ll never understand why the levitating man with a briefcase is thinking about a seagull and why he must feel insufficient, but seagulls are simple creatures, so maybe the man would rather trade his mental and physical faculties to live on the water and not have to work. Or maybe it’s not my place to question his motives. Nevertheless, we’re off to an intriguing start before the play button has even been pressed.

“Ambiguity” begins normally enough — though this is avant-folk we’re talking about

here — until Broughton begins to reverse the guitar melody, possibly with a Boss loop pedal he’s said to incorporate into his recordings. The result sounds like the uncanny “Ted-Ed” YouTube intro you’ve all heard at some point in your schooling career. With admissions including, “Such selfishnesses trivialize any tenderness as the coffee commands torture of my bowels,” the only thing unambiguous about this track is Broughton’s honesty. As I procrastinate my midterm studying by writing this, drink an almost-expired Starbucks Mocha and preparing to go to church, I heavily relate to this album already.

The ghostly harmonizing done by Broughton and the looped version of himself is intensified and made all the more haunting on the next track, “Execution.” A quatrain of lyrics about the speaker’s love for a woman outweighing any desire to defile her is repeated a few times before Broughton takes the melody and runs with it. He eventually somehow creates a wall of noise engulfing the listener like how John Lennon did with the Moog synthesizer on the Beatles’ “I Want You (She’s So Heavy),” except in “Execution,” I’m unsure what methods Broughton used to produce such an effect.

“Unmarked Grave” is more of the same, once again mentioning an unnamed female figure as Broughton speaks from the perspective of a deceased soldier. Any semblance of tangibility in his singing is gone soon enough, with “weeping” being the only word the listener has to grasp in the second half of the song. So far, the combination

of a story where two lives are ruined by war and Broughton’s ultra-melancholic voice — along with the inclusion of an (actual?) funeral bell — constitutes this album’s emotional climax, though I guess it would be the inverse of a climax in the word’s traditional sense.

The beginning of “Walking Over You” almost turns into freak folk before Broughton drops another quatrain of four lines, which doesn’t specify a woman like the previous songs; instead, the speaker is speaking to someone about him and others taking advantage of the person. If you haven’t deduced thus far that “The Complete Guide” is very in touch with humanity, then the whistling on this track will likely convince you so, and this track in particular is cathartic. It’s the perfect companion to long nights of existential thinking where you’re only subconsciously aware of what you’re hearing — music for the end of the world or the final frontier, dare I call it. That may be a trope I will explore in future weeks, but for now, the final track maintains that mood.

“Ever Rotating Sky” is the finale we needed and didn’t deserve for all our insufficiency. Sounding like the most rehearsed track out of the bunch before this first and final take, there’s less of a sense of solemnity and more of hope, though I won’t misconstrue Broughton’s intentions because everything doesn’t need to have a happy ending. The eventual echoey loop of vocals and guitar he settles on is reset before each verse, an impressive technical feat considering the circumstances that allow for the nine-minute

song to continually evolve.

Lyrics like, “To have felt the depths of life, and the drowning shallows of death,” as well as the song’s title contribute to the idea that the world will keep on spinning no matter how much we dig ourselves into believing that our time is finite — “our” time is — but time itself is not. Going back to the deceased soldier, even he was aware of his consciousness

after his time was up, but how much does it matter? To call back to the seagull on the front cover — the seagull can’t think about itself or someone else in the way the man is pondering over the seagull. How much easier would it be to not be burdened with the doom and gloom of mortality and insufficiency? It would be easier, but we would never know it.



CARTOON BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

BookTok and Bookstagram are not toxic

by Grace Sim
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There is no industry that can resist the changes that come along with the digital revolution, especially with the popularity of social media platforms. Reading, known in its traditional format as an archaic and primitive hobby, is no exception. With the influence of TikTok and Instagram, modern popular literature is now heavily promoted and finding your favorite authors in this generation via social media has become commonplace. A widely used term, BookTok and Bookstagram emerged as readers around the world started to create short-form videos and posts for book recommendations, reviews and interpretations, often adding an aesthetic vibe to the account to attract viewers.

However, many readers are heavily critical of the BookTok and Bookstagram phenomenon. They argue that these new developments are creating a toxic culture demonizing the art of literature. The promotion of only a few overrated and similar books, while overshadowing

more deserving works, is an obstacle for book-related content. Others criticize BookTok and Bookstagram for promoting overconsumption and having a terrible reputation for creating toxic fandom wars and destructive criticism.

Nevertheless, I believe that BookTok and Bookstagram have more merit than the failing notoriety it currently holds. In fact, readers and writers that are actively utilizing social media platforms are cultivating a vibrant community for current and future readers.

First, although Instagram and TikTok are, in most cases, not known to produce deep content and conversation, BookTok and Bookstagram culture has added depth to the literature. Through the comment section of the pretty posts and reels, you can find passionate readers all over the world sharing their own thoughts about a book. Many readers have strong opinions about what they liked about the characters, the dialogue, the literary style and much more. Often, there are serious debates on character development and topics brought up throughout the plot, even in popular modern literature.

The idea that BookTok and Bookstagram only promote cheesy romance novels and cringe-worthy fantasy series is a misconception. Just as pop singers top the Spotify charts more compared to classics and jazz music, high rankings for certain genres and audiences are inevitable. In fact, there is nothing wrong with enjoying a few selected genres, whether they are considered valuable literature or simply entertainment. I remember when book-related content first appeared on my Instagram feed, and it was mostly popular smutty romance series that had high views and popularity. Nonetheless, once I started discovering more books online, the algorithm began showing me a wide range of book content, including stories by authors like Franz Kafka and Fyodor Dostoevsky. Therefore, it only takes one or two well-known books to cultivate a community of bookworms, which can also benefit writers of subgenres.

Second, overconsumption is an issue in all areas of content creation, but it is less severe in the realm of book-related content. A severe problem with overconsumption on social media would be in the beauty in-

fluencer realm, where we can easily find influencers receiving boxes of PR packages from numerous brands. Even though they claim to hold giveaway events for loyal followers and gift unused products to friends and family to avoid waste, many still have closets full of makeup products that will expire before they even use a quarter of the contents. At least for books, there is no expiration date and books can be consumed for life. In terms of overconsumption of physical books, nobody has ever had a problem with scholars having shelves full of books, but the moment a young reader on TikTok decided to share their collection with the world, it's an environmental hazard. Even if someone decides to buy multiple limited editions of the same book, they would likely do so for only a few of their favorite selected titles. Additionally, many mindful book influencers have incorporated e-books and library books into their content as a more cost-effective and eco-friendly option for their audiences.

Third, toxic fandoms and passionate readers spewing negativity on authors, series and the people who have different read-

ing taste has become a serious issue. Online readers have acted as a form of censorship, restricting writers' freedom of expression in order to avoid backlash and ensure their books sell. I strongly believe that this is a threat to writers and can be considered a serious form of cyberbullying. However, the benefits of social media in promoting reading as a hobby and boosting market sales for publishing companies are too significant to discourage BookTok and Bookstagram altogether. With proper restrictions on language usage and promoting a culture of constructive criticism rather than mockery, TikTok and Instagram can be a healthy way of sharing ideas and inspirations. Book influencers should take greater responsibility in creating respectful content and fostering an environment where thoughtful reading and constructive criticism can flourish.

While BookTok and Bookstagram have their flaws, their role in spreading the art of reading and keeping stories alive across generations is significant. If TikTok and Instagram can contribute to this cause, we should embrace these platforms as tools for literary engagement.

It's time to kill the death penalty nationwide

by Patrick Minnerly | CONTRIBUTOR | HE/HIM/HIS | patrick.minnerly@uconn.edu

On Sept. 24, the state of Missouri carried out the execution of Marcellus Williams, a Black man who was convicted in 2001 of killing former newspaper reporter Felicia Gayle. This act set off the latest controversy surrounding the death penalty, as the victim's family had supported life in prison, evidence emerged of racial bias in jury selection during the trial and contaminated DNA on the murder weapon clouded whether or not Williams had wielded it. While Williams' attorneys filed several appeals, Missouri Gov. Jim Parsons and the United States Supreme Court refused to grant a last-minute stay of execution. The issue of potential innocence in Williams' case points to just one part of the death penalty's ultimate reality: it is thoroughly immoral and ineffective, and it's past time to outlaw the practice throughout America.

In known history, capital punishment was first laid out in the Code of Hammurabi, a set of laws named after the King of Babylon in 18th-century B.C. This code is famous for the expression "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth," meaning an offense must be punished with that same offense. The death penalty is the idea of retribution as justice: The offender is killed for a crime, typically the murder

of one or more people. Although throughout history and in some countries today, capital punishment has been extended to crimes that do not reach the height of murder, the modern death penalty in the U.S. almost exclusively concerns the death of the victim or victims. This flawed concept of justice, however, does not indicate that the death penalty is humane or just. According to Amnesty International, an organization which fights to abolish capital punishment, the death penalty violates the right to life and the right to live free from torture, or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. These rights, meant to apply to all human beings, were established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a proclamation made by the United Nations in 1948, of which the U.S. is a prominent member state. Though criminals on death row have transgressed on those rights for others, that does not mean they deserve to lose them. A right, unlike a privilege, cannot be taken away. Beyond their convictions, those facing the death penalty are still members of the human race.

Capital punishment obviously ends a person's life, but it also causes undue suffering. The state of Alabama recently au-

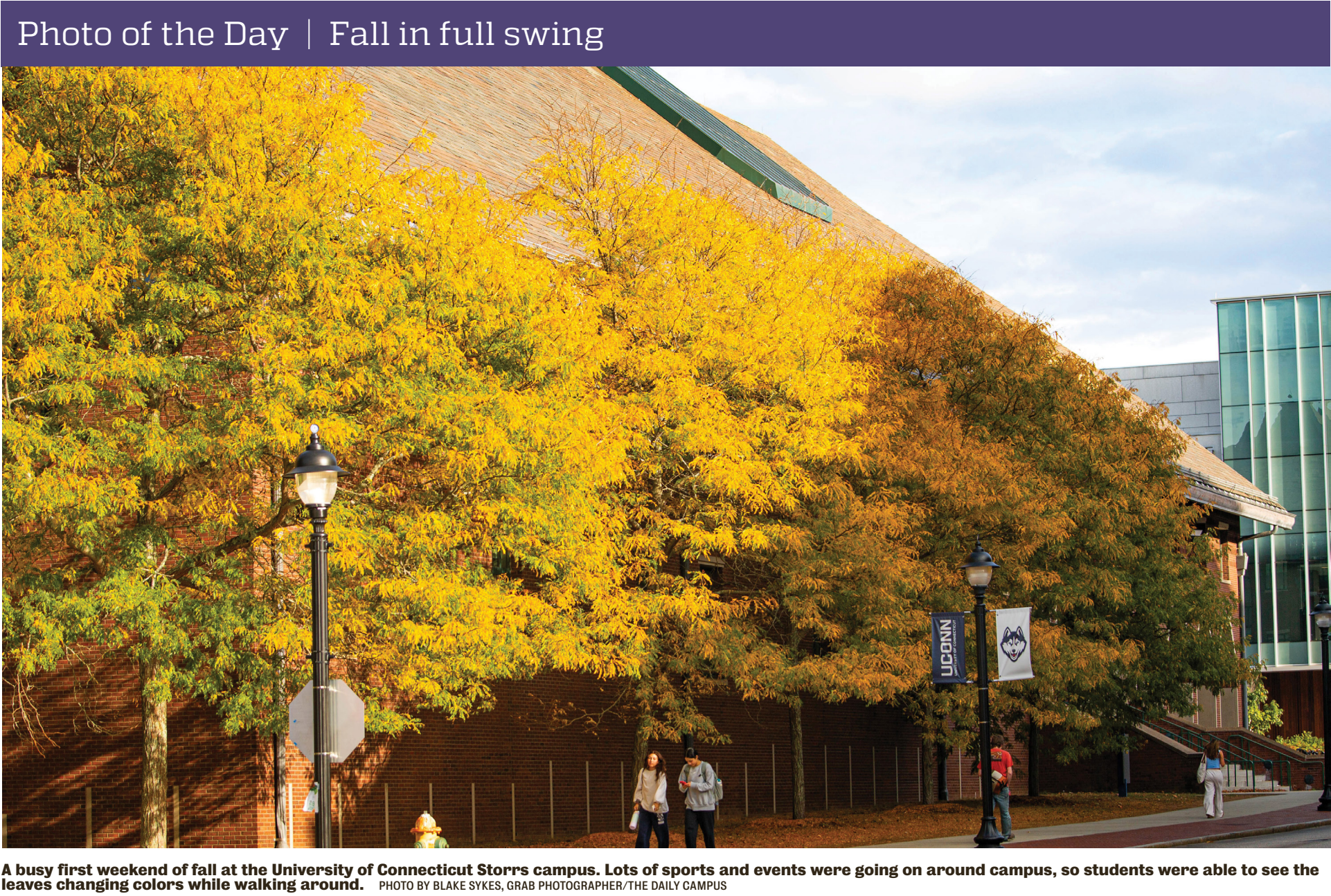
thorized the method of nitrogen hypoxia as a means of execution, which administers nitrogen gas through a mask that is supposed to prevent oxygen from coming in. On Jan. 26 of this year, Kenneth Eugene Smith became the first person to be executed in this way. Though the state had promised Smith would be unconsciousness within seconds, the execution took 22 minutes and he appeared to be conscious for a significant period of time. Smith's spiritual advisor Jeff Hood, who was closest to him during the proceedings, wrote that "Kenny's face jerked toward the front of the mask...I could see the horror in his eyes." The nature of this method demonstrates that Smith underwent an ordeal akin to torture and government-sanctioned suffering. The other method for execution authorized in the U.S., lethal injection, is little better, with a history of botched attempts. In fact, Alabama had previously tried to execute Smith in 2022 with lethal injection, but the procedure was called off after an IV line could not be connected.

The issue of human rights is only amplified by the potential for innocence inherent in many executions; according to the Death Penalty Information Center, 200 people have been exonerated after spending time on death row. We must acknowledge that a significant portion

of the 1,601 men and women executed in the U.S. after the death penalty's reinstatement in 1976 were probably innocent. In a matter so delicate as life and death, carrying out an execution when there is even a question of innocence is far from just.

Due to grave humanitarian concerns, we are left to wonder what benefits the death penalty brings besides a warped view of "justice." There is no conclusive evidence to suggest that capital punishment deters crime, as outlined in a study by the University of Texas at Dallas. In addition, the death penalty costs far more than life imprisonment would; according to Equal Justice USA, more than a dozen states have found that executions are up to 10 times more expensive than comparable cases in which the death penalty was not handed down. The cost is exacerbated by the litany of procedures each death penalty case must go through, such as a separate sentencing trial; even in scenarios where capital punishment is ultimately not handed down, taxpayers end up paying the cost.

The finality of execution means that there would have to be something beneficial about the practice to justify it. Given that capital punishment is neither practically effective nor humane, it's time for the U.S. to ban the death penalty permanently.



A busy first weekend of fall at the University of Connecticut Storrs campus. Lots of sports and events were going on around campus, so students were able to see the leaves changing colors while walking around. PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The Tyranny of Colleges: They’re taking our rights away

by Grace Donahue
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In there being two distinct types of colleges — private and public — schools can be found operating differently from each other. This has been especially noted in the differences in punishment for students at either school. Since private schools not being tied to the government, they are not bound by the First Amendment. While private schools often outline freedom of speech in their rules, they are able to discipline students if this speech violates student conduct or any other rule. Thus, students at private schools are more able to be punished.

At public universities, the First Amendment protects student rights. While universities can have time, place and manner rules for student speech and restrict speech that is threatening or distracting, the viewpoint must be neutral. Students have the right to engage in peaceful protests, but activities must not “violate reasonable campus rules, interrupt classes, or substantially interfere with the opportunity for students to learn.” These rights are upheld by the judicial precedent set by cases

such as *Healy v. James* (1972) and *Papish v. Board of Curators of University of Missouri* (1973). Universities claim to operate by this system, but is it still being upheld by certain universities? Or are the rights of students through this system being violated to tamper down on protests, especially involving ones that are pro-Palestinian? Lately, it is the latter.

Events at Cornell

After participating in a pro-Palestinian protest on Sept. 18, Cornell Ph.D. student Mamadou Taal has been placed under temporary suspension. Because Taal is a student with an F-1 visa, this suspension can lead to his deportation since “universities are required by federal regulation to terminate the F-1 status for any student who is not permitted to be enrolled due to a disciplinary action.” His right to due process is being violated by allegations against him stating that he shoved a police officer and did not listen to the lawful directive, all without substantial evidence of this being true. His rights granted by the First Amendment are being violated. Taal’s actions on that day do not “meet the narrow circumstances necessary to justify an immediate temporary suspension under Cornell’s Student Code of Conduct Procedures.”

Cornell’s Interim Expressive Activities Policy, first issued on

Jan. 24, 2024, limits when amplified sound can be used, subjects some protestors to increased disciplinary action, and “delineates which objects are prohibited at collective campus actions”. While Cornell has acted with the support of this policy it has simultaneously violated its Memorandum Of Agreement with the Cornell Graduate Students United (CGSU). It is through this that Cornell granted Cornell Graduate Students United-UE (CGSU-UE) the right to bargain “over the effects of any decision to discipline a bargaining unit member to the extent that such decision impacts their terms and conditions of employment.” The CGSU-UE condemns Taal’s suspensions and is actively fighting for just cause protections in discipline and discharge, due process, academic freedom, and “nondiscrimination protections inclusive of political affiliation and action, religious practice, and caste.” However, according to Jenna Marvin, a bargaining member of CGSU, “the university hasn’t allowed the union to bargain on his suspension.”

Cornell is jumping through hoops to ensure that Taal’s punishment is carried out, while ignoring his constitutional rights and the agreement that they have made. In violating the

MOA, Cornell is violating the rights that Taal has as a student.

Events at UConn

The University of Connecticut has recently made amendments to policies in protests. These policies impact the use of amplified sound, outdoor gatherings and sign posting. Through this, “the timing and nature of permissible student protests as well as the degree of regulation university administrators hold over these activities” has changed. Along with this, prior university approval is now required for encampments to form, and only in areas designated by UConn officials.

In comparing UConn to Cornell, it is important to note that due to UConn being a public college, our university does not have as much restraint on the rights of students as Cornell does. UConn is bound to the First Amendment and can only interfere when the actions done by students are threatening or distracting. While it makes sense for UConn to limit the timing and nature of protests to ensure education is not disrupted, the increased ability to regulate students’ freedom of speech is not justifiable. It prohibits students from being able to engage in their civic duties. By requiring activists to gain prior approval from the university when they

want to protest, students are having to act under a controlling body. This is a clear violation of the First Amendment — something public universities are tied to — by creating barriers for students to exercise their rights.

What should be done

What is happening at Cornell should be a wakeup call for the students of UConn. College administrations are taking away the rights that our Founding Fathers believed are “inherent in all people by virtue of their being human.” These are unalienable rights, something that “cannot be surrendered to government under any circumstance.” With this, we must act as the Founders told us to and alter or abolish the system that is in place and institute a new one for our safety and happiness. Under these circumstances, we have the right to revolt.

We, the students of UConn, must stand in solidarity with Taal. Taal has the same basic rights as we do that are granted under the United States Constitution. If Taal is deported and stripped of these rights, what will happen to other students? We must protest for our rights as a collective whole. It is our duty to do so as civic members of the United States.

COMICS

I am the smear frame wizard!

C. Barbara

OMG IM SOO EXCITED TO EAT!! SO HUNGRY!

my tummy hurts.

cute outfit!!

back at home...

cozy time...

COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

COMIC BY CHRISTIAN BARBARA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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

Sargeant’s Orders: A look ahead to the New York Knicks’ 2024-2025 campaign

by Connor Sargeant
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It’s finally that time of year again—the NBA is back! After an offseason full of twists, turns and even a Summer Olympics, the regular season is upon us — and with it much to discuss. After winning their 18th championship in franchise history, the Boston Celtics made moves this off-season to maintain their core of championship players. Derrick White and Jayson Tatum both signed multi-year extensions to stay in Beantown. Not to mention 88 Jaylen Brown is under contract for the next five seasons. These moves from the Celtics’ front office show that Boston is all in on this team, and they believe a dynasty is brewing. But they aren’t the only team who thinks it’s their turn. About four hours down the road, the New York Knicks have been making some noise for themselves. Like a scene out of “Rounders,” Leon Rose and the New York front office have pushed all their chips in, unloading the roster for Mikal Bridges and Karl-Anthony Towns in a pair of trades that could change the trajectory of this franchise forever. The team is as close to winning a championship as they’ve been since the 1990s, and in this week’s edition of Sargeant’s Orders, we will preview what basketball fans should expect from New York.

Unloading the roster isn’t an understatement. The Knicks have completely turned it upside down and are betting everything on it. Looking back at the Knicks roster before they traded for O.G. Anunoby, only Jalen Brunson, Josh Hart and Miles McBride still wear the blue and orange. This shows

the lengths the team has taken to build a championship roster around Brunson, whose contract they refuse to waste. With Towns in town — no pun intended — not only is the seven-foot big man expected to feast, but the potential for Brunson to take his game to an entirely new level has never been greater. With Towns’ ability to shoot the three-ball, there is a strong possibil-



Found in the heart of Manhattan, The New York Knicks are a premiere basketball team representing the Big Apple. Fans can watch them play in Madison Square Garden.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @NYKNICKS

ity that the paint will be much more open for Brunson to go to work, and this is where he feasts. Despite being 6-foot-2, Brunson excels down low with head fakes, step backs and other shifty moves. This allows him to either draw a foul, score or find an open teammate. Centers will have a more challenging time playing help defense, thanks to the New

York starter’s ability to shoot it from virtually anywhere. Fans should also expect this squad to hit the ground running, as Bridges was teammates with Brunson and Hart at Villanova, meaning the chemistry will be there from day one. Bridges and Anunoby will be the perfect defensive tandem for head coach Tom Thibodeau. Not only are both wings essentially positionless

size and quickness to shut down passing lanes quickly or anticipate offensive sequences before they happen better than most. Both Bridges and Anunoby are favorites to make the NBA All-Defensive team, and with a coach as defensively minded as Thibodeau, this will take the New York defense to a whole different level. Not only can the forwards get it done defensively, but their offense is just as good and will be a significant factor in how this year shakes out.

A season ago, Anunoby put up a respectable 15 points per night on nearly 50% from the field. If need be, the former Raptor can also get it done from three-point land, shooting at nearly a 40% clip. Bridges averaged 20 points a game on slightly less efficient shooting, 44% from the field and 37% from downtown, although he and Anunoby have demonstrated positive offensive growth each season in the Association. The leaps the duo takes this year will be something to monitor, and even if they do have an off night offensively, the three other starters for New York possess enough scoring talent to ride the ship.

The newest Knick, Towns, will be the second scoring option for this squad behind Brunson and will be pivotal in this team’s success. A season ago, the 28-year-old racked up 22 points a night on an efficient 50/42% slash, and he isn’t as poor of a rebounder as one might think. While he averaged eight rebounds per night a season ago, he was also competing on the glass with 7-foot-1 big man Rudy Gobert every night, and the pair essentially split rebounds for Minnesota.

Of course, how could anyone forget about Brunson, who has played at an MVP level

since his 2022 arrival to the City That Never Sleeps. The former Villanova guard is the nucleus of this squad, and fans should expect yet another All-Star-level performance from Brunson.

Hart will also play a crucial role for this squad. While the guard does not score as much as his other teammates, his role in New York is extraordinary. Hart is arguably the best undersized rebounder in the Association. All season long, he left games with double-digit rebounding totals and played with an unmatched defensive intensity. While he isn’t known for it, Hart isn’t afraid to take the big shots, as his game one performance against the 76ers proved, hitting massive threes down the stretch to seal the deal for the Knicks and having a fourth quarter to remember. Performances like Hart’s in game one are well within the guard’s range; the issue is that the Knicks are so talented that Hart does not take that role on. It is likely he will hold the same role as last season for this campaign, although that doesn’t make his contributions any less important, as it’s hard to imagine New York would have had the success they did without his grit and hustle.

The Celtics are still the team to beat coming off a championship, although New York has closed the gap by a massive amount. The bane of New York’s existence this past season was the injury bug. While it has infected Mitchell Robinson, the rest of the squad enters the 2024-2025 campaign healthy and ready to go. If the Knicks can stay healthy and play up to their potential, the team has a good chance at planning a championship parade route down Fifth Avenue.

Men’s Soccer: UConn shuts out Villanova, 3-0

by Sam Calhoun
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VILLANOVA, Pa. – Following two scoreless draws at home, the UConn men’s soccer team (7-0-3, 2-0-1 Big East) traveled to the Philadelphia area to take on Villanova University (0-6-4, 0-3 Big East) in hopes of finding the back of the net against the winless Wildcats at the Higgins Soccer Complex.

Leaving Storrs, the Huskies were disappointed after failing to score against Fairfield University and Seton Hall University in back-to-back games.

On the other side, coming into the game, Villanova had not started Big East play on the right foot, losing to Marquette University and St. John’s University by one goal each time.

UConn goalkeeper Max Kerkvliet was coming off a performance in which he was named the Big East Freshman

of the Week, recording two shutouts and six saves against Fairfield and Seton Hall. The redshirt freshman from Houston, Texas made four saves on Friday afternoon, including three in the second half.

The Huskies started fast, with forward Scott Testori scoring off a cross from defender Kieran Chandler in the 12th minute. Testori, a senior from Madison, Connecticut, now has two goals this season. Connecticut’s lead doubled 12 minutes later, as midfielder Nicolas Tomerius found his first goal of the season with the help of defender Jack Louira and midfielder/forward Charlie Holmes.

Holmes, a junior from Seattle, Washington, was responsible for another goal in the 64th minute, scoring his second of the season with help from Chandler and Tomerius. The Huskies outshot the Wildcats in both halves, shooting eight in each half for

a total of 16 shots, with eight on target.

UConn didn’t use corner kicks to score their three goals. In fact, the Huskies only had three corner kicks to Villanova’s seven, with all three being in the second half.

Both teams matched each other’s physicality. Villanova had 15 fouls to Connecticut’s 12, with the Wildcats having 12 fouls in the first half. Four yellow cards were issued, including three to Villanova. Midfielder Kyle Dixon was issued one in the 27th minute, forward Jasper Zulman in the 63rd minute and midfielder Jordan Canica in the 86th minute. UConn midfielder Kwame Adu-Gyamfi was issued one in the 70th minute.

Following the win, the Huskies moved to 29th in the Massey Ratings while Villanova is dead-last at 187th in the country. Connecticut is now in first place in the East Division of the Big East with seven

points.

“An opponent of UConn’s quality will make you pay for those moments, and they did that today,” Villanova head coach Mark Feltrow said on the team’s athletic website, citing the moments where the Wildcats “came up short at a couple of key points,” especially in their own box.

“Credit to UConn,” he continued. “They were efficient and forced us to chase the game from early in the game.”

UConn has now won three consecutive games against the Wildcats, all coming in shut-out fashion. The last time the Huskies fell to Villanova was a 1-0 loss at home on Oct. 6, 2021. The overall record heavily favors Connecticut, who holds a 16-4-1 lead in the series which dates back to 1990.

“I thought it was a good game,” head coach Chris Gbandi said in a video posted on the team’s X account. “I thought we played well. At

times, obviously, some good soccer. I think every time you go on the road in the Big East and get a win you’ll take it. Guys looked like they were ready to play. Obviously, Villanova is a very good team so we knew it was going to be tough. Great performance by the group and we’re excited to get three points.”

For Villanova, they will take a break from Big East play to host Columbia University on Tuesday afternoon. They will search for their first Big East victory of the season on Saturday night at the University of Akron.

The Huskies will also take a break from Big East play as they travel up to Burlington to take on the University of Vermont on Tuesday night. They will be back in conference play on Saturday night when they host Georgetown University in a big battle at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium at Rizza Performance Center.



UConn men’s soccer (No. 24) faced Seton Hall University (No. 15) home at Morrone Stadium on Sept. 28. The ninth game for the Huskies resulted in a tie, 0-0. PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Photo of the Day |



On Saturday, October 5th, the Huskies secure their fourth win at home over the Temple Owls with a final score of 29-20. Uconns last touchdown was scored in the games final seconds by Jordan Wright following a fumble. PHOTO BY MERCER FERGUSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WOMEN’S HOCKEY: HUSKIES SPLIT WEEKEND HOMESTAND AGAINST PENN STATE

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The UConn Women’s Hockey team, currently ranked No. 9 in the nation, had two games over the weekend against No.12 Penn State at home at the Toscano Ice Forum. Previously, Penn State had never beaten UConn in women’s hockey, so this weekend they were looking to change the tides. The Huskies entered the weekend 0-2 after falling to one of the best teams in the nation in Minnesota. Both teams had a lot to play for this weekend and it was interesting to see it play out.

In game one it was a tale of two halves for the Huskies, who were very slow out of the gate and fell behind. The Huskies weren’t playing their best hockey during the first two periods, and it showed, as Penn State had an edge on the Huskies. In the first period, UConn was granted two

power plays due to Penn State penalties- however, they could not convert these opportunities. At the end of period one, the score was deadlocked at 0-0. To start the second period, we saw more of the same from these teams as this defensive battle continued, and it was not until late in the second that Penn State would get a goal, making it 1-0. Penn State had many advantages in the second and third periods due to penalties from the Huskies, yet they did not make the most of these; they have yet to score on the powerplay this season. The Nittany Lions scored a minute into the third and they had the Huskies where they wanted them. UConn fought back, though, as Brianna Ware cut the lead to one and Claire Murdoch tied it up on a breakaway goal. With under five minutes to play, this was an even game, with UConn having the momentum. They rode that as they scored with minutes left to take the lead

and seal a big comeback victory 3-2 in the first game of two at home.

In game number two of the weekend series, it was more of



On Saturday, September 29th, The UConn Huskies hosted the Minnesota Gophers for their second matchup of the weekend. The Huskies lost in overtime with a final score of 2-3. PHOTO BY MERCER FERGUSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

the same in the first period as both teams went scoreless and the goalies were great again. However, just 53 seconds into the second period, Christina

Walker nailed one home for the Huskies to make this game 1-0. The lead would not last long as Penn State scored a short-handed goal two minutes later

to tie up the game 1-1. The Nittany Lions would have a powerplay of their own late into the second period and their unit finally had the advantage

as Maddy Christian scored to make it 2-1. Penn State would then immediately go back on the power play and score again as UConn’s penalties seemed to hurt them in this one. The Huskies went into the third period down two and needed a great effort, like in game one, to win. The Huskies immediately went to work in the third as they opened with a power-play goal from Meghan Duchesne-Chalifoux. UConn had drawn within one, yet the Penn State defense remained stout as they kept the Huskies to limited shot attempts. The lead would hold for the Nittany Lions as they would score a fourth goal on an empty net to secure a big win for them 4-2.

The series ended in a draw and there should be limited movement in the rankings as both teams were close in proximity. Neither one of the teams were commanding, so it would be a shock to see either team move up or down more than a few slots in the poll.

Football: Huskies win fourth straight at home in remarkable finish

by **Bridget Bronsdon**
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It was a night to remember for the Huskies as they finished 29-20 in their fourth straight win at home on a game-stealing 96-yard fumble return touchdown with just seconds left.

If there’s one word to describe the 2024 Connecticut campaign, it’s grit. Week in and week out, UConn has protected The Rent and proven themselves a dominant competitor with an explosive lineup of athletes. This week was a little different, however, as the Huskies were put to the test as they got off to a slow start against Temple.

Although UConn’s determination ultimately paid off, they struggled to find their rhythm for the better half of the match. While Uconn is typically led by starting quarterback Nick Evers, he suffered a rough hit in last weekend’s matchup against Buffalo and handed the torch to senior Joe Fagnano.

Fagnano’s season started off with a bang when he threw for five touchdowns and 328 passing yards against Merrimack in the Huskies’ home opener. Since then, Fagnano has remained steady; when stepping in during Buffalo’s match, the senior threw for 217 yards.

Though Fagnano has proven his arm and shown off his run-

ning game, he struggled to find his footing in the beginning of Saturday’s contest. Throughout the early moments in the campaign, he struggled to connect with receivers and many of Connecticut’s efforts were stopped by the Owls’ defense as they struggled to get into the red zone.

Though Temple’s defense gave up 417 yards to Army just last week, the Huskies fought to generate the momentum and the same offensive efficiency previously seen in their latest appearances.

Despite the unusually slow start, wide receiver TJ Sheffield made dominant plays critical to guiding UConn down the field. Sheffield ultimately finished with a season high of 141 yards and led Connecticut in receiving.

For much of the first half, it was a nailbiter as UConn, though favored by 16 points, struggled to assert dominance and left both sides fighting for a chance in the red zone. Even though UConn earned three points on a field goal for the lead in the first quarter, their dominance was short-lived as Temple completed a touchdown to snag a 7-3 authority.

While the majority of the first half can be categorized by both UConn and Temple finding their footing, the Huskies eventually took back the lead with two field goals to close out the half 9-7.

Across the board, Connecticut

appeared to have a slow start as the dynamic running back duo Durell Robinson and Mel Brown struggled to put up any yardage. Just two weeks ago, the pair rushed for a combined 312 yards against Florida Atlantic. In comparison, by the half against Temple, the duo earned just 16 rushing yards.



On Saturday, October 5th, the Huskies secure their fourth win at home over the Temple Owls with a final score of 29-20. Uconns last touchdown was scored in the games final seconds by Jordan Wright following a fumble. PHOTO BY MERCER FERGUSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Although something needed to change for the Huskies, that change didn’t come about in the third. Coming out of the half, the UConn defense put up an uncharacteristic performance, and while they managed to sack Temple quarterback Forrest Brock twice, the Owls snagged their largest lead, 13-9, thanks to 60- and 42-yard field goals.

The Huskies, now faced with

their largest deficit since Duke, needed to change the narrative. With just over two minutes left in the third, Sheffield nailed a 58-yard reception from Fagnano to take back the scoreboard 16-13. However, the Huskies weren’t in the clear yet as Temple earned the 20-16 lead on an eight-yard rush into the end-

zone to begin the fourth.

As the final quarter continued, UConn slowly but surely made progress and inched its way closer to Temple territory. Success didn’t come until the very end, as UConn finally got into red zone territory with just under four minutes left.

The Huskies got a chance to demonstrate their offensive efficiency as they quickly snapped the ball to make incremental progress

down the field. On a one-yard rush, Robinson was finally able to steal a Husky lead 23-20 as he pushed into the endzone.

With just under three minutes left, the campaign was far from over as Temple had possession. After inching their way down the field, Temple stood threateningly on UConn’s one-yard line on a fourth down. Needing only six points to win the contest, the Owls opted to go for the touchdown rather than tie the campaign with a field goal.

As UConn fans held their breath hoping for a miracle, that’s just what happened. To UConn’s advantage, Temple fumbled the ball on the one-yard line which was immediately scooped up by defensive back Jordan Wright who ran 96 yards for the game-winning touchdown.

The Huskies couldn’t have had a better ending for a challenging campaign-finished in picture-perfect fashion. While Temple’s critical mistake promptly ended their game, the Huskies enjoyed a sweet victory.

“I’m just so proud of our guys for fighting and believing. We talk about defending every blade of grass and that was how it felt tonight,” said head coach Jim Mora.

The Huskies are headed into a bye week but will be back at The Rent on Oct. 19 in hopes of continuing their 4-0 record at home.

Volleyball: Huskies remain undefeated at home after winning conference games

by Julia Sasso
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The UConn Huskies ended their losing streak this weekend as the program won both of their games against Georgetown and Seton Hall at home. This moves the team to a 2-2 conference record and maintains their undefeated status at home.

The Huskies returned to Storrs on Friday, Oct. 4 to take on the Georgetown Hoyas for the fifteenth time in the program's history. UConn won the game 3-0, shutting out the Hoyas and ending Connecticut's two-game losing streak.

UConn went into this matchup with hopes of getting their first conference win after a promising non-conference run. The team started the first set strong, taking a 6-4 lead early in the game. However, both teams made errors in the following minutes, and this allowed Georgetown to take the lead. Strong plays from junior Emma Werkmeister and freshman Loren Winn ended the Hoyas' run and gave the Huskies a one point lead, 15-14. The Huskies went on a strong run, winning the next six out of nine points, giving them a 20-17 lead. However, a series of UConn mistakes and strong Georgetown plays allowed the Hoyas to tie the game at 21-all. The Huskies took the first set 25-22 after a kill by Werkmeister and three kills from graduate student Taylor Pannell.

The Hoyas went into the second set determined to tie the game. After some mistakes from the Huskies and strong plays from Georgetown, they opened a 6-5 lead. However, the Huskies were

not willing to let their set lead go just yet and went on a strong run. Winn contributed to both the defensive and offensive end and got UConn to an 11-9 lead. The Hoyas attempted a comeback, taking a one-point lead several times throughout the second set, yet the Huskies were quick to respond and tied the game at 17-all. Georgetown continued their strong play and regained the lead at 20-18. The Huskies persevered with aces from Werkmeister. Connecticut once again tied the game 23-all. A final ace from freshman McKenna Brand gave the Huskies the second set 25-23.

The third set started with both teams making a good effort and tying the game at 4-all. Following this, the Huskies went on a solid run with several kills from Werkmeister, including her 200th kill this season. Junior Brenna Wyman's ace extended the Huskies' lead to 10-5. Georgetown came back thanks to a 3-0 run. however, that was not enough... as a kill from redshirt sophomore Audrey Loren put the Huskies back up 16-10. From then on, it was all UConn- two kills from Werkmeister and Pannell sealed the deal and gave the Huskies their first conference win in a shutout.

The program took advantage of its positive momentum when they faced Seton Hall on Saturday, Sept. 5. As they went into their second game of the weekend, UConn wanted to stay undefeated. The Pirates were also looking to extend their conference win record, having just won their first conference game the night before.

UConn started the first set with momentum. They began with two aces from Rome and

Wyman, followed by a kill by Werkmeister and another from Pannell. This gave the Huskies an early 6-2 lead. UConn didn't let up. Kills from Rome and junior Hanna Tylska and an ace from senior Doga Kutlu extended the Huskies' lead to 16-10. The



The UConn Women's Volleyball Team takes on Dartmouth College on their home court in Storrs, Connecticut on Sept. 15, 2024. The crowd made sure to bring the energy that pushed the Huskies to win. PHOTO BY SYDNEY HANDLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Pirates attempted a comeback but to no avail as another ace from Kutlu and a kill from Tylska won the team the first set 25-19.

Both teams struggled with errors at the start of the second set, which kept the game still at 3-all. The Huskies

then went on a 3-0 run, followed by errors from Seton Hall and strong plays from both Pannell and Werkmeister, giving the Huskies an 11-5 lead. UConn continued to control the second set and an ace from Wyman put the team up 20-11. Continuous

strong play from UConn and a strong block from Rome won the Huskies the second set 25-16.

The Pirates came into the third set hoping to turn the game around. They took an early lead at 7-4 after a solid offensive run and several er-

rors from the Huskies. UConn came back to tie the game at nine-a-piece, but struggled to mount a proper comeback. A strong defense from Seton Hall extended UConn's lead to 15-11. The Pirates continued their domination of the set and extended their lead further to 24-17. The Huskies attempted a comeback and went on a 4-0 run. However, a final kill from Seton Hall gave them the third set 25-21.

The fourth set started much like the second, with both teams exchanging points early on and tying at 9-all. Several errors from both teams, as well as kills from both sides allowed the game to once again tie at 15-all. Strong plays from Werkmeister, Rome and sophomore Grace Maria gave the Huskies a one-point lead at 21-20. Werkmeister and Pannell closed off the game with two kills, winning the Huskies the final set 25-23.

This win puts the Huskies 2-2 in conference play and maintained their undefeated status at home. The Huskies will look to continue this positive momentum as they face Providence at home later in the week.



CLIPART COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

Men's Ice Hockey: Huskies sweep Colgate in opening weekend two-game series

by Tyler Lato
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This weekend, the Colgate Raiders of the Eastern College Athletic Conference traveled to Storrs to take on the UConn men's ice hockey team in a two-game opening weekend series at the Toscano Ice Forum. The first game of the series took place on Friday at 7:30 p.m., followed by the second game on Saturday at the same time.

In game one of the series, the Huskies defeated the Colgate Raiders in their home opener by a score of 4-2. The Huskies dominated the Raiders right from the get-go. Avon, Connecticut. native Jake Percival took advantage of a scoring opportunity to net the first goal of the season for the Huskies. However, the Huskies didn't

hold this lead for too long as Colgate's Ryan Spinale was able to knot the score up at 1-1.

The Huskies regained their lead in the second period when Oliver Flynn found the back of the net to take a 2-1 lead. Shortly after, freshman Ethan Gardula lit the lamp for the first time in his career to boost the Huskies' lead to 3-1 going into the third period.

To start the final period, Jake Richard was able to net his first goal of the season, assisted by Kai Janviriya, to extend the Huskies' commanding lead to 4-1. With little time left in the game, Colgate showed some life with Antonio Fernandez scoring a goal to cut the deficit to 4-2. However, the Raiders could not complete the comeback,

making the Huskies victorious in game one.

In game two, the Huskies completed the opening weekend sweep over Colgate, defeating the Raiders by a score of 6-2.

Late in the first period, Colgate snatched a 1-0 lead with a goal from Simone Dadiè, assisted by Niko Rexine. Things were looking promising for the Raiders; however, it was all Huskies from there on out.

Between the second and third periods of the match, the Huskies proceeded to score five unanswered goals from four different people. Tabor Heaslip started things off for the Huskies by netting the first goal of the game, followed by goals from Richard and Percival to grow the Huskies' lead to 3-1. In the third period, Kaden Shahan found the back

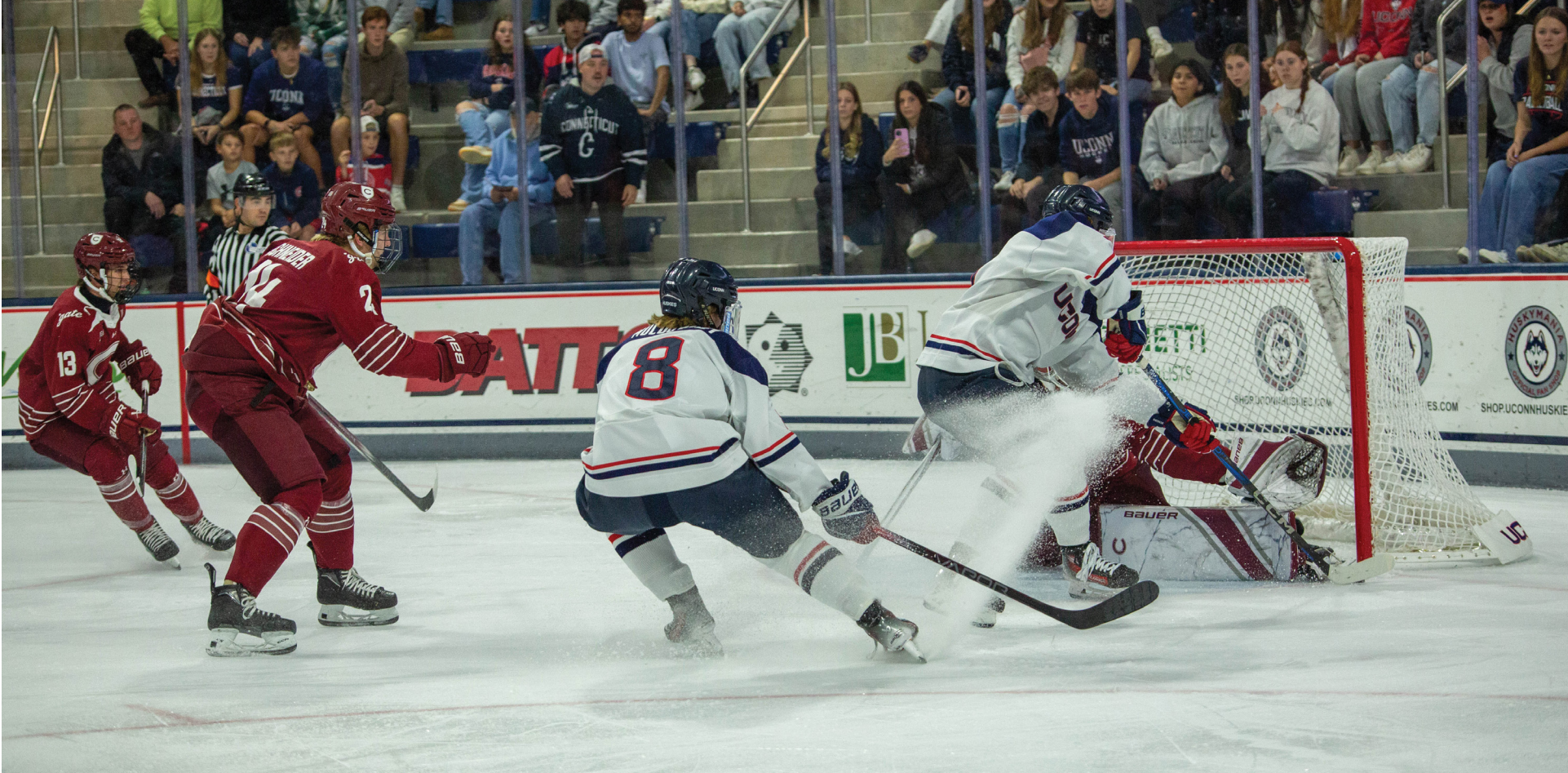
of the net to build the lead to 4-1. Thirty seconds later, Percival netted his second goal of the game, giving the Huskies a convincing 5-1 lead late in the game.

Colgate's Nic Belpedio attempted to keep things close, scoring a goal to cut the Raiders' deficit to three. This deficit turned out to be short-lived after Canadian junior Ryan Tattle put the puck in the net to increase the Huskies' lead, ultimately helping the Huskies win the contest by a score of 6-2.

UConn will look to build off this momentum next week in another two-game weekend series against the College of the Holy Cross. Game one will be played up the road in Worcester, Massachusetts. and game two will be played on Friday at home at the XL Center.



CLIPART COURTESY OF CREAZILLA



The UConn Men's Hockey Team versus Colgate on Oct. 6, 2024. Despite a quick goal by Colgate, the Huskies rallied back with a final score of 6-2. PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Daily

Sports

McCreven's Mashup: The most talented team in each major college basketball conference

by **Jake McCreven**
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This list is by no means in order of talent or a collection of the five most talented teams in college basketball – if it was, Baylor and Houston would also be on the list. This is a list, sorted alphabetically by conference, spitballing the most talented team in each major conference in 2024.

ACC -- Duke Blue Devils

Despite losing the core of last season's Elite Eight team in forward Kyle Filipowski (NBA), and guards Jared McCain (NBA), Mark Mitchell (Missouri) and Jeremy Roach (Baylor), the Blue Devils reloaded with one of the best recruiting classes in recent history.

Springboarded by the commitment of the nation's top-rated recruit Cooper Flagg, Duke was able to sign four five stars and two four stars, including seven-footer Khaman Maluach and the fourth- and fifth-ranked small forward prospects in the country in Isaiah Evans and Kon Knueppel.

The Blue Devils do have some returning pieces as well, including facilitator Tyrese Proctor and reliable sophomore Caleb Foster. Most of the Blue Devils' four-person transfer class was backcourt-focused, with the additions of Tulane's Sion James and Rice's Cameron Sheffield. Purdue transfer forward Mason Gillis is a high-profile scorer looking for a starting role.

Coach Jon Scheyer will have a good problem on his hands while he designs his rotations, with a myriad of potential All-Ameri-

cans at his disposal at every position.

Big East -- Connecticut Huskies

As high-powered as the Huskies are this season, the gap between the most talented teams is smallest in the Big East. Creighton returns three-time Big East Defensive Player of the Year Ryan Kalkbrenner and streaky hot guard Steven Ashworth to go along with stretch four Mason Miller and transfer guard Pop Isaacs.

Yet the back-to-back national champions sport a roster that is virtually impossible to match up

against on a nightly basis. Spearheaded by the return of two-year starter Alex Karaban, the Huskies will retool behind a transfer class bringing in All-WCC guard Aidan Mahaney and Michigan forward Tarris Reed Jr. Four-star guards Ahmad Nowell and Isaiah Abraham will compete with Mahaney. Solo Ball and veteran leader Hassan Diarra will be in the backcourt while national top-10 prospect Liam McNeeley will learn from Karaban out on the wing.

The return of veteran Samson Johnson to pair with Reed down low gives the Huskies two solid

rebounding bigs on the blocks, as Jaylin Stewart will look to acclimate somewhere in the lineup with his four-star pedigree.

Big 10 -- Indiana Hoosiers

Coach Mike Woodson spread his Bloomington bucks across the country to bring in highly coveted transfers Oumar Ballo (Arizona), Myles Rice (Washington State) and Kanaan Carlyle (Stanford) to complete a squad he envisions to play with an up-tempo style in 2024.

Returning forward Malik Reneau and guard Mackenzie Mgbako combined to average more than 27 points per game last season. Throw in first team All-Pac-12 center Ballo's 12.9 points per game as well as Pac-12 first team selection and Conference Freshman of the Year Rice's 14.8 points per game, and the Hoosiers sport one of the highest-powered starting lineups in the country.

Woodson also brought in sharpshooter Luke Goode from Illinois and McDonald's All-American forward Bryson Tucker – both of whom can be starters on almost any team in the nation – to provide depth off the bench.

Big 12 -- Kansas Jayhawks

After limping to a 2-5, second round exit from the NCAA Tournament in 2023, coach Bill Self managed to pluck three of the nation's most talented backcourt transfers out of the portal to come play for him in Lawrence.

KU returns a trio of experienced scoring threats in four-year veteran Dajuan Harris Jr. in the backcourt to go with second year starter Hunter Dickinson and multi-faceted KJ Adams Jr. in the

frontcourt. Self paired those three with Summit League Player of the Year Zeke Mayo (18.8 ppg, 46.6% from the field), 2024 Second Team All-Big Ten selection AJ Storr (16.8 ppg) and near-40% three-point shooter Rylan Griffen from Alabama to form one of the most impressive nuclei in the country. The incoming trio alone accounted for over 44 points per game last season.

SEC -- Alabama Crimson Tide

The Tide welcome back dynamic guard Mark Sears and his 21.5 points per game for a fifth season of eligibility, pairing the potential All-America guard with a plethora of high-profile transfers and national championship aspirations in Nate Oats' sixth year at the helm.

Sears will be featured in the backcourt along with Auburn transfer Aden Holloway and lethal three-point specialist Latrell Wrightsell. Athletic wonder Chris Youngblood (USF) underwent surgery and will miss the beginning of the season but offers an otherworldly athletic presence on the wing. Pepperdine transfer Houston Mallette shot 42% from beyond the arc last season and averaged nearly 15 points as a number two option in the WCC.

Grant Nelson's floor stretching ability returns in Tuscaloosa as well, shooting nearly 70% from two-point range and blocking 1.6 shots per game. Rutgers big man Cliff Omoruyi is a stalwart on the defensive glass and stretch center Jarin Stevenson offers range off the bench.



UConn mens basketball takes on Mississippi Valley State for their first ever showdown in the XL center. UConn emerged victorious from this game.
PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Field Hockey: Huskies dominate, improve to 11-1

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Connecticut field hockey went into this weekend ranked eighth in the country, holding a 9-1 record and having won four straight games.

This weekend, they took on the 6-4 Villanova Wildcats and the 9-1 No. 13 Albany Great Danes.

The two-game weekend kicked off on Friday, when the Huskies faced off against the Wildcats. The beginning of this matchup was a defensive battle between the two squads. Late in the first period, the Huskies struck as freshman Milou Huecker found her freshman team-

mate Isabel Soeters, who got the ball past the goalie to give the Huskies a 1-0 lead.

In the second quarter, the Huskies found themselves in the same scenario – another penalty corner. Soeters was able to score again and put the Huskies up 2-0. She scored her second goal of the game, but she wasn't done yet. With just five minutes remaining in the second quarter, Soeter scored yet again, giving herself a hat trick and UConn a very strong 3-0 lead heading into halftime.

The Huskies continued their domination throughout the second half, as both Julia Bressler and freshman standout Sophie Perschk scored. The Huskies' stellar defense

continued, shutting out the Wildcats 5-0 and improving to 10-1 before their ranked matchup at Albany.

Traveling to Albany, the Huskies knew they were in for a difficult matchup.

In the first quarter, the Huskies struck as Bressler scored her second goal of the weekend, giving the Huskies an early 1-0 lead over the Great Danes. The UConn defense continued to be stellar, keeping Albany scoreless and only allowing one shot on goal.

The second and third quarters consisted of incredible defense by both teams, with neither side able to put points on the board.

The Huskies struck again

in the fourth, as Perschk scored her second goal of the weekend and extended the Huskies' lead to 2-0. The Great Danes got close to scoring a few times throughout the fourth quarter but were unable to as the Huskies' defense continued to excel, and UConn came away with a 2-0 victory.

With these two victories, Connecticut improves to 11-1 on the season and will likely move up the polls again. After a strong weekend with a ranked win, the Huskies will take on the Quinnipiac Bobcats on Friday, Oct. 11 in Hamden, Connecticut.



CLIPART COURTESY OF GREAZILLA



The UConn Field Hockey team Shuts out Villanova University 5-0 in Storrs Conn. on Oct. 4, 2024. Goals scored by Soeters (3), Julia Bressler (1), Sophie Perschk (1).
PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS