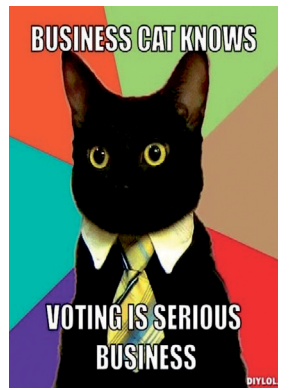


The Daily Campus



THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT SINCE 1896 • VOLUME CXXVIII, NO. 29

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Early voting location to open in the bookstore

by **Karla Perez**
ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR
SHE/HER/HERS
karla.perez@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut will open the campus' first early voting location in the UConn Bookstore.

The poll will be on the second floor of the bookstore. It will be open from Oct. 21 to Nov. 3 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Mansfield Town Council approved the new location in an 8-1 vote on Aug. 26, 2024.

Nick Lanza, a seventh-semerster political science major and public policy minor and the external affairs director of UConn's Undergraduate Student Government (USG), said that several student organizations have advocated for an on-campus voting location for nearly 20 years.

This is the first year that the state of Connecticut is doing early voting, which, according to Lanza, helped to set this secondary location on a fast-track.

This new polling location will be open to all those registered to vote in Mansfield.

Congressman Joe Courtney said that he has felt there should be a polling place on the UConn campus since his campaign in 2006. He said that since it is such a "high density site," that access to voting should be as convenient as possible.

Courtney said that part of the reason this second location took so long to establish was that the university had been "wavering in focus" and that the town of Mansfield has been resistant in years past.

During the Town Council, Republican member Brian Coleman spoke against the opening of a second early voting location, concerned about the added cost for taxpayers to open the poll. Ryan Aylesworth, the chief executive officer of the town, responded saying that the university is waiving fees for the town, according to the meeting minutes.

Courtney said that a secondary polling location will help the registrar's office run more smoothly and make the primary voting location's poll workers' jobs easier. Anne Greineder, the Democratic registrar for Mansfield, shared a similar prediction in the meeting, saying that it will "alleviate some of the congestion at same day registration."

The 18-24-year-old age group has historically produced the lowest voter turnout. Both Lanza and Courtney believe that this new voting poll location will help to close that gap in Mansfield due to the increased accessibility for those students without cars on campus.

Courtney said that it is important for this age group to vote so that they can feel a sense of control in their government.

"No question that in every election, but particularly this election, young people have more at stake," he said.

Seth Warner, an assistant professor of political science at UConn, agrees and said that anything that reduces the cost of voting will increase participation.

"I think it's good. Particularly as the university grows, I think it's important from the university's mission to create engaged citizens that we make this type of participation possible," he said.

Students that are Connecticut residents can register or make changes to their registration through the online voter registration system on the Secretary of the State's website.

Students living on campus can register to vote in Mansfield using their residence address. The Registrar of Voters has further instructions on its website. There is also information listed about absentee ballots and registering by mail.

In the weeks leading up to Oct. 18, the deadline to regis-

ter to vote, USG will host several initiatives to get students excited about voting, according to Lanza.

USG will hold registration drives on Fairfield Way starting tomorrow. They will run on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Wednesdays from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. through Oct. 16. USG also plans to take more direct approaches by meeting with cultural centers, fraternities and sororities.

Lanza also confirmed that members from USG will be working at the bookstore's polling booth. He noted that anyone outside of USG is also welcome to sign up to work, but also that all of the slots are almost filled. He said this reflected the excitement around the new location.

The Town Hall will remain the primary early voting location, according to the council's meeting minutes. Its open hours will also be from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day.



The UConn Bookstore is where students can purchase merchandise and pick up course materials. It will open the town of Mansfield's second early voting poll on Oct. 21, 2024.
STOCK IMAGE/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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Meet Dan Hurley and new recruit Darius Adams

THE DAILY CAMPUS NEWSLETTER



News

Connecticut schools close in response to rising number of threats

by **Lindsey Machnicz**

CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
lindsey.machnicz@uconn.edu

Multiple Connecticut schools closed last week after learning about a series of threats made through social media. Bridgeport, Ansonia, Waterbury, and Bristol were some of the school districts affected.

According to CT Insider, no one was harmed but many school districts decided to err on the side of caution, asking teachers to keep their doors locked, opting for early dismissals or even shutting down school for the day.

A series of arrests have been made as the threats were investigated. According to Stamford Advocate, “Ansonia police said a 13-year-old girl admitted making the threatening post on social media” and “was charged in juvenile court with first-degree threatening and second-degree breach of peace.” Additional arrests have been made in Meriden, Norwalk, Waterbury, and Bridgeport, according to NBC CT.

This rise in threats comes in the face of a recent uptick in school shootings. According to Stamford Advocate, “Since Sept. 4, when police say a 14-year-old opened fire at a Georgia high

school, killing two students and two teachers, dozens of threats have rattled Connecticut schools and communities,” resulting in evacuations and lockdowns throughout Connecticut just hours later.

Connecticut Senator Richard Blumenthal and Governor Ned Lamont visited Barnard Environmental Science and Technology School in New Haven last week to talk with students about the dangers of technology. According to News 12 Connecticut, “Students are calling for tighter restrictions on social media companies amid a wave of

online school threats across Connecticut.”

The high number of threats originating online has brought more conversation to the Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA), which Blumenthal proposed to Congress. According to his website, KOSA “Creates a duty for online platforms to prevent and mitigate specific dangers to minors, including promotion of suicide, eating disorders, substance abuse, sexual exploitation, and advertisements for certain illegal products,” among other things. It has passed through the Senate and is awaiting a vote in the House.

During the meeting with New Haven students, Blumenthal said, “The senate passed a stronger bill by a 91-3 margin, and I hope that the house will look to the senate bill.”

According to News 12 Connecticut, a House of Representative committee has made the wording in KOSA more generic, instead requiring social media companies to prevent “promotion of inherently dangerous acts that are likely to cause serious bodily harm, serious emotional disturbance or death.” The House is projected to vote on this bill sometime this fall, but its future is uncertain.

Here’s how Helene and other storms dumped a whopping 40 trillion gallons of rain on the South



Halle Brooks kayaks down a street flooded by Hurricane Helene in the Shore Acres neighborhood Sept. 27, 2024, in St. Petersburg, Fla.
PHOTOGRAPH BY MIKE CARLSON / AP PHOTO

More than 40 trillion gallons of rain drenched the Southeast United States in the last week from Hurricane Helene and a run-of-the-mill rainstorm that sloshed in ahead of it — an unheard-of amount of water that has stunned experts.

That’s enough to fill the Dallas Cowboys’ stadium 51,000 times, or Lake Tahoe just once. If it was concentrated just on the state of North Carolina that much water would be 3.5 feet deep (more than 1 meter). It’s enough to fill more than 60 million Olympic-size swimming pools.

“That’s an astronomical amount of precipitation,” said Ed Clark, head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Water Center in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. “I have not seen something in my 25 years of working at the weather service that is this geographically large of an extent and the sheer volume of water that fell from the sky.”

The flood damage from the rain is apocalyptic, meteorologists said. More than 100

people are dead, according to officials.

Private meteorologist Ryan Maue, a former NOAA chief scientist, calculated the amount of rain, using precipitation measurements made in 2.5-mile-by-2.5 mile grids as measured by satellites and ground observations. He came up with 40 trillion gallons through Sunday for the eastern United States, with 20 trillion gallons of that hitting just Georgia, Tennessee, the Carolinas and Florida from Hurricane Helene.

Clark did the calculations independently and said the 40 trillion gallon figure (151 trillion liters) is about right and, if anything, conservative. Maue said maybe 1 to 2 trillion more gallons of rain had fallen, much if it in Virginia, since his calculations.

Clark, who spends much of his work on issues of shrinking western water supplies, said to put the amount of rain in perspective, it’s more than twice the combined amount of water stored by two key Colorado River basin reservoirs: Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

Several meteorologists said this was a combination of two, maybe three storm systems. Before Helene struck, rain had fallen heavily for days because a low pressure system had “cut off” from the jet stream — which moves weather systems along west to east — and stalled over the Southeast. That funneled plenty of warm water from the Gulf of Mexico. And a storm that fell just short of named status parked along North Carolina’s Atlantic coast, dumping as much as 20 inches of rain, said North Carolina state climatologist Kathie Dello.

Then add Helene, one of the largest storms in the last couple decades and one that held plenty of rain because it was young and moved fast before it hit the Appalachians, said University of Albany hurricane expert Kristen Corbosiero.

“It was not just a perfect storm, but it was a combination of multiple storms that led to the enormous amount of rain,” Maue said. “That collected at high elevation, we’re talking 3,000 to 6000 feet. And when you drop

trillions of gallons on a mountain, that has to go down.”

The fact that these storms hit the mountains made everything worse, and not just because of runoff. The interaction between the mountains and the storm systems wrings more moisture out of the air, Clark, Maue and Corbosiero said.

North Carolina weather officials said their top measurement total was 31.33 inches in the tiny town of Busick. Mount Mitchell also got more than 2 feet of rainfall.

Before 2017’s Hurricane Harvey, “I said to our colleagues, you know, I never thought in my career that we would measure rainfall in feet,” Clark said. “And after Harvey, Florence, the more isolated events in eastern Kentucky, portions of South Dakota. We’re seeing events year in and year out where we are measuring rainfall in feet.”

Storms are getting wetter as the climate change s, said Corbosiero and Dello. A basic law of physics says the air holds nearly 4% more moisture for every de-

gree Fahrenheit warmer (7% for every degree Celsius) and the world has warmed more than 2 degrees (1.2 degrees Celsius) since pre-industrial times.

Corbosiero said meteorologists are vigorously debating how much of Helene is due to worsening climate change and how much is random.

In a quick analysis, not peer-reviewed but using a method published in a study about Hurricane Harvey’s rainfall, three scientists at the Department of Energy’s Lawrence Berkeley National Lab determined that climate change caused 50% more rainfall during Helene in some parts of Georgia and the Carolinas.

For Dello, the “fingerprints of climate change” were clear.

“We’ve seen tropical storm impacts in western North Carolina. But these storms are wetter and these storms are warmer. And there would have been a time when a tropical storm would have been heading toward North Carolina and would have caused some rain and some damage, but not apocalyptic destruction.”

The Daily Campus

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Monday, September 30, 2024

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For more information about getting involved as an editorial, business or digital employee:

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THE DAILY CAMPUS CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Pop star Lady _____
- 5 Picture puzzle
- 10 Ooze
- 14 Travel without a destination
- 15 Ivy in Philly
- 16 24/7 cash devices
- 17 *Scoop
- 19 Perlman who played Barbie's creator in 2023
- 20 "Loving" actress Ruth
- 21 Argentine aunt
- 22 Meager
- 23 *One in a chain west of mainland Greece
- 26 Alias indicator
- 28 Concert device
- 29 Upcycles, say
- 30 Gentle suggestion
- 32 ___ Beta Kappa
- 34 Tonsils-checking doc
- 35 "I like the way you think"
- 41 Sonny
- 42 My Chemical Romance genre
- 43 Actor Weathers
- 44 Transferred, as property
- 47 Ga. capital
- 49 Sewer scurrer
- 50 *Medium for a junior coder
- 53 Cookout spot
- 54 Third key in a reboot sequence
- 55 Not exactly, casually
- 58 Yale students
- 59 Startling revelations, or what the answers to the starred clues have, phonetically
- 61 Zipped along
- 62 Large water lily
- 63 Morales of "NYPD Blue"
- 64 Got wiser, hopefully
- 65 Stubbornly old-fashioned
- 66 Retired fast fliers: Abbr.

DOWN

- 1 Smile

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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	50						51				52			
53						54				55			56	57
58						59				60				
61						62						63		
64						65						66		

By Robbie Cottom

10/1/24

- 2 First-class
- 3 Planet largely composed of helium and hydrogen
- 4 Chum
- 5 Edgar Allan Poe's "The Murders in the _____ Morgue"
- 6 Finish lines?
- 7 Country formerly known as Dahomey
- 8 Biased
- 9 ___-cone
- 10 Cutting, as some remarks
- 11 Odorless gas
- 12 Corrects
- 13 Prep exam with a high score of 1520
- 18 "SNL" alum Carvey
- 22 Hurlled
- 24 Blocks
- 25 [More details below]
- 26 Yellowfin tuna
- 27 Kith and _____
- 31 On the air
- 33 Suburban suffix
- 36 Music source in a car

Monday's Puzzle Solved

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

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10/1/24

- 37 "Just sold my last one"
- 38 Lack of light
- 39 Time period
- 40 Second key in a reboot sequence
- 44 ___ box: interactive window
- 45 Complete
- 46 Skeptical question, perhaps
- 48 Show appreciation, on Facebook
- 51 Borscht need
- 52 Dressed to the ___
- 53 Activist org. with a rabbit in its logo
- 56 "Curses!"
- 57 eBay caveat
- 59 Will Ferrell holiday film
- 60 Therapist's maj.

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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level **1**

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

Solution to Monday's puzzle

10/1/24

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

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

Poppermost figure is photographed in a melancholy scene with a guitar. Fans will get to listen to the new album on Oct. 4.
PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK ALAN



'I DON'T WANT TO KNOW': A psych-pop gem from The Poppermost

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

For fans of 1960s psychedelic music, it is almost expected that any expertly crafted psych-pop song should sound magical to the ears. I'm pleased to say that the newest single from the Scottish band, The Poppermost, titled "I Don't Want To Know" certainly captures that magic.

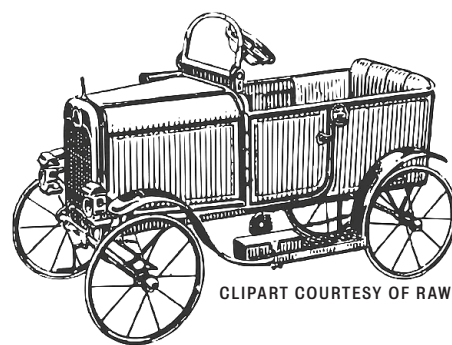
Releasing on Oct. 4 on streaming platforms, the frontman of The Poppermost, Joe Kane, provided me with the single a few days early for this review.

Kane, a veteran of several prominent Beatles tribute bands, including Them Beatles and more recently, The Love Beatles, has a long and diverse career in music. His work covers essentially all genres, with mixes released under Joe Kane/Radiophonic Tuckshop focusing on driving rhythms and harmonies. Also, his work with Dr Cosmo's Tape Lab features a unique branch of sunshine-pop. Honing a Beatles-esque though original sound with The Poppermost, Kane has taken one-man music production to new heights.

Before diving into "I Don't Want To Know," it's worth mentioning the history of The Poppermost up to this point.

Between 2020 and 2021, Kane wrote and produced several singles, an EP and the album "Hits to Spare." More recently, Kane was joined in 2023 by Craig McGown (formerly of Them Beatles), Ross Wilson and Richard Anderson, to fill out The Poppermost's rhythm section on "Les Poppermost EP."

Each release from The Poppermost features a distinct and evolving sound, crafted in Kane's "Fabbey Road" home studio — or rather, garage studio. From "Hits to Spare," tracks like "In & Out" and "Laziest Fella In The Realm" show a lyrical and instrumental blend that creates a vivid Poppermost soundscape.



CLIPART COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL

In tandem, rockers like "Yes It's True," "Egg and Chips" and "Well I Will" capture Kane's performative energy and solid riff-work.

So, with The Poppermost's releases in context, what does this latest single, "I Don't Want To Know" unveil about the upcoming 14-track album, "Fabracadabra," and the newest sounds from The Poppermost? For starters, it redefines the sound of the band.

The track opens with a brief and sufficiently trippy guitar line, then shifts quickly into a richly textured and rhythmically looping folk-pop tune. Kane makes his guitar work sound almost like a harpsichord, creating a beautiful blend between his Gibson J-160E and Framus 12-string. Propping the guitars up is a bouncy and exceptionally melodic baseline played by Kane on a Rickenbacker 4001. The part adds a distinct counter melody into the mix, not dissimilar to Paul McCartney's bass work circa 1966-1967.

Complimenting the bass part is a layered instrumentation featuring reversed and effect-heavy guitar lines, as well as organ and piano fills at several breaks in the vocals. The backing comes together in what I'd consider to be The Poppermost's least "Merseybeat" reliant piece. "I Don't Want To Know" catapults the band (and Kane's production) into an era of psych-pop and innovative instrumentation that I am optimistic will be featured throughout "Fabracadabra."

The track is also a deviation from The Poppermost's norm of catchy, though relatively simple

lyrical structure. Singing on the realities of life which many people (myself included) quite frankly "don't want to know," the writing is a step in the right direction for Kane and The Poppermost, as the lyrics have a certain eerie, yet positive quality to them.

Lines such as, "I like to be seen, but I have nothing to show," show an introspection similar to Brian Wilson's pleas in "I Just Wasn't Made for These Times" off "Pet Sounds." Kane's singing elevates his words into a trippy and emotive blend that is sure to require many listens to fully grasp: "Let's end the day with an inverted frown / There's always someone trying to make the scene / No need to be mean."

The lyrics are a strongpoint of the track, but they rest on a truly top-tier backing assembled by Kane. I try not to give perfect scores very frequently; however, with the new direction The Poppermost is heading, I feel nearly the same excitement as I did listening to "Revolver" by The Beatles for the first time. The track just invites curiosity, and each listen rewards the listener with a new layer of the mix revealing itself to be just as brilliant as the rest.

Loopy psych-pop may not be for everyone, but it's certainly for me. "Fabracadabra" is gearing up to be a release to keep an eye out for. "I Don't Want To Know" releases this Friday, Oct. 4 on most streaming platforms and will be available for download on Bandcamp.

Rating: 5/5



The Poppermost's new Beatles-inspired album cover features a pattern of men in black and white attire marching around a clock. Fans will get to listen to the new album on Oct. 4, 2024.

COVER ART BY ETHAN ALEXANIAN

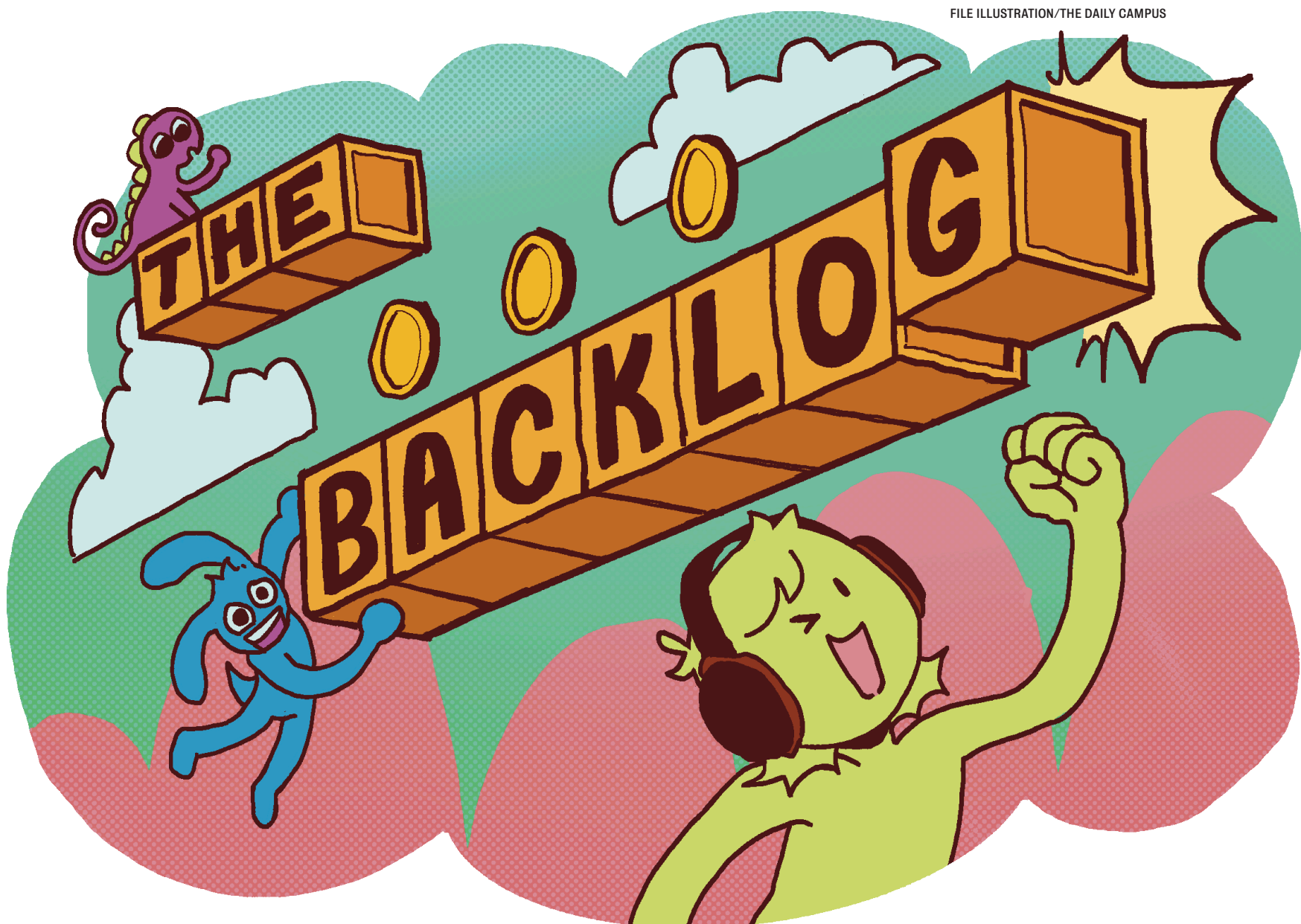


Life

@dailycampuslife

The Backlog: Tales to terrify in ‘Fears to Fathom’

FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS



by Desirae Sin | STAFF WRITER | SHE/HER/HERS | desirae.sin@uconn.edu

Welcome back to “The Backlog,” the column where I review video games based on a different genre each month. We ended September and the theme of “I love it/I hate it” last week, and now we’re diving into many college students’ favorite time of year: October. For the next month, we’re going to be looking at scary games. We’re starting off with an indie favorite of mine, “Fears to Fathom.”

Developed and published by the indie game developer Rayll, the psychological horror series currently has five episodes available and can be purchased on Steam. Each episode tells true stories, submitted to the developer by fans through FearsToFathomStories@gmail.com. The stories range in content, but they all contain creepy or horrifying experiences for those who survived them.

The first episode — “Home Alone” — debuted in July 2021. As the first episode is much shorter than subsequent episodes, the game tells you it can be completed in about 20 minutes. But as a first impression for players, “Home Alone” captures the feeling of literally being home alone. It tells the story of Miles, a 14-year-old boy who is left at home by

himself while his parents are gone for work.

Each episode is narrated by those who submitted the stories, and the game forces you to play as them and experience it firsthand. Mike’s story involves a mysterious stranger appearing outside his home, with unsettling text messages from his mother telling him not to answer the door. Although the idea of not really being alone is scary, the scariest part of this episode is how Miles is able to eat an entire tray of lasagna in one sitting.

The second episode titled “Norwood Hitchhike,” tells the story of Holly Gardner, a 19-year-old woman who must stop by a motel on her long drive home from a gaming convention. With each episode, the game becomes more and more interactive. “Norwood Hitchhike” is a much longer experience than “Home Alone” taking around an hour to complete. This is the first instance where players can drive a car, and it quickly becomes apparent that the driving mechanics are not Rayll’s strong suit. The game also forces you to read texts while driving, so please do not use your phone while driving in real life.

It’s also the first time the game has NPCs, which the

player can interact with and read dialogue from. Rayll uses this to foreshadow events and creep players out. But the developer also uses this chance to include the sound meter, where if the player is hiding, their microphone can pick up sound in real life. Essentially: hide and be quiet.

“Carson House” is the third episode, where high schooler Noah Baker is housesitting for a rich media personality. The first episode was set in a very dark environment, but this installment allows players to use a flashlight, the tool of choice for any horror protagonist. Yet what makes Noah’s experience unsettling is the fact that the house he is in uses a security system. Players must use the cameras to see that they’re not alone and find a way out of the house.

The fourth episode is “Ironbark Lookout.” You play as Jack Nelson, a new fire lookout at Ironbark State Park. Needless to say, being alone in the middle of the woods at night isn’t an ideal situation. Rayll hits this notion home by having long stretches of the player being by themselves, and suddenly introducing unwelcome company. Rayll has a signature jump scare where

the player opens the door and comes face-to-face with a low-resolution NPC, and “Ironbark Lookout” is no exception.

The theme of each episode is that the scares typically come towards the end, and they deliver on the psychological horror aspect. But what I appreciated about the fourth episode was how immersive it was. As a developer, Rayll gets better with each episode, and the small details are what make each one feel as if you are the narrator. The small detail I love in “Ironbark Lookout” is how the trees sway and move with the wind. It might seem minuscule to players as they will only see it for a second in favor of focusing on the story, but it’s the little things that show how much love is put into the game.

The fifth, and most recent episode so far is “Woodbury Getaway,” where Syndey Harper and her old college friend, Mike, escape their mundane lives for a getaway in Vermont. The pair make their way to the rental cabin while waiting for their friend, Nora, to arrive. This episode differs from the others in that you constantly have a companion with you. For the majority of the episode, the player is

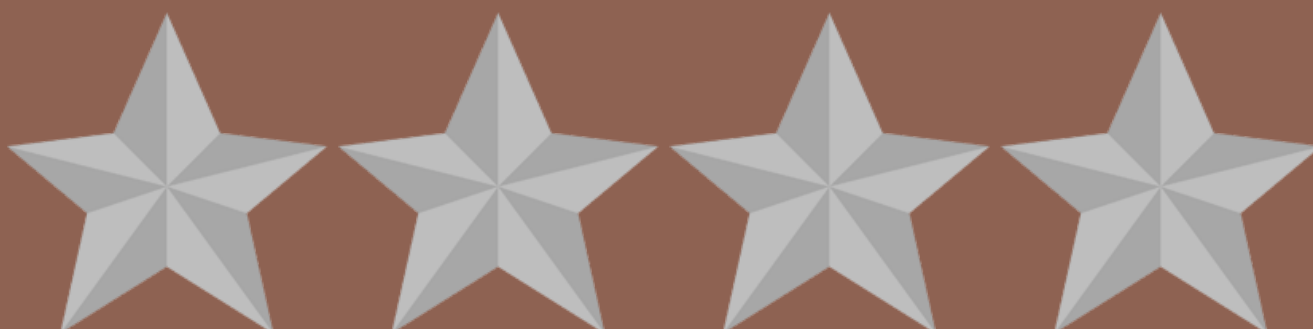
never alone, but Rayll succeeds in making the feeling not as comfortable as you’d think. If there’s one recurring theme throughout this series, it’s that you are never truly alone.

While most stories include home invasions or stalkers, “Woodbury Getaway” keeps players on their toes by making them question who exactly is out to get them.

As the game is developed by one person, the graphics and mechanics are simplistic. But this does not take away from the content within the game; in fact, some players will find that it makes it even more terrifying. I’ve gushed about graphics and art in other reviews, but that does not mean “Fears to Fathom” or any indie title is lesser because of it.

Indie games tend to have more room for creativity, and this holds true for “Fears to Fathom.” Rayll brings these stories to life through unsettling dialogue, jump scares, funny mechanics and tapping into the player’s microphone. Each installment gets better, and it clearly shows Rayll’s journey as a game developer. If you’re a gluton for scary Reddit stories, “Fears to Fathom” is right for you.

Rating





Opinion

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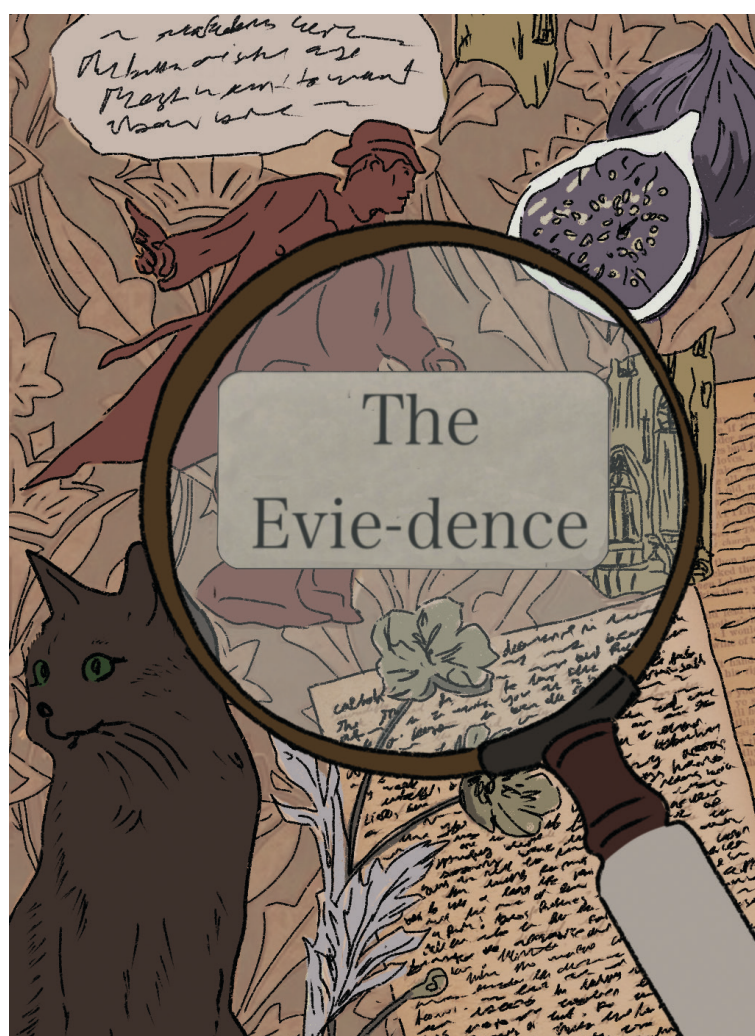
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The Evie-Dence: OpenAI's restructuring plot raises red flags

by Evelyn Pazan | ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR | SHE/HER/HERS | evelyn.pazan@uconn.edu



LOGO BY LILLIAN LEFEMINA, ASSOCIATE ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Since the launch of ChatGPT in late 2022, OpenAI has become a household name in the Artificial Intelligence space, valued at over \$80 billion earlier this year. As essentially a capped-profit company led by a not-for-profit board, OpenAI is unique to other companies like Elon Musk's xAI and Anthropic. Since it is led by a not-for-profit board, OpenAI is bound to their humanitarian mission and "the benefit of all", according to their charter. This mission is headed up by Chief Executive Officer Sam Altman, the face of the artificial intelligence and a respected. Recently though, Altman and OpenAI's reputation are at risk as they release that they might change their company structure and leave their original mission behind.

ChatGPT's rise to fame hasn't been without its past challenges. In Nov. 2023, about a year after ChatGPT's initial launch, Altman was ousted by the Board of Directors because "he was not consistently candid in his communications with the board", according to their blog post. Soon after, Microsoft offered Altman and company President Greg Brockman a position in research leadership. Shocked and frustrated by the sudden transition, investors and fellow employees pushed back against the decision in solidarity with Altman. Only a few days later, Altman and Brockman were reinstated to their positions after largely restructuring the Board of Directors.

Turbulent workplace politics put eyes on OpenAI, but also demonstrated to investors the immense loyalty that employees of OpenAI have for their leadership, a promising win for the company. Post-restructuring, OpenAI seemed well positioned to capitalize on their

recent \$10 billion deal expansion with Microsoft. Since then, OpenAI has continued to campaign for funding and is currently in talks with investors for \$6.5 billion that would raise the company valuation to nearly \$150 billion. Should the deal be completed, that would push the valuation to be double that of chip superstar Intel and surpass Elon Musk's SpaceX.

Amid this campaign, a new development has emerged in the OpenAI case. In the past week, reports have come out revealing that OpenAI is considering transferring away from not-for-profit board control to a for-profit public benefit company. This would mean that rather than simply focusing on helping humanity, the company would also focus on delivering value to shareholders. Despite promises by OpenAI spokespeople that the company will retain a non-profit arm and the values that come with it, should the restructuring occur, OpenAI will no longer be effectively bound by their humanitarian mission or their not-for-profit board.

While investors are thrilled at the possibility of increased returns, common people and those who fear AI should be concerned. A change in the structure of OpenAI would likely mean a change in the priorities listed on OpenAI's charter. As of now, the charter states that they "are committed to doing the research required to make Artificial Generative Intelligence safe," but their actions say otherwise, even before the restructuring plot. In May 2024, just a year after announcing its implementation, OpenAI announced the dissolution of their Superalignment team, a group dedicated to mitigating long-term safety risks associated with AGI.

Right before that announcement, passionate AI safety proponents Ilya Sutskever and Jan Leike left the company. Leike burned the company soon after in a post on X saying, "over the past years, safety culture and processes have taken a backseat to shiny products." He isn't the only one concerned with management alignment and safety precautions. Countless other employees have raised concerns about the management team's commitment to their creed.

OpenAI's safety claims are full of empty promises and questionable execution plans. Though OpenAI announced the creation of a Safety and Security Committee, they faced major criticism for stacking the committee with company insiders. Surely there is no conflict of interest. Since then, however, OpenAI announced that they would move to make the committee more independent, but only after the initial backlash. Convenient.

At the same time, OpenAI looks to shape the regulations that might control them in the future. They have registered multiple lobbyists, and Altman has been named to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Artificial Intelligence Safety and Security Board. Also convenient.

Couple this with straying from the not-for-profit board, there's no doubt that OpenAI's safety mission will go further toward the wayside. What this means for our global community, we don't know, but it certainly is worrying. The nuances of AI regulation and its impacts on our health and wellbeing are still being figured out. Though regulations are in the works, AI companies need to hold themselves accountable for their potential impact. OpenAI might not be setting the best example.

The realism of UConn's carbon neutrality goals for 2030

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

The prospect of the University of Connecticut becoming completely carbon neutral by 2030, a goal set out by President Radenka Maric, is one that needs to be questioned more starkly. The university is quick to address itself as "an international model of sustainability". However, many of its bold claims are not met with any significant infrastructure to support them.

Two years ago, the University had assured students it would go carbon-neutral by the year 2030 and reach a Carbon Net Zero by 2040. Now it has pushed this goal back to 2050. The Climate Action Plan (CAP) set out by the university is one that, in most cases, overpromises and underdelivers.

Within the plan are 'broad strokes' headers such as maximizing efficiency and reducing food waste. However, looking deeper, the strategies to actually implement this are, like much of the document itself, empty.

In its Sustainable Action Plan, one that it claims will facilitate carbon neutrality

by 2030, the university harks of initiatives such as the Depot Campus Fuel Cell and the Northeast Hydrogen Hub. Latching on to these more eye-catching features ignores some of the fundamental systemic issues such as extensive water and energy usage, as well as food waste, that the university has been wilfully sidestepping.

According to the administration, UConn has tried to significantly cut down on fuel usage in recent years. "Our vision is for UConn to be a global leader in the international campaign to address the existing threat posed by climate change. We are committed to advancing sustainability in all we do," Maric recently said. However, how many of these long-term commitments are entirely performative, with few tangible signs that the university is moving towards the goals they have set out for itself?

The university claims it will revamp how it provides clean energy in study buildings and around different residence halls. However, in a university with over 32,000 students the overall achievability of this looks less than likely.

The greatest indicator that

UConn is not fulfilling its commitments is the consistent and growing calls for change from students themselves. Groups such as EcoHusky and UConn's previous Fridays For Future activism groups have put together a front which shows they will no longer accept the university's passivity around endemic climate issues that truly matter. This is designed to force UConn's administration to be more accountable when it comes to their sustainability efforts.

In advocating for more immediacy in the actions the university takes, groups such as Fossil Fuel Free UConn (FFFU) have run more overtly targeted campaigns designed to limit the university wide consumption of fossil fuels. On campus protests and rallies have been drawn together. With hindsight, the university should wake up and take notice of student body that is asking to see tangible change rather than pure rhetoric.

The reality is that earth is currently around 2.45 degrees Fahrenheit above preindustrial levels (1850-1900). This distinguishes a definitive tipping point in what the planet can cope with. On a more local scale, in 2018, Connecticut's GHG emissions were 42.2 million

metric tons (MMT) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e). The state's emissions have been on the rise in recent years, and this has made a significant impact on the capacity to reach future climate goals.

If the University does not change course, it risks completely losing sight of students, putting forward initiatives that are purely symbolic and don't tackle the real issue. As of 2022, Sena Wazer, an environmental science alum from the university claimed UConn had fallen "woefully short on its sustainable action and environmental policy." She articulated that although UConn has taken some smaller steps, a lot of the big actions still remain relatively undecided.

Wazer argues that what the university is in need of is significant infrastructure transition if it hopes to make good on its climate goals for 2030. However, it is hard to see where all the energy and effort of the UConn administration is going. It has already pushed back this deadline and there is nothing stopping it from doing the same again. The students of the university deserve to see and experience progress, rather than hear about changes that are sim-

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Frolicking in the field



The cows at the University of Connecticut are managed by Animal Science students and staff. Students and visitors can greet them on Horsebarn Hill.
PHOTO BY CAROLINE SUTHERLAND, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Comics



Van Nguyen



Staff Artist

UConn Hoops Schedule Split



UConn men's during halftime at the quarterfinals of the Big East Basketball Tournament. The Huskies brought home, for the second year in a row, the National Champions title after the 2024 March Madness Tournament
PHOTO COURTESY OF CT INSIDER

by Jake Loomis

HE/HIM/HIS
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
JLOOMIS415@GMAIL.COM

Last week, the UConn men's and women's basketball teams released their regular season home game schedule splits. The reason for the split is that both teams play at two venues during the season, both Gampel Pavilion and the XL Center. The reason not all games are on campus is to get more fans in the building. The Huskies could sell out every game at Gampel, although its capacity is not as big as the XL Center in Hartford. The arena in Hartford is also more centrally located in the state, whereas games in Storrs are harder for some fans to get to. However, the splits favor the students in Storrs, as the objectively "bigger" matchups are played at Gampel where much of the rowdy student body will be attending games.

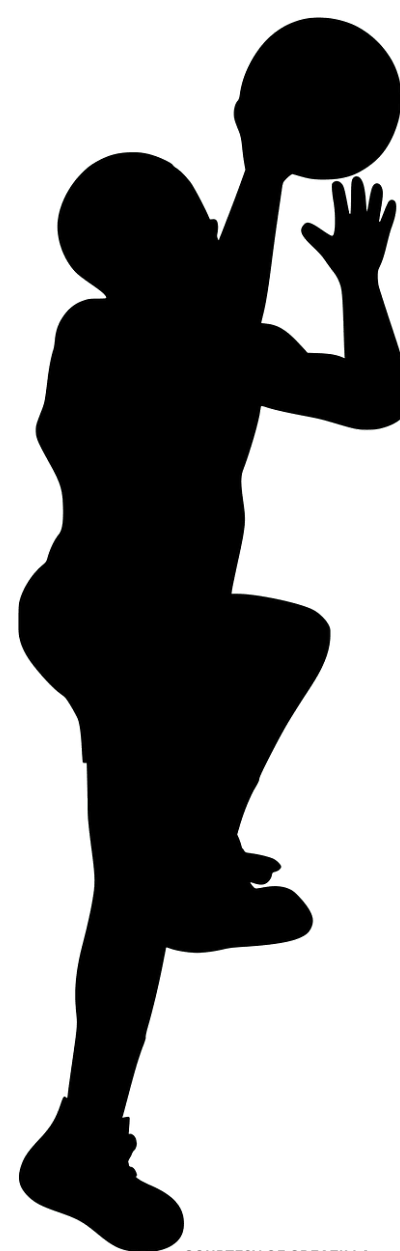
The men's slate is a good one to favor the fans in Storrs, as UConn will host out of conference opponents Sacred Heart, Texas A&M Commerce and Baylor. The Baylor game should be the most exciting of the three as the Bears always put out a good team on the floor and are a consistent March Madness team. The in-conference slate is also good at Storrs as they will host Providence, Marquette, St. Johns, Seton Hall and Creighton. The Big East games will

come with a different environment as rivalries will be challenged on the court with new and old players representing their teams. At the XL Center, Connecticut will host out-of-conference opponents New Hampshire, Le Moyne and UMES. None of these games will be a big test for the Huskies, though you never know when an upset could arise in college hoops. However, in Big East play, fans will get to see some more exciting matchups as UConn will welcome Butler, Xavier, DePaul, Villanova and Georgetown to the XL Center. These matchups should be interesting to see, as they are all decent teams. However, the Big East games hosted at Gampel are expected to be much more difficult.

The Women's team also released their slate of games as they too will split time between Gampel and the XL Center. The women will play host to Fort Hays State, USF, FDU and Holy Cross as their non-league opponents at Gampel all of which should be warmup games for the Big East conference slate. For the Big East Teams, the women will see Seton Hall, Villanova, St. Johns and Marquette in Storrs. The UConn women

will also play USC in December, while also playing host to non-league opponent BU in November. The in-conference slate at the XL Center is loaded for fans as they will have the chance to see the team play Georgetown and Providence in December. In January, the women will play host to Xavier, who should be a good test for the team. In February, the women will face two good teams in Butler and Creighton, who will both be looking to get the best of the Huskies. The women's team splits seem to favor the XL Center in Hartford, although there will still be some exciting matchups on campus for the team.

The schedule split is an overall interesting concept. UConn provides its state with more Basketball by playing in Hartford. This is a loss to the students as they will not have some games on campus, although many can still travel to see games. Hartford opens the possibility for more fans, more excitement around the game and an overall chance to make money for the programs. Basketball season is right upon us and there is a lot of excitement in the air as both teams look to win it all come March.



COURTESY OF CREAZILLA



UConn women's basketball taking on Georgetown during the Big East Tournament. The Huskies defeated the Hoyas in a 78-42 score. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sports

Photo of the Day | Another Husky DUB!



The UConn football team preparing to take on the Buffalo Bulls. The Huskies took the victory this weekend, ending the game with a 47-3 score. PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

GOODBYE OAKLAND

by Jake Loomis | HE/HIM/HIS | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | JLOOMIS415@GMAIL.COM

With the Athletics gone, pro sports in Oakland are officially dead. One of the main reasons the three teams left the city was to go to bigger markets and get funding for new stadiums. Oakland was not willing to put up enough money to fund a new stadium project for any of the three teams, and the owners did not want to pay the difference. Another problem faced in Oakland, especially for the Athletics, who were bottom tier in the league and had the worst stadium, along with the Raiders, was attendance. Fans did not want to go to games because no effort was made in building a solid roster, and it was a bad place to watch a baseball game. Many would opt to make the longer drive to San Francisco to support their team in a good ballpark that they could enjoy. However, the fans were never the problem; they have always been there in Oakland, they were just never treated right. They are diehards, the Raiders Black

Hole being the best example where fans would dress in all black for games and wear face paint to show their team spirit. However, pro sports are a business, and if these owners thought they could make more money in a bigger market, such as Las Vegas, they had every right to seek that. The Athletics' move was mainly made by greed. John Fisher, their owner, did not have to move the team, and the MLB owners did not need to approve the relocation to Vegas. The question we, as fans, should be asking is at what cost are you willing to move your team?

The cost is a very interesting thing to dive into because it can be seen in many ways. The cost of the fans, the cost of money and the cost of winning. Oakland was not an attractive destination for players to call home, but it was a destination where players knew the fans had their back and would be rooting for them. A diehard

fanbase is not something you can just grow in a new city; it takes time. Years of heartbreak and triumph must happen before you can consider your city diehard fans. One thing worth giving credit to, though, is that even though these teams are in new locations, Las Vegas and San Francisco are probably two of the closest cities that these owners could have picked for relocation.

At the end of the day, everything is finalized for the most part, and nothing can be done to change that. This is just a special circumstance because, unlike other relocations, this one signifies the end for a city that housed three pro sports teams dating back several decades. The Athletics, Warriors and Raiders will all be a part of Oakland's history. However, Oakland will no longer be a place to watch a game or go share an experience with friends; it will now just be a distant memory in our eyes.



Oakland Athletics celebrating their win after the team's last game. The team's move will either prove itself clever or will backfire. PHOTO COURTESY OF NBC NEWS

COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

DROPPIN' DIMES: PREDICTING THE TOP SIX SEEDS IN THE NBA EASTERN CONFERENCE

INJURIES AND ROSTER CHANGES ROCKED THE EASTERN CONFERENCE LAST YEAR, GIVING THE CONFERENCE STANDINGS A MUCH DIFFERENT LOOK THAN IN RECENT YEARS. MANY TEAMS MADE BLOCKBUSTER ROSTER CHANGES THAT ARE SURE TO SHAKE UP THE LANDSCAPE IN THE EAST. WITH THE NBA TIPPING OFF THIS FRIDAY, I'LL BE BREAKING DOWN MY PREDICTIONS FOR THE TOP SIX TEAMS IN THE CONFERENCE FOR THE 2024-25 SEASON.

by **Matt Dimech** | HE/HIM/HIS | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | RWQ24001@UCONN.EDU

No. 6 Indiana Pacers

Last year the Pacers made a surprising run at the Eastern Conference finals prior to being swept by the eventual champion Boston Celtics. The Pacers were led by all-star point guard Tyrese Haliburton before he began to struggle in the latter portion of the year. The Pacers managed to retain Pascal Siakam this offseason, meaning Indiana's star duo is intact. The Pacers didn't make any changes in the off-season, but they expect development from their young role players in Obi Toppin, Andrew Nembhard and Aaron Nesmith. The Pacers will be fighting to stay out of the play-in tournament in the East; last year, they finished in a three-way tie at 47 wins with the Orlando Magic and the Philadelphia 76ers.

No. 5 Cleveland Cavaliers

Cleveland finished last year as the fourth seed in the Eastern Conference at 48-34. After a hard fought seven game series victory over the Magic in the first round, their season was ended by the Celtics in five games. Cleveland kept together their group of star players, all-star guards Darius Garland and Donovan Mitchell, and their front court duo of Evan Mobley and Jarrett Allen. Things will not look drastically different from last year for the Cavs, as they didn't make any notable roster moves in the off-season. The Cavs made a change at head coach, replacing J.B. Bickerstaff with Kenny Atkinson, which could shake things up. The No. 5 seed will be very competitive for Cleveland, rivaling teams like Indiana, Miami and Orlando for the lower East seeds, but it's a challenge I think they are well equipped for.

No. 4 Milwaukee Bucks

Milwaukee has fallen out of the Eastern Spotlight since their

2021 NBA Finals run. Last year, the Bucks paired former MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo with Damian Lillard, a duo many expected to dominate the league, drawing comparisons to Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant. Milwaukee finished as the third seed in the East with a record of 49-33. After the shocking change at head coach, the Bucks hit a hiccup in the road. Just 43 games into his tenure as coach, the Bucks fired Adrian Griffin despite having a 30-13 record. He was replaced by Doc Rivers, who led the team to a subsequent 17-19 record. The Bucks were bounced in the first round to the six seeded Pacers, a disappointing end to a season with such high expectations. A sud-

den change in coaching, along with a new star duo, was bound to throw things off for Milwaukee. With time to gel together this off-season, I see no reason why Milwaukee won't find themselves in the Eastern Conference playoff picture.

No. 3 Philadelphia 76ers

Philadelphia had their season derailed with the mid-season injury of former MVP Joel Embiid. In the 39 games he played last year, he was an early favorite for the MVP race. He averaged 33 points and 10.8 rebounds per game. He will be back this year alongside six-time All-NBA Team member Paul George. George adds a three-level scoring ability and has been one of the best two-way forwards in

the league throughout his career. With the emergence of Tyrese Maxey last year, who averaged 29.8 points per game, the 76ers have put together one of the most impressive trios in the league. Veterans Andre Drummond and Eric Gordon help round out the 76ers roster, and there are high expectations for their first-round pick, Jared McCain. Embiid and company will be looking to get back to the top of the east this season.

No. 2 New York Knicks

The Knicks stole the show this offseason. Just a week before the season started, they traded away Julius Randle and Donte DiVincenzo to bring in one of the best offensive centers in the NBA, Karl-Anthony

Towns. Towns is an obvious upgrade for the Knicks, filling in the center role left empty by Isaiah Hartenstein. Randle is coming off injury and usually comes up short in the playoffs. While DiVincenzo has lost most of his role in the offense with the addition of Mikal Bridges. Town's ability to stretch the floor will be huge for the Knicks, as it will open up the paint for Jalen Brunson in isolation. The Knicks were poised to be Boston's toughest challenge on their road to the NBA Finals before they were plagued by the injury bug in the playoffs. This year, the Knicks pose an even greater threat to the Celtics, as they look to usurp the throne in the East.

No. 1 Boston Celtics

As the reigning NBA Champions, Boston is the team to beat in the Eastern Conference this year. Boston has been atop the East in recent memory, finishing in the top three in each of the last four years. Last year, the Celtics finished with a 64-18 record, finishing 14 games better than the runner-up Knicks. When facing teams in the East, they boasted a 41-11 record. Boston is maintaining their entire roster from the championship run, which gives them an advantage over the rest of the conference with the assurance of continuity. There is no team in the NBA with better chemistry, which is evident on the court. A net rating is a statistic that measures how much better or worse a team performs when a player is on the floor. Celtics players accounted for five of the six best net ratings in the NBA. With the dynamic duo of Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown leading the way, expect another big year out of Boston.



The Celtics Vs. The Bucks on February 9th 2016. The Bucks won by one point with a final score of the Bucks-112 and Celtics-111.
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PATRIOT LEDGER



Sports

MEET DAN HURLEY AND UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL'S NEWEST RECRUIT, DARIUS ADAMS



Darius Adams with all of his top three picks for schools, him now being UConn Bound. The student made his announcement on Monday, Sept. 30, 2024. PHOTO COURTESY OF ON3.COM

by Connor Sargeant | ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR | HE/HIM/HIS | CONNOR.SARGEANT@UCONN.EDU

While the college hoops season is only a month away for the UConn men's basketball team, the grind of recruiting and finding new talent to come in never stops. With graduation, the NBA and even the transfer portal, a team's roster is never the same year to year, making recruiting all the more critical. Dan Hurley and the UConn coaching staff have been active in finding future talent to fill the inevitable future holes in their roster, and the Huskies landed their first commitment for the class of 2025 this Monday in Darius Adams. This comes after the five-star shooting guard narrowed his top three schools down to Connecticut, Michigan State and Tennessee. Adams is one of the top players in the class of 2025 and can make an immediate impact as a Husky. He made it known that Hurley and the coaching staff were significant reasons for choosing Storrs, Conn.

"The coaching staff, loved being around them," Adam's told 247 Sports. "Their intensity in practice, I really like I want to be pushed hard. I want to earn something, so I think I will do that [at UConn]."

The 18-year-old shooting guard started his high school career at Manasquan High School in New Jersey. However, he left after his sophomore year to attend La Lumiere School in La Porte, IN. La Lumiere School is an elite basketball institution, as they are a member of the National Interscholastic Basketball Conference, which has a national schedule and routinely pumps out high Division-1 talent. Not to mention, the conference also has a TV deal with ESPN, which goes to show how talented all of these young athletes are. Adams's talent is immense, and UConn fans should expect him only to get better.

Adams' largest strength is his ability to create shots from

all over the floor, whether it is inside or a few steps beyond the arc. Not only is he a solid shot creator, but Adams is a solid finisher at the rim. He isn't afraid to go for a tough finish, whether it is a one-handed slam or a tough layup at the rim. Despite this, there are some questions about his explosiveness as a driver and whether he can physically adjust to the collegiate level. Not to mention how his defense will look, especially against some of the best scorers in the country. However, these are some of the most common concerns about nearly all freshman hoopers. Despite some of these concerns, we have seen Adams improve almost every time he takes the floor. Again, familiar to most recruits, Adams is still growing into his body a little, although once he does, it could spell trouble for opposing teams.

When the 6-foot-5 guard does get a feel for the game and his frame, this can unlock new aspects of his craft. He will transform from a solid rim finisher to a nearly perfect one. When it does, this will create tremendous pressure in the paint, meaning that not only will he finish through contact even better, but his teammates will benefit more from his already solid passing ability. This added physicality should also help him on the defensive end as he adjusts to college hoops.

However, it's a little ambiguous as to what his immediate impact will be. He could be a freshman starter, like Stephon Castle. However, he will likely have some competition on day one to be in the starting five, with either Ahmad Nowell or Aidan Mahaney. It also depends on which players decide to leave for the NBA or stay, as a "three-peat" would likely see some of these athletes head to the next level. He could also start the year off on the bench and come in with the second

unit to play some crucial minutes, similar to Hassan Diarra's role last year as the sixth man. However, his shooting and his potential to get physically stronger means that even if Adams starts on the bench, don't be surprised if he comes in later during the year to run with the first unit. Regardless of his role, the five-star recruit is prioritizing his long-term basketball career and wants to get better, and he believes that UConn will do that for him.

"Everyone has a goal there. They want to get better, and I want to put myself in that position," Adams noted. "[Hurley] makes his players better. The way he gets his players open is just amazing, honestly."

Adams is a big piece for the future of Connecticut basketball, and the five-star shooting guard certainly possesses one-and-done potential. The Huskies have a long history of getting shooting guards to the NBA, with Castle being the program's latest "one-and-done." Even if he doesn't get to the next level this year, he could take a role similar to Donovan Clingan and leave for the NBA Draft in his second season.

This first commitment demonstrates how attractive Hurley and the rest of the coaching staff's brand of basketball is. Adams embraces the grind and will likely fit into the Connecticut system quickly. Since it is fall, be on the lookout for other recruits to commit to schools across the country. The UConn effect is in full swing. The Huskies' "old fashioned" way of recruiting, of having to earn your keep on the squad, may deter some recruits. However, athletes like Adams embrace the competition and the chance to improve. Over the last two years, this mentality has been the point of UConn's success, and it doesn't appear to be going away anytime soon as Connecticut is in an excellent position to pull off the historic "three-peat."



COURTESY OF CREAZILLA