



## GEU-UAW demands UConn retract new protest policies

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On Sept. 25, The University of Connecticut Graduate Employee and Postdoc Union released a statement regarding the new protest policies that the UConn administration enacted at the beginning of the 2024-2025 academic year. In the statement, the GEU-UAW called for UConn to retract the policies that were passed and to release 26 students who were arrested following a pro-Palestinian protest and encampment that was held earlier this year.

GEU-UAW condemned the reason for the enactment of these policies, saying, “we see these changes as a punitive response to student protests; an escalation of the biased repression of Palestinian and pro-Palestinian community members; and an attack on the free speech and right to protest of our entire UConn community—including the labor movement.” They go on to say that “Free speech and the right to protest must be respected everywhere, especially at public universities such as ours.”

These policies came in the wake of a pro-Palestinian encampment that was held by Dove Tower between April 25 and April 30. The five-day protest called for UConn to divest from and cut ties with the industries that profit from the war in



A gathering of people protesting in support of Palestine. UConn student group Students for Justice in Palestine hosted a walkout on Fairfield Way outside of the Student Union on Nov. 1, 2023. PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISNA SENATUS/PEXELS.COM

Israel and Palestine. This protest culminated in the arrest of 26 students after they refused to disburse from the encampment.

GEU-UAW, having previously spoken out about the arrests when they initially happened, condemned the response to the encampment in their statement once again.

“Rather than engage with the

students’ cries to end the complicity of their university in the violence, UConn’s administration responded with an aggressive police mobilization, arresting 26 protesters on charges of trespassing,” GEU-UAW said. “We reiterate our earlier condemnation of these arrests and call on the university to ask the State’s Attorney to drop the

charges.”

The policies enacted by UConn administration, which can be found at UConn’s policy website, include additional restrictions on amplified sound, outdoor gatherings as well as posting and flying. GEU-UAW talked about how “these policies disproportionately impact pro-Palestinian demon-

strators and place undue burden on them through lengthy and unnecessary disciplinary processes.”

“We are the future of higher education and see these policies as contributing to broader, troubling attacks on academic freedom. It is our right to advocate, critique, dissent, and organize for causes that are meaningful to us, whether or not they align with the University’s current financial arrangements or the personal politics of its administrators,” GEU-UAW said. “While it is obvious that these changes are a response to the anti-genocide protests of April 2024, we, organized workers at this university, understand that these rules are intended to have a chilling effect on all campus organizing, including the labor movement and our fight for worker rights.”

At the end of their statement, GEU-UAW called on other unions, student constituencies and progressive organizations to “to demand that these policies be retracted and fight for our right to protest and organize at UConn and beyond.”

GEU-UAW was founded in 2013 and is a union that consists of graduate employees and postdocs. According to their website, the union fights for the rights of their workers at a local, state and federal level. For more information about the organization reach out to [uconngradunion@gmail.com](mailto:uconngradunion@gmail.com).

## New businesses set up shop in Mansfield: Chipotle, Five Guys, Aspen Dental

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It’s not every day chain businesses decide to establish new locations in smaller towns like Mansfield, Conn. A newly constructed plaza now features locations for Chipotle Mexican Grill, Five Guys Burgers and Fries and Aspen Dental at 96 Storrs Road on the Mansfield-Willimantic town line, not far from the main University of Connecticut Storrs campus.

Chipotle Mexican Grill, a fast-casual restaurant serving burritos and bowls, officially opened this past Monday, Sept. 30. The new Mansfield location was one of five announced arrivals of the chain to Connecticut for 2024, in addition to over 30 locations operating across the state. The restaurant faces competition from Moe’s Southwest Grill, a similar establishment with a location in Downtown Storrs — and subject of a popular fan rivalry. The new Chipotle location also boasts a drive-through window, nicknamed “Chipotlane,” which allows patrons to place their order ahead online.

“I went on opening day, and

the line was long, it was out the door,” said Nil Patel, a seventh-semester management information systems major. “I’ll definitely go back. I just hope the demand isn’t overwhelming; Chipotle is really popular amongst students.”

The Mansfield location is open every day from 10:45 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. There are over 3,500 Chipotle restaurants worldwide, and the company promotes values of environmental sustainability and the use of real ingredients.

Aspen Dental also began their practice at their new storefront on Thursday, Oct. 3. The office provides numerous dental services including routine treatments, emergency care and surgery and auxiliary dental needs. The chain is geared toward individuals that have limited access to traditional channels for care or those who face affordability barriers — a model called “corporate dentistry.”

“The entire team is dedicated to ensuring that every patient is treated with the respect and compassion they deserve,” read a press statement on the new location.

Jasmin Henville, a dentist

based in Worcester, Mass., operates the new location as a franchise. She also owns the Aspen Dental locations in Lisbon, Conn. and Auburn, Mass. the latter holding the title of top performing Aspen Dental office on the business’ webpage.

Aspen Dental operates 16 other offices in Connecticut and over 1,000 locations in 46 states.

UConn Health also operates a dental care center in its medical services complex in Downtown Storrs, and as a component of the UConn School of Dental Medicine at John Dempsey Hospital in Farmington, Conn. In the past, free health clinics have been offered to students and community members.

Five Guys Burgers and Fries, a fast food chain specializing in hamburgers, hot dogs and milkshakes, announced their intent to open a new location in Mansfield, Conn., in July to occupy the center suite of the plaza. According to their careers webpage, the new location will open in November and employment applications are open. Signage has been installed and interior construction is in the final stages for the brazier, which shares an outdoor patio seating area



The Chipotle restaurant chain officially open its new Mansfield location on Sept. 30, 2024. Chipotle was founded in 1993.

PHOTOGRAPH BY KEN WOLTER/SHUTTERSTOCK

with Chipotle.

The strip is located next to the Champagne Motorcars dealership on Storrs Road, also known as Connecticut Route 195. The roadway connects with US Route 6 in Willimantic and runs north, directly feeding into the

main UConn campus through to Tolland. Anchored by the East Brook Mall and Big Y Supermarket plaza across the street, this commercial zone is about a 15-minute drive from UConn and is accessible on WRTD bus route 674.

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## News

# The Women's Center hosts domestic violence awareness month candlelight vigil

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The Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP) hosted a domestic violence awareness month candlelight vigil on the Student Union patio on Wednesday, Oct. 2. The event was in collaboration with United Services' Domestic Violence Program, which is a "private, nonprofit behavioral health center" that provides domestic violence shelters in Connecticut, according to the United Services website. The vigil featured United Services representative Paige Briggs, who led and helped organize the event.

The event started off with

Briggs reading a poem about domestic violence by Kimberly A. Collins, titled "Remember My Name." Briggs explained that Collins wrote the poem so people would remain committed to stopping domestic violence, and not forget the names of victims who have passed as a result.

After the poem, there was a minute of silence for victims of domestic violence and all participants were gathered in a circle holding electric candles to mourn those who passed.

Nala Davis, a seventh-semester student at the University of Connecticut who is part of the VAWPP program at the Women's Center, said the event was "healing" and "empowering" as it brought together a com-

munity of people who have experienced the same thing. She also stated that the moment of remembrance allowed the community to recognize the "strength and resilience" many domestic violence victims possess.

Briggs then began to hand out two to three names of domestic violence victims who had passed away in Connecticut from 2001 to the present day to all attendees. Each person approached the mic stand and read the names of the victims, a little information about who they were and their story and when they died.

"Domestic violence awareness month is an important month," said Nuratu Quarshie,

the VAWPP director. "The more we do prevention and the more we create awareness, the lower the statistics get hopefully."

According to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, one in four women and one in seven men are victims of severe domestic violence.

The event concluded with attendees writing their stories or messages for domestic violence victims on purple paper hands. The paper hands were used as a pledge to put a stop to domestic violence and to use hands not a vehicle for violence. The hands will be displayed in the Women's Center after the event.

The VAWPP program in the Women's Center has services for students that experi-

ence sexual assault or domestic violence.

"We have confidential resources," Quarshie said. "If you come to the Women's Center to report a case of sexual assault, we're not required to report any identifiers to the University."

Another program the Women's Center provides for domestic violence victims is In-Power, which is "a support group for survivors of sexual assault or domestic violence," Davis explained. The group meets from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Women's Center multipurpose room, according to their Instagram.

For more resources on domestic violence support, visit [womenscenter.uconn.edu](http://womenscenter.uconn.edu) or [unitedservicesct.org](http://unitedservicesct.org).

## DreamWorks Animation at 30: Painting a bright path forward with 'The Wild Robot'

(AP) Filmmaker Chris Sanders had finally cracked "The Wild Robot."

Peter Brown's middle-grade book, about an intelligent robot living in the wilderness, had been sitting on the shelf at DreamWorks Animation for awhile. No one had quite figured it out. Then Sanders, the man behind beloved animated features from "Lilo & Stitch" to "How to Train Your Dragon," came along.

His vision, however, was different from the norm: The story started without zippy dialogue and didn't follow traditional beats. He also wanted to embrace a more illustrated style that melded analog warmth with computer generated imagery capabilities, which was finally technologically possible. Before he got too deep, he needed to make sure the studio was on board.

"They said, 'That's the reason we bought the book. We want to do something different,'" Sanders said. "One of the great strengths of DreamWorks is they're willing to try new things. To everybody's credit, they stayed the course."

And it's already paying off. "The Wild Robot" opened No. 1 in theaters nationwide this weekend, riding in on a wave of critical acclaim. Sanders didn't know it at the time but something bigger was at play: "The Wild Robot" would be released

coinciding with the studio's 30th anniversary.

It wasn't so long ago that DreamWorks was the new kid on the block. The upstart, founded by Jeffrey Katzenberg, Steven Spielberg and David Geffen, was in October 1994, the first new studio in 60 years. Since their first animated release ("Antz," in 1998), DreamWorks Animation has released 49 feature films that have grossed more than \$17 billion at the box office. They have major franchises, including "Shrek," which became the first best animated feature Oscar winner, "Kung Fu Panda" and "How to Train Your Dragon," as well as originals and Emmy-winning television series.

Animation continues to be a major force at the box office. This year there are already three animated films in the top 10 global earners: Disney and Pixar's "Inside Out 2" (\$1.6 billion), Illumination's "Despicable Me 4" (\$953.3 million) and DreamWorks' "Kung Fu Panda 4" (\$549.1 million). Post-theatrical as well, animated movies are regularly among the top performers on streaming services. Their wildly popular preschool series "Gabby's Dollhouse" was the sixth-most-viewed streaming original series in 2023.

"Every studio has its ups and downs, but their franchises really spoke to me," said Margie Cohn, who was named Dream-

Works Animation president in 2019. "They never spoke down to kids, they were movies that were made for the entire family. And they respected animation not as a genre, but as a theatrical experience."

A veteran of Nickelodeon, Cohn was recruited by Katzenberg in 2013 to build the DWA Television department where she saw opportunities in groundbreaking partnerships with streaming companies like Netflix. Three years into her tenure, DWA, then essentially an independent studio, was acquired by NBCUniversal, a division of Comcast Corp., for \$3.8 billion. Universal also has the animation studio Illumination under its banner. DWA and Illumination (think "Minions" and "Despicable Me") mostly operate separately, with "Shrek" as the one crossover. In her new role, Cohn oversees both film and television properties.

"You don't come to the studio and then suddenly you have a slate. You have to build the slate, and it takes years," Cohn said. "We just needed to get back to those roots."

"The Wild Robot" is a key part of that equation, different visually and thematically from what came before and what's coming. Next year has three films on the schedule: "Dog Man," based on Dav Pilkey's graphic novels about a police officer and dog who become one after an injury,

"The Bad Guys 2" and "Gabby's Dollhouse: The Movie." Then, in July 2026, they plan to release the first new Shrek movie in over 15 years.

The diversity of the slate, the appeal to different audience segments from pre-school age on and the lack of house style, Cohn said, are a great signifier of the ambition of the studio.

"It's still an event for a family to go to the movies, but you have to give them a reason to go," Cohn said. "The bar for theatrical has gotten higher, but that makes us better. It raises the bar for us too."

Critics and audiences have noticed the care taken with "The Wild Robot," which is already in the Oscar conversation. Sanders collaborated more closely with his actors than ever before, including star Lupita Nyong'o, who had the difficult task of voicing a robot, ROZZUM unit 7134, or Roz for short, who has an emotional arc.

"There's a timelessness to it and I loved the core message of kindness being a survival tactic and that sometimes you have to go beyond your programming," Nyong'o said. "But I wanted to know that he was looking for a collaborator not an executor."

Sanders is certain the film wouldn't be nearly what it is without the thoughtfulness she applied to "deconstructing the architecture of Roz's mind."

Animation technology also allowed more human involvement on the project than he's had since "Lilo & Stitch," which came out 22 years ago.

"Every square inch of this film is painted by a matte painter: Every tree, every ground plane, every rock, every flower is a stroke made by a human

being," Sanders said. "I started in animation when everything was hand-drawn and painted, and then CGI came along and we got so many wonderful things, including the ability to change lenses and move the camera in space. But then we lost touch with a lot of the analog warmth we used to get. Now we put all that stuff back and kept all the wonderful things that we got along the way. It's a very exciting time."

Another interesting thing happened to those involved with "The Wild Robot." Nobody wanted it to end.

"Usually, even if you love the movie, you're proud of it, you're ready to be done after three or four years. But that wasn't the case in this instance," Sanders said. "Everybody went into this forest and fell in love with it and fell in love with the characters and the story."

While no sequels have officially been announced, "The Wild Robot" is a three-book series and Sanders is eager to jump back into the forest. Animation, he said, has come out of a tunnel where they're freer to maneuver stylistically than they have been for decades; He's extremely optimistic about the possibilities. DreamWorks Animation is as well.

"We are really proud of where we are today at our 30th anniversary, and we have enormous hope for the future," Cohn said. "We're excited about the originals still and we hope and believe that audiences will be, too. So, we're going to forge forward with originals as well as wildly imagined franchises and hopefully it'll take us into another 30 years."

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# Daily Campus Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 Floor it
- 6 Grasps
- 10 Exchange
- 14 Eighth Greek letter
- 15 Do roadwork
- 16 Deli sandwich
- 17 Die-hard independent?
- 19 Came to rest
- 20 Alpine cheese from Italy
- 21 Vexes
- 23 Support on a course
- 24 "Stay" singer Lisa
- 27 Ode or haiku
- 28 Baked potato?
- 30 One of Bo Peep's charges
- 33 Incident that hurts one's credit score
- 36 Hence
- 37 Place atop
- 39 "To the stars," in mottos
- 41 Facility that's in a constant state of ferment
- 43 Kitchen gadget
- 44 Carp kin
- 46 Writer Bombeck
- 47 Comics shriek
- 48 Diamond heist?
- 51 Rolling in dough
- 53 Henry VI's school
- 54 Apollo vehicle, briefly
- 57 Netflix title role for Lily
- 60 Gender-neutral ethnic identity
- 62 Ninth Greek letter
- 63 Problematic dental patient?
- 66 "Couldn't agree more"
- 67 Country whose name comes from a Gaelic goddess
- 68 Not fully trusting
- 69 Shredded
- 70 "Out!"
- 71 Barnett of CBS News

**DOWN**

- 1 Mid-Mar. figure
- 2 Lunar cycle component
- 3 Supercreepy
- 4 Blues guitarist Baker

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By Gary Larson & Amy Enszt

10/4/24

**Thursday's Puzzle Solved**

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10/4/24

- 5 Company that invented black-light fluorescent paint
- 6 Upscale bathroom installation
- 7 Down
- 8 At any time
- 9 Oaxacan wrap
- 10 Lose
- 11 Gauge on an oil rig?
- 12 "Songversation" artist India.\_\_\_\_
- 13 Double boilers, e.g.
- 18 Owl
- 22 Like Vikings
- 25 Robinhood alternative
- 26 App issue
- 28 Socks
- 29 Excavator-maker
- 31 Compost bin helper
- 32 Grammy winner from Donegal
- 33 Uncommon
- 34 Actress Falco
- 35 Quality-control inspector at a knapsack factory?
- 38 Amphoralike vessel

- 40 Take in
- 42 Get a second opinion?
- 45 Part of the upper deck?
- 49 Takes to task
- 50 Empower
- 52 Idiotic
- 54 Soda purchase
- 55 Año Nuevo month
- 56 Streep of "Only Murders in the Building"
- 57 Order
- 58 Tony who holds the Cowboys record for most touchdown passes
- 59 Playwright Bogosian
- 61 Layer
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## Life

# Innovate Labs teaches programming through a robotic talent show

by **Samantha Brody**

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On Wednesday, Oct. 2, the University of Connecticut's Innovate Labs hosted their very first skill-share of the 2024-2025 academic year, titled "RoboTalent Showcase." Taking place at the School of Business, this event allowed UConn students to learn how to program basic functions into VEX robots, which are small, motorized robots that the students then programmed to perform a talent.

The students split into four groups, each given the task of teaching their robot some sort of unique talent. After the robots were programmed, the students were given the opportunity to give their robot a costume made of construction paper. The robots each performed a talent, and the students voted on a winner.

The robotic talents on display included the singing of "Happy Birthday," the drawing of a heart shape and the ability to follow instructions to the "Cha-Cha Slide" by DJ Casper. The winning robot, named "Robotica," followed the instructions of the song in time with the beat, while wearing a hula dancer costume made from construction paper.

"Robotica" was programmed and outfitted by UConn students Kylie Jenkins, Tenzin Kyijong and Sofia Lototsky. As a prize, the group won Innovate

Labs water bottles.

On its website, Innovate Labs describes itself as "an educational research lab providing students of all disciplines with opportunities and resources to learn, explore, and develop industry-valued skills outside the classroom around emerging technology and analytics." The program often hosts skill-shares, where students gain hands-on experience in the current topic.

The event was run by physics major Sophie Kozak and mechanical engineering major Reis Muccino. "Innovate Labs is an emerging tech lab and maker space on campus," Kozak said. "We're designed to teach students about technology that might not be used in the classroom but would be used in careers and industry."

"It's a place for students to come and learn," Muccino said. "A lot of the stuff here is technology that students don't really have access to. It's nice to give them the opportunity to come and see it."

"We're open for all students, any major," Kozak noted.

The room itself included a wide variety of tech, from the VEX robots to an array of virtual reality headsets and drones. During the opening presentation, Muccino even brought up Eco Innovate, a branch of technology involving the growth of plants.

When asked about why students should learn about robotics, even if their major



A college student working with a VEX robot. VEX robots are the standard machinery UConn students worked with at the RoboTalent Showcase on Oct. 2, 2024.  
PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @VEXROBOTICS ON INSTAGRAM

doesn't involve engineering, Muccino said robotics is "becoming such a normal part of life now." He discussed the prevalence of robotics in modern life, such as in grocery stores. "Being able to put it together, see how they work, and then code one yourself — it's a really useful experience in today's age."

Kozak brought up her own experience with her major, which doesn't directly involve robotics. "I'm a physics major, which

is heavily involved in STEM. It really helped me learn a lot about coding," she said. Coding the VEX robots involved a simple block code system, but Innovate Labs offers programs related to coding languages such as Python and GIT.

"Before coming into the lab, I had never touched a robot before," Kozak said. "So, it was a really cool experience to get a beginner knowledge on that."

Innovate Labs will be hosting a variety of events this

month. Future skill-shares include 3D Printing (Oct. 9, 7 p.m.), web design (Oct. 16, 7 p.m.) and XReality (Oct. 21, 5 p.m.). The XReality event is specifically designed around creating a 3D maze in virtual reality. More information about all of their events can be found on their website.

Innovate Labs is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Monday to Friday (with the exception of 10:10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Wednesdays).

## Healthy Huskies: Staying healthy in college

by **Abigail Bonilla**

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Cold and flu season is upon us, and there is no better time than now to learn how to stay healthy during college. Colleges and universities can be a breeding ground for illness, so staying at your very best is important. University life can also affect our mental health, so it is important to learn how to care for yourself as well.

The fall and winter seasons are notorious at the University of Connecticut for bringing about sickness. It seems like everyone on campus has been feeling ill as of late. Protecting yourself from getting sick will not only make you feel better, but it

will allow you to put your best foot forward for your upcoming midterm exams.

The easiest way to protect yourself is to get vaccinated against the flu. Flu shots are free for students on campus, and you can call Student Health and Wellness (SHaW) or visit their website to schedule your free vaccination today. Additionally, CVS in Downtown Storrs provides low-cost flu shots with proof of health insurance.

There are also many smaller, practical actions you can take to protect your health this season. For example, eating a healthy and well-rounded diet will help you fight off any illness you may come across. Getting enough nutrients, protein and an adequate number of calories

in your diet will improve your overall health, as well as improve knowledge retention and processing.

Exercising is also a very important part of your health. Aim to get some activity each day, even if it is just a walk across campus. Spending time outside and moving your body is proven to increase the effectiveness of your immune system, as well as improve your mood and help your overall mental health. Low-impact exercise, such as yoga, can help you move your body while simultaneously reducing feelings of stress.

There are numerous opportunities for yoga classes on campus. You can take a class at the Student Recreation Center, do sunset yoga on Horsebarn Hill or attend a wellness community yoga class if you are a resident of Connecticut Hall. SHaW also puts on many meditation groups throughout the week that can help you find a moment of calm within your hectic schedule.

Making study plans around exam time may also keep you healthy by reducing stress. The better prepared you are, the less stressed you will be by exam time. Try making your own study plan, and make sure to prioritize assignments and exams that need more of your attention first.

Tackling the harder assignments first, as opposed to leaving them until the last minute, will make you feel much better prepared than you would otherwise. The Rowe Center also works with students on campus to create personalized study



LOGO BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

plans during busy times of the semester. The Rowe Building is located across from Homer Babbidge Library. Stop by during the day to schedule a time to meet with a peer worker or for more information!

Remember that health starts with protecting yourself from illness. Stop by the CVS or SHaW to get vaccinated for the flu this season. Working on having a balanced diet and adequate exercise can also help protect your immune system, as well as improve your overall mental health.

Staying prepared for your exams will also reduce stress, improving your health. Stop by the Rowe Center to help create a study plan, or reach out to the Academic Achievement Center for tutoring. Hopefully, with these tips, you can stay as healthy as possible and put your best foot forward this semester. Good luck, Huskies!



DRAWING BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# 'The Legend of Vox Machina' delights in fantasy and fun in newly released season 3

by **Samantha Brody**

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The first part of the third season of Amazon Prime's "The Legend of Vox Machina" was finally released Wednesday, Oct. 2. An action-packed fantasy animated by the studio Titmouse (whose credits include "Big Mouth" and "Frog and Toad"), the show follows the escapades of a ragtag group of adventurers, known by the name Vox Machina. This review is relatively spoiler free and concerns itself with the first two episodes of season three, but references story beats from the previous two seasons.

It's no secret that "The Legend of Vox Machina" is powered by Dungeons & Dragons web series "Critical Role." Dungeons & Dragons, dubbed "the most popular tabletop RPG" by a 2024 GamesRadar+ article by Benjamin Abbott, is an improvisational game, in which one player (called the Dungeon Master) creates an imaginary world for the rest of the players to interact with. The players create characters inspired by common fantasy tropes, such as elves and dwarves, who act as the heroes of the Dungeon Master's adventure.

"Critical Role" itself primarily surrounds a series of live Dungeons & Dragons campaigns, with Dungeon Master Matthew Mercer running the story for his friends. "The Legend of Vox Machina" is an adapted-for-television version of "Critical Role's" first campaign, which ran from 2012 to 2017 with a total of 115 episodes.

Mercer himself has voice credit on video games "Overwatch" and "The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom," as well as television shows "Blood of Zeus" and "Pokémon Horizons." His star-studded



Vex'ahlia and Vax'ildan flying in season 3 promo shots. "The Legend of Vox Machina" is airing on Amazon Prime.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @LVMANDM9ONPRIME ON INSTAGRAM

cast of seven players consists of Travis Willingham, Laura Bailey, Marisha Ray, Taliesin Jaffe, Liam O'Brien, Sam Riegel and Ashley Johnson. Each member of the cast voices their own central character.

Season one of "The Legend of Vox Machina" revolved around the Briarwoods, a villainous couple consisting of a vampire and a necromancer. After Vox Machina defeated the pair, the show shifted focus to the Chroma Conclave, an evil cabal of dragons led by Thordak the Cinder King.

Thordak is voiced by prominent actor Lance Reddick. Reddick, who played Charon in the "John Wick" films, passed away in 2023 due to "natural causes" at the age of 60, according to an article by USA Today. However, his voice lines were recorded before his death, leaving Thordak as one of his final performances.

Season three of "The Legend of Vox Machina" contin-

ues where the show left off. Raishan, one of Thordak's dragons, revealed to the group that Thordak had a clutch of eggs waiting to hatch, which would allow him to populate the world with a dragon army. Raishan urged the group to seek out a powerful magic artifact that could be used to defeat Thordak.

This magical artifact is one of many, collectively known as the Vestiges of Divergence. Although every vestige is different, Vox Machina has slowly been collecting these items as they face each member of the Chroma Conclave. Season 3 seems to primarily concern itself with this specific vestige: a suit of armor called the Plate of the Dawnmartyr. Vox Machina will need to locate the Plate of the Dawnmartyr and harness its power to finally defeat Thordak.

In the same vein as the previous seasons, "The Legend of Vox Machina" also focuses on the interpersonal relation-

ships between the main cast. The first two episodes lean into the budding romance between Keyleth (Ray) and Vax'ildan (O'Brien), as well as Scalan's (Riegel) struggle to connect with his long-lost daughter.

"The Legend of Vox Machina" has always been a labor of love for the "Critical Role" team, beginning humbly with a Kickstarter that planned only to fund a single 20-minute pilot episode. According to a CNBC article, fans of the show "had shelled out more than \$11.3 million, making the fundraiser the most successful film or television project in Kickstarter history. More than 88,000 people contributed to the campaign." The additional funding allowed for the company to instead create the entire first season of the show, which led to "The Legend of Vox Machina" being picked up by Amazon Prime.

This love for the show is evident in the series itself. In

addition to voice acting, every member of the original "Critical Role" cast is an executive producer on "The Legend of Vox Machina," creating a show that is both faithful to the fans and accessible to newcomers.

Audiences with zero knowledge of "Critical Role" or Dungeons & Dragons may have trouble connecting with certain aspects of the show's lore and setting, but overall, the show remains open to all levels of experience.

In addition to their show, "Critical Role" is currently airing their Dungeons & Dragons show titled "Bells Hells" every Thursday on Twitch, YouTube, and the company's in-house streaming service, Beacon. This is the third campaign that the company has aired, "Vox Machina" being the first.

The second campaign, called "Mighty Nein" is currently being adapted into its own show, which the company announced in a YouTube video from the Prime Video channel on Jan. 25, 2023.

Ultimately, "The Legend of Vox Machina" is an incredible story about a team of misfits who must band together to save their home and in the process become the greatest heroes that their realm has ever seen. Though it is fun and exciting, the show doesn't shy away from more emotional moments and story beats and pays careful attention to the development of its characters. Although slow at times, the story is always building to a massive payoff.

"The Legend of Vox Machina" is releasing three episodes a week for the next three weeks, with a total of 12 episodes ending on Oct. 24. The show will release these episodes every Thursday on Amazon Prime Video.

## Relationships run rampant in season 3 of 'Heartstopper'

by **Mikayla Murphy**

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Author's note: Spoilers ahead. Trigger warning: mental illnesses, eating disorders.

On Thursday, Oct. 3, the highly anticipated third season of "Heartstopper" was released on Netflix. The TV adaptation of Alice Oseman's award-winning graphic novels follows the story of Nick (Kit Connor) and Charlie (Joe Locke), two teenagers from England, as they navigate their all-boys grammar school while being queer.

The first season, released in 2022, sets the stage for Nick and Charlie's relationship. Being queer in an all-boys school is no easy task, but with help from their friends and family, they make it work. The second season, released in 2023, sees Nick and Charlie officially dating and follows them on their school trip to Paris. While there, they endure the challenges of their relationship being known to more than just their friends and the age-old question of whether they want to take their relationship to the next level.

The third season continues their story and sees Nick and Charlie doing better than ever. Their relationship is going great, they have an excellent group of friends and are gearing up for the start of their final year of school. The series opens with Charlie building up the courage to tell Nick the infamous three words, "I love you," on their

friend group's end-of-summer beach trip (which also happens to be right before Nick leaves for holiday). Despite Charlie's fear that Nick will not reciprocate, he is able to do it and leaves them closer than ever going into the school year.

Something this season does differently is its focus on more mature storylines. The first four episodes focus on Charlie's mental health, specifically his depression and anorexia. Oseman, who also serves as the show's producer, does a great job of showing how mental illnesses are very much an internal struggle and the difficulties that come with accepting help.

After opening up to his parents about his struggles in episode three, Charlie begins his road to recovery in episode four. He checks into a clinic for two months and starts talking to a therapist named Geoff (Eddie Marsan). Although the clinic does not magically heal him, Charlie admits that it has helped him and that he is no longer in the deep end.

Oseman also does a fantastic job at depicting how mental illnesses can also impact one's friends and family. Tori (Jenny Walsler), Charlie's sister, turns to Nick, asking him to keep an eye on Charlie when they are together. Nick, on the other hand, turns to his aunt Diane (Hayley Atwell) after not knowing how to help Charlie without pushing it too far. Charlie's friends turn to each other. To show how much they miss him, they make

a documentary-style video of their shenanigans while Charlie is away.

Charlie's return home is difficult as it falls right at the start of winter break and Christmas. His extended family is home for the holidays, which adds another layer of difficulty on top of the ones he already faces with his immediate family. In the Nelson household, Nick also faces issues with his homophobic brother being home for the holidays. Despite these challenges, Tori and Nick help Charlie enjoy his break.

The second half of the series focuses on the theme of sex as Nick and Charlie face the difficult decision of taking their relationship to the next level. On a similar note, Tao (William Gao) and Elle (Yasmin Finney), two of Charlie's friends, also face the decision of taking their relationship to the next level. The decision for them is an even harder one because Elle, a trans woman, is dealing with changes to her body and internalized transphobia. In episode six, Elle is invited to speak on a radio show about her experiences as an artist and her growing popularity now that she is in art school. However, she instead is asked questions about culture wars and same-sex spaces, which leaves her visibly uncomfortable. Elle's reaction parallels the experiences of many other trans figures in the media today.

Season three also follows the subplots of Tara (Corinna Brown) and Darcy (Kizzy Ed-

gell). Tara and Darcy face their own relationship issues. Tara is striving for academic success after nailing her GCSEs, but her mental health ultimately suffers as the pressure increases. Darcy is facing an identity crisis which impacts her mental health as well. Both must reevaluate their relationship speed to stay together. Imogen (Rhea Norwood) and Sahar (Leila Khan) are another subplot of season three. Imogen struggles with her sexuality and internalized homophobia after kissing Sahar at a Halloween party. Isaac (Tobie Donovan), one of Charlie's friends, is also seen coming to terms with his own sexuality of being aromatic and asexual. As a result, he struggles to fit in with the rest of his friend group, who are all in relationships. His story is followed as he tries to not be the resident third wheel of the friend group.

Season three opens with Beabadoobee's hit song "The Way Things Go," which went viral on TikTok a couple of months ago. This season also features music from Wasia Project, a band formed by Gao with his sister, as well as songs by Troye Sivan, Olivia Rodrigo, Del Water Gap, Billie Eilish, Tom Odell and more.

Season three consists of eight episodes, around 35 minutes each. All episodes are available to watch on Netflix now.

**Rating: 4.5/5**



ART COURTESY OF CATHY LEE VIA PRINTerval



# Life

@dailycampuslife

## Split Record Review: 'Nonagon Infinity'

by **Henry St. Pierre**,  
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and **James Fitzpatrick**  
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Here we go again with another edition of the “Split Record Review,” where two writers duke it out and review the same album. This time, Henry and James are covering the 2016 classic “Nonagon Infinity” by King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard! Henry has praised the Australian rockers in the past and is a huge fan of them, while James has heard a song from them here and there, enjoying their rap-tinged cuts reminiscent of Edan and their more well-known tracks like “Sense.” What do these writers surmise about the project today?



Mania Records presents a copy of “Nonagon Infinity”. “Nonagon Infinity” is a 2016 album by King Gizzard and The Lizard Wizard.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF @MANIARECORDS ON INSTAGRAM

### Henry’s Review:

At a time when many would consider the genre of rock “dead,” the Aussie sextet King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard appeared from the land down under to put those rumors to rest. Embracing the DIY lifestyle, they carved their own path to success, garnering a cult following reminiscent of bands from a time gone by. Their fervent fanbase, affectionately labeled the “weirdo swarm,” eagerly await their next leap.

The band have built a name for themselves as fearless genre benders, dabbling in psychedelic rock, krautrock, microtonal music, progressive rock, thrash metal, synthpop and EDM. They’ve released nearly 30 albums in just 12 years, and their prolific output has launched their name into the indie rock world.

Arguably the band’s first record to make it “big” was 2016’s “Nonagon Infinity.” A 40-minute bash of high energy psychedelic rock, each song blends into one another, taking the listener on a whiplash-inducing ride. While the album is technically just over 40 minutes long, it loops back into itself, creating an infinite loop — hence the name.

For a band that can be intimidating to get into, “Nonagon Infinity” cemented the hallmarks of King Gizzard’s schtick. Filled to the brim with ad-libbed “woos” and assorted shouts,

blown-out guitars and prominent harmonica. The record also showcases the group’s ability to shift into complex meter, featuring songs in 5/4, 7/4 and 7/8.

The first half of the album stands out as the strongest, with each subsequent song featuring more and more infectious melodies and tight grooves. “Gamma Knife” and “People Vultures” are built off singular riffs that repeat throughout the song, with different tracks calling back to previous melodies heard throughout previous songs, or even previous and future albums.

The lyricism throughout the record is grounded in fantasy, singing wildly about mythical beings fighting (like in “Big Fig Wasp” or “Wah Wah”) or providing foundation for the band’s extended universe of characters, dubbed by fans as the “Gizzverse.” Ideas and themes explored in the tracks “Gamma Knife” and “Invisible Face” appear on several of the band’s other albums.

In the eight years since the release of “Nonagon Infinity,” it’s heralded as one of the most inventive and wildly creative albums in rock and put the band on the map for thousands of fans outside of Australia. I could very well be biased, after having seen them five times and owning most of their discography on vinyl, but “Nonagon Infinity” is one of the most memorable albums out of the underground rock scene in the past ten years.

Rating: 5/5 Stars

### James’ Review:

Out of the two of us, I’m less experienced with “The Gizzard,” but I recognize they’re a band impossible to categorize genre-wise, as the most consistent aspect of their albums are the members themselves. Furthermore, their output is as impressive as it can be, with frontman Stu Mackenzie and his boys churning out music of varied influence at industrial-level speed, somehow outpacing that of the equally insane Los Angeles band Osees (if that’s what they’re called now). I’ve been slowly submerging myself into King Gizz’s discography — until now — since we’re reviewing one of their most acclaimed albums, “Nonagon Infinity.”

The only song I knew going into this was the second one off the album, “Big Fig Wasp,” which is an exciting track brimming with adrenaline in its own right, yet my knowledge of this song instead of the album’s first song caused some cognitive dissonance. See, “Nonagon Infinity” is a continuous album, meaning each song transitions into the next, and whether the entire instrumental backing is retained or a simple bit of guitar feedback links one song to another, there is never a mo-

ment of silence. What confused me when hearing the introductory track, “Robot Stop,” is that it sounded oddly like “Big Fig Wasp.” Also, I had sworn I heard the lines, “My body’s overworked / It’s just the same I know,” and so on. That’s because each song has a chorus, yet they often repeat choruses from previous songs. In effect, the album has its own chorus.

While the album cover doesn’t have a dinosaur on it as they did in 2022, “Nonagon Infinity” is one of their more grandiose releases, hence Mackenzie’s authoritative tone on “People Vultures.” But King Gizz has far more subdued music than what you’ll hear on “Nonagon Infinity,” like the entire album that came before it, “Paper Maché Dream Balloon.” Hints of that softer side come through on “Mr. Beat,” likely not referencing the YouTuber, with many organ parts and a degree of cyclical song structure in the first three minutes that can only be rivaled by The Caretaker.

The funky “Evil Death Roll” and subsequent “Invisible Face” are two major highlights, culminating in the peak of the almost surf-punk style the boys are going for on this record. The chorus on “Evil Death Roll” flows so well, too; “The night is young

— full of sin / Time to slither away again / I can see our history hanging on a knife / So let’s start killing things.” The many references to astronomy on the two tracks are more enjoyable than my class on the subject could ever be. Despite what I’ve been taught, the lyrics of “Invisible Face” claim “the universe is a machine.” I believe it.

On a technical level, “Nonagon Infinity” is impressive, though I’ll stick to highlighting the stuff I can elaborate on. Repetition is an obvious theme, and the song titles aren’t spared in this regard, either. I enjoy Mackenzie extrapolating everything he can out of the third song’s title, “Gamma Knife,” eventually harmonizing “Nice, knife.” This song also has extra swag in the form of a drum solo by Michael Cavanagh, which I’m going to compare to Bill Ward’s drumming on the first song of Black Sabbath’s “War Pigs.” A callback like this may be a stretch, but I had to bring up how the final song, “Road Train,” digitally speeds up at the end similarly to what Sabbath does at the end of “War Pigs.” And remember — just keep the album on repeat!

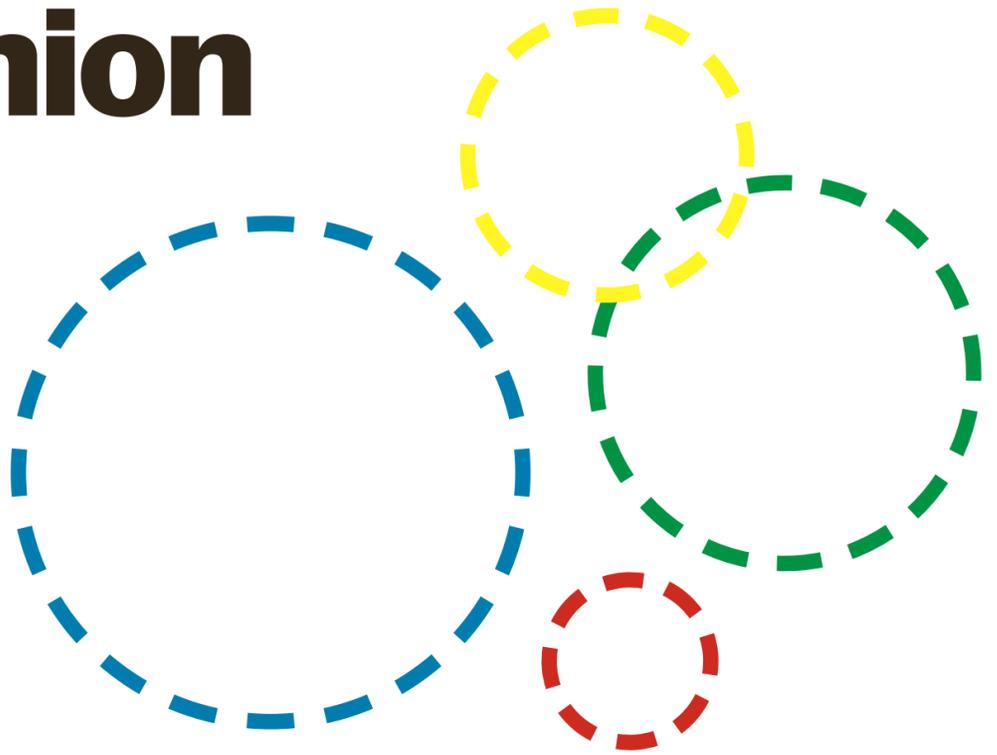
Rating: 3.5/5 Stars



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# Opinion



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### ► Editorial

# Connecticut owes its university students more consideration

This September, Connecticut State Comptroller Sean Scanlon revealed that amid the University of Connecticut budget crisis, the state will have a \$113.2 million General Fund surplus, according to reporting from The Daily Campus. Despite this surplus and the fact that Connecticut has had a surplus for the past six years, there has been no indication that Connecticut's public higher education system will benefit. Instead, the Office of the State Comptroller announced that part of the surplus would go toward paying down pension debt while UConn is left struggling to finance its programs.

Last academic year, in February, it was announced that due to a reduction in funds from the state government, UConn would be entering fiscal year 2025 with a budget deficit of \$70 million, according to The Daily Campus. The resulting budget cuts reduce funding to UConn's academic schools and colleges as well as non-academic programs by 15 percent, raising concerns about layoffs, tuition increases, the potential loss of programs and a decrease in the value of a UConn education. Despite assurance from UConn President Radenka Maric that layoffs will be avoided and tuition will not see a dramatic increase, UConn's athletic programs, health center and academic programs face increasing pressures to increase revenues and cut costs.

According to reporting by the CT Mirror, after pleas from higher education leadership, \$57.7 million and \$22.3 million was distributed to UConn and UConn Health through the American Rescue Plan Act, respectively. Though this temporarily relieved some of

the pressure on UConn, government officials warn that all federal ARPA dollars must be allocated by this December, and after that there will be no more relief from this package as it was meant to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and will expire.

UConn's budget is in a critical state, and aside from temporary relief and warnings of what's to come, the state government has done little to help. The Editorial Board has previously explored the root of the funding problem, citing the "fiscal guardrails" that prioritize public pension financing and lock up dollars that could otherwise be used to improve higher education along with a slew of critical social welfare programs like healthcare and housing.

In the aftermath of the surplus announcement with no promise of additional funding, the board of trustees met to discuss UConn's housing crisis and approve appropriation requests to the State of Connecticut for additional funds in fiscal years 2026 and 2027. UConn's chief financial officer Jeffery Geoghegan expressed concern that UConn's current housing is over capacity and requires upgrades.

If Connecticut wishes to maintain the integrity of its higher education system and "expand the enrollment of the University of Connecticut" as it stated in its open letter, it must break down the fiscal guardrails preventing surplus dollars from going to higher education. UConn contributes greatly to the state's economy and boasts the achievement of being a top public university. Should the state wish for this to continue, UConn needs more support.

# Connecticut has to address homelessness, not treat symptoms

by Tomas Hinckley | HE/HIM/HIS | OPINION EDITOR | tomas.hinckley@uconn.edu

This month, I've had the opportunity to work up close and personal with the housing crisis here in Connecticut at my other job as an intern at the District of Connecticut Federal Public Defenders Office. To characterize the experience of having to maneuver the field of resources for those with insecure housing situations, it's fairly easy to say that it's not quite pleasant at all. The clients themselves, their advocates and even the staff of the services around the state, each reckon with the problem of a lack of resources and support. The system itself is overburdened with too many people and too little resources, especially those tailored to long-term solutions for solving and preventing homelessness. The last resort is emergency or temporary shelters, yet that is much more available and prioritized than other solutions. If Connecticut wants to reckon with its out-of-control homelessness problem, it has to look to solve it and prevent it, not just treat the symptoms.

It's no secret that across the country people are facing a housing crisis. In Connecticut, this issue is further exacerbated by statewide policies which lower supply and raise costs. For example, there is not only a lack of statewide rent control initiatives, but even local governments are restricted from implementing such a change if they want to. Plus, there are statewide zoning policies that restrict supply and raise prices by prioritizing large lots and single-family homes, many of which are out of the price range of low-income consumers. As such, Connecticut is now ranked as the worst state in the US for renters as rent increases here have been outpacing the national average.

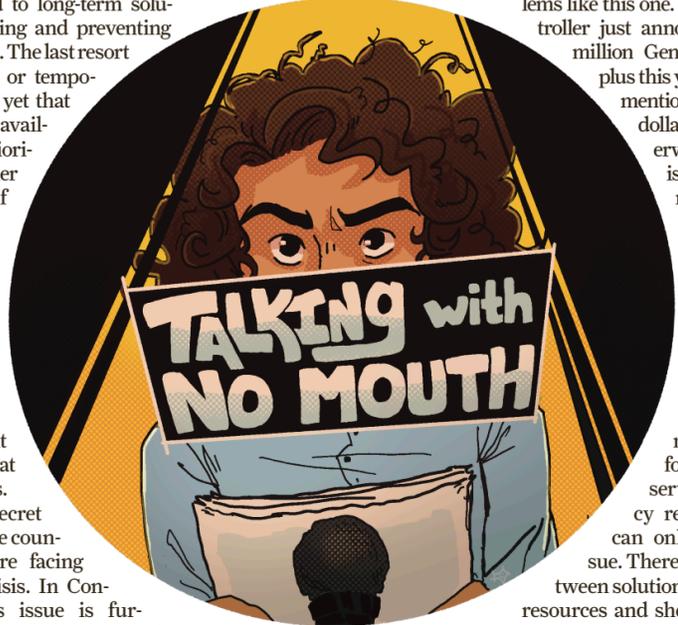
What's often unspeakable about

this widespread problem is how much worse it is for low-income households. The relative amount of supply nationwide improves as income rises, leaving those categorized as extremely low income with only 34 available and affordable homes for every 100 people, according to 2022 American Community Survey. While others may be able to weather the storm, the most vulnerable communities are left scrambling for options when there are rarely any.

This is what leaves the state in its current situation, where homelessness is on the rise for the third year in a row and has risen 13% from Janu- a r y

First, Connecticut must take decisive action even if it costs money. For example, earlier this year Governor Ned Lamont proposed a new interagency council to address homelessness, but did not grant it any additional funding to make distinctive change citing the state spending cap. As the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition put it, criticizing the lack of real support, "solutions require services and services require spending." Fiscal guardrails in place since 2017 have crippled this state's ability to fund social services like this one, and only through switching the focus of our budget can we adequately help people and fix problems like this one. The state comptroller just announced a \$113.2 million General Fund surplus this year alone, not to mention the billions of dollars saved up otherwise. The money is there but it must be used, and until the state decides to do that, this problem will persist and more people will go unhoused.

Second, the money can't be focused on just serving emergency resources which can only treat the issue. There exists a gap between solutions as emergency resources and shelters only kick in when someone is actively going through a crisis. The main goal of the system should be to prevent this from ever happening in the first place, and currently the ability to do that is severely lacking. When someone is forced onto the street, the negative impact on their mental and physical health is profound, even if they have a shelter bed to sleep in during the night. Instead of reacting when this happens, proactive efforts through the form of rent control, rental assistance, increasing affordable housing, changing restrictive zoning laws and improving other supportive services can make the difference.



FILE LOGO

2023 to January 2024. The systems are not built to support this kind of stress and the cracks are starting to show. Average stays in shelters dramatically rose during the year and have not gone down. Advocates are continuing to beg the legislature for adequate funding for emergency services but receive little support due to statewide fiscal guardrails. The workers who make up these support systems are suffering as well, with many citing worsening debt, financial pressures and extreme burnout because of inadequate pay and higher time demands.

The answer comes in two parts.

# Opinion

## Photo of the Day | Game day



The sun sets over Joseph J. Morrone Stadium in Storrs, Conn. on the evening of Oct. 3, 2024. UConn women's soccer won against Providence with the final score being 1-0. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# comics



## WHAT PLACE DOES OUR IDENTITY HAVE IN THE PERPETUATION OF GENOCIDE?

Identity is indubitably a huge part of who we are. It has influenced both the communication and, unfortunately, violence of the past, present and future.

I grew up in a community where casual bigotry was disseminated to me. I'm sure that bigotry was perpetuated in yours too, though we're both allowed to be proud of our cultures. Due to this, I became disillusioned and alienated from everything: my immigrant parents' culture, my school's culture and the culture displayed through technology. I didn't belong and I had to filter through everything and find my own identity separate from these; an identity where I can truly be myself.

My alienation and loneliness due to a combination of bullying due to my race, not going outside much out of insecurity, unchecked Internet addiction and simply not having many opportunities to talk to others made me open-minded. It made me want to advocate for others who are oppressed and hurt like me. It sickens me that multiple modern genocides are being brushed to the side in most media and in society. It makes me wonder if the genocides and crimes against humanity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Palestine and other places would still be brushed off if they were all white.

In the era of trans-Atlantic slavery where some of my ancestors were exploited there were anti-abolitionists, non-abolitionists and abolitionists. Likewise, there are Zionists, non-Zionists and those in support of Palestinian liberation respectively.

Zionism and Judaism are not the same. Zionism is incredibly nationalistic and pro-ethnostate. Every time somebody conflates anti-Zionist and pro-Palestinian rhetoric to antisemitism, real instances of antisemitism become unfairly trivialized. The Jewish community as a whole shouldn't be conflated for Zionist nationalists, just like how all Hindus, as I grew up, shouldn't be conflated to Hindutva fascists. It's incredibly bigoted and unfair to those whose politics are decided for them because of the religion they follow.

Me being transgender has nothing to do with the genocide in Gaza. Maybe it influenced my thought process, as I find saccharine pink-washing to be a disgusting and shallow technique to gain support for one's cause, but I know better than to think that every person of a religion believes in the same politics.

My advice to readers is to leave behind the focus on your identity and objectively study the violent and oppressive history of Israel (not to be confused with Judaism). In history, we learn what we should and shouldn't do, and ignoring a genocide in the excuse of the culture you are proud of, to put it lightly, spits in the face of those hurt and killed by any genocide sponsored by nationalism.

*Culture Shock is an anonymous space for underrepresented and marginalized groups at UConn to share their stories.*



COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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



COMIC BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# THE IMPACT OF CAITLIN CLARK'S FIRST SEASON IN THE WNBA

by **Ava Inesta**  
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The Indiana Fever fell to the Connecticut Sun 87-81 at Mohegan Sun Arena on Wed, Sept. 25 in the WNBA playoffs, marking the end of their season and Caitlin Clark's rookie campaign. Despite Clark's efforts to avoid early elimination by scoring 25 points with nine rebounds with six assists, it wasn't enough to keep the Fever alive.

Regardless of the disappointing end to the season, Clark's first season in the WNBA was nothing short of historic. The 22-year-old set countless records, including the WNBA record for most assists in a single season with 337 and the highest number of points ever by a rookie player with 769.

Outside of the records, Clark finished fourth in the league's MVP record with 130 points, receiving six third-place votes, 26 fourth-place votes and 22 fifth place votes. Ultimately, A'ja Wilson of the Las Vegas Aces took the MVP crown, but for Clark to even be considered in that conversation in her first season in the league is a huge accomplishment. Additionally, Clark unanimously won the WNBA Rookie of the Year award and was named to the All-WNBA First Team and All-Rookie Team.

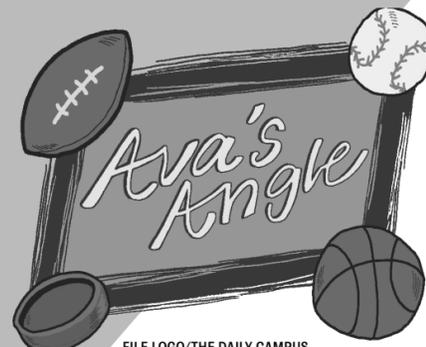
"I feel like I had a solid year," said Clark following the game against the Sun per ESPN. "But for me, the fun part is I feel like I'm just

scratching the surface. I'm one that's nit-picking every single thing I do. And I know I want to help this franchise get even better, help my teammates get even better, be better for my teammates. I know there's a lot of room for me to continue to improve, so that's what excites me the most."

ESPN's Andraya Carter said she was insanely impressed by Clark's debut in the pros. "For me, it was a rookie masterclass," Carter said on ESPN's First Take, according to reports from Mirror US.

When Clark enters the game, the offense shifts gears, and every element of the

game is elevated. Clark joined an organization that had not had a 20-win season since 2015. However, Clark stayed the course through all of the challenges she faced personally and with the Fever as a team. Indiana started the season with a 1-8 record, but they were able to turn it around with the lead of Clark's talent.



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS



PHOTO COURTESY OF @STATMAMBA ON X

## THE CURRENT FRONTRUNNERS FOR THE HEISMAN TROPHY

### JALEN MILROE

The Crimson Tide quarterback has turned his college career



PHOTO COURTESY OF @SBS\_CU ON X

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL:

around and is now one of the best players in the country. After getting benched early last year, Jalen Milroe has not looked back and has impressed at all turns, leading Alabama to the No. 1 ranking in the latest AP Poll. In the matchup of the year last week, Milroe outdueled Georgia QB Carson Beck, which led to an Alabama victory. Milroe threw for 374 yards and two touchdowns while also rushing for 117 yards and two touchdowns against the top defense in college football the last few years. He also has the benefit of playing on the best team in the country, which voters consider.

charts through the first four games. Jeanty has run for 845 yards and 14 touchdowns, by far the most in each category in college football. Fans are even more impressed with his ability to break tackles with ease. The Broncos are off to one of their best starts in recent years and are ranked No. 21 in the AP poll. While it is uncommon for non-power conference players to win the award, Jeanty might be the exception.

### CAM WARD

Cam Ward, the former Washington State quarterback who has since transferred to Miami, is currently the betting favorite for the award. The dual-threat quarterback can put up next-level stats in both rushing and passing; Ward has thrown for 1,872 yards and 18 touchdowns through the first five games. He has been just as good on the ground despite his low yardage. Ward uses his legs when he needs to, whether that be getting first downs or putting his team in better positions to win the game. Ward is the main reason the Canes are off to their best start in this century. For Ward to remain the favorite he needs to keep up his passing while also improving his rushing.

### NICO IAMALEAVA

Nico Iamaleava came into this season with a massive amount of hype and has exceeded most of it already, as he has thrown for 892 yards and seven touchdowns in his first four games. He has also added 117 yards and a touchdown on the ground. Tennessee is rolling to start the year, and Iamaleava is their best signal caller since Peyton Manning. The Volunteers are currently ranked No. 4 in the nation, their highest ranking in years. The deciding factor for him to win the Heisman will be his performance against top-ranked SEC defenses.

The Heisman Trophy ceremony will take place on Saturday, Dec. 9 in New York City.

But Hunter's versatility is his biggest attribute with his ability to not only score touchdowns, but defend touchdowns as well. On defense, Hunter is rarely ever targeted due to his lockdown coverage and ability to make plays. When he is targeted, Hunter is a top candidate for highlight reel interceptions, such as the one he had Saturday against UCF. The main knock on Hunter is whether Colorado will win enough games for him to receive the trophy. The Buffaloes have gone 4-1 thus far.

season, the race for the award will be as close as ever, with players in many positions having a case for the award. This column will touch on the frontrunners for the award and how they have performed through September.

### TRAVIS HUNTER

Travis Hunter is one of the most unique college football players we have ever seen. The Colorado junior plays both receiver and cornerback. Through five games, Hunter has 46 receptions for 561 yards and six touchdowns on a potent Colorado offense. These numbers place him as a top receiver in the game.

### ASHTON JEANTY

In college football, it is exceedingly rare for players who don't play against power schools to be nationally recognized. This is not the case for Boise State running back Ashton Jeanty, who has taken the college football world by storm in the last month. His stats are off the

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The Heisman Trophy is given annually to the best player in college football. Every season, it becomes a top storyline among college football media pundits on who they believe should win the award. This

## Sports

## Photo of the Day |



The UConn football team play a tremendous game against the University at Buffalo on Sept. 28, 2024 at the Pratt and Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field in East Hartford Conn. The Huskies blew away the Bulls on a sunny Saturday afternoon winning the game 47-3. PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Football:

## HUSKIES LOOK TO “PROTECT THE RENT” FOR THIRD STRAIGHT WEEK AGAINST TEMPLE

by **Connor Sargeant**  
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If there is one word to sum up the UConn football team's homestand this season, it would be dominance. The Huskies have beaten the pulp out of their opponents, outscoring teams by a hefty 158-34 margin in East Hartford. The program aims to keep the momentum going this weekend as they host the Temple Owls.

The biggest storyline heading into this matchup is what the Huskies will do at quarterback. Halfway through the second quarter of last Saturday's showdown against Buffalo, Nick Evers left the game after suffering a major hit on a slide. Despite this, the Wisconsin transfer returned to practice this week, and there is a chance he will be able to suit up. If Evers cannot return for this game, he will have at least a two-week break, with the upcoming bye week, and Joe Fagnano will be behind center. Make no mistake, even if Evers doesn't play, the Huskies are still expected to come out with the win. Each time Fagnano has been called upon this year, he has been excellent.

After Evers went down last week, Fagnano had himself an excellent day at the office, accumulating 217 passing yards and three touchdowns on 11-19 passing. Performances like this have been the status quo for Fagnano, who also played well in week two against Merrimack. Regardless of who is taking snaps for the program this weekend, the team hasn't lost a beat and is firing on all cylinders.

Cam Edwards has been chewing up defenses on the outside run all season long, and

it's a significant reason the offense has been so successful. A week ago, the Norwalk, Conn. native accumulated 97 yards on the ground on 10 carries and even found the endzone once. For a defense like the Owls, which surrendered 417 yards on the ground a week ago to Army and 186 the week before to Utah State, don't be surprised if Edwards puts together yet another signature performance on the ground. While the ground game is sure to impress, don't count out Skyler Bell and the rest of the wide receiver room.

Bell has had one of the best starts to his season as any receiver in the country. In five games, the Bronx, N.Y. native has 500 receiving yards and four touchdowns. Bell has improved and looked more fluid with every game he has played, and last week against Buffalo proved that, as he found the endzone on three separate occasions. In their first five appearances, Temple has been susceptible to giving up chunks of yardage through the air, meaning that Bell and the rest of the wide receiver room have a good chance at having it their way this Saturday, regardless of who is throwing the ball.

UConn's defense also has a chance to keep on rolling. In their homestand, both the defensive line and secondary have been making game winning plays, which is a significant reason why opposing offenses have struggled to move the ball past midfield.

The Huskies come into Saturday as 17-point favorites, regardless of who the quarterback is.

While some may be surprised at this fact, Connecticut has a chance to leave this weekend 4-2, which would set them up nicely for the rest of their season.

Connecticut football has been rolling lately, and this game is another chance for the program to keep building momentum. The Huskies will “protect the rent” this Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

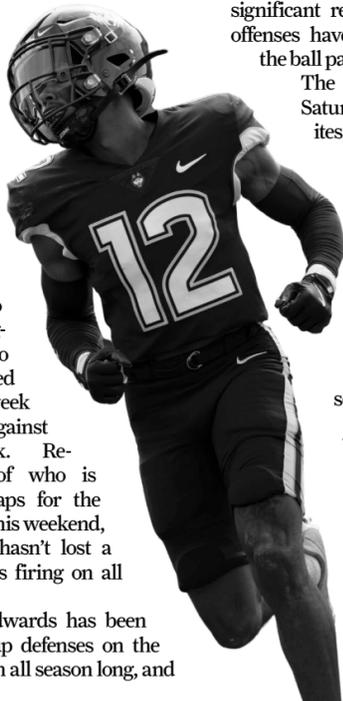


PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Men's Soccer:

## CONNECTICUT SET TO TRAVEL TO PHILADELPHIA TO FACE VILLANOVA

by **Avery Becker**  
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After a two-game homestand with both matches ending in a 0-0 draw, the UConn men's soccer team (6-0-3) is set to travel to Philadelphia this Friday to face the Villanova Wildcats (0-5-4).

The last time these Big East foes faced each other was last year on Sept. 29, when the Huskies shut the Wildcats out 1-0. In this game, sophomore defender Kieran Chandler would score his first goal of his collegiate career, which would also be the game winning goal.

The Huskies are coming off of a top 25 matchup at home against Seton Hall, where neither team got themselves up on the board, ending in a 0-0 draw.

With the team coming into this matchup hungry for a win, a player they'll have to look out for is forward Balthe Saunders, who has 16 points in his 2024-2025 campaign and is the main force of the Wildcats' offense.

Freshman goalkeeper Max Kerkvliet is coming into this matchup after receiving the Big East Freshman of the

Week award. Kerkvliet is eleventh in the country for shutouts, fourth in the country in save percentage and has already received Big East Goalkeeper of the Week.

To win this match, Connecticut will need to be persistent and aggressive, not only on the defensive side of the ball, but on the offensive side as well.

Sophomore Sabri Hanni and junior Eli Conway both still sit at the top of list, leading their team in points, but have yet to see the ball connect to the net for the past few games.

Not only does the team need their star players to step up, but their behind-the-scenes players will need to as well, like senior Scott Testori, who acts as quarterback in setting up goal opportunities for his teammates.

The team often finds themselves in scoring slumps, specifically in the first half of matches, but with Villanova not having won a single game so far this season, this will be an easy game for the Huskies to get themselves back in the swing of things.

With Connecticut looking to build on their unbeaten streak, this game is a must-win for UConn. Kickoff is scheduled for 3 p.m. from the Higgins Soccer Complex. If Husky fans wish to tune into the match, they can do so by streaming in on FloFC.

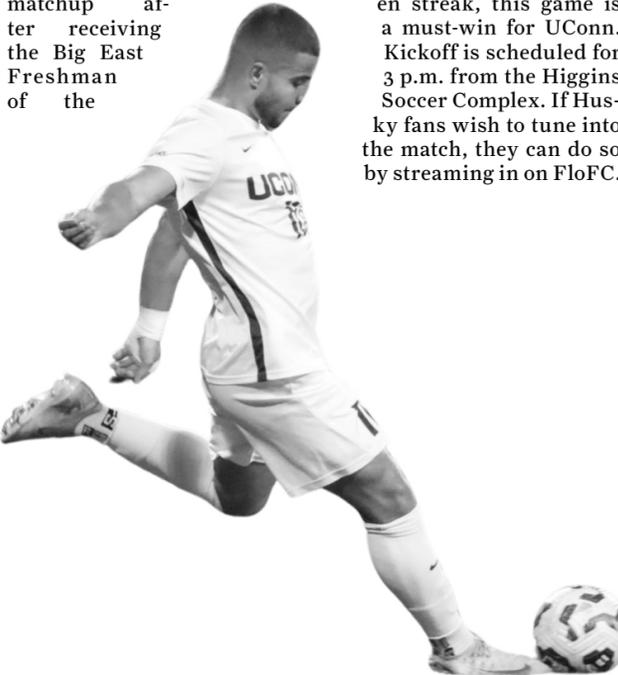


PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## MEN'S ICE HOCKEY WELCOMES COLGATE TO STORRS FOR WEEKEND SERIES

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The UConn men's ice hockey team is set to open up their season with a two-game set against Colgate this weekend at the Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn.

UConn is hoping to jump out to a hot start this season after finishing with an overall 15-19-2 record last year. A 9-14-1 conference record earned them the No. 8 seed in the Hockey East

Conference, their lowest finish since 2019. Despite a challenging regular season, they managed to grab an opening-round win in the Hockey East Tournament over the University of Vermont. The Huskies were eventually knocked out in the quarterfinal round against No. 1 ranked Boston College. UConn is looking to build off of their finish last year, and the first stop is against the Colgate Raiders.

The Huskies boast an all-time advantage over the Raiders, with a superior record of 3-1-2. The last time these teams faced off was last season when UConn traveled to the Class of 1965 Arena, Colgate's home arena. UConn took a decisive victory in game one of the series after jumping out to a two-goal lead in the first period. In game two, the Huskies were trailing 3-1 going into the third period, before rallying to score two goals, forcing the contest into overtime. After two scoreless overtime periods, the game ended in a tie.

Colgate is looking to settle the score as they travel to Storrs.

Waiting for them will be fifth-year forward Hudson Schandor. In his senior campaign, Schandor scored 21 points on a .076 shooting percentage through 34 games played. Sophomore Jake Richard was not far behind him, with 18 points on a .113 shooting percentage. There will also be a new face for the Huskies in the net this season: Tyler Muszelik, a junior transfer from the University of New Hampshire. Last year, in eight games for the Wildcats, he allowed 3.38 goals per game with a save percentage of .874.

UConn will have their work cut out with Colgate junior Daniel Panetta on the ice. The Canadian forward scored 29 points last year with a .137 shooting percentage. Panetta will have an even larger role in Colgate's offense this year following the graduation of their leading scorer Ross Mitton, who scored 30 points for the Raiders last year. Senior Brett Chorske is sure to make an impact for Colgate as well, as he tallied 27

points of his own last season. The puck drop is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Friday, while the second game of the series will take place at the same time on Saturday night. The game can be streamed on The Varsity Network.

UConn men's hockey starts the season off with a game against Colgate this weekend. In last year's season, UConn defeated Colgate with a final score of 4-2. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNMHOC ON INSTAGRAM



UConn women's field hockey triumphs 2-0 over Temple at home on Sept. 20, 2024. Madi Herb broke a scoreless first half, leading the Huskies to a dominant second half and eventual victory advancing the team's record to 6-1-0 on the season. PHOTO BY SOPHIA DIGRANDE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



## FIELD HOCKEY: HUSKIES LOOKING TO TAKE DOWN VILLANOVA

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Focusing on staying undefeated within the Big East, the UConn field hockey team faces off against Villanova at 1 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 4 in Storrs, Conn.

The in-conference rivals first began seeing each other back in 1988. Since then, the Huskies have won 36 out of their 43 matchups all time. Even with an impressive winning percentage, losing is still possible.

UConn plans on taking a chip off their shoulder after losing to Villanova last season. Ending in a one-point differential game, the teams kept it close, which Connecticut is all too familiar with this year.

In two of their last three matches, UConn created only a one-point deficit, keeping the games close until the end. Week after week,

the Huskies are consistently moving up the rankings. For Connecticut's opponents, performing at a low level is not ideal while trying to knock them off, so Villanova coming in hot would not be a surprise.

Connecticut currently sits at No. 8 in the nation after this past weekend. After popping off and scoring three goals, Julia Bressler received Offensive Player of the Week. Adding another two goals to her season, Juul Sauer took home Freshman of the Week. Natalie McKenna made the Weekly Honor Roll, only allowing one shot to pass her in two games. It is safe to say that UConn is fired up and ready.

After losing 2-0 in their previous match to No. 7 Iowa, ending a four-game win streak, the Wildcats need a bounce-back game. This is the second time the team struggled against a ranked opponent. No. 13 Saint Joseph's beat Villanova 6-2 the first time.

With just one rank below Iowa and already beaten Saint Joseph's, this should be an easy win for the Huskies. Limiting Iowa

to eight shots, the Wildcats' strong defense kept them in the game, which could play a role in this clash.

Looking to help put the nail in the coffin is Villanova's forward Sabine de Ruijter, who consistently scored throughout the season. The forward put up eight goals within 10 games while starting every match. Held to two shooting attempts, Ruijter only shot one on goal against the Hawkeyes.

Looking at the home team, Sauer is always someone the coaches count on. Bressler could continue her hot streak, too. McKenna makes defending look easy and is a big part of why only one goal went in last weekend, and will play a major role in this game.

Staying undefeated within a conference is hard, but with how Connecticut has played so far, taking care of business is well within their reach.

## WOMEN'S HOCKEY: UCONN LOOKS TO BOUNCE BACK AGAINST PENN STATE

by **Patrick Minnerly**  
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The No. 9 ranked UConn women's hockey team faces off against the No. 12 Penn State Nittany Lions at home over the weekend. The teams will play two games, one on Friday, Oct. 4 and the second on Saturday, Oct. 5. Both games will take place at the Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn.

The Huskies are looking to move on from two straight losses against No. 2 Minnesota that opened the season. In the first game, they fell 1-4 in a lopsided contest, and although the second produced a closer fight, Connecticut lost in overtime. The team will search for ways to improve the number of shots on goal taken, which was a struggle in the Minnesota contest with the Gophers adding up 86 shots to the Huskies' 23 in both games. Several UConn players provided bright spots

including junior Megan Woodworth, who got the Huskies on the board in the first contest, and goaltender Megan Warrenner, who made a career-high 45 saves in the second game. Senior forwards Riley Grimley and Brianna Ware both notched their first goals of the season in the overtime loss. In addition, graduate student Jada Habisch and junior Christina Walker contributed with assists.

Penn State, under the direction of head coach Jeff Kampersal, is coming off of a two-game slate against No.13 Northeastern in which they split the series. Northeastern took the first matchup 3-1, capitalizing on costly Nittany Lion penalties, but Penn State rallied to overcome a one-goal deficit in the second game. The team completed the comeback in the second period when Maddy Christian broke a 1-1 tie with her first goal of the season. The Nittany Lions then held back the Northeastern attack to secure the 2-1 victory. On that goal by Christian, captain Tessa Janecke provided an impor-

tant assist after scoring Penn State's opening goal earlier in the game. Janecke, a junior, was recently named to the 2024 Team USA Rivalry Series roster for November, which marks her fourth appearance on the team. Janecke is also ranked fourth all-time for the Nittany Lions in career points, having racked up 103 points in total with 40 goals and 63 assists. Other important players on the Penn State roster include defenseman Lyndie Lobdell and forward Mya Vaslet. Lobdell, a graduate student and assistant captain this year, is entering her fifth season with the team. In the past two seasons, she has helped the squad to two straight NCAA tournament appearances. Vaslet, another assistant captain, begins her senior year having scored 16 goals in the 2023-24 campaign. In last year's AHA Championship, she blasted the puck through the net for Penn State's only goal to win over Mercyhurst.



On Sept. 29, 2024 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



# Sports

## Women's Soccer:

UConn EARNs FIRST BIG EAST WIN OF THE SEASON AGAINST PROVIDENCE IN THE NEW ENGLAND DERBY

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The Huskies (7-2-3, 1-1-2) earned their first win of conference play against New England rival Providence (5-5-1, 2-1) in a thrilling matchup under the lights.

The Huskies entered the game with pressure as they sought to get into the win column in conference play. That pressure, however, soon felt heavy on Providence defense as the UConn offense sought to end its winning drought. The Huskies were soon creating scoring opportunities in the opening minutes. In the eighth minute, the ball was centered in the box, giving junior and leading scorer Chioma Okafor an open shot. Unfortunately, it was saved by the Friars goalkeeper Emma Bodmer.

Persistence from the Huskies continued well into the half as senior Abbey Jones continued to try and find Okafor to put them into the lead. Jones herself was able to record a shot from the bottom of the net, but again it was saved by the Providence goalkeeper.

UConn was soon able to find the breakthrough in the twenty-seventh minute through a goal by Okafor, which was assisted by defender Laci Lewis. This marks the 10th goal of the season for the team's No. 10. Additionally, this

marked the first time in the Big East play where UConn was in the lead.

While the one-goal lead was the confidence booster Connecticut needed, they were not satisfied as the momentum on the UConn offense continued to overwhelm the Friars. The Huskies began to earn corner kicks which continued to add pressure to the Providence defense as they were doing anything they could to gain possession of the ball and bring it back to midfield. However, it wasn't enough as UConn continued to dominate possession. Not only was possession key for a dominant Husky half, but shot opportunities were also essential to deter any comeback from the Friars. In the first half alone, UConn recorded six shots with five being on target, while Providence recorded none.

The Huskies entered the half with a one-goal advantage. While preserving the lead was key, UConn was adamant on extending the lead to put the game away. Providence had to respond quickly given UConn's success this season when leading in the half. However, not much materialized and they were given a yellow card just five minutes into the second half.

Okafor again found herself on the front, coming close to extending the lead. In the fifty-sixth minute, Okafor had an open shot, but her shot was off target. As the half continued, it remained a stalemate in the midfield as both teams were attempting find the back of the net. The cracks of the stalemate began in the 66th

minute when UConn made a run from the other side of the field after successfully regaining control of the ball from the Providence offense. After single handedly bringing the ball down to the Providence defense, a shot was taken by sophomore Anaya Johnson, but it was saved.

Providence began to regain momentum late in the second half but failed to execute plays. Their offensive efforts were met with great defense from the Huskies, causing Providence turnovers, which was seen from the previous play, almost resulted in a quick UConn goal.

UConn then found themselves pressured with Providence starting to create shots. The Friars came close twice to equalizing in the 82nd minute, their shots being blocked by UConn goalkeeper MaryKate Ward and the others being off target. UConn was able to defend their lead and defeat Providence 1-0. This also marks their fifth shutout of the season.

Connecticut will pick up a crucial three points which will keep them in contention for post season play. The UConn Huskies will continue their Big East campaign on the road against Creighton (4-5-1, 1-3). Kick-off is set for 2 p.m. which can be streamed on FloSports.

The UConn women's soccer team versus Providence College at Morrone Stadium. The Huskies fought hard and were rewarded with a win, with a final score of 1-0. PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS