



Pearlman Cup:

With the odds against them, The Daily Campus looks to shock the world against UCTV



The Daily Campus takes on UCTV in the annual Pearlman Cup flag football game on the Great Lawn, Oct. 15, 2022. After a tough game, UCTV took home the win and defeated The Daily Campus.
FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Connor Sargeant
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In sports, what is “the big moment?” While some may rattle off events like Masters Sunday, bottom of the ninth or game seven, these all take a backseat to what will unfold at 10:00 a.m. this Sunday at the UConn soccer fields. Yes, you guessed it, the Pearlman Cup is back at long last. While The Daily Campus owns a 0-11 record in these high-pressure situations, this year’s squad comes in with much enthusiasm, and many around the program believe an upset is brewing.

If you have been living under a rock for your entire life and have no idea what the hell the Pearlman Cup is, then you are at the right place. The Pearlman Cup is a flag football game that can only be described as a true clash of the titans of Tier-III organizations: The Daily Campus, that cool newspaper that you see every day in every dining hall around campus, and UCTV, the first “television station” in history that doesn’t have an actual television channel. No, but really, though. During freshman year, I wasted hours looking, and I found out the hard way that they were UConn’s glori-

fied YouTube or Instagram Reels-making club.

Last year’s Pearlman Cup showdown was razor-thin close, with the heroes, The Daily Campus, falling short to the UCTV Vloggers, 42-25. While the odds are stacked against the superior Tier-III organization, Opinion editor and an integral part of last year’s team, Tomas Hinckley, took last year’s loss personally and isn’t letting the outside noise deter him ahead of Sunday’s contest.

“The truth is I actually lost sleep after we lost last year. I’ve never been the same person since,” Hinckley said. “I wake up every day shaking, and my first thought in the morning is, ‘we got to get them back.’ I’m gonna bring all that passion into this game. I’m ready to run through a wall for the DC; I’d jump off a cliff for the DC. I have been training, doing the speed work, doing the agility ladder and putting time in the weight room. That’s what I’m bringing to this game, and I’m so confident that we’re gonna win.”

Hinckley’s confidence is not just “coach’s talk.” In fact, the Daily Campus welcomes a roster that includes 24 people in the Pearlman Cup Slack. One of those Slack members is Sports editor Bridget Bronsdon. While

a veteran of The Daily Campus, this will be her first Pearlman Cup, and she believes her competitive upbringing spells trouble for UCTV.

“My athleticism is unparalleled, and I am a force to be reckoned with on the field,” Bronsdon told media personnel. “I grew up in a Tom Brady household, so the win mentality is instilled in my bones. I’m excited about the monster lineup we’ve got this year, and our crew is ready to go. I’m ready to bring the Pearlman Cup home to the DC, where it rightly belongs. This is the end of our decade-long drought, and I’m ready to bring back glory to our beloved Daily Campus.”

In the wild west of today’s NIL, Tier-III organizations haven’t been strangers to poaching the other side’s players in an attempt to get a leg up on their opponents. Despite this, while actually doing what their name implies and printing a newspaper every day, The Daily Campus spent zero NIL funds to retain a crucial piece of last year’s squad, managing editor Connor Lafferty, who is locked, loaded and ready to go this Sunday.

“We’re playing a team that makes hundreds of thousands of dollars a year, and their entire organization has 15,000 less

subscribers and four million less views than my YouTube channel alone has,” Lafferty noted ahead of Sunday’s contest. “These kids aren’t even ants; they’re specks of dust. And dust has never slowed me down. I’ll see them blowing away in the wind as I’m dancing in the endzone.”

Fifth-semester staff writer Sam Calhoun briefly mentioned how starting out fast will be vital to victory, saying, “don’t let us get one.” Calhoun’s confidence doesn’t just stem from his freak athletic nature but the fact that the team has been putting in a workload that would put any football team to shame.

“This year has been difficult. I mean the 5 a.m. lifts, the runs, the blood, sweat and tears. I think that Coach Bridget has been watching too many Dan Hurley videos,” associate Sports editor Connor Sargeant noted at Sunday’s team meeting. “Practices have been intense. Despite that, the team has embraced it, and I can see around me that the newcomers like Jake [McCreven] and Tyler [Pruneau] will do anything for this team and are hungry to bring the Pearlman Cup back where it belongs.”

Both McCreven and Pruneau made it known that Sunday will

be a bad day to be on the UCTV flag football team. Pruneau believes that some players coming in with previous experience will pay dividends.

“I think we have new faces at the DC who bring their previous talents to the game. Some of us previously played football in the past, giving us an advantage,” Pruneau told Tier-III beat writers.

Some players, like McCreven, have come up with unorthodox approaches to Sunday’s contest.

“We’re all motivated here at the Daily Campus to bring an end to this drought,” said McCreven. “We’ve been preparing mentally by looking at the scores of previous games and using it as fuel to stomp on UCTV. Winning this game won’t just make my weekend; it will make my year. This is the end all be all.”

Well, the stage is set with fresh faces, a can-do attitude and my roommate’s speaker. The odds of a UCTV beatdown are imminent and have never been greater at this very moment. There were rumblings of the YouTube club broadcasting this matchup for the viewers at home, but instead, you can witness the DC’s greatness in person. The matchup the viewers have all been waiting for will take place this Sunday at 10 a.m. at the soccer fields.

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THE DAILY CAMPUS
NEWSLETTER

News

Student venture capital fund's STEM branch makes first investment

by Jenna Outcalt
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The newly created STEM branch of Hillside Ventures, a student-run venture fund at the University of Connecticut, has made its first investment of \$50,000 in a hardware and software solutions company, according to an Oct. 1 press release.

Hillside Ventures is an investment fund "supporting companies either founded by UConn alumni or that are in the sustainability, insurtech, or edtech industries," according to its website. The website also said that Hillside Ventures' goal is to engage students in entrepreneurship and expand opportunities for students at the undergraduate level.

Alex Cameron, a fifth-semester mathematics and statistics double major, has been at Hillside Ventures for three semesters. Cameron, the relations lead at the fund, said the main goal of Hillside Ventures is to invest in early-stage companies.

"As a nationally recognized student-run venture capital fund, students lead investments guided by a stellar team of professionals across multiple industries," the press release said.

According to the press release, the arm of the fund dedi-



Yesterday, some of the analysts from the sustainability vertical had the privilege of attending the Sustainable Clean Energy Summit, hosted by Eversource.
PHOTO BY COURTESY OF HILLSIDE VENTURES INSTAGRAM

cated to science, technology, engineering and math focuses on investing in companies on the forefront of software, manufacturing and healthcare. About 70 percent of the students involved with the STEM branch are STEM majors, according to Cameron.

The press release explained that the STEM fund's first investment, Siera.AI, "is a leading provider of AI-driven safety solutions for forklifts and other warehouse operations, dedicated to enhancing workplace safety and efficiency through innovative technology." According

to the press release, Siera.AI can retrofit the technology onto any forklift model.

"There's not another option on the market that's as comprehensive, that can attach to any forklift," Cameron said of Siera.AI. "Oftentimes in warehouses, they might have lots of different forklifts, but not one automated safety solution."

Cameron also said Siera.AI was appealing because it has patented technology that is addressing a real-world issue and because of its ties with other well-established companies.

"Given Siera.AI's current

partnerships with major industry players such as Coca-Cola, John Deere, and PepsiCo, Hillside Ventures is confident in the company's growth trajectory and innovative approach to warehouse safety, which will continue to drive value and expansion opportunities in the future," the press release said.

According to Siera.AI's website, they began with a grant from the U.S. National Science Foundation that they used to study the industrial mobility marker. The website called the results of the study "both an eye-opener and a shocker."

"Industry statistics showed us a staggering \$30B+ spent in the US each year on forklift accident costs with almost 100 deaths and 36,000 serious accidents. On top of that, there is a massive 43,000+ shortage of skilled equipment operators," Siera.AI's website said. "Worker shortages and growing productivity pressures from e-commerce are forcing industrial workers into unsafe and extremely stressful working conditions."

The press release also said Siera.AI's solutions helped companies avoid the financial burdens of mitigating workplace accidents.

"This technology not only enhances worker safety but also positively impacts a company's bottom line, as preventing a single accident proves to be more cost-effective than managing the consequences of the incident," the press release said.

According to Cameron, the fund continues to meet biweekly with their advisory board of UConn alumni, who are professionals in the industry, to review potential investments.

"We hope to have another investment soon," Cameron said.

For additional information or to get in contact with Hillside Ventures, students can email hillsideventurecapital@gmail.com.

Dining Beat: The Dairy Bar indulges into fall with October specials, prepares for basketball season and senior scoop

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The University of Connecticut Dairy Bar is celebrating fall with a pumpkin milkshake and apple crisp sundae and has begun to prepare November's specials and the senior scoop contest.

The Jack o' Lantern milkshake features pumpkin ice cream with Oreo crumbs and a chocolate drizzle, topped with whipped cream, pumpkin spice, black and orange sprinkles and a candy pumpkin. The Apple Harvest Sundae consists of warm apple crisp topped with vanilla ice cream, caramel drizzle, whipped cream, pumpkin spice and candy corn.

Monthly specials are selected by the Dairy Bar staff and are often tailored to the current season or holiday, Ethan Haggerty, area manager of UConn Dining Services, said. He explained his

team often reuses milkshake and sundae of the months each year.

Haggerty said the staff is always preparing for upcoming specials. Right now, they are looking forward to November specials and the annual senior scoop, an ice cream flavor selected by the senior class each year.

"We have a special flavor coming out in honor of the women's basketball coaching staff anniversary: 40 years for Auriemma and Dailey," said Haggerty. "November specials will be themed after them and we are going to have souvenir cups."

To celebrate Thanksgiving, Haggerty said ice cream turkey pies are going into production soon.

The annual senior scoop submission window just ended, and the contest will be beginning soon online. Last year, the senior scoop "Basketball Capitol of the Swirl'd" was a black raspberry ice cream with Oreo cookie pieces and a fudge ripple.

The Dairy Bar is open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Hours will be reduced to 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday through Sunday, starting Oct. 29, to accommodate fall season, according to an Oct. 11 Daily Digest post.

The ice cream truck will be at the next UConn Fall Open House on Oct. 26 on Fairfield Way from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Dairy Bar continues to be recognized in Connecticut, as they were nominated in the people's choice category for the Craziest Awards, an annual awards gala hosted by the Connecticut Restaurant Association, according to an Instagram post by UConn Dairy Bar. Voting is open until Nov. 30.

The Dairy Bar opened in 1953 to sell dairy products made by the UConn Creamery. Today, the Dairy Bar makes and sells ice cream and a variety of cheeses through its retail establishment located at 17 Manter Road.



ILLUSTRATION BY KLEA OMERI, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The Daily Campus

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

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Photo (Meetings at 10 p.m.)

photo@dailycampus.com

Artists (Meetings at 10 p.m. on discord)

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Daily Campus Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Map out
- 5 With 5-Down, summer shirt
- 9 Keeping folks waiting
- 13 Brontë heroine
- 14 Woodwind played by Andy Mackay of Roxy Music
- 15 Ireland, poetically
- 16 What poker chips might do?
- 19 Stretch, as one's neck
- 20 ___ and aahs
- 21 Business letters?
- 23 Starpilot and smuggler Solo
- 24 No. cruncher
- 27 Rival
- 28 Scottish no
- 29 What people waiting in a long line might do?
- 33 Synthesizer brand
- 34 By land ___
- 35 Folder's loss
- 38 Cabs
- 41 Spy-fi side
- 42 Knobs
- 44 Words of clarification
- 46 What people who eschew online banking might do?
- 50 Sat
- 51 Brandy bottle letters
- 52 Corvallis sch.
- 53 "Never hurts to"
- 56 Fed. stipend
- 57 Like good angel food cake
- 59 Rolls partner
- 61 Summertime chore, or an apt title for this puzzle
- 65 Immense
- 66 Woeful sigh
- 67 In a thumb-twiddling way
- 68 Shady trees
- 69 Comedian Foxx
- 70 Egg cream component

DOWN

- 1 Cobbler fruit
- 2 Sports bra fabric
- 3 Obscure stuff

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By Josh Horowitz

10/18/24

- 4 Like Crayola's Unmellow Yellow and Atomic Tangerine
- 5 See 5-Across
- 6 Law school accrediting org.
- 7 Double negative?
- 8 Early topic in music theory
- 9 Allow use of for a fee
- 10 Pt. of ETA
- 11 Neat quality
- 12 Captures
- 17 Holy city of Islam
- 18 Singer Jay known as the "King of Mandopop"
- 22 Civil rights activist Chavez
- 25 Fruity Pebbles maker
- 26 Ulaanbaatar's locale
- 30 Common flashlight battery
- 31 ___ waste
- 32 Footlocker
- 35 "Vice" Oscar nominee Amy
- 36 "Wow, you almost dropped that!"

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

H	I	P	T	O		B	A	T	H	S		B	S	A		
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10/18/24

- 37 Strategic
- 39 Intro to a texter's two cents
- 40 Catches on
- 43 Learned experts
- 45 Luxury Honda brand
- 47 Goddess often depicted holding an ank
- 48 Masonry mixture
- 49 Marry
- 54 Tell off
- 55 Home country of marathon world record holder Kelvin Kiptum
- 58 Handsome Dan's school
- 60 ___ Spunkmeyer
- 62 Philosophy
- 63 Young boy
- 64 Microdosing initials

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National Seaweed Hub Webinar: Roles of seaweed in carbon dioxide removal

by Michelle Pawlos

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While there are some more well-known solutions to carbon dioxide removal, there are others that may surprise you. On Wednesday, Oct. 16, the National Seaweed Hub Webinar Series concluded with “The Potential of Seaweeds for Carbon Dioxide Removal and Sequestration: Challenges in Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification,” showcasing the role of seaweed in the process.

Professor Catriona Hurd, a seaweed eco-physiologist, led the virtual event from the University of Tasmania. Hurd started the webinar by providing an outline, which included an introduction to seaweeds of cold temperate systems, the need for carbon dioxide removal and the reality of the challenges brought along with this idea.

Hurd mentioned seaweed as “crucial primary producers of coastal systems” as they have many needs, including food for higher trophic levels, biodiversity enhancement and carbon and nitrogen cycling. There have also been losses of seaweed due to climate change. For example, *Macrocystis pyrifera*, better known as giant kelp, is a kelp known for how quickly it grows and can provide shelter for sea life. This kelp is an endangered species, and according to Hurd, 95 percent of it is lost and sensitive to climate change.

The webinar then transitions to a more crucial point:

the need for carbon dioxide removal. Hurd provides vital statistics, including that humans emit 37 billion metric tons (Gt) of carbon dioxide (CO₂) annually. She explained that if humans reduce emissions by 50 percent, the planet would still need carbon dioxide removal to remove, and securely store 4-5 Gt of carbon annually. Seaweed has now been seen as a possible marine carbon dioxide removal method.

However, misinformation has also spread about seaweed and its potential aid in carbon dioxide removal. Hurd showed examples in articles such as “these carbon-capturing robotic seaweed farms are like planting forests in the ocean.” This is an example of misinformation, as seaweed has potential benefits but they aren’t comprehensive solutions. Additionally, it makes the process seem much easier than it really is. Forests and seaweed farms operate very differently and can’t compare. It creates unrealistic expectations of this approach.

For these reasons, Dr. Hurd provided attendees with the goals of the National Seaweed Hub Webinar Series: educating others on the truth and what it really would take to regulate carbon dioxide removal, as well as the complexities of monitoring, reporting and verifying seaweed carbon, which has multiple steps.

Hurd’s first step stated, “track the seaweed carbon from the original seaweed bed and de-

termine the storage time.” By tracking both the carbon uptake and the storage time, researchers can better understand the effectiveness of seaweed as a tool for carbon capture. Step two stated, “track the seawater with the CO₂ deficit from the original seaweed bed for weeks to months to determine CO₂ drawdown (CO₂ equilibrium),” which has the same effect as step one. Step three stated, “quantify steps one and two and link back to the original seaweed bed.” Researchers can then gain an understanding of the carbon dynamics associated with the area.

Ending the presentation, Hurd prepared a slide that told us other ways seaweed can help the environment, which listed the following: “methane emissions reduction for ruminants (cows and sheep), substitution for oil-based products (bioplastics and seaweed bricks), food security, novel products, nutrient mitigation of coastal regions and biodiversity enhancement (natural systems).”

Hurd then answered questions from the audience to conclude the webinar officially. Among those questions was, “can you talk a little more about how farmed seaweeds can help reduce methane emissions?”

Hurd told the attendees about a seaweed grown in Australia and Japan called asparagopsis that has chemicals. Feeding it to animals such as cows and sheep stops them from releasing gas, ultimately reducing methane emissions from livestock.



Professor Catriona Hurd, an eco-physiologist from the University of Tasmania. Dr. Hurd spoke on Oct. 16, 2024 during the National Seaweed Hub Webinar Series.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @SEAWEEDSYMPOSIUM ON INSTAGRAM

‘Jurassic World: Chaos Theory’ is back for a highly anticipated Season 2

by Noa Climor

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On Thursday, Oct. 17, season two of the animated series “Jurassic World: Chaos Theory” premiered on Netflix. It returns us to “the Nublar Six” friend group as they navigate a world filled with even more dinosaurs, danger and some serious conspiracy theories. For those unfamiliar with the show, here’s a quick summary so that you’re ready for season two.

In “Jurassic World: Chaos Theory” season two, six years have passed since the group — Darius Bowman, Kenji Kon, Brooklynn, Ben Pincus, Yasmina Fadoula and Sammy Gutierrez — escaped Isla Nublar, a fictional island that serves as the primary setting of the Jurassic World movies and the prequel series, “Jurassic World: Camp Cretaceous.” In “Chaos Theory,” the group has split up and lost touch since an allosaurus seemingly killed Brooklynn. They slowly reunite after unraveling a conspiracy that suggests Brooklynn was purposefully targeted and that the dinosaur attacks may not be as random as they initially thought.

Brooklynn (who — spoiler alert — was revealed to be alive at the end of Season two) was looking into a dinosaur smuggling ring, which got her in some serious trouble. After the allosaurus attack, she went into hiding. We don’t know why she hasn’t contacted her friends, but in season 2 we are about to (hopefully) find out.

With an impromptu midnight watch party, I was ready to roar into season two. I must admit that I could only watch the first two episodes; but the way each episode ended on a cliffhanger made me



Promotional poster for Jurassic World: Chaos Theory. The show’s second season released on Oct. 17, available on Netflix.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @JURASSICEDITION ON INSTAGRAM

wish I could binge watch the entire thing.

Episode one, “Batten Down the Hatches”, was a wild ride from the very beginning. It opens with our team hiding out on a boat, which was carrying some smuggled dinosaurs to an unknown location. This means there was no time skip from the last episode of season one. Kon is having a tough time dealing with losing his father, and the rest of his friends are (reasonably) worried about him as he takes some risks heading in and out of the container. They end up being discovered after Kon raids the bridge for some snacks, which kicks everything into gear as both a storm and a fire start. Things get violent quickly, as dinosaurs begin escaping their containers.

Kon keeps taking risks, running straight into the fire

to protect the dino eggs and jumping out of the boat to rescue them from the storm. I had a bad feeling about how things will turn out if he keeps disregarding his health, and Fadoula wastes no time telling him exactly what I had been thinking: It seems likely that these daredevil stunts will only hurt him in the long run. The episode ends with the team spotting some land and Pincus seeing a blurry figure in the background—one that looks suspiciously like Brooklynn. Pincus does say her name but seems to be unsure if it is her or not, and decides to not tell the rest of his friends about what he saw.

This miscommunication made me want to yell at the screen and is one of my least favorite tropes on TV. But I digress! I’m sure Pincus has a

reason and there’s no time to waste as they next come across a farm, find out they’re in Senegal and try to move dinosaurs away before they destroy said farm. But here’s the issue: he stegosaurus they moved actually helped protect the farm and its people from a massive suchomimus that is not happy to see them. I will say, this show is teaching me more about identifying dinosaurs than I ever expected to know.

The two people living on the farm, a mom and her daughter, run to get the stegosaurus while Kon and Bowman try to distract the suchomimus. Kon, who seems insistent on risking his life every five seconds, tries to stand up to the dino and luckily gets rescued before he becomes an afternoon snack. Bowman apologizes to the woman and her daughter for

assuming he knew the whole situation, and it’s nice to see him own up to his mistakes.

I also noticed that we don’t have some names for these characters! They’ve been there for the entire episode, and I have no way of referring to them. While they’re figuring that out, Pincus is wondering if it was Brooklynn that he saw in that video. He still doesn’t tell his friends, and instead, makes something up about satellite footage. He does look guilty, but I think it is that he is just having a hard time grappling with the fact that one of his best friends, who he thought was dead, is still alive. Maybe he just doesn’t want to give his friends false hope because he himself doesn’t fully believe it.

(Note: At the very end I found out via closed captions that the mom is named Aminata, and the daughter is Zay, but they were not officially introduced to us with those names)

One thing that this show does well is portray realistic relationships between friends. Throughout the season, we see just how much they care for each other; often being honest with each other and challenging their friends in order to work through some incredibly difficult situations together. This season is just as good, if not better, than season one. You can really see how the team grows closer together, and the animation is wonderful. I was on the edge of my seat the entire time, and I think anyone who enjoys a fast-paced and adventurous show should tune in.

As the tone gets darker and darker, I can only hope that they’re ready for the challenges ahead. Here’s to more chaos and theories? (I’m sorry! I had to.)

Rating 4/5 Dino Roars

UConn NRE Opportunity: Mentoring students through community-based environmental action

by **Molly Daigle**
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A unique opportunity is opening for students at the University of Connecticut for the spring 2025 semester. NRE 1250, Community Engagement for Environmental Action, is a 1-credit course being offered that coincides with exciting mentorship opportunities.

Dr. Laura Cisneros, associate UConn extension professor and director of the Natural Resources Conservation Academy (NRCA), will be teaching the course. “The course was designed to cover concepts and approaches needed to be a leader and mentor to diverse teens carrying out environmental action projects that are addressing socio-environmental or environmental justice challenges within their communities,” said Cisneros.

“In the course we explore how to pull in and apply authentic community engagement principles, cultural sustaining education approaches and trauma informed mentorship to support inclusive and equitable community-based environmental action,” Cisneros said when asked about the design of the course.

At the conclusion of the course, students will have the unique opportunity to apply for a mentorship position known as being a Difference Maker Mentor (DMM), for one of the NRCA’s programs, the Conservation Ambassador Program (CAP). CAP is a nine-month program for high



NRCA Difference Maker Mentors Gabriella Archambault, Molly Daigle and Graduate Mentor Shanelle Thevarajah with their groups of CAP students during fisheries day activities. Fisheries are one of the many topics covered during the NRCA CAP field experience.
PHOTOGRAPHS BY UCONN NRCA

school students that begins with a week-long summer field experience at the Storrs campus, where students are immersed in hands-on opportunities in a variety of environmental fields including forestry, wildlife, fisheries and water quality.

After the conclusion of the field experience, the high school participants work with DMMs, graduate mentors and local community partners in

developing meaningful community environmental action projects that are presented at the end of the program at the Youth in STEM: A Leadership & Changemaker Summit at the Connecticut Science Center. From invasive species removal to community garden cultivation, student projects are immensely diverse in the environmental, socio-environmental and environmental justice issues

they take on.

“Back in 2022, I launched our Difference Maker Mentor positions to intentionally bring more representation into our NRCA Conservation Ambassador teaching staff and leadership,” said Cisneros. “One goal was to provide our teen participants with near-peer mentors and role models that have shared identities. Another goal was to eventually provide path-

way programming to our participants to continue in environmental leadership positions as undergrad Difference Maker Mentors. We are in our third year and already seeing the positive impact on our participants.”

Current DMM Julianna Service, a leadership and public management graduate student at the UConn School of Public Policy, offered her insight as to why she took on the opportunity.

“I became a Difference Maker Mentor to immerse myself in a more environmentally conscious community of people,” she said. “Now, being a DMM makes me super excited to bring a different, health-based perspective to the program, learn more about the environment and be a part of guiding my student mentees through their own socio-environmental community intervention projects.”

The NRCA has provided empowering opportunities for students, mentors and staff alike. “Teaching this course and addition of Difference Maker Mentors has been equally empowering for me, as I am continually learning alongside the DMMs as we explore innovative ways to integrate the approaches taught in the course into our programs and community efforts,” Cisneros said.

If you’re interested in being part of environmental change, community-based environmental action and mentorship, consider registering for NRE 1250, Community Engagement for Environmental Action.



NRCA Graduate Mentor Shanelle Thevarajah with her group of CAP students during evening field activities. The 2024 CAP field experience was held during the summer and was an action-packed week of environmental field activities.
PHOTOGRAPH BY UCONN NRCA



Opinion

The Daily Campus

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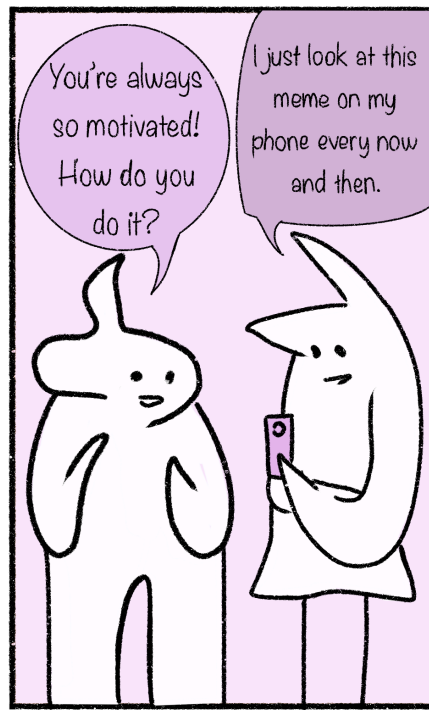
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Paper Boy Sam



COMIC BY JASON J SAMPSON, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



You need to get off your phone

by Isaac Grad | HE/HIM/HIS | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | isaac.grad@uconn.edu

Everyone knows the negative impacts of excessive phone usage, this is not a new concept by any means. However, being reminded of these impacts may just result in at least one person deciding to reduce their screen time in search of a better use of their time. I've written before about the divisiveness that social media causes, but the harm it causes doesn't just end there. I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that social media does divide us, and now more than ever, we need to be working to understand one another. This goal will never be reached when every individual is locked into an echo chamber of their own thoughts and opinions.

So why is excessive phone usage negative? I'll focus on excessive phone usage as excessive social media use, as that's generally why people are on their phones. Social media has been proven to increase symptoms of depression and anxiety. Recently, this has been exacerbated with the creation of numerous social media apps that are updated frequently to be more addictive, mainly through short form content. Almost all social media now has short form content, which is particularly harmful. It became more popular from TikTok, but soon Instagram followed this trend with Reels and YouTube with Shorts. Short-form content is particularly harmful as it reduces attention spans greatly, to the point where I've heard many people complain of an inability to pay attention for as long as they used to be able to. In the past year, I've heard on multiple occasions of people putting content that's over a few minutes at double speed or consuming it with another form of content to not get bored and distracted. Essentially, people are only able to tolerate these short forms of media, meaning the information they're consuming is incredibly surface level, and thus not encouraging in-depth thought. This makes it incredibly easy to spread misinformation while giving people the impression that they know what they're talking about.

The apps themselves aren't the only negative impacts. The addiction to these apps also means people aren't doing anything beneficial with their time. People are wasting away their lives on social media and forming habits that reinforce the belief that the best

way to experience life is to distract yourself through it. People aren't able to make necessary changes in their lives to be happy or work towards making changes in society as a whole in order to make life enjoyable. It's incredibly easy to distract yourself all day, sleep and then repeat. Wanting a distraction from the current state of the world is completely understandable, but there will be no meaningful change made if we all choose to bury our heads in our phones. While many people open social media with the intention to distract them from the darkness of our world, social media actually promotes these horrible events and ideas. When I finally decided to delete TikTok three years ago, I noticed immediately that all of the negative beliefs and constant feelings that the world would end went away. When you step outside without having used your phone all day, you suddenly realize that the world is okay. It's far from perfect, but it isn't ending.

We are deliberately choosing to miss out on the positives of the world by surrounding ourselves with negativity online. Our time is being spent consuming content that we immediately forget as opposed to doing something that we enjoy and spending time with loved ones. It seems daunting to make the decision to delete social media. In many ways, it feels like our tether to the world and our friends and family. But it's not. You will find you are closer to your world when you're paying full attention to it and allowing yourself to be bored enough in moments between obligations to think about your loved ones.

You have to let yourself be bored in order to find creativity and excitement. We have so much time in each day and there is so much to do and learn. Social media tricks us into thinking we're relaxing because it's a mindless activity, but in reality, you are exposing yourself to hundreds or thousands of bits of short form content, many of which are meant to make you feel scared, guilty, angry and negative in general. Social media is not calming you down; it's preventing you from creating beneficial ways to reduce stress, such as journaling or meditation. It reached the point where I was disconnected from this world years ago, but it's never too late to decide to regulate your phone usage and get back to using your time to do things you love.



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Our algorithms are too accurate

by Amber Greene
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Every day, I open social media with the expectation that I will watch what I want to see.

I used to welcome this with open arms, but recently I've started to wonder; is my timeline too catered for my own good?

It's extremely easy to make your feed personalized by hiding posts or clicking "not interested." Algorithms are programmed to show content similar to what you interact with most. They also target the algorithms of others with similar interests, so you are only exposed to like-minded people. Because of differing preferences, your "Explore" page probably looks nothing like your parents' or even someone else's your age who has different interests than you.

Now more than ever, we have a greater exposure to media than we've ever had, making it possible for anything from any era to reappear on social media. Any form of media can be combined in an edit or meme that people would understand. Never without social media and algorithms would it be possible to see an edit of "The Bear" to a song from "Hamilton" or basketball highlights to an early 2000s soft rock song. In this way, having a perfectly curated algorithm is entertaining and fits niche interests. But in other aspects it is severely harmful.

I find it a bit eerie how, with location settings, you are bound to see videos and posts from a certain place while you are in that area. As an out-of-state student, I am getting more Connecticut-related TikToks on my "For You" page than I ever have before. Many companies use this tactic to push their products and increase foot traffic in nearby businesses. Location adds another level of accuracy that makes people too aware of what is close to them and is another form of unnecessary social media marketing.

Other than making people spend money, the near perfection of our algorithms has made us blind to other perspectives. We are being conditioned to see only what we like, leading to us to only interact with people who

think like us. However, in the real world not everyone thinks like us. This one-sided way of seeing things can lead people to jump to conclusions and absorb incomplete narratives that lead to misconceptions. This is an alarming reality as studies show that 55 percent of adults say that they get their news from social media. Getting news from a place that caters to your experience is not the best way to make sure that you are seeing the full truth.

In a less serious matter, social media has the power to ruin things because it knows what you like. Algorithms use data to personalize content, and because of this, I have had several shows and movies spoiled for me. There have been too many times where I decided to scroll on social media before watching a show, just to see the plot twist of the season ruined. By interacting with a post from a certain show or movie franchise, they know that I am interested in it, and it comes back to me in the form of a spoiler.

The preciseness of your feed also makes it so that the algorithm is in tune with what you are going through at that moment. Based on what you interact with, the algorithm knows your age range and will push timely content on you. Turning to social media as a break from our daily lives has turned into seeing someone in your exact same position, which isn't necessarily comforting. This further shrinks our perception of reality because not everyone is going through what one individual person goes through, but these tailored feeds make it seem like it is that way.

It is important now more than ever to be skeptical of what you see as algorithms just get more and more accurate. While it's entertaining to have a personal profile to scroll through carefully chosen content at your leisure, we should turn away from social media if we want to experience the real world.

The real world is where you'll actually meet more people who are different from you and expand your horizons.

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Cloudy skies



The Great Lawn at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, Conn. on Oct. 17, 2024. The lawn has been an integral symbol of UConn since the early 1900s. PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

A history of segregation steals the future of Connecticut students

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

Last month, an article was published in the Connecticut Mirror detailing the story of a recent Hartford Public School graduate who was never taught to read or write. Aleysha Ortiz came to Connecticut from Puerto Rico and started attending Hartford schools at 6 years old. She testified in front of Hartford City Council about years of systemic neglect, being pushed through the system and a “stolen” education. This story reached the floor of the state legislature, horrifying elected officials and spurring them into a frenzy of discussion over solutions, such as replacing the leadership of Hartford Public Schools and increasing financial oversight of the district. Yet, the discussions currently held in the legislature fundamentally miss the real systemic issue at play here. If Connecticut wants to fix its educational failings, the first step has to be addressing the current state of racial segregation in schools.

Connecticut is, and historically has been, one of the most racially segregated states in the entire nation, according to a new state-funded study. Although often unseen because of the Northeast’s liberal nature, there exists a subtle, but no less harmful, form of discrimination that has dominated the lives of minorities in Connecticut to this day. Since about 1910, economically and specifically racially restrictive covenants have excluded the sale of property to minority buyers until as recently as 1972. After the 1950s, towns began to try more subtly to prevent minorities from joining the white flight out of cities by establishing exclusive zoning policies that prevented low income housing and established high minimum sizes for single family housing. The consequences of this are still felt today by communities. The extreme differences in life span, poverty rate, home value and income between towns like Hartford and Greenwich, for example, are still apparent and require significant action to fix.

This has everything to do with education policy because segregation in one inherently leads to segregation in another. Schools are fund-

ed by a town’s property tax base, leading to a positive feedback loop wherein poor towns can’t fund their schools, which leads to worse educational outcomes for students, and only exacerbates existing inequalities by preventing them from achieving at a higher level. In Connecticut, a majority of students attend a school which is either greater than 75 percent white or greater than 75 percent BIPOC as of 2020. The schools that are majority students of color are more likely to be underfunded. Plus, these students are more likely to be English language learners, have disabilities or generally have “greater learning needs.” This presents as a stark contrast to more affluent school districts, which are the exact opposites, having students who have more outside support, less learning needs, and equal or greater spending per student. On the other side of the classroom, averages in teacher pay and class size are both worse off in school districts with a higher concentration of students in poverty, which makes it an unattractive destination from a staffing perspective as well.

The impact of all these factors on schools and students is clear. Lower income school districts are more likely to have greater need, and greater lack, of guidance counselors, social workers, psycholo-

gists and special education teachers per student, which was clearly demonstrated in Ortiz’s case. As for the students, the majority of students from low-income families have far lower standardized test scores on reading and math than they should given their age. Stanford researchers have shown that the difference between wealthy students and poorer students in terms of test scores has not just stayed consistent due to historical factors, but rather it has grown substantially in recent decades.

In the broader context of the entire American education system, Connecticut actually sticks out regarding how bad this problem is. When comparing the achievement of specific groups here in Connecticut to the national average performance of those groups, black students, English language learners, Hispanic students and students eligible for free or reduced lunch are largely worse off in Connecticut. On the other hand, white students are by far and large better situated than white students in other states. This shows the great education that Ortiz’s parents came to this state for is real, it’s just not afforded to minority students because of a century of racial and economic discrimination that has kept them very far away from obtaining it.

It is no mistake that this story came out of Hartford Public Schools or that the student in question is a Latina immigrant with learning disabilities whose parents chose to come here for better opportunity. The odds are so heavily stacked in favor of more affluent students that an outcome like this would never come from Greenwich or West Hartford. This is a systemic failure that can’t simply be fixed by increased funding or replacing the individuals currently at the helm of Hartford Public Schools. This is Connecticut’s history, but it is also its present and has to be properly reckoned with if any substantive change is going to be made.

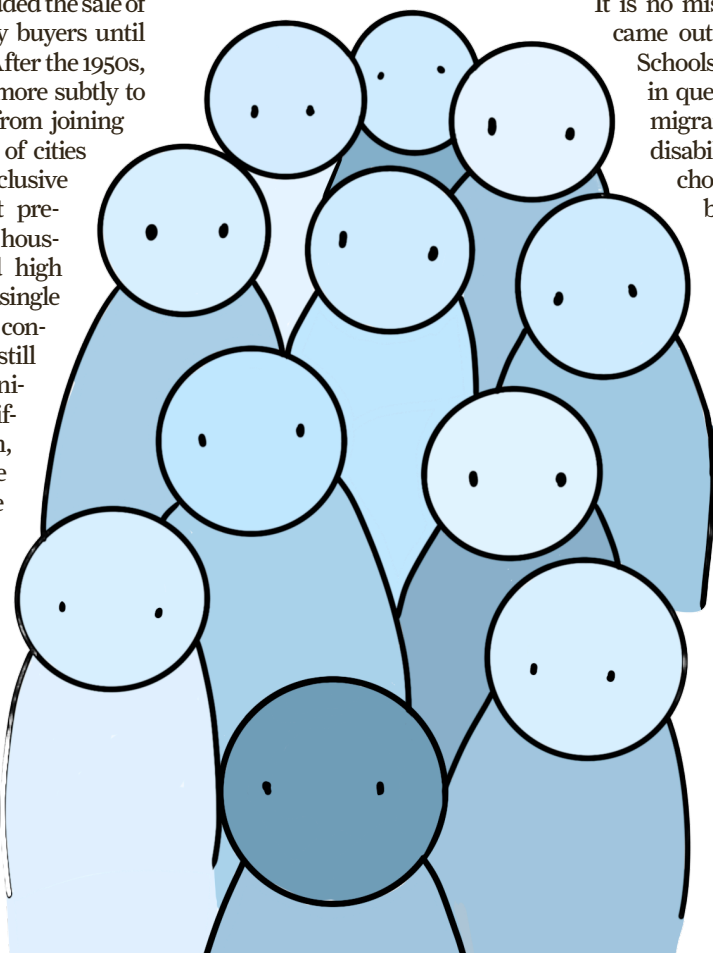


ILLUSTRATION BY JASON J SAMPSON, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

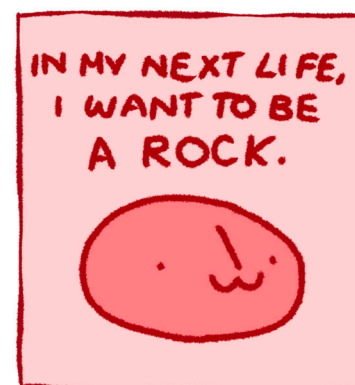


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comics



Van Nguyen Staff Artist



comics

Jessica debuts as assistant



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Campbell new Kraken coach

by Avery Becker
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Jessica Campbell, a former professional women's hockey player, made history on Oct. 8 as the first female to coach a National Hockey League team.

Campbell was hired by Head Coach Dan Bylsma of the Seattle Kraken in July and took the league by storm.

"I think what's special and what I'm excited about is whether it's a young girl or young boy's first NHL game, they're not going to see anything different than what they can possibly become," Campbell said in an interview with Fox 13 Seattle after being hired.

When Bylsma was looking at his new options for this assistant coaching position, the Seattle's general manager Ron Francis continually brought up Campbell, and that's when he reached out to her on her personal website.

"I can't say enough how fortunate I've been to not only learn from him, to be around someone who's won a Stanley Cup, knows how to win and has established himself and even more so brings so much enthusiasm to the rink every day," Campbell said to the Seattle Times. "He really allows, encourages and empowers every person who's around him to be themselves."

Bylsma also stated that after he was hired,

Campbell soon followed. Bylsma said he was better for it and Campbell helped him become an even better coach, he told to the Seattle Times.

Campbell, however, wasn't hired on a

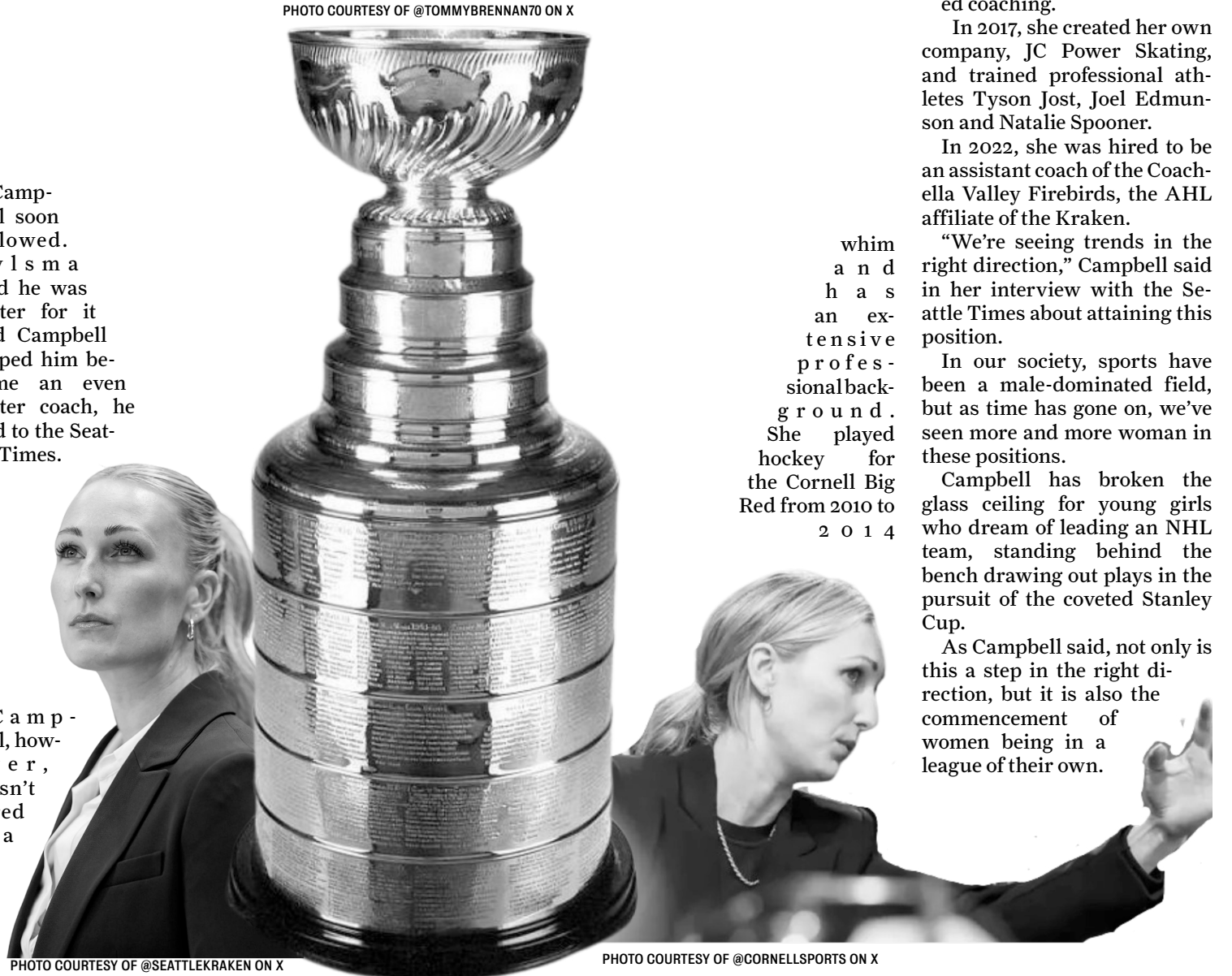


PHOTO COURTESY OF @SEATTLEKRAKEN ON X

whim and has an extensive professional background. She played hockey for the Cornell Big Red from 2010 to 2014

and then played for the Canadian women's national team until 2017, where she retired and started coaching.

In 2017, she created her own company, JC Power Skating, and trained professional athletes Tyson Jost, Joel Edmunson and Natalie Spooner.

In 2022, she was hired to be an assistant coach of the Coachella Valley Firebirds, the AHL affiliate of the Kraken.

"We're seeing trends in the right direction," Campbell said in her interview with the Seattle Times about attaining this position.

In our society, sports have been a male-dominated field, but as time has gone on, we've seen more and more woman in these positions.

Campbell has broken the glass ceiling for young girls who dream of leading an NHL team, standing behind the bench drawing out plays in the pursuit of the coveted Stanley Cup.

As Campbell said, not only is this a step in the right direction, but it is also the commencement of women being in a league of their own.

THE BIGGEST SURPRISES IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL

by Matthew Chmura
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The last two weekends in college football have provided fans with some of the biggest entertainment we have seen in years. Unbelievable upsets, nail-biting finishes and overtime games have left fans on the edge of their seats all season. Since the start of the season, many teams have exceeded expectations, while others have fallen below expectations. This column will touch on three teams that have beaten preseason expectations and three programs that have failed to meet their expectations.

TEAMS WHO EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS

VANDERBILT

The Commodores have been the bottom dwellers of the SEC for decades now and have been what some would say is a free win anytime they come on their schedule. However, this year, Vanderbilt has not only been a force in their conference, but they have also been a giant killer. In week one, they knocked off one of the ACC favorites, Virginia Tech. This win set the tone for the rest of their season. In week six, the Commodores had their biggest win in program history after knocking off Alabama, who at the time was the No. 1 ranked team in the country. Vanderbilt is off to its best start in years and has been one of the storylines

of the season.

INDIANA

In the last few years, Indiana has been one of the worst teams in the Big Ten, prompting them to fire their head coach, Tom Allen. After hiring former James Madison coach Curt Cignetti, fans of the program were excited for their future. Cignetti has a reputation for winning everywhere he has gone and that was the expectation for the Hoosiers. Though winning was the expectation, year one was meant to be a rebuilding year for Indiana. This has yet to

be the case, with the Hoosiers going 6-0 and being ranked No. 16 in the last AP poll. The Hoosiers have a tough second half of the schedule, but a playoff appearance in year one under

Cignetti is certainly within reach.

UCONN

UConn has been a pleasant surprise in college football this season and is off to a 4-2 start in year three of the Jim Mora era. UConn took in 50 new players in the off-season, both in the transfer portal and through recruiting. After being throttled 50-7 by Maryland

wee k one, many thought this would be the same old UConn. This has not been the case, with UConn undefeated at home and blowing some teams out. Some would say UConn has turned into a juggernaut. While their schedule will

a little more difficult, UConn has a great shot at having a winning record. A matchup with ACC member Wake Forest will set the tone for the rest of the season and could be monumental for the program.

TEAMS FAILING TO MEET EXPECTATIONS

FLORIDA STATE

Florida State is an obvious choice as they are off to one of the worst starts in program history. After going undefeated in the regular season last year, the Seminoles were ranked No. 10 to start the year. They quickly fell out of the rankings after losses to both Georgia Tech and Boston College, and have worsened since. They are 1-5 overall and 1-4 in the ACC, and have been noncompetitive in most games. The Seminoles are far away from their undefeated start a season ago and will need to win soon to save any hope for this season, although the damage has been done.

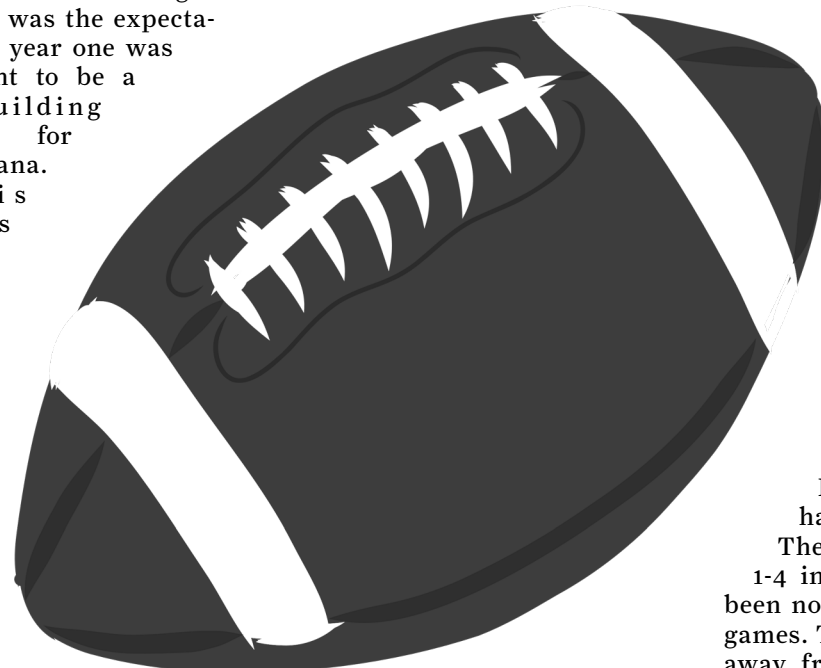
UTAH

Utah was the preseason favorite in the Big 12 and was expected to be their representative for a playoff team.

However, after star quarterback Cameron Rising got hurt again, the Utes have struggled to find their footing. They currently have a 4-2 record, but just 1-2 in conference play. They have dropped two games in a row to unranked teams, and their season is on the ropes. On top of that, this is Rising's second injury of the year and will be out for this week's matchup against TCU. Utah was supposed to be a playoff team, but with injuries to their quarterback and inconsistent play, they may continue to struggle down the stretch of the season.

OLE MISS

Lane Kiffin's team had the number one class in the transfer portal and returned Heisman contender quarterback Jaxson Dart. They were No. 7 in the AP preseason poll but have since dropped two of their past three games. One of them went to Kentucky, where they were two touchdown favorites to beat the Wildcats at home. The other one was to LSU on the road, where they blew a double-digit lead and lost overtime. As Dart said in his postgame press conference, they would need to win out to make it to the playoffs. While their schedule is favorable, they will still face Georgia and cannot afford any slipups to any other teams. If Kiffin and the Rebels fail to run the table, questions about the disappointing year at Ole Miss will be raised.



GRAPHIC BY ISABELLA KULAWIK, DESIGNER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sports

Photo of the Day |



UConn men's basketball shook the cobwebs off against URI in an exhibition match up on Oct. 14, 2024, at the Inaugural Hall of Fame Enshrinement Game at the Mohegan Sun Arena. The Huskies take the win in a big second half with a final score of 102-75, the team will return on Wed Nov. 6, 2024, for their home opener against Sacred Heart. PHOTO BY NAME NAME, POSITION/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Soccer:

HUSKIES SET TO TRAVEL TO INDIANAPOLIS TO FACE BUTLER ON SATURDAY

by Avery Becker

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After their fourth 0-0 draw of the season against Bryant on Tuesday, Oct. 15, the UConn men's soccer team (7-2-4) is set to take on the Butler Bulldogs (3-7-3) in Indianapolis on Saturday night.

The history between these two Big East foes dates to 2021, where the Bulldogs shut out the Huskies on their home turf. Since then, they have only faced off one other time on Sept. 24, 2022, where the Bulldogs beat the Huskies in Storrs 4-1.

A Butler player the Huskies will have to look out for is junior forward Josemir Gomez who has 16 points this season, with seven goals and two assists.

Like the Huskies, the Bulldogs have had tough stretch these past few weeks and are currently on a six-game losing streak. Their most recent loss against Seton Hall last Saturday resulted in a score of 2-1.

The Huskies have not scored a goal since their shut-out win against Villanova on Oct. 4 and are looking to shake off the rust and get themselves in the win column again.

In order to win this match-up, the Huskies will need to utilize their best offensive player, senior Scott Testori, and couple that momentum

with persistent defense from sophomore Kieran Chandler.

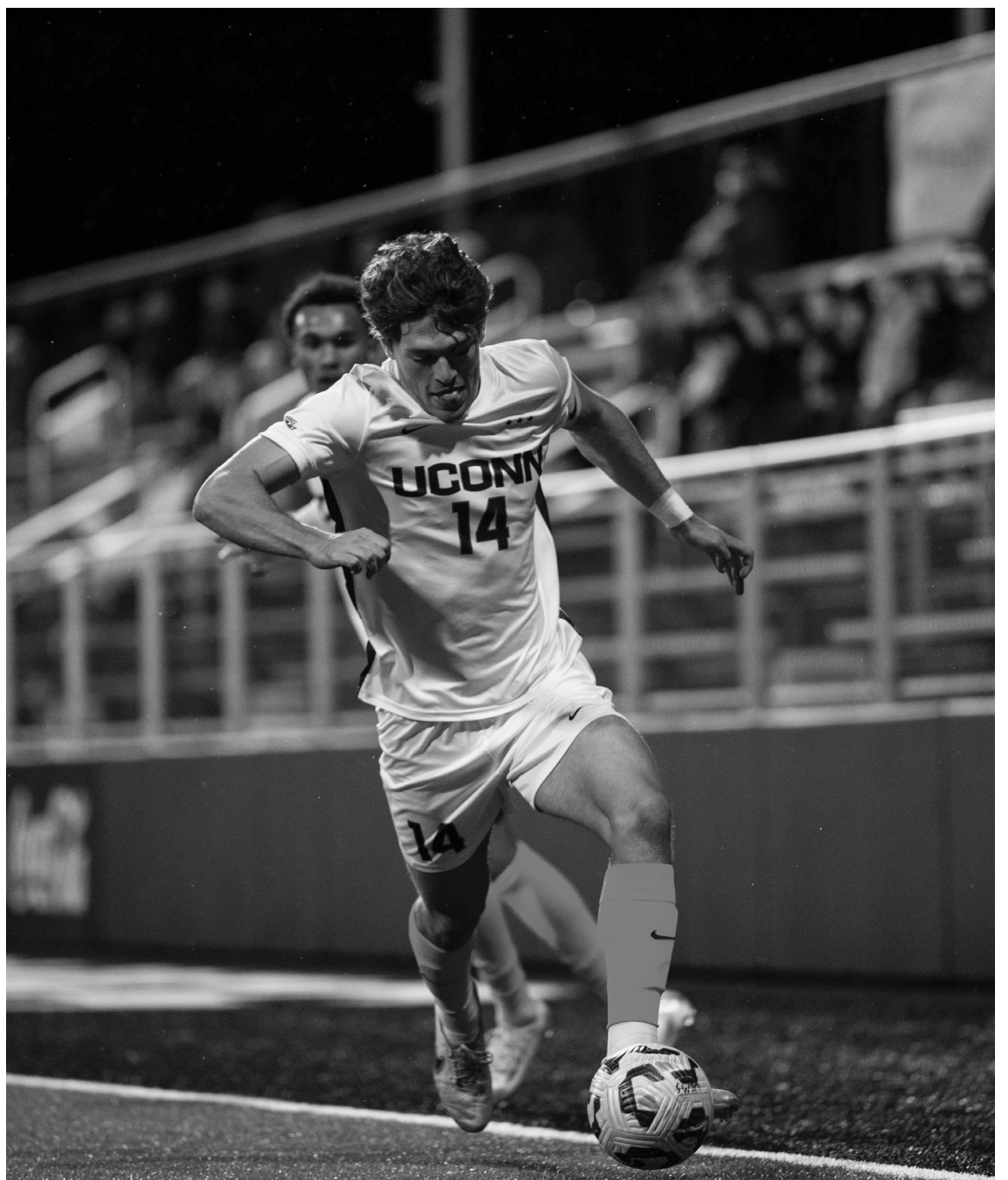
During Tuesday's matchup against Bryant, Testori had great opportunities, but none of them seemed to connect to the net, especially his two chances in the late end of the second half.

"I think it was one of those games where we had a lot of ball, a lot of chances and just couldn't put it away," head coach Chris Gbandi said on an interview posted on the team's Twitter page. "I think it's been our Achilles' heel at home this year, we just haven't been able to put the ball in the back of the net. Overall, it was a decent performance despite not putting the ball in the back of the net."

Gbandi also touched on how to get more wins as their season winds down and they pursue the Big East Championship. He said that he wants more performances similar to the Bryant game in terms of intensity and physicality.

If the Huskies take advantage of their solid defensive skills and maintain consistency in Butler's box, that will help them shake off the challenges of the past few weeks, especially before they face tough Big East opponents in their schedule.

Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. from the Bud and Jackie Sellick Bowl. If Husky fans wish to tune into the match, they can do so by streaming it on Flo Sports.



Tuesday night face off between the UConn Huskies and Bryant bulldogs in Storrs Conn. on Oct. 15, 2024. Players hit the field in bright pink accessories for Breast Cancer awareness night.

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

Men's Ice Hockey:

THE ICE BUS HITS THE ROAD FOR THEIR FIRST CONFERENCE MATCHUP AGAINST BOSTON UNIVERSITY

by **Matt Dimech**
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On Friday, Oct. 18, the UConn men's ice hockey team will travel to Agganis Arena in Boston, Mass., looking to topple No. 3 Boston University in the team's first Hockey East contest of the year.

UConn and BU have met 27 times since their inaugural matchup in 2013. In that time, BU holds a superior 16-9-2 record when facing the Huskies. The Huskies have lost their last four meetings with the Terriers, not having won since Oct. 10, 2022. This is the longest losing streak held by either team when facing one another.

The last time these two teams met, BU made short work of the Huskies. In a two-game weekend series the Terriers swept UConn, where they outscored the Huskies by a margin of 12-1 over the two games.

UConn is coming off of a split weekend series with Holy Cross. The Huskies fell in game one 4-3 before earning a decisive 3-1 victory in game two. UConn edged out with a 6-5 scoring advantage over the Crusaders.

The Huskies will have to watch out for the Terriers third-year forward Quinn Hutson. Hutson has made four assists this sea-

son, tying him for the team lead in points. Last year, he scored two goals and tallied an assist in his two games against UConn. Third-year forward Ryan Greene will be another focus in this game. He has netted two goals and tacked on an assist through two games this season and is tied as the team's leading goal scorer.

The Terriers have been undisciplined to start the year, committing on average 8.5 penalties, while spending 28.5 minutes in the box per game. BU has already committed two major penalties through their first two games. Adversely, the Huskies have been much more composed, only committing 4.8 penalties for 9.5 minutes per game. UConn has also yet to commit a major penalty in their four games played.

With this in mind, power play is sure to be a prevalent story in the game. In their series with Holy Cross, UConn struggled to

convert with a man advantage.

The Huskies failed to score on the power play through two games, despite having 10 chances. On the season, UConn has only capitalized on one of their 16 opportunities. To add on to their struggles, BU's

penalty kill team has been airtight to this point in the season, only allowing one goal through ten opportunities.

If UConn is to be successful

in this game, they will need to take advantage of any opportunity they get with BU short-handed.

The puck drop is scheduled for 7 p.m. as UConn hopes to stun one of the nation's best.



PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women's Ice Hockey:

HUSKIES PREP FOR BIG EAST CLASH IN PROVIDENCE

by **Jake Loomis**
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The UConn women's ice hockey team has a big game this Friday, Oct. 18, as they will make the short trip to Providence College to face the Friars in a Big East clash.

The Huskies started their season on a sour note, losing their first two

games at home versus Minnesota. However, over their last four games, they have gone 3-1, and look to be on track for a significant winning streak if they can keep up their red-hot play. The program is 2-0 in conference play as they swept UNH last weekend in a home-and-home series where the team dominated.

Providence, on the other hand, led by head coach Matt Kelly, has gone 3-2 in their young season as they have had contests against St. Michael's, where they went 2-0. They also played Maine and Quinnipiac, the No. 10 ranked team in the nation. Quinnipiac is a great example of what this game could look like on Friday as UConn has a similar ranking to them and a nearly identical team makeup to the Quinnipiac team.

The Friars are led by Audrey Knapp and Hannah Johnson, who leads their team with six points this season and will look to add on that versus the Huskies. Hope Walinski has also been great in goal for the Friars, as she has only let up five goals in six games, improving her average goals per game to

1.18. Providence plays a very tight game so it will be important for the Huskies to make the most of their opportunities in this one. The Friars have played close in many games this season; however, where they have failed is closing games, as both of their losses have come by one goal.

The Huskies, led by head coach Chris Mackenzie, will look to build on a great series versus UNH last weekend, where the team played stellar. Jada Habisch, Claire Murdoch and Ava Rinker pace the team with six points each, and hope to build on that on the road. Goaltending-wise for the Huskies, the split between the two goaltenders, Tia Chan and Megan Warrenner, has worked out. The Huskies' goaltenders both let up about two goals per game on average.

The biggest thing for the team right now will be staying close in games, as two out of their three losses were by more than two scores. This team has the makings of something special if they keep working hard at practice and pushing when they are down in games. As the Huskies take their second road trip of the season, they will look to capitalize on their talent to move above .500 in the young season.



PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Sports

Football:

HUSKIES, 4-0 AT THE RENT, TAKE ON ACC'S 2-4 WAKE FOREST



The UConn football team play a tremendous game against University at Buffalo on Sept. 28, 2024 at the Pratt and Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field in 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

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The 4-2 Huskies have been dominating in their best start since 2009 and have built the promising momentum the program has been missing for over a decade. While the last 15 years have been characterized by a team that struggles to generate a winning record, the 2024 squad is nothing short of historic.

While the 4-2 start has been memorable, the Huskies are just getting started as the season has just hit the halfway point. After last week's bye, Connecticut is back this Saturday and will take on their second ACC competitor of the season, Wake Forest.

Just over a month ago, UConn met with the ACC for the first time this season and dueling in a thrilling contest against Duke. Although the Blue Devils ultimately took the crown, the Huskies fought to the very end and fell just short 21-26.

The Huskies' incredible performance over Duke, led by quarterback Nick Evers and offensive playmakers Cam Edwards and Skyler Bell, gave the Huskies a foreshadowing to the dynamic catalog of offensively efficient players.

Since Duke, UConn has demonstrated its talent in the rushing and passive arena. When running the ball, there has been no trio more impactful than Durrell Robinson, Mel Brown and Edwards. The three have amassed a combined total of 1,082 yards this season and have been critical playmakers in moving the ball down the field. On the receiving end, wide receivers Bell and TJ Sheffield have been essential in red zone territory, amassing 508 and 260 yards respectively.

Though UConn has bred breakout performances this season, success hasn't always been smooth sailing. Two weeks ago, Connecticut was left fighting for a chance against Temple in a match many thought would be a breeze. In the final seconds of the contest, the Owls committed a game-changing mistake and fumbled the

ball on the UConn 1-yard line. In game-stealing fashion, UConn's Jordan Wright picked up the ball for a 96-yard fumble return to close the contest 29-20. While it was an ending to remember, Connecticut struggled to gain momentum and produce offensively efficient plays throughout the match. On the defensive end, UConn grappled with stopping Temple's advances.

Although the contest was a fight until the end, that's exactly why head coach Jim Mora valued their performance. "Character wins are more important to me than blowouts," he said in a press conference following the game.

While there was some hardship on the field, Sheffield proved himself an invaluable asset to the offense as he had his first career 100-yard game.

As for the North Carolinians, their season hasn't been a walk in the park as they stand 2-4, opposite the Huskies' record. Wake Forest, No. 13 in the ACC, has had a trying campaign where last week they suffered a devastating 49-14 loss to the No. 1 rank in their conference, Clemson.

Although they've struggled to make progress against some of their higher-ranked opponents, the Demon Deacon's talent is undeniable.

Hank Bachmeier, Wake's starting quarterback, has put up some impressive numbers this season, including an outstanding 403 passing yard performance in their 31-30 loss against Virginia.

With Bachmeier's arm strength, UConn must be diligent on the defensive end and shut down playmaking in the pocket. Wake's rushing leader, running back Demond Claiborne, will also pose a significant threat to the Huskies. Although Claiborne isn't head and shoulders above UConn's Robinson who leads with 424 total yards, he has a slight advantage with 524 rushing yards this season.

While there's talent on both benches, UConn and Wake Forest will be heavily challenged as they've demonstrated their prowess in the running and passing arena. The Huskies, who are two-point favorites, will return to Rentschler Field, where they enjoy a 4-0 record.

The contest will be Connecticut's fourth match at The Rent out of their six-game homestand. Kickoff is scheduled for noon in East Hartford.