

## UConn can accommodate 40,000 students, Senate leaders say

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Connecticut State Senate leaders sent an open letter to President Radenka Maric stating that the University of Connecticut can accommodate 40,000 students.

Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff and Senate President Pro Tempore Martin Looney sent the letter on Aug. 27, following up on a meeting they had with Maric on March 12 of this year.

“In our meeting, it was stated that UConn could accommodate 40,000 students, while not diminishing the academic quality of the students or diminishing the distinction of the education,” the letter said.

Looney and Duff stated that they heard from constituents about their children being unable to get into UConn or attend the campus of their choice.

“As we articulated in our meeting, the success of UConn is tied to the success of Connecticut,” the letter said. “Our state currently has almost 100,000 open jobs – a significant portion of which require higher levels of education.”

The letter continued saying, “students that choose to go to another state for school because they did not get into UConn’s main campus have a high likelihood of not returning to our state. Many of these students are high academic performers and not only deserve to get into our flagship university’s main campus but are necessary for the success of our state’s future.”



Connecticut Hall at UConn Storrs, Aug. 27, 2024. Connecticut Hall is the newest residential and dining addition to the Storrs campus. PHOTO BY MERCUR FERGUSON, PHOTO PRODUCER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

University spokesperson Stephanie Reitz agreed on the importance of UConn’s success in a written statement.

“The university strongly agrees that the success of UConn is firmly linked to Connecticut’s success, and vice versa,” Reitz said. “UConn is committed to doing all it can to enroll, house, and graduate ever-increasing numbers of exceptional students from across the state, nation, and world who are the workforce of the future and play a major role in driving Connecticut’s economy.”

Undergraduate student trustee Sean Dunn also commented on the letter, saying the Division for Student Life and Enrollment is excited and preparing for the potential growth

in the student body.

“It is important to ensure any expansion aligns with our commitment to maintaining high educational standards and effectively managing housing and student services,” Dunn said in an email. “This balanced approach will support both our continued academic excellence and capacity to meet logistical needs while remaining a driving force in Connecticut’s economy.”

UConn is currently in the final year of its five-year tuition plan.

“We would not advocate for a plan that would increase enrollment and shift more of the burden of funding to tuition,” Communications Director for the Connecticut Senate Dem-

ocrats Kevin Coughlin said in an email.

Reitz stated that tuition will be discussed this semester.

“The University’s current plan is to schedule Town Hall meetings later this fall for students and others to answer questions about tuition and fees, and to take up the matter at the Board of Trustees in the latter part of the semester,” said Reitz.

UConn’s board of trustees will hold its next meeting Sept. 25 in the Wilbur Cross building, and the financial committee will next meet virtually on Sept. 24, according to the board of trustees’ website.

UConn has faced recent housing issues. The university enrolled the largest freshman class in UConn history this year and

opened a 657-bed residence hall in Storrs, according to Reitz.

“In addition, we look forward to opening a new residence hall in downtown Hartford in the near future, in addition to expanding our student housing in Stamford,” said Reitz. “Further, we are excited about abundant private student-oriented housing developments near the Storrs campus, which will help address housing demands going forward.”

The open letter said there was a “desire to see a long-term plan for the expansion of both enrollment and housing” in Storrs and Stamford. Coughlin stated that UConn owned large amounts of land that could be developed in Storrs.

It is unclear what the impact of this increase will be on the town of Mansfield, where UConn’s main campus is located. Mansfield currently receives \$10-11 million in funds annually called Payment In Lieu Of Taxes from Connecticut’s government for housing a tax-exempt university, the Daily Campus reported.

Mansfield’s mayor, Toni Moran, was not informed of the open letter prior to its release and Coughlin stated that Senate Democrats could not currently estimate if Mansfield would receive additional funds with the proposed increase in students.

Coughlin said that Looney and Duff did not request a timeframe for their proposed increase in students, but they assume that their requested plan from UConn will include one.

## State News: Labor Day boat crash, rising energy costs, governor nominates new chief justice

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### Search for missing persons continues after boat crash

A boat crash in Old Saybrook on Monday resulted in one death and two missing persons.

According to the Associated Press, the boat crashed at approximately 9:15 p.m. The boat was carrying nine people, six of whom were taken to the hospital upon being rescued Tuesday morning. One man was found dead on the boat, and the search for the remaining two is ongoing.

According to NBC Connecticut, the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection identified the man who died as 34-year-old Christopher Hallahan, a resident of Westbrook.

NBC also reported that as of Tuesday, one of the six who had been taken to the hospital was in critical condition and another had been released from the hospital.

The search for the remaining two people has continued from sunrise to sunset each day since the crash. According to NBC, “multiple agencies, including police and fire crews from several nearby towns, the State Police Dive Unit, and a helicopter from the U.S. Coast Guard station on Cape Cod have been involved in the search.”

According to the Associated

Press, another boat crashed in a nearby area roughly a year ago. Authorities reportedly remarked that the area is not particularly hazardous and the jetties are well-marked.

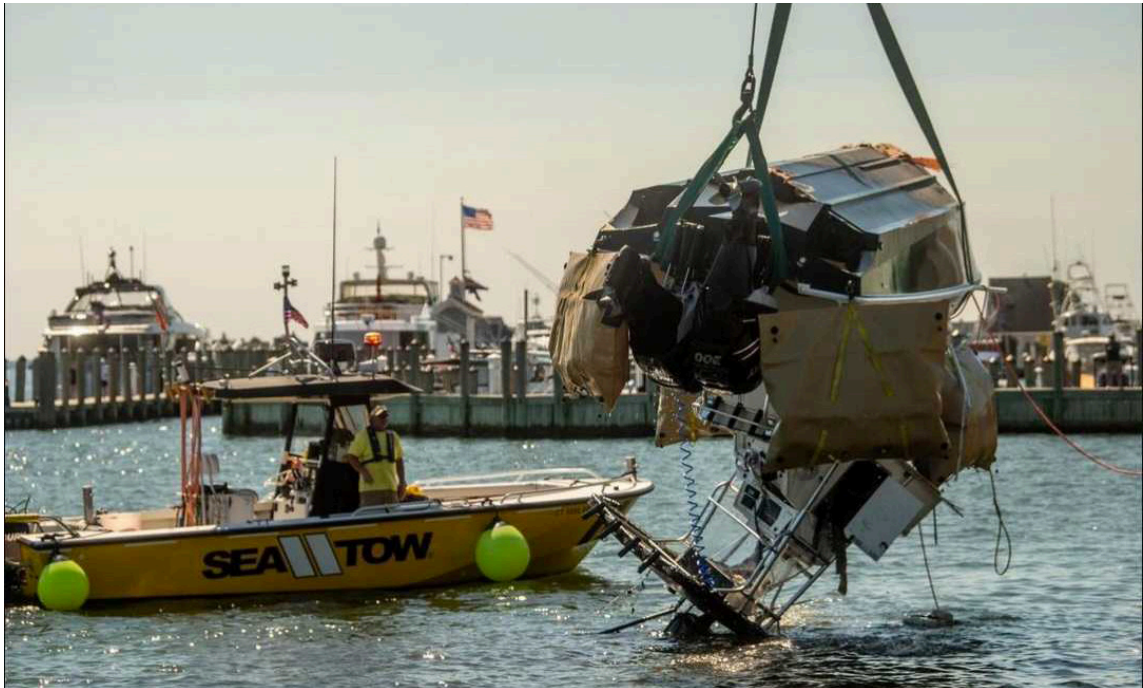
### Republicans petitioning for special session to address energy costs

Connecticut Republicans are continuing to push for a special session to address concerns over the rising cost of electricity. They announced a petition for a special session on Tuesday, Aug. 27.

According to WTNH, Governor Ned Lamont said that he was unlikely to call a special session to address the issue, but planned to hold a bipartisan meeting with the legislature’s energy committee to discuss more long-term solutions that would get to the root of the rising prices.

According to the CT Mirror, Lamont thought a special session “would be unlikely to produce immediate or significant changes in electric rates that typically are among the highest in the U.S.”

WTNH also reported that Republicans have proposed a five-point plan to address the issue. Their plan is to eliminate public benefits charges from ratepayer bills, use the leftover money from federal COVID-19 relief funds to offset ratepayer costs, cap future power purchase agreements, include all nuclear



The wreckage of a fatal boat crash in Old Saybrook, Conn. being pulled out of the water. Six of the nine passengers on board were rescued from the crash on Sept. 2, 2024.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @AFLAUM ON INSTAGRAM

and hydropower forms in class 1 renewable energy sources and make the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority into an independent agency again.

### Lamont nominates new Connecticut Supreme Court chief justice

Additionally, Lamont announced on Thursday, Aug. 29, that he is nominating Raheem L. Mullins to be the chief justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court, according to a press release.

Mullins has been serving as

an associate justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court since November 2017. Becoming chief justice would make Mullins head of the state’s judicial branch and put him in charge of overseeing state court administration.

Mullins was the youngest person to be a justice of the state’s Supreme Court. He served on the Connecticut Appellate Court from 2014 to 2017 and the Superior Court from 2012 to 2014, according to the

press release.

“Justice Mullins has had an impressive career serving on all three levels of Connecticut’s courts, and during his years on the bench he has earned the respect of many in the state’s legal community and those who have come before him as a fair, transparent, measured, and sensible jurist with a keen interest in researching and analyzing any number of complex legal issues that come before him,” Lamont said in the press release.

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News

# How to get relief from unexpectedly high medical bills



For many Americans, medical bills can stack up, leading to large amounts of debt. Not everyone is able to afford these treatments.  
PHOTOGRAPH BY JACQUELYN MARTIN, PHOTOGRAPHER/AP PHOTO

NEW YORK (AP) — Unexpectedly high medical bills are common in the United States, but there are ways to get relief. According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, one in five Americans are affected by outstanding medical debt, for a total cost of \$88 billion.

In a 2022 study, the bureau found that roughly 20 percent of U.S. households report that they have medical debt, with collections appearing on 43 million credit reports. As of the second quarter of 2021, 58 percent of all bills in collections on credit records were medical bills.

Medical debt affects households unevenly as well, according to the agency. Past-due bills are more prevalent among Black and Hispanic people than white and Asian people, and medical debt is more common in the Southern U.S., in part because states in that region did not expand Medicaid coverage.

While the process of fighting high medical bills can be time-consuming and frustrating, advocates stress that patients shouldn't be intimidated by the system. If you've received a surprise medical bill, here's what you should know:

**Always see if you qualify for charity care**

When Luisa, 33, received a medical bill for over \$1,000 after an emergency hospital visit for a viral infection, she was able to have the whole amount covered

by the hospital after appealing to their financial assistance policy.

"At first I thought it was just a cold, but it turned out to be something I needed specific medication for," said Luisa, who asked to be identified only by her first name due to privacy concerns. "It was really bad by the time I went to the ER."

Luisa had heard about the patient advocacy organization Dollar For thanks to a viral video, and she filled out the nonprofit's online form after receiving her surprise bill. The organization contacted the hospital, which was based in central Florida. Eventually, the hospital contacted Luisa directly to let her know she did in fact qualify for financial assistance. Even though she had already paid a portion of the costs with a credit card, Dollar For was able to get those payments refunded.

Laws governing hospital charity care require that non-profit hospitals lower or write off bills for individuals, depending on household income. To determine if you qualify, you can simply Google the hospital along with the phrase "charity care" or "financial assistance policy." Dollar For also provides a simplified online tool for patients to see if they qualify.

"Federal law requires hospitals to have these programs to keep their tax-exempt status," said Jared Walker, CEO of Dollar For. "If you're with-

in their income range, they will write off, waive, forgive, or reduce your bills."

Even if you've already been paying off medical debt, the hospital will be required to refund the payments you've made, he said.

"It was my first time going through something like that," Luisa said. "I tried to be an informed consumer and ask questions when I was in the hospital about the costs, but obviously it's hard when you're sick in the emergency room."

**Appeal to the No Surprises Act**

While protections against surprise bills have long existed for those who have Medicare, Medicaid, and Tricare, laws are now also in place for those with private or marketplace insurance.

The federal No Surprises Act covers people who have insurance through their employers, the marketplace, or individual plans. It says that insurance companies must reasonably cover any out-of-network services related to emergency and some non-emergency medical care. That means that if you're being charged more than you're used to or expect when you receive in-network services, that bill may be illegal.

To challenge any bill covered under this law, you can use the free help desk and hotline of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Many states also

have free consumer assistance programs to help with disputes and insurance questions. You can always contact the medical billing department of any hospital in writing to say that you believe a bill is in violation of the No Surprises Act and ask the hospital to deal directly with your insurance company.

"The complexity of the system itself is as big a problem as affordability," said Kaye Pastaina, who heads research on patient protections for KFF, a nonprofit health policy organization. "A lot of it is from the fragmented system and complex rules, but also lack of awareness about existing protections that are a part of federal law that might help."

**Ask for an itemized bill**

Even if you don't qualify for charity care or you're not sure your bills are covered by the No Surprises Act, you may be able to reduce the charges.

Medical billing is notoriously byzantine and rife with errors. Anytime you receive a bill, ask the hospital or healthcare provider for an itemized bill that includes the billing codes of all the care you received. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) mandates that providers share this information.

Next, check whether the billing codes are accurate. Again, simply Googling the codes with the phrase "medical billing code" can help. If something is off, con-

testing your bill with your medical provider or physician's office can yield changes.

Another approach: comparing the bill with insurance companies' estimates of fair charges for services. If the price you were charged is more than average, you can have your costs lowered. You could even take the provider to small claims court over the discrepancy (or let them know you have a case).

Finally, compare your insurance company's "explanation of benefits" to the bill. This explanation of costs covered and not covered must match the hospital's bill. If they don't, you have another reason not to pay, and to ask the provider to work with your insurance company further first.

**Remember the process requires persistence**

Despite the hassle, these steps can save you considerable sums of money. Even after taking these steps, you can always appeal health claims with your insurance company, if you think there is any reason the bills should be covered entirely or more than the company initially decided. You can also contact your state insurance commissioner for support.

"What we've seen in our research and the data is that those folks who appeal — and there are few who appeal — but for those who appeal, there's a high level of overturning," Pastaina said.

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# Daily Campus Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 “Doctor Who” genre  
6 Air quality monitoring org.  
9 Wrap brand  
14 Capital city of Piedmont  
15 Sigma preder  
16 System of beliefs  
17 Cash in Eurasia?  
19 Mars exploration vehicle  
20 Swede’s neighbor  
21 \_\_\_ Lingus  
22 Many a dance track  
23 DOJ arm  
24 Greetings from the bear’s den?  
27 Pass  
29 Not at all welcoming  
30 Friendly opening  
31 “\_\_\_ Meenie”: 2010 pop single  
32 Storybook bear  
34 Bone, in Italian  
35 Like an address bar?  
38 Jul. 4 shindigs  
41 From Los Angeles to San Bernardino  
42 Crew  
46 Driveway stuff  
47 Kilmer of “Real Genius”  
48 Concern for a software engineer  
49 Tunes for some pathetic Dickens characters?  
53 Tavern owner who stocks Duff beer  
54 Covers  
55 Allow  
56 Shellacking  
57 When repeated, “et cetera”  
58 Rude greeting, or an apt title for this puzzle?  
60 As good as it gets  
61 Not keep up  
62 Sonar sounds  
63 Where chickens come home to roost  
64 Bile  
65 Map feature

DOWN

- 1 Payment to a breeder

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By Zachary David Levy

9/6/24

Thursday’s Puzzle Solved

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G	R	E	G			P	E	N	I	N		G	E	N
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9/6/24

- 37 Out of this world  
38 AC meas.  
39 Spot for beer and video games  
40 Scannable squares  
43 Some Pacific Islanders  
44 Nemesis  
45 Exam for pupils  
47 Set taken by a doctor  
48 Feel sorry for  
50 Charged  
51 Of an arm nerve  
52 Tufted marsh plant  
56 Destroy  
57 Dark portion of a Chinese circle  
58 Arab name that means “high”  
59 Brand celebrating Hello Kitty’s 50th Mani-versary in 2024

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# ROUNDTABLE: BEST WAYS TO STREAM MUSIC



The Life Section thrives when reviewing good music. It’s our bread and butter. There’s really nothing better than throwing some headphones on and diving into a great song or album. But, in an increasingly stale or cluttered music market — depending on how you look at it — what are the best options to get some tunes? In this roundtable, Life writers make a case for solid options to find good music. Let’s tune in!

**by Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab**  
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Bandcamp: In the digital age of experiencing music, streaming services make the art form lucrative and incredibly consumerism-fueled by implementing “freemium” models where those who pay for the service get higher quality streams and uninterrupted listening, but those who don’t pay (like me) have to put up with ads. Bandcamp does away with ads and, instead, allows artists to have more control over how their art is experienced since they don’t have to worry so much about how stream-able or marketable it is. Take the band Godspeed You! Black Emperor, for example. The infamous post-rock group, especially in online music circles, put their formerly lost project “all lights fucked on the hairy amp drooling” only on Bandcamp for anyone to experience. If you like what you hear, you can buy the project (or the entire discography) for a set price or a price that you deem suitable depending on the artist. Some releases even allow you to download the music in a .zip file for free. Plus, the recommendations on Bandcamp are well-curated and are great for people who want to support underrated artists. There is a better sense of human intimacy with engaging with the art, both as the artist and as the listener, with Bandcamp as compared to other more capitalist streaming services. While it isn’t conventional or convenient by any means, I will always appreciate what Bandcamp has done for music artists, their circles and their fans, giving them more power and accessibility in expression.

**by Ben Lassy**  
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I may sound a bit out of date here, but YouTube — not YouTube Music, just the regular video platform — is the best way to stream music. Although this may be a shocker to many, I have my reasons, so hear me out. The main caveat to YouTube serving as a music platform is that it incessantly attempts to shoehorn you into downloading YouTube Music. That’s a big drawback; but, if you’re like me and like obscure or far-out 1960s and ’70s music, then YouTube is, without a doubt, the way to go. It’s on YouTube that I found “Dae Lims” (rumored to be a flip of “smile ad” — meaning “Smile” after death), a channel that produces AI-revamped mixes of niche tracks by the Beatles and Beach Boys. On that channel, with the approval of Van Dyke Parks (Brian Wilson’s co-writer for many brilliant songs by the Beach Boys), Dae Lims uploaded “Dae Lims Presents SMiLE AI.” For those unfamiliar with “SmiLE,” it was to be the Beach Boys’ successor to “Pet Sounds,” regarded by many to be the best album of all time. “SMiLE” was never finished, but with YouTube, AI and some studio-brilliance, it has been resurrected by fans. Other YouTube gems include the Beatles’ performance at the 1964 New Musical Express concert in the United Kingdom. This performance captures the group in their prime with a stellar set. The Rolling Stones, Dave Clark Five and other ‘60s groups also have live recordings which couldn’t be found for free elsewhere. YouTube has it all, especially if you’re into older music; but at the end of the day, it’s all about your preferences. So, listen whichever way you choose, there’s no wrong way to rock on.

**by James Fitzpatrick**  
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I use Spotify, but only out of tradition at this point. Apple Music offers a near-identical service that’s more compatible with iPhones than Spotify, yet these multi-billion-dollar companies can’t properly compensate their artists, the people who make their services thrive. They have constantly faced controversies that have compelled legends such as Neil Young and Joni Mitchell to take their own music off Spotify, though my main problem with it is separate from that. The user interface is continuously changing on mobile and desktop versions of the application to mask the slow performance and many recurring problems that have plagued the app for years. Granted, I have playlists that reach the maximum of 10,000 songs, hence why I tend to stick with Spotify (out of laziness), but the continual crashes and general laziness when working with playlists doesn’t depend on the quality of your computer and has been steady since I started using the app six years ago. Their online forum where users can suggest changes to be implemented by the developers with enough community recognition has worked in the past, but it seems like the most useful ideas are... ignored. At this point, it’s not surprising, so I’ve said it once and I’ll repeat it here: To truly support artists, use Bandcamp.

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This is a very niche response, but I’m going to go with ReListen. ReListen is a free — and legal — app that features live recordings of 208 artists, giving users thousands of concerts to choose from. The app is a haven for jam band fans, as these groups make up most of the artists here. Grateful Dead and Phish highlight the selections, with recordings available from every show, many of which are directly from the soundboard. Deadheads, like myself, especially love the app since there are also recordings by Dead and Company, Furthur, Joe Russo’s Almost Dead and other Dead-related projects. But there are also a ton of recordings available by other top jam bands like Tedeschi Trucks Band and Drive-By Truckers, in addition to lesser-known groups like Dopapod and Perpetual Groove. If you’re not into jam bands, this is a great place to get into the genre. But there are also plenty of other non-jam bands in here, including John Mayer, The Mountain Goats, Yes and 311. ReListen gives users a cornucopia of music that they can’t find on other platforms and is a great place to explore new artists.



# Song suggestions for the ultimate fall 2024 playlist

by **Dan Stark**  
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The calendar says that it’s technically still summer, but fall is in full swing here at the University of Connecticut, which means it’s time to start making fall playlists! Playlist making is an incredibly subjective process, especially during the fall season since there are many different vibes or themes that people curate their playlists season around. If you’re having trouble getting started, here are some song recommendations that will really make your fall playlist pop.

### Oasis — “Some Might Say”

Legendary Brit-pop band Oasis shocked the music world last week when they announced they will be reuniting for a 19-date tour of the United Kingdom. Whether Liam and Noel Gallagher stay on good terms long enough to complete the trek remains to be seen, but what can be guaranteed is that their music still holds up great. Though not as famous as tracks like “Wonderwall” and “Don’t Look Back in Anger,” the 1995 hit “Some Might Say” captures the band at their best, thanks to warm, sharp layers of guitar and a vintage vocal performance from Liam Gallagher. This is a perfect song for walking to class in the morning or otherwise starting your day.

### Taylor Swift — “Mine”

What will the Swifties have to say about this one? Originally released in 2010 as the lead single from “Speak Now,” which happens to be my favorite Taylor Swift album, “Mine” showcases Swift at her country-pop best. The arrangement is incredibly pleasing on the ears with its Nashville-influenced guitars and drums. Swift sings of the trials and tribulations of college love, highlighting the incredible highs and crushing lows that come with college relationships. It’s one of her best vocal performances, both her lead and harmonies. Oh, and of course, we’re using Taylor’s Version.

### Steve Lacy — “Bad Habit”

This one is a pure nostalgia pick, albeit a very recent memory. The album “Gemini Rights” was released one month before my freshman year at UConn started in 2022, so those songs were fresh in my mind as I began my college journey. Lead single “Bad Habit,” and the album as a whole, particularly reminds me of my first week of college, as some of my neighbors from down the hall would have this album playing constantly. Though others will probably pick deeper cuts from the album, “Bad Habit” is perfect for an evening walk or hanging out with friends.



Taylor Swift performing live on stage in a dazzling outfit. Swift’s discography has recently passes a total of 240 songs.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

### Incubus — “Dig”

There were so many Incubus songs that I could have picked for this list. Incubus is one of the most successful alternative rock groups of the 1990s and 2000s that made a name for themselves with melodic alt-rock hits like “Drive” and “Wish You Here Here.” Released in 2006, “Dig” features a soaring lead vocal from Brandon Boyd with inspiring lyrics about being there for each other despite our own individual weaknesses. This, combined with a smooth rhythm section and a bright lead guitar part, makes this song a go-to for uplifting you when everything seems to be coming down.

### Supertramp — “Sister Moonshine”

Most readers are probably thinking the same thing right now: who is Supertramp? The short answer is that they’re one of the most underrated rock bands of the 1970s. The band is most known for hits like “Give A Little Bit” and “The Logical Song,” as well as their keyboard-dominated art-rock sound. Among their best tunes is “Sister Moonshine” from their underrated 1975 album “Crisis? What Crisis?” This Roger Hodgson-penned song features a folk-rock sound with bright acoustic guitars, a stomping drum beat and even flute fills. It’s a great song for those rare, warm October days, as many folk-rock songs are. Bonus points if you listen to this with its counterpart song that opens the album “Easy Does It.”

### Sophie Ellis-Bextor — “Murder on the Dancefloor”

“Murder on the Dancefloor” roared back into the public lexicon this past year thanks to its inclusion in the 2023 film “Saltburn,” and for good reason. The song features an incredibly catchy chorus and a beat that can make even the most stoic person dance. This is my go-to song for whenever I’m coming home from a night out, as there’s something soothing about walking back to my dorm from across campus listening to that beautiful groove. It’s also a great song to sing and dance the night away with friends to, making it a must-add for any college playlist regardless of the season.



Sophie Ellis-Bextor dancing on stage during a live performance. Her song ‘Murder on the Dance Floor’ was one of the most streamed songs of 2024.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS





Life

@dailycampuslife

# Healthy Huskies: Understanding the signs of suicide



by **Abigail Bonilla**  
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As college starts back up, many students may begin to experience negative emotions as they become increasingly overwhelmed by the stress of university life. Balancing classes, a social life and extracurricular activities can be very difficult, and that stress can be exacerbated if you are trying to navigate campus as a new student. Sometimes the negative emotions we experience can become so intense that they morph into more serious struggles.

September is recognized as National Suicide Prevention Month. It is crucial to fully understand the warning signs of suicidal behavior and ideation as it could be lifesaving. According to the National Institutes of Health, about 12 percent of college students have experienced suicidal thoughts and ideation. There are many warning signs for suicide, and behavior may vary from person to person. However, there are some common signs and behaviors you can watch out for to prevent suicide.

Although there is no clear reason for why someone may commit suicide, there are some reliable indicators for when someone may try and take their own life. Most often, when someone begins to think about suicide, their behavior and language will noticeably change. They may discuss feelings of hopelessness and depression. Some individuals may experience severe mood swings, becoming angry or upset at a moment's notice. Sudden



**UConn's Storrs during twilight hour in Autumn. This is typically viewed as one of UConn's prettiest moments of day** PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN INSTAGRAM

outbursts of unusual behavior are also a common warning sign.

The person might start to draw away from things they usually enjoy, such as seeing friends or participating in extracurricular activities. An increase in alcohol and drug use is also a common symptom, often experienced in conjunction with others. If you notice a friend using substances in excess during the day, or frequently experiencing negative consequences due to their use, it is important to try and connect them with the right resources that can best help.

Negative coping skills such as self-injury or a change in eating habits are also signs that someone may be struggling quite severely. The person in question may display signs of reckless behavior, such as driving dangerously. A person considering suicide may also have a sudden urge to give belongings away or begin saying goodbyes to loved ones. A sudden

and unusual uptick in mood and outlook is also a prominent warning sign for suicide.

If you or a loved one are experiencing any of these symptoms, reaching out to the right resources for support is incredibly important. It may not seem like it, but help is always available. There is hope if you are struggling with suicide or suicidal thoughts.

For immediate crisis situations, call 988, the National Suicide Hotline, or get to the nearest emergency room. The University of Connecticut has also implemented easier access to resources available for students experiencing mental health struggles. Just scan the QR code on the back of your student ID card, and you will be connected to the resources available on campus for mental health crises. Alternatively, you can visit the Student Health and Wellness website, or their office on the Storrs campus.







# Opinion

## The Daily Campus

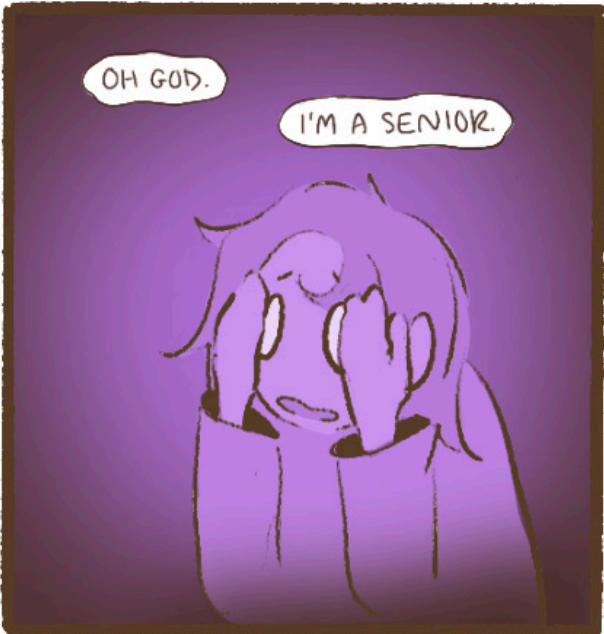
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COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Dear UConn, do not join a frat <3

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

At universities nationwide, the beginning of a new school year means a flurry of activity from student organizations hoping to recruit new students and replace the ranks of those who graduated the past spring. Greek life is especially famous for this, with the fated “rush week” wherein hopeful students will participate in different interviews, social events, brutal hazing and more to get into the fraternity they choose. The University of Connecticut is no different as right now the signs of this process can be seen subtly passing through campus. This includes the weird uptick in guys wearing suits to class, the large parties held with pledges singled out among the crowd and the many fraternity outreach tables at events like the involvement fair. This letter now goes out to all those who look at these signs of fraternity life at UConn and are considering beginning the arduous process that is pledging: know that you can do better and please don’t join a frat.

To start with a disclaimer, my argument is primarily systems-based. It attempts to analyze the structure of Greek life within university culture and advocate that taking part in that structure is inherently a bad thing. If systemic issues of rape culture, racism, homophobia, violence, narcissism and sexism don’t matter to you, then my argument means nothing. So, my argument is instead to people who look at all the problematic aspects of frats and yet still consider it anyway because maybe “their frat isn’t like that” or “I would never do those things.” Those that are at least questioning the groups they might be joining are the ones that

should read this article.

Now, there is no way to talk about the problems with Greek life without mentioning the extreme rape culture that is perpetrated by these organizations. Fraternities are predatory organizations, full stop. This isn’t a coincidence, but rather the product of a culture that promotes hyper-masculinity, narcissism and a group mentality that makes brothers more likely to accept sexual violence. One study from 2007 that followed incoming freshmen found no difference between the two groups of men before the school year, but those who chose to join fraternities ended up being three times more likely to sexually assault someone. This extreme importance of ideals like loyalty and secrecy surrounding frats also makes them more likely to help conceal known sexual abuse. The thing is that none of this is surprising. After all, these are the same places where gender ratios are put into place so that the brothers can have a ripe hunting ground of women to sleep with. All of this is very present at UConn, from gender ratios at parties to the sexual assaults at said parties, which stirred major protest during the 2022 school year.

There is also extremely violent hazing, which is typical of frat life nationwide and is very prevalent here at UConn. This past summer, Lambda Theta Phi, one of the top Latino Greek organizations on campus, was suspended after its president was arrested for allegedly choking and assaulting a pledge. This is far from the only instance in recent history as hazing has been a persistent problem with frats and sororities here. In general, the idea

of being bonded to your friends through shared struggle or circumstance is a fairly normal thing. Yet, when the same people are also the ones putting you through that physical violence, alcohol abuse and other unusual rituals in the name of bonding, that sounds more like a cult than a nice friend group. These dangerous practices are meant to forcefully attach students to the group itself. They are meant to shame and make people afraid of saying no, pushing them to their limit and, in many cases, killing them. The more that new recruits continue to accept and go through with these insane practices, the more normalized it gets. Whether or not they personally are the ones who will haze next year’s batch, the simple act of being affiliated shows that hazing is acceptable behavior.

This last point extends to much more than just hazing, but is ultimately the point as to why no one, even people that aren’t necessarily a fan of hazing or sexual assault, should be in a frat. All these issues, the full extent of which is impossible to fit in one article (after all I haven’t even mentioned the huge amounts of racism in frats), are products of a structure that is much larger than any school or student. An individual fraternity or member can make choices so as not to be as bad as others, but the problems with Greek life are at the core. The moment we choose to sign

ourselves onto this structure despite its horrible issues is when we decide that it still has a value that outweighs those things.

All of this is not to say that I think frat boys are inherently evil or violent people, nor do I hold the choice to affiliate against anyone personally. Fundamentally, the reason so many people want to join an organization like this is to avoid social isolation. There’s no shame in that desire. Yet, we have a moral responsibility to look at the cost of the decision to join. The cost in this case is the systemic harm caused by fraternities everywhere to young men and women. Here at UConn, it is very much possible to avoid being complicit in this harm while still finding community and friends that make the college experience so great. These frats are not all consuming. UConn can be so fun without them and for that reason, I truly do recommend for all those considering to not join a frat.



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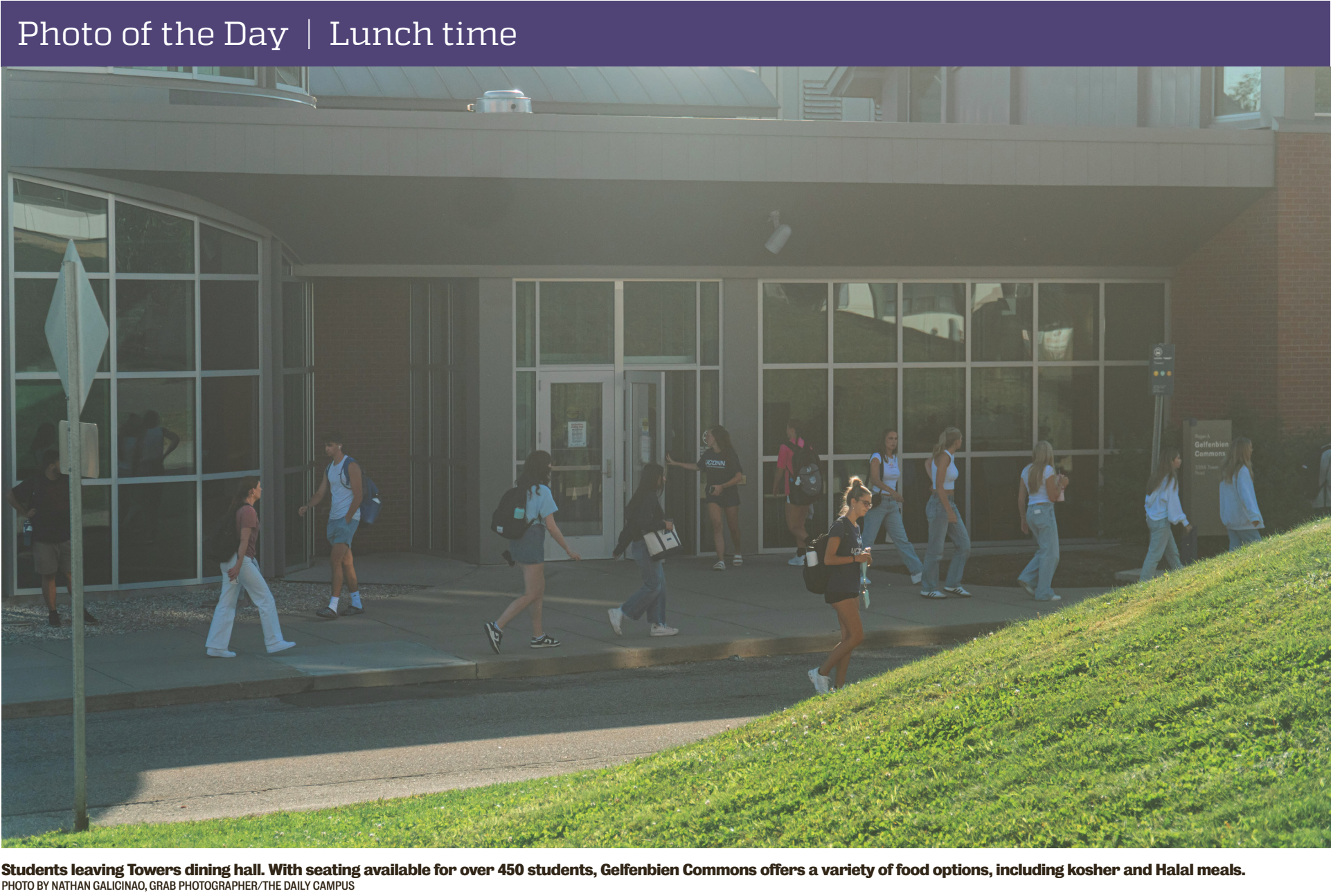
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COMIC BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS





Students leaving Towers dining hall. With seating available for over 450 students, Gelfenbien Commons offers a variety of food options, including kosher and Halal meals.

PHOTO BY NATHAN GALICINAO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# DEADPOOL 2 IS UNDERRATED

by Isaac Grad  
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With the recent release of the third Deadpool movie, “Deadpool & Wolverine”, many people are comparing this one with its two predecessors. While many argue that all three films are equally incredible, countless others argue that the second film, “Deadpool 2,” doesn’t stand up against the other two. I believe that all three films are different enough that in comparing, them you are doing them each an injustice because they each have different strengths and appeals.

The first “Deadpool” movie was unlike anything we had ever seen before. This film did a great job of introducing Deadpool and Wade Winston Wilson to the films (No, we aren’t counting “X-Men Origins: Wolverine.” Sorry, “Weapon XI”). Introducing Deadpool was a risky endeavor. He’s highly inappropriate and any true adaptation that he is involved in will inevitably be rated “R”. This fact deterred Fox from making a Deadpool movie at all. They attempted to circumvent this fear by adding Deadpool to the ensemble in “X-Men Origins,” but everyone who’s seen that knows that it was a mistake. Luckily, this mistake was mended thanks to Ryan Reynolds’ perse-

verance and care for this character in “Deadpool.” He pushed for the creation of an accurate and sincere adaptation of his favorite character, despite a lack of interest from Fox. Ultimately, when it was released in 2016, “Deadpool” was the highest-grossing film in the “X-Men” series, despite its R rating. This comic-accurate and sincere adaptation laid the groundwork and proof needed to make more of these films.

The third and most recent movie in the series, “Deadpool & Wolverine”, featured the beloved character, Wolverine. After “Logan” in 2017, fans thought they had seen the last of Hugh Jackman’s character. While all were devastated at the loss of such a great character, most were happy about the strong sendoff. When it was announced that Jackman would be making a return and bringing his character back to life, many were concerned that this would cheapen his death in “Logan.” While one can argue that occurred in this film, I would disagree.

Though Wolverine returned, it was a different Logan than the one that sacrificed his life. Deadpool used his classic fourth-wall breaks to mitigate this fear of degrading Logan’s heroic death. “Deadpool & Wolverine” managed to have interesting and relevant cameos, unlike the other Marvel movies that heavily leaned on their seemingly random cameos, that made sense in the story while also having a beautiful moment of re-branch the beloved characters who



IMAGE COURTESY OF @GREYLOCH ON FLICKR

had been tossed aside. While many people who aren’t avid Marvel fans most likely disliked this movie the most due to it being mostly fan service, many view it as the best of the trilogy. Though the plot was shaky at times, “Deadpool & Wolverine” was a truly fun summer blockbuster.

Finally, we need to address “Deadpool 2,” the most underrated movie in the series. I believe that the release time between these three films plays a big role in the reaction to each one. “Deadpool” was a huge hit because it was different from everything else at the time. “Deadpool 2” was just as strong as the first, with a heartwarming story, strong jokes and great new characters. The plot was strong and the character development worked well. However, sequels are almost always viewed as subpar to originals and people often go into them expecting them to be such. It had only been two years since the first movie came out, meaning the anticipation wasn’t

as built up as it was between “Deadpool 2” and “Deadpool & Wolverine.” Along with that, the marketing and budget of “Deadpool & Wolverine” was much higher than “Deadpool 2”. The excitement surrounding “Deadpool 2” was lacking. “Deadpool & Wolverine” came out after the series was transferred from Fox to Disney and “Deadpool” had the allure of leaked footage prior to the release date. “Deadpool 2” simply did not have the same circumstances to pull people in.

Overall, the three movies are great for different reasons. “Deadpool 2” has a strong plot and interesting characters driving it forward. It shows both heartfelt and serious moments, as well as noticeable character development. The first movie was a strong introduction to this character in the films, giving viewers a creative and hilarious history. The most recent release was fan service for all the “X-Men” fans who feared their characters were being forgotten and replaced. The plot was shaky and the development felt a bit forced, but the characters are all so beloved that it did not matter. Though the excitement around the third movie has fans claiming that it is the best in the series, “Deadpool 2” is overlooked and deserves to be recognized and rewatched.

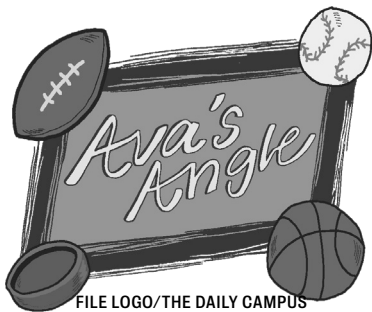
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COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS





# BUILDING FRANCISCO LINDOR'S CASE FOR NL MVP

**by Ava Inesta**  
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There is still an entire month left of the Major League Baseball season, but as the numbers stand, Shohei Ohtani and Francisco Lindor seem to be in a two-man race for this season's National League MVP.

There is no player in the NL who has been more valuable to their team than Lindor has been to the New York Mets. Lindor started off the season slow, but has thrived ever since the manager, Carlos Mendoza, moved him to the lead-off spot in the Mets' batting order. Lin-

dor's stat line is fantastic this season: he is slashing .274/.343/.501 with 30 home runs, 84 RBIs, 38 doubles, 26 steals and 98 runs scored. Lindor has also played in every game this season for the Mets while playing Gold Glove-caliber defense at his premier position at shortstop.

"I think he looks like the guy who runs out to shortstop every day for us at 7 o'clock," David Stearns, the Mets' president of baseball operations, said. "It's been an unbelievable season to watch. We're getting to the point I think where we're talking about perhaps the greatest individual position player season in the history of this franchise."

Stearns is no stranger to what an MVP's season should look like as he was the general manager of the Milwaukee Brewers in 2018 when Christian Yelich was awarded MVP honors. Stearns said that it is hard to measure the impact that Lindor has on the Mets' clubhouse, but it is a lot of what he brings to the table on an everyday basis.

"I've been around some really special seasons," Stearns explained. "I've been around some MVP seasons. This is right up there with everything that I've seen on a day-to-day basis."

Since May 21, Lindor has been first in the league in batting average (.314),

first in hits (121), first in extra-base hits (54) and tied for second with 23 home runs. At just 30-years-old, Lindor has hit 30 or more home runs in five different seasons. Only Alex Rodriguez, who has seven, has done that more times as a shortstop.

As for Ohtani, he is having a monster offensive season. In 135 games this season, Ohtani has slashed .290/.375/.613 with 44 home runs, 99 RBI and 46 stolen bases. Ohtani has a legitimate chance to become the first player in MLB history to have a 50/50 season. But one thing that clouds Ohtani's case for MVP is that he has not pitched this season, which was a big factor that added to his MVP case in years past. Ohtani won't pitch until 2025 after recovering from elbow surgery last September, so he has been strictly a designated hitter for the Los Angeles Dodgers this season, focusing on just one side of the game.

As the Mets are playing their best baseball, Lindor is playing his best as well. Ohtani has been nothing short of incredible in his first season with the Dodgers and there is nothing to diminish that. However, in the end, Ohtani has only played DH this season while Lindor is a daily shortstop on a team that has had 23 games over .500 since they hit rock bottom against the Dodgers on May 29. Both Ohtani and Lindor are game changers and have impacted their teams like no other this season.

Being a leader comes naturally for

Lindor and he brings a presence that cannot be taught. Lindor is the switch-hitting, every single day type of guy, who is one of, if not the most complete player, the New York Mets have ever had.

"It's so clear that this is home now," Mendoza said. "New York is home, and all he has to do is concentrate on being the best version of himself -- at the plate, and playing an elite shortstop for the New York Mets -- and being the leader of this team. That's something I've never asked him to do, by the way. It just comes naturally to him, that kind of presence. And his teammates feed off it, I can tell you that."

Mendoza continued, saying, "I know there are a lot of great players doing a lot of great things for their teams this season. But what this man has done for this franchise is off the charts, and that means both on and off the field. When a special player is also a special person, in terms of his commitment and dedication, that is a pretty awesome combination."

Citi Field gets loud, and it will only get louder through September as the "MVP" chants for Lindor continue, and for good reason.



PHOTO COURTESY OF @LINDOR12BC ON INSTAGRAM

## FOOTBALL: HUSKIES LOOK TO BOUNCE BACK AT HOME AGAINST MERRIMACK

**by Connor Sargeant**  
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The UConn football team is coming off of an unideal 50-7 loss on the road at Maryland, but despite this, the program has much to look forward to. This Saturday will mark the first day of Connecticut football at Pratt & Whitney Stadium this season. The Huskies will host the Merrimack Warriors, — a game in which Connecticut is projected to win by 15 points.

Of course, the biggest question on fans' minds is Nick Evers' status. Whether the signal caller takes the field or not is slated to be a game-time decision. Evers was a limited participant for practice all week long after enduring a big hit last Saturday. If Evers does not start, the team will opt for Joe Fagnano, who performed as well as could be expected in a blowout, throwing for

nearly 150 yards and a touchdown.

Skyler Bell is a player who Husky fans will want to keep an eye on heading into this one. The junior wide receiver tore it up last weekend, finishing with 141 yards on five receptions. It will be interesting to see Bell's long-term role on this team. Despite being in his third season, he spent the past two years with the Wisconsin Badgers. Bell has the potential to be the No. 1 option in this system. He and the rest of the offense have a real chance of lighting up the scoreboard this weekend, as the Merrimack defense surrendered nearly 12 yards per catch last week at Army.

Merrimack lost the previously mentioned road showdown 21-6 to Army. In this game, the Midshipmen did an excellent job limiting the Warriors passing attack. Army conceded only 103 yards through the air and one touchdown. However, Merrimack did find some success in the ground game. Senior running back Jermaine Corbett is a player the Huskies will want to watch some film

on for this weekend. The New Jersey native had a solid first game, gaining nearly 60 yards on eight carries. While this may not be the most eye-popping stat, this averages out to over seven yards per carry, beyond efficient. Corbett can also break off a run for serious yardage, as he did against Army, gaining 33 yards on a carry. Connecticut will certainly need to improve their run defense from last week to stop Corbett, and there is no reason to believe this team cannot. Despite the big runs they conceded last week, Maryland is a powerhouse program, and there were moments when the run defense got home and stuffed runners.

Speaking of running backs, UConn will be looking for a big game from Cam Edwards. The Norwalk, Conn. native did not exactly perform poorly against the Terrapins; in fact, he had one of the more solid performances for the program. Despite only seeing five carries, Edwards accumulated 32 yards on the ground, including breaking one off for 16 yards. Look for the sopho-

more to run rampant in front of the Connecticut home crowds. Teammate Victor Rosa also looks to cause some chaos on the ground. For the past two seasons, the Bristol, Conn. native has played crucial roles for the program. Rosa has run for over 1000 yards and 12 touchdowns in his career with the Huskies and owns a lifetime average of nearly five yards per carry. For a program like Merrimack, which surrendered 166 yards on the ground, look for these two to have a busy day.

Last week was not an easy game for UConn fans to endure. However, it was only week one. The season is far from over, and the Huskies are a resilient team and have a realistic chance at pulling off their first win of the season.

The Huskies will kick off their first home game at noon this Saturday.



PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Photo of the Day |



Uconn Women's Volleyball team spikes a ball over the net in a match. The Huskies have had a good start to their season as they go on to their next tournament. PHOTO BY NATHAN GALICINAO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Volleyball:

## UConn looks to continue positive momentum as they take the road for weekend tournament

by **Julia Sasso**  
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After a dominant showing last weekend against LIU, Youngstown State and Sacred Heart, the UConn women's volleyball team is looking to keep the momentum going. This weekend, they will travel to Hamilton, N.Y. to face Colgate University, Stony Brook University and the University of Buffalo.

On Friday, the Huskies will face Colgate University at 7 p.m. This will only be the second time these teams have faced one another, and the first time in six years that they will go head-to-head. The last time the two matched up was in August 2016, when UConn emerged victorious 3-1. The Raiders started the season on a difficult note, losing all

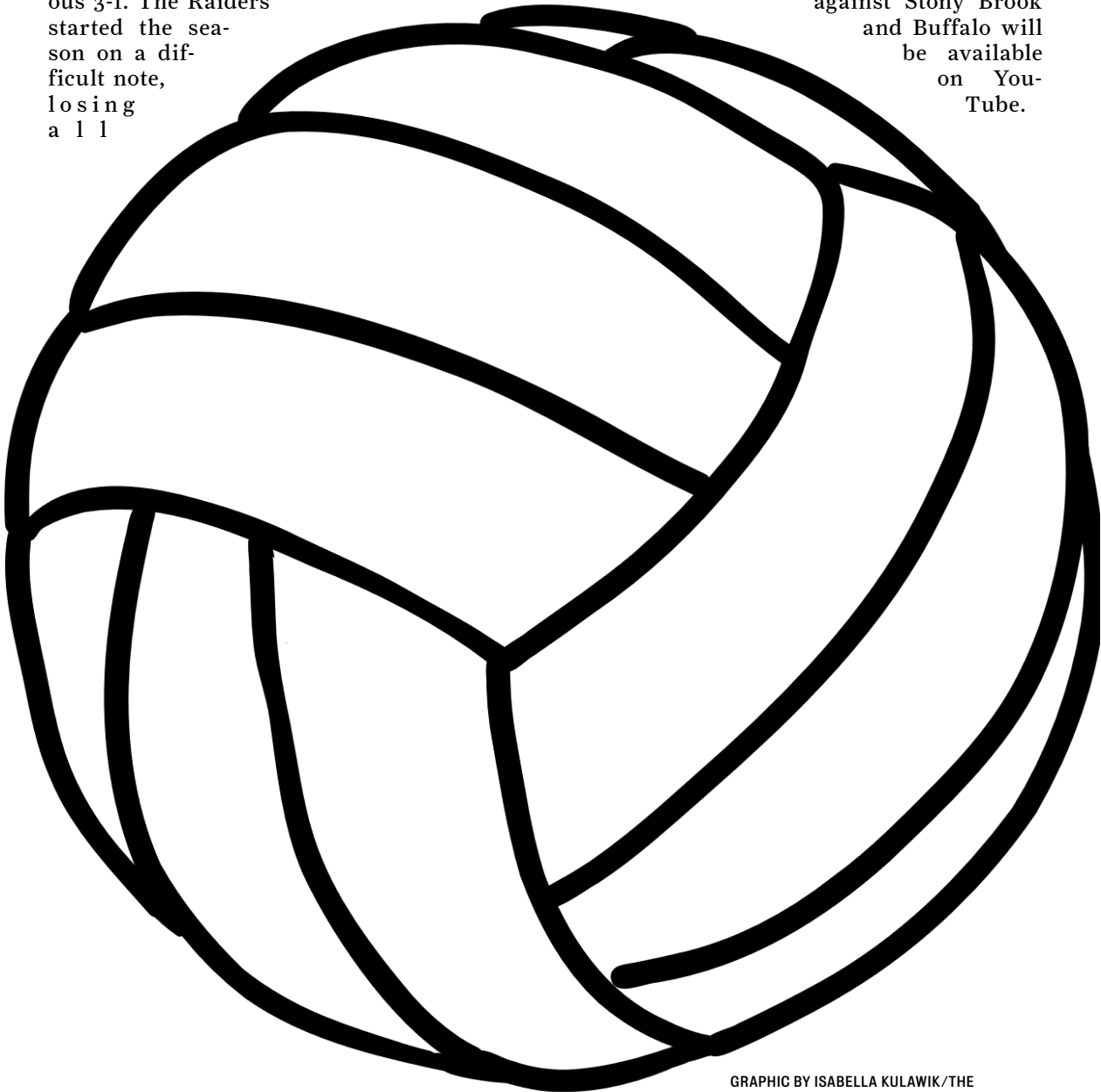
three of last weekend's games, two of which were lost 0-3. They will be looking to come back, change the direction of their season and make up for the lost games.

Next up, UConn will face the Stony Brook Seawolves on Saturday, Sept. 7 at 2 p.m. Much like the Huskies, the Seawolves are also coming off a winning weekend. The Seawolves won all three of their games last weekend 3-2. This will be the first time that the Huskies will face the Seawolves, who will also be looking to continue their winning streak during this weekend's tournament.

Lastly, on Sunday, Sept. 8 at noon, the team will go against the University of Buffalo. The Bulls

came into the season with a strong opening performance, winning their first four games. However, they lost some momentum and fell to Pittsburgh by 0-3 on Tuesday, Sept. 3. This will be the second time in history that these teams face each other. The last time being in 2021, when the Huskies fell 2-3. UConn will be looking to make up for that loss this weekend and maintain this season's winning streak, whereas the Bulls will be looking to correct the mistakes that lead to their loss in Pittsburgh this past Tuesday.

All three games will take place in Hamilton, N.Y. The Colgate game will be available for streaming through ESPN+ or Patriot League TV. The other two games against Stony Brook and Buffalo will be available on YouTube.



GRAPHIC BY ISABELLA KULAWIK/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# Field Hockey:

## HUSKIES LOOK TO CONTINUE HOT START

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The UConn field hockey team is coming off of the first week of the season red hot. After defeating New Hampshire 6-2 and upsetting No. 13 Saint Joseph's 5-4 in overtime, the Huskies start their 2024 campaign 2-0. The Huskies find themselves with another challenging weekend ahead of them, starting Friday, when they'll be hosting Cornell. Though Connecticut has already played two games, Cornell will be playing their first match of the season against the Huskies. Cornell will also be challenged throughout the course

of the season. On Sunday, they will play UAlbany, ranked No. 20 in the Division One National Coaches Poll. Then, they will face off against No. 7 Louisville and No. 1 Northwestern the following week. The expectations are high for Cornell this season, as they finished last year with a 12-5 record. On Sunday, the Huskies will face off against No. 9 Rutgers at the Bauer Track and Field Complex in Piscataway, N.J. The Scarlet Knights are coming off of an incredible 16-4 season where they traveled to Storrs and won 2-1 in a penalty shootout. Rutgers then lost in the semifinals of the Big Ten tournament to Maryland before falling to Harvard in the

first round of the national tournament. Rutgers opened their season last weekend against Vermont, shutting the Catamounts out 5-0. After a difficult season last year, full of close losses and only tallying five wins, the Huskies have the opportunity to put themselves back into the national contenders conversation. With two wins this weekend, Connecticut would have two ranked wins, Rutgers and Saint Joseph's, on their resume and most likely will find themselves in the top 20 nationally. A season ago, the Huskies fell to both Cornell and Rutgers by a score of 2-1. They come into this weekend looking to avenge their losses and improve to 4-0 on the season.

The UConn Women's Field Hockey Team versus #13 ranked St. Josephs on August 30, 2024. The Huskies took an early 1-0 lead and secured the win with a final score of 5-4. PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Men's Soccer:

## HUSKIES LOOK FOR FIRST ROAD WIN AS THEY FACE CCSU

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The first Friday of September will bring an in-state battle on the turf between the UConn men's soccer team (2-0-1) and Central Connecticut State University (0-3). The Huskies are coming off of a three-game stretch at home where they beat Stonehill College and New Jersey Institute of Technology. In their most recent game, they had a scoreless tie with Long Island University. The Blue Devils have yet to find a game in the win column, losing to the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, Bryant University and Canisius University this season. According to uconnhuskies.com, the two programs have met once before to tonight's meeting. Connecticut took down Central Connecticut State at Morrone Stadium last season by a score of 3-1. So far, midfielder Sabri

Hanni has led the way for the Huskies regarding total points. The Paris, France native has started in all three games this season and has scored twice while lending his hand on another goal for a total of five points. He's tied for the team's lead in goals with two alongside junior midfielder Marco Valentinc. Last week was superb for goalkeeper Max Kerkvliet. The redshirt freshman registered eight saves in the two games last week, only giving up a goal on a penalty kick. Overall, the Houston, Texas native has 11 saves and a .917 save percentage so far this season. Central Connecticut State was picked to finish eighth out of nine members in the Northeast Conference, according to the league's pre-season poll released on Aug. 7. While the Blue Devils have not scored yet this season, it's important to mention their most aggressive players on offense. The players with the

most shots attempted so far are forwards Parker Bowman and Anthony Catanzaro and midfielder Austin Rocke. The three players each have two shots attempted. It's unknown who will be in the net for Central Connecticut State, as both Michel Pinoncely and Mick Sipples have split time in the net. Sipples has spent the most time as goalkeeper, with a goals-against average of 2.50 and a .643 save percentage. On the other hand, Pinoncely has a goals-against average of 2.00 and a save percentage of .600. Following this game, the Huskies will return to Storrs to host Siena College on Monday. The Blue Devils will travel within the Nutmeg State to face Quinnipiac University on Tuesday. Tonight's game will begin at 7 p.m. at the CCSU Soccer and Track & Field Stadium in New Britain, Conn. The game can be found live on NEC Front Row.

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





# Sports

## THE JACOBY BRISSETT VS. DRAKE MAYE DEBATE

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2024 third-overall pick Drake Maye was better than Jacoby Brissett in the 2024 preseason. Maye's completion percentage was almost double what Brissett's was, even with a yards per attempt that was three yards higher than Brissett's. Still, Brissett, who spent all last season as the backup in Washington, will start as quarterback for the New England Patriots against the Cincinnati Bengals in week one. While it may seem odd that New England wouldn't choose the superior player, one must consider their current offensive lineup. Their offensive line is currently in shambles as center David Andrews is the only starter who isn't a rookie or playing out of position. They've already shown their incapability after Brissett left the third preseason game with a shoulder injury. The receivers aren't much better, as the most proven player is former Vikings' third option K.J. Osborn. While Hunter Henry returns and Demario Douglas tries to build on the promise he showed toward the end of last season, New England's offense is barren.

In a season that will almost certainly end with a losing record regardless of who is under center, why rush Maye when his development and health could be put into jeopardy?

At least one of two key assets are needed if a young QB is to succeed right away. One is a bonafide number one wide receiver choice, such as the option Jayden Daniels has in Terry McLaurin. The other is a solid and cohesive offensive line, such as the one Bo Nix will be playing behind in Denver. New England lacks both. A recent example of someone who lacked both is the 2023 top selection, Bryce Young. Carolina traded up with Chicago and surrendered star receiver D.J. Moore, their 2023 and 2024 first rounders and a pair of second rounders. This left

33-year-old Adam Thielen as Young's number one option. Young was also passing behind a line comprised of mostly inexperienced players. It was headlined by former sixth-pick Ikem Ekwonu, who has now allowed 25 sacks in two years in the league. Young was largely un-

derwhelming in his first season, but the Panthers had somewhat set him up for failure.

The Bears, on their end of the trade, now demonstrate a rare exception. They capitalized on the extra draft capital received from Carolina by selecting offensive tackle Darnell Wright tenth overall in 2023 to pair with former second-rounder Teven Jenkins. In addition to acquiring Moore, Chicago traded for Keenan Allen and drafted Rome Odunze with their own first rounder, forming a probable top five unit in the league. They then selected Caleb Williams with their 2024 first rounder from the Panthers, which turned out to be first overall pick thanks to Carolina's struggles behind Young. Williams will start week one, but he will have the weapons and protection it takes to potentially see production as

a rookie. However, because they are coming off a 7-10 record and their defense lags slightly behind, the Bears aren't necessarily positioned as contenders. This is the one ideal scenario where a rookie QB may completely thrive: a situation where they have adequate offensive weapons but also no pressure of a playoff race on top of the pressure to succeed as a first rounder.

At the end of the day, a rookie QB's successful transition to the NFL has arguably as much to do with the situation they are drafted into as it does with their own individual skill. When we look at the Patriots' situation, we see a team with an injured and unproven line, even more unproven options at receiver and a veteran QB who has handled these situations before. By choosing Brissett in the short term, all the Patriots concede is that they don't plan on contending this season and want to protect their investment. There is no question that Maye is the future of the Patriots offense. Even with no pressure to make the playoffs, taking it slow and looking towards that future by letting him develop will benefit them in the long term when they are ready to return to contention.



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FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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Big news came out of the Patriots' camp last week: head coach Jerod Mayo named Jacoby Brissett the starting quarterback for New England, despite drafting Drake Maye with the No. 3 pick in this year's draft. While there is a solid chance that Maye will come in midseason to fill in some games, that is not enough. Mayo should have named Maye the starter from day one, and here's why.

While New England's uni-deal offensive line is a significant concern for throwing Maye out there to possibly struggle, the reality is that he needs game experience, and it can take years to obtain solid blockers. It's a given that this is a rebuilding year for New England, meaning that this is the perfect opportunity for Maye to go through a learning year. However, being dormant on the sidelines does him no good. He needs to be able to read NFL defensive lines and coverages, not to mention dealing with pressure situations of the crowd and playing in front of a large audience. While practice is

great for Maye, the in-game experience is invaluable, and if New England wishes to be successful in the near future, getting Maye out there now will prove beneficial.

Not to mention, all preseason long, Maye has been the better quarterback, which is why this debate is even coming up. The original plan was to take the Jordan Love route, maybe not that extreme, but it was to have him sit for an undisclosed period. However, his play has forced this issue. He's not just performing at a high level during team practices. Consider his second preseason game against the Eagles. Yes, it was the preseason, but Maye looked solid. He was making throws and setting his

team up nicely, leading two scoring drives, including running one in himself, which brings up my next point: Maye's ability to scramble.

The reality is that this Patriots offensive line will not be good for a

few years, but that's no reason why Maye should sit on the bench. The quarterback position has radically changed from what it was just a few years ago, and as a result, Maye's ability to scramble and avoid taking major shots will improve his ability to stay healthy. Not to mention, he could make an immediate impact like rookie signal caller C.J. Stroud did last season. Maye, along with Stroud, both open up the playbook by being able to tuck it and run. However, something to consider is that with Maye on the field, you can call QB option plays with him, meaning that if a designed run up the middle with Rhamondre Stevenson goes nowhere, Maye can take it to the outside for a nice gain, while avoiding the big hit. New England does not have this luxury with Brissett, as the 31-year-

old is nowhere near as mobile, and it's simply just not his game. If he does scramble, he will be much more inefficient when sliding, meaning Brissett would be inadvertently surrendering two yards each time at a minimum. Not to mention, Maye doesn't even need to scramble for a rushing gain. He can move how he wants in the pocket, either moving up or completely to the side and find receivers in broken plays, which, again, Brissett cannot do.

Maye is already better than Brissett in one important facet: the ability to throw it deep. Not only did we see this with UNC, but even in training camp and the few preseason reps he did get, Maye wasn't afraid to let the football fly, converting at a high percentage in areas where his teammate didn't have the consistent arm strength to do. For a team like the Patriots that was last in the league last season in explosive plays, this could be a nice change of pass to the offensive and give the team much flexibility when it comes to their offensive scheme.



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