

The Daily Campus



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PARKING SERVICES INCREASES CITATION RATES



UConn Parking Services vehicle parked outside of the Parking Services building. UConn Parking Services handles all things relating to student parking.
PHOTO BY @UCONN ON INSTAGRAM

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University of Connecticut Parking Services increased parking citations by up to \$20 after accumulating \$6 million in parking permits and parking citations during the 2023-2024 school year to fund the department.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the volume of tickets was much less, according to UConn Parking Services Director Andy Kelly. Kelly theorized this is a result of an increase in students who didn't want to buy a parking permit and would rather take their chances getting a parking citation. This has caused Parking Services to increase the fines for each parking ticket during the current school year. Citation rates are approved by Kelly's boss, Stan Nolan, Interim Associate Vice President for Facilities Operations.

"Feedback that we got and what we saw operationally was that the citation rates, the fines, weren't high enough to dissuade the behavior. So, we saw that from behavior. We heard that consistently from folks across campus. So, we did some fairly significant increases in fines. The biggest target for us is no UConn permit, because those are the folks that are just rolling the dice. So, in order to dissuade that behavior, we increased that fine [to] \$50," said Kelly.

Increased fines this year include lot parking, which increased by \$20, according to Kelly. The original fine was \$30, and the current fine is

\$50. The parking garage fine was only increased by \$10, now being \$40 in comparison to the prior \$30 citation rate. Kelly said this is because garages are open to the public through meter use. Parking in a designated Americans with Disabilities Act spot, which is marked by a blue handicap sign, is capped at a \$150 fine.

The \$6 million used to fund parking services is the result of 8,020 permits bought by students, 7,307 permits purchased by staff during the 2023-2024 school year and 44,885 parking citations issued by Parking Services employees according to UConn Parking Services records. According to Kelly, the department is a self-funded organization, which accumulates their budget through permit revenue and citation revenue.

The revenue generated from parking permits funds the upkeep of lots and garages. According to Kelly, Parking Services has spent about \$6 million on the upkeep of the UConn parking garages over the past three summers. These garages include North Garage and South Garage. Permit revenue also goes toward the Parking Services staff, which is quite small according to Kelly. The department includes Kelly, two other state employees and student staff.

Kelly mentioned that garages will undergo limited maintenance this summer, which is expected to be the final

summer for this upkeep. A great deal of money also goes toward updating signage and striping parking spots. The I lot, Y lot, N lot and F lot had renovated signage recently according to Kelly.

Cleaning the garages is another task of upkeep for Parking Services. For cleaning, they use a vendor, LAZ Parking. LAZ Parking is a parking management company. LAZ puts up signage, cleans the garage (including power washing each garage) and restripes the garages. Additional expenses from LAZ go through other departments, according to Kelly. For example, when they are working athletic events, UConn Athletics is responsible for financial compensation.

Parking tickets go toward a variety of different expenses. Parking Services accumulated \$760,895 from student tickets and \$372,485 from non-student tickets during the 2023-2024 school year, according to UConn Parking Services records. Student citations are determined based on vehicles registered in the parking services system. If a vehicle isn't registered, they will reach out to the state DMV to try to connect it to a student.

The money attained through student tickets goes toward people and systems that help Parking Services operate, according to Kelly. Since Parking Services has grown over the years, they have added more systems, therefore increas-

ing the costs of running the department. The individuals who are on campus administering tickets are employed by LAZ Parking. The vehicles that are used to administer citations are paid for by UConn Parking Services as well. The individuals employed by LAZ Parking are paid an hourly rate through a contract dictated by LAZ, which uses money from UConn Parking Services. Kelly said that vehicles are often utilized until they fail, and the only vehicles that Parking Services will be utilizing in the future are electric vehicles.

"Usually, we run them into the ground, so they're not really worth anything," said Kelly.

Anything that is left over in the student citation revenue after utilizing money for the department goes to UConn's general scholarship fund. Last year the amount of money given to the fund was about half a million dollars, according to UConn Parking Services manager Martha Funderburk.

According to UConn Parking Services records, there were 44,885 citations issued, 6,778 citations submitted for appeal during the 2023-2024 school year and 3,174 citations accepted for appeal. The appeal committee resides outside of Parking Services jurisdiction, meaning Parking Services is not involved in handling appeals. The committee consists of UConn employees, whose identities are confidential.

Non-student parking ticket revenue is up to Parking Services themselves. They often use this money to reinvest in Parking Services, according to Kelly. Last year, leftover revenue was reinvested in different parking lots. Refurbishing equipment and upgrades also come out of this revenue.

"Our number one mission is just to make sure that people that pay for parking can park where they paid to park. We're not a fundraising scheme," said Kelly, "If people were all following the rules and we weren't finding people breaking the rules we would reduce the money we spend on enforcement immediately, because again we're not a money-making machine, we're out to make sure people can park where they pay to park."

Supply and demand are important factors when considering the costs of parking permits, according to Kelly. For example, the garages are in high demand, so they cost much more than regular commuter parking, which is less appealing, according to Kelly.

Kelly said they are not trying to take in more money than the department requires, but they try to figure out how much they need and how much it costs to maintain the lots and garages. RS Means, a global database system which allows departments to analyze the amount of costs, is used to help determine the amount of money Parking Services needs to maintain the department.

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By Zhouqin Burnikel

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The Daily Campus

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UConn Women's Center Celebrates Its 52nd Birthday



Lobby of the University of Connecticut's Women's Center. The office is located on the fourth floor of the Student Union.
FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Chloe Grodin**
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This Friday, the long-standing Women's Center at the University of Connecticut invited members and students to celebrate its 52nd birthday on the fourth floor of the Student Union. From 12 to 2 p.m., the center was open to anyone who wanted to stop by and grab drinks and cupcakes, play games or learn more about the Women's Center and the services that they provide.

The Women's Center has been upholding a dedication to women's safety and comfort on campus since 1972, but began organizing in the 1960s amidst the civil rights movement. They initially started as the Free Women's Collective and

worked for many years to establish a physical space on campus for members to meet. Elizabeth Roper eventually was able to provide a temporary space in the Bishop Center. Later, strong activism efforts allowed for several collectives to be formed, including the Black Women's Collective, Child Care Collective, Counseling Collective, Lesbian Collective, Library Collective and Writers' Collective.

According to their website, the Women's Center is dedicated to promoting an "anti-racist feminist perspective which includes an analysis of the intersectionality between various forms of oppression." They define feminism as "the belief that all women have the right to control their bodies and

destinies; the right to have a life free of violence and abuse; the right to equal protection under the law; including equal access to education, employment, and power." This was strongly reflected in their celebration on Friday, as they openly welcomed all different types of students who were interested in learning more about the center. They created a calm and peaceful atmosphere, promoting a strong sense of welcomeness to anyone who wanted to visit.

I got the chance to speak with a member of the Women's Center's Violence Against Women Protection Program, or VAWPP, which is one of their many services and programs dedicated to addressing and preventing all forms of sexual

violence through education, outreach and advocacy. "As soon as they came into my classroom and did their presentation, I was like, that's what I want to do. I knew I wanted to help improve the UConn community through consent and sexual assault education" said Izabella Neiger, a third-semester psychology and English double major.

"I love the people, I love the space, I love the programs we have, I love all our events and how welcoming it is, I love everything about the Women's Center," Neiger added. It was clear from speaking with her that the Women's Center is a place where anyone can go and be met with endless support and kindness by the people who work and operate there.

Some of the other services I learned about included Between Women, a discussion group for queer or questioning women. Participants discuss fun topics, movies and more to find a sense of security with women who share similar experiences. In-Power is another, described as a support group welcoming victim-survivors of sexual assault or intimate partner violence to speak about their healing process. These groups are just two of many more services offered by the Women's Center.

For more information about UConn's Women's Center, visit womenscenter.uconn.edu, or visit the Women's Center on the fourth floor of the Student Union.

UConn Hosts Two Former Congressmen to Talk About Civic Engagement.



The Dodd Center for Human Rights hosted former Congress members Loretta Sanchez and Fred Upton for a talk at the Konover Auditorium on Thursday, Sept. 26. IMAGE COURTESY OF @UCONNHRH ON INSTAGRAM

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The Dodd Center for Human Rights hosted former Congress members Loretta Sanchez and Fred Upton, along with their moderator, Amber Diaz (UConn Class of 2011), for a talk at the Konover Auditorium about bipartisanship and fostering civic and democratic engagement on Thursday, Sept. 26.

The event started with words from the director of the Dodd Human Rights Impact programs, James Waller, and some words from University of Connecticut President Radenka Maric. Waller first introduced Maric to the stage, where she talked about the importance of democracy and civic engagement while providing a small introduction to the congress members and moderator present.

Waller then came back to add more about the importance of democracy and to introduce the two panelists and their moderator. The moderator, Amber Diaz, is an NBC Connecticut anchor and reporter who graduated from the UConn College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 2011. Sanchez was a Democrat representing the state of California in the House of Representatives from 1997 to 2017. While serving in the House, Sanchez was on

committees concerning international policy, counterterrorism and nuclear proliferation. Upton was a Republican representing Michigan in the House of Representatives from 1987 to 2023. He was the Chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee during the Obama administration.

Diaz asked both Congress members what the saying "meet people where they are at," means to them. For Sanchez, she talks about meeting people "at the kitchen table," dealing with day-to-day issues that most Americans have. Upton talked about how voters want their politicians to get the job done, supporting his argument with the fact that Ronald Reagan managed to get bills passed through a Democratic congress, leading to him winning 49/50 states in reelection. He also talks about how some issues — such as defense and energy — have bipartisan backing, meaning both parties find themselves more willing to work with each other on such issues.

Next, Diaz asked what civic engagement meant to both former Congress members. For Sanchez, civic engagement is about giving a voice to underrepresented groups in her district; she talked about how the district she used to represent, Orange County, is a place described by Reagan as "where rich Republicans go to die" and would always send six white male Republican male House of Repre-

sentatives members. When Sanchez ran for office, she painted herself as a change-maker and promoted Latina and female representation within Orange County politics. Upton described civic engagement as being able to support your beliefs and not succumbing to popular opinion or party lines. He talked about how he had no problem opposing his Republican party and voting for Democratic proposals while in the House of Representatives.

Diaz next talked about the political divide present throughout the country and what steps could be taken to close it. Upton advised being respectful towards others, much like he did with opposition during his time in Congress, never resorting to name-calling and such. He also called on the audience to help bridge the political divide. Sanchez talked about finding common ground with someone who may have opposing views on certain issues. For example, years ago Sanchez and a congressman from Colorado got on TV to talk about a bill that would put money in colleges nationwide to train more nurses, as there was a nursing shortage in California. Even though this representative from Colorado was strongly anti-immigrant — opposed to Sanchez's background as a migrant — they were both able to agree that there was a nursing shortage that needed to be filled.

Diaz referenced polls that suggest that confidence in public institutions is at an all-time low and asked both panelists what could be done to reinvigorate it. Sanchez believes that voters should select leaders who will fortify and believe in these public institutions, not someone like Donald Trump who tried to rip it up from the ground underneath. She also defended the right of due process, stating that an American's right to a day in court with a fair, impartial jury is important.

Upton talked about how the upcoming November election will end up in a divided Congress, how huge issues like immigration need to be dealt with, and

the emergence of a far left and far right within Congress. He states that an overhaul of the U.S. election systems could help mitigate some of these problems in Congress. He highlights California's jungle primary system, which made Sanchez and Kamala Harris — two Democratic candidates — candidates for a senate seat back in 2016. He also highlights how in his congressional district, primaries were held in August right as the school year started, so barely 15% of his constituents turned out to vote for their representative, meaning Upton needed only 8% of his constituents votes to become a congressman.

A Q&A session came after 45 minutes of questions by Diaz. One member of the audience, a former Orange County resident, asked the panelists for any advice on how to communicate disagreements. Sanchez believed in Nancy Pelosi's advice to always keep the smile in your voice, as nasty people won't know how to react. Upton highlighted the importance of always being available for his constituents and for his opponents, always agreeing to debate whenever and wherever possible. He also highlighted the importance of being an educated voter and common-sense legislation, so people understand what you are trying to do.

Another audience member referenced George Washington's farewell address, warning against a two-party system. She asked the panelists if she thought the two-party system led to the political polarization we have today. Both panelists argued against this. Sanchez said that parties have less control in a multi-party system than in a two-party system. She also argued that the importance of the two-party system in US politics is that extremists didn't raise the ranks too prolifically in a political party, as they would have to conform to party politics before running for important offices.

This has changed in recent years with the rise of social media, as being extravagant can now help you win public office. Upton agreed with this last point as well, saying how the Republicans don't want

Marjorie Taylor Greene to state her opinions, but because she brings in donations, they put up with it (campaign fundraising in general is also a problem). He also highlighted how in a parliamentary system like Germany's Bundestag, party members have no independence on how to vote, rather conforming to party lines to keep their jobs. Upton doesn't like this system and likes that he has the independence to vote against the Republican grain.

When asking Astra Finch, a fifth-semester computer science major, about what she thought of the event, she described about how there is a "disconnect between us and them, to be frank ... they keep saying get involved, but a lot of us don't know how, why, when or what the resources are for that."

When asked if the talk could invigorate her to be more active in politics, she told me she was a part of CT Voters First, an organization trying to make local elections and primaries follow ranked choice voting, and that it is nice to know that "there are some people who support the idea of young people getting into politics."

For their final remarks, Sanchez noted the importance of doing your own research to educate yourself for this upcoming election, along with a call for the people in the audience to get active in politics by working as staff for politicians and to vote in this upcoming election in November to instigate the change they want to see. In response, Upton replied "ditto."

Correction: This article was updated on Sept. 25 to attribute claims of antisemitic imagery to the administration's letter and to remove an unsubstantiated claim.

Update: This article was updated on Sept. 25 to remove a sentence suggesting UConn Divest had connections to registered student organizations. UConn Divest is not an RSO at UConn.

SOPHIE

deserves better

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab**
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SOPHIE is an artist that needs no introduction. You have to listen to her music for yourself. Some think her music is ear-grating and annoying. Others find it fun and beautiful to listen to. But either way, most agree that SOPHIE's music is avant-garde and innovative in her eclectic electronic-based production style. The music community lost an amazing and generational talent too soon. If you listen to any modern music, there is a high chance SOPHIE influenced its creation in some aspect.

With all due respect, SOPHIE's legacy is extensive, despite her relatively short musical career, and it deserves all the love and care it can receive. The 2024 posthumous self-titled project, worked on and curated by SOPHIE's brother Benny Long, leaves a lot to be desired. It's basically unfinished demos masquerade as complete songs and serve as a saddening reminder of the artist the world lost.

The self-titled album begins with "Intro (The Full Horror)," a dark and foreboding ambi-

ent track with a similar vibe to ambient producer William Basinski's "The Disintegration Loops." This is certainly a very different side to SOPHIE as an artist, as she is typically known for her maximalist production. One can't help but wonder if SOPHIE wanted to experiment in a different way than what she was previously known for, with the obnoxious "PRODUCT" and the gorgeous "OIL OF EVERY PEARL'S UN-INSIDES."

"R A W W W W W W" with Jozzy only uses three sound fonts: the 808, a tapping-adjacent snare and the occasional synth layered on top of the 808. The 808s are a powerhouse, abrasive and even intimidating, but they work well with Jozzy's performance.

"Plunging Asymptote" with Juliana Huxtable would probably scare off any normal person with its repetition of the lyrics "Plunging asymptote, against a white noise more torturous than silence" set to the backdrop of anxiety-inducing staccato notes and synth leads. The booming bass and the sloppy and sporadic snares don't make the soundscape any more manageable. This song would not appeal to most people who aren't deep into music, but I found it to

be quite enjoyable for what it is after multiple listens.

For those annoyed or intimidated by "Plunging Asymptote," "The Dome's Protection" with Nina Kraviz balances the ear-grating song with a calming ambiance and a cryptic, existential spoken word performance by Kraviz.

The next three songs have features by BC Kingdom, whose voice sounds similar to experimental pop artist Ecco2K's effeminate voice at times. "Reason Why" also features vocalist Kim Petras, while "Live In My Truth" and "Why Lies" feature vocalist LIZ. These songs are all relatively pleasant on the ears, being electronic-based pop, with somewhat familiar production styles to SOPHIE's own.

"Berlin Nightmare" with Evita Manji has synths with the rhythm of the electronic producer Burial's signature sound. It doesn't progress much sonically, unfortunately. "Gallop," also with Evita Manji, defines this album pretty well: a cool idea that will never be authentically fleshed out that ends abruptly.

A track that serves as a heartfelt tribute to SOPHIE's personal impact on one of her friends

is "Always and Forever" with Hannah Diamond, an artist in a similar vein to SOPHIE's sound. The lyric "Forever and for always we'll be shining together, and as the years go by, you'll still be by my side" is heart-wrenching, but Diamond is keeping her memory alive. This song is a celebration of a friendship that transcends life and death. It would have been an excellent choice for the last song of the album. Unfortunately, however, it is not.

"My Forever" with Cecile Believe is lyrically depressing to say the least, as the lyrics delve upon feelings of one's own worthlessness and yearning to be or to have something (or someone) unobtainable. The vocal performance in the pre-chorus and chorus is beautiful. The synths on the production sound like it could be a nice call-hold song. This song would have been another great choice for the outro song of the album.

"Love Me Off Earth" with Doss doesn't stick the landing, unfortunately. As the outro to the album, the song ends with a whimper instead of a bang, and leaves a lot to be desired. The lyrics about rejecting Earth and "defying logic and time" to love someone else are cute, though.

It's just not the best choice to end the album and possibly the official discography.

The 2024 posthumous self-titled SOPHIE record doesn't do the best job of defining her legacy. The estate could have been more transparent and labeled these songs as unfinished demos. Nonetheless, when future fans who haven't yet listened to SOPHIE listen to this project in a vacuum without knowing the context, they would probably be confused as to why she is so lauded. It's more than unfortunate we lost SOPHIE, and I wish she was able to complete these songs and fully develop her vision for them. We can only extrapolate so much. If only she could have finished her planned second album, "TRANSNATION," though at least there is still a community that cares about the life, art and legacy of SOPHIE.

Rating:
2.5/5

SECOND SEASON OF 'FRASIER'

HAMS UP MORE SILLY ANTICS

FOR CLASSIC CHARACTERS

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Sometimes reboots and revivals turn up dry after audiences change their tastes. The second season of the new "Frasier," produced by CBS, promises a lot of funny moments and laughs for viewers old and new alike, after the first season left fans divided. The first episode of the second season, "Ham," is available to stream for free on YouTube.

"Frasier" follows the life of Dr. Frasier Crane, a renowned psychiatrist played by Kelsey Grammer ("Toy Story," "The Simpsons," "Barbie of Swan Lake" and "The Marvels") reprising his original role from the original "Frasier" series, which ran from 1993 to 2004, and from "Cheers," which introduced the character in 1984. Frasier's son, Freddy (Jack Cutmore-Scott), works as a firefighter in Boston as the two try to rekindle their relationship.

This first episode of the second season centers upon a major plot point: Frasier's good friend and coworker Alan (Nicholas Lyndhurst) was the one who advised Freddy to drop out of Harvard and pursue a blue-collar life — by wisdom of the British pastiche of a Magic Eight Ball. These events transpire on "ham day," a holiday annually enjoyed by Frasier and Alan over an exotic Spanish jamón.

The antics are exactly in form with episodes of the original series and make use of the ensemble cast — Eve (Jess Salgueiro) and David (Anders Keith) attempt to unpack and present the ham shank. In true slapstick fashion, the jamón is put through hell — from landing in cake to shards of glass, all while the characters can't stop eating the delicacy. Freddy, giving a tour of the firehouse to the local Boy Scouts troop, grapples with the hard honesty dished out by the kids, who disapprove of his dropping out of Harvard. The episode is enjoyable, especially

for fans of the original season, and doesn't feel forced like some moments of the revival's first season.

Promotional images and social media posts from the team behind the second season also promise guest appearances from more classic characters and stars in new roles. Sports radio guy Bulldog Briscoe (Dan Butler), agent Bebe Glazer (Harriet Sansom Harris) and food critic Gil Chesterton (Edward Hibbert) reprise their roles, and Patricia Heaton cameos after starring alongside Grammer in "Back to You." Hollywood names like Amy Sedaris ("Elf"), Rachel Bloom ("Most Likely to Murder") and Yvette Nicole Brown ("Drake and Josh" and "Community") also perform new characters. First season guest star and original cast member Peri Gilpin, who played Frasier's radio producer Roz Doyle, is set to return in a recurring role. Roz's daughter, Alice, will be played by Kelsey

Grammer's real-life daughter Greer Grammer.

Notably absent from the promoted list of guest stars is David Hyde Pierce, who played Frasier's brother Niles, and Jane Leeves, who portrayed original series character Daphne Moon.

The second season of the "Frasier" revival is sure to include moments that fans of the original series can enjoy, but also many moments new viewers can laugh at. Upcoming episodes include Frasier coaching Moose the Firefighter (Jimmy Dunn) on Shakespeare and fellow Harvard professor Olivia (Toks Olagundoye) on sports, Frasier returning to his radio personality roots in Seattle, Lilith (Bebe Neuwirth) teaching Frasier's class, and a spoof on "two men and a baby," except well, you'll have to watch to see what happens.

The revival series is produced by Shiny Brass Lamp Productions, Grammet, and CBS Studios. You can watch "Frasier" every Tuesday at 9 p.m. on

CBS (local WFSB channel 3 — Huskyvision channel 3) and on-demand with a Paramount Plus subscription.

Whether you'd like to re-watch the originals or enjoy them for the first time, you can also find "Cheers" weeknights at 11:00 p.m. on Catchy Comedy (local IHCT channel 35.5 — Huskyvision channel 2.2) and the classic "Frasier" weeknights at 8 p.m. on Cozi TV (local EVIT channel 30.2 — Huskyvision channel 4.2).

RATING:
4/5

"I'M LISTENING'S"

FROM PRINCESSES TO PROTECTOR:

ZELDA MAKES HER DEBUT AS THE LEGENDARY HERO IN THE LEGEND OF ZELDA: ECHOES OF WISDOM

by **Molly Daigle**
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On Sept. 26, Nintendo released their latest installment in the popular “The Legend of Zelda” series, “The Legend of Zelda: Echoes of Wisdom” for Nintendo Switch. The announcement of a new “Zelda” title was surprising to many, especially with the fairly recent release of award-winning “The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom” back in May 2023.

The newly released title breaks the traditional conventions of “The Legend of Zelda” series, allowing a “Zelda” game to finally live up to its title — a game where players finally get to play as the game’s titular character, Princess Zelda.

In this epic adventure, the people of Hyrule have been stolen away — falling into strange rifts throughout the kingdom. The legendary swordsman and hero, Link, has also fallen victim to these rifts, leaving the fate of Hyrule in the hands of Princess Zelda.

However, unlike traditional “Zelda” games where players fight as Link with his trusty sword and shield, Zelda has her own way of battling foes and solving puzzles. She teams

up with a new companion, Tri, who bestows Zelda with the powerful “Tri Rod.” Using the Tri Rod, players are given the ability to create “echoes” or imitations of things they find along their journey. From old beds to pots — and even monsters — the possibilities for “echoes” are truly endless, allowing players to let their imagination run wild with an infinite number of solutions to any given puzzle or challenge. It creates a new style of gameplay for players, forcing them to rely on their creativity and nontraditional solutions for defeating monsters and traversing the map.

The game reutilizes the art style featured in the 2019 Nintendo Switch remake of “The Legend of Zelda: Link’s Awakening.” The style provides a cute and colorful world to explore. Before the game’s release, I anticipated that the reuse of the style would be a bit disappointing. On the contrary, the game expands upon the world with a new and exciting story, fun side adventures and new places to explore.

One of these new additions is the “Still World.” Throughout the game, Zelda enters rifts and traverses through the world inside them. Within this eerie setting, townspeople are frozen in

place, and the stolen land from Hyrule is seen floating around the gloomy area. It is up to Zelda and Tri to adventure through the Still World in order to find ways to close the rifts and save the people of Hyrule before they are lost forever.

Another exciting aspect of the game is the return of traditional dungeons. As much as I enjoyed the divine beasts and open dungeon format seen in “Breath of the Wild” and its sequel “Tears of the Kingdom,” there’s truly nothing that beats exploring a traditional “Zelda” dungeon, progressing through by fighting your way through hordes of enemies, solving challenging puzzles and fighting epic boss battles.

Throughout the game, Zelda must use her wisdom to solve puzzles and explore the vast land of Hyrule. “The Legend of Zelda: Echoes of Wisdom” provides players with a new and exciting challenge — taking on a new way to play with Zelda stepping into the protagonist role. With over a hundred echoes, tons of side adventures and an epic story, the game is enjoyable for new and long-time “Zelda” fans alike.

“The Legend of Zelda: Echoes of Wisdom” is currently available on Nintendo Switch.



CARTOON BY CHRISTIAN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

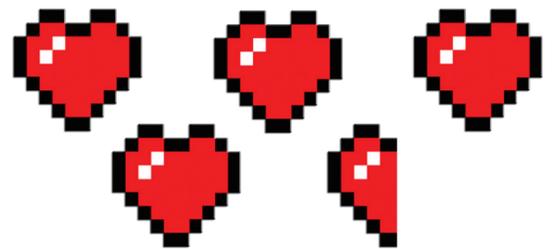


IMAGE COURTESY OF FREEPNGIMG.COM

RATING:
4.5/5
HEARTS

‘Colin From Accounts’: Is it love or is it Colin?

by **Molly Daigle**
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If you’re looking for a show that constantly shocks you, “Colin From Accounts” is the way to go. Season two of the Australian romance-comedy came out on Sept. 26, and can be watched on streaming services like Fubo, Prime Video and Paramount+. The series features a couple, Gordon and Ashley, and their dog Colin.

To preface, I want to make clear that I only watched the second season of the series. Because of this, I will only be talking about the second season. The premiere episode focuses on Gordon and Ashley trying to get their dog, Colin, back after they gave him away to someone else. I will admit, because of their Australian accents, I didn’t realize that the dog’s name was Colin until the end of the episode. However, it seemed clear that Colin was the basis of their relationship and that without him, they would not be together.

Ashley even shares her concerns with Gordon, claiming they have nothing in common besides Colin. After watching the whole season, I would have to agree. In each episode, Ashley and Gordon go through some trouble in their relationship. They had only been together for a couple of months, so throughout the series, they learn more about each other’s pasts, lives and families. In the second-to-last episode, Ashley meets Gordon’s family, who she doesn’t get along with. His fam-

ily treats her with no respect, and while she looks to Gordon to defend her, he instead tries to lighten the mood and change the subject.

The series is heavily comedy-based. Although you don’t see the characters laughing or hear a laugh track in the background like in many ‘90s shows, it is clear that everything is meant to be funny or to make fun of certain ideals. For example, in the episode where Ashley meets Gordon’s family, Gordon’s mom talks with Ashley and asks if she may ask a medical question since Ashley is in that field. She tells her that her grandson admitted to liking boys and that when his mom was pregnant, she got a flu shot despite Gordon’s mom begging her not to. Ashley seems confused until Gordon’s mom asks if her grandson being gay could have something to do with that flu shot. This is meant to mock anti-vaxxers. “Colin From Accounts” primarily focuses on this kind of humor.

Regarding the relationship between Gordon and Ashley, I believe they should break up. With each episode, they get into a worse fight and somehow make up by the end. However, I also feel that this is meant to be the irony of the show. I almost wish the episodes were a bit longer so that the fights were played out more. There is no real consistency in the show. Although I enjoyed the comedy and found it entertaining, I didn’t find myself addicted or forgetting that I was watching something as I do with my favorite shows. It is the type of show where you would

watch one episode if you are having a bad day.

A flaw that I typically find in shows is the finale. For “Colin From Accounts,” however, the finale was probably my favorite. A spoiler here for anyone interested in watching the show: the episode is focused on the wedding of Ashley’s friend, Megan. At the end of the episode, Gordon proposes to Ashley, and I’ll admit that while waiting for Ashley’s response, I was repeating, “Please say no.” And if a show is making you do that, it must have you a little hooked. As I had hoped, Ashley did reject the public proposal, and Gordon played it off by saying it was a joke.

The humor in “Colin From Accounts” is unmatched, although it sometimes falls short, and it’s atypical as it incorporates real-life scenarios. The series isn’t very romantic, so if you are looking for that kind of show, I wouldn’t exactly recommend it. However, if you are looking for an interesting new comedy and drama, then this may be the way to go. It isn’t predictable and constantly switches between funny and serious. There are moments in the show that are sadder, but they are made comedic. I recommend at least watching an episode or two, but I believe the best episodes are towards the end.

Rating:
3.5/5
(extra ending points)



Life

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by James Fitzpatrick
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Welcome again to “No Skips,” where I review albums that I consider to have no skippable tracks. This week, we’re taking our first foray into live music, an underappreciated medium when discussing the best music of all time. You’d be surprised at how well artists and bands can lock in for hours at a time to deliver renditions of their studio songs that are on par or sometimes superior to the originals, and as of right now, I know no better example than Fishmans’ “98.12.18 Otokotachi no Wakare,” officially released on Sept. 29, 1999.

As the title of this article hints, the translated title of the performance is “A Farewell of Men: December 28th, 1998.” I’ll also be using the translated song titles throughout this review.

Bassist Yuzuru Kashiwabara was projected to leave the band soon after the date of the performance at Akasaka Blitz in Minato, Japan. The band didn’t know, however, that vocalist Shinji Sato would pass away three months after the performance, changing the significance of “A Farewell of Men” entirely. What was initially a celebration of the band’s efforts up to that point would be their untimely finale, which happened to be among the finest climaxes of any music act ever.

I suppose it should be noted that “A Farewell of Men” features many separate Fishmans tracks from their various albums, such as “Kuchu Camp,” “Uchu Nippon Setagaya” and “Long Season,” the latter of which closes this performance for an unrivaled 41 minutes of live music. Therefore, Fishmans may get an edge on “No

Skips,” since the full experience of “A Farewell of Men” consists of sitting down for over two hours to hear every track in its full glory. I’ve tried throwing individual tracks on playlists, even splitting an audio file of this album’s version of “Long Season” into six parts, but it just diminishes the emotional impact and the quality of this performance, where each song segues into each other.

“Oh Slime” kicks off the performance with Sato belaboring the band’s name while he recites his peers’ names as a delightful guitar melody leads into strings just six minutes into the album. I won’t make comparisons to the studio versions of the songs too much, but the live version of the next song, “Night Cruising,” gives Sato’s vocals an airy quality that produces a more impassioned song. A standout comes during the track’s post-rock-influenced closing moment with plenty of guitar feedback and a yelp from Sato.

The lush “What Was That” is more rhythm-focused with the reggae-inspired drum break, but a simple piano part keeps the track feeling somber, sticking to the theme of a farewell performance. The language barrier is mostly going to dissuade me from covering any lyrical content, though the repetition of “banana, melon” on the upbeat “Thank You” is bizarre (in a good way) and a welcome change of pace for the performance thus far. And I’m torn on whether the intricate studio version of “A Happy Person” is better than the live version or not. Sound effects and low-pitched humming around the third minute on the “Kuchu Camp” version are lost on the live recording, yet the live vocals simply hit more when Sato is singing at a venue.

Following more cuts housed in reggae, two notable tracks

from their final studio album, “Uchu Nippon Setagaya” make the setlist. Once again, while it’s hard to replicate the high fidelity of a studio recording with a live album, “In the Flight” has new life breathed into it with an extended outro at the four-minute mark, converting an originally quiet cut into a cinematic masterpiece before rapidly speeding up at the six-minute mark. A condensed version of “Walking in the Rhythm” is, unfortunately, missing the piano that defined the studio version. However, after the first three minutes, the band dwindles the track down just to the guitar before reinstating vocals and (coincidentally?) increasing the tempo again at the six-minute mark. This show did have a crowd, so these moments must’ve been quite exhilarating for them.

“Smilin’ Days, Summer Holiday” arguably boasts the album’s most infectious chorus, parroting the song’s title. Moreover, multiple instrumental breakdowns occur before Sato comes back reinvigorated at the three-and-a-half-minute mark to close out the track. In the interest of brevity, I’ll glance at the two longest movements on the album: “Flickering in the Air” and “Long Season.” The former begins with an interlude of noise before Sato steals the show. The man had an incredible voice, so the band prepared an elaborate sonic backdrop for him to sing his heart out for much of the 16-minute song, although this is basically what they did for the whole album.

“Long Season” is an album on its own, so I won’t do a review within a review, but essentially every aspect of the original composition is extended and enhanced here, from the piano melody to the variety of harmonizing throughout the piece’s 41

‘NO SKIPS’: A FITTING FAREWELL FOR FISHMANS



CARTOON BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

minutes. The setting makes the chime section that much more enveloping and when taking in the context of the release, the moment makes the whole piece a tear-jerker. Somehow, everything that came before it also feels extra rewarding. I know that truncating their magnum opus just to a sentence or two here is bound to bring some backlash, so maybe I’ll do a stand-alone review of the studio version at some point.

The remaining members have done occasional tribute performances since 2005

under the same name. Fishmans+, a one-off tribute band with the original members, also featured other artists and is certainly better than Google+ ever was. Regardless, considering either of these to be comparable to the full ensemble is like saying Linkin Park is still intact without Chester Bennington, which just isn’t the case. But if you’re in Japan this February and want to see the current incarnation of the band perform live, then the option is there for you.



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Benjamin Lassy
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Hello, and welcome back to This Week in History! A few issues ago, I started a new format for the column, calling it “Zooming in.” The premise is simple: Rather than skimming over history, I’ll do my best to dive deep into an event that unfolded this week in history. So, with a bit of an unfortunate theme for the past few weeks, this issue will cover an explosive start to October 1910 in the city of Los Angeles.

Throughout this week, two separate — though intertwined — stories converge in one tragic ending. On Sept. 30, a Western Union telegraph operator, William Firman, noted that there was a faint smell of gasoline in the air. He was working a late-night shift to produce the Oct. 1 issue of the Los Angeles Times, alongside around 100 other writers, producers and editors. They were covering results from the exciting Vanderbilt race, the first major car racing cup in the U.S.

That night, Firman detected a leak in the gas pipes within the Los Angeles Times Building, an old stone structure built in 1887 on the corner between two major roads in the city. It was the chief operational building for the newspaper, known by locals as the “fortress.”

Images of the structure certainly tell an eerie tale of their own, as the building’s facade and size tower over the cor-

ner of the street, and the slabs of stone that complete several archways look almost like a medieval citadel.

Within the “fortress” halls walked the chief editor and owner of the Los Angeles Times, the Union veteran Harrison Gray Otis. Born in 1837, Otis was in his mid-70s on the night of Oct. 1, 1910. But due to his age, Otis experienced a remarkable number of events that stand out on the pages of history books. In 1860, Otis, as a delegate from Kentucky, was present when the Republican National Convention nominated Abraham Lincoln for president. Likewise, once the Civil War finally split open a deeply fractured America, Otis left his work at the Louisville Courier-Journal to volunteer in the Union Army. He served bravely through many pivotal battles of the Civil War and was promoted seven times, ending the conflict as a lieutenant colonel.

Otis remained a Republican, though he became known for his staunch conservatism, which showed itself in his editorial work. The Los Angeles Times and Otis entered Los Angeles in the 1880s, when the city was made up of some 12,500 people. In an extraordinary shift, the city boomed to over 300,000 by 1910. Otis, an old-timer, was now heading a newspaper critical of the changes taking place in the city: a paper critical of the unending ways of people coming and living in slums, picketing for jobs, wages and clogging city streets.

This Week In History:

Sept. 29 – Oct. 5

“An explosive morning newspaper from 1910”

It came to be that Otis’ stone Los Angeles Times Building remained a fortress among crowded and dirty streets. Naturally, Otis’ paper was critical of the change, and most vehemently critical of the organizations fighting for the welfare of the influx of people. He even controlled the Merchants Association, changing it into the Merchants and Manufacturer’s Association (M&M), using it to attempt to end the rising labor unions in Los Angeles.

While Otis strolled his halls, a young man strolled down to the Los Angeles Times Building, holding nothing but a briefcase. He had been tasked by his older brother with a simple objective.

Briskly walking down “Ink Alley,” the young man set the briefcase down near a storage of printer’s ink. Perhaps a slight clicking noise could be heard if one put their ear up to the briefcase.

The man, named J.B. McNamara, next made his way to another location — Otis’ home — and placed a briefcase on the premises. Afterwards, he went to the home of Felix Zeehandelaar, a staff member at M&M. J.B. then left the city by train.

All three of the briefcases were successfully placed, but only one was successfully discharged. At 1:07 a.m., on Oct. 1, 1910, the “fortress” would be crushed as 16 sticks of dynamite erupted in “Ink Alley,” a quiet alleyway near the Los Angeles Times Building. Firman noted the smell of gas the night prior, and indeed, another individual complicit in the explosion, Ortie McManigal, had supposedly opened a gas valve to ensure the explosion was destructive.

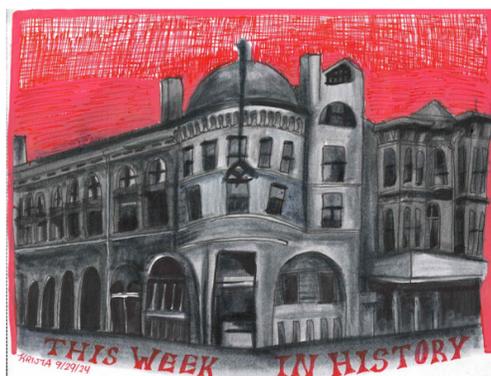
The explosion, though not destroying the entire building, was a terrifying scene. The late-night staff, which the mastermind of the plot and J.B.’s older brother, J. J. McNamara, did not know were occupying the building, scrambled desperately to survive. Some jumped out of windows to escape the devastating gas fire, which ignited nearly instantly, while others rushed down the stairs of the building to no avail. While the fire raged on, it took the lives of 21 people in the building. Otis, who survived the attack, went on the next day to print a scathing issue at an auxiliary printing station in LA, set up specifically for an event such as this.

Otis used his connections paper to his full advantage, printing about the attack over the next few days, as well as having coverage from other papers such as the “El Paso Herald.” Soon, the city of LA and M&M would supply a nearly \$75,000 reward for whoever turned in the plotters of the attack. Over the course of the next few weeks, and sadly outside of the scope of this column, the series of events that took place on Oct. 1, 1910,

would have lasting implications on the history of organized labor and the power of unions in LA. The McNamara brothers would be caught in raids on the union headquarters, and both would go through lengthy court proceedings, all but destroying the presence of the labor movement in the city. The Los Angeles Times would continue to be led by Otis and his family well into the mid-20th century.

Ultimately, what one judge called “a veritable reign of terror” ruled that 38 of the 40 defendants in the trials following the bombing were guilty. Union membership would decline drastically, with lasting effects even in the 21st century.

So, that concludes This Week in History. What I’ve come to learn through this “Zooming in” premise, is that every event is actually a series of hundreds, if not thousands, of smaller events. The fun in history isn’t just memorizing dates or reading a bullet point to learn a “fact” or two. Rather, the joy of history comes from stringing together the tiniest of events to finally get a glimpse at the bigger picture. Until next time.



CARTOON BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Opinion

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PHOTO BY CHRISTAIN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

► Editorial

UConn sends staff and students to warzones

This January, University of Connecticut Hillel is offering students the chance to take a 10 day trip to the Israeli and Palestinian region to "discuss different topics regarding Israeli and Palestinian societies including history, culture, human rights and political issues." The trip is highly subsidized by the Maccabee Task Force, which generously funded UConn Hillel's previous trip to the region in 2023. The advertised intent of the trip is to help students of all religious backgrounds develop their own opinions on the conflict and prevent the spread of Islamophobic and antisemitic rhetoric on UConn's campus.

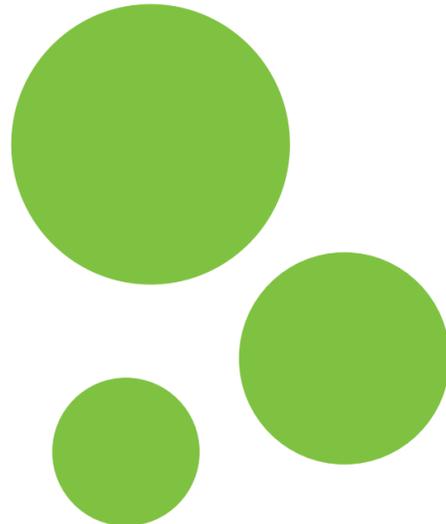
A similar trip faced backlash in 2022, when Students for Justice in Palestine pointed out problematic aspects of the trip such as the logistical difficulty that would come should a Palestinian student wish to be included on the trip. Students have also criticized the trip for presenting "itself similar to a study abroad trip or a vacation," according to the Daily Campus.

This year's "Perspectives 2025" trip has an added problematic element: the region is deadlier than it has been in decades.

UConn is no stranger to being the launching pad for trips to war zones. In May 2023, members of UConn School of Business' Daigle Labs travelled to Lviv, Ukraine on an entrepreneurial mission. Despite Lviv being an active warzone, Dr. Ryan Coles and two recent UConn graduates explored the city, visited Ukrainian Catholic University and enjoyed coffee at cafes. These same cafes were destroyed just weeks later in a Russian bombing, according to Dr. Coles in a UConn Today article from September 2023. In fact, earlier this month, Russia launched an attack on Lviv, killing a mother and her daughters and damaging over 50 buildings. In fact, earlier this month, Russia launched an attack on Lviv, killing a mother and her daughters and damaging over 50 buildings.

For a university that dedicates generous resources to promoting student safety, these trips do not sound so safe. Even if they are not on the front lines, UConn's undergraduate and graduate students are being invited on trips where their lives are at stake. The violence in these war zones is indiscriminate and has already taken a toll on local populations. There is no need to send our students to active war zones when UConn already offers countless Experiential Global Learning opportunities in business, human rights and the arts.

Young adults should not be unnecessarily put at risk in the name of education and certainly not under UConn's name. As a home and community for young people with limitless potential, it is UConn's duty to promote safety and rational decision making. Voluntarily sending students to war zones is far from rational.



Why doesn't every child have access to pre-K?

by Youssef Macary
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Unlike K-12 education, preschool is not something that every child is offered by the government. The concept of universal pre-K is becoming discussed more and more. According to Education Week, "universal pre-K is any state-funded preschool program in which age is the only criterion for eligibility". Education is largely controlled on the state level, so there is a lot of variability in which states have a universal pre-K program. This also means that as it stands, not every child in the United States has access to publicly provided pre-K programs. Giving parents this option is something that has many benefits to children and families and is a policy that can and should be implemented across the country.

In New England, only Maine and Vermont claim to have a universal pre-K program. Connecticut does not have such a program, and only 21% of four year olds were enrolled in a pre-K program during the 2019-2020 school year. This is something that should change, especially given the benefits that such a program can provide. According to the Alliance for Early Success, "Children who experience early care and education programs that provide consistent, nurturing, and developmentally appropriate opportunities for cognitive and social development benefit significantly in both the short and long-term." With the government spending large amounts of money on various programs, it's baffling as to why universal pre-K is not something they



have chosen to invest in, especially given the developmental and educational benefits it could provide. In society, the education and development of the future generation is something that should be given the highest priority. Children are our future, and we need to invest in them accordingly.

Beyond the benefit to children, such a policy could also help families financially, as this type of program can take the place of childcare or a private preschool that parents have to pay for. The Institute for Women's Policy Research reports that "Universal pre-kindergarten would save families \$17 billion per year". This is a policy that can have a real impact on working parents who are struggling financially. And it is certainly a better plan than vice presidential candidate JD Vance's solution to the issue, simply having "grandma or grandpa ... grandma or grandpa ... help out a little bit more."

When considering such a program, one of the primary factors to consider is the cost. The University of Pennsylvania found that "a universal pre-K program for three- and four-year-olds will cost about \$351 billion over the 10-

year budget window." This cost decreases if the program is only for four-year-olds. To put this in perspective, during the 2023 fiscal year, the United States government spent \$820 billion on national defense. Assuming that the cost of universal pre-K was divided evenly between the 10 years, (which, in reality, it likely would not be), then it would cost less than 5% of each year's national defense spending. This cost is not that excessive given the budget of the federal government, and the positive impact it could have on children and their families.

Universal pre-K is a policy that could have huge benefits for our children and their parents, but unfortunately is not something that has received the investment needed to make it a reality. Education is one of the most important services that the government provides. Children are the future of our country and world, and ensuring they receive every opportunity to learn and grow is in the best interest of society as large. The policies and investments that the government makes should reflect that fact, and funding universal pre-K for all students in the United States is one way to do that.



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Opinion

Photo of the Day |



Students wrapping up their Thursday evening in Northwest Dining Hall. This is one of UConn's eight dining halls.

PHOTO BY NATHAN GALICINAO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Bad Bunny's "Una Velita:" Our protest song, not your glow-up song

by Jimena Rivera

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The clock struck 12 a.m. on Sept. 20 of this year, marking the seventh anniversary of the passing of Hurricane María on the island of Puerto Rico, a devastating storm labeled as "the most destructive Atlantic storm on record." It left tremendous scars in the Puerto Rican people's psyche, scars that rapper Bad Bunny is all too familiar with. This date also marked the surprise release of his newest single "Una Velita," Spanish for "a little candle." A song about suffering, resilience and rising up in the face of this next governor's election. Some people, however, have disgracefully taken this art piece and warped its use to serve their own needs, to bring themselves up in the cheesy nature of a gym/

glow-up trend.

When looking up the sound for "Una Velita" on TikTok, you will find videos from Puerto Rican youth reacting, commenting and deciphering the song and its multiple references to occurrences resulting from María. Strangely enough, if you add the word trend to the search, you will find another section of videos: gym videos, videos that show someone before and after their "glow up" and even outfit videos. While the song is proclaiming a message of empowerment, it is not meant to be used for something as superficial as showing off your physique after going to the gym or showing how good-looking you've become in comparison to when you were a child.

Bad Bunny uses the song to speak of our hardships: the constant power outages after the

power system was destroyed and the fear that, one day, the power will go out and never come back. The surplus of people left homeless after the storm. The emblematic symbol of a neighborhood old lady that must be helped during hard times. Most importantly, the palm tree that we must topple down in this upcoming election, the palm tree representing the pro-statehood party that has governed Puerto Rico since before María hit, and have run the country into the ground with their lies and deceptions to the good citizens of the island.

These TikTok users have taken what is meant to be a protest song for Puerto Ricans to rise up and have warped it into a stupid, superficial trend. What's even more annoying is that the people participating in this trend are other Latinos, people who we consider brothers due to our

language and the pride of being Latin. Our own sister cultures are using our pain to lift themselves up instead of advocating for us. The only people who seem to have the Puerto Rican people's interest in mind are the Puerto Ricans living on the island itself. The section of our fellow Latinos and Hispanics that haven't shown any sort of sympathy for us are using our war cry as their "song of the week" and have the audacity to act nonchalant in comments such as "it's just a song, anyone can use it" or "it's not that big of a deal."

If you are one of the people that feels this same careless sentiment, let me tell you something: it is a big deal. It's a tremendously big deal for us Puerto Ricans. When I heard "Una Velita," my heart broke into a million pieces and tears filled my eyes because I lived through what Bad Bunny

sings about. I vividly remember the harsh winds hitting my bedroom window, the roaring sound of debris flying through the air and the rain, the terrifyingly unstoppable rain that made it hard for me to sleep that night. I remember my dad going out the morning after the storm passed and seeing him come back with a depressed look as he told us what he saw. There were whole families with their only salvageable belongings in hand walking to wherever they could receive help, long lines at the gas stations so people could use their power generators and trees left bare of leaves, testaments to the torture Mother Nature put them through. Our pain is not your trend, our sorrow is not your entertainment. We will not tolerate anyone who believes we won't rise up again, because one day, we will.

A beginner's guide to divestment

by Grace Donahue

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Being a first-year student at the University of Connecticut, there is a lot to figure out. How to use Husky Bucks and points, where the best dining hall is, which classes to take and where to stand on political issues. Due to the extent of influence that political issues have on our daily lives today, I have been paying most of my attention to this aspect of campus life. The issue of divestment, especially pertaining to investments related to the genocide in Gaza, has been a prominent issue that I have seen being discussed frequently. While it is an important matter to many people on campus, I feel as though in the past I had not received the proper education to take a stance on the issue. I had only seen the protests covered by the news and heard of the movement in a negative light. Thus, I have taken time here to research what exactly is going on. Why do students want to divest? What would really change? Let us unpack the issue and explain why divestment is something that all students should stand for.

What is the issue?

UConn Divest is demanding that UConn divests from defense contractors and companies based in Israel. However, they are not

being listened to. Instead, UConn has arrested students protesting against its continued investment in these companies. Most notably, this occurred at the protest encampment in May 2024 with 25 students and one alum being taken into custody. Along with this, there have been several instances where our university's president, Radenka Maric, has supported Israel. For instance, in February 2022, Maric and Gov. Ned Lamont made an agreement with Israel to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with Technion, the Israel Institute of Technology. Furthermore, in an email from Maric in attempting to remain neutral in discussing the Israeli oppression of Palestinians she consequently wrote how she stands for the oppression.

UConn Foundation says that their investments, which are untouchable to students, are made with the combination of several sources of funds. There has been no action to look at whether the companies have branches in defense, security or aerospace areas of business. Thus, they have done nothing about the students' demands related to this issue. That is why we continue to protest.

Why we need to divest and who it would be from

We need to divest from defense contractors. This would include General Dynamics, a global aero-

space and defense company; RTX, a business with commercial aerospace and defense industries; and Lockheed Martin, a global security, defense and aerospace contractor. The groups function as some of the top employers of UConn graduates and give funds to our university's research facilities.

While this would cause complications for UConn's finances, it is crucial that our university does so. UConn is currently complicit in the violence and mass atrocities seen in these contracts. This is due to the United States' long standing history with providing billions of dollars worth of missile defenses, advanced military equipment, and the Iron Dome. This history is supported by historical documents such as the Excess Defense Articles program and many bilateral defense cooperation agreements dating all the way back to 1952. Along with this, Israel has become the "the leading global recipient of Title 22 U.S. security assistance under the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) program" a 10-year plan formalized by the Memorandum of Understanding.

UConn has their own specific history with Israel which our university needs to look at and divest from. Over the years, UConn has "fostered a dynamic and multifaceted relationship with Israel, cultivating partnerships in aca-

demia, sports and business." This is seen in the many collaborations with Israel's leading research universities, the facilitation of student exchanges, the collaboration of faculty, and knowledge sharing across borders. While this has benefited our university for years, we should not continue to foster a relationship with murderers who have killed over 39,000 Palestinians; about 15,000 children; and has ethnically cleansed about 90% of the population from their homes.

What these divestments will look like

The problem is that the investments made by our university are so complex that for a divestment to occur, the administration would have to look at the several investments they have made in specific detail. This is due to several sources of funding for our university and many investments involving more than one company who may have ties with more than one area of business. Thus, it is hard to know how our university would be impacted by these divestments.

For a true divestment to occur there will need to be a plan in place with replacements for what the university will lose. This may look like a stronger partnership with the countries we are already aligned with, such as Germany, South Africa, Costa Rica and France. In an extreme man-

ner, the effort to reallocate funds may look like the privatization of UConn as a university. This would mean forgoing a substantial amount of state funds so that UConn can gain freedom from state control.

Divestment is a complicated process, but UConn has done it before. In 1986, UConn sold \$217,000 in stocks that were companies that did business with South Africa due to them being an apartheid state. It is in the act of divestment that UConn stood against the racial segregation enforced by the government. It was important to take a stand. The time is now to do the same thing and take a stand against a genocide of innocent people.

So, the question is, does UConn really stand for human rights? Our university has claimed to be dedicated to ensuring and upholding human rights as has been seen in many ways. For instance, our university's Human Rights Institute is recognized as a national leader in being one of the largest interdisciplinary programs on the subject. Over a million dollars has been put into establishing human rights programs, institutes, and initiatives on campus. However, if UConn remains complicit in the genocide of Gaza, these efforts for human rights might as well be futile.

Football:

Huskies keep the momentum rolling in 47-3 demolition of Buffalo

by Connor Sargeant | HE/HIM/HIS | ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR | connor.sargeant@uconn.edu

All season long, the message from head coach Jim Mora has been simple: Protect the Rent.

The UConn football team more than secured the Rent this past Saturday. The team beat the brakes off of Buffalo, 47-3, in one of the team's most complete performances all season long.

Away teams have not fared well at Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field this year. In three East Hartford showdowns, the Huskies have outscored their opponents by a healthy 158-34 margin.

In order to come out victorious, Connecticut needed to come out of the gates with a fire lit under them and put sustained pressure on Buffalo from both sides of the ball. To put it simply, Connecticut made Buffalo uncomfortable from the get-go, and it didn't take the Huskies too much longer to give the Bulls the knockout blow and put this game out of reach.

The Connecticut run defense caused headaches for the Bulls' offense, as it was hard for them to get anything started. The program did an excellent job containing the Buffalo run game as, outside of quarterback C.J. Ogbonna's 33 scramble yards, the program put up 18 combined rushing yards for the first half. Conversely, the Huskies' rushing attack ran the Buffalo defense ragged.

Cam Edwards had a first half to remember, accumulating 87 yards on the ground on nine attempts, including the day's first touchdown, thanks to a 43-yard outside run. All season long, Edwards has feasted like it's Thanksgiving dinner on the outside run, and Mora believes that his success in this facet can be attributed to how well he meshes into their outside running scheme.

"[Edwards] understands where the hole is going to be and when it's going to be there, and that's something that comes with experience," Mora told media personnel postgame. "It takes some patience, and then it takes you to really put your foot in the ground and get vertical. He's just really good at that."

Not only does Edwards possess the threat to expose defenses when he has the rock, but so does quarterback Nick Evers. UConn excelled at the pitch option this past weekend, as the threat of them pitching it off to Edwards or Evers taking it himself opened numerous running lanes for the duo.

Not only was the running game in full force but so was the passing attack. Skyler Bell had yet another solid day at the office, hauling in four passes, including a 40-yard bomb from Evers. Postgame, the wide receiver noted that a successful day for him goes beyond the box score, although he has a knack for filling it up.

"I know when plays are called when I'm supposed to get the ball," Bell said postgame. "I know when I can win one-on-one matchups, and I feel like I'm going to win every single one," adding, "I don't set my mind on getting 100 yards. I'm really

just trying to get the win and create a spark for our offense and keep making big plays to get us down the field."

The Connecticut secondary also did an excellent job of limiting any throwing lanes that Ogbonna could have had. As a result, the UConn pass rush got home on more than one occasion, sacking him twice and causing numerous throwaways for the first half hour. This killed any momentum the Bulls had since they often found themselves in less-than-ideal second and 20 or third and 30 situations. Not to mention, when UConn did punt it away, Connor Stutz didn't make it easy on Buffalo, pinning them deep in their own territory, which limited what they could do offensively.

Despite the good feelings early on, the program got bad news midway through the second quarter. On a scramble, Evers slid and gave himself up on a play. However, he got hit hard on the way down and came out of the game. With Evers out of the game, Mora and the program turned to Joe Fagnano for a spark, and he gave them one. Fagnano finished Saturday with 217 passing yards and three touchdowns on 11-19 passing. While some fans may have been shocked by how well the signal caller performed, Bell noted that Fagnano's exceptional performance was simply the status quo for him and the rest of the program.

"Impressed? Nah, that's kind of Joe [Fagnano]; that's who he is." Bell told media personnel postgame. "He's a dog. When he came in, nobody batted him out; it's just business as usual."

However, the Bulls didn't leave the first half scoreless, as Upton Bellenfant closed out the second quarter with a 47-yard field goal. This cut the Connecticut advantage down to 23-3. However, in the second half, UConn kept its foot on the gas, with no stop in sight.

The second half was more or less the same story: The UConn defense couldn't be stopped, and their relentless rushing attack continued, with Durell Robinson and Mel Brown getting in on the fun. To no surprise of any Connecticut fans, the Bell show continued.

The Bronx native finished with 153 yards and three touchdowns on six receptions. Not only was Fagnano placing perfect balls for him to catch, but Bell's craftiness as a receiver was on display. On his first score, he put his man into a blender, causing him to gain easy separation and an even easier 40-yard touchdown reception.

UConn's big win on Saturday was undoubtedly a massive confidence booster for the program. Not only have they won two in a row at home, but as each game passes, the team is meshing better and looks more fluid. The growth from the first week of the season has been nothing short of miraculous, and there is no reason to think this will stop now. Connecticut's next chance to build off of the momentum they have created will come next Saturday at 3:30 p.m., where they will host Temple.



The UConn football team plays a tremendous game against University at Buffalo on Sept. 28, 2024 at the Pratt & Whitney stadium at Rentschler field in Hartford, Conn. The Huskies blew away the Bulls on a sunny Saturday afternoon, winning the game 47-3.

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



Sports

VOLLEYBALL:

UCONN HUSKIES FACE DIFFICULTIES AS THEY START BIG EAST PLAY

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The UConn women's volleyball team's undefeated run came to an end last weekend as they fell to the Marquette Golden Eagles on Friday night in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This was then followed by another loss to No. 6 Creighton on Sunday in Omaha, Nebraska.

UConn opened their Big East play on Friday, Sept. 27, where they faced Marquette University for the 14th time in the program's history. This game also marked the Huskies' first loss this season, and Marquette's 11th consecutive win against UConn. The Huskies have been unable to beat Marquette since 2010, and this time it was no different. Although the Huskies came into this game hopeful and looking to keep their 12-game winning streak going, the Golden Eagles were quick to shut those hopes down.

Both teams started off strong early in the first set and traded points back and forth. Junior Emma Werkmeister put up three early kills to help UConn stay on pace with Marquette's strong plays. The game tied early at 4-4. Although the Golden Eagles continued to push in the offensive end, graduate student Taylor Pannell and freshman Loren Winn worked hard in the Huskies' defensive end to keep Marquette at bay. The Golden Eagles continued with their aggressive push, causing UConn to fall behind 17-13. The Huskies attempted a comeback in the end of the first set with junior Hanna Tylska scoring a kill and senior Doga Kutlu a service ace. Despite their best efforts, UConn was unable to come back and Marquette took the first set 25-19.

The Golden Eagles began the

second set aggressively as they took a 9-3 lead at the start. The Huskies were unable to find momentum, whereas Marquette kept up with their strong attack, taking six of the next seven points. Tylska and redshirt sophomore Aubrey Rome both scored kills in the second half hoping to keep UConn in the fight, however their efforts were futile as the Golden Eagles took the second set 25-10.

Coming into the third, UConn was hoping to put up a fight as they trailed behind two sets. Tylska and Werkmeister both put up strong performances in the beginning and scored kills that gave the Huskies the lead by one point. Marquette then took the lead. However, Pannell and Tylska kept UConn close, tying the game at 11 points. From then on, the Golden Eagles took the



The UConn volleyball team takes on Dartmouth College on their home court in Storrs, Conn. on Sept. 15, 2024. The crowd made sure to bring the energy that pushed the Huskies to win.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

spotlight, winning nine of the next 10 played points, creating a 20-12 lead. Mistakes from the home team and an ace from Kutlu allowed the Huskies to close the gap. Werkmeister and Rome kept the fight going and the Huskies tied the game once again, this time at 24 points. Marquette, however, was relentless and took the third set, winning the game 3-0 and handing the Huskies their first loss all season.

Next up, UConn traveled down to Omaha, NE to face No. 6 in the nation, the Creighton Blue Jays. Much like Marquette, this was a team which the Huskies had an extensive history with and hadn't won against since 2021. UConn's streak of bad luck continued on Sunday, where they picked up their second loss this year, once again by a complete shutout.

Creighton started the first set aggressively, winning the first three consecutive points. However, kills from Werkmeister and an ace from sophomore Isabella Suhy kept the Huskies in the run. The Blue Jays continued their strong play as they built an 11-5 lead over the Huskies. Three kills from their junior Elise Goetzinger built Creighton's lead to 18-10. Consistent offensive plays from the team then handed them the first set 25-16.

The Huskies came into the second set determined to turn the game around. An early ace from junior Brenna Wyman and two kills from Pannell gave UConn a two-point lead early in the set. Creighton fought back, going on a 4-0 run and retaking the lead. Two kills from Tylska kept the Huskies from falling too far behind as the Blue Jays kept their 12-9 lead. A strong attack from Creighton extended their advantage to 19-12. Once again, Goetzinger proved herself an indispensable part of the team as she scored a kill to close off the set, giving the Blue Jays a 2-0 advantage going into the third set of the game.

Creighton kept their momentum going into the third and final set as they took a 5-2 lead early on. The Huskies attempted to come back; however, the Blue Jays proved themselves a fierce competitor as they kept extending their lead. In the end, Kutlu scored two aces to try and bring UConn back. However, it wasn't enough. Creighton still took the third set 25-18, winning the game by 3-0.

This weekend marked UConn's first two losses this season as they played an undefeated non-conference run. The Huskies currently stand with an 0-2 record in Big East play and will be hoping for a comeback in their following two games next weekend.

Field Hockey:

UConn sweeps Georgetown & Delaware on the road

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This weekend's games were nothing but exciting and competitive. The biggest takeaway from the two games was the University of Connecticut's defense, eliminating the opponent's offense.

UConn's defense played a stellar game on Friday and showed why defense wins games. Only shooting two shots and one on goal for the entire game, the Huskies took over Georgetown's offense. Relaxing in the net, goalkeeper Natalie McKenna only saved one shot. Connecticut, doing the complete opposite, took 23 shots and shot 17 on goal.

To start the weekend, the Huskies stopped by Georgetown University on Friday and took care of business. Continuing to show their dominance, UConn shut out the Bulldogs in a 5-0 blowout. Madi Herb kicked off the game, scoring the first goal for Connecticut after not giving up and shooting in her rebound.

Proving she is still here after not scoring in the last two games, freshman Juul Sauer ended with two goals. Within inches from the goal, shooting an impressive chip shot over the keeper, Sauer scored her first of the game. Launching the ball from midfield, Sophia Ugo connected with Sauer after separating from her defender and tapping it in for her second goal. Tallying up to eight goals, Sauer is not looking to stop there.

At the end of the first half and the start of the second, the Huskies took advantage of two corners, advancing their lead to 4-0. Sol Simone passed the ball to Jamiijn Damman, setting it up for Julia Bressler and smacking it into the goal.

Passing the ball to Sophia Ugo

off a corner taken by Isabel Soeters, Ugo quickly set the ball up for Heuker. Sniping the ball into the back of the net, Heuker snatched her first goal of the season.

Moving onto Sunday's game, the competitiveness took another level. Both teams played an impressive game, forcing a low-scoring overtime match. UConn outshot the University of Delaware, shooting 19, with eight of them on goal, while Delaware getting 11 shots off, with six on goal. Delaware forced the Huskies to shoot difficult shots, making them less accurate than their previous game.

McKenna, making her presence known, saved four shots. She played a massive role in the team's win. Right before the end of the first quarter, the referees awarded the YoUDees a penalty shot. Saved by McKenna, this left them scoreless going into the second quarter. Delaware could have taken the game if the penalty went in.

Scoring two goals for the Huskies and the main character of the game, Julia Bressler, scored all of Connecticut's goals. Minutes within the start of the game, Simone dribbled the ball up the field and threaded the needle through the defender's legs to connect with Bressler. Bressler took a touch and shot a behind-the-back shot for the goal.

Throughout the rest of the first quarter, UConn kept them from making plays and responding. Delaware did match the Huskies' defense, not allowing them to score for the rest of the game.

About halfway through the second half, the Yankees took a long shot outside the circle

forced by UConn. Weaving through the defenders, the ball somehow managed to squeeze in, tying the game up at 1-1.

Throughout the rest of the game, many shots were taken by both teams, but no plays could be made. With seven shots and four on goal, Bressler was the only player with more than five shots.

Right before overtime, several players made a last-minute attempt to win the game. Sauer, Heuker, Bressler and Ugo took shots but made none of them, forcing overtime. With Delaware hurting themselves by fouling Bressler, she knocked the ball in for the win.

Concluding this weekend's games, the Huskies now hold the record of 9-1 and possibly move them up even more in the rankings.



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

PHOTOGRAPH BY SOFIA DIGRANDE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Comics



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Sports

Men's Soccer:

Top-25 matchup against Seton Hall results in 0-0 draw



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STORRS, CONN. – The top two teams in the Big East, the No. 14 ranked Seton Hall Pirates (7-1-1) and the No. 24 ranked UConn Huskies (6-0-3) faced off in Storrs on Saturday night in front of a sold-out crowd.

Before coming into this match, the last time these two Big East foes faced each other was on Sept. 23, 2023, where Connecticut suffered a 4-2 loss against the Pirates in New Jersey. The current record between these two teams is 15-16, and the Huskies, who were looking to tie the record in wins, were also aiming to extend their unbeaten streak.

In the beginning minutes of the game, UConn found themselves in consistent foul trouble, giving Seton Hall multiple corner kick chances.

Throughout the first half, it was a heated battle with Kwame Adu-Gyamfi of UConn and the team for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Although with persistent defense and physicality on both ends, the Huskies and Pirates kept the score at 0 in the first half.

After a much-needed regrouping during halftime, the Huskies came back hoping to notch their first of the game, but just like the first half, both teams struggled to connect the ball to the net and

find their groove.

What was thought to be a high-scoring back and forth matchup, turned out to be more evenly matched than both teams expected, with the game ending in a 0-0 draw.

Throughout the entirety of the game UConn was only able to notch one shot on goal, with Seton Hall shooting five.

“I thought we played decent at times. In terms of being physical, most of these games are,” Head Coach Chris Gbandi said in an interview on Twitter. “I thought it was back and forth, at the end there... all in all, I thought it was a fair result,” he said.

With this draw, the Huskies are now 1-0-1 in Big East conference play and are tied with Providence in the Eastern rankings.

Next up for the Huskies, they will continue Big East play as they travel to Villanova, Pennsylvania for a match against the Wildcats on Friday, Oct. 4 at 3 p.m.

The Wildcats have not won a single matchup so far this season, so Connecticut will be looking to break this consistent 0-0 draw streak and add another win to their unbeaten record.

One Wildcat the Huskies will have to look out for is junior forward Baithi Saunders, who leads the team with 16 points this season.

Should Husky fans want to watch this matchup, they can tune in on FloFC.

UConn men's soccer (No. 24) faced Seton Hall University (No. 15) home at Morrone Stadium on Sept. 28. The ninth game for the Huskies resulted in a tie, with the final score being 0-0.

PHOTOGRAPH BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Daily Sports

WOMEN'S SOCCER:

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The Huskies were unable to avenge last season's 1-0 loss to Georgetown in the semifinals of the Big East tournament. UConn remains winless in the Big East with two draws and one loss.

The action started early as Lina Dantes looked like she had Georgetown goalie Cara Martin out of position, but her shot was way too high and out of bounds. Dantes later found Abbey Jones, but the captain's shot was saved by Martin.

In the sixth minute, Lizzie Heller of Georgetown sent a shot from be-

hind the box towards the direction of the UConn goal. The ball traveled over the head of Kaitlyn Mahoney and into the back corner of the net to put the Hoyas up 1-0.

Laci Lewis tried to respond by pushing the pace for the Huskies, but her pass, intended for Jones, was grabbed by a diving Martin.

After a few possessions, Georgetown took the ball up the right side of the pitch, where Henely Tippins made a brilliant pass to Maja Lardner. The Texas native had an open shot and just enough space to send the ball past the dive of Mahoney and into the bottom left corner for a second Hoyas' goal. Moments later, Georgetown nearly made the goal

3-0, but Shay Montgomery's shot was scooped up by Mahoney.

Connecticut was finally able to get some offensive action when Jones sped down the right side of the field and placed a beautiful ball to Chioma Okafor. The UConn star easily beat her defender and shot it past Martin on the breakaway. Okafor's ninth goal of the season cut the Georgetown lead to one.

Okafor had another opportunity in the first half, but her shot was a little too high and floated out of bounds. Once again, Okafor made a play down the sideline and connected with Sophie McCarthy. McCarthy quickly found Taylor Jenkins who got a shot off. Unfortunately, the shot faded wide left.

Mary Cochran of Georgetown took a corner kick right before the half ended. Her kick found Lawson Renie, whose shot was saved by Mahoney. UConn faced a promising 2-1 deficit at the end of the first half.

The Huskies had a scoring attempt right away in the second half as an uncleared ball found Dantes right inside of the box.

The UConn women's soccer team versus Georgetown on Sept. 29, 2024. The Huskies went down early and unfortunately couldn't get back with a final score of 1-3.

PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Dantes barely got a foot on it, and the ball was covered by the new Georgetown goalie, Anna Karpenko.

The Hoyas then looked prone for a two-on-one goal, but Tippins took too long to find Claire Manning as her shot was corralled by Mahoney. Eliza Turner also had an opportunity but her shot dribbled too far left and resulted in a Connecticut goal kick.

Moments later, UConn was called offside after Joyce Ryder passed to Okafor. Both Okafor and Jones were in the area, but the call stopped any chance of the two recreating the magic of the first goal.

Lucy Cappadonna was given a yellow card, resulting in a Georgetown free kick. Renie sent a header in the direction of the goal, and into the hands of Mahoney.

Maddie Fried then had a header of her own for Connecticut, but it was saved by Karpenko. Jones took a chance from outside of the box, but the England native's shot went well out of bounds. Fried had another chance when she took it past her defender on the left side and found Jones whose shot was scooped up by Karpenko.

Georgetown had the Huskies on the ropes in the 65th minute as the Hoyas crossed the ball into the center of the box. Tippins got a piece of her head on it, and her shot banged off the top of the crossbar. A rebound shot from Georgetown went flying out of bounds and the Huskies kept the deficit at one for the time being. The tide would change not long after, as Natalie

Means drove past Anna Carson and flicked the ball past an outstretched Mahoney and in for the third Hoyas goal of the game. Mahoney would eventually be replaced by senior Marykate Ward for the remaining ten minutes of the game.

UConn's best opportunity of the second half came when Okafor found Fried, who then went one-on-one with the Georgetown goalkeeper. Fried's first touch went array and she barely made a recovery on the ball before shooting it right at Karpenko. Connecticut had a few more opportunities, starting with a free kick that was too high and out of play in the 80th minute. Okafor tried to find Anaya Johnson moments later, but she was the victim of a clean slide tackle, and her attempt was knocked away. The final opportunity came when McCarthy sent a corner kick Johnson's way. Johnson had the header lined up, but she was not able to put it on net.

The horn sounded and Georgetown left Storrs victorious, remaining unbeaten in Big East play. The Huskies were unable to capitalize on some opportunities, whereas the Hoyas scored on even the slightest of open windows. Connecticut remains winless in Big East play after facing a gauntlet of three of the best teams in the conference, including the reigning champions.

UConn's next opportunity to get in the win column will be at home against Providence on Thursday night.



MCCREVEN'S MASHUP

Preseason college basketball all-transfer team and more

by **Jake McCreven** | HE/HIM/HIS | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | jpm23012@uconn.edu

The PAC-XII poached five teams from the Mountain West to rebuild its conference status. Alabama basketball will be ranked higher than Alabama football. Kansas will trot out a starting lineup featuring five players all in contention for the AP's First Team All-America. Gonzaga has vowed to move conferences and bring an end to its terror over its West Coast inferiors. Bottom line: A lot of stuff happened this off-season - which cannot all be covered in this one column. In the first installment of the 2024 college basketball preview series, I will lay out my all-transfer team as well as my preseason mid-major picks for March upsets.

Preseason all-transfer team

Guard: Kadary Richmond - St. John's (Prev. Seton Hall)

Richmond migrated across the George Washington Bridge to join Rick Pitino in Queens following a 15.7 point-per-game average and seven rebound-per-game season at Seton Hall. The fifth-year senior was 247Sport's No. 1 ranked transfer, visiting Oklahoma before opting to join the Red Storm this May. Richmond is a physical threat in the backcourt who is most effective when singled up with opposing guards (many of whom he is considerably larger than). Richmond led the Big East in number of shots per 100 possessions and percent of possessions used per team last season as the Pirates' number one option.

Guard: Jeremy Roach - Baylor (Prev. Duke)

The 6-foot-2 senior guard transferred out of Durham following an 11.3 points per game campaign with the Blue Devils, joining Scott Drew in Waco as the Bears gear up for a run in the Big-XII. The former two-time Duke captain joins the likes of Jayden Dunn, Langston Love and highly coveted freshman VJ Edgcombe in the backcourt. Roach is a slicing, penetrating guard with a pass first mindset, fitting perfectly into Baylor's three point centered

offensive scheme.

Forward: Michael Ajayi - Gonzaga (Prev. Pepperdine)

Ajayi was the West Coast Conference's leading scorer in 2023, averaging 17.2 points per game with the Pepperdine Waves before entering the portal and committing to Mark Few's Bulldogs in late March. Ajayi is a force on the defensive glass, averaging 9.9 rebounds per game and ranking 12th nationally in defensive rebounding percentage (28.2%). The true senior will get opportunities to score early and often in Spokane next to proven scorers Ryan Nembhard and Graham Ike.

Forward: Norchad Omier - Baylor (Prev. Miami)

The second now-Bear on this list, Omier, along with fellow Miami star Wooga Poplar (Villanova), left Coral Gables for higher powered teams this spring. Omier averaged a double-double for the Hurricanes in 2023, scoring in double digits in all but four games and nabbing over 13 rebounds nine times. The Nicaragua native will slide nicely into the four spot with the Bears, sharing the frontcourt with five-star freshman, Jason Asemota.

Center: Great Osobor - Washington (Prev. Utah State)

Osobor elected to follow Head Coach Danny Sprinkle to Seattle following a 28-win 2023 which saw the Aggies win the Mountain West regular season title and Osobor average 17 points and nine rebounds per game. Osobor wears many faces as an interior scorer and is a solid rebounder on the offensive glass. The Husky senior also averaged nearly three assists -per game as an Aggie in 2023 and will look to create opportunities for a lineup of five transfer guards.

Preseason mid-major picks for March upsets

UAB - AAC

Preventing potential Conference Player of the Year Yaxel Lendeborg from slipping into the portal was key for a Blazers team looking to build off of last year's tournament appearance. Lendeborg will control the paint and open up gaps for dynamic guards Butta Johnson and Georgia Southern transfer Tyren Moore to operate. UAB ranked 56th nationally in adjusted offensive efficiency (aided by dominant offensive rebounding), but struggled from beyond the

arc, shooting just 32.7%. Behind a strong group of backcourt transfers and the return of the powerful Lendeborg, the Blazers march into November as the clear AAC frontrunner.

Saint Joseph's - A-10

Guard play is vital for mid-major teams when weighing the likelihood of an upset in March. Luckily for Saint Joseph's, senior guard Erik Reynolds II opted to return to Hawk Hill for his final season of eligibility, and the Hawks lured Rutgers wing Derek Simpson from the transfer portal, creating one of the higher-powered mid-major backcourts in America. Reynolds is a potential NBA-prospect, who will work down low with Harvard transfer Justice Ajobar to terrorize opposing A-10 defenses. The Hawks lost to Kentucky, Charleston, VCU and Seton Hall by less than seven points each last season, and with a returning nucleus spearheaded by Reynolds, expect the Hawks to be a tough outfit this season.

Northern Arizona - Big Sky

The Lumberjacks bring back four starters from last season, forming one of the more experienced groups in the Big Sky. First-teamer Trent McLaughlin

returns to Flagstaff to build off an impressive 16.6 points per game last season. NAU ranked 65th nationally in 3% defensively and 72nd in non-steal turnovers (Ken-Pom), meaning the Lumberjacks create opportunities on the defensive end. All-defensive selection Carson Basham will help with that. If the Lumberjacks grab the bid out of the Big Sky, don't be surprised if they're sticking around with a two or three seed come March.

High Point - Big South

The Panthers were last season's upset darling that didn't make it to the tournament, upended by eventual champion Longwood in the Big South Semifinals. High Point retained four starters and brought in dynamic transfers Bobby Pettiford (ECU) and D'Maurian Williams (TTU) to bolster the already strongest roster in the conference. Returning forward Kimani Hamilton and big man Justin Bodo Bodo are some of the best players at their positions in the conference. The Panthers ranked 36th in adjusted offensive efficiency and played at a fast-paced tempo of 18.1 seconds per-possession, a notorious formula known for upsetting higher seeds.