



UConn professor, graduate student attend COP16 Biodiversity Conference



The UConn Horticulture Club replotting a tree. The club meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Floriculture Building PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONN ON INSTAGRAM

by Aiza Shaikh
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University of Connecticut faculty in the Plant Science and Landscape Architecture department traveled to Cali, Colombia to attend the 16th U.N. Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP16) last month. Professor Sohyun Park, Ph.D., and her advisee, graduate student Zahra Ali, attended the conference alongside global leaders, reflecting on how landscape architecture and design can positively impact biodiversity efforts.

The conference was divided into two areas, the “blue” and “green” zones, according to the Business for Nature website. The blue zone restricts entry to official delegations from member countries and accredited observers, while the green zone is open to the public. According to Park, she and Ali participated in green zone events, though

they also attended the highly secure blue zone events as observers.

Park had the opportunity to present her research on solutions to biodiversity loss at a couple of green zone events, including the Biopolis Global Symposium. Park also spoke on a panel called “Every Building, Campus and Community Project is an Opportunity to Protect Biodiversity,” discussing ways to ensure that future design projects protect biodiversity. “There are some local architects and landscape architects who joined on the panel,” Park said. “We shared a really brief presentation of our work, and then spent more time to discuss how we can make sure any design/construction projects could be an opportunity to enhance and protect biodiversity.”

According to Park, two of the panelists were working on local projects, and most of the audience members were local students studying engineering, planning and design. The panel took place at Universidad ECCI, a local

university that served as a meeting space for the green zone events.

“We had four people [on the panel],” Park explained. “One of them was the program director for the Sustainable SITES Initiative [at the U.S. Green Building Council], and the other two were local...We actually utilized one of the classrooms in [Universidad ECCI], and most of the audience were student engineers and planners, and designers and design practitioners from local areas. Some of the presentations were done in Spanish...but there was a translator, and he was able to translate what I said into Spanish.”

Ali said it was nice to see substantial student participation at the panel and other green zone events.

“What I noticed at both the green zone events were specific cultural hubs or universities that were involved, to not only bring in the broader public and community within Cali and Colombia, but it also then gave access to students who maybe didn’t necessarily have the opportunity

to go away from their university,” Ali said. “They could go from class to come to a session and then go back to class.”

Other green zone events included workshops, exhibitions of environmental projects and artistic presentations, according to the COP16 website. The events aim to “meet diverse voices that show the momentum, action and ambition from indigenous peoples to urban networks,” the website states.

According to Park, one of the main takeaways from the conference focused on the need for Indigenous and Tribal communities to be heard. Ali added that there is a need for Indigenous and local communities to have more decision-making power.

“We could see that there was a lot of discussion about engaging Indigenous communities and local communities and traditional knowledge, but when it came to giving them decision-making power, there was clearly a lack of that,” Ali said. “So, our thoughts are, how do you step beyond that sort of performative engagement...to actually decentralizing and devolving the power away from...corporations and governments?”

can we utilize...to compare different sites with different situations for biodiversity?”

Ali emphasized the importance of having students and faculty attend COP16 and similar conferences.

“I think it’s important that we keep continuing to engage in these conferences,” Ali said. “Yes, we are within academia, and we think that we read a lot from different parts of the world, and we are globally engaged, but when you actually come into contact with people from these communities and you’re listening to their ideas...it just broadens your realm of what’s possible.”

According to Park and Ali, the opportunity to present their research and attend the conference was supported and funded by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), along with the UConn Department of Global Affairs, the Office of Sustainability and the Institute of the Environment. Park also said that this year marks the first time UConn has been represented at a CBD conference.

According to a Nov. 27 press release on the U.N. CBD website, delegations from member countries will resume COP16 in Rome, Italy in February 2025. The three-day extension is necessary since governments “failed to reach a consensus on key issues,” which resulted in suspension, according to a Guardian article.

Despite the suspension, the release states that delegates achieved numerous agreements, including the establishment of a global “Cali Fund” that would benefit developing countries, as well as recognition of contributions to the field by people of African descent. Other agreements and key topics discussed can be found in the release.



The UConn Office of Sustainability leads the way for campus sustainability efforts. The office is located by Horsebarn Hill road. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONN ON INSTAGRAM

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THE DAILY CAMPUS NEWSLETTER
8 AM BLAST

News

UConn mourns loss of English professor Jason Courtmanche



Professor Jason Courtmanche with two former students and Connecticut Writing Project Teacher-Consultants Joe Tarantino and Jenn Todisco. Courtmanche had been a member of the University of Connecticut’s faculty since 2007. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNENGLISHDEPARTMENT ON INSTAGRAM

by Aiza Shaikh
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The University of Connecticut is mourning the loss of Jason Courtmanche, an associate professor of English, who passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 27 after battling a rare form of lymphoma. Courtmanche also served as the director of the Connecticut Writing Project and the assistant coordinator of Early College Experience at Storrs.

UConn English Department Head Clare Costley King’oo expressed condolences in an email to department faculty and students Wednesday.

“As many are aware, Jason Courtmanche, Associate Professor in Residence and Director of the Connecticut Writing Project at Storrs, has been unwell for several months, battling a rare form of lymphoma,” the email stated. “He entered hospice care on Friday, November 22, and passed away early this morning, Wednesday, November 27.”

Courtmanche earned his bachelor’s degree in English in 1991, followed by his Connecticut Teacher Certification and master’s in English education in 1992 and his Ph.D. in English in 2006, according

to the statement. He had been teaching at UConn as a faculty member since 2007.

“As a member of our faculty since 2007, he touched countless lives through his work as an instructor of future teachers—a teacher’s teacher, as he often put it. Even after becoming ill, he remained in close touch,” the statement continued.

According to the statement, Courtmanche taught a creative writing course for high school students this summer while undergoing treatment.

"This summer, [Courtmanche] participated in the Connecticut Writing Project’s

Summer Institute and taught a Creative Writing course for high school students while undergoing treatment. I will remember his dynamism, humor, passion for reading, friendship, and deep care for others,” King’oo wrote.

Courtmanche leaves behind his wife, Amy Nocton, and his children, Cory and Elsa. Nocton teaches as an adjunct faculty member for First-Year Writing at UConn.

Resources:
Student Health & Wellness Mental Health Services is available to provide support to the students who may be

struggling. To make an appointment with SHaW-Mental Health call (860) 486-4705 or schedule an appointment online. In addition, information about managing grief is located on the SHaW-Mental Health website. If you need immediate help, resources can be accessed here.

Staff in the Dean of Students Office are available to meet with you if that would be helpful. To schedule a meeting please call (860) 486-3426. Alternatively, email dos@uconn.edu and request a meeting with an assistant dean.

The pope will visit Corsica Dec. 15 after skipping Paris reopening of Notre Dame



Pope Francis delivers his blessing during an audience with fishermen and members of the CEI, Italians Bishops Conference, in the Pope Paul VI hall at the Vatican, Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024. PHOTO COURTESY OF APNEWS

ROME (AP) — Pope Francis will travel to the Mediterranean island of Corsica on Dec. 15, making yet another visit to France that avoids the capital and all the pomp and

protocol that accompanies a proper state visit.

The one-day visit to the French island region, confirmed Saturday by the Vatican, is to close out a diocesan

conference on popular piety in Ajaccio, the capital.

While Francis will meet with President Emmanuel Macron at the airport before returning to Rome, the trip is in some way a snub of the French leader who had invited Francis to travel to Paris the previous weekend to preside over the grand reopening of Notre Dame.

Francis made clear in September that he wouldn’t participate in the ceremony, telling reporters flat-out “I won’t go to Paris,” after a French publication reported that he would attend the Dec. 8 reopening of the cathedral after the devastating 2019 fire.

Francis subsequently announced a busy Vatican agenda

for that weekend, presiding over a consistory to create new cardinals Dec. 7 and participating in his annual commemoration of the Dec. 8 feast day dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

The Dec. 15 event in Corsica seems far more suited to Francis’ priorities than a grand cathedral reopening, emphasizing the “church of the peripheries.” He will close out a Corsican church conference on “popular piety in the Mediterranean.”

It’s a similar theme that brought Francis to the southern French port of Marseille in 2023, when he made an overnight visit to participate in an annual summit of Mediterranean bishops. His previous trip to France was at the start of his pontificate, when

he made a one-day visit to Strasbourg on Nov. 25, 2014, to address the European Parliament and Council of Europe.

Corsica is home to more than 340,000 people and has been part of France since 1768. But the island has also seen pro-independence violence and has an influential nationalist movement, and last year Macron proposed granting it limited autonomy.

Francis has stressed that he wants to prioritize smaller Catholic communities on the peripheries rather than the big centers of Christianity. As a result, his foreign trips have tended to avoid major European capitals in favor of far-flung churches in poorer parts of the world.

The Daily Campus

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The Daily Campus' Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Waves of grain" shade
 - 6 Exam
 - 10 Spiral
 - 14 Musical pace set by a conductor
 - 15 Cuba, por ejemplo
 - 16 Maui's scenic ___ Highway
 - 17 Proverb
 - 18 Stressfully close game
 - 20 Classic Allen Funt series with practical jokes
 - 22 Extraterrestrial of 1980s TV
 - 25 Word with a maiden name
 - 26 Takes five
 - 27 Shortest ways to travel
 - 32 Greek salad fruit
 - 33 Sheep sounds
 - 34 Beaver creation
 - 37 Assign stars to
 - 38 Like pet parakeets
 - 40 U2 lead singer
 - 41 Prefix with system
 - 42 Greasy
 - 43 Tropical fruit
 - 44 Like detectives sporting civvies
 - 47 Sandwich slices
 - 50 ___ Lingus
 - 51 Spanish "Bravo!"
 - 52 "In all honesty, ... " and what the starts of 20-, 27-, and 44-Across might say?
 - 57 Received from an estate
 - 58 Conclude by reasoning
 - 62 Banana covering
 - 63 Opposed to
 - 64 Requiring constant validation, perhaps
 - 65 Blood bank fluids
 - 66 Old car from Sweden
 - 67 Honking birds
- DOWN**
- 1 24/7 money source
 - 2 "Give ___ break!"
 - 3 Sport with wheelies, for short
 - 4 "Awesome, dude!"
 - 5 Genre for novelists Colleen Hoover and Emily Henry

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
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22	23	24		25						26				
27			28				29	30	31					
32						33					34	35	36	
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41				42						43				
			44					45	46					
47	48	49					50				51			
52					53	54	55				56			
57										58	59	60	61	
62					63					64				
65					66					67				

By Janice Luttrell 12/2/24

- 6 Dating app with a flame logo
- 7 Morales of "NYPD Blue"
- 8 Lost traction
- 9 Mineral no longer used in bath powder
- 10 Wind ___: tinklers on porches
- 11 Hall's Rock & Roll Hall of Fame partner
- 12 Chemically inactive
- 13 "___ Theme": "Doctor Zhivago" music
- 19 Expos
- 21 Pickleball court divider
- 22 Think the world of
- 23 Shrub with lavender flowers
- 24 ___-Lay snacks
- 28 New Year's ___
- 29 Reproductive health doc
- 30 Persian Gulf fed.
- 31 Smidgen
- 34 "Tiny Bubbles" singer
- 35 ___ hair pasta
- 36 Bullwinkle, e.g.
- 38 Spy org.

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

B	O	B	A			B	T	S			B	O	R	E
O	W	E	S		R	I	O	T	S		I	P	O	S
H	I	T	T	H	E	S	P	O	T		Z	E	S	T
R	E	A	R	A	D	M	I	R	A	L		N	E	O
				O	F	F	I	C	E	G	O	S	S	I
A	H	I		T	I	L				S	L	O	E	S
S	A	N	T	A	S	L	A	P			L	U	C	R
A	L	F	A		H	A	D	I	T			T	R	O
P	O	R	T	S		H	O	P	E	C	H	E	S	T
	B	E	A	L	E			S	N	L		T	E	A
F	R	E	R	E	J	A	C	Q	U	E	S			
O	A	F		D	E	T	O	U	R	A	H	E	A	D
L	I	A	R		C	A	R	E	E	R	E	X	P	O
I	D	L	I		T	R	E	A	D		B	A	S	E
O	S	L	O			I	R	K			A	M	E	S

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- 39 Boxer Muhammad
- 40 Baseball club
- 42 More mature
- 43 Break of day
- 44 Anderson of "Baywatch"
- 45 "Invasion of Privacy" rapper
- 46 ___ & Perrins steak sauce
- 47 Radar screen flashes
- 48 "Judy" star Zellweger
- 49 Bygone anesthetic
- 53 Objectivity spoiler
- 54 Sicilian volcano
- 55 Greek salad cheese
- 56 Leg joint
- 59 Service charge
- 60 Magazine VIPs
- 61 Type of 47-Across

Sudoku By The Mephram Group

Level **1** **2** **3** **4**

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

Solution to Saturday's puzzle 12/2/24

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

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



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This Week In History: Dec. 1 - Dec. 7

‘A revolution in a swimming pool’



FILE ILLUSTRATION /THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Benjamin Lassy
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Hello and welcome back to This Week in History! What a week it is: being the last before the dreadful finals week finally arrives and the semester ends. It's a time of change and hard work, but hopefully not bloody foreheads, as we will be discussing this week.

While finals loom ominously in the background for some, they really are the surface level of most people's fears, especially in the context of history. Beyond exams, many fear that the world is in a constant state of chaos and destruction, in a perpetual downward spiral toward self-destruction. It is a grim outlook, but certainly one that has evidence to back it up. Yet history has shown that when things look most hopeless, humanity pulls through with an almost miraculous drive and energy. Let's cross to the eastern side of the Iron Curtain in 1956 this week and see just how that phenomenon appears in the historical record.

As World War II ended, the savaged political situation in Europe was not suddenly stabilized by the collapse of Nazi Germany. In fact, drawing borders and holding fair elections became substantially more difficult. Instead of one Adolf Hitler sitting down and drawing a map of Europe he liked, now the Soviet Union and the United States

(and its often-disgruntled allies: France and the U.K.) were all trying to grasp a single pen to draw their desired versions of Europe. As a result, a small and subdued country like Hungary suddenly lost any semblance of sovereignty and instead was like a pawn in a chess game who was just swiped off the board by a rook.

As a member of the Axis in World War II, Hungary was a conquered nation by 1945, and its devastated territory fell under Soviet influence as the Soviet-supported Communist Party formed a government. This government would not achieve much for the Hungarian people's recovery. As the "Hungarian Statistical Yearbook 1960" records, in 1949, 17% of homes had running water, and this number only increased marginally to 22.5% by 1960.

As the Institute for the History of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution contends, "The decade after 1945 was marked by scarcity in every respect." As a new generation of students and workers entered Hungarian social life, the 1950s seemed to be a decade of little promise and many sought to defect to the West, which was gearing up for an economic boom. As winter began in 1956, those who could not defect saw little choice but to rise in revolution.

Though many struggled in Budapest and other urban areas against Hungarian police, no unarmed or lightly equipped Hungarian could survive a Russian T-34-85 or T-54 tank. Yet, the up-

rising did have an impact when the prime minister (to be replaced by another Soviet-appointed puppet) and an estimated 200,000 Hungarians fled the country. Left behind in the wake of this tumult were the lives of roughly 3,000 Hungarians, who struggled against a full Soviet armed response.

Only a few weeks after this brutal struggle, a team of Hungarians spurred on by the grief they felt in their country was gearing up to fight the Soviet Union in a different manner, yet with just as powerful an impact. On Dec. 6, 1954, a match known as "Blood in the Water" forever changed the history of water polo. It was a semi-final between the Soviet Union and Hungary in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics.

Despite Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev's abrasive political actions in the days leading up to the USSR's team arriving in Australia (revolving around the Suez Crisis), both teams found their way to the pool.

For anyone unfamiliar with the rules of water polo — as they don't typically teach that in history classes — the sport is fairly simple, with players treading water and not being allowed to touch the bottom of the pool. Meanwhile, two goals take space at opposing ends of the pool and a ball is in play that can only be touched by one of the players' hands (except for the goalie, who can use both hands). The objective: Score points, even if through aggressive physical contact. The Hungarian team's objective? Restore national pride and secure a sense of freedom.

Legendary polo player Dezső Gyarmati led the Hungarian team. By all accounts, he was a beacon of energy and endurance for the team and became the most decorated polo player on the team, leading it in later years. In 1956, however, he oversaw a team that in the words of player Ervin Zádor, "felt we were playing not just for ourselves but for our whole country."

The match was a brutal slog. Both teams were aware of the larger political ramifications of victory or defeat. The Hungarians wanted to rekindle national pride, while the Soviets (who had stolen the Hungarians' training methods through political pressure) sought to knock the team

off its previous record of winning Olympic competitions.

The Hungarian team began the contest with a strategy of taunting the Soviets. If the insults that the Hungarians threw at their rivals provoked a physical retaliation, then the Soviets would receive a penalty. Zádor was the rising star of the Hungarian team, and it was his placement on defense against an aggressive Russian player that would lend the game its disturbing title.

Zádor guarded Valentin Prokopov, a dominant Russian player who had already broken a Hungarian player's eardrum. Water polo has the potential to be violent, but Prokopov brought that quality of the sport to its limits.

The Hungarian guard didn't do much to protect himself though, and he hurled insults at Prokopov about his mother and her fabricated heinous explicit activities.

As the game progressed, the Hungarians scored four goals and left the Soviets trailing with zero. With only a minute left, Zádor turned to the referee to see what a whistle call was blown for, though, he would soon wake up in a daze. Prokopov, who had heard enough slander towards his family, had socked him in the face.

The largely pro-Hungarian audience was livid. Onlookers stormed the perimeter of the pool hurling insults of their own at the

Soviet team, while officials soon called the game early as a Hungarian victory due to their lead in points.

Although a common myth gets thrown around that the pool water was turned completely red by blood, that isn't the case. However, photos of Zádor do reveal a man with a blood-soaked face and shattered body.

In the end, though the Hungarians were forced into another 40 years of Soviet oppression after their failed uprising in 1956, the sacrifices were not in vain, as the struggle for independence spurred their national water polo team to international stardom. The West covered the struggle as a struggle between Soviet Bloc members, and the Hungarian team was eventually victorious in the final game against Yugoslavia, winning their fourth Olympic medal. Zádor and a few of his fellow polo players defected to the West after their victory.

And so, this week in history ends with a momentous struggle to rekindle a spirit of camaraderie and strength. Though not always successful, oftentimes the greater a struggle is, the greater the collective energy is to best it. Let's enter the finals stretch with that enthusiasm. And, as this is the final This Week in History of the year, I hope you have a holiday season worthy of the history books. See you in 2025!



ILLUSTRATION BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Kendrick Lamar returns with 'GNX'

by Ayyan Tamjeed
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Rapper Kendrick Lamar surprise-dropped his sixth studio album "GNX" on Nov. 15. Named after the Buick GNX, this record serves as an homage to Lamar's hometown of Compton, California, and the larger L.A./West Coast culture. It also caps off a banner year for Lamar, from winning his famous feud with Drake earlier in the year, getting the nod to perform in Super Bowl LIX and now dropping "GNX" under his record label pgLang.

The opening track is "wacced out murals," where both Kendrick and the beat go hard. The horns do the most to build up an ominous vibe, while Kendrick waxes lyrical on his undying commitment to his craft with a quiet ferocity. A lovely touch is the Spanish poem that is sung throughout the album by mariachi singer Deyra Barrera, punctuated with a lovely flamenco-esque guitar.

Next up is "squabble up," which was teased earlier in "Not Like Us." This whole song and its subsequent video act as an homage to West Coast and hip-hop culture. The beat is filled with funky alien-sounding synths and sparse drums. The music video takes inspiration from The Roots' video for their song

"The Next Basement." Furthermore, there are references to albums by Isaac Hayes, Ice-T and Nate Dogg. Kendrick's rapping stands out here, and I love how he raps the chorus: "I feel good, get the fuck out my face."

"luther," built off a Luther Vandross sample, represents a large tonal shift from the last two songs. It features lush orchestral instrumentation and a feature from SZA, who honestly carries this song into the upper echelons. I love Kendrick and SZA's call-and-response during the last two verses because of how well their voices fit together and the rapid switch between them, like they're trying to finish each other's sentences. This is nice since the lyrics are about Kendrick's devotion to his partner, rapping, "If this world were mine, I'd take your dreams and make 'em multiply."

"man at the garden" is where Kendrick raps if he should "deserve it all," a phrase that is oft repeated throughout this song. The song starts calmly, with muffled drums soundtracking what Kendrick has done that makes him believe he deserves it all before it ramps up to the climax where he exclaims, "Tell me why you deserve the greatest of all time, motherfucker," a call to the listener to ask why they deserve it all.

The West Coast vibes return with "hey now." The gasps

throughout the song help give the song a horror vibe. It also features underground L.A. rapper Dody6, who raps an excellent guest verse. I would argue that lyrically, it's like "man at the garden" as both vocalists sing about overcoming adversity to reach success.

"reincarnated" is built off a 2Pac sample and has a unique song structure. As Kendrick first personifies two black musicians from the '50s — R&B guitarist John Lee Hooker and a female vocalist many believe to be Billie Holiday — before returning the focus to himself. He also shouts every syllable with intensity, ending each verse with "reincarnated," ringing throughout the whole mix. The third verse ties the whole song together, as Kendrick owns up to his own shortcomings but still strives to use his artistry and talent to build people up, the artistry that he — and many others — may have inherited from Hooker and Holiday, hence the song title.

"tv off" may be the biggest song of this album, purely because of the "Mustard" scream that Kendrick does in the second half. But that doesn't mean the first half of the song isn't a banger as well. With DJ Mustard bringing his signature production style, Kendrick is full of braggadocio. The second half starts with that iconic scream, backed by an orchestra. Kendrick serves even more hard-hitting lyrics,

about rising above mediocrity and laziness with the refrain of "turn this TV off."

The L.A. love train continues with "dodger blue." The vocals on here are bright and upbeat, and I want to highlight the great vocal layering effect in the chorus when someone sings "Westside, get the money, yeah, that's fo' sho'." For a short song, it packs so much.

"peekaboo" has the same ominous vibes as "hey now," and coming after "dodger blue" helps keep the album fresh. It is also quite cheeky, as Kendrick says "peekaboo" a lot and the featured artist, AZChike, another underground rapper, sounds like Yuno Miles (there's one line that makes this feel clear). The lyrics lament the modern music industry, with the line "What they talkin' about? They talkin' bout nothin'" detailing how songs today seem vapid.

"heart pt. 6" is another entry into the "Heart" song series, where Kendrick talks about what's on his mind. Part six is lovely, since Kendrick reminisces on all the figures in his career, from his supergroup Black Hippy, TDE label boss Top Dawg and good friend Dave Free. The song is carried by this stunning West Coast beat, punctuated by the chorus, which samples R&B trio SWV.

The penultimate track is the posse cut "gnx." All the rappers on this song (Ken-

drick, Peysoh, Hitta J3 and YoungThreat), flex their successes and their L.A. heritage. My favorite verse is probably YoungThreat's, because he is on his "Bob the Builder shit."

"gloria," the final track, concludes the Spanish poem sung throughout the album, in "wacced out murals" and "reincarnated." The song starts out looking like a love song devoted to Kendrick's partner before it's revealed to be Kendrick's "pen," his love for songwriting and his artistry. The storytelling takes the stage for this song since the beat is mostly muted. But once the outro hits, SZA comes back to sing with a violin section backing her, and the guitar from the Spanish poem comes to support her as well, helping bring an excellent song and overall excellent album to an end.

Kendrick's shift to a West Coast vibe has proved a massive success, as he brings up yet another excellent album in his already excellent discography. Some standout favorites for me were "luther," "tv off" and "gloria." The West Coast beats, the features he brought on and his eclectic voice show time and time again why he is one of the greatest rappers of our time.

RATING: 4/5

‘MAHASHMASHANA’: HARD TO SAY BUT EASY TO LISTEN TO

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Father John Misty, the current moniker for indie artist Josh Tillman, released “Mahashmashana,” on Nov. 22. It’s Tillman’s sixth studio album under the name, following “Chloë and the Next 20th Century,” released in 2022. According to his Bandcamp, the title is the phonetic spelling of a Sanskrit word that means “great cremation ground.” With a 50-minute runtime and only eight tracks, the songs take their time delivering the expansive folk-pop soundscapes and narrative journeys that Tillman is known for.

The record opens with the title track, a sprawling nine-minute opus. An army of layered strings and pianos kick off the show, sounding like something from Phil Spector’s wildest (nonviolent) dreams. The angelic noise swells with the chorus and fades back during the verses, letting the softer drums and piano support Tillman’s ambitious lyricism.

He delves into the human experience and impermanence of

what we hold dear, wrapping the meaning in multilayered metaphors. In the third verse: “Like there’s no figure on the cross / They have gone the way of all flesh / And what was found is lost,” Tillman belts about religion before the track reaches its climax. The outro is stellar, with all the instrumental ideas coming together with an added saxophone cutting through the mix. And just when it sounds like the strings and sax can’t get any higher, the track ends, delivering one of the most satisfying sonic builds of the year.

Tillman continues with “She Cleans Up,” a groovy rock cut on the album that flexes his versatility. His voice effortlessly glides over funky guitar riffs with so much catchiness that every line sounds like part of a chorus. The dynamic sax solos and slight vocal distortion added on the back end create a psychedelic vibe, giving this track a distinct but still comparable climax to the opener. It may not be as flashy as some of the other songs on the album, but you’d be hard-pressed to find a more danceable song in Tillman’s catalog.

The fourth track, “Mental Health,” is more of a laid-back pop ballad. Tillman muses on the role of mental health and self-identity in society. He goes back and forth about its importance in lines like: “Mental health, mental health / Maybe we’re all far too well / Mental health, mental health / A less pathetic cry for help.” The song is less maximally produced than the previous highlights, but that’s not necessarily a shortcoming. Tillman’s soft vocals, the gentle strings and the relevant subject matter make it feel like an adult lullaby of sorts. That is until the end, where there’s a dramatic flourish, like most of the songs on the album.

“Screamland,” the following track, starts off stripped back and somber, seeming like another ballad approach. Tillman goes into the thought processes people use to cope with hardship and to find optimism for the future. His quiet vocals create a bleak atmosphere, which contrasts with the distorted electric breakdown in the refrain. “Stay young / Get numb / Keep dreaming / Screamland,” Tillman sings when everything gets noisy, getting at the core of the mindset

that the song is about. Of all the stylistic switch-ups on the album, this might be the most jarring, but it’s nice to see how far Tillman is willing to diverge from his usual style.

The penultimate track, “I Guess Time Just Makes Fools of Us All,” is the second longest on the album, coming in at eight-and-a-half minutes. It’s a jaunty disco jam, taking a different approach with the same instruments used elsewhere on the project. Tillman’s lyrics are even more abstract than the rest of the album, with verses drawing on personal vignettes, societal observations and historical references for a layered commentary on temporality. He comes off as an orator for humanity, narrating the futility of everything in epic fashion.

The album ends with “Summer’s Gone,” a straightforward acoustic track. It ties the album up well thematically, going back to ideas like finding ways to force optimism and the passing of time. There aren’t any music shifts or builds, but the subdued atmosphere keeps it from feeling anticlimactic.

Tillman’s “Mahashmashana” is a boldly arranged and intricately written work. The emphasis on genre shifts and musical climaxes makes the album a dynamic and engaging listen, even if a couple less dramatic tracks feel underwhelming in the process. But the never-ending positives go to show that no matter what style is employed or how much time passes, Father John Misty’s still got it.

RATING:
4/5



“Mahashmashana” is the sixth studio album by the American musician, Josh Tillman, under the stage name Father John Misty. The album was released on Nov. 22, 2024.

IMAGE COURTESY OF @FATHERJOHNMISTY ON INSTAGRAM

‘The Party Never Ends’: A tribute to a legend

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The estate of the late Chicago-born rapper and singer-songwriter Juice WRLD, who was known for transcending the genres of 21st-century rap and hip-hop, posthumously released his long-awaited fifth and final studio album, “The Party Never Ends” on Nov. 29. It marks a triumphantly bittersweet end to a successful five-year career in the music industry.

“The Party Never Ends” blends elements of hip-hop, trap, pop and emo rap, showcasing the artist’s unique takes on the genres. The album also features guest appearances from renowned artists such as Benny Blanco, Eminem, Nicki Minaj and the Kid Laroi. The album is the third in a trilogy of recordings released after the artist’s sudden passing in 2019, preceding 2020’s “Legends Never Die” and 2021’s “Fighting Demons.”

The title of the album is fitting and almost poignant for a final album, especially one by a musician whose career and work have left a powerful impact on his many fans,

with over 21 million records sold worldwide. However, this album is distinctive not only in that it marks a touching final tribute to an influential and inspirational career, but it also highlights some of the artist’s past struggles and life experiences on a much deeper and more personal level, especially the ones that took place during the height of his fame.

In the second track of the album, “Misfit,” Juice WRLD discusses his desperate desire to “fit in” and highlights his struggles with drugs and alcohol. In the single “AGATS2 (Insecure)” featuring Nicki Minaj, he expresses his sorrow and frustration in maintaining his relationships with women and sings about the steps he takes to self-medicate in order to numb his ongoing pain. The lyrics “And your insecurities / Will get the best of me” highlight the immense difficulties he faces while trying to maintain a meaningful connection with his partner.

Drug use and relationships have been a prominent theme in many of Juice WRLD’s previous songs, but something about “AGATS2 (Insecure)” on his last ever album remains poignant. Perhaps it is because he is reflecting back

on the fact that, throughout the entirety of his adult life, he tried desperately to conform to the status quo but was prevented from doing so due to his personal wants and desires, most of which were taboo. Even as a successful world-famous musician with a strong fanbase, Juice WRLD’s outlook on life often remained bleak, and this sentiment remains in “The Party Never Ends.”

But it’s not the ongoing dark themes present in many of his songs that have caused “The Party Never Ends” to attract criticism. In a review published by British music and fashion magazine Clash, it’s the length of the album that has some critics giving negative reviews. It reads, “At 18 tracks it’s both exhaustive and exhausting, a record that sometimes lacks a cohesive identity.” Other sources have accused Juice WRLD’s estate of releasing the album merely to capitalize off his legacy.

But despite the gloomy subject matter of Juice WRLD’s music and the criticism his latest work has received, there is no doubt that his legacy has and will continue to shape the rap and hip-hop landscape and leave an impact on fans for decades to come.



“The Party Never Ends,” is available for streaming. The fifth and final studio album was released on Friday, Nov. 29, 2024.

IMAGE COURTESY OF @XXL ON INSTAGRAM

RATING: 4/5

No Skips: Jawbreaker’s ‘Dear You’ has a lot to chew on

by James Fitzpatrick
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To send off No Skips for the time being since the semester is ending, let’s conclude crazily like the punk rock band Jawbreaker did in 1996. After the release of “Dear You” in 1995, the topic for today, frontman Blake Schwarzenbach and bass guitarist Chris Bauermeister had a physical altercation that broke apart the band for the following two decades. Despite this turmoil, the boys churned out a consistent set of songs on “Dear You” that I’d like to discuss.

With its title, the album can be symbolically interpreted as a letter to someone, as the “you” is ambiguous in this context. I bring this up because the first tracks are directed toward potentially different people or groups, especially with the introduction, “Save Your Generation.” Calling out our tendencies to criticize others at a moment’s notice instead of ourselves, Schwarzenbach puts an agency on the listener to better themselves and lead others to do the same. I also love the clean break into the chorus which turns out to be quite punchy and memorable with lines like “Survival never goes out of style.”

Track two, “I Love You So Much It’s Killing Us Both,” compelled me to review this record. Schwarzenbach ditches the inspirational tone of the last track in favor of frantic desperation. As a callback to the previous track, he laments, “How can I save you when I couldn’t save a dime?” while he claims he wants “a life without parties” just to stay with this person and stay grounded. Drummer Adam Pfahler goes to town throughout and really shines in the lead-up to the chorus, and it’s cool that the band can conjure up such a hype tune even with Schwarzenbach’s vulnerability in the lyrics.

“Fireman” begins immediately grungier than the preceding tracks, though its intensity is reeled back sonically but not so much lyrically when Schwarzenbach dreams of morbid stuff. The multiple changeups in the chorus are immaculate, and

overall, this song’s structure will be sure to keep you on your toes. “Accident Prone” takes the grunge up a notch and was likely divisive back in the day when fans weren’t expecting such melodic tracks from the boys, yet his intonation when singing is interesting. I swear he was saying “I scratch my ass” in the chorus instead of “accidents,” but that may be due to the instruments dominating the mix; I’m not sure.

Schwarzenbach’s cadence in the verses of “Chemistry” is impossible not to hum to — he’s defiant as all hell. Loosely based on high school life, the speaker alternates between exuding confidence and feeling self-conscious, like on the absolute bar, “I smoke a lot but can’t get laid.” If the charts were more favorable to them, I could see this operating the same as Alice Cooper’s “School’s Out” for a different generation, but we’re in this timeline, unfortunately. “Oyster” is only two-and-a-half minutes long, has a bridge and still feels drawn out. You would think this would be more of a layered song given its title, but it’s one where they lose touch of their edge. It’s passable, nevertheless.

“Million” picks the pace back up, where the guitar work stands out and Schwarzenbach delivers the best melodic vocals on the record so far. Segues into the “Take me to the pretty ones” section keeps the four-minute-and-20-second song feeling fresh and holds the listener’s engagement at the midpoint of the album. “Lurker II: Dark Son of Night” is criminally underrated for its energy and ferocity from Schwarzenbach. Once again, I commend his ability to mix brutal honesty into such a balls-to-the-wall song with lyrics like “Hook up the Sega / Have sex alone.”

Vocal samples of Christopher Walken on “Jet Black” thankfully don’t overstay their welcome, unlike many songs on Manic Street Preachers’ “The Holy Bible,” a similar album to “Dear You” that I may write about one day. Most of the five-minute song is more subdued than your average song here, though there is a sort of build-up around the four-minute mark. Deeming the song a slow burn is fitting given

Walken’s vivid description of a car crash during the second sample.

“Bad Scene, Everyone’s Fault” is a potent cut in the lyrical vein of “Chemistry” where the speaker is at a house party gone wrong. I generally don’t enjoy punk, and this is one of those instances where Schwarzenbach’s vocals are a little too effortless, yet once again, it’s over in the blink of an eye. I’m not going to recite the Genius annotations to you on “Sluttering (May 4th)” — you read that right — but one could probably write an essay on the various interpretations the song has to offer. Sonically, it’s a standard track for Jawbreaker besides the anthemic chorus, so I hope they got to play this one at a few shows before they broke up.

“Basilica” takes its time considering two minutes pass by before anything remotely explosive takes place, but that’s not necessarily a bad characteristic of the album’s second-to-last song. Schwarzenbach lays it all on the line, gloomily remarking, “In the pew, head down I’m crying / I think you have thoughts of dying.” The majority of the song passes by before we hear some more technical guitar playing as part of the two-minute vocal-less closing section. Finally, the largely acoustic “Unlisted Track” makes me wish the singer pursued more of a solo career after the dissolution of Jawbreaker and his other ‘90s group, Jets to Brazil, because he’s an impressive poet and sounds so down-to-earth when it’s just his voice without drums.

I forgot how I found this album even though it’s decently popular, but this is the only Jawbreaker project I’ve listened to in full. As with other albums and bands I cherish, I want to slowly consume their discography to savor their limited output, and if you find groups that aren’t operating at full force anymore or are defunct, I recommend you do the same. Regardless, there’s always more music out there to find, and I’m appreciative of those who have reached out thanking me for coverage of their favorite records that aren’t discussed enough. I’m also thankful to have brought exposure to albums you don’t hear about every day, so don’t be afraid to share your interests with those you care about during this winter season. Anyway, for now, I’m out!

FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS



‘SEX LIVES OF COLLEGE GIRLS’ IS BACK AND BETTER THAN EVER

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Malhotra. “We’re, like, 25% less hot now,” says Malhotra, and I agree. Not that they’re less hot, but that the group is not the same without Chase, so I hope that gets figured out stat.

The highly anticipated third season of “Sex Lives of College Girls” was released on Max on Nov. 21. An episode will be released every Thursday through Jan. 23. The show, created by Mindy Kaling, is known for starring singer Renéé Rapp (who plays Leighton Murray) and actresses such as Pauline Chalamet (Kimberly Finkle), Alyah Chanelle Scott (Whitney Chase) and Amrit Kaur (Bela Malhotra).

The show is incredibly chaotic. I was extremely excited for this season, as Ruby Cruz will be joining the cast (the name of her character is still unknown) and it will feature Rapp’s final episodes, as she is leaving the show.

I only watched the first episode for this review, as it was the only one out when I wrote this, but I will be watching religiously when new episodes drop.

The first episode is called “Welcome Back to Essex.” It opens with Malhotra thinking she is talking to a sculpture of John Essex (in this fictional universe, Essex is who the school is named after. Unclear on the why of it all, but I think he is the school’s founder). Malhotra, who in prior seasons wanted to transfer out, is apologizing for everything she did last season (such as putting her ambition before her friendships, alienating her friend groups and so forth). The counselor she was with leaves her office, joining Malhotra at the statue, and says that her GPA is too low; her only option is to come back in the fall.

Murray is driving back with her girlfriend, Alicia (played by Midori Francis) and her dad, who was in the back seat. When they have to pull over so Alicia can accept a call, Murray’s dad jokes that she is not talking to another girl (which, to be clear, no one was thinking), but something is going on, and I suppose we will find out exactly what that is soon. This new episode was shocking, filled with new revelations and characters. The plot is easy to follow but not incredibly dull, which I like.

Finkle and Chase are still not talking as in previous seasons, and while Chase moves to the Kappa house, Finkle lives with Murray and

Chaos builds as Finkle pulls up to the Kappa house and while her conversation with Chase doesn’t go as well as she’d hoped, maybe they will reconcile? Meanwhile, Alicia and Murray are having their own argument as Alicia announced that she is leaving Essex to work for the mayor of Boston. This surprised me, as I didn’t know that Francis was going to leave this season as well, but I guess it makes sense with Rapp’s departure. Murray leaves the room and insults Boston in the process (which is done comedically, as Rapp has an entire song dedicated to hating Boston).

Fortune Feimster makes a feature as an annoying person on the bus and Canaan and Finkle reunite — he gifts her a pretzel shirt from New York. Finkle does start to realize that her friendship with Chase is truly gone. “This is like Ten Commandments shit, you stole her man! You guys are done. Moses said that,” says Florez. And man, is she right. It’s either Canaan or Chase! Finkle will have to make this decision soon — if she doesn’t choose Chase, then I can’t; it’s over.

Chase deals with her unhinged sorority sisters and the party is on, baby (god, I wish college parties were actually as cool as the show’s). In a special moment that follows, Alicia and Murray talk things out and even say that they love each other. They’re so cute together and I am so happy that they haven’t broken up.

Finkle and Canaan call things off, and soon Finkle and Chase talk things through. Chase gets a well-deserved apology, and everything ends well. I am so pleased with how the episode wrapped this up. And we can see how Rapp gets her ending as well, when her math professor offers to make some calls and get her a transfer to MIT to study math. Ilia Isorelys Paulino, who plays Lila Flores, is another one of the highlights of this show for me, and I am so happy to see that she’s back.

The chaos is back and it’s better than ever. I am looking forward to the new episodes this season and to see just how much more insane this show can get.

RATING: 4/5



Opinion

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One Advisor, 3,600 Students: UConn Hartford's chaotic advisor shortage

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Early in the semester, I needed to change my schedule and set up a meeting with my advisor to understand which classes I could take. When I walked into the advising center, about 95% of UConn Hartford's student body was in the room with me.

I was previously a Pharmacy major and realized that it was not my path, so I switched to Journalism and English. While there are ways to check Student Admin to see what classes you need for your major, it is easier and more logical to speak to staff who know what you need to do.

Student administration workers are meant to support you and assist you with the challenges of being a college student; even someone who knows exactly how to work the system deserves to have a person there to guide them when needed.

Later in the year, when I had to meet with my advisor to take the hold off my account for class registration, I couldn't. Again, pop-up advising sessions were held, and students gathered in one of the computer labs to wait for assis-

tance. Luckily, I am a sophomore at UConn, so I have the benefit of knowing what classes I need to take and how to select the right ones. Freshmen, however, were incredibly confused, which is fair! They only had one semester to figure it out, and knowing exactly how everything works is difficult.

My advisor did not have the time to meet with me for more than five minutes, and the same applied when I went to a pop-in advising session to get the hold off my account. We were told that she was late since she was conducting interviews, and we were assisted by someone else until she came in. The session lasted two hours, and the advisor was there for one out of the two. Students who could not meet with her had to find another time to come in.

And that's when it hit me: UConn Hartford has only one academic advisor — one person for the 3,600 students who attend the school.

But what is absurd is how UConn Hartford has been handling this situation. With a massive influx of 32,332 students admitted to all campuses in total, 4,500 first years at Storrs and 2,000 at regional campuses, all of these new students at Hartford will have

only one advisor. Meanwhile, at the Storrs campus, students have physical access to advisors specifically for their majors. At Hartford you can access them, but it takes more to do so. Instead of just dropping by, Hartford students have to work harder to reach out to those advisors and arrange meetings virtually. In an effort to get students to attend UConn's regional campuses, more staff should be there to assist the student population.

My experience comes from attending the Hartford campus, so I can't speak personally about what it's like to attend Storrs or other UConn campuses. Still, from personal experience alone, handling classes, schedule changes and any other administrative work that a student needs to process is challenging.

UConn needs to hire more staff, period. Specifically, more staff for their regional campuses. This shortage slows down the system, the students and basically everything in the school. Students had to take time out of their day to join the pop-up advising session, and with the time allotted for each session (two hours), it was impossible for everyone to get the help they needed.

UConn Hartford is also a federally designated Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI) and Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI). As a school that is designated to serve minority students, lacking these resources means that students who come to UConn, specifically to one of the regional campuses, are unable to access the true cost of their education. It isn't okay to have a promise of expensive, useful resources and have these students find out that they can't even access them.

Say there are two hours per session and 40 students in the room. Each student gets three minutes of the advisor's time, which makes no sense. Each meeting would amount to saying hello to the advisor and then counting on you knowing what to do, rendering the whole system useless.

Each student needs a sufficient advising session to make it worthwhile. If you just started out at UConn, you might need more time, which would work if you had an advisor to meet with.

To be clear, I am in no way, shape or form blaming the academic advisor, the staff or anyone who works in that office; it is not their fault that they are under-

staffed and unable to accommodate the school's students. It's unfair to the advisor as well—while she does have staff there to support her, that stress is not maintainable and is difficult for her as well. I am sure that with holding interviews and having to do all the other work one would do as staff, she barely has the time to make things work.

I know that there used to be more advisors on the Hartford campus, and that most of them have left for other roles (either at UConn or elsewhere), which created the chaos we have this semester. I genuinely have not had the ability to set up a one-on-one meeting with my advisor, and I know other students had the same issue.

The staff is working tirelessly to ensure that students are getting the help they need — and while I can't speak about the hiring process or what goes on behind the scenes, it is clear that more support is needed now. It's time for UConn to put more effort into helping the regional campus students. If more advisors are coming next semester, that would be wonderful! But if there aren't, we're in for a repeat of this semester, and I don't think anyone wants that.

This Land is Your Land?

The legacy of environmental loss and Indigenous stewardship in CT

by Fatima Khan
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Connecticut's Indigenous tribes, including the Pequot, Mohegan and Niantic, practiced sophisticated land stewardship that shaped the local ecosystems. Their methods, passed down through generations, were deeply rooted in ecological knowledge and reflected a holistic relationship with the environment. However, the arrival of European colonists in the 17th century disrupted these practices, leading to widespread environmental damage, the loss of traditional lands and the near-complete destruction of Indigenous ways of life. This article is the second in a four-part series examining the intertwined histories of genocide and resilience in Palestine and Connecticut, setting the stage to explore how environmental degradation is woven into this story of dispossession.

Before the arrival of European settlers, Connecticut's Native American tribes, including the Pequot, Mohegan

and Niantic, practiced land stewardship that shaped the ecosystem. They used sophisticated techniques, such as land irrigation, damming, burning and selectively harvesting. These environmental techniques came from ecological knowledge that was passed down through generations. These techniques are synergistic with the land, as they conserve biodiversity and protect against climate change. For example, prescribed fires play a role in keeping ecosystems healthy, as they reduce understory density, return nutrients to the soil and increase biodiversity by reducing competition from invasive species and lessen the severity of wildfires. The connection to the land for Indigenous tribes was intricately reflected in their language, demonstrating the connection between these communities and nature. For example, the term Namossackesos, or the “fish-catching month,” refers to the period from March to June, where the coastal tribes migrated to the shores of the Connecticut River Valley to harvest fish. This

seasonal migration is essential, not only for sustenance, but for the sustainable management of the land, preventing overuse of marine resources. These traditional practices reflect the belief that the land

“The arrival of settlers led to profound environmental degradation.”

is sentient; that it holds many forms of life that are interdependent and sacred. The land is not simply a resource to be exploited and drained, but a living entity. This holistic worldview underpinned their stewardship practices, ensuring the protection and longevity of the land and its resources.

In 1600, Connecticut's Indig-

enous population was estimated to be nearly 60,000. However, within a generation, that number drastically dropped to just 5,400 due to disease, violence and displacement caused by European colonization. The arrival of settlers led to profound environmental degradation. Colonial settlers not only took over the land but also disregarded Indigenous fishing, hunting and agricultural practices, which had long been sustainably managed. The tribes' carefully-cultivated and communally cleared fields were overlooked and often replaced with European-style farming, leading to soil depletion and habitat destruction. Additionally, settlers cleared forests in order to establish farms, and the ash from the forests were used to provide alkaline ash to manufacture soap and glass in England. This colonization left the environment less resilient and more prone to climate change catastrophes.

The legacy of colonialism is stark: today, Indigenous people have lost 99% of the land they historically occupied. This dramatic loss of

traditional territories forced many tribes into migration, confining them to less fertile marginal lands. These reservations were often situated in areas disconnected from the economic mainstream, limiting Indigenous peoples' access to natural resources and development opportunities. Today, the consequences of these colonial actions are felt acutely, as many Indigenous communities face increasing vulnerability to climate change. Modern Native lands are more prone to extreme heat, flooding, and drought, as they are located in areas that lack the resilience of their ancestral territories.

Today, as climate change poses severe existential threats, there is a growing recognition of the importance of incorporating Indigenous knowledge into contemporary environmental management. Restoring this connection to the land and respecting the wisdom of Indigenous communities, is essential not only for ecological sustainability but also for the resilience of future generations.

Photo of the Day | Cheering in the end of the semester



The UConn pep band plays at the UConn men's basketball game against the Maryland Eastern Shore Hawks. The final score for the game held at the XL Center in Hartford was 99-45 on Nov. 30, 2024. PHOTO BY MERCER FERGUSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY ALEXA PAPPAS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY AH REUM KINDNESS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY KRISTA MITCHEL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women’s Ice Hockey: Huskies split four games over Thanksgiving break

by Patrick Minnerly
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While many college students enjoyed a weeklong break for Thanksgiving with their families, the UConn women’s ice hockey team played a busy slate of four games, going 2-2 over that stretch.

First, the No. 14 Huskies faced off against the No. 11 Boston College Eagles in a two-game series from Nov. 22 to 23, looking to claim victory against a similarly ranked opponent. Success eluded UConn at the start, as the Eagles overcame a one-goal deficit twice to win 3-2. Freshman forward Claire Murdoch scored her sixth goal of the season for Connecticut on a power play to put them up 1-0, but BC quickly turned it into a tie less than six minutes later on a shot by Lauren Glaser.

UConn regained the lead in the second period with a goal from Livvy Dewar, her first of the campaign and they maintained that momentum with

two straight power play opportunities. However, disaster struck at the tail end of the second power play. BC regained the puck and scored a shorthanded goal by Julia Pellerin, knotting the game at 2-2.

In the third period, Glaser made it two goals for the day with a superb solo effort at 9:12, which would prove to be the decisive score. Despite another power play for the Huskies and a furious rally at the end of the game, which saw three shots in the last five seconds, Eagles goalie Grace Campbell kept UConn out of the net to secure the 3-2 victory.

The second match, played at home on the Storrs campus, brought better results for the Huskies. Once again, UConn opened the scoring with a long strike from sophomore defenseman Maya Serdachny, her third goal of the season, as junior forward Kyla Josifovic bagged an assist on the play. BC continued the repeat of events by equalizing with under a minute left in the first, making the score 1-1 as

the teams headed into the first intermission.

Connecticut was determined not to give up another game, building up pressure throughout the second period and earning a power play at 14:00. They eventually broke through ten seconds after the power play lapsed. Two quick passes from Megan Woodworth and Josifovic set up Ashley Allard perfectly in front of goal, and her shot found the back of the net, give UConn the lead. From there, Huskies goalie Tia Chan made 10 saves in the remaining time, securing the 2-1 victory and leaving the Eagles to head home disappointed.

In splitting the series at one game apiece, UConn drew even with BC at 8-3 in conference play, with the Eagles ahead in the standings on goal difference.

The Huskies then took a break from conference matchups by playing in the Nutmeg Classic, hosted by Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut. In their first game of

the tournament, UConn battled against the Yale Bulldogs. For the third game in a row, Connecticut scored the first goal; this time it was the efforts of Josifovic on a power play, putting them up 1-0 halfway through the first period.

That was the only scoring the Huskies could muster, as Yale tied the game in the second period and kept a huge shot advantage – the Bulldogs tallied 38 shots overall to UConn’s 18. Still, the game wasn’t decided until there were less than two minutes to go in the third period. Yale’s Carina DiAntonio slipped a shot past Chan, who made a season-high 35 saves, to give the Bulldogs a late 2-1 lead.

DiAntonio then scored an empty-netter with 30 seconds remaining, making the final score 3-1. As a result, Yale advanced to the final of the tournament to face Quinnipiac, who had thrashed the Sacred Heart Pioneers 8-1 in their matchup.

UConn bounced back in the consolation game against the Pioneers. For the first time in a few

games, the Huskies were forced to respond to an early goal from the opponent, as Sacred Heart’s Kate Helgeson opened the scoring in the first period. The reply from UConn came swiftly as Allard fired her fifth goal of the season just a minute after the Pioneers scored.

The second period was all UConn. Allard struck again with seven minutes gone in the period, tying with Murdoch for most goals scored on the team. A short time later, graduate defenseman Sophie Robinson scored her first goal of the season to give the Huskies a comfortable 3-1 cushion.

Connecticut still wasn’t done, as an effort from junior forward Brianna Ware found the back of the net with about two minutes left in the second. The Pioneers clawed one back before the period was over, but UConn ended up prevailing 4-2.

The win puts the Huskies at 10-8 overall. Next, they will travel to face New Hampshire in a Hockey East matchup on Dec. 6.



UConn women’s ice hockey (No. 14) defeated Boston College (No. 11) 2-1 at Toscano Family Ice Forum on Nov. 23, 2024. The game remained tied until the first intermission, where they regained the lead late in the second period, and secured another Hockey East win. PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Volleyball: UConn’s Big East Tournament hopes come to an early end as they fall to Villanova

by Julia Sasso
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The UConn volleyball team’s season ended in disappointment as the program fell to Villanova in its first game of the Big East Tournament.

UConn made its way to Omaha, Nebraska to face the Villanova Wildcats. After a hard-fought battle, the Wildcats won on the fifth set with a 3-2 final score.

Despite Villanova being the first to score, it was Connecticut that took an early 6-4 lead with kills from junior Emma Werkmeister and freshman Loren Winn. The Wildcats fought back, capitalizing on an attack error from the Huskies and scoring three consecutive kills. The game came to a tie at 10-all. From there the Wildcats continued their momentum, taking the lead 17-13. As UConn struggled with attack errors, Villanova extended their lead to 23-16. The Huskies fought back with kills from junior Hanna

Tylska and Winn as well as a service ace from sophomore Grace Maria. UConn closed the gap to 24-23, but a final kill from Villanova gave them the game lead of 1-0 as they won the first set.

Like the first set, the Wildcats were the first to score in the second set. However, the Huskies took the lead as they went on two 4-0 runs. Kills from senior Doga Kutlu, Winn, Werkmeister and Tylska put Connecticut up 9-4. The Huskies extended their lead with three more kills from Tylska. The Wildcats mounted a comeback, closing the gap to just three points in the latter end of set. However, UConn was unstoppable as Tylska scored three more kills, guaranteeing the Huskies the second set and tying the game at 1-1.

The Huskies kept the momentum going into the third set. Winn scored two consecutive kills early on. Not to mention, Kutlu and graduate student Taylor Pannell added two kills of their own, giving UConn

a 7-4 lead. Both teams traded points back and forth as they struggled with both offensive and defensive errors. Despite starting behind the Wildcats, Connecticut came back and tied the set at 15-15. However, UConn kept its lead with kills from freshman Anna Herman, Werkmeister and Winn bringing them to 23-20. Villanova once again came back to tie the set at 23-all. However, it was the Huskies who took the set 26-24 and the game lead.

Villanova came into the fourth set looking to tie the game. The Wildcats started the set with a four-point run and took an early 6-1 lead. The Wildcats extended their lead to 12-6 as UConn struggled to score. Villanova dominated the set as it capitalized on errors by the Huskies and scored several kills. Connecticut tried to fight back, closing the gap down to two points. In the end, two attack errors from the Huskies gave Villanova the set, tying the game again at two all.

Going into the final set, both

teams were looking to secure the win. Both programs traded points back and forth early in the set bringing the score to seven all, after aces from Werkmeister and sophomore Isabella Suhy. The Huskies took the lead with a kill from Tylska after the Wildcats struggled with attack errors. UConn came within two points of the win with a kill from Tylska. However, the Wildcats scored three consecutive points, taking the third set and securing themselves the win.

Despite the loss, this has been an incredible season for the Huskies as they end with a 24-7 overall record and an undefeated out of conference record. However, that’s not where the success stopped as several players received recognition from the Big East. Freshman McKenna Brand was named Co-Freshman of the Year, alongside Xavier’s Margo Kemp. Aside from this, Brand was also an all-freshman team member.

Brand was not the only play-

er in the program to receive recognition as Pannell, Kutlu and Werkmeister were all selected to the all-conference team.

The Huskies will now wait for the NCAA championship selection to find out if they will get the chance to compete in the postseason.



UConn volleyball versus Xavier on Nov. 16 at the UConn Volleyball Center. The Huskies fought hard to come out on top, winning all three sets of the match. PHOTO BY MADISON HENDRICKS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Men’s Basketball: UConn stops the bleeding with 99-45 win over the Hawks

by Connor Sargeant
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Coming into their Saturday night matchup against the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, the UConn men’s basketball team has faced significant adversity this past week. After an excellent 4-0 start to the year, the Huskies dropped three straight contests in Maui in what was nothing short of a nightmare vacation. To make matters worse, Connecticut came into Saturday night without their two-time national champion forward Alex Karaban, who is dealing with a concussion. Despite this, UConn got the job done at home, whooping the Hawks 99-45.

With Karaban missing time, Jaylin Stewart was called upon to play the four. The sophomore wing took a minute to find his footing, finishing the first half with three points in 11 minutes of work. With Karaban missing, the program also opted to slide Liam McNeeley into the four and ran a three-guard lineup at times. Head coach Dan Hurley believes this injury is only a temporary setback for the Massachusetts native.

“Alex is pretty good. I think it was a pretty mild concussion,” Hurley told media personnel postgame. “All of his tests were really clean and he’s feeling really good.”

However, the biggest headline of all was the Huskies’ defense. Not only did the program concede only 18 first-

half points, but they were much more disciplined defensively. The program was whistled only seven different times for the first 20 minutes. The second half was more or less the same story, allowing only 27 points and completing the blowout. However, the program was less disciplined, fouling 14 additional times, though much of this did come in garbage time.

The program’s defensive success was rampant everywhere, including with the two big men, Samson Johnson and Tarris Reed Jr. A major factor contributing to their success was that Reed Jr.’s two personal fouls were the only calls made against the two for the night. A significant part of their success also started with the guards on defense. Unlike Maui, the guards played solid defense, meaning that the centers did not need to help as often, and there were fewer chances for them to get into foul trouble. Nonetheless, Jayden Ross noted that the program still has work to do.

“We did a better job a little bit of standing in front of the ball, but there’s definitely still improvement there that needs to be done in terms of just guarding the ball in one-on-one situations,” Ross noted.

Reed Jr. stuffed the box sheet in the first half, snagging nine rebounds and recording a pair of steals. If Reed Jr. weren’t 6-foot-10, you could have mistaken him for a guard because of how he forced early turnovers. After

poking away some arid dribbles, Reed Jr. ran down the hardwood like there was no tomorrow. While these trips didn’t always yield him buckets, these were significant defensive plays that you don’t usually see out of your center. While this facet of tonight’s performance may not necessarily translate to Baylor and beyond, Reed Jr. has demonstrated a high aptitude for going coast-to-coast despite nearly being seven feet tall.

Another facet of Saturday’s night performance that significantly contributed to Connecticut’s success was on the boards. In the first 20 minutes, the Huskies out-rebounded the Hawks 27-8. This margin continued in the second half, with UConn leading 21-15 in this department. As a result, it didn’t take long for this game to get out of hand. In Maui, the Huskies never owned this significant advantage, finishing nearly even or nowhere near their opponents, which contributed to why those games didn’t finish in Connecticut’s favor.

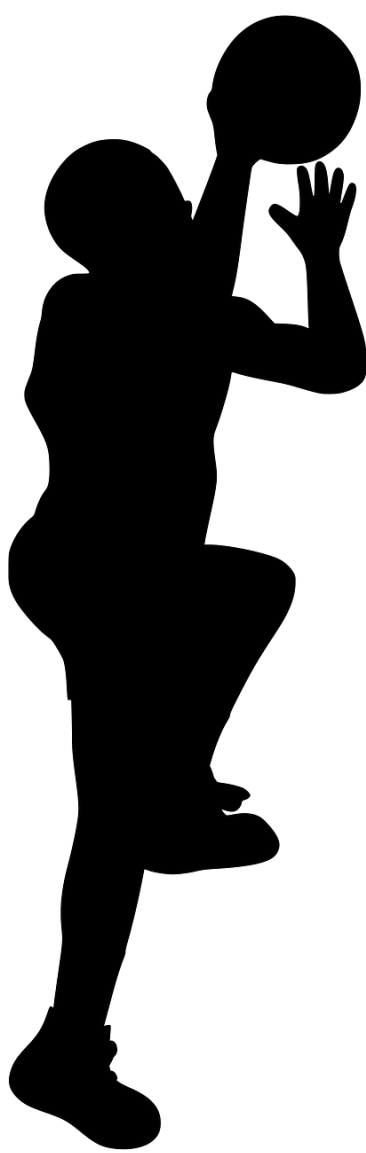
The Huskies didn’t take long to get out of the gates for the second half, as the program was firing on all cylinders. The centers were still performing at a high level, as Johnson and Reed Jr. were still menaces on both sides of the floor, including in the lob game, which the guards have been trying to improve at. However, for as good as the rest of the roster performed, the second half was the Stewart show.

The sophomore forward scored 13 second-half points on 3-4 shooting, including 7-8 from the charity stripe. Stewart also added five rebounds to his second half total on Saturday. If his seven made free-throws didn’t tell you already, the wing was a significant slashing threat. Stewart showed a high aptitude for getting past his defender and drawing contact. However, it wasn’t just him pouring it on. Solo Ball and Ross also had strong offensive performances on Saturday. Hurley told reporters postgame that he expects the sophomore trio to improve as the season progresses.

“These sophomores are just going to keep getting better and better,” he said. “They’re going to be such different players in January, February.”

Ball finished with 12 points on 5-11 shooting. Ross also had an excellent 10-point, 10-rebound night, his first double-double at the collegiate level.

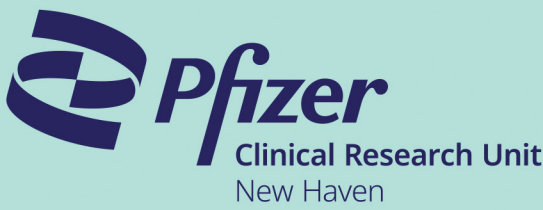
Saturday was a good night for the Huskies. The program can finally put this week behind them and move on with their season, though they will need to perform better and quickly. Whether the program has Karaban back or not, Connecticut will need to deal with the Baylor Bears at home this Wednesday in front of a hungry Gampel Pavilion crowd that is searching for a big-time win.



CLIPART COURTESY OF CREAZILLA



UConn men’s basketball ends the losing streak with a 54 point blowout on Saturday night against the Maryland Eastern Shore Hawks. The final score for the game held at the XL Center in Hartford was 99 to 45 on November 30, 2024. PHOTO BY MERCER FERGUSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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Sports

McCreven's Mashup: Your comprehensive guide to the College Football Playoff

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I've exceeded the word limit for this column, so below is your guide to the CFP prior to the start of conference championship week.

The Field Ahead of Conference Championship Week:

ACC
SMU Mustangs
Record: 11-1
Conference Championship:
Yes
Situation: With a win, the Mustangs would clinch a top four seed and first round bye next week-end. With a loss, things become dicey. Clemson would steal the top four seed and would leave SMU to fend for itself with two losses in the thick of the at-large conversation. Does a two loss SMU get in over a two-loss Ohio State or red-hot South Carolina?

Clemson Tigers
Record: 9-3
Conference Championship:
Yes
Situation: The formula is fairly simple for the Tigers: win and you're in, lose and you're out. A last second loss to bitter rival South Carolina last Saturday crushed all at-large bid hopes Clemson had left, but a Miami loss gave the Tigers a final shot at the CFP with a title bout against the one-loss Mustangs in Charlotte.

Miami Hurricanes
Record: 10-2
Conference Championship: No
Situation: The fate of the Hurricanes is out of their hands, as after a loss to Syracuse to end the

regular season, Miami must now sit and wait – anxiously watching the ACC title game – to see if hanging onto a lower seed is possible. The Canes would benefit from an SMU victory (which would eliminate Clemson) as well as a Georgia loss in the SEC title game (putting both 10-win teams in the same boat come selection Sunday).

Big 10
Oregon Ducks
Record: 12-0
Conference Championship:
Yes
Situation: The Ducks clinched their spot in the CFP with a blow-out win over Washington last Saturday. A top four seed and first round bye is now the goal for Dan Lanning, with a bout against Penn State on the horizon in Indianapolis.

Penn State Nittany Lions
Record: 11-1
Conference Championship:
Yes
Situation: The Nittany Lions will play in Indianapolis for the Big Ten title for the first time in eight years after crushing Maryland last Saturday and getting some help from Michigan, who knocked off Ohio State. Penn State has already punched their at-large ticket, but a victory against the Ducks could clinch a first round bye and top-four seed.

Ohio State Buckeyes
Record: 10-2
Conference Championship: No
Situation: Buckeye fans rejoice – Ohio State will more than likely get into the College Football Playoff. The loss to Michigan hurts the ego more than the resume, which still features wins against

Indiana and Penn State. An at-large bid is almost certain for Ryan Day's squad.

Indiana Hoosiers
Record: 11-1
Conference Championship: No
Situation: In all likelihood, the Hoosiers will find their way into the CFP. Carrying the dead weight of a loss to Ohio State, who finds itself in jeopardy now, may present some trouble for Indiana, but a ten or eleven seed seems likely come next Sunday.

Notre Dame Fighting Irish
Record: 11-1
Conference Championship:
N/A
Situation: Life is nice for the Irish, who wrapped up the regular season 11-1 and now have two weeks of rest before a likely home game in South Bend to open the CFP.

Big 12
Arizona State Sun Devils
Record: 10-2
Conference Championship:
Yes
Situation: The Sun Devils have plowed their way to the Big-XII title game behind the smashmouth style employed by Kenny Dillingham. A victory against Iowa State on Saturday will clinch ASU a spot in the CFP, with a loss all but ending the Devils' postseason aspirations. Do-or-die in Jerry World.

Iowa State Cyclones
Record: 10-2
Conference Championship:
Yes
Situation: After spending time in the top 10 of the AP Poll this season, the Cyclones rebounded from a mid-season slump to find themselves in Jerry World

against Arizona State. Win and you're in, lose and you're on the couch come January.

SEC
Georgia Bulldogs
Record: 10-2
Conference Championship:
Yes
Situation: The Dawgs are in the nether of CFP contention, with no clear path — aside from winning the SEC Championship — to the CFP being present in Athens. Does a three-loss Georgia warrant a top 11 seed?

Texas Longhorns
Record: 11-1
Conference Championship:
Yes
Situation: The Longhorns punched their ticket to the CFP with a win over Texas A&M, but sights are set on a first round bye with a victory over Georgia in Atlanta.

South Carolina Gamecocks
Record: 9-3
Conference Championship: No
Situation: The Gamecocks are the hottest team in college football and just took down in-state rival Clemson in Death Valley. That's the pitch that will hopefully land USC in the Playoff, as the Gamecocks will not play in Atlanta Saturday afternoon.

Mississippi Rebels
Record: 9-3
Conference Championship: No
Situation: The Rebels must sit and hope the committee values wins over Georgia and South Carolina more than losses to Kentucky, LSU and Florida – it's looking bleak in Oxford. With no SEC title berth, the Rebels find themselves in the same boat as Alabama and South Carolina.

Alabama Crimson Tide
Record: 9-3
Conference Championship: No
Situation: Do wins over Georgia, South Carolina and LSU outweigh losses to Vanderbilt, Oklahoma and Tennessee? It'll be close for the Tide, whose destiny is out of their hands.

Tennessee Volunteers
Record: 10-2
Conference Championship: No
Situation: The Volunteers' two losses may have saved them an extra week of wear-and-tear, with an important rest week coming before Selection Sunday – which will include the Vols – next week-end.

Group of Five
Boise State Broncos
Record: 11-1
Conference Championship:
Yes (MWC)
Situation: A win-and-in scenario presents itself for the Broncos, who have steamrolled their way to an 11-win, conference title bid season behind the powerful legs of running back Ashton Jeanty. Boise State is currently seeded as the fourth-highest ranked conference champion and would likely keep that ranking with a win over UNLV Friday.

UNLV Rebels
Record: 10-2
Conference Championship:
Yes (MWC)
Situation: With a blowout victory over Nevada, the Rebels punched their ticket to the Mountain West Championship game and kept their hopes of the No. 12 seed alive. With a win and an Army loss, UNLV would most likely slide into the College Football Playoff as the final seed.



UConn football versus Georgia State on Nov. 1, 2024 at the Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler field. It was senior night for the Huskies allowing them to fight hard and win with a final score of 34-27. PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS