

The Daily Campus



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Wednesday, December 4, 2024

UConn Students attend United Nations Conference COP29

by Gabriel Duffany
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Sponsored by the Office of Sustainability, 14 student fellows from the University of Connecticut attended the United Nations 29th annual Climate Change Conference of Parties, hosted this November in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Since COP21 in 2015, UConn has sent a delegation of students and faculty to participate in the global summit, the purpose of which is to discuss solutions to the climate crisis. Many of the students were attending the conference for the first time and prepared themselves for the experience in a variety of ways.

Dylan Steer, a fourth-year student majoring in environmental studies and political science with a minor in Middle Eastern studies noted his excitement at being approved to attend the summit.

"I've applied in years past. I applied to go to Egypt for COP27, and I didn't get to go, so I tried to talk to as many people who had gone on the trips before and get a sense for what it's like, what the atmosphere is inside the conference, but also what it's like being in a different city with all these climate champions," said Steer, who serves as the president of UConn Storrs environmental group EcoHusky.

Noting their passion for the subject of conservation at the center of COP, Kamala Chuss, a fourth-year marine sciences major from UConn Avery Point explained, "I started preparing all my life through my studies."

Alan Cavagnaro, a fourth-year political science and Urban & Community Studies major with a minor in public policy, detailed how COP attendees with critical perspectives were closely monitored prior to their arrival at the summit.

"A week before COP started all of us registrants got an email from the government basically saying, if you want to protest, you have to register it through



UConn students who travelled to COP29 posing as a group. This event was hosted by the United Nations in Baku, Azerbaijan. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNOS ON INSTAGRAM

us," said Cavagnaro. "In the 1910s Baku used to be just an oil wasteland. So, I think there's a sense of, you know, there's not much we can say, besides from a protester that registered with the government."

The conference was held over the course of two weeks, with the first week open only to the 198 officially recognized parties to the UN for the World Leaders Climate Action Summit. When UConn students arrived for the second week on Monday, Nov. 18, the conference was already "at the height of negotiations," remarked Cavagnaro.

Sectioned into two separate areas, students budgeted time between the Blue Zone, which hosted panels and negotiations, and the Green Zone, which featured state and corporate demonstrations of sustainability initiatives. Expressing sentiments shared by each of the group members, Cavagnaro stated, "The Blue Zone was awesome compared to the Green Zone ... the Green Zone was really depressing."

Throughout the Green Zone, Steer explained how oil and gas-oriented companies and nations 'greenwashed' themselves to ap-

pear eco-friendly.

"Fossil fuel interests were at COP and presenting this whole side of themselves that is basically fraudulent," noted Steer. "One example was the SOCAR energy company, which is the National Petroleum Company of Azerbaijan. And it's just SOCAR Green, and it's talking about all their green efforts, but they're going to the Azerbaijani economy."

Speaking with greater optimism, Chuss noted the valuable insights they gained from the different themed pavilions in the summit's Blue Zone.

"I learned about how negotiations are actually done, and how science has kind of played out on an international scale, and the applications of science," said Chuss. "I went to the Ocean Pavilion and spent a lot of time there just meeting people [and] making connections."

Noting the highlights of his time at COP, Cavagnaro picked out a moment when the Attorney General of Fiji expressed concern over the unequal ability of less developed nations in implementing climate solutions.

"He was talking about, you know, we're here readdressing

the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement, and there's a lot of countries, like Fiji, for example, who are bleeding, who don't have the necessary funds to do a lot of these goals that you want us to do," emphasized Cavagnaro. "In order to fund us it needs to be tangible."

Each of the COP attendees remarked positively on the People's Plenary, a panel discussion near the summit's conclusion that hosted delegates from nations in vulnerable states of war.

"That was where the most truth that I heard being spoken was," said Steer. "It was from stellar speakers from particularly conflicted areas of the world. There was a Palestinian speaker, a Lebanese speaker, a Sudanese speaker, a Ukrainian speaker. And then to close it out, there was someone who just was talking about the intersections of the climate crisis with all these conflicts."

For a full discussion of COP 29, students can attend the Climate Change Cafe on Dec. 4 in the Student Union Ballroom from 4-6, where COP attendees will provide greater detail on their experiences in Baku.

ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR RETURNS TO MANSFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER ON DEC. 14

by Patrick Boots
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A favorite local event is back for the winter season. Now in its third year, the annual Mansfield Community Center Craft Fair offers a chance for community members to sell their one-of-a-kind wares, from jewelry to jams and jellies. The showcase is set for Saturday, Dec. 14, in the gymnasium at the Mansfield Community Center on the corner of South Eagleville Road and Storrs Road.

The Town of Mansfield's Parks and Recreation department is the official sponsor of the fair, which it describes as a "celebration of creativity and local artisans" on its webpage. It says 30 local vendors will be present at the craft fair, selling a variety of different goods including clothing, toys and specialty foods.

"Attendees will have the chance to browse and purchase a wide variety of high-quality, locally made items," said Bethany Burns, the recreation coordinator for Mansfield. "Whether you're shopping for yourself, finding the perfect gift, or supporting small businesses, the craft fair offers something for everyone."

The craft fair started in 2022 as a companion to the Winter Welcome and Celebrate Mansfield Festival, both events hosted by the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, a town-affiliated nonprofit organization. Many local craft vendors have been featured in the past, with knit goods, pottery and wood turned plateware, flowers, baked goods and treats amongst others.

The Town of Mansfield hopes to continue hosting the fair as an annual tradition, describing the fair as "highly-anticipated" in a press release.

"It's a fun-filled day, and who knows what hidden treasures await," said Burns.

The event also coincides with the Community Center's "Jingle Jog" — an activity happening from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. on their athletic track. Jingle bells will be provided, and the public is encouraged to "prance, dance or blitz" down the festively decorated track with the opportunity to win free prizes. In the spirit of the season, hot cocoa and candy canes are stationed at the finish line.

The fair falls on the final weekend of the fall 2024 semester for University of Connecticut students. The craft fair is open to the public and free to attend, going from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14. For more information about the event, visit the Mansfield Community Center webpage at mansfieldcc.com.

UConn's Connecticut Transportation Institute addresses engineering workforce shortage

by Sara Bedigian
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The University of Connecticut's Connecticut Transportation Institute joins national efforts in addressing engineering workforce shortage.

The Connecticut Transportation Institute at the University of Connecticut is joining engineering and public works leaders to address workforce shortages through the newly created national Engineering Workforce Consortium.

The mission of the Engineering Workforce Consortium (EWC) is centered around attracting the next generation of engineering talent, retaining the existing workforce in engineering and public

works and advocating for industry growth and sustainability, according to a press release by UConn and the EWC.

"We hope that we can kind of reignite civil engineering as an exciting field, and we can encourage more students to go that route," Eric Jackson, director of the UConn Connecticut Transportation Institute, said.

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the consortium follows a landmark workforce summit convened by the American Council of Engineering Companies, the American Public Works Association and the American Society of Civil Engineers, according to the press release.

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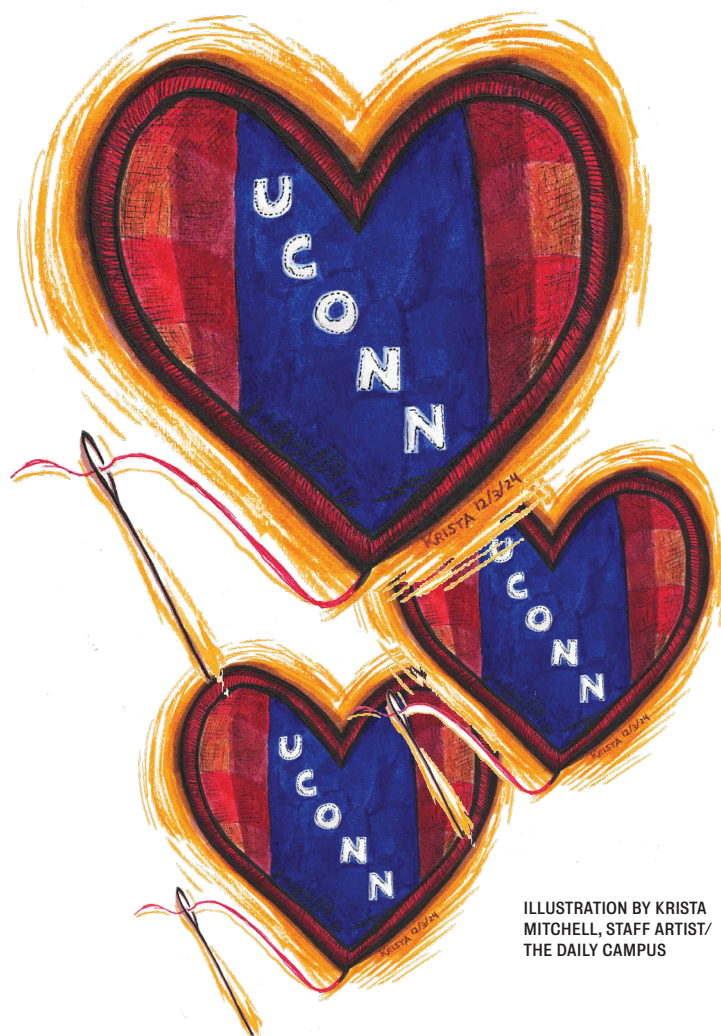


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News

TRANSPORT, cont. from p. 01

The Connecticut Transportation Institute hopes to increase the number of students graduating civil engineering at UConn with a transportation focus.

“Our goal is to try and increase the number of students that are graduating and grow the interest in continuing the physical infrastructure pieces that are critical to transportation, getting goods to and from and being able to provide efficient ways of traveling throughout the U.S.,” Jackson said.

Donna Shea, the executive director of the CT Training and Technical Assistance Center, sits on the engineering workforce consortium, representing UConn and helping develop the program and understand what is needed to attract the next generation of engineers while retaining the existing workforce.

The involvement of UConn in a national workforce consortium plays a large role

both at the UConn College of Engineering and within the general state of Connecticut, as a wide range of groups commit to solving national workforce shortage issues.

In addition to its new participation in the Engineering Workforce Consortium, the UConn Connecticut Transportation Institute, located on Depot Campus two miles north of main campus, works to support engineering and public workforce development efforts through programs including an engineering recruiting task force partnership with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT).

Jackson explains how the Connecticut DOT told UConn to direct more civil engineering graduates towards the transportation field because of the workforce shortages.

“The Connecticut DOT has kind of had a direct pipeline or direct link to the number of students that we’re now allowing into the engineering program,” Jackson said.

There were 269 civil engineering majors across

UConn’s campuses for the 2023-2024 academic year, a decrease from 281 in 2022-2023, according to the UConn Engineering 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 annual reports.

However, there were over 3,664 students enrolled in the college in 2023-2024, an increase from 3,541 during the 2022-2023 academic year.

To encourage more students to become interested in transportation engineering fields, Jackson said Connecticut DOT is looking to set up internship programs, which would provide students with more experience and insight into the field.

“Right now, a new entry level engineer at the Connecticut DOT would start at around \$75,000 a year, which is a pretty good starting salary for someone coming right out of college,” Jackson said.

“The workforce shortage has been a long time coming,” the American Society of Civil Engineers, who are collaborating on the EWC, said in an article from May 2023.

Simple demographics can

play huge roles in the decline, such as the baby-boom generation retiring and a limited supply of current engineers, most of whom did not earn college degrees in the architecture, engineering or construction fields. The recent COVID-19 pandemic and the growing number of jobs in need of new hires due to increased infrastructure funding further adds to the shortage, according to the article.

To help cure the strong workforce shortage in the Connecticut transportation sector, Jackson said there has been talk about expanding degree programs to meet the needs of the industry, such as a construction management major. While UConn does have a construction engineering and management minor, having an actual major could be more beneficial.

In addition to Jackson’s role as director of the Connecticut Transportation Institute at UConn, he is a research faculty within civil and environmental engineering and sits on the workforce development group with Connecti-

cut DOT, serving as a link between the UConn College of Engineering and the transportation workforce.

As well as engineering development, Connecticut Transportation Institute has other programs that are more technology focused, such as a full-scale driving simulator.

Although located on Depot Campus, Jackson said any students are welcome to see some of the work the institute is doing and get involved. The institute hires students who work in the pavement laboratory, code motor vehicle crashes for the state which end up in the statewide crash data repository or work at the Training and Technical Assistance Center preparing courses and documents.

“If students have an interest in kind of the future of transportation and future technologies that may exist with cars, we’re always happy to give tours or speak to students and seeing how we can work with students as they’re going through the educational process,” Jackson said.

Democrats stick with Schumer as leader. Their strategy for countering Trump is far less certain

(AP) — Senate Democrats re-elected Chuck Schumer as party leader on Tuesday as the party moves into a deeply uncertain time, with no real consensus on a strategy as President-elect Donald Trump prepares to take office.

Schumer faced no opposition in the party leadership elections, in which Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin was also reelected to the No. 2 spot and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar became the new No. 3. In a statement, Schumer, of New York, said he was honored to move the party forward “during this crucial period for our country.”

“Our preference is to secure bipartisan solutions wherever possible and look for ways to collaborate with our Republican colleagues to help working families,” Schumer said. “However, our Republican colleagues should make no mistake about it, we will always stand up for our values.”

While Schumer remains popular with his colleagues, it is a bleak moment for Senate Democrats, who had been hopeful that they could hold the majority for the third election in a row. Instead they lost four seats and will be in the minority, 53-47, as Trump takes office and pressures the Senate to quickly confirm his Cabinet nominees.

Unlike eight years ago, when opposition to Trump’s narrow election win fueled enthusiasm in their party, Democratic lawmakers and many of their voters

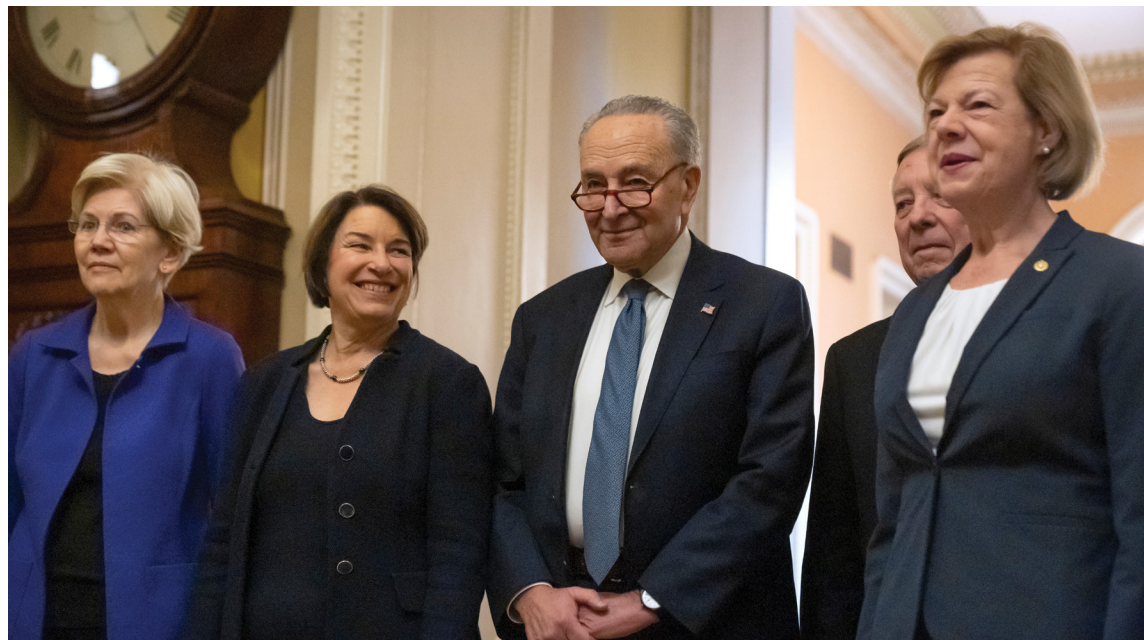
are exhausted and looking for answers.

So far, Democrats have stayed relatively quiet on Trump’s nominees and plans for office — a stark contrast from the loud opposition to Trump when he was elected eight years ago. Schumer has declined to comment on specifics of any nominees, instead allowing Republican reaction to dominate the conversation.

On Monday, Schumer wrote a public letter to South Dakota Sen. John Thune, the incoming Republican majority leader, asking him to resist Trump’s pressure to allow him to appoint some of his nominees without a Senate vote and to insist on full FBI background checks for all nominees. But he has said little else about Trump’s upcoming presidency.

While some have been more aggressive — Washington Sen. Patty Murray, a former chairwoman of the Senate Health, Labor, Education and Pensions Committee, said that Trump’s nomination of Robert Kennedy Jr. to lead the Health and Human Services Department is “dangerous” and “nothing short of disaster” — several Democratic senators say they are saving their strength and figuring out a focus.

“Everybody’s in kind of in a wait-and-see mode right now,” said Nevada Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, who is part of Schumer’s leadership team. “Under the previous Trump administration, there was chaos all the time, all



Senators, from left, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of N.Y., Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., and Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., gather after Senate Democratic leadership elections for the next session of Congress on Capitol Hill, Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024, in Washington. AP PHOTO/MARK SCHIEFFELBEIN

the time. And I do think it is important to pick your battles.”

It’s still unclear which battles they will pick. And Democrats have differing opinions on how to fight them.

Hawaii Sen. Brian Schatz, who is also in Democratic leadership, says that “anyone who has a grand strategy is full of crap,” but thinks that Democrats, for now, “need to keep things simple.”

“We need to talk about people, protect people, advocate for people,” Schatz said. “Do not talk about protecting institutions. Do not talk about advocating for in-

stitutions. It’s a not just a rhetorical shift, but an attitudinal shift. We have to remind ourselves, that we’re not fighting for programs and projects and line items and agencies or norms. We’re fighting for people.”

Virginia Sen. Mark Warner said that he’s spent a lot of time reflecting, and “I don’t think anyone can claim this was a policy election,” and Democrats need to look at cultural issues. Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman says Democrats just need to “pace ourselves” and avoid the “massive freakout” of Trump’s last term.

Democrats should be preparing, says Connecticut Sen. Richard Blumenthal. He says Schumer is picking his battles “very thoughtfully and strategically.”

“We’re thinking about how we protect against using the FBI, or the prosecutorial authority of the Justice Department for retribution against critics,” said Blumenthal. “How we elevate these issues in a way that American people understand them.”

Democrats know better now, after eight years, “the extraordinary challenges we’re going to face,” Blumenthal said.

The Daily Campus

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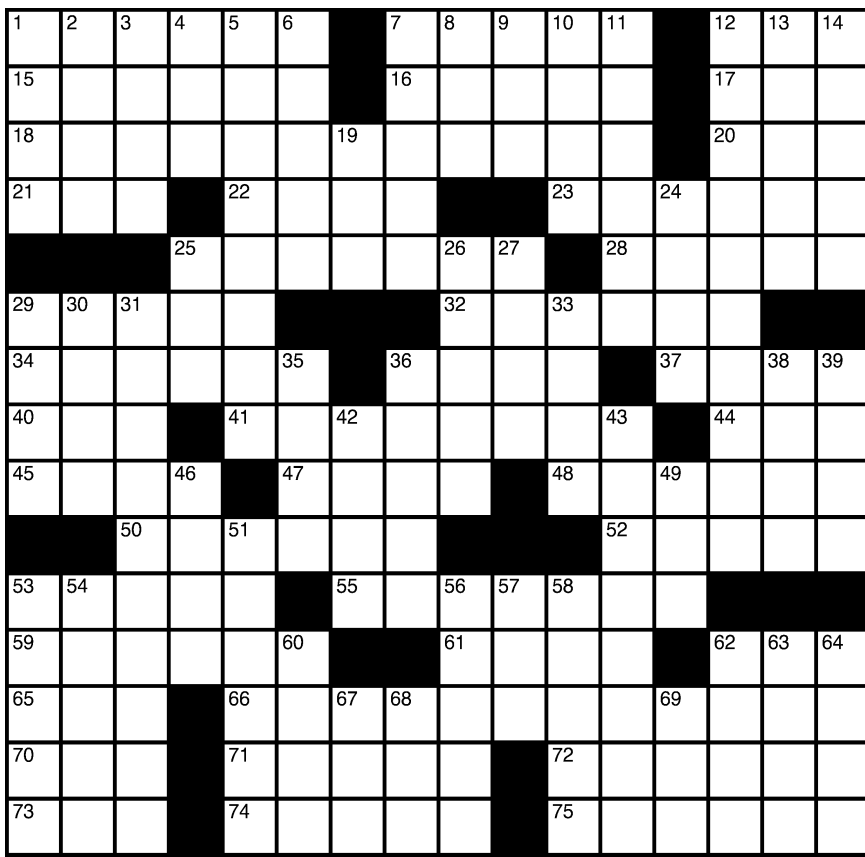
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The Daily Campus Crossword and Sudoku

- ACROSS**
- 1 Whisky, e.g.
 - 7 Business entities
 - 12 HSN alternative
 - 15 Santa's laugh
 - 16 Wide open
 - 17 Dubai's fed.
 - 18 *Speedy dinner option?
 - 20 ___-at-ease
 - 21 Prefix with natal
 - 22 Bodies of water
 - 23 Didn't make the team's final roster
 - 25 Somewhat ruddy
 - 28 Tools for fall guys?
 - 29 Pop in for a scene, say
 - 32 Hip-hop's ___ Clan
 - 34 Dover landmarks
 - 36 Wistful sound
 - 37 Singer Kristofferson
 - 40 Forever, figuratively
 - 41 Speedy meal option, and what the answers to the starred clues literally are?
 - 44 Texter's "No clue"
 - 45 Two, in Trois-Rivières
 - 47 Tidy
 - 48 Strength of character
 - 50 Wall Street figure
 - 52 Checked out before a heist
 - 53 Suffix with home or farm
 - 55 Moisturizer target
 - 59 Skeptical about
 - 61 "Just joshing!"
 - 62 Pampering place
 - 65 Japanese sash
 - 66 *Speedy beverage option?
 - 70 ___-A-Fella Records: Jay-Z label
 - 71 Goose-bumps-causing
 - 72 Minolta partner
 - 73 Mama deer
 - 74 Pedometer units
 - 75 Makes catty comments
- DOWN**
- 1 Lower leg
 - 2 Gelato receptacle



By Jay Silverman

12/4/24

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

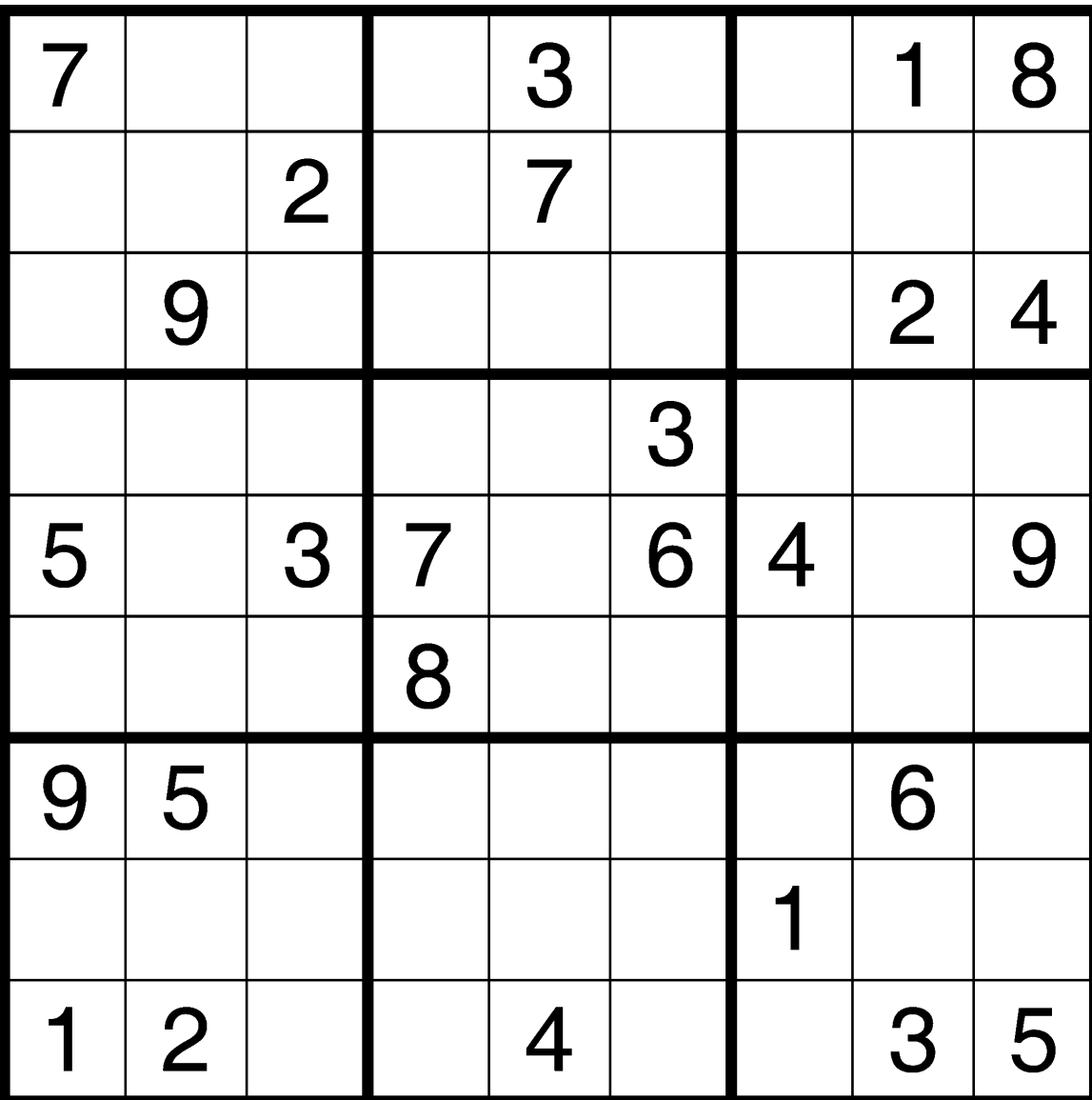


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- 3 Exceedingly
- 4 Little one
- 5 Drive away
- 6 Made sharper
- 7 Iranian tongue
- 8 Polish tennis star Swiatek
- 9 Male sheep
- 10 Video file format
- 11 Spanish title
- 12 *Speedy breakfast option?
- 13 Hold in esteem
- 14 Boston NBA team, colloquially
- 19 Bit
- 24 Scuba necessity
- 25 NFL flag thrower
- 26 Taylor who was Time's 2023 Person of the Year
- 27 "Les Misérables" novelist Victor
- 29 Included on an email
- 30 Ingredient in some 55-Across treatments
- 31 *Speedy side dish option?
- 33 Yorke of Radiohead
- 35 ___ dollar
- 36 Comic strip reporter Brenda
- 38 Not busy
- 39 List of appts.
- 42 Beginning of an idea
- 43 Opt for
- 46 Dentist's procedure
- 49 Khaki kin
- 51 Some haciendas
- 53 Excalibur, for one
- 54 Beyond discouraged
- 56 "Jeepers!"
- 57 Hit the slopes
- 58 Sneakers, informally
- 60 Guitar part
- 62 ___ the pot
- 63 Brief kiss
- 64 Smallish batteries
- 67 Wrath
- 68 Small intake
- 69 CSI sample

Sudoku By The Mephram Group

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



Solution to Tuesday's puzzle

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



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COLLEGE STUDENTS AND THE EFFECTS OF FAST FASHION

by Sofia Acosta | SHE/HER/HERS | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | sofia.acosta@uconn.edu

Piles of trashed clothing stretch across the landfill, and the vibrant colors of once-trendy garments fade under the sun. As the faint stench rises from decomposing textiles, polyester fibers loosen in the breeze, drifting in the open air and settling into nearby waters polluting the environment with microplastics.

From here, it's easy to see how fast fashion has left its mark. The fragments of last season's impulse buys may be out of sight for consumers, but here in the landfill, they're an environmental catastrophe that's only beginning.

The consequences of fast fashion can be easily overlooked, but the statistics are undeniable. For example, according to Rashmila Maiti, in an article for Earth.org, it takes 700 gallons of water to produce just one cotton shirt and 2,000 gallons to produce a pair of jeans. A typical American creates 82 pounds of textile waste annually. As Maiti outlines, this process consumes a significant amount of energy, requires vast land resources, relies heavily on petroleum and releases inhalable particles and acids such as hy-

drogen chloride.

In an article for University of North Carolina's Ethics and Policy blog, Hannah Berhane recognizes the pleasure of receiving packages with new clothes and illustrates how social media can influence buying practices and fashion trends. Berhane also acknowledges that individual actions will not fix the systems that uphold the clothing industry, but she finds that understanding modern consumption and production models is an important step forward.

"By cultivating this understanding, we are able to more consciously spend our money and debate the ethics of these industries," wrote Berhane.

Many college students have taken up the practice of thrifting for secondhand clothing for various reasons, though their understanding of fast fashion's impact varies. Tierna Mahoney, a customer at a pop-up thrift shop run by Broad Bin Vintage, shared her view that when thrifting in curated vintage pop-ups it can be a privilege to consider environmental and social factors.

"A lot of environmentally friendly stuff tends to be more

expensive. Unfortunately, not every person can afford those items ... they're just trying to get clothes to wear on their back," said Mahoney.

Some small business owners who believe in the benefits of buying used clothing may not always consider accessibility, as earning a profit often becomes a source of their personal income. Those who do, however, may provide bins with lower priced items; not only to get rid of hard-to-sell items but also to provide more affordable clothing.

Still, the role college students hold in the fast fashion industry is more powerful than one thinks and with considerable buying power, it is still possible for students to make a change.

Fast fashion is widely discussed in the context of waste and environmental awareness. It describes cheaply, quickly produced clothing that mimics the latest trends and rapidly appears in stores.

"Fast fashion' was coined by the New York Times to describe Zara's mission to take only 15 days for a garment to go from the design stage to being sold in stores," describes Maiti.

For students at the University of Connecticut, there are ways to

fight against fast fashion and its negative environmental impact. Seventh-semester student Dylan Steer is president of EcoHusky, a student organization focused on encouraging environmental awareness at UConn. For Steer and EcoHusky, engaging fellow students in these topics is vital. As the most established environmental club at UConn, EcoHusky strives to be an open place for discussions on various topics concerning the environment and our involvement with it.

Steer believes in the power of environmental activism and suggests that sustainable living for college students is not only important, but attainable. Steer emphasized that students should consider how they interact with the systems they exist in and how society is not structured to promote sustainable ideals.

Students who purchase reused clothes like Mahoney and her friend, fifth-semester student Annie Gong, encourage people to not be swayed by every new trend. They advise mindful shopping and making do with what they find.

"And that's what makes you unique, so what if you don't fit in?" says Gong.

'SUPERMAN & LOIS'

STAR ALEX GARFIN REFLECTS ON THE SHOW, HIS CHARACTER AND A BOLD FINALE

by Noa Climor
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"Superman & Lois," the CW show centering Clark Kent, Lois Lane and their sons, Jonathan and Jordan, has been running since February 2021. While Clark Kent, Lois Lane and Jonathan Kent are all pre-established characters with extensive comic book lore, Alex Garfin's character, Jordan, was created just for the show.

I was able to catch Garfin on Zoom on the day of the finale to talk about all things "Superman," as well as Lois, Jordan Kent and spotty Wi-Fi connections (which also applied to my computer — sorry Alex). He was gracious and kindly answered every question.

The finale, which was released on Monday, Dec. 2, is an exciting way to wrap up this chapter. "It feels great. I was going through photos and I'm going to do a big finale post on my Instagram and it's bizarre looking back at four years of your life. I suppose it's a lot like looking back at four years of college. These were my four college years, anyway, so I kind of

had a very perfect little segment of my life going up to Vancouver every single September until around April, and basically had a college experience doing this show," Garfin stated.

When it comes to this fourth season, its existence wasn't always set in stone. "It's funny because, you know, by season two I would have told you that we had a season nine — even 10, the way things were headed. But around midway through season three, we realized that there were some structural changes going on ... and yeah, I really thought that by the end I wasn't going to get a season four," said Garfin.

"It made season four, that much more of a little bonus, so you kind of got to appreciate it. I feel like you can only appreciate things when you're not holding onto them so precious, if you get to mourn something and then come back to it, you really get a lovely point."

Jordan Kent, existing as one of the only original characters in the show, is a unique and interesting character that adds a lot of depth to "Superman & Lois." "Getting to land this thing on its feet — no pun intended — is pretty special, especially given how we did it in a way that has never been done on another 'Superman'

iteration before."

Garfin is appreciative of the fans of all versions of "Superman." When I brought up "Smallville," which was the CW's first true superhero DC show, he touched on what it's like to enter that universe. "'Smallville' was a monolith in itself. I always try to make sure that we leave some appreciation for how much road they paved. It's also kind of crazy because it was the first CW show — or at that point, WB/Warner Brothers in the DC universe — mine's the last, so from the pilot of 'Smallville' all the way to the finale of 'Superman & Lois' tonight. That is the whole CW's experience with superheroes, and that's pretty special."

The entire thing is just so special, and even though they're completely different shows, some of "Smallville" does bleed into "Superman & Lois;" i.e., the struggle with football. "That stuff is really fun as well, just because at the time, I was a scrawny little theater kid and had barely been to the gym before at that point. I'm not even a football fan; I'm a baseball fan, so I had to learn all the rules," he laughed and said. "I remember Jordan Elsas also had to learn all of the rules and all that stuff, which I find hilari-

ous because his character is supposed to be that guy, you know?"

"I was lucky enough that my character really gets to change in that matter — very much unlike a lot of the characters even in the show. When you have something like 'Superman & Lois,' I mean, these characters are pretty much set in stone. You can play them how you want to play them but there are ideas at this point. That's why Tyler and Bitsie did such a phenomenal job — they took these ideas and turned them into real, honest human beings."

When it comes to Jordan Kent's character development, much happened to make him a true and honest character. "I had the honor of being able to play a character that really came out of his shell throughout the entirety of the show. Have ups and downs — his progression definitely wasn't linear, but neither is anyone's. By the end of the show, I'm really proud of who he became — and very attached to him as well."

And a lot of work went into portraying the Kent family. "In the pilot there's a very intimate moment between Clark and Jordan — you feel very vulnerable as the character, and you feel very vul-

nerable as the actor. It's in the writing a lot of the times, and you can kind of coast along the writing and really allow it to seep in."

"I can only appreciate when people get mad at Jordan Kent," said Garfin. "Usually when a fan is frustrated with the character, it's on purpose. It's that journey they want you to go on, they want you to feel the frustration of the other characters as well ... people who blame the actor I think are some of the greatest fans, because they're so into it. They believe it."

Garfin has a dedicated fan base; for example, @dailyalexgarfin on Instagram (which posts the same picture of him every day). "I honestly think it's hilarious, and I really appreciate the support. I think it shows that my fan base is really in tune to who I am."

And finally, we got to the finale. "We're about to do something that no one's ever done before on a 'Superman' iteration, so that's pretty special. You can expect a big fight — and the last couple of minutes are really special ... it's very bold," said Garfin. "Jordan grows up a lot — especially in the finale."

Be sure to catch Garfin in "Superman & Lois" and get ready for an unbelievably incredible show.

EAR 2 DA SKY: HEED MIKE'S WARNING WITH 'BEWARE OF THE MONKEY'



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

within different cultures, but more importantly, different musical cultures. This ability to have a worldly cultural view and his Afro-centric production — under his appropriately named producer alias “dj blackpower” — come together to create a sound so synonymous with MIKE’s career.

“Beware of the Monkey” is MIKE’s fifth mixtape, released on Dec. 21, 2022, following his fifth studio album, “Disco!,” released in 2021. The project is 33 minutes long, sitting at 13 songs. He starts off the mixtape with “nuthin i can do is wrng,” a great illustration to understand MIKE’s style of production. In a time where samples can seem a bit overused or misused entirely, I personally think his usage of samples is not fully appreciated. Playing a game of verbal “Double Dutch” with the instrumental, he intertwines his bars with the samples, but still giving it room to breathe, as it loops the affirmation “Nothing I can do is wrong!”

As one of the more popular songs off the mixtape, “No Curse Lifted (rivers of love),” opens with a voice recording of conversation between him and others, which is a very common occurrence if you peruse through his discography. He shows through his music that he is a friends-and-family-oriented person, as he’ll have skits or interludes on his projects, featuring phone calls from family or advice from friends. Music is a family business for him.

Track 10, “Stop Worry!” is easily one of my favorite tracks from the project. It features Sister Nancy, a pillar in Jamaican dancehall, widely known for her 1982 song, “Bam Bam.” The production for this song is amazing, as it serves as a happy medium between MIKE’s laid back, drawn-out flow and Sister Nancy’s high energy. Following this is track 11, “WEARY LOVE.” dj blackpower slows it down, as he writes about longing, lapses in relationships, arguments and the inability to hide despair. Again, with the production, I truly can’t get over it. The sample, the message, the skit, the small details: it all adds so much to the bigger picture of the song in itself. MIKE lets his emotions pour out over the sample as it cries out the song’s namesake, reaching, pleading and longing.

Listening to any MIKE project, you would probably assume that he has lived a long and eventful life by loving, losing and getting back on his feet thousands of times, as well as living millions of different lives. At the time of writing this, however, he sits at the age of only 26 years old. With every mixtape, EP, single and feature, MIKE is slowly but surely crowning himself — if not already crowned — with the convoluted title of “leader of the underground.” MIKE is an artist that knows no bounds of time, writing from his past lives, leaving us excited for the future.

If you want to submit something to my radio show, ask for advice, hear your music on the radio and possibly even see an album or EPs you submitted get reviewed in the paper, submit it here: <https://bit.ly/ear2dasky>.

by Hayden Cromer

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Welcome to Ear 2 Da Sky! Each week, I will be going over topics within music culture and reviewing albums and EPs across genres, eras and artists that are submitted by readers and listeners of my radio show every Monday at 11 p.m. on WHUS 91.7 FM! For this week’s submission, amidst getting lazy on Thanksgiving and staying up to study for finals, I decided to sit down and give MIKE’s “Beware of the Monkey” a listen.

Michael Jordan Bonema, more popularly known as the all-caps stylized MIKE, is a very interesting artist. With ties to New Jersey, East London, Philadelphia and New York City, he sits on a unique niche: the ability to have been truly immersed



Michael Jordan Bonema, known professionally as MIKE, is an American rapper, songwriter and record producer based in New York City. Bonema is also co-founder of Slums, an online underground hip-hop collective.

IMAGE COURTESY OF @MIKELIKESRAP ON INSTAGRAM

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Life

@dailycampuslife

Mustafa Rfat gives a talk on the plight and marginalization of refugees with disabilities

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab**

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On Dec. 3, 2024, Mustafa Rfat, a social work Ph.D. student at Washington University and Iraqi refugee with disabilities, gave a virtual talk on the challenges and discrimination he faced under the intersectionality of refugee status and being disabled. It is the third and final talk given in a series under the topic of reimagining refugees.

While waiting for a slideshow to be presented in the virtual meeting, Rfat gave a personal introduction, saying that he was in a refugee camp in Turkey and moved to the United States in 2011. He also talked about his dissertation on refugees with disabilities and how they access social services.

Rfat claimed that the legal definition of refugees is thought about a lot, but not the social and material loss refugees have faced and are facing. “It was huge for me,” Rfat reflected.

Reflecting on the understanding of refugees with disabilities, Rfat said, “Unfortunately, this is the least researched topic.”

Rfat continued, “That exclusion, that marginalization hits hard. When you encounter the stigma of being a refugee, of being a person with disabilities, it’s challenging.”

According to Rfat, there are currently 120 million displaced people in the world. Back in 2021, Rfat said there were 50 to 55 million forcibly displaced people. Many of the wars, conflicts and genocides started since the 2000s haven’t ended, being a large part of why so many people are displaced.

Despite what Rfat says, “One-third of refugees have at least one type of disability.” He also said, “Refugees with disabilities continue to live in the shadows.” He was told by someone that he doesn’t have to work and could rely on public services such as supplemental security income (SSI) to live, but he said he didn’t want to be stuck at home because of his aspirations of wanting to continue his education. “Obviously, that was not my goal,” Rfat said.

Rfat then reviewed the American Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Immigration Act of 1882, the latter being a xenophobic piece of legislature trying to hinder immigration. “This policy is clear that we don’t want immi-

grants,” Rfat said. The Immigration Act of 1882 was reversed in the 1960s, but immigrants continue to face issues in the United States.

“You might ask how the Immigration Act of 1882 influences the current legislation,” Rfat said. In the U.S., refugees are expected to be self-reliant in one month. Furthermore, from his personal experience, Rfat said that a social worker divided refugees who were employable and unemployable. Those deemed to be unemployable refugees were disregarded until they get SSI. “I was forced to find employment by myself,” Rfat said.

Rfat was finally able to apply to West Virginia University. “In my first week, I was hospitalized due to back problems,” he said, referring to the heavy books and backpack that he had to carry. He had negative self-talk about not being able to attend college while in the hospital. A social worker referred Rfat to the disability services at his college, giving him an iPad to read his books and take notes and a backpack with wheels. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree on an honors track.

Refugees with disabilities often face invisibility in the resettlement process, their identity

not being recognized and their needs not being met. Queer and transgender refugees are also invisible to most, according to Rfat.

Rfat then proposed some solutions in terms of how to remedy this maltreatment of refugees with disabilities. He wants to develop a new refugee policy to replace the Refugee Act of 1980 and have dedicated liaisons for resettlement camps.

Rfat then tackled the topic of the language barriers. Refugees oftentimes face discrimination because they don’t speak English. For refugees with disabilities, “Because they don’t speak English, they don’t know about the ADA and about Section 504.”

There was then a Q&A session after the talk. One audience member asked, “Are displaced persons with disabilities less likely to qualify as refugees for immigration?” Rfat answered, “They don’t give refugees with disabilities refugee status because they would have to give [them] resources.” Furthermore, if you don’t declare a disability as a refugee, you may be put in situations that aren’t accommodating. “It’s a very complex dynamic,” Rfat said.

Another question acknowledged the incoming Trump ad-

ministration’s potential impact on immigration and refugees. Rfat said, “If you don’t want illegal immigrants, you have to open the door up for legal immigrants.” “In my dictionary there is no legal and illegal immigrants,” he continued.

Rfat then mentioned his research, stating “I interviewed 40 refugees with disabilities. It was baffling that for 10 years some struggled to find a job. It tells you the neglect.” Rfat later added, “A hospital has the right to deport an undocumented immigrant if they don’t have the paperwork,” and due to how much it would cost to treat the undocumented immigrant.

Visiting Assistant Professor with the UConn Hartford Transformation, Equity, Access and Sense of Belonging (TEAS) Project, Qazi Arka Rahman, asked Rfat: “What has been your motivation?” Rfat first clarified that Rahman was his English tutor at West Virginia University. “We see our communities day by day being oppressed. My research has opened the door to learning more about refugees with disabilities,” Rfat responded. Rahman then said, “It is not enough to just give them support; we have to make them feel welcome.”



Mustafa Rfat is a Ph.D. student at the Brown School, located at Washington University. He is also a Global Scholar at the McDonnell International Scholars Academy.

IMAGE COURTESY OF @WASHUBROWNSCHOOL



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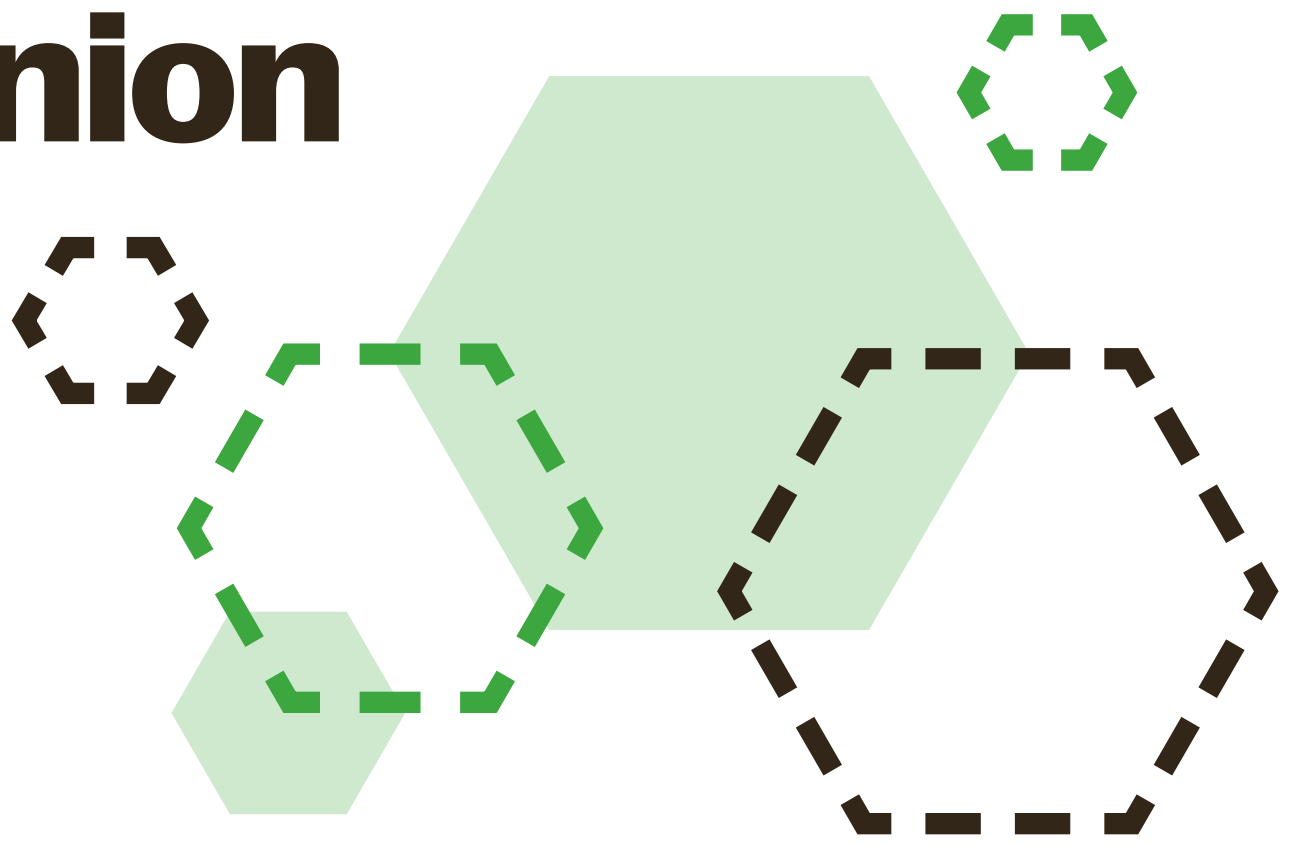
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Sacred Soil:

Environmental Resilience and Justice in Connecticut and Palestine

by Fatima Khan | CONTRIBUTOR | SHE/HER/HERS | fatima.2.khan@uconn.edu

So far, I have examined how two dispossessed peoples — Indigenous communities in Connecticut and Palestinians — have faced environmental degradation as a consequence of displacement and dispossession.

However, the story does not end with loss; it is also a story of resilience. This article, the fourth in a four-part series, explores the intertwined histories of genocide and resilience in Palestine and Connecticut, highlighting how environmental degradation has been woven into these narratives of dispossession and importantly, how these communities have cultivated environmental resilience in the face of adversity.

Environmental resilience is the capacity of a community or system to adapt, cope and recover from environmental disturbances such as climate

change, pollution or natural disasters. In the United States, Indigenous peoples have been practicing environmental resilience for centuries through traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) — a body of knowledge passed down through generations. TEK includes practices informed by cultural memory, sensitivity to environmental changes and values of reciprocity and sustainability. Examples of TEK include prescribed burns to manage vegetation, identifying optimal harvest times for specific plants and maintaining biodiversity through careful stewardship of the land. The integration of TEK into climate change mitigation efforts is crucial, as it offers solutions that are locally grounded, adaptive and community-driven. For instance, the National Resources Conservation Service has collaborated with tribes and Indigenous communities to develop the Culturally Significant Plantings for Soil Health program, which uses culturally relevant plants like huckleberry and thimbleberry to improve soil

health, and this is currently being used in many states, including Connecticut! Although rooted in specific traditions, the principles of TEK are universal, offering valuable insights for global climate adaptation.

In Palestine, despite ongoing occupation and environmental degradation as a result, communities have found ways to practice resilience through sustainable farming and land stewardship. The Palestine Fair Trade Association (PFTA) plays a significant role by empowering Palestinian farmers with the knowledge and resources to engage in organic farming and fair trade. This allows Palestinian farmers to access international markets, helping support their economic and social resilience. A key program, "Trees for Life," has replanted thousands of olive trees — symbolic of Palestinian heritage — targeted by settlers as part of efforts to displace and destabilize the population. Similarly, Om Sleiman Farm, located in "Area C" of the West Bank, showcases how permaculture principles are applied to foster sustainabil-

ity despite infrastructural limitations imposed by occupation. The farm prioritizes native plants and sustainable techniques. Palestinian farmers employ a range of practices to adapt to environmental pressures. Intercropping olive trees with crops like clover enhances soil health, reduces water evaporation and promotes biodiversity. Rainfed agriculture, along with the use of stone terraces and natural composting methods, helps conserve water and maintain soil fertility, crucial in areas where water access is restricted. Additionally, Palestinian farmers preserve heirloom seeds and practice agroforestry, cultivating diverse crops to enhance resilience against climate change and genocide related environmental hazards.

This environmental resilience — from Indigenous communities in Connecticut or Palestinians on the frontlines of occupation — speak to a profound, unyielding hope. These communities have persisted, adapted and overcome time and time again in the face of adversity. Resilience is not a passive endurance but a living, sentient thing, a powerful act of

creation — a refusal to succumb. Their knowledge and practices, built over centuries, offer solutions for our planet's survival as well, contributing to broader efforts to combat climate change. Now, as the world continues to grapple with the climate crisis, we must recognize that true climate action cannot be achieved without justice. Supporting the resilience of these communities is not only an act of solidarity, but a moral imperative. Climate justice cannot be separated from social justice, and real, transformative action begins by dismantling the systems of oppression that fuel environmental degradation and human suffering, as they are intrinsically intertwined. True climate action begins with justice — and true climate justice begins when we fight for freedom and justice for all oppressed people, for a free Palestine. Only then can we build a truly sustainable world.

Why was Matt Gaetz nominated?!

by Youssef Macary
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As President-Elect Donald Trump prepares to take office in January, the chosen individuals he has selected to fill various roles in the federal government have begun to resemble a movie cast. Many people, including myself, find these picks questionable and surprising. One of the most controversial and ultimately unsuccessful cabinet nominations, was Trump's choice of Matt Gaetz for Attorney General. This ultimately resulted in Gaetz withdrawing his nomination, saying "While the momentum was strong, it is clear that my confirmation

was unfairly becoming a distraction to the critical work of the Trump/Vance Transition." This was after days of controversy over evidence being released about potential past wrongdoings.

Prior to Gaetz withdrawing from consideration, there were a number of controversies surrounding him. One controversy was about a woman who testified to the House Ethics Committee that Matt Gaetz had sex with her while she was 17. Additionally, allegations were made that Gaetz paid for women to travel across state lines, "payments that the attorney said were, in part, for sex." Additionally, "The House Ethics Committee obtained records,

including a check and records of Venmo payments, that appear to show that Rep. Matt Gaetz paid more than \$10,000 to two women who were later witnesses in sexual misconduct probes." The House Ethics Committee report was then blocked from being released by Republicans; however, Speaker of the House Mike Johnson said the House will work to "force the release of the Gaetz report." Shortly after Gaetz withdrew from his consideration. This was a large amount of damning evidence against Gaetz and is not an amount of baggage that one would typically want a member of the president's cabinet.

While there is evidence of wrongdoing, Gaetz has not yet

been convicted of a crime. Either way, there is a lot of evidence of a shady past. Even the fact that he withdrew himself from consideration before the House Ethics Committee report was released is not a good look. The main question this makes me ask is whether President-Elect Donald Trump thoroughly vett Matt Gaetz before nominating him for Attorney General? If Trump had thoroughly vetted this candidate, he would have likely found many of the same things that came to light after Gaetz was nominated. All this evidence, in theory, should have given Trump doubts before he nominated Gaetz to become a member of his cabinet. The other possibility is that Trump

simply chose to not vett Gaetz. Either he didn't vett him or did not care about what he found, either way the situation is deeply concerning.

The nomination and controversy surrounding Matt Gaetz is worrisome as we enter another four years with President Elect Trump. The main issue with this is the lack of ethical standards that the administration is upholding. The President holds the highest office in the nation and is quite literally the face of our country. The fact that Matt Gaetz was the best person Donald Trump could think of to make his Attorney General unfortunately foreshadows the potential future issues that his presidency will bring.

DROPPIN' DIMES:

NFL Week 14 Start 'Em Sit 'Em

by **Matt Dimech**
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With the fantasy football playoffs slowly closing in, and for some even kicking off this week, knowing who to start and sit for week 14 is going to be crucial to nudge out the advantage over your opponents. An injury plagued roster may find you in need of making a desperate waiver wire pick up, and usual lock starts might have to find themselves on the bench to keep your fantasy seasons alive.

Start – Brandin Cooks

Brandin Cooks made his return to the gridiron on Thanksgiving against the New York Giants. Cooks had an impressive performance, finishing with 10.60 points after being projected a mere 7.70. He finished the game with only three receptions, with one of them coming in the form of a touchdown.

However, the 31-year-old veteran received a surprisingly high target share for his first game back, earning seven of Cooper Rushes 36 attempts. Cook can be expected to take a larger role in the offense as the season progresses. This week, the Cowboys take on the Cincinnati Bengals, a defense that has allowed opposing teams to walk into the endzone and holds the door for them on their way in. The Bengals are giving up 28.3 points per game, which places them at 31st in the NFL, while opposing offenses are posting

241 pass yards per game. Second and third option receivers have thrived against the Cincinnati secondary, Quentin Johnson, Rashod Bateman and Nelson Agholor have all scored touchdowns over the last handful of weeks. Cooks can easily fill out the WR3 role for fantasy owners in a bind this week.

Sit – Isiah Pacheco

Isiah Pacheco came into his third year with high expectations from fantasy owners. After finishing as the RB15 in PPR format leagues last season, Pacheco was taken as high as an early second rounder. Through the first two weeks he seemed to be coming through on that potential, putting up just over 16 points per game. Unfortunately, he sustained a fractured fibula during his week two performance, which sidelined him until week 13. In his return to the field, it was obvious that Kansas City would be easing Pacheco back into the role of the team's lead back. He shared time with Kareem Hunt who took over in Pacheco's absence, only receiving a 37% snap rate. He took seven carries for 44 yards, including an explosive 34-yard gain. This week, the Chiefs take on their division rivals in the Los Angeles Chargers. The Chargers' run defense has been allowing 119.4 rush yards per game which ranks as 14th in the league. Over the last two weeks, the Chargers have struggled with containing two of the league's

best, Derrick Henry and Bijan Robinson, allowing each of them to post over 20 fantasy points. I do not expect Pacheco to get the volume necessary to match these performances, so it would be best to push him to the bench until he is back in full swing with the Chiefs offense.

Start – D'Andre Swift

D'Andre Swift has not performed to his best ability over the last few weeks and hasn't broken double digits in the last two weeks, a threshold he's only broken once since week 10. Granted, these past two weeks were against two of the best run defenses in football: the Green Bay Packers and the Minnesota Vikings. Swift's volume has still been up with his touches, not dipping below double digits and still getting decent target share as a receiving back. This week, Swift has the opportunity to bounce back against a 49ers defense that is reeling after letting the Buffalo Bills run all over them.

San Francisco defense is feeling the effects of missing Nick Bosa, who has been dealing with an oblique injury in the last two weeks. Should he return this week, it is unlikely he will be back to 100%. The 49ers defense has not prevented the first string running back from scoring since week five against the Cardinals and they have given up the fifth-most points per game to running backs this season. Swift should be a reliable RB2 and a great flex option this week.

Sit – Tyreek Hill

Tyreek Hill has been a disappointment this season. The explosiveness of the nine-year veteran that owners and fans alike have grown accustomed to seeing, has not been put on display this season. He is currently nestled in as the WR20, which is a sharp decline from WR2 last season. Despite this step back, Hill has maintained an average points per game of 12.43 in PPR format, which has kept him as a solid WR2. Last week, he had his best performance since week one, dropping 20.30 points. So why should you sit him? Despite his success last week, the Dolphins offense is not running many designed looks for Hill. As a matter of fact, on his touchdown, he was not the intended target. A ball tipped in the air by a Green Bay defender found its way into Hill's hands just as he broke the plane of the endzone.

This week, "the Cheetah" will have a lot more difficulty getting himself open with Sauce Gardner chasing him around the field. The Jets are currently the best pass defenses in the NFL, only allowing 174.9 pass yards per game while also having a league best nine passing touchdowns scored against them. Against any other defense I would recommend keeping Hill in the lineup, but against this air-tight secondary, it would be wise to keep him on the wood for week 14.

Lato's Lens: Rivalry Week's Greatest Games, Top Performances and Must-See Conference Championship Games in College Football

by **Tyler Lato**
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You never know what to expect when two hated rivals match-up against each other in a college football game. You can throw each other's records out the window, as these rival programs are playing in more than just a game. This past weekend, we saw some of the most bitter, and toxic rivalries unfold in front of our very eyes, producing some of the greatest games college football has had to offer this season. Here are some of rivalry week's greatest games, top performances and must-see conference championship games in college football.

Greatest Games

Michigan 13, No. 2 Ohio State 10

In perhaps the greatest rivalry game in all of sports, a less-than stellar Michigan Wolverines team led by first-year Head Coach Sherrone Moore shocked the world by defeating their archrivals, the No. 2-ranked Ohio State Buckeyes. With several starters missing on both sides of the ball like star tight end Colston Loveland and cornerback Will Johnson, the Wolverines' defense managed to stifle the Ohio State offense both through the air and on the ground while keeping them off the scoreboard for the entire second half. This marks Ohio State's fourth consecutive loss to their rivals, which was the first time in the history of the Game that an unranked team defeated a ranked team.

No. 7 Georgia 44, Georgia Tech 42

After being down 17-0 at halftime with their playoff hopes teetering, Head Coach Kirby Smart and his Georgia Bulldogs found a way to

comeback and defeat Georgia Tech in a whopping eight overtimes by a score of 44-42. With one minute left in the fourth quarter, Georgia quarterback Carson Beck found Dominic Lovett wide open in the endzone to send the game to overtime with the score knotted at 27-27. While both teams exchanged possessions over eight overtime periods, it would be the Bulldogs who prevailed after running back Nate Frazier found the endzone for the game-winning two-point conversion.

No. 15 South Carolina 17, No. 12 Clemson 14

In the fourth quarter of yet another heated rivalry game, South Carolina quarterback LaNorris Sellers was able to shrug off an untimely interception by plunging into the endzone with one minute left in the game to stun the rival Clemson Tigers. The Gamecocks were down 14-7 going into the final quarter of the game. However, it was Sellers who put the team on his back and led them to victory, contributing 330 all-purpose yards while scoring two touchdowns on the ground. With the loss, Clemson will still have an opportunity to make the College Football Playoffs in a do-or-die ACC Championship game against No. 9 SMU.

Top Performances

Haynes King, Georgia Tech
 Despite losing to Georgia 44-42, Georgia Tech quarterback Haynes King put on an inspiring performance, bringing Head Coach Brent Key to tears after the game finished. King delivered a stellar performance, throwing for 303 yards and two touchdowns while adding another 110 yards and three touchdowns on the ground. While his numbers were remarkable, it was King's grit and toughness that were put on a full display. While playing with an apparent shoulder injury, King took several massive

blows on nearly every drive, somehow finding a way to get back up and keep going. His performance was like that of Rocky Balboa in his fight against Ivan Drago in the movie "Rocky IV."

Kyle McCord, Syracuse

Quarterback Kyle McCord transferred from Ohio State to Syracuse seeking a fresh start after an otherwise toxic fan base ran him out for losing in the game against Michigan, the eventual national champions, last season. On the same day that his former team lost to Michigan again with his replacement, McCord shocked the world by out-dueling Heisman Trophy contender Cam Ward and the sixth-ranked Miami Hurricanes by a score of 42-38. McCord accounted for 380 passing yards and three touchdowns, potentially ending the Canes' shot at making the College Football Playoffs.

Travis Hunter, Colorado

According to Colorado Head Coach Deion Sanders, Travis Hunter clinched the Heisman Trophy with his performance in a 52-0 blowout win over Oklahoma State on Saturday. Once again, Hunter did damage on both sides of the ball to further submit his legacy as the greatest two-way player in college football history. On offense, Hunter hauled in three touchdowns on 10 catches with 116 total receiving yards. On defense, he picked off an Oklahoma State pass for his fourth interception of the season.

Must-See Conference Championship Games

No. 7 Georgia (10-2) vs. No. 3 Texas (11-1): Saturday – 4:00 p.m.

After soundly defeating in-state rival Texas A&M last weekend, the No. 3 Texas Longhorns are looking for revenge in the SEC title game after losing to the Georgia Bulldogs at home earlier this season. While both teams have evidently solidified their spot

in the College Football Playoffs, a SEC Championship would be monumental for Texas as it's their first season in the conference; however, this is the last thing Head Coach Kirby Smart wants to happen after being upset by Alabama in the title game last season.

No. 4 Penn State (11-1) vs. No. 1 Oregon (12-0): Saturday – 8:00 p.m.

With the Ohio State loss to Michigan, No. 4 Penn State advanced to the Big 10 championship game for the first time since 2016. On the other hand, Head Coach Dan Lanning's top-ranked Oregon Ducks have thrived in their first season in the Big 10, cruising to an undefeated 12-0 record with star quarterback Dillon Gabriel. With that being said, Penn State will have the opportunity to spoil the Ducks' undefeated season and bring some much-wanted hardware back to Happy Valley. Seeing how Penn State's stout defense holds up against Oregon's aerial assault is must-see TV.

No. 18 Iowa State (10-2) vs. No. 16 Arizona State (10-2): Saturday – Noon

Unlike the SEC and the Big 10, the two teams playing in the Big 12 title game will fight for a College Football Playoff berth at the world-famous AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas. Head Coach Kenny Dillingham's Arizona State squad features one of the conference's best running backs in Cameron Skattebo, who has helped the Sun Devils win five consecutive games and cruise to the conference title game. Meanwhile, the Cyclones of Iowa State have been battle-tested the whole season, capping the regular season off with a 29-21 win over a talented Kansas State team. With a playoff spot on the line, both teams are set to leave everything on the field in what promises to be a thrilling Big 12 heavyweight matchup.

Sports

Photo of the Day | Paige Buckets



UConn women's basketball plays Holy Cross in Storrs, Conn. on Dec. 3, 2024. The Huskies played hard as they continued their season in Gamble.
PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

BRAYDEN'S BREAKDOWN: What the Patriots should learn from the Ja'Marr Chase versus Penei Sewell debate

by **Brayden Gorski**
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After yet another heartbreaking loss filled with almost 100 yards worth of penalties, the New England Patriots have been eliminated from playoff contention and own the league's fourth worst record. Assuming this pace continues for the final four games of the season, New England will have a tough choice to make come draft day. Should they select a skill position player or a lineman? The answer to this question lies in the 2021 NFL draft.

The 2021 draft stakes claim to be one of the most interesting draft debates ever. Despite sitting out the 2020 college season, Ja'Marr Chase was regarded as a stud wide receiver destined to go early in the draft. Meanwhile, Penei Sewell was hailed as the best lineman in a class filled with first round O-line talent.

The Patriots are in a similar position to the Bengals heading into the 2025 draft. Both teams secured their quarterback of the future with Drake Maye showing his big play ability all season and

Joe Burrow showing flashes of his LSU self in early 2020. Unfortunately for Burrow, he was sacked at an alarming rate and sidelined for the season with a torn ACL after 10 games. Maye has already had minor injury problems, leaving a game with symptoms of a concussion earlier this season after taking a hard hit on a scramble.

When April 2021 came around, fans of all teams were begging for Cincinnati to select Sewell to ensure Burrow's health for the future. The Bengals instead took Chase and opted to sign free agent lineman such as Ted Karras to protect Burrow. Chase didn't miss a beat in his rookie season, winning offensive rookie of the year and helping the Bengals reach the Super Bowl.

The biggest stage showed Cincinnati's glaring weakness, as on fourth down for the Bengals, Aaron Donald broke past the line and pressured Burrow, forcing a turnover on downs in the final minutes. Would a rookie, like Penei Sewell, be able to stop one of the greatest pass rushers ever? Would the Bengals even be in the Super Bowl without Chase? These

questions are debatable, but something that is not up for debate is both teams' records this year and their potential futures.

The Detroit Lions are the best team in the NFC and Sewell has not allowed a sack all season. The Bengals just lost for the eighth time this season, and their playoff hopes continue to dwindle each week. Chase has been brilliant, but football is a team sport, and Cincinnati needs to take a deep evaluation of their current talent. A lineman like Sewell would significantly help in a division where you play T.J. Watt and Myles Garrett two times each.

This brings me to the 2024 Patriots, whose offensive line has not gotten the job done. Since losing franchise cornerstone David Andrews to injury early in the season, New England has had a revolving door of linemen. Former first round pick Cole Strange has not panned out at guard while the remainder of the lineman come straight off the couch to play every Sunday.

The top lineman in this year's draft and the person I think the Patriots should draft is Will Campbell. The LSU

tackle weighs in at 323 pounds, has a 6-foot-6 frame and has primarily played left tackle for the Tigers this year. Scouts have raved about his footwork and pass blocking, something New England is in desperate need of. Campbell will be just 21 years old when next season begins, giving Maye the protection he needs so the QB does not have to scramble around all day.

If Campbell is taken before New England's pick, plenty of options remain available at guard and tackle. Kelvin Banks Jr., of Texas, is also a projected top 10 pick in next April's draft, and his college teammate Cameron Williams could hear his name called in the first round as well. Ohio State's Josh Simmons has created some buzz in draft circuits and could be a nice pairing with Maye.

The elephant in the room here is Heisman trophy frontrunner Travis Hunter. The superstar, who plays both sides of the ball, would be a perfect fit with not only Drake Maye, but also emerging star cornerback Christian Gonzalez in the secondary. However, I see two problems with this argument. The

first being that teams with worse records than the Patriots, such as the Giants and Jaguars, will dial in on Hunter as the draft process ramps up. Secondly and more importantly, if New England is really trying to build for the future, they should look at where the Lions and Bengals, respectively, are in the standings. The Bengals championship window is closing with many players, including Tee Higgins, hitting free agency after this season. Detroit has completely changed its culture, and Sewell will be a force in the NFC North for at least the next decade.

Arizona's Tetaiora McMillan is the other receiver being linked to the Patriots. While his hands and midair adjustments are phenomenal, those intangibles will mean nothing if Maye cannot release the ball in time.

The solution to this debate is simple: draft a tackle like Campbell or Banks Jr. while you continue to build a culture around your rookie QB. Doing this shows that Maye is for real and will attract free agent receivers like Higgins to New England as established weapons for future playoff runs.

MEN'S HOCKEY: HUSKIES PREPARED TO FACE NO. 3 BOSTON COLLEGE IN CHESTNUT HILL

by **Ava Inesta**
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For the final game of the first half of the season, the UConn men's hockey team will travel to Chestnut Hill to face No. 3 Boston College. After splitting the weekend with UMass Lowell in their last series, the Huskies had a weekend off to rest and recover. Now all hands are on deck for BC.

"I'm excited about the way the team has been playing," said Head Coach Mike Cavanaugh on Tuesday. "Certainly, the BC game and the two games against Lowell, we played pretty solid hockey for nine periods. We're looking to continue that trend against the Eagles. We know it's going to be definitely a tough task at Conte Forum."

"They are, as I said a couple weeks ago when we were getting ready to play them, there's not many holes in their game," said Coach Cavanaugh. "From the goaltender to the experienced defenseman, to the elite

forwards they have, they're just dangerous all over the ice. We're going to have to play a very solid game managing the puck well and disciplined as well if we want to be successful."

It's a midweek matchup in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, and puck drop is set for 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 4. The Huskies will enter this game with a 7-6-1 overall record and 4-5-1 in Hockey East Action. That puts them in fifth place in the current Hockey East standings.

One of the current strengths for UConn has been their special teams. They have four short-handed goals on the season so far which is one of the most in the country. Coach Cavanaugh described the team as overall well balanced, especially on the offense. Juniors Tristan Fraser, Ryan Tattle and sophomore Joey Muldowney have been some of the most consistent and effective players on the team thus far. However, almost all of the returns and newcomers on the Ice

Bus have been able to make an impact. Muldowney and Tattle are tied for the team lead in points with 10 total. Junior Jake Percival has been an anchor on offense, having the team-best seven goals and freshman Kai Janvirya leads the team in assists with seven.

Boston College is entering this matchup with a 10-3-0 overall record and 4-2-0 in conference action. They are currently ranked No. 3 in both the USCHO.com and USA Hockey / Rink Live polls. A player to look out for on the Eagles is Lukas Gustafsson. The conference announced that the junior was named Hockey East Defender of the Week. Last week against Dartmouth, Gustafsson notched his first multi-point performance of the season. He tallied two assists in Boston College's win over No. 15 Dartmouth. Both of his assists came a power-play and short-handed goals in the third period of BC's Friday night matchup.

Boston College's penalty kill is a perfect 30-for-30 this season, they are the only Division I

team to now allow a power play goal this year. The Eagles are also undefeated on their home ice this season, they have won the last 16 home games going all the way back to the 2023-24 season. In terms of their offense, Boston College has outscored their opponents 44-24 this season, also including 20-5 in the third period specifically.

The last time the Huskies and Eagles met was on November 15 at Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, Connecticut. The physical back and forth battle where the Huskies scored three unanswered goals led them to upsetting (at the time No. 2) Boston College 5-4.

Now for the rematch, the Huskies will travel up north to face the Eagles in their home arena for their last game of the first half of the regular season schedule. The single game matchup against Boston College is set for Wednesday, Dec. 4. Puck drop is at 7 at Conte Forum in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts and will be available to stream on ESPN+.



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Sports

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: NO. 2 HUSKIES BEAT SLUGGISH START, DEFEAT HOLY CROSS 88-52

by Jake McCreven

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The UConn women's basketball team defeated the College of the Holy Cross, 88-52, on Tuesday night inside of Gampel Pavilion. The win notches UConn's seventh consecutive victory to start 2024.

Forward Sarah Strong was the wire-to-wire best player on the floor, scoring 22 points on 9/12 (75%) shooting while grabbing seven rebounds and dealing two assists in her 24 minutes of game action. The freshman set career highs in points scored, field goal percentage and three pointers made.

Graduate transfer Kaitlyn Chen started the scoring with a three-point field goal, with Holy Cross' Simone Foreman knotting things up with a triple to begin the Crusaders' scoring. Chen finished her best offensive game as a Husky with 14 points and seven assists, notching her second double-digit scoring performance of the season.

Both teams struggled to produce on the offensive end early, with Connecticut finding the basket just three times in the first eight minutes of game action. The Crusaders jumped out to a 10-6 lead, aided by Foreman's second three pointer, as the Huskies started 1/8 from the field after Chen's initial three pointer.

A 5-0 run across the final 1:40 — aided by a Jana El Alfay layup and Morgan Cheli three-pointer — gave the Huskies a one-point lead as the first quarter expired. Connecticut shot 27% from the floor and missed on seven three-point jumpers, as Paige Bueckers — playing the whole 10 minutes — missed both of her first-quarter field goal attempts.

But even when Bueckers (11 points, 7 rebounds and 5 assists) had an off-night scoring,



UConn women's basketball plays Holy Cross in Storrs, Conn. on Dec. 3, 2024. The Huskies played hard as they continued their season in Gampel

PHOTOGRAPH BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

the Huskies still found sanctuary through the efforts of Strong, Chen and KK Arnold.

The Crusaders started the second quarter with a turnover, which swiftly led to Bueckers' first points of the night on a catch and shoot three-pointer off a pick. Chen's triple widened

the Husky lead to seven which was followed by another Crusader turnover and Chen basket.

Following a Kaitlyn Flanagan basket, Strong started a 10-3 run for the Huskies — scoring all 10 of the Connecticut points herself across a span of two and a half minutes.

“She seems to know what we need at what moment. You can see it, when she gets comfortable, she thinks that any shot she takes is going in,” Auriemma said post-game.

The Crusaders closed the gap from 10 points to five entering the final media break

of the half. Strong scored again, this time under the basket on a second chance opportunity to put the Huskies up by seven with just north of a minute left in the half.

Flanagan held the ball for the final shot and was fouled on her way to the basket, knocking down one of two free throws as the half ended with a six-point Husky lead. Connecticut scored 10 points off turnovers in the first half, gapping the Crusaders by nine points in that department as the Huskies took a 33-27 lead into halftime.

Strong started the second half scoring for the Huskies, knocking down a three before a Bueckers layup gave the Huskies a 38-32 lead. Chen laid in a down court pass to widen the lead to 11 as the Crusaders, victims of a 7-0 Husky run over a 1:27 time span, called the first timeout of the second half.

A Bueckers no look pass to KK Arnold on the block gave the crowd life, as Arnold, scoring again on the next Connecticut possession, stretched the lead to 17 points.

Arnold's eight points were all down low, physical paint points as the hardy guard grabbed two rebounds and dished one assist in her 17 minutes of game action.

The Huskies took a 57-39 lead into the fourth quarter, which saw very little game action from Strong who checked out after the first 1:30. Ice Brady, Ashlynn Shade and Qadence Samuels all got going in the fourth quarter, scoring a combined 15 points and grabbing three rebounds as the Huskies pulled away from the Crusaders with 31 fourth quarter points to reach the 88-52 final score.

Connecticut will next be in action on Saturday against Louisville, traveling to Brooklyn for a 9 p.m. tip off with the Cardinals as a part of the Champions Classic.

MEN'S BASKETBALL: NO. 25 UCONN SEARCHING FOR BIG WIN AGAINST NO. 15 BAYLOR

by Connor Sargeant

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The damage has been done to the UConn men's basketball team. After dropping three straights in the Maui Invitational and blowing out the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, the program looks ahead to its first-ranked matchup of the year against the Baylor Bears. This Big East Big-12 matchup has all the billings to be nothing short of a classic, as the Huskies look to get back to their winning ways at home, and Baylor poises to spoil the back-to-back national champions' Gampel Pavilion homecoming.

Perhaps the biggest headline heading into Wednesday's matchup against Baylor is the status of Alex Karaban. The redshirt junior is not only the unquestioned leader of this program but is excellent every time he steps onto the hardwood. Unfortunately, Karaban suffered a concussion on Nov. 27 against Dayton in Maui, though he was cleared to fly back with the team. After Tuesday's practice, head coach Dan Hurley offered a status update for the two-time national champion.

“Injury-wise, [Karaban] is out,” he said. “Not sure about the weekend, but definitely out for [Wednesday].”

With Karaban out, the program will need to improve its

defense drastically. The guards have struggled to contain their one-on-one matchups and as a result, the centers have had to help constantly. This had led to Samson Johnson either mauling his men or the guards finding a shooter open in the corner where no Connecticut defender has rotated to and this was the formula that led to the Huskies' demise a week ago. For a program as talented as Baylor, this is an unsustainable defensive practice, and Connecticut will need to be better, especially considering who the Bears do bring.

As is the case with most of the Huskies' opponents, the guard play is excellent, with Baylor as no exception. Jeremy Roach is a player the program will want to watch some film on. The fifth-year Virginia native spent his first four years in Durham, North Carolina, where he was a serviceable guard with the Duke Blue Devils. He is currently amid a solid 2024-2025 campaign, averaging a little more than 13 points a night on 44% shooting in 33 minutes of work. Jayden Nunn could also be a thorn in the Huskies' side, as he is averaging nearly the same stats but on even more efficient shooting, including a three-point percentage hovering around 45%. The amount of space that Nunn, among other Baylor players, gets to shoot the deep ball could very well tell the story on Wednesday, as this was

the direct consequence of Connecticut's defensive struggles in Maui. While not a threat from deep, a player that Hurley and the coaching staff will want to watch out for is Norchad Omier, who is averaging a 16-point 10 rebound double-double per night. Considering that Karaban is out, and the Huskies aren't performing on the boards at the high level they would like, they will need Tarris Reed Jr. to continue leading the program in that regard.

As advertised, Reed Jr. has been a bright spot on the boards, averaging nine rebounds a night off the bench in 20 minutes of work. In fact, according to Ken-Pom, Reed Jr. ranks near the top of the country in offensive and defensive rebounding percentage, which is a testament to the force on the boards he has been, which is another reason why Connecticut cannot get into foul trouble. Despite Reed Jr.'s success in this department, there are still opportunities for the big man to improve, and Hurley told the media how much better of a player Reed Jr. can be when he does the little things better.

“[Reed Jr.] has the potential to make an even greater impact, to play more minutes,” Hurley told reporters on Tuesday. “There's watching a game from a fan's perspective, and then there's actually, you know, when you go back and watch a game, and you see the things that if he did better,

[Reed Jr.] could give us an awesome tandem at center.”

As a whole, the UConn offense has been excellent, ranking No. 6 in the country in offensive efficiency. However, the defense has been less than desirable, ranking 85th in the country at the time of writing. Despite this, Hurley believes the program can improve defensively, though it may take some time since they are so young.

“We're a team that's probably going to improve more than a lot of other teams that are really old and really developed. Right now, some teams are better than us that I think probably six weeks from now, two months from now we're going to be better than,” Hurley told media personnel. “I think I got to give the players grace, and I got to try to instill confidence in them, and I can't coach them frustrated, and we can't coach them frustrated or disappointed because it's a group that's going to get better.”

As big of a test as the Huskies' three-day MTE in Hawaii was, their matchup this Wednesday will be an even greater challenge. Connecticut has faced a setback for the first time in a long time, and a big win against a top-tier program like Baylor will put the Huskies right back into the swing of things as the competition only ramps up from here on out, with Big East play looming in the near horizon.