The Daily Campus



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Spring Involvement Fair has almost 400 participants

by Liliana French
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The Spring Involvement Fair took place in Gampel Pavilion from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 29, and had almost 400 participants.

According to Sarah Bernhardt, program coordinator for student organization support, this included about 370 student organizations and approximately 25 university programs.

"Shortly after the Fall Involvement Fair, we start pivoting to planning the Spring Involvement Fair," Bernhardt said. "It takes a couple months, obviously, to pull off an event like this".

Student activities worked with partners in Gampel Pavilion to plan around the basketball schedule and pick a date in the first few weeks of classes and plan details for the event, according to Bernhardt.

Second-semester actuarial science major Samuel Panek said he was happy to meet people while tabling for UConn Roundnet.

"We've done pretty well; I know we've recruited a lot of people," Panek said. "I mean, everyone joins the GroupMe which is nice. We really hit our target audience and I think it's just gone really well. I mean, everyone seems super friendly and bubbly".

Allyson McCormick, a sixth-semester exercise science major, worked at a booth for Big Brothers, Big Sisters.

"It was nice to meet people and try to get more interest in the club," McCormick said.

Isabel Danielsen, a second-semester music education major, went to the involvement fair to check out clubs with her friends.

"I also checked out the free thrifting club that's opening up tomorrow. I got a pair of free jeans," Danielsen said. "We also got a sticker for SUBOG. We also got a fanny pack and we got some free candy".

Danielsen said she found the spring involvement fair fun and liked that it was inside.

"I liked it inside too because it was a lot less walking," Danielsen said. "I liked [the Spring Involvement Fair] because in the fall it was really hot walking around and also it was very long to walk and find clubs, but this is more compact, so we didn't have to walk very far and the posters are really nice and everyone was friendly".

Jennifer Bermeo, a fourth-semester communications major, went to the involvement fair to check out clubs.

"I checked out Her Campus and this club called the UConn Calisthenics," Bermeo said. "I got two bags of free popcorn and also some candy".

Angelica Whitney, a sixth-semester animal science pre-vet major tabled for SUBOG.

"It went really well," Whitney said. "I was only here for the last hour, but it was so nice to get to meet so many new people and see what they're interested in, so hopefully they can join SUBOG and get interest in our events".

GRAPHIC BY ISABELLA KULAWIK, DESIGNER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Union Market Café removes menu items, makes space for açaí bowls

by Patrick Boots
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Market Café has made some changes to its beverage menu in preparation for the opening of Sambazon, a new açaí bowl shop slated to share its former space. Located on the lower floor of the Student Union food court, the café is one of several on-campus locations that sell quick-service food offerings alongside specialty drinks.

Students at the University of Connecticut found that Market Café was no longer able to serve espresso or frozen beverages at the start of the spring semester. Both drink categories require specialized equipment to help prepare the items properly.

"We've had a lot of people coming in, asking for those drinks like they used to," said Brianna Gonzalez, a finance student who works in the café. "I actually liked making them, it was easier for me."

Sambazon, the new açaí bowl concept under construction, was announced by Dining Services on Jan. 19. The façade for the new establishment takes the place of the Market Café's espresso machines and blenders. Scott Hauver, the assistant director of retail operations for Dining Services explained that with both operations in such close proximity, the change was necessary to prevent physical conflicts. Commercial espresso machines are often larger to accommodate more drink-making throughput.

"We did have to change the menu slightly, mostly due to the physical space," said Hauver.

Less menu items and simpler drink offerings also allow the café to be more efficient in its speed of service, since team members will be able to complete more orders more quickly. The changes can reduce the potential for lines and having to wait for more complicated orders to be completed.



Restaurants in the Student Union at the UConn Storrs campus on Jan. 30, 2024. The university offers a variety of options for students to get food other than dining halls, including those in the Student Union.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

"We are actually seeing an improvement in service at that café location," Hauver said.

Espresso-based and specialty beverages are still available at each of the other Uniquely Caffeinated Café locations, the nearest two to the Student Union being Bookworms Café, inside the Homer Babbidge Library study space, and the Beanery, at the lower entrance to the William Benton Museum of Art.

This also isn't the first time that UConn's retail dining options have gone through changes recently. The Up and Atom Café in the Gant math-science complex and the Chem Café in the chemistry building both closed by 2023 in favor of the new NanoByte location in the Science One research center — and the Dairy Bar Too and Chuck and Augie's Bistro, both in the Student Union, shuttered in 2021. The new Sambazon space also used to be home to Freshens, a smoothie franchise that moved to the new Student Recreation Center, but was replaced by the UConn-operated Mango.

Sambazon is slated to open in early February and will accept meal-plan points, Husky Bucks, and digital payment options. The UConn location will not participate in the Sambazon rewards program, however, due to it being a licensed operation, not a company-owned location.

Dining Services encourages students looking to purchase the specialty drinks formerly offered at the Market Café at the four other Uniquely Caffeinated locations on-campus. A map and hours, in addition to menus and nutrition information, can be found at dining.uconn.edu/uc-cafes.

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News

Internal grants accepting applications for UConn researchers

by Gabriel Duffany
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Of the $38.6 million allocated to research endeavors in the University of Connecticut's Fiscal Year 2025 budget, $3 million has been made available to university faculty for internal research grants, with a wealth of opportunities remaining open throughout the spring semester, according to UConn Today.

According to the Office of the Vice President for Research, "our internal funding mechanisms are designed to competitively identify projects that fit our key funding criteria–projects that meet the highest disciplinary standards for excellence and are at a 'tipping point' where specific work can lead to breakthroughs, external funding, and/or significant recognition."

The OVPR administers seven distinct funding opportunities according to different criteria and disciplines. Two categories remain open for application: the Scholarship Facilitation Fund (SFF) and the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Research Initiative (JEDI).

The Fall 2025 Scholarship Facilitation Fund is open to applicants of all disciplines looking to further projects in "research, scholarship and creative endeavors" who are currently employed at UConn Storrs or branch campuses, states the OVPR website. A maximum grant of $2,000 is available, with applications being accepted until noon on June 1. Thirty-two recipients were selected to receive funding for the SFF's Spring 2025 cycle, according to the OVPR.

The OVPR's JEDI grant is open to researchers looking to further initiatives regarding inclusivity in any field, with three phases of increasing funding opportunities available. Proposals for the first level of JEDI close on March 3 at noon. Those selected for the first level will receive a $5,000 grant and the chance to receive subsequent funding for the project's development at $20,000 and $60,000 for phases two and three respectively, states the OVPR website.

Those interested in applying for either grant may schedule a time to meet with OVPR administrators at ovpr.uconn.edu.

Funding opportunities are not limited solely to UConn faculty, however, with a plethora of grants currently accepting applications from undergraduate students. Deadlines are nearing for the Summer Undergraduate Research Fund (SURF), which will be open until Feb. 3. SURF recipients are allotted a grant of $5,500 to pursue a creative or research endeavor of their proposal during the summer of 2025.

UConn IDEA grants, open to students with an interest in, "creative endeavors, community service initiatives, entrepreneurial ventures, research projects, and other original and innovative projects," will be open for application until March 14, according to the UConn IDEA website.

For a comprehensive list of the research funding opportunities offered to undergraduates, visit ugradresearch.uconn.edu.



The Innovations Partnership Building at the UConn Storrs campus on Oct. 17, 2023. The building houses research centers meant for collaborative cross-disciplinary research. FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Eight students receive Gilman Scholars Award

by Maanya Pande
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This year, eight UConn students were awarded the Gilman Scholarship. The scholarship is an academic opportunity awarded to students who are studying abroad. The scholarship funding for their study abroad semester allows students the opportunity to receive their education in another country and immerse themselves in rich culture and internship experiences. It is funded by The Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs at the State Department, according to its website.

Once their study abroad semester has completed, participants are required to carry out a service project within their community, whether that be on campus or in their local hometowns. The goal of these projects is to share the value of studying abroad and help encourage other prospective students to apply, according to the website.

This year, the eight awarded students come from a wide range of educational paths, according to UConn Today.

Nicholas Benda, eighth-semester maritime studies major, will be studying the ecosystems and biodiversity in the Galapagos at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito in the spring semester.

Alexandra Bradley, eighth-semester English major, will study at L'Institut Catholique de Paris in the spring semester. Hanna Gjetaj, sixth-semester marketing major, will go on to study business and economics in London in the spring semester.

Hannah Hidalgo, sixth-semester nursing major with a minor in human development and family sciences, will study nursing at various locations in Rwanda this summer. Hidalgo said her passion for underserved communities has fueled her educational journey thus far.

"In Rwanda, where I will have the opportunity to learn about healthcare challenges in a global context and contribute to improving access to care. This experience is deeply meaningful to me, as it allows me to combine my nursing education with my commitment to health equity, all while immersing myself in the rich culture of Rwanda," Hidalgo said.

Angelina Larracuente, sixth-semester psychological sciences and communications major, will study in the multicultural psychology program at The Umbra Institute in Perugia, Italy this summer.

Ama Kissi, an eighth-semester allied health sciences major, will go to Florence, Italy to study the Mediterranean diet and Tuscan cuisine this summer.

Deon Portes, a sixth-semester individualized crime, law and inequality major, will study in Heredia, Costa Rica in the spring semester.

Sidratul Muntaha is a political science major with a human rights minor who will study at the Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea this summer. Muntaha said he is excited to use his service project to specifically encourage other students of color to apply for this scholarship and pursue study abroad.

"I want to create a space where other first-gen students of color can see that study abroad is possible for them too. I'm excited to use my experience at Yonsei to show that international education isn't just for a select few — it's for all of us," Muntaha said.

The Daily Campus

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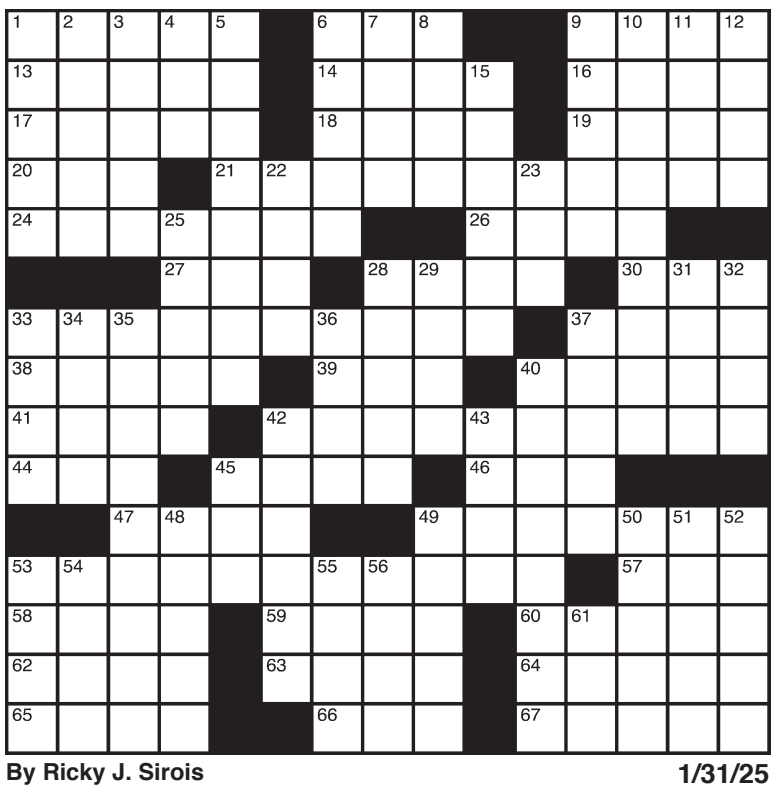
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The Daily Campus

Crossword



By Ricky J. Sirois

1/31/25

ACROSS

1 Decoupage, e.g.
6 Stroller passenger
9 Substance
13 Dark matter?
14 Had regrets
16 Largest of seven
17 Suspect's story
18 Plot size
19 Villain in "The Lion King"
20 Memory unit, informally
21 Dorothy's musing before heading back to Kansas?
24 Undertaking
26 Persian Gulf nation
27 Durham sch.
28 Ellipsis trio
30 Terr. divided in 1889
33 All-clear before the big dance competition?
37 Stack
38 Hierarchy levels
39 Hockey's Bobby
40 Civic, for one
41 "Ohhhh"
42 Advice on how to prevent undue interest from influencers?
44 School org.
45 Lean (on)
46 Foldable bed
47 Abbr. on an ESPN crawl
49 School papers
53 Enthusiastic reply from a certain bird impersonator?
57 One with a platonic partner, for short
58 Thoroughfare
59 Leave out
60 Polling booth figure
62 Vegetable in the cabbage family
63 Say hello quietly
64 __ planner
65 Pizza joint in "Do the Right Thing"
66 Souvenir from an animated film
67 Worshipper of Jah

DOWN

1 Ring leader?
2 Help in keeping things straight
3 Compadre
4 Keyless key
5 Weapons for Neptune and Shiva
6 Aspect
7 "That sounds painful"
8 Mega- squared
9 "__ mañana"
10 San Diego suburb whose name means "hidden"
11 Italian automaker
12 Primary ingredient in poi
15 Danny of "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia"
22 Cuatro y cuatro
23 Hosp. sections
25 2022 and 2024 AL MVP
28 Not at all cool
29 Fairy tale baddie
31 "Too bad"
32 Casino game
33 Golf clinic topic
34 Depose
35 Everybody
36 Hoped-for result
37 Sauce made with pine nuts
40 Short stay
42 Grazing location
43 Coffee order
45 "Run Away With Me" singer Carly __ Jepsen
48 Gives way
49 Brand of canned chiles
50 Going prices
51 Reznor with two Oscars for Best Original Score
52 "More or less"
53 Bothers
54 U.S. weather agency
55 Apple desktop
56 Deep __
61 Eggs, biologically

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

P	I	G	S	■	S	E	C	T	■	■	L	A	U	D
A	P	O	P	■	A	S	H	E	N	■	E	L	M	O
T	H	O	R	N	Y	Q	U	E	S	T	I	O	N	S
R	O	D	E	O	S	■	■	D	Y	E	■	T	O	E
O	T	T	E	R	■	D	A	U	N	T	S	■	■	■
L	O	O	■	S	H	A	R	P	C	O	O	K	I	E
■	■	■	B	E	A	R	D	■	■	N	A	A	C	P
G	A	T	E	■	H	A	U	T	E	■	P	L	E	A
U	S	M	A	P	■	■	O	U	S	T	S	■	■	■
S	P	I	K	E	D	P	U	N	C	H	■	C	A	P
■	■	■	S	P	O	U	S	E	■	U	S	E	M	E
E	R	A	■	S	I	G	■	■	E	M	P	L	O	Y
M	I	S	S	I	N	G	T	H	E	P	O	I	N	T
I	D	E	A	■	G	L	E	A	N	■	T	A	R	O
R	E	A	D	■	■	E	D	D	Y	■	S	C	A	N

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1/31/25

Sudoku

Level 1 2 3 4

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

Solution to Thursday's puzzle

1/31/25

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

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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Life

‘MO’ SEASON 2: A CANDID AND EMOTIONAL LOOK INTO THE LIFE OF A REFUGEE

by Nick Sorokobi
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The second and final season of “Mo,” a comedy-drama series created by and starring comedian Mo Amer, made its debut on Netflix this Thursday, marking a successful and triumphant end to a captivating, and at times bittersweet, series depicting the hardships of being a refugee in America.

Throughout the course of the series, we see the protagonist, Mo Najjar, laugh his way through the pain of asylum-seeking and finding his place in an all-but-familiar environment, all the while hunting odd jobs so he can support his Palestinian family. And while “Mo” is predominantly a humorous take on the refugee experience, filled with many side-splitting scenes and some occasional cliche comedy moments, it’s also chock-full of drama, heavily traumatic, and deeply personal.

Amer, who is Palestinian American, has used his experiences growing up a refugee for much of his material. The youngest of six, Amer immigrated to the United States from Kuwait when he was nine years-old, where he and his family settled in Houston. It was not long after arriving in the states that he began to face a string of difficulties, including the death of his father at the age of 14 and a period of academic struggles. However, Amer was able to find a creative outlet in stand-up comedy, which he says helped make him into the person who he is today.

“Although it’s a comedy, you’ve got to lean into the tragedy,” Amer told TIME Magazine in a 2022 interview. “You’ve got to let it breathe and can’t shy away from it. Because it is a tragic story.”



IMAGE COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

The second season opens six months after Mo accidentally deports himself to Mexico, where he makes a living by selling falafel-style tacos and wrestling as a luchador (fighter) under the name “The Palestinian Bear.” With no passport and no way of getting home, Mo, along with a group of other immigrants, makes the risky decision to undertake a treacherous route to cross the border into Texas. It doesn’t prove easy, however, he faces a number of difficult setbacks, including having to pass through a cold-hearted embassy and spend several days in a detention facility.

The series also doesn’t shy away from depicting the harsh realities that refugees face crossing the border, including the horrendous and inhumane state of the detention centers and the racist and discriminatory practices that occur inside of them.

But the primary objective of “Mo,” however, is to elucidate a sense of hope, and a sense of understanding in its viewers. Amer powerfully portrays the main character’s ups and downs through a comedic lens while at the same time getting the main message across — when identities clash, stateless people can feel a sense of uncertainty as to where they belong. In Mo’s instance, he is having trouble identifying with his Palestinian roots and new homeland in Texas, where he seems to successfully integrate into American society, but feels lost as to where he belongs.

With the series coming to an end, it’s unclear as to what Amer’s next big projects are, but one can certainly take the time to appreciate the poignant, funny and moving picture that “Mo” paints.

Rating: 5/5 stars

SHOW DOWN:
DECLASSIFYING ‘THE RECRUIT’

by Noa Climor
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Streaming services pump out shows fast and cancel them even faster — so that’s why I’m here! With my new column, Show Down, I will check out a new show released every week and let you know if we will get a second season, or if it is forever destined to live as a niche Tumblr fandom.

I’m excited to start writing for this column, as reviewing shows for the Life section has become one of my favorite activities. This year, I’m hoping for more incredible shows and fewer cancellations. Netflix, please know that if you ever decide to bring back “The Society,” my life will be yours (for all legal intents and purposes, this is a joke).

Today, we are reviewing the one-and-only Noah Centineo’s new show, “The Recruit.” By new, I’m referring to the second season — season one came out in 2022 and wowed viewers as yet another spy thriller. It was an incredible season, and Centineo proved himself to be a strong actor with a knack for both comedic and dramatic scenes.

Spoilers for Season 2 of “The Recruit” are below.

In “The Recruit,” Centineo plays Owen Hendricks, a bright-eyed and bushy-tailed lawyer who got his first real gig after law school and now works for the CIA. Of course, Hendricks gets the busy work — going through letters from someone threatening to expose classified information if the CIA does not help them. Long story short, Hendricks finds a letter with a credible threat from Max Meladze.

I know what you’re thinking— who is Max? Why does this matter? Well, Meladze is a former asset to the CIA and has since turned on the organization. She is also on trial for murder.

Hendricks realizes that she used code that only someone genuinely familiar with the CIA would know and deems her threat to expose information as legitimate. Then, things get crazy! Hendricks goes international and gets kidnapped (more than once), helps Meladze and then watches as her daughter murders her.

To make the plot twist crazier, the daughter is a woman we have seen before named Nichka Lashin. She gets all flirty and tries to, well, compromise Hendricks, if you catch my drift.

Although I enjoyed season one, I was not expecting a second season due to the frankly absurd lack of promotion for this season. Scrolling through Centineo’s and Netflix’s respective Instagram accounts, I couldn’t see many posts related to the show and I’m curious as to why. However, there was a bunch posted this week, which I’m assuming relates to the fact that this is when the second season was dropping.

Unlike the lucky “Night Agent” fans, those of “The Recruit” will have to wait before knowing about a third season. We still have no news of the renewal, which worries me — although I sincerely hope “The Recruit” pulls through.

But, hey. It’s time for a Season two review-over!

The first episode of the second season is called “Y.N.A.H.Y.A.L.,” which is code for “You’re Not a Hero, You’re a Lawyer.” And when I say “code,” I mean that very lightly. None of the episode titles are actual code words; instead, they’re quotes said by one of the characters in the episode. This one, for example, was said by Walter Nyland. While I wish I figured this out by myself, I must give credit to Show Snob, which helped me greatly on my search to figure this out.

“A.L.G.T.I.,” (“Anyway, Let’s Get to It”), begins right where we left off, with Hendricks taking a massive L. Honestly, I can relate to the L-taking part, but not the going-on-a-secret-op-and-then-getting-kidnapped part.

Lashin decides if she should kill him or not, right outside the dingy basement he was kidnapped to — and we’re in Ostrava, Czech Republic, by the way. Heartwarming, right? Well, Hendricks doesn’t think so, since he wants to live. And he gets to do so when he’s saved by Dawn, who chooses to let him live and not bleed out in the snow. Thanks, Dawn! Here’s to some good old mutually assured destruction.

As the kids these days say, Hendricks is cooked. Honestly, everyone is, but mostly Hendricks. The international disaster that occurred in season one is more than enough to get him fired, but it doesn’t (at least not yet). Back in D.C., Nyland drops more than the title of the first episode; Hendricks is benched until further notice.

And dude, further notice in a spy show comes pretty damn fast, this time in the form of an envelope that contains graymail. A yay for Owen, but real bad news for the United States and everyone else in the world.

Hendricks goes to Korea, and from there, we are kicking off on a fast-paced adventure that is both super absurd and also incredibly awesome. We figure out who the graymailer is, and in the spirit of avoiding too many spoilers, I will not be telling you that. But he has a reason to reveal the information, and it takes us back to a scene we saw earlier on in the episode.

Centineo’s acting is phenomenal, and we see him both in tough fight scenes, comedic moments and heart-wrenching conversations that make you believe the story even more.

Hendricks is a convincing character, and his humanity is important in moments you’d think it wouldn’t exist. He flips the script on some people in ways that we didn’t get to see in season one and is joined by a phenomenal cast that adds to why this show is so good.

In terms of cancelability, if you can call it that, I have hopes that we will see a third season. All of the reasons I listed above are one part, but the second is that this show is already established and has a good plot line going, so picking it up for a third reason should be a no-brainer, right? Let’s hope so because I’m ready to see Hendricks on his next adventure.

Rating: 4.5/5 — I.S.G.W.N.
(Incredible show, go watch now!)

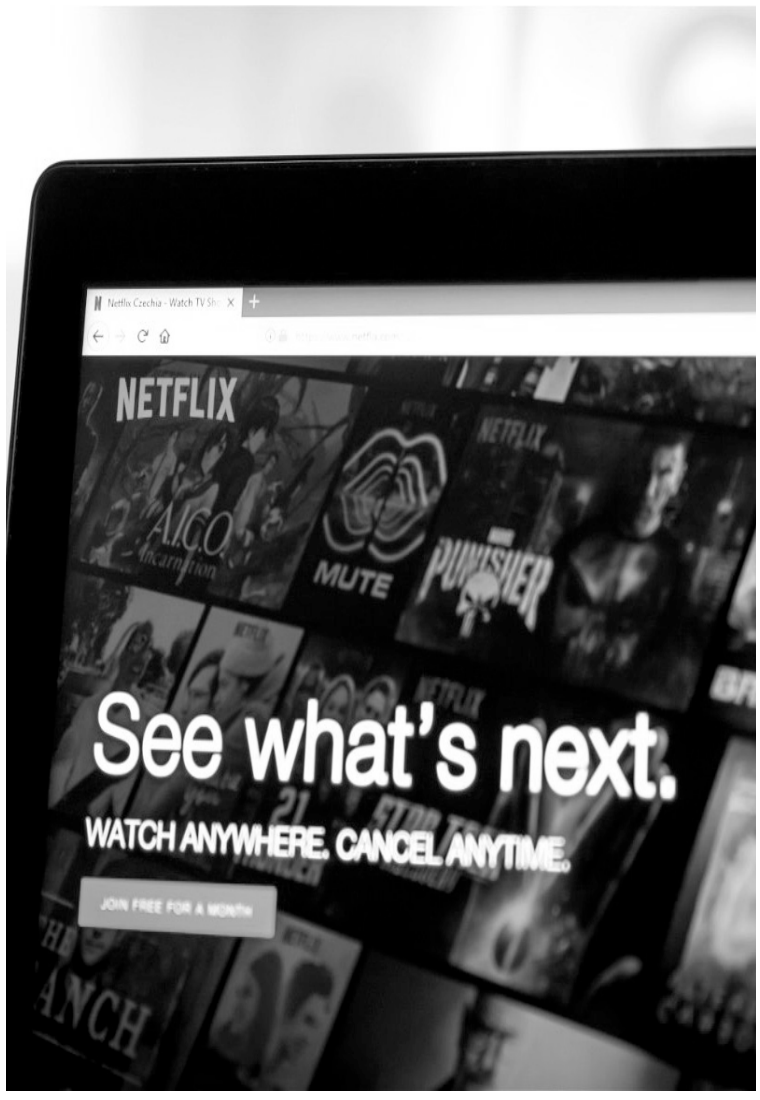


IMAGE COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

Split Record Review: 'Trout Mask Replica'

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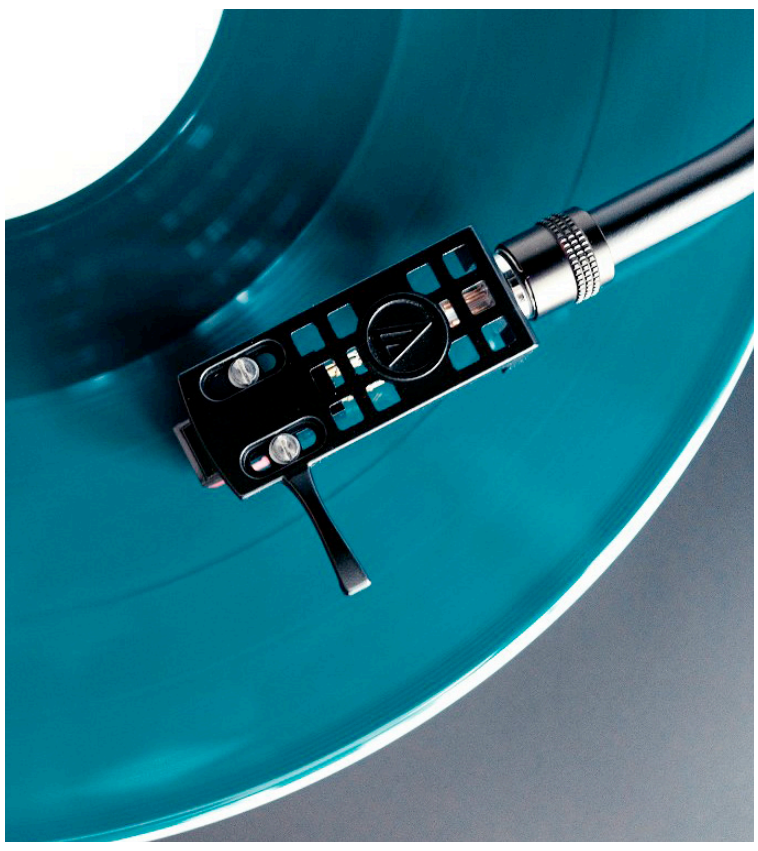


IMAGE COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

We here at Split Record Review hope the beginning of your semester is going well, but if it's not, maybe listening to Captain Beefheart and his Magic Band will give you some energy to keep grinding, specifically their 1969 classic album, "Trout Mask Replica." While there's not much to be said about the album that hasn't already been written on some blog, we thought reviewing it would be an interesting way to end the month. Despite Henry and James' similar tastes in music, will they be more optimistic or pessimistic about this piece of music history?

Henry's Review:

While many remember the likes of Frank Zappa's cartoonish yet poignant insanity, Captain Beefheart almost always curtails conversations about 1970's experimental rock. Though the two musicians are inextricably linked, Beefheart's influence is almost always vastly understated.

While the mainstream might not be as privy to "Trout Mask Replica" compared to the work of Zappa or bands like The Velvet Underground, every poor soul who's been unfortunate to find themselves on Rate Your Music knows this record in and out. Before there were cosmic goofballs like Ween, Butthole Surfers or Primus, there was Captain Beefheart.

Immediately, the record opens with zaniness in "Frownland." Instruments sway and swell, making sounds that can only be produced by professional musicians pretending to be novices. My mind immediately goes to the cult favorite "Philosophy of the World" by The Shaggs with its innocent and discordant whimsy.

"Dauchau Blues" features a wailing saxophone over a slightly more contained band and a spoken word outro. Beefheart's vocals range from completely spoken to growly, low register crooning that wouldn't sound out of place in a 1950's blues record.

The Magic Band's distinctive style comes from its lack of all form, choosing to forgo their formative training in rock to embrace a wall of sound like no other. "Hair Pie – Bake One" is a perfect example of this, being a nearly five-minute exercise in complete madness. A complete instrumental, each band member enters at random, playing random notes with random rhythm. There's a strange admiration to be found in this comedic lack of caring.

"Moonlight on Vermont" most resembles a normal song — whatever that means for this group. While the Magic Band still aren't quite moving as a unit, Beefheart's vocals and guitarist Bill Harkleroad's searing tone make this track infectious. "Pachuco Cadaver" gives the listener another glimpse of hope. The group spends more time playing together than at any other point up to here.

"Hair Pie – Bake Two" answers the never-asked question: "What if a jazz fusion band dropped acid before a gig?" The group plays tighter than its predecessor, but with a psychotic pep that's impossible to put to words.

"Sugar N' Spikes" might be one of the catchiest tracks on the record, nearly broaching the threshold of casual listening. This song could be played quietly in the background at a social gathering and only a few people would turn their heads or cock their eyebrows.

"Wild Life" sees Beefheart return to his gravelly lower register, crooning the phrase "wild life" like an old school rhythm and blues singer shouting about their troubled past. Saxophonist John French plays an intermittent solo that closer resembles a real tune than strange ramblings.

The record chugs along, ending on a strong note with "Veteran's Day Poppy." Harkleroad's guitar tone is at its best on this track. This song could've been made bar for bar by a 1990's math rock band and be lauded by the underground masses.

"Trout Mask Replica" is an exercise in the weird and wacky, though it doesn't get the same praise as "Apostrophe'" or "Joe's Garage." Though Beefheart was a flawed man, his influence on experimental rock and jazz fusion remains unchanged, nearly 60 years after its release.

3.5 beefs out of 5 hearts

James' Review:

"Frownland" is notorious for setting the listener up with a microcosm of madness that is "Trout Mask Replica." The members of the Magic Band seemingly play the drums, guitar and other instruments with no awareness of each other as Beefheart spits poetry in an echo chamber. The second track is purely vocals with audible static, and while Beefheart's voice is generally charming, I would either listen to Tom Waits do this or hear other tracks off this album instead.

"Dachau Blues" begins with Beefheart vocally experimenting in a lower register, symbolically showing that the topic covered in this song is more serious than average. Dachau was the oldest Nazi concentration camp, hence its responsibility for many deaths throughout the Holocaust, where "one mad man" made "six million lose," as Beefheart laments. "Ella Guru" is mainly notable for housing the first of many instances of the phrase "fast and bulbous" on this album.

"Moonlight on Vermont" retains the insanity of the album thus far while also being a genuinely good song by way of Beefheart's expressive delivery and the memorable guitar riffs and drums. Although it was recorded before the rest of the album and appears to have overdubbed vocals, a technique I'm not the biggest fan of, it's a defining moment on "Trout Mask Replica." Furthermore, "Pachuco Cadaver" is equally intriguing for the actual semblance of rhythm and a saxophone part that isn't debilitating to the listener's hearing, not to mention the more elaborate usage of the "fast and bulbous" phrase in the song's introduction.

"Sweet Sweet Bulbs" is a fun tune even when the Magic Band loses the plot about a minute in. While I won't delve into the lore of this record, each song was meticulously crafted to sound how it does and they may bear witness to the band legitimately losing their minds during the recording process, so losing the plot was likely intentional. "Neon Mate Dream of an Octafish" implements some sort of vocal filter ingenuity, similar to death metal band Morbid Angel's "Where the Slime Live."

The speaker on "My Human Gets Me Blues" is a little creepy like that on Ty Segall's "Alone," considering he knows how someone looks under their dress; he just does. To wrap up my aimless comparisons to other musicians, "Dali's Car" sounds like the beginning of a Polvo song.

Finally, I can't even describe "Pena" other than it matches the psychotic energy of an album I helped make with my fellow Life editor Ben Lassy, where someone consistently screams in the background and lyrical gems are dropped such as "Smoke billowing up from between her legs, made me vomit beautifully and crush a chandelier," though I'm unsure if even we could've came up with that one.

Halfway through "When Big Joan Sets Up," there's a momentary pause before the chaos resumes. The final lyric sounds like "Hoy, hoy, it's your boy," which would be incredible foreshadowing for future YouTube intros, but it actually reads, "Hoy, hoy, is she a boy?" The line hasn't aged well, though it seems to simply reference another song and doesn't have any ill intent attached to it. "Sugar N' Spikes" sees a more grounded Beefheart as it's another track part of the trinity that was conceived before the rest of "Trout Mask Replica." Despite this, it still belongs on here with witty lyrics like "Sugar and spikes and everything nice."

"Ant Man Bee" is basically a jam session after the first minute, which highlights an issue of mine pervading the record: The band is great and I appreciate their willingness to go "balls to the wall" on this album, yet Beefheart is the glue that allows this concoction to be listenable, so I could go without the instrumentals that make up a decent part of the runtime. Additionally, the saxophonist on this song might as well have invented the no-wave genre due to some of his notes sounding like screeching modem noises.

The constant changeups by the band on the sub-two minute "She's Too Much for My Mirror" shows a contrast from the jam session tracks since they're making the most of their time on this one. "Hobo Chang Ba" includes bells for some reason, has a pleasant bassline and proves how Beefheart will latch onto any phrase that makes you think twice when hearing it.

I question whether the first two lines on "Steal Softly Thru Snow," another solid cut, alludes to the Velvet Underground's album with Nico, "The black paper between a mirror breaks my heart, the moon frayed through dark velvet lightly apart." The spoken word "Old Fart at Play" precedes the final track, "Veteran's Day Poppy," which was also imagined before the rest of the album. Only a minute of lyrics are included before three minutes of enjoyable jamming occur that is dictated by moody blues reminiscent of my favorite song from Beefheart and his band: "I'm Glad."

As a standalone record, it's a mixed bag, but "Trout Mask Replica" as an artistic statement has stood the test of time and has catapulted Beefheart and his Magic Band into one of the most daring groups to record music however they chose to. They could've recorded another "Safe as Milk" to find more commercial success, though I doubt they would've been as prolific as they are without this album. Dare I say, this is when Beefheart began to lead a true "magic band."

3 beefs out of 5 hearts

Exploring the effects of America's colonial past on the political present

by Elijah Polance
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On Jan. 30, Yale professor Lisa Lowe held a lecture titled "Colonial Histories of the Present," which navigated America's history of colonialism, slavery and discrimination to study how each evolved over time and impacts the present.

Lowe is the Samuel Knight Professor of American Studies at Yale University and has authored multiple books and articles about colonialism and related issues. She spoke at the University of Connecticut's Pharmacy Biology Building to an audience full of students, professors and experts.

After a warm introduction from Martha Cutter, a UConn professor and the interim director for the American Studies program, Lowe gave an overview of how to approach historical narratives with a modern lens. She discussed how oppressed groups often have hidden narratives overshadowed by dominant American voices and the ways modern scholars have revised history to include them. However, she warned that this practice does not always expose or transform the colonial framework as intended.

Lowe defined colonial histories of the present as the less recognized ongoing effects of colonialism and oppression on people in America. She argued that instead of rewriting history, we should reflect on its limitations and approach it in more nuanced ways that tell a more definitive story.

Lowe began her focus on America's colonial past by looking at the treatment of Indigenous Americans, starting with the deprivation of their land and mass relocation. She emphasized the use of spatial enclosures for control and resource deprivation, consistent themes in these colonial conflicts. She also focused on how they were separated and indoctrinated at boarding schools, a colonial attack on their culture.

Lowe progressed to the enslavement of African Americans and their treatment after emancipation. She paid special attention to the role of African American women, who were subject to colonial domesticity. By this, Lowe refers to how African American women dealt with gendered enclosure, where they were pressured to reproduce while enslaved to provide slave children. After slavery, Lowe said many African American women worked as domestic servants, a legacy of plantation slavery that reinforced gendered and racial standards.

Lowe's final historical point centered on internment camps used to confine Japanese Americans by the United States government during World War II. She tied this back to the idea of spatial enclosure and exploitative labor, as some camps forced Japanese Americans to cultivate stolen Indigenous American land for American gain.

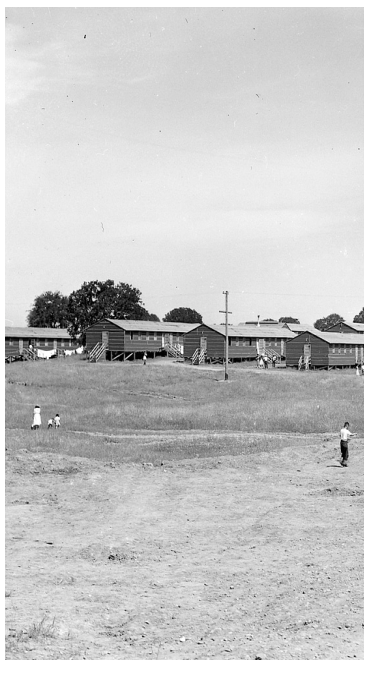


IMAGE COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

Throughout the lecture, Lowe tied colonial practices from the past to their modern variants. While spatial enclosures are not as visible in the present, Lowe identified urban enclaves, factories and prisons as some examples of the legacy of colonial oppression. She also highlighted the persistence of racial capitalism in American society.

Lowe examined Fort Sill, an army base first established during the Indian Wars in 1869, as a physical location that carries the legacy and continued practice of colonial-based oppression. In 1894, it was used to imprison Geronimo, a military leader for the Chiricahua Apache tribe and his people. In 1942, it was used to confine Japanese Americans. The Obama administration used it to house migrant children and the Trump administration planned to do the same in 2019, but protests at the base prevented it from happening. Lowe drew comparisons to Trump's recent announcement to house illegal immigrants at Guantanamo Bay.

Vangmayee Upadhyay, a fourth-semester allied health major, came to the event out of an interest in critically exploring American history and how it impacts the present. She enjoyed learning about how spatial enclosures were used to control populations throughout history.

"It was interesting to talk about the spatial enclosures aspect and how populations have throughout time and throughout history, not in the same exact ways but through the same methods, been subjugated," Upadhyay said.

Eesham Bhattacharyya, an eighth-semester biomedical engineering major, attended the lecture to learn more about how minority groups are oppressed today. He was taken aback by how prevalent these issues are despite how long it has been since they started.

"All of these problems are connected to each other," Bhattacharyya said. "Capitalism, colonialism, racism, all these came as a result of people wanting to cultivate cotton, essentially. They wanted the land, they wanted free labor, they want to make money, so they overlooked human rights."

After the lecture, Lowe was approached with questions from the audience that went deeper into her points and the examples she drew from.

The event was sponsored by the Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, Social and Critical Inquiry, and American Studies.

Daily Life

@dailycampuslife

THE BENTON HOSTS EXHIBIT MADE BY DIGITAL MEDIA AND DESIGN FACULTY

by Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab
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The Digital Media and Design Department of the UConn School of Fine Arts hosted a faculty exhibition at the Benton Museum in Storrs, Conn. on Jan. 30, 2025. The exhibition displays a variety of media reflecting the diverse concentrations offered by the department.
PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

On Thursday, Jan. 30, The William Benton Museum of Art hosted a reception for community members surrounding the digital media and design exhibit running until March 14. There were food and drinks served.

Entering the exhibit, there are many television screens and projectors displaying different videos as well as a few physical pictures.

Samantha Olschan's "TextPop," made in 2024, is an absolute sensory nightmare to the eyes in a very provocative way. Olschan said it "explores the complexities of visible language, neurodivergence and constructed meaning."

Olschan's other work displayed is 2024's "EVERYTHING IS GOING SO WELL," a collection of 15 pictures made with "unmarked pills, candies, antidepressants, pain medications and other objects" that spell out common responses to phrases such as "How are you?" and "How's it going?," such as "FEELING GREAT," "TO BE HONEST" and the title of the piece centered in the middle.

Kenneth Thompson and Clarissa J. Ceglio made a process overview that shows information about their virtual reality (VR) experience "Beyond Nuremberg." The project aims to "investigate Holocaust history in relation to the Trial of the Major War Criminals" with the concept of time travel to further understand what happened at those trials. There is a link with more information provided along with a QR code at the exhibit.

Thompson also made 2024's "Abrahamic Aleppo: Coffee and Puppets," a VR project which aims to capture the diversity and "multicultural history of coexistence of Aleppo" with the exploration of multiple locations.

Ting Zhou, with Rei Feng as a digital technician, made a VR experience in 2024 called "So Close, Yet So Far." It was about the "two-body problem," where a nuclear family is apart since the parents are working and the children aren't with them. Zhou reflected on being an academic with a family to take care of, so they collected data of the amount of time spent with their father and how long they communicate online. A striking quote is "these numbers represent not just physical distance but also the emotional gaps created by our separation."

Anna Lindemann made something called a "Breath Book" this year, where they pay tribute to the microscopic organisms that make air with a foldable accordion-like book. The book, when extended, is the exact same height as Lindemann.

Lindemann also directed and took part in animating a 10-minute animation about climate change's impact on Antarctica with 2024's "Arctic Shifts." The project took shape with the help of polar climate scientist Dr. Alice DuVivier, animators Dominica Harrison and Suzanne Matharan and musical algorithm developer Eric Lindemann. The video has three main phases addressing the effects of climate change on the ecosystem, an introduction and an epilogue displayed with a projector.

Ryan Brown made 2022's "Waiting for Spring," an 18-minute long narrative video about the grief of letting go of someone who passed away. The video unfolds as an "unknown survivor on an abandoned Mars research station is visited by a lost love after discovering the origin of life."

Justin Liberman directed and took part in writing 2014's "Tobacco Burn," which reflects on the unique bond between them and "a diverse group of merchant dreamers." After reflecting on how most of these people including the artist and their parents were descendants of oppressed people, Liberman noted, "while we were all very much on the outside of normal society, we were empowered by our small community and held each other up to advance."

Liberman also had a screen dedicated to his "Micro Cinema" video projects, which were a series of commercials, music videos and short documentaries created between 2018 and 2024. He commented on this project, "As a narrative filmmaker, I appreciate the opportunity that commercial filmmaking allows me to exercise my craft of directing."

'zzyw,' the duo of Zhenzhen Qi and Yang Wang, created "Other Spring" in 2014, which is a "speculative worldbuilding project presented as a docufiction." More information can be found on their website.

Catherine Masud created a seven-minute video called "EMDR Journey" in 2023, which addressed the artist's personal and positive experience with Eye Movement, Desensitization and Reprocessing.

Matthew Worwood directed and produced a 30-minute film called "Teaching During the Pandemic," which is an ode to the teachers who worked during the pandemic and adapted to the changing social climate after COVID-19.

Show Scanner: Where to catch live music 1/31-2/1

by Dan Stark
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Despite the frigid temperatures and the return of those dreaded Storrs winds, it's an exciting time at the University of Connecticut. Students are back in the swing of things as the spring semester heats up, and the Connecticut music scene is in lockstep with this upward trajectory. This weekend presents the best assortment of shows in months, with nearly all of the biggest DIY venues in the scene hosting shows, all of which are stacked with some of the best and most well-known artists in the scene. Here's a look at where these exciting shows are happening this weekend in Storrs and across Connecticut.

Friday 1/31: South Whitney Pizza – Hartford

Kicking things off this weekend is a great four-band lineup at South Whitney Pizza in Hartford, Conn., on Friday, Jan. 31. Headlining the show is The Agonizers, a ska punk band that will surely get the crowd dancing and skanking (some call it two-stepping, but I prefer the term skanking). There's also some familiar faces from the Storrs scene, with Melovictoria and Jaded in Paradise bringing their punk sounds to the show. Rounding out the bill is Cvmrats, replacing the band Changes. Doors open at 7 p.m., music starts at 8 p.m. and there is a suggested $10 donation to support the bands. All ages are welcome to attend, though attendees must be 21 or older to drink.

Friday 1/31: Crunch House – West Haven

Speaking of prominent venues, let's take a look at what's going down in West Haven, Conn., at Crunch House on Friday, Jan. 31. Coastal Connecticut music fans will be treated to a three-band lineup consisting of Sober Bill, 2/14 and Point Rader. The bill is a punk fan's dream, with a non-stop barrage of music to mosh to. Doors open at 7 p.m. and music starts at 8 p.m. For the address, direct message @crunchhouseofficial on Instagram.

Saturday 2/1: The Dog Pound "Into the Nether" – Storrs

The Dog Pound wins best theme of the weekend with its Minecraft-inspired "Into the Nether" theme show on Saturday, Feb. 21. 2/14 continues their weekend by heading up to Storrs after being in West Haven the night before. Two of the groups, Bonemeal and Cat Crash, are two of the most recognizable bands to Storrs audiences thanks to frequent appearances at the venue this past semester. Headlining the evening is indie punk group Overlöded, their first performance since the Miss President Tour in early January promoting their recently released third album. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., music starts at 7:30 p.m. and admission is $7. No parking is available at the venue. For the address, direct message @thedogpound on Instagram.



Lovewhip performing in Downtown Storrs on July 11, 2024. The band performed there as part of the town of Mansfield's Summer Concerts on the Square event.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @LOVEWHIP_MUSIC ON INSTAGRAM

Saturday 2/1: Howard's Bookstore – Torrington

While Storrs will be rocking out at The Dog Pound, there's still plenty of other shows happening across the state, including at Howard's Bookstore in Torrington, Conn. Jaded In Paradise is another band pulling double duty this weekend, keeping the energy rolling all weekend. Second Opinion and Braintree will also be performing, with the latter slated to appear at WHUS Radio's Battle of The Bands concert in Storrs in two weeks. Joining them on the lineup is Symposia, the nu metal band that can create some of the biggest mosh pits you'll ever see. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and admission is $10.

Saturday 2/1: WestCo Cafe "Shred Screamo Night" – Middletown

For showgoers looking for something a little heavier, look no further than "Shred Screamo Night" at WestCo Cafe, a basement venue on the campus of Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn. Highlighting the bill is Sailboat, the Storrs-based screamo band who's kicking off a busy February schedule of shows. Joining them is Siffleux, Slore, Sue and My Body Was Found In A Hollow Tree. Doors open at 8 p.m. and music starts at 8:30 p.m.



Daily Opinion

The Daily Campus

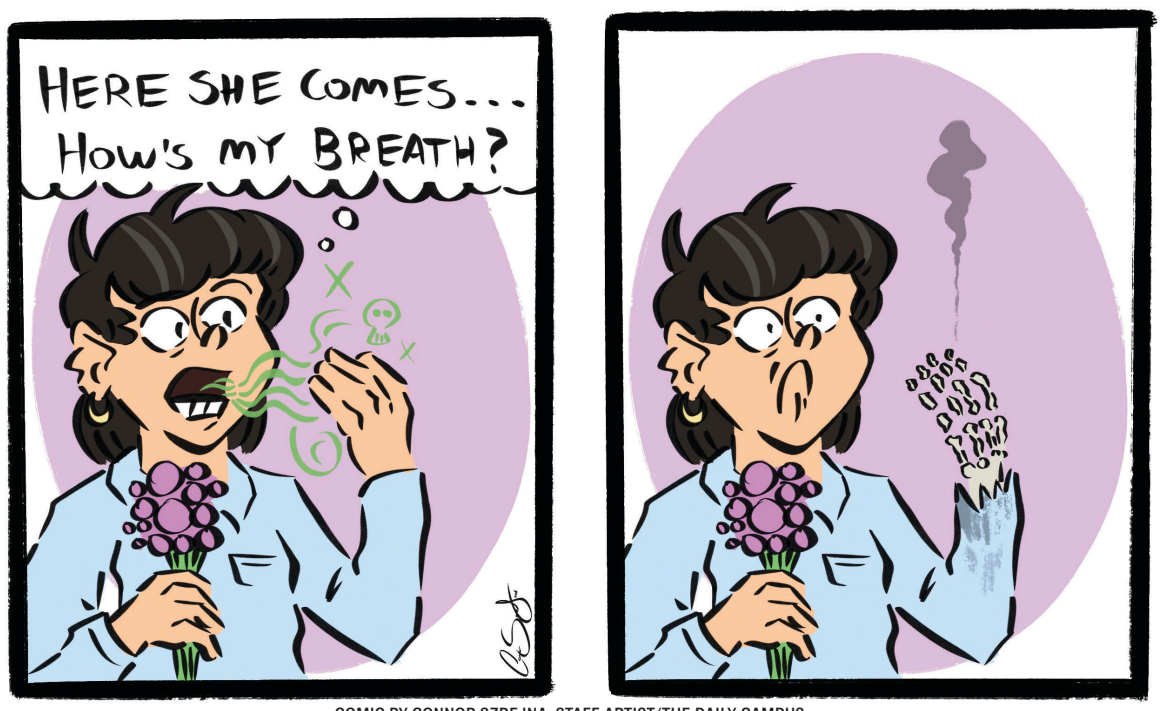
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COMIC BY CONNOR SZREJNA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Dear UConn, do not join a sorority <3



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Tomas Hinckley
HE/HIM/HIS
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The subject of the American university sorority has become a sensationalized phenomenon within the public eye. This unique type of community group has become the focus of books, TV shows, HBO documentaries and TikTok trends as people of all ages have become engrossed in the curious nature of the niche lives of these women. Spring semester is now here at the University of Connecticut, and with it an uptick of sorority activity on campus as they attempt to recruit the next class of hopeful young women through aesthetic Instagram posts and Pinterest-inspired social events. At the beginning of last semester, I wrote an article entitled "Dear UConn, do not join a frat," wherein I argued that fraternities as a social institution are an overall net negative in our society and people shouldn't join them. Yet, in the interest of being an equal opportunity hater, it's hard to ignore the other half of Greek life and all of its problems. So, this letter goes out to all those considering the spring rush this year: you can do better, please don't join a sorority.

It's important to start with a couple of clarifying points. First, the reasons to not join a fraternity versus a sorority are not equal, and I am in no way equating the negative parts of each of these organizations. Still, that's no reason not to criticize sororities. Second, as I said in the last article, this is a systems-level argument. Sororities are a social institution of high influence to the college ecosystem, and there's no claims here about a sorority specifically, but rather sororities generally.

However, there's still no room for saying that "mine doesn't do that" because buying into an institution like this one requires legitimizing the harm it does overall.

So, what is the problem with these groups?

Well, it begins with their interconnectedness with fraternities. Although sororities were originally created with the intent to carve out a space for women in universities during the late 1800s, it's clear that today these groups cannot exist without their male counterparts. The most major way is through the parties, simply because the National Panhellenic Council, which governs the most major sororities, literally bans them from having substances at their houses. Since people in these organizations want to party, it forces strong connections with frats who can host these events. The "top" frats choose which sororities they want to tie themselves to, and so, they have an outstretched influence on the ranking systems of sororities. These ranking systems are essential to the social lives of sisters and the recruitment of new members, and, since they're based on what frat guys want, they just so happen to be focused on how attractive these girls are and how much they ingratiate themselves to the brothers.

This heavily unequal power dynamic creates quite the odd result in many sororities, wherein they become active participants in the very misogynistic rape culture which harms their members. For example, according to the Washington Post, one sorority at Georgia State University created quotas for the minimum number of brothers their sisters spoke to at parties, even fining sisters $25 each time they didn't attend a fraternity event. These policies, which extend far past Georgia State, show where the real priorities lie for these groups when they override a sister's decisions and safety concerns. There have also been cases across the country of sororities helping cover up cases of reported sexual assault for fear of disrupting relationships with other Greek organizations or worsening their own image.

Now, it's unfair to say that they don't do anything to combat rampant sexual assault, but it's how they address it that falls short. One national study from Northwestern University found that sororities were more likely to focus on individual-level policies instead of broad change for fear of disrupting their party scene. Examples include implementing protective policies like sober monitors or excluding specifically creepy men rather than disassociating themselves from certain frats. These policies attempt to reduce campus sexual assault to just a thing some bad guys do, without addressing how the fraternities they are connected to systemically breed this behavior.

Aside from problems of sexual assault, there are more weird consequences of the frat-based ranking systems. Since societal conceptions of beauty have always been defined by socioeconomic and racial factors, it's not surprising that the exclusion of poor and minority students has been a problem baked into the history of sororities. This is also because the first sororities were secret societies built to be racist and classist in the wake of black students being allowed into universities, but I digress. Sororities have yet to make a space truly meant for all women, instead focusing on buying into selectiveness to increase their own social standing.

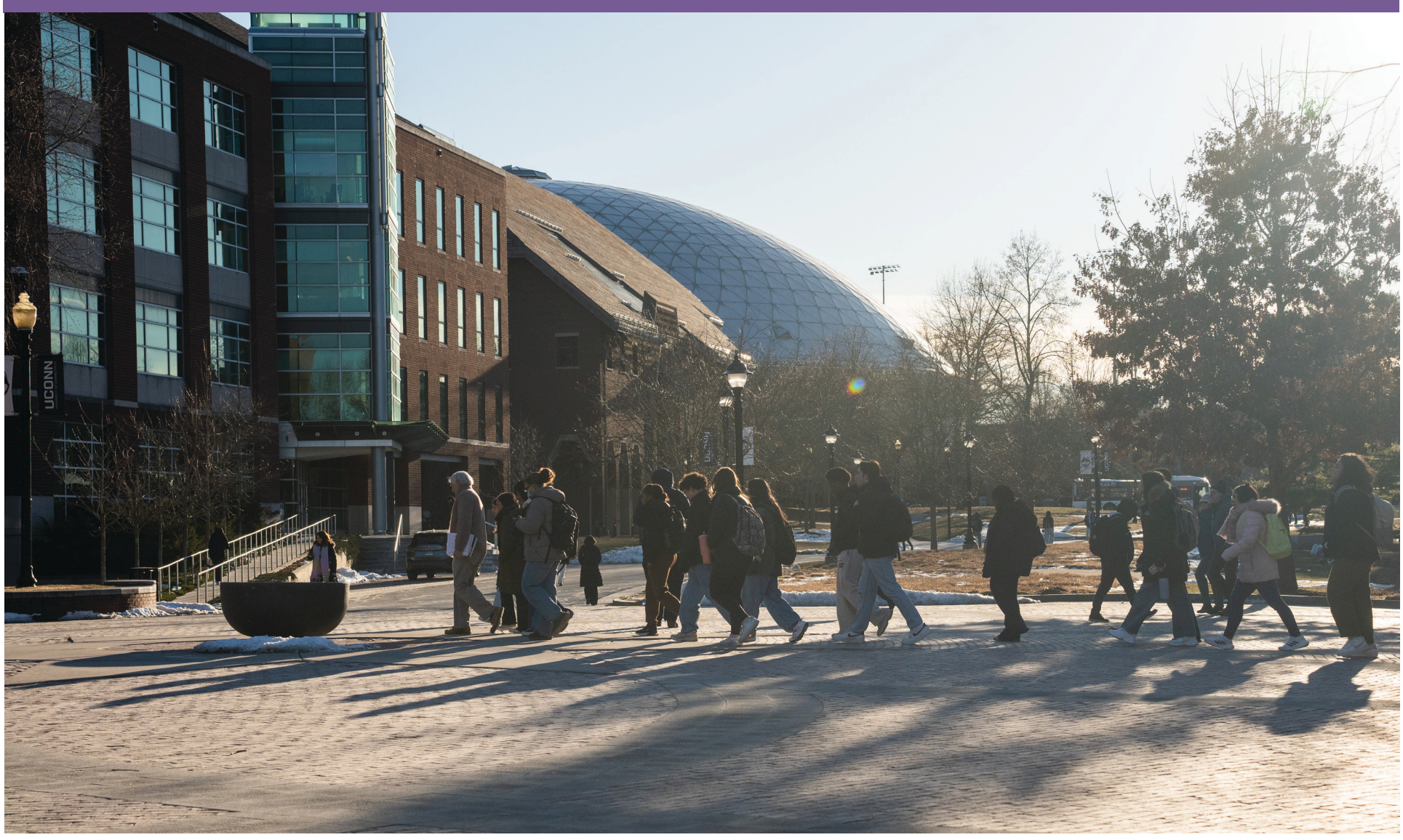
Which, frankly, gets to the heart of the weirdness around sororities entirely. Why is there even a ranking system in the first place? If sororities were really just about making lifelong friends, why does your friend group need to be the "best" as compared to other random groups of normal women? Many women today view sororities as a means of empowerment and being around other strong women, but empowerment for some while putting down others is just called privilege.

The reasons why many women choose to join sororities may not involve all the sociopolitical factors that I've described above. The reasons, in truth, are very simple and understandable: people want to party, make friends and have a fun time in college. As far as these organizations are a pretty guaranteed way of doing that, it's a fair solution. Still, choosing to buy in regardless of all the negative factors communicates that these things are clearly not that important. Don't be complicit, don't join a sorority.



ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR SZREJNA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Photo of the Day | Sunset



UConn students cast long shadows along Fairfield Way on Jan. 30, 2025. As the spring semester moves along, many students are looking forward to the warmer weather ahead. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Is New York's subway going under?

Funding initiatives tackle crime and cleanliness

by Hannah McClellan | SHE/HER/HERS | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | ger24001@uconn.edu

It comes as no surprise that New York City's subway system has served as a crucial hub for transportation. Across all five boroughs, the subway guarantees millions of people their destination every year. But in light of recent reports, it seems like this train in the city of dreams has taken a course of destruction.

The concentration of illness and crime rates stemming from the subway is on an upward trend. More specifically, cases of norovirus are increasing at alarming rates. The highly contagious virus causes vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain and an array of other ghastly symptoms that would most likely ruin your next meal. Aside from ruining your trip to Broadway, this illness is known for being spread, meaning the subway harbors a perfect breeding ground. This prompts the question: What is being done to combat this?

In short, not a lot. Large issues require even larger solutions, and more importantly a large budget. Officials are more willing to push congestion costs to profit from keeping people out of the city rather than push cleanliness initiatives to protect the people who are already in it. The subway is the city's circulatory system, shuttling people through the heart of the greatest city on earth. Yet the system has been plagued by disease, and when the system fails, so does the heart. Policies in the past have attempted to combat the cleanliness problem, but in a world that demands rapid results, most have lost funding due to lack of desired conclusions. To this, I say it is important to recall one of the most life altering events of this decade: the COVID-19 Pandemic. Despite the hardships faced, we were forced to adapt and learn, and I'm not talking about how to make bread or stockpile toilet paper. With the pandemic, protocols and initiatives were assimilated into daily life. On Sept. 15, 2020, then-mayor Bill de Blasio pushed a cleanliness initiative that included the restart of CleaNYC, which provided supplemental cleaning services in parks and neighborhoods in response to the rise in COVID-19 cases. Due to the positive effect of this initiative, we now have a much better understanding of how to properly go about containment and management of illnesses. This same understanding can be applied to sanitation efforts in the subway. If there were proper initiatives, supported with a proper budget, the safety of commuters could be guaranteed. Like COVID-19, these protocols need support and funding to work effectively and efficiently. Change starts when the people, when you, put support behind resolving these issues. Educating yourself, contacting local government offices and signing petitions in favor of cleaning up New York's subway system are the first steps in rehabilitating this essential form of transportation.



A man standing in the doorway of a New York subway car. The subway systems were first implemented in New York City in October of 1904.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @AMAZING.NYC ON INSTAGRAM

If the lack of cleanliness is a plague to the system, then crime is like a knife, severing the peace of mind of commuters. It seems that every day, there's a new report of an innocent citizen getting harmed, or in some cases killed while on their daily commute. A recent case that made headlines was a 57-year-old woman set on fire while sleeping on an F train. Crime without reason is the very cause of community collapse. But unlike cleanliness initiatives, officials have responded to this spike in these destructive acts.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul has implemented a $77 million dollar strategy to combat the crime epidemic. This will implement 750 new police officers to ensure there are at least two in every car. This all seems desirable in theory, but when we look at the past crime prevention policies, there is a discouraging conclusion before us. In 1965, Mayor Robert F. Wagnon set a similar order in place with the same motive, to make New York a safer place. In the 1970s, when budgets were cut, crime soared again. This begs the question: will history repeat itself? If so, millions of people, including doctors, nurses, teachers and families will all be put at risk every time they use the subway.

Considering that it's easier to cut than to construct, it's not out of line to assume that with the next round of unavoidable cuts, crime will return underground to ravage the people of New York City just like it did in the '70s. The definition of insanity is doing the same thing repeatedly and expecting different results; in that case, it would be insane to keep cutting budgets on safety strategies and expecting crime incidents to go down. The only way to return a sense of security to the subway is to put strategies in place and stand behind them. With the seed of Gov. Hochul's new initiatives planted, we must let them develop and become rooted before we can determine if they can stand on their own. As mentioned before, change is in the hands of all who can speak out. Calling local representatives and advocating in support of this new strategy cost absolutely nothing and could aid in protecting millions of people who rely on the subway to get to their destination.

In a time of such division among communities and uncertainty in security, the people of New York City are overdue for their safety to be held as a top priority. The city relies on the backs of its hardworking citizens, and it's crucial that this is reflected in the infrastructure they rely on. Whether it be advocation for cleanliness initiatives or supported strategy for crime strategies, one thing stands true, the New York City subway system serves as a catalyst for economic prosperity and growth in the city. From ensuring millions get to work to fostering urban development, the subway is a resource the city cannot afford to lose.

Women's Basketball: Huskies to kick off their February slate in Hartford vs. Butler

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Geno Auriemma and his UConn women's basketball program have achieved many accolades this season. From him and associate head coach Chris Dailey surpassing the most wins in collegiate basketball to Paige Bueckers notching her 2,000th career point, these achievements are just a testament to the program's successful history and advocation towards woman's sports.

On Wednesday evening, when Connecticut notched their 11th Big East win 84-58 over DePaul, the Huskies helped in setting a new attendance record at Wintrust Arena in Chicago. Nearly 8,305 fans attended the Big East matchup, surpassing the previous set record by nearly 600.

Despite an off night from Bueckers, who only racked up eight points and was 2-10 from the field, various players stepped up to create a difference.

"It doesn't matter what night it is, any person on our team can step up and have a great night, and it doesn't have to be just one person," Fudd said to the media post-game, per Maggie Vanoni of CT Insider. "I think that's just something that's really special about our team, and I think it's going to help us go as far as we want to go, because we know we have so many weapons, and not one thing can stop us."

Fudd and her teammate Kaitlyn Chen were the difference makers on the hardwood for Connecticut, each racking up a total of 17 points.

Fudd and Chen will each be integral for their squad as they are set to take on the Butler Bulldogs in Hartford on Sunday.

Butler (12-11) currently holds a record of 2-8 in the Big East conference and is recently coming off a 71-48 loss over Seton Hall. In this matchup, the Bulldogs only shot 31.7% field goal from the, as they were unable penetrate through the Pirates' persistent defense.

Kilyn McGuff will be the player from Butler that the Huskies will have to look out for this weekend, as the guard averages 11.6 points per game.

The Bulldogs also have 6-foot-3 forward Sydney James at their disposal in their starting lineup. With this added height and depth from Butler, it is imperative for Ice Brady and Jana El Alfy to stay tenacious at the boards, as they only have 16 and seven blocks on the season, respectively.

Tip-off is scheduled for 1 p.m. from the XL Center. All fans in attendance are encouraged to wear pink for the Play4Kay Pink game. For those who cannot make it to Hartford, this Big East battle will be streamed on SNY and the UConn Sports Network from Learfield.



UConn women's basketball takes on Villanova at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn. on Jan. 22, 2025. UConn is currently ranked number 6 nationally and enters the game with a 17-2 record.
PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women's Tennis: Huskies serve Fairfield their first loss of the season

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The UConn women's tennis team knocked off fellow in-state rivals, Fairfield, on Wednesday, Jan. 29, securing their first win of the spring season with a final score of 4-3.

Coming into their first matchup of the season, the Huskies were undefeated and left the same way. With their win against the Stags, UConn opened with the doubles matches where the Huskies secured wins in each match.

Both the veteran Huskies and newcomers pulled out all the stops in their doubles matches to secure wins. UConn Seniors Olivia Wright and Maria Constantinou came out strong winning 7-6, proving that they still dominate on the courts. Last fall, Wright went 10-2 in her doubles matches and Constantinou went 12-2. The duo together holds a 10-2 record and is proving to be the tough team to beat.

A unique pairing that worked in the Huskies' favor was senior Isabel Petri Bere and sophomore Victoria Matos who won their doubles match with a score of 6-4.

To put a close to the doubles matches, sophomore Isabella Asenov and freshman Chloe Lomans closed out the match strong with a win of 6-3. Asenov entered the match on a two-game winning streak and used that momentum to help her and Lomans earn a win for their team.

The Huskies have had varied outcomes in their preseason singles matches with a record of 48-42, which left questions of how they would fare against Fairfield. However, the strong performance of freshman Lomans contributed to the success against the Stags, where she added another win to her already impressive 10-2 record so far this year. Lomans earned her first dual match singles win at the number five singles against the Stags.

Constantinou faced off against Fairfield sophomore Anna Neyestani and made Constantinou work for the win. Neyestani held an 11-5 record in singles matches coming into the match against Constantinou, proving to be tough competition. The singles match went to a third set but ultimately it was Constantinou who earned the point for the Huskies.

Despite their loss, Fairfield freshman Victoria Mandma was awarded the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference player of the week for remaining undefeated in spring singles action.

Looking ahead, the Huskies will travel to West Point, N.Y. to take on Army on Saturday, Feb. 1 at 2 p.m. The program's road trip to West Point will continue the next day, as the Huskies will face St. Bonaventure with an early start time of 9 a.m. With the lack of time in between their next matches, UConn will need to devote all their energy to keep their spring season going strong.

Track & Field: Huskies gear up for two meet weekend

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This weekend, the UConn track and field team will compete at the John Thomas Terrier Classic Invite and the Coach Greg Roy-al Rumble. The John Thomas Terrier Classic Invite will be held in Boston at Boston University. The event will take place from Friday, Jan. 31 to Saturday, Feb. 1. The Huskies will host the Coach Greg Roy-al Rumble on Saturday, Feb 1.

The Huskies are coming off of multiple impressive performances at the Penn 10 Elite Meet hosted by the University of Pennsylvania on Saturday, Jan. 25. Senior Marc Morrison dominated in the long jump event, setting a school record with a jump of 7.86 meters.

Graduate student Jenna Zydanowicz will be a key runner for UConn, also coming off of a dominant performance at the Penn 10 Elite Meet. Zydanowicz finished third in the 1-mile event with a time of 4:38.30. This time was also her personal best and the second-fastest mile time in UConn women's track and field history.

Junior Mekhi Stone and senior Kasey Savage joined the top ten all-time marks at UConn in their respective events at the Penn 10 Elite Meet. Stone finished the 400-meter race with a time of 47.60, the seventh fastest time in UConn men's track and field. Savage competed in the long jump event with a jump of 7.50 meters, the eighth farthest jump in UConn men's track and field.

Sophomore Anna Connors has also proven to be an essential runner for the Huskies. Connors recently set a school record in the 300-meter event, at the Battle in Beantown meet hosted by BU, with a time of 38.42.

The Boston University Terriers also have had multiple recent, impressive performances. At the UMass Lowell Invitational, junior Michael Onilogbo won the 60-meter dash with a time of 6.79, the third all-time fastest time in BU history. Freshman Guy Margalit also had a top ten performance at the meet. Margalit won the triple jump with a jump of 14.50 meters, the eighth farthest distance in BU history. On the women's side, Alli Lofquist also had a record-breaking performance. Lofquist eclipsed a 3.70-meter bar in the pole vault event, the second highest height in BU history. These will all be key runners for the Terriers.

The Huskies last competed at the John Thomas Terrier Classic Invite in the 2022 season. At the meet, then-senior Mia Nahom broke the school record in the mile. The Huskies will look to continue to have record breaking performances at the meet this season.

Next up this weekend, the Huskies will look to continue the momentum into the Coach Greg Roy-al Rumble at home as they started the indoor season with a dominant home meet.



UConn women's track and field competes in shot put during day one of the Husky Challenge. The events were hosted in the Hugh S. Greer Field House in Storrs, Conn. on Dec. 5, 2024.
PHOTO BY MERCER FERGUSON, PHOTO PRODUCER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sports

THE PUCK DROP: THIS IS THE TIME TO WATCH COLLEGE HOCKEY

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Welcome to the first Puck Drop of the semester, where today, I plan to convince you to watch college hockey.

The reason why is pretty simple.

As we reach the middle of the season for multiple winter sports including the NHL, the NBA and more, we as fans struggle to keep engaged with some of these matchups. However, college hockey is in the most exciting part of its season; right before the playoffs.

As fans, we are lucky enough to be in an era of college hockey where we see the superstars of tomorrow shine tonight.

Let's get into highlighting some of the upcoming tournaments, up-and-coming players and teams to keep an eye on as the season winds down.

The Beanpot

Every year, Boston's college hockey programs - Boston College, Boston University, Northeastern University and Harvard - face off at TD Garden for the annual Beanpot tournament.

It is set to kick-off next Monday, Feb. 3, with Boston University and Harvard kicking off the preliminary games at 5 p.m. and Northeastern and Boston College will faceoff at 8 p.m. The winners of both games will then head to the championship game on Feb. 10 which is scheduled for a puck drop of 7:30 p.m.

With half of these teams ranked in the top 10 of the teams in the nation (Boston College and Boston University), this tournament is truly the backbone of men's collegiate hockey.

The Boston College Eagles are led by sophomores Ryan Leonard and Gabe Perreault, who have just recently returned from winning gold at the World Juniors Championships in Ottawa. As back-to-back champions, these two forwards were part of the first team in USA hockey history to accomplish this type of feat.

Leonard, a Massachusetts native, currently has 19 goals and seven assists this season. In addition to being a primary goal scorer for his squad, he is also known to play a very aggressive, gritty game.

Leonard and Perrault were both drafted in the 2023 NHL draft with Leonard going eighth overall to the Washington Capitals and Perrault going 23rd overall to the New York Rangers.

With their former teammate Will Smith choosing to try his hand playing in the National Hockey League ahead of his sophomore campaign, fans should expect the same from Leonard and Perrault at the end of this season.

With such generational talent at your fingertips, this is the time to watch the Beanpot, to see future NHL-ers take the ice.

No. 9 ranked UConn Men's Hockey

The UConn Men's Hockey teams' 2024-25 campaign is as good of a Cinderella story that I've ever heard. The Huskies are led by forward Joey Muldowney, who has notched a total of 23 points in his sophomore campaign.

The Buffalo, N.Y. native's breakout game of the year was against Maine on Jan. 17, where he notched all four of Connecticut's goals in their 4-2 win.

Despite a rough stint for the squad in late December, where they lost in the Championship round of the Kwik Trip Holiday face-off against Wisconsin, it has only been success for the squad from there.

Just last weekend, the squad won their first CT Ice tournament championship after notching wins against Quinnipiac and Sacred Heart on the weekend.

With the new USCHO polls released this week, the Huskies are ranked at No. 9, in between their fellow Hockey East foes UMass Lowell and Boston University.

Connecticut is set to face off against No. 7 Providence this weekend in Hartford. Puck drop is scheduled for 7 p.m., and with the NCAA tournament implications on the line for the rest of the season, you should be sure to keep an eye on this program for the rest of the season.

So, as I said above, if you're looking for teams to watch as we reach the middle of the season for many winter sports, take a chance on college hockey. With such easy access at your disposal, skilled teams and players across the country, this is the time to watch some college hockey, and you won't be disappointed.



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Ava's Angle: Hockey East on the map

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UConn women's ice hockey defeated Boston College 2-1 at Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn. 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

College hockey season is in its prime time with in-season tournaments, conference play action and highly competitive play all in full force. Specifically, hockey in Storrs has been on a hot streak with remaining in the win column and climbing up the national rankings every week. On Jan. 13, the Huskies were ranked at No. 17 and by Jan. 20 they had moved up to No. 13. This week, they've jumped to the top ten and now check in at No. 9 in the country.

However, the Huskies are not the only east-coast team who are represented on the national college hockey rankings. There are a total of eight teams from the Hockey East conference in the USCHO weekly poll: Boston College, Maine, Providence, UMass Lowell, Connecticut, Boston University, New Hampshire and UMass.

The Hockey East conference is known as one of, if not the best, conferences in college hockey. This is due to the consistent high level of competition across the board, producing top talent in players, while also having a strong record of NCAA tournament success. Hockey East has multiple national championships across various teams within the conference under their belt which adds to their competitiveness as a whole.

Cole O'Hara of Massachusetts is tied for fourth in the country for leading scorer with 14 goals, 20 assists for a total of 34 points. Gabe Perreault of Boston College is not far behind at No. 8 in the nation in scoring with 8 goals, 23 assists for 31 points. The Hockey East conference is well represented on that list with many more of their players to follow on the list of the nation's scoring leaders.

Hockey East goes beyond college and into the professional leagues. For the opening night of the 2024-25 NHL season, there were 82 Hockey East alumni named to National Hockey League rosters. In total, 30 of the 32 member clubs carry at least one former Hockey East player on their roster.

Every single Hockey East institution is represented by a current player in the NHL. Among the 82 players, there are 17 Boston University active alumni, followed by Boston College (17), Northeastern (11) and Massachusetts (10). Rounding out the list is Providence (8), New Hampshire (5), Maine (4), UMass Lowell (3), UConn (1), Merrimack (1), and Vermont (1). There are an additional four players from Notre Dame who competed in Hockey East action and also earned NHL roster spots for this season.

As for the teams, 22 of the 32 NHL clubs carry at least two Hockey East products. The Pittsburgh Penguins have the most former Hockey East players on their roster out of all NHL teams with seven. The Buffalo Sabres and Montreal Canadiens each have six Hockey East players within their club.

In the most recent 2024 National Hockey League entry Draft, the Hockey East Association saw 14 current players and recruits be selected to a team. It represented five of the 11 Hockey East institutions. Macklin Celebrini was specifically highlighted, who became the second-ever Hockey East player to be picked first overall in the NHL draft. Celebrini was the reigning Hockey East Player of the Year for Boston University. The Terriers are the first NCAA school to have two players for first overall in the NHL Draft after goaltender Rick DiPietro was selected number one in the 2000 NHL Draft.

In the last 25 years of college hockey playoffs, the Hockey East conference has seen eight national championships. From the year 1999, Maine, Boston College, Boston University, Providence and Massachusetts have brought home the trophy. For even more success, in the last 25 years, Boston College has won four national championships, making it a total of five. In the last 25 years of Frozen Fours, 10 Hockey East teams have been the runner-up to the national champion which adds to the overall presence of the conference in country-wide tournaments.

To conclude, Hockey East stands as one of the best conferences in college hockey. With their rich history of success, competitiveness and the consistent ability to produce top-tier, NHL talent the conference has created an environment that is hard to beat. It is the premier destination for both players and fans who love to follow along. There is a combination of elite coaching, state-of-the-art facilities, and commitment to excellence, as Hockey East sets the stand for college hockey.



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Basketball: No. 25 UConn gear up for massive three-game stretch at No. 9 Marquette

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The No. 25 UConn men's basketball team (15-6, 7-3 Big East) avoided an abysmal loss on Wednesday, Jan. 29, to DePaul and now need to bring their A-game for 40 minutes as they visit the No. 9 Marquette Golden Eagles (18-3, 9-1 Big East) on Saturday night.

January has been rough for the Huskies in the past few seasons. They went 3-5 in January 2023 and finished the opening month of 2025 at 5-3. Every one of their wins this past month has come against teams who are 0.500 or worse in league play.

5-3 is impressive when Liam McNeeley has been absent with an ankle injury ever since the second half of a win at DePaul on New Year's Day. Before Wednesday's game, UConn head coach Dan Hurley said McNeeley was more likely to not play than to play but was considered a game-time decision. He did not participate in warmups but there is a possibility he could play on Saturday based on his status in Tuesday's media availability.

Marquette is widely considered the best team in the conference, with only one loss since Dec. 18 (at home to Xavier on Jan. 18.)

Kam Jones is a candidate for Big East Player of the Year, averaging 18.9 points, 6.3 assists, 4.6 rebounds and 1.6 steals per game. The Memphis native is shooting 49.5% from the field, 32.7% from deep and 70.9% from the free-throw line. Jones has not failed to score less than 10 points in a game this season and has scored as high as 32 points twice.

The game could be decided when Connecticut has the ball. The Huskies have the best offense in the Big East in terms of efficiency but will go up against the No. 13 defense in the country.

The Huskies were excellent in transition in the second half on Wednesday, scoring 13 of their 15 total points off turnovers. The Golden Eagles are a threatening team in this category, averaging 19.7 points off turnovers this season (fifth in the country). They also take care of the ball on offense well, ranking first in the nation in turnover percentage (11.2%).

It will be a tough task for Marquette big Ben Gold in the paint. UConn has been more reliant on scoring points in the paint, with 52.4% of their points coming in the paint (third in the country). While Gold is not relied on for scoring in the paint (in the 19th percentile nationally in points in the paint per game at 1.5), he is impactful on the fast break. He ranks in the 90th percentile in fast break points per game (1.5). 19% of his points scored will come in transition (91st percentile nationally).

Alex Karaban is coming off of the worst shooting night of his career, going 1-14 from the field and missing all six of his 3-point attempts. He still leads the team in scoring at 15 points per game but has seen some inconsistency this season due to his high usage. He ranks second in the Big East in minutes per game at 35.8, behind Georgetown guard Micah Peavy by 0.2. Since McNeeley went down, Karaban has averaged 37.9 minutes per game, which ranks in the 100th percentile nationally. Three of the last four games have seen him fail to score in double figures, which raises questions about his inconsistency lately.

It is the first time these two programs have met since the 2024 Big East Championship game and features the two most successful teams in the conference for the 2020s so far. Since Jan. 10, 2007, the Huskies are 11-7 against the Golden Eagles.

Saturday night begins a crucial three-game stretch that could determine UConn's ceiling for the season. Following their first top-25 opponent since defeating Gonzaga on Dec. 14 at Madison Square Garden, they will host No. 15 St. John's at Gampel Pavilion on Feb. 7 before traveling to Omaha in hopes of a revenge game at Creighton.

It will be the second time in the last three games that Connecticut is featured in the Fox Primetime Hoops broadcast. They lost last Saturday at Xavier and hope to build momentum as the calendar turns to February.

The Huskies' third top 25 matchup of the season will tip off at 8 p.m. and be televised on Fox.



The UConn men's basketball team takes on the DePaul Blue Demons at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn. on Jan. 25, 2025. The Huskies struggled on both ends of the court in the first half of the game, but major plays in the second half from Solo Ball helped the team secure the win.

PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Ice Hockey: Red-hot Huskies gear up for a top ten matchup with Providence

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After a successful weekend at the Connecticut Ice tournament, the No. 9 UConn men's ice hockey team is pivoting its attention to a weekend series with No. 7 Providence.

This pivotal matchup will have major ramifications on both the national and Hockey East Standings. Game one is set to be played in Providence at Schneider Arena on Friday, Jan. 31, before the series heads to Hartford at the XL Center. The series will be the first time this season that these two Hockey East programs clash. Last year when these two teams faced off, it was a split series with each team taking a win on the road.

The Huskies (14-8-2, 7-6-2) brought home their first CT Ice title in the tournament's five-year history on Saturday, Jan. 25, blanking Sacred Heart after defeating No. 13 Quinnipiac on Friday, Jan. 24. These wins extended UConn's unbeaten streak to seven. They have yet to lose a game in the new year. Connecticut's recent success has propelled them into the top ten, and they will look to carry their recent momentum into this weekend's slate.

Meanwhile, Providence (15-6-3, 5-5-3) has been far less successful in their recent stretch. In 2025, the Friars have only come away with one victory, defeating Brown on the road. In the four games since, Providence has not been able to get back to the win column. After suffering a shutout against the University of Massachusetts Lowell, the Friars will need to right the ship in order to maintain their current status in the national rankings.

Since returning from injury against his former team the UNH Wildcats, third-year Tyler Muszelik has been playing some of the best hockey of his career. He is averaging nearly 28 saves with only one goal per game through his last four starts in the net.

"To come off injury and play the way he has since Christmas has been remarkable," said fifth-year Hudson Schandor. "Anytime he goes in the net our team is full of confidence in front of him."

Muszelik was named the Outstanding Player of the Tournament at CT Ice, after allowing only one goal through the weekend against two very strong opponents. The reinvigorated Husky goalie will pose a tough obstacle for the Friars, who rank second to last in the Hockey East standings for goals scored in conference play.

With the puck drop scheduled for 7 p.m., UConn will look to continue cementing themselves as one of the top teams in the country.



The UConn men's basketball team takes on the DePaul Blue Demons at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn. on Jan. 25, 2025. The Huskies struggled on both ends of the court in the first half of the game, but major plays in the second half from Solo Ball helped the team secure the win.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ZACH MOLLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Photo of the Day

Daily Sports

HUSKIES IN THE PROS: HOW ARE FORMER HUSKIES DOING MIDWAY THROUGH THE NBA SEASON?

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It is hard to believe, but the NBA is already midway through the season, and a lot has changed for the Huskies. From championships to potential Rookie of the Year awards, nothing has stopped these guys from dominating the court.

Stephon Castle

Stephon Castle is flourishing in the NBA as his efficiency numbers are increasing tremendously. The star rookie is seeing more playing time and is putting up double-digit points more consistently. This January, the 20-year-old is averaging about 26 minutes a night with a 42.7 field goal percentage. Struggling from the three-point line, Castle is cashing in at 25.5%. Considering his time at UConn, this comes as no surprise, as the guard similarly did not shoot the triple as consistently as inside the perimeter. Despite the low shooting percentage, the former Husky is a top three candidate in the race to become Rookie of the Year, per Fox Sports. The guard was also named a rookie Rising Star in the 2025 NBA All-Star draft. In addition, Castle is participating in the 2025 All-Star dunk contest. Things are looking up for Castle and this is just his rookie year.

Donovan Clingan

Donovan Clingan is slowly becoming a monster on the court. The 7-foot-2 center is leading the Portland Trail Blazers in blocks with 1.6 swats per game. In total, the rookie has slapped away 55 balls so far. The next highest for the Blazers is Jerami Grant, with 37, according to Fox Sports. In addition, "Cling Kong" is scooping up about six and a half rebounds per matchup. Per Fox Sports, that is the second-best on the team. The rookie is knocking down nearly 53% of his shots from the field. To add on, Clingan is attempting to shoot from three but is rarely making them. In total, the 20-year-old is averaging 5.4 points.

Andre Jackson Jr.

Andre Jackson Jr. is continuing to make a name for himself on the Milwaukee Bucks roster. In the 2024-2025 season, the guard is seeing playing time, but the minutes continue to fluctuate per contest. Jackson is hitting a little over 48% of twos and 37.4 % from three. Overall, the 23-year-old is averaging almost three buckets and in January, a little over four makes per night. The playmaker is finding more success at rebounding and assisting, with 2.5 boards and 1.2 dishes per game. Moreover, the second-year player won the second annual NBA Cup in December.

Tristen Newton

At the start of the new year, the Indiana Pacers waived Tristen Newton. Days later, the Minnesota Timberwolves wasted no time picking up Newton from the waivers. The guard is currently thriving with the Iowa Wolves in the G-League. The 23-year-old takes the court for 36 minutes a night and averages 17 points, six rebounds and nearly seven assists per contest. The rookie was brought up once with the Timberwolves but still is hardly taking the main stage in the NBA.

Cam Spencer

Cam Spencer started the season off recovering from a right ankle sprain that caused a talar stress reaction, per Yahoo Sports. The guard returned in late November, spending his time with the Memphis Hustle G-League team and the Memphis Grizzlies. Coming into January, Spencer endured a fractured left thumb in practice. The 24-year-old will undergo surgery and is expected to miss an extended amount of time. The good news is that he's going to make a full recovery, according to Fox Sports. Before his injury, Spencer got brought up for 10 clashes and shot 43.3% from the two and 31.3% from deep. The shooter is dropping four baskets per game, but in the G-League, the script flips. The rookie is knocking down almost 29 points, rebounding five balls and assisting a little more than two shots a night. Spencer is fighting for time in the NBA but first needs to bounce back from his injury.

Adama Sanogo

Adama Sanogo is seeing a decline in the NBA and is participating with the Windy City Bulls G-League team. The big man played in three matchups, averaging two points and one-and-a-half rebounds. The last time the 22-year-old was called up was Dec. 13. Like Spencer, Sanogo is putting on a show in the G-League. The undrafted free agent is throwing up nearly 16 buckets, grabbing just under 11 rebounds and 1.4 assists. The sophomore is still looking for an opportunity in the NBA, but for now, the G-League is where he is thriving.

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