



The Nutcracker: A holiday tradition comes to Connecticut, where you can see it

by Patrick Boots
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
patrick.boots@uconn.edu

As the holiday season approaches, dance groups nationwide are working hard to retell a classic Christmastime story— The Nutcracker, a traditional holiday ballet set to the music of Russian composer Pyotr Tchaikovsky. Numerous productions will be hosted in Connecticut this winter, including in Storrs-Mansfield, with dancers of all ages ready to enchant audiences. Here's a list of some places in Connecticut where you can catch a performance of this festive show.

Mansfield Community School of the Arts, Storrs-Mansfield

Dec. 14 (6 p.m.) and Dec. 15 (1 p.m.)

The Mansfield Community School of the Arts will be presenting a family-friendly performance in partnership with Miss Kelly Productions, a local dance studio, on Dec. 14 and 15 at the Mansfield Middle School auditorium.

According to the Mansfield Parks and Recreation webpage, Miss Kelly has been directing a unique community version of the show for over 20 years. Featuring a cast consisting of over 60 local youth ages 3-18, the show features original story ideas and artistic performances. In addition to traditional ballet, elements including gymnastics, tap dancing, hip hop and theatrical singing have been seen in the past.

"Each year, we re-create a performance plan to reflect the unique

cast that year, and bring out every performer's best self," said Bethany Burns, Mansfield recreation coordinator, in an email to the Daily Campus.

Tickets cost \$15 and are available for sale at the Mansfield Community Center on South Eagleville Road. The performances will be held at the Mansfield Middle School on Spring Hill Road in Storrs-Mansfield.

There are also some professional performances of the traditional ballet, which can be seen at theatres across the state.

Eastern Connecticut Ballet, New London

Dec. 14 (1:30 and 7 p.m.) and Dec. 15 (1:30 p.m.)

Featuring a reimagining of the Nutcracker story set in 1850s New London, the Eastern Connecticut Ballet's version of the show will be played at the Garde Arts Center. The troupe features two guest dancers from the New York City Ballet this year.

The stage sets have been designed to appear like the historic New London Custom House, lighthouses and a whaling port, with special effects such as a flying Christmas tree, mysterious fog over a magical, moving ship and an on-stage snowstorm.

"ECB's Nutcracker is our gift to the community during the holiday season. Many of our dancers are young men and women from throughout Eastern Connecticut; this is their moment to shine after months of practice and rehears-

als," said Lise Reardon, founder of the Eastern Connecticut Ballet, in a press statement.

Tickets range from \$25 to \$68 and can be purchased on the Garde Arts webpage or at their box office. The theater is located at the corner of Huntington Street and State Street in downtown New London.

Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory and Connecticut Ballet, Hartford, Torrington and Stamford

Hartford: Dec. 7 (12:30 and 4:30 p.m.), Dec. 8 (12:30 and 4:30 p.m.), Dec. 21 (2:00 and 6:00 p.m.) and Dec. 22 (1:00 and 5:00 p.m.)

Torrington: Dec. 14 (12:30 and 4:30 p.m.) and Dec. 15 (12:30 p.m.)

Stamford: Dec. 14 (12:30 and 4:30 p.m.) and Dec. 15 (12:30 p.m.)

Two independent ballet performance groups, the Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory and the Connecticut Ballet, will be presenting their own series of the Nutcracker at three venues here in Connecticut; the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Hartford, the Warner Theatre in Torrington and the Palace Theatre in Stamford.

Their rendition is a traditional performance and will feature guest stars from the New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre and Pennsylvania Ballet at select performances.

Tickets are available from each venue's webpages and box offices; for Hartford performances, visit bushnell.org, for Torrington visit warnertheatre.org and for Stam-

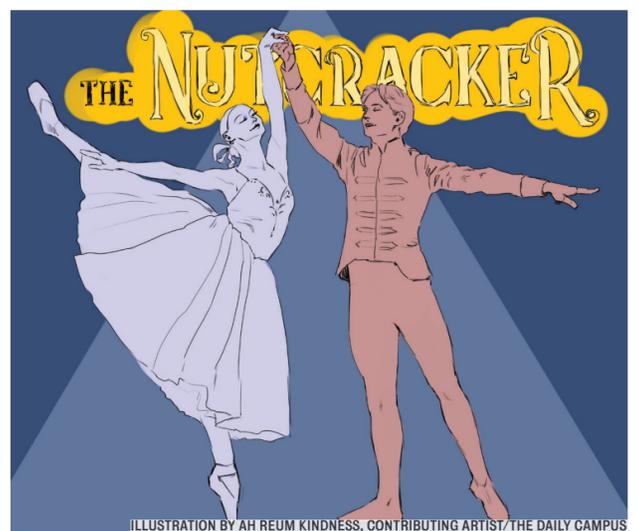


ILLUSTRATION BY AH REUM KINDNESS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

ford, visit palacestamford.org.

The ballet premiered in 1892 and has been adapted and retold as part of numerous stage shows, films and other productions, and the music and themes have been reimagined throughout history. The tale, set in 1820s Germany, begins at a Christmas Eve party, when a young girl named Clara receives a special Nutcracker doll as a gift. That night, the Nutcracker comes to life, and the two go on a journey to thwart the Mouse King — the doll turns into a handsome prince, traveling through a snowy forest to the Land of Sweets and dancing with the Sugar Plum Fairies. Performances often

feature classic costumes and character pieces.

This list does not include every Nutcracker performance in Connecticut — there are many more groups and community organizations that sponsor performances in other towns, in addition to other special holiday events like concerts and shows. As University of Connecticut students wrap up the fall semester and prepare for the holidays, enjoying the arts can be a festive way to get into the spirit. Some studies also show that the fine arts can enhance social connections, enhance one's mood and improve a community's well-being.

Human Rights Institute hosts discussion on birth and identity rights

by Karla Perez
ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR
SHE/HER/HERS
karla.perez@uconn.edu

On Friday, Nov. 8, the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute invited attendees to learn about the intersectionality between birth registration and the rights of migrant families.

The speaker for this event was Allison Petroziello, Ph.D., an assistant professor of global migration and inequality at Toronto Metropolitan University. Her presentation was based on her dissertation and upcoming book "Birth Registration as Bordering Practice."

Petroziello began by explaining that her research in this dissertation focuses on the non-registration of birth, meaning millions of children do not have birth certificates. She said this issue "violates a child's human right to a name and an identity."

According to Petroziello, over 100 countries do not have effective civil registration systems. She also said that approximately 237 million children under five years old worldwide do not have birth certificates.

In these countries, she said that the lack of birth registration is also partly contributed to by other social inequalities such as sexism, racism, socioeconomic status, etc.

Her research looked at "exclusionary birth registration practices" around the world. She gained this information from recommendations made by the United Nations Human Rights mechanisms that have



The Dodd Center for Human Rights on Sept. 19, 2024. The center will host its next Human Rights Institute event on Tuesday, Nov. 12. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

commented on this issue.

According to Petroziello, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights have commented the least on this issue.

As of mid-2022, the committees within the UN Human Rights mechanisms have made 756 recommendations on improving birth registration, according to Petroziello.

Per the title of her dissertation, Petroziello believes that birth registration itself is

bordering practice, meaning states use it as a way to exclude individuals it does not want to recognize or protect.

Petroziello outlined patterns of exclusion that would make birth registration a bordering practice. These include being a violation to a child's right to an identity or nationality and being at least one of the types of bordering. These types are corporeal, social, discursive, spatial and temporal.

Corporeal bordering relates to how borders can be shown on the physical body. Birth registration is typically seen through a lens concerning children. Petroziello applied a feminist perspective to her research, which included pregnant people and the event of the birth itself. This allowed her to separate the act of birth and the act of registration and find links between them and the rights people have in relation to each.

In corporeal bordering, who gives birth to the child and where the child is born play a role in where and how that birth is registered.

Petroziello then described territorial and mobile bordering, which are grouped together in the spatial bordering type.

Territorial bordering is the determination of physical borders to distinguish states. Mobile bordering refers to the regulation of human mobility.

In relation to birth registration, mobile bordering sets a limitation by determining a child's nationality based on the parents' statuses rather than where they are born.

Temporal bordering practices relate to the use of time. Petroziello said that this practice is used in tandem with spatial bordering.

"As more people are stopped en route ... their precarious spacious legality means that their existence itself becomes bordered or temporally bound," she said.

Petroziello said that the effects of temporal bordering can be felt after much time has passed since a border crossing. She said that these effects can span into the next generations as well.

To learn more about Petroziello's research and work, read her biography from Toronto Metropolitan University's website.

The Human Rights Institute will hold its next event on Tuesday, Nov. 12 in the Dodd Center for Human Rights' Konover Auditorium & Dodd Lounge. As always, students from all majors are welcome to attend the free events.

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Trump has vowed to kill US offshore wind projects. Will he succeed?



Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump waves as he walks with former first lady Melania Trump at an election night watch party at the Palm Beach Convention Center, Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024, in West Palm Beach, Fla.
PHOTOGRAPH BY EVAN VUCCI/AP PHOTO

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Opponents of offshore wind energy projects expect President-elect Donald Trump to kill an industry he has vowed to end on the first day he returns to the White House.

But it might not be that easy. Many of the largest offshore wind companies put a brave face on the election results, pledging to work with Trump and Congress to build power projects and ignoring the incoming president's oft-stated hostility to them.

In campaign appearances, Trump railed against offshore wind and promised to sign an executive order to block such projects.

"We are going to make sure that that ends on Day 1," Trump said in a May speech. "I'm going to write it out in an executive order. It's going to end on Day 1."

"They destroy everything, they're horrible, the most expensive energy there is," Trump said. "They ruin the environment, they kill the birds, they kill the whales."

Numerous federal and state scientific agencies say there is no evidence linking offshore wind preparation to a spate of whale deaths along the U.S. East Coast in recent years. Turbines have been known to kill shorebirds, but the industry and regulators say there are policies to mitigate harm to the environment.

Trump has railed against offshore wind turbines spoiling the view from a golf course he owns in Scotland. But numerous environmental groups say

the real reason he opposes offshore wind is his support for the fossil fuel industry.

There is almost 65 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity under development in the U.S., enough to power more than 26 million homes, and some turbines are already spinning in several states, according to the American Clean Power Association.

Currently operating projects include the Block Island Wind Farm in Rhode Island, the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind pilot project and the South Fork Wind Farm about 35 miles (56 kilometers) east of Montauk Point on New York's Long Island.

Trump is unlikely to end those projects but might have more leverage over ones still in the planning stage, those in the debate say.

Bob Stern, who headed an office in the U.S. Energy Department responsible for environmental protection during the Ford, Carter and Reagan administrations, said Trump can get Congress to reduce or eliminate tax credits for offshore wind that were granted in the Biden administration's Inflation Reduction Act. Those credits are an integral part of the finances of many offshore wind projects.

Stern, who leads the New Jersey anti-offshore wind group Save LBI, said Trump also could issue executive orders prohibiting further offshore leases and rescinding approval for ones already approved while push-

ing Congress to amend federal laws granting more protection for marine mammals.

The president-elect also can appoint leaders of agencies involved in offshore wind regulation who would be hostile to it or less supportive.

Opponents of offshore wind, many of them Republicans, were giddy following the election, saying they fully expect Trump to put an end to the industry.

"I believe this is a tipping point for the offshore wind industry in America," said Robin Shaffer, president of Protect Our Coast NJ, one of the most vocal groups opposing offshore wind on the East Coast. "They have been given a glidepath by Democrat-run administrations at the federal and state level for many years. For this industry, (Tuesday's) results will bring headwinds far greater than they have faced previously."

But Tina Zappile, director of the Hughes Center for Public Policy at New Jersey's Stockton University, noted that in 2018, Trump Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke voiced strong support for offshore wind. And even though the president-elect has bashed the technology, she predicted he won't just make it go away.

"Offshore wind might appear to be on the chopping block — Trump's explicitly said this was something he'd fix on the first day — but when the economics of offshore wind are in alignment with his overall strategies of returning manufacturing to America and becoming energy-

independent, his administration is likely to back away slowly from this claim," she said in an interview. "Offshore wind may be temporarily hampered, but its long-term prospects in the U.S. are unlikely to be hurt."

Commercial fishermen in Maine said they hope the Trump administration will undo policies designed to help build and approve offshore wind projects, saying regulators attempted to "future-proof" the industry against political change. Jerry Leeman, CEO of the New England Fishermen's Stewardship Association, called on Trump to reverse a commitment to deploy 30 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2030.

The offshore wind industry is taking an optimistic stance, pledging to work with Trump his political allies. National and New Jersey wind industry groups, and several offshore wind developers including Atlantic Shores and Denmark-based Orsted, issued similarly worded statements highlighting terms likely to appeal to Republicans including job creation, economic development and national security.

combining the strengths of all domestic energy resources, the Trump administration can advance an economy that is dynamic, secure, and clean," Jason Grumet, CEO of the American Clean Power Association, said in a statement. "We are committed to working with the Trump-Vance administration and

the new Congress to continue this great American success story."

But few Republicans were in a welcoming mood following the election. New Jersey Assemblyman Paul Kanitra listed the major offshore wind companies in a Facebook post, saying, "It's time to pack your bags and get the hell away from the Jersey Shore, our marine life, fishing industry and beautiful beaches."

Kanitra said he was looking forward "to your stock prices tanking." And that was starting to happen.

The stock prices of European offshore wind companies, many of which are planning or building projects on the U.S. East Coast, plunged amid fears the new administration would seek to slow or end such projects. Orsted closed down nearly 14% on Wednesday and was down 11% over the past five days. Turbine manufacturer Vestas Wind Systems was down nearly 24% over that same period.

Rep. Jeff Van Drew, a New Jersey Republican, hosted Trump at a rally earlier this year at which Trump again vowed to kill offshore wind.

"We are currently working out the specifics of what that will look like once he takes office again this January," Van Drew said. "President Trump is a good friend of New Jersey, and he understands the devastating impact these projects will have on our communities."

The Daily Campus

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The Daily Campus' Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 ___-dab in the middle
 - 6 Smartphone downloads
 - 10 Paper money
 - 14 City west of Venice
 - 15 Shave (down)
 - 16 Spanish eight
 - 17 Campy photo booth accessory
 - 19 Comics icon Lee
 - 20 Epitome of slowness
 - 21 ___ acid
 - 22 "Oorah!" military org.
 - 25 Southern California's June Gloom, essentially
 - 28 10-Across, slangily
 - 30 Fish eggs
 - 31 Assumed name
 - 32 Gravy vessel
 - 34 Goes (for)
 - 38 Candy treat shaped like a chick or bunny
 - 41 Some Fidelity offerings, for short
 - 42 Fades to black
 - 43 Snorer's affliction
 - 44 Gut punch reaction
 - 45 Trademarked pastry creation
 - 46 Sleepover hideaway
 - 52 Weightlifter's units
 - 53 Furnish with gear
 - 54 For starters
 - 56 Skeet shout
 - 57 Trial period for a new product, and what 17-, 25-, 38-, and 46-Across all have?
 - 62 Flowerpot spot
 - 63 Mideast canal
 - 64 Battery terminal
 - 65 "The ___-bitsy spider ..."
 - 66 Lean and muscular
 - 67 "Heavens to ___!"
- DOWN**
- 1 Beach bottle no.
 - 2 Actress Whitman
 - 3 Toothpaste-endorsing org.
 - 4 Doesn't make history?
 - 5 "Clue" actress Madeline
 - 6 Diamond birthstone month
 - 7 "Halo" star Schreiber
 - 8 In favor of
 - 9 ___ urchin
 - 10 Pink cocktail, familiarly
 - 11 Last part of a play, perhaps
 - 12 MacGowan of the Pogues
 - 13 Accept, as a coupon
 - 18 A pop
 - 21 Card with no face or number
 - 22 Savory quality
 - 23 Renewable energy source
 - 24 Catherine's "Schitt's Creek" role
 - 26 Mountain range from Kazakhstan to the Arctic Ocean
 - 27 Inflict upon
 - 29 Fire residue
 - 32 National park in Alberta
 - 33 On in years
 - 34 Perfectly timed
 - 35 Tubular pasta
 - 36 Start, as a golf round
 - 37 Petty quarrels
 - 39 Cat's noise
 - 40 Armed conflict
 - 44 Alley-___
 - 45 Keyboard shortcut starter
 - 46 Cola brand
 - 47 "That's it for me!"
 - 48 Calm periods
 - 49 Pharmaceutical giant Eli ___
 - 50 Proposal
 - 51 Posh
 - 55 Onetime Swedish automaker
 - 57 NNE opposite
 - 58 French yes
 - 59 Do ___ disturb
 - 60 Media that's burned before reading
 - 61 "Listen up!"

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By John Michael Currie 11/11/24

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

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SUDOKU BY THE MEPHAM GROUP

Level **1** 2 3 4

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Solution to Saturday's puzzle 11/11/24

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

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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Celebrating Diwali with UConn Late Night and the Hindu Student Association

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab**

CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
lilith.rampertab@uconn.edu

Oct. 31 was the observation of Diwali, the Festival of Light in Hindu tradition. University of Connecticut Late Night celebrated this religious holiday belatedly with their weekly programming in the Student Union in collaboration with the Hindu Student Association on Friday, Nov. 8.

At Union Street, there was a check-in station where students could have their event passes on UConn contact scanned by a staff member to be entered in a raffle. The table also had Indian snacks and stickers themed around Indian culture for prizes. The scanning doubled as attendance for the Late Night programming.

Late Night at the Student Union typically has free popcorn with various seasonings every Friday night, but the

Hindu Student Association additionally provided Frooti mango juice, Kurkure chips and ice cream with gulab jamun, an extremely sweet, rich, soft and flavorful confection popular in South Asian cultures.

When asked about the story of Diwali, the Hindu Student Association's Ayush Patel, a third-semester mechanical engineering student, said "For Diwali, there's two stories: the story in 'The Ramayana,' and the other story that is more common in northern parts of India where Lord Krishna killed a demon that enslaved one hundred or one thousand women and married them all so that they could be accepted in society."

"Diwali is good versus evil," Vaishnavi Josyula, a third-semester allied health sciences student, chimed in. According to the Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art, "people leave lights on their doorsteps to help Rama and Sita [deities from

'The Ramayana'] find their way. These lights are a symbol of Diwali and the celebration of light overcoming darkness, just like Rama defeated Ravana [the demon king]."

When talking about the Hindu Student Association, Patel said "It's an organization that helps Hindus feel welcomed on campus. It's like a new home for Hindu students." Josyula added, "It's not just for Hindu students, it's for everybody to share Hindu culture."

As always with UConn Late Night, there was karaoke; a student humorously sang off-key to "Mamma Mia" by ABBA, a common pick for a karaoke song.

The Student Union Ballroom had crafts where people could decorate candles in jars with glue, stencils and colored powder and a backdrop that said "Happy Diwali" where a photographer took photos with a Polaroid camera.

Jesse Hawrylko, a seventh-semester art student, won a ceramic coaster set at bingo night, another mainstay at Late Night. Late Night staff members Georgia Mills, a seventh-semester English education student and Kateryna Pekar, a seventh-semester environmental engineering student said "We love planning bingo and picking prizes. We love providing opportunities for students to unwind on a Friday night."

For those who were overstimulated or just wanted a peaceful environment, there was a designated quiet room available with quiet activities.

Diwali is a time to celebrate the tenacity of the human spirit. The flames of the diyas and candles may eventually burn out and die, but while they were still burning, they brought warmth and light into the environment. Light brings hope to life. Light is valued and is a commonality in many religions and cultures.

Light is indubitably important, and Diwali celebrates that.

As someone who grew up in a Hindu household, seeing the culture I am so familiar with celebrated genuinely warms my heart. I geeked out about Hindu lore with my friend who was eager to learn more about Diwali and Hindu culture. I was so surprised to see gulab jamun being served, as it's a delicacy I didn't have much of growing up because other Indian sweets were more common. I was also telling my father about this event and how excited I was to attend it. He was pleasantly surprised that UConn would have something like a Diwali celebration, especially for a primarily white institution.

To express culture is a beautiful thing, and to share it is even more beautiful. I am grateful that my culture was represented and celebrated, bringing familiarity to an environment that can feel alienating at times.

The Voices of Freedom choir performs for the first time at UConn

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab**

CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
lilith.rampertab@uconn.edu

On Nov. 9, von der Mehden recital hall hosted the Voices of Freedom gospel choir for a free concert. According to the E-Board president of the choir, this was their first concert on the University of Connecticut's campus.

There was a virtual program available via QR code. The program lists the names of the choir singers, the track list for the songs performed with the soloists cited and Reverend and Voices of Freedom choir director Lisa Clayton's biography. It says that Rev. Clayton is "a recording artist, composer, workshop clinician, and ordained preacher in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church." In addition, the biography says "Lisa Clayton was selected in August of 2022 as one of 60 Outstanding Alumni of the School of Fine Arts at the University of Connecticut. In September of 2022, she was nominated as the Outstanding African American Faculty member for the School of Fine Arts as well."

After the E-Board of the Gospel Choir Club at UConn intro-

duced themselves to the audience, they had the audience bow their heads for a short prayer.

The concert officially began with Vashawn Mitchell's "Chasing After You," a song about the pursuit of finding God. The sheer dedication of the lyrics "I'm praising my way through just to get closer to you, I'm chasing after you," as sung by soloists Zamiyah Burton and Morisa Westfield, is admirable. Though the choir is the main focus of the concert, the instrumentation of the piano, keyboard and drums are also integral, bringing more brightness and optimism. The audience clapped along and some even stood up with the choir.

After the song ended, Rev. Clayton went on stage and introduced herself to the audience. She told the audience, "We're not the kind of choir where you stay silent, we want you to sing with us." She then had an encore of "Chasing After You" where she got the sopranos, then the altos and finally the tenors in the audience to sing the chorus with her.

The next song performed was Jonathan Nelson's "Our God Medley." The choir powerfully filled the room after it progressively built up. Lyrics such as

"There's no God like Jehovah, there's nobody like Jesus" and "He really is a great God" are simple but effective in worshipping and getting the audience to sing along as Rev. Clayton wanted them to. There was an absolutely beautiful solo at the end of the song. After the song, an audience member sang the lyric, "He really is a great God," to applause.

A. Jeffrey LaValley's "Revelations 19" was next. The chorus of "The Lord our God is powerful, The Lord our God is omnipotent, The Lord our God is wonderful" was overwhelmingly potent when the choir sang it all together with the audience and the band. Clayton sang a short solo at the end that was phenomenal.

Rich Tolbert's "Never Be Defeated" was performed after, with a stellar lead vocal performance by Alexander Vereen Jr. The repetition of "Because God, He is the greatest power, we shall never be defeated" feels like a positive affirmation of self-confidence as well as faith in God. Although the instrumentation sounded solemn at first, it was triumphant. The song speeds up and sounds brighter when the choir sings "I want to see my Jesus one day."

Three choir members, six audience members (including a high school chorus teacher who taught one of the members of the choir) and then two more choir members brought their own vocal interpretations of the repeated lyrical leitmotif "Because God, He is the greatest power, we shall never, never be defeated." An audience member shouted, "Best concert ever!" after all of the vocal renditions.

A choir member guided the audience into some dance moves to perform as they sang the next song: Tim Godfrey's "Very Big God" with soloists Yaa Obeng-Boateng and Emeline Irankunda, which reflects the composer's Nigerian heritage. The song was very appealing to the ears and catchy.

Rev. Clayton had the parents of students in the choir in the crowd stand up, saying "They are doing an exceptional job."

The second to last piece was Rev. Clayton's own composition "Walls Come Down," which is the second time this song has been performed so far. She prefaced the song by saying, "Sometimes things come in our minds and they have no business being there." In the song, Rev. Clayton listed negative concepts such as

depression, jealousy, lying and suicide, then she and the choir sang something like "Cast them down" afterward.

Israel Houghton's "If Not For Your Grace" was the final song, with Rev. Clayton prefacing, "Where would I be without the grace of God?" The vocal performances from Kamari Cross, Faith Walker and Winniefred Carter were all incredible, especially the final solo. The powerful instrumentation only enhanced the vocals.

Almost immediately after "If Not For Your Grace," Rev. Clayton decided to do an encore with the song "Freedom." It was a fun and powerful way to end the night, the choir eventually getting off the risers and dancing on-stage in addition to singing.

After the concert ended, Rev. Clayton took a moment to thank the Voices of Freedom's supporters, the choir E-Board alum in the audience, the backing band comprised of Cherrille Crews, Derrick Hall and Tyler McMillan and the audience for coming out and supporting.

It's great for the soul to focus on the things we love and care for. Seeing the audience's reactions to the performance was touching to say the least.

No Skips:

Perhaps the best singer-songwriter album out there



NO SKIPS



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by James Fitzpatrick
ASSOCIATE LIFE EDITOR
HE/HIM/HIS
james.fitzpatrick@uconn.edu

Yes. No Skips is back again for more coverage of past music releases that have near-flawless consistency. This week, Linda Perhacs' "Parallelograms" is what we'll be talking about, since the album has discourse revolving around it these days, thankfully. I celebrate that fact because it was a relatively obscure release for decades following its debut in 1970, unfortunately.

People who are cynical about the music industry these days should hear Perhacs' story. She managed to make an impression on Leonard Rosenman, a composer of "Beneath the Planet of the Apes," which was also released in 1970, among other popular films. He produced this album, yet it commercially flopped, and due to the involved process of releasing music at the time through labels, she just stopped instead of making it a side gig. She was likely fine financially due to her occupation as a dental hygienist, but it makes one imagine how many more records like "Parallelo-

grams" we could've received. Granted, she did release two records in the 2010s after this one started to gain traction online; still, this story isn't a one-off occurrence, as you'll see next week on "No Skips."

People had more of an attention span back then than they do now, but it's understandable if listeners from either era glazed over the first track, "Chimacum Rain." Its layered vocal harmonies are intriguing, namely when she states, "The silences, I mean / They kinda wrap around you," as her vocals do exactly that, though the track gets the listener accustomed to what's to come. "Paper Mountain Man" is a radical change of pace in the context of the whole album, considering it's one of two tracks that are too engaging to sleep to, in my opinion. Her cadence in the verses holds a certain mystique while, in the chorus, it wouldn't have been farfetched for her to start yodeling. The harmonica adds to the "Wild West" vibe, as it can be presumed she's lived in California her whole life.

The third track, "Dolphin," is smooth and graceful like the an-

imal's movements. Some people may argue dolphins sound delightful, though I'd rather listen to Linda Perhacs. She majestically claims to "want to feel the speed / And the pulse of moving / Of going away." The melody is easy to latch onto and is backed by simple guitar strumming, culminating into one of the best tracks on the record. "Call of the River" revolves around the refrain: "Come away, and follow me," while the instrumentation and style remains largely the same as "Dolphin."

"Sandy Toes" has a solid bassline with Perhacs vocals seamlessly blending into the background. The tune actually sounds like a Hawaiian record from the same era, the self-titled debut from another one-off band, These Trails. The title track may be the most minimal track so far, though the song structure is quite interesting. The mid-section of the song removes all instruments besides some bells and Perhacs humming and whispering, only for it to loop back around, creating an infinite loop of sorts. It's an ethereal moment that makes the track do more be-

sides share its title with the album's name.

The following "Hey, Who Really Cares" is by far the most popular on the album, so much so that producers on The Notorious B.I.G.'s album "Life After Death" used the track as a sample. Biggie tragically passed away when that album was being released, so he likely had a say in that sample's usage as well. Around that time in the late '90s is when "Parallelograms" grew more popular; I'm unsure if there's a correlation there but that's the case. "Moons and Cattails" is hypnotic in its juxtaposition of tranquility with defiant moments in the vocals, including the end of the line "Back to damp nights," where she harps on the final syllable like a snake hissing.

"Morning Colors" is more of the same, yet Perhacs incorporates flute and saxophone played by John Neufield, as well as a cool alternation between higher and lower vocal registers, sometimes in between lines. The second to last track, "Porcelain Baked-Over-Cast-Iron Wedding," further innovates Perhacs' sound in this

short album, this being the other song that is a bit too up-tempo to fall asleep to. It's honestly easy to get lost in the music and forget when this album was recorded, though lines like, "Pass the champagne, will you please? / And let's get on with the next social squeeze" manage to date the songwriting a little. Finally, "Delicious" mirrors "Dolphin" in thriving off gentle guitar strumming to show off Perhacs' incredible voice.

The main contemporary attraction to the record is Perhacs' singing which I cannot do justice in writing. Thankfully, the 81-year-old is still with us, and although I'm sure she made a damn good dental hygienist, she wasn't able to further pursue a music career in the 20th century due to "Parallelograms" being an undeserved commercial failure. Nevertheless, I hope she can grasp the number of listeners from a future generation her music has touched, especially one in which music has become increasingly digitized. She and Rosenman's raw approach to song creation is much appreciated since her voice needs no embellishments to sound perfect. Less is more here.

Senioritis



KRISTA 11/10/24

COMIC BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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



Life

@dailycampuslife

Ab-Soul's powerful tribute: "Soul Burger"

by **Sebastian Munera**
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
sebastian.munera@uconn.edu

Ab-Soul is a west-coast rapper and one of the most prominent rappers in the Top Dawg Entertainment label, especially since the departure of Kendrick Lamar in 2021. Two years ago, we got Ab-Soul's fifth studio album, "HERBERT," a more personal album that saw him dealing with the grief of the premature loss of close friend and fellow TDE affiliate, DoeBurger. While I respected "HERBERT" as a personal album with phenomenal standout tracks such as the moving "DO BETTER" and the punchline heavy banger "GOOD-MAN," it was hit and miss for me as a whole. Now, Soul has come back with his sixth studio album named in tribute to his fallen friend "Soul Burger."

While the album is named "Soul Burger," similar to Ye's "Donda," it's not really a per-

sonal memorial for his close friend but more like a record dedicated to him. Soul sticks to his bread and butter of West-Coast-style tracks with punchline heavy bars that still make him a standout amongst his peers, which we see on the intro track "9 Mile." It's an awesome avant-garde track where we see Soul deliver acapella bars over a barebones vocal sample for two minutes straight before transitioning to the "Shook Ones Pt. II" beat and interpolating Eminem's iconic "8 Mile" verse into his own to talk about his struggles in the past few years, including a failed suicide attempt. Despite that, Ab-Soul is still moving forward and keeping his friend with him in spirit.

"9 Mile" establishes an unexpected theme we can see throughout the whole album which is the many layered references to other rappers. Just to name a few, he interprets lyrics from Jay-Z, Nipsey Hussle,

Eminem, Lil Wayne and more that go beyond my area of knowledge. He even goes so far as to have two whole songs on the album be one big reference to other rappers in "B.U.C.K.O. Jr" (a reference to Lil Wayne's "BM J.R.") and "Squeeze 1St 2" (a reference to Jay-Z's "Squeeze 1St").

The former is a track I have very mixed feelings on. It's purposefully reminiscent of Lil Wayne and has a few admittedly clever and funny lines like, "Cannibal on instrumentals, dinnertime, I meet you I got cake, she got cake, my thing's a sweet tooth." I find that "B.U.C.K.O. Jr" lacks charm and the instrumental is insultingly bland and boring for how long the track is. "Squeeze 1St 2" is a track that works much better thanks to standout production and much more consistent killer bars: "I do it, I was born with this style, it's unfortunate how / They put a pro-choice in question like abortion is now."

Outside of the few standout tracks, "California Dream" and "Don Julio 70" with great features from both Vince Staples and Fre\$H respectively, the three track run from "Squeeze 1St 2" to "Peace" is the best part of the project. "Crazier" has a fittingly haunting beat and solid verses from guest star JID and Soul. The following track "Peace" is easily the best track on the project that is executed perfectly on all fronts. The concept of the track is healing and finding peace again after the death of DoeBurger echoed by the somber chorus sung by Soul and TDE President Punch.

On the lyrical front, legendary lyricist Lupe Fiasco delivers a stellar verse with some of the best and wittiest punchlines of the whole project, "Drum clip like Whiplash, that's kick crash, that's symbolic Art Blakey with the arm lately, that's stick math." This is followed by the most moving and heartbreaking moments on

the record as we get a full verse from DoeBurger where he essentially tells the listeners to stop crying and move on and ironically talks about his hypothetical death in a chilling line "I'm speakin' in past tense like I ain't still here."

The album finishes out strong with "Righteous Man." The beat is another standout on the project that interpolates the "How Much A Dollar Cost" instrumental. Here we see Soul come back with full confidence and tell the listener what he sees himself as after the healing process as a "Righteous Man."

This album is really authentic and effective, but the amount of middle-of-the-ground, uninteresting tracks like the run from tracks seven through 10, especially the unnecessary track "Go Pro," bloat the album, which is unfortunate because in the moments where Soul is really trying and bearing out all his feelings, it works really well.

Rating: 3/5

'Arcane':

The riveting animated show is back for its final season

by **Noa Climor**
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
noa.climor_mizrahi@uconn.edu

On Nov. 9, 2024, the first three episodes of "Arcane" season two were released on Netflix. The show, a four-time Emmy Award winner, gripped the attention of fans worldwide when it was first released. Three years later, it still has it.

The show's second season will be dropped in three parts: Nov. 9, 16 and 23. I watched the first three episodes dropped by Netflix, and when I tell you that this is a masterclass in animation, voice acting and production... I'm not joking.

"Arcane" season one was explosive from the very beginning. However, even if you are unfamiliar with the video game "League of Legends," which "Arcane" is based off, it's easy to get absorbed into the show. The worldbuilding, characters and storylines are beautifully woven together to create a show for fans of the game and new ones alike.

So much happened in season two, but before we get to that, here is a short and sweet description of season one. We have Vi and Jinx, two sisters who, throughout the season, are pulled into two different sides of an intense conflict between the city of Piltover — a wealthy and "progressive" city — and Zaun — the undercity. The show ends with (no tricks nor jinxes, but spoilers ahead!) Jinx launching a rocket with a stolen Hextech crystal inside directly at the Piltover council,

which is voting on negotiating peace with Zaun.

I am amazed by the animation and the skill required to create such a beautiful project, and I am glad I got to review it. Now, let's go! We must get into season two (this review will be as spoiler-free as possible).

Episode one starts with a bang! And I mean that literally. "Heavy Is the Crown" begins with the immediate scene after the rocket is launched. The rubble and ruin of the buildings — and people are gone. The sound is muffled, and the movement makes you feel like you survived the explosion alongside them. The theme music plays, and fans have noticed that the title sequence changes with every episode. As the season continues, Cait and Vi's relationship is explored and takes many twists and turns.

Cait's mother has passed away, and we see Vi leaving. The scene is black and white, with no color besides Vi and Cait. "I just watched as the door closed for good" is a line in the song playing during this scene, and I can't help but sense that this foreshadows something bigger down the line. Tensions have escalated between the twin cities, and war is brewing between them and the characters.

As you watch this season, you will notice the importance of the characters' relationships with themselves and each other. The war is taking a toll on every single person — things can change in the blink of an eye as war rages on. The challenges of dealing with Jinx — who she is, her complexity, and her ac-

tions — fall into the hands of the people who both want to destroy her and see her as a symbol of something bigger.

The council (what's left of them, I fear) is deciding to invade Zaun. Hextech — a unique technology to the world of "League" — is off-limits for now. Cait wants to show a unified front, but Vi is having a much harder time agreeing to this, which makes sense, considering their history.

At the end of episode one, Cait has three objectives and has found her voice and confidence. One: locate Jinx; two: dismantle shimmer. And three? Neutralize any agents still loyal to Silco. She is confident in herself because she has a few surprises — Vi on her side, for starters, is a damn big surprise.

Episodes two and three are equally as gripping and intense. The Undercity is weighing its options, Jinx is laying low and plotting, and Vi and Caitlyn? Well, I am not jealous of either one of them right now. I will admit that this review is hard for me to write, not because I don't like the show or have nothing to write about. On the contrary, this is one of my all-time favorite shows, and media reviews are my favorite thing to write. But the show is so beautifully complex, so rich with art and storytelling, that I find myself struggling to find the words to do it justice.

But alas, it's time for the review to continue — we have Jinx. "Vi used to say I could fix anything," she says, struggling to go on, plagued by memories

of Silco and Vi. "Watch it All Burn" pulls no punches as everything burns to the ground, literally and figuratively. Jinx seems to adopt a kid who falls on her from the ceiling. The kid, named Isha, shows Jinx a reflection of who she was when she was younger, which is why she doesn't abandon her.

The show utilizes individual characters beautifully. With Jinx and Vi, you can see what war does to people, to their relationships and how disconnected you can feel from yourself, reality and those you love. The themes of loss and grief are so profound and play such a heavy role in the storytelling

that it feels necessary to have the show drop into three parts. The show moves at a fast pace, even faster now that the conflict has almost reached its peak and the density of the plot needs to be broken apart for it to be well-received and understood.

"Arcane," an animated masterpiece that has captured the hearts of millions of fans worldwide, has not lost its magic. It's hard for shows to stay so consistently good, but it should be studied how "Arcane" has remained incredible and surpassed all expectations. Wait! Scroll down. I promise there's no trick here ...

Jinxed ya!

Rating: 5/5



ILLUSTRATION BY COLBI LORANGER, ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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PHOTO BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Editorial

A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION: UConn ADDRESSES ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE WITH EPA GRANT

The Environmental Protection Agency is supporting the University of Connecticut with a five-year \$10 million federal grant for an Environmental Justice Thriving Community Technical Assistance Center, according to an Oct. 30 press release by EPA. The center will support projects in New England communities more likely to be at risk of suffering from environmental issues like pollution or flooding. Communities throughout New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, Maine and Connecticut, as well as federally recognized tribes can submit requests for aid, whether it be identifying funding sources, preparing for grant applications and/or accessing other resources. The press release outlined how the center can help assist communities through the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, established by the Biden administration.

The Editorial Board believes this center is a great way to aid communities who suffer from environmental injustice and is a beneficial use of UConn resources and expertise. As a large state and public university, UConn has a moral responsibility to give back to communities and this center will address prominent issues plaguing communities across New England.

The EPA selected UConn to establish one of the 18 Thriving Community Technical Assistance Centers across the country. The center provides UConn faculty and staff with the opportunity to engage in meaningful efforts outside of the university, using their professional expertise. UConn faculty and staff across the School of Social Work, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Native American Cultural Programs will lead the center, according to UConn Today. Carolyn A. Lin, professor in the Department of Communication, will lead the team as director.

Along with the EPA, the UConn center is partnering with the Institute for New England Native American Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Boston; the New England Environmental Finance Center at the University of Southern Maine; the New England Rural Health Association; Groundwork USA, and the Environmental Protection Network. As UConn leads this initiative with federal assistance, it puts the university at a forefront of addressing environmental justice region wide. But what are UConn's plans for local and university action?

In recent years, student activists have demanded that the university release a plan to transition UConn to carbon neutral by 2030 and zero carbon by 2040. In February, a plan was released but faced scrutiny from coalitions like Fossil Fuel Free UConn, claiming "there is an utter absence of pragmatic propositions or detailed outlines for the implementation of the meaningful carbon reduction." The Editorial Board has written in depth about these issues and placed support behind Fossil Fuel Free UConn, advocating for stronger sustainability initiatives.

While the university has faced backlash over their sustainability plan, this new initiative is promising for the future of the university as they begin putting resources and support toward environmental issues. This is a positive step forward for New England as a whole, and the Editorial Board hopes that the university can grow their environmental justice efforts on campus too.

Fandoms have become a front for the obsessed

by Kayleigh Brown | CONTRIBUTOR | SHE/HER/HERS | krb24003@uconn.edu

Swifties, Barbz, Army, Beliebers; the list is endless. Fandoms were initially formed to allow those who share a collective interest to bond and discuss. These groups were intended to act as safe spaces — and sometimes, an escape from reality. Yet, as time has passed and the world has changed, it is hard to ignore how fandoms have also changed. We have seen fandoms shift into toxic and unwelcoming environments that are seemingly hierarchical. If they are even "allowed" to join, new fans are looked down upon and viewed as lesser than the original fans. Fandoms have also grown to idolize the celebrity, author, band, etc., that they are fans of and believe that they can do nothing wrong. This idolization has also developed into an obsession; fans will stalk, hack security cameras and magically appear wherever the person/group is.

For things created to be welcoming and centered around becoming united over a shared interest, fandoms are most certainly neither welcoming nor united. The fans "running" said fandoms view themselves and other original fans as superior to everyone else. New fans are often not welcomed or "allowed" to join because they are deemed less of a fan. They also tend to glamorize lesser-known pieces of work released; if you don't know it, you are considered a "fake fan." These actions isolate the fandom and lead to potential new fans not wanting to join or even consider the interest because of the fandom's reputation. Yet, the people turning away new fans are the same people who are upset when others don't know what they are referring to when they bring it up. They are respon-

"Welcoming new fans and other opinions is okay"

sible for their own anger because they have too much of a superiority complex to realize that welcoming new fans and other opinions is okay.

Besides the original fans driving a wedge between them and the new fans, there has also been increasing prevalence around fans idolizing the people they are fans of. This is not just people joking about how perfect the particular celebrity is; these fans genuinely believe that this person is all-righteous. Fans have created these god-like figures in their mind, and it has gotten to the point where if

anyone criticizes or says anything remotely negative, the fans will attack that person and act as if they were being criticized themselves and not the celebrity. One example is the Barbz fandom, which is consistently seen online defending Nicki Minaj. In an interview with Rolling Stones, one Barb stated, "A female lion with her cubs, you don't mess with the babies, and Nicki is our baby." Another example of this is Kanye West's fans, who continue to stand by him regardless of the antisemitic and racist remarks he has made. Yet, there are still thousands of people in his comments supporting him, with some on his most recent Instagram

"One example we often hear of is stalking, which recently happened to Paige Bueckers"

post announcing a new album saying things such as "ye you saved my life" and "MY KING DROPPING."

The obsession does not stop at fans acting feral online; there are endless cases of fans taking this to the next level and disregarding the celebrity's right to privacy. One example we often hear of is stalking, which recently happened to Paige Bueckers. However, during an interview on Hot Ones, Shawn Mendes spoke about one instance where a fan took stalking even further and came to his front door in the middle of winter wearing a crop top and shorts. The fan pretended to be lost and claimed to not know where she was. She said she needed someone to drive her to Starbucks, so Mendes drove her.

Another example of taking things too far is One Direction fans hacking into security cameras at not only the airport but also at hotels so that they could watch them.

Fandoms are no longer the fun and safe space they used to be, and it's not just one person's fault; all fans have a part to play in what it has become.

"They are not required to share every aspect of their lives with you"

Fans must realize that celebrities are people too, so they are not required to share every aspect of their lives with you. Everyone needs privacy, and in some ways, celebrities deserve more because of how many people look up to them and how much impact they have. We see many cases of celebrities begging to be given one moment alone and treated with respect. One recent case is with Chappell Roan, who later came out and made a statement about how important boundaries are. While listening and learning from celebrities is okay, people have no reason to take their word as gospel. These celebrities are just as human as we are, so there isn't one who you should look at as perfect. If we allow these celebrities to have such a hold on us, we will become nothing more than mindless zombies with no grasp on reality. We all love the internet and bonding over our favorite celebrities. Still, we must keep ourselves composed and remind ourselves that there is nothing special about them to the point where our admiration for them should have that amount of control over our lives.



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Reading the newspaper



The students at UConn gearing up for the opposing team's starting line up to be announced at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn. on Nov. 6, 2024. The Huskies put up their newspapers and yelled 'sucks' every time a player was announced. PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

'Joker: Folie à Deux' wasn't good or bad

by Isaac Grad
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
isaac.grad@uconn.edu

The sequel to the highly acclaimed "Joker" movie has received mixed reviews, but they seem predominantly negative. This is a stark difference compared to the first movie, which received overwhelmingly positive reviews. Most people see this as a common occurrence with sequels, assuming they simply dropped the ball on this second film. I am of the belief that the stark contrast of the sequel to the original was intentional by the creators, and is a response to the reactions from the original.

The first "Joker" movie created a rise of a specific type of fans. The movie left off with a positive view on Joker's murderous actions. It portrayed Joker as the underdog suffering from the horrible realities of an uncaring society. There are many accuracies in the film that mirror the real world despite being set in the fictional crime-ridden city of Gotham. It focused on the way different classes are treated, with a focus on those suffering from mental illness. Of course, this resulted in people struggling with these issues relating to the character and his inevitable outburst to a world that treated him so poorly.

The first movie was an original take on this character, making him extremely sympathetic, and allowing us into the mind of a villain. This adds dimension to a character that can easily be written as purely evil and left at that, with all the focus going to the hero. Seeing as the resolution of the first film is Joker lashing out and making a statement, one could see that the

reaction of fans who relate to this character would be to lose faith in the system as Joker does in the film. Though entertaining, and accurate to the character, it's not exactly a positive forward-moving outlook when applied to the real people watching. There's no debating that it's a negative film, as it's intended to be.

The second movie takes the first movie and its fans and tries to essentially destroy what was done in the first movie. The fans are unhappy with the sequel "ruining" this character that they related to in his powerlessness and were inspired by in his revolution. They brought Arthur back down from this throne he seemingly ended on. A man that was acting as he was, putting on this act in hopes of feeling the love he so desperately yearned for, would never last as such. Only a true psychopath could be and remain the Joker, as we see in the final scene of the sequel. We see this behavior that could be viewed as sympathetic finally being portrayed as what it is: wrong. We should not be viewing these actions of lashing out at the world and society for mistreatment through murder as positive and revolutionary. However, working to understand these individuals to stop these issues at the source makes sense. But to relate to them and frame this behavior as positive, as the first movie may have inadvertently done, is not good, and the sequel seems to try to break this idea down.

Lee, representative of Harley Quinn, represents fans of the Joker. She seemingly loves him, finally providing him with the thing he desired the whole time. This love

is not real and is completely conditional on the fact that she views him only as the Joker. She loves him as the anarchist, not the suffering man, as many fans may have taken from the original.

The first movie is only realistic as an introduction to Arthur, not as an ending, as he would never be able to survive as the psychopathic Joker. As mentioned above, his true motivation and goal was to be loved and known, which he was destined to never truly receive as the Joker. Despite the attention and praise he received, it was for the Joker, not Arthur. This did not solve his problem, and just as he couldn't remain a clown trying to bring joy to this world despite being mistreated, he couldn't remain the Joker, because he didn't truly want to see the world burn. He realizes this after hearing a true first-hand account from someone impacted by his actions that he actually cared about. When Puddles described the anguish he had been in constantly since the Joker "spared" him, Arthur realized that what he has done is not admirable, it is not doing any good and he is not making people like him feel better or safer. Puddles was like Arthur, he says so in his testimony where he says the same thing Arthur did, that he was the only one who was nice to him and everyone else treated him as less than. This shows an aspect that I believe was very well done in the sequel. The progression of Arthur giving up is the only end to him as the Joker. Seeing the base that was established in the first film shows us that he is not suitable to last as the Joker, and when he was confronted with someone who he didn't view as a bad person, his



persona

broke

in the sense that it wasn't extremely entertaining, and lacked the appeal of the first film. I didn't walk out of this film feeling impacted. It's not bad because it was seemingly done intentionally so as to deter fans of the first film from viewing this character as someone to look up to or relate to. It also is an accurate end to Arthur as the Joker. It's entirely possible that any deeper attempt to erase the impact of the first film was done unintentionally and they truly just didn't have the heart and excitement that went into the first film. If done intentionally, it was well done for its goal, but still not a great movie, whether because of its lack of entertainment value or because of the way that it ostracized fans of the character.

So why do I claim this sequel is not good or bad? Well, it's not good

We all want the same thing

by Youssef Macary
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
youssef.macary@uconn.edu

As the country reacts and processes the results of the presidential election, one thing that has become abundantly clear is the level of hatred and division that politics causes within the American people. The reaction to the last two presidential elections alone is proof. When Donald Trump lost in 2020, his supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol in an attempt to violently change the results of the election. Now in 2024, Donald Trump's victory has caused anger, fear and hatred from those who did not support him. Regardless of one's political opinions, it is clear that the United

States is far beyond simply having a difference of opinions, but rather people who disagree have started to deeply hate one another.

However, a fact that I feel is often lost in the political discourse is that all voters fundamentally want the same thing: to shape a country in which they, their children and family and people as a whole can prosper. Of course there are exceptions, and there are people in this world who vote out of hatred, but for the most part I fundamentally believe that people are voting from a place of wanting what is best for the country. Take Donald Trump, for example: in 2024, voters believe he "cares about needs of people like you." The other half of the country

likely believes the opposite. Regardless of that fact, this goes to show that people aren't voting out of hate, but rather based on what they believe is best. Ultimately, people are voting with good intentions.

In theory, that mutual feeling of wanting what is best should be enough to hold Americans together. We may disagree on how to achieve our vision of a great country, but our end goal and our intentions are all very similar. Unfortunately, that is something that is lost in political discourse, where both sides demonize the other in order to swing votes. In fact, just in the past few years, people's views of the opposite party have become increasingly negative. According to Gallup in 2022, 72%

of Republicans said Democrats are more immoral. This is an extremely high number, especially compared to 47% in 2016. On the opposite side, that same year 52% of Democrats said that Republicans are more unintelligent, compared to only 33% in 2016. The parties are no longer disagreeing on how to improve the country, they are beginning to actively look down upon and lose respect for one another.

Many political debates, though not all, are simply policy disagreements. For example (taking a generalized approach), Democrats want the government to provide more services to its people, whereas Republicans want the government to interfere less in people's lives. Both want what is best for peo-

ple; they simply have different ways of getting there. And while there are some issues that are more personal and not simply policy disagreements, it does not change the fact that most people have good intentions and are not actively trying to be malicious towards one another.

It is important to remember that in politics, everyone is fighting for what they believe is right. And while we have different visions of what that is and how it can be achieved, that is not a reason for those of the opposite political party to begin to deeply hate one another. This is a frightening phenomenon that can affect personal relationships, friendships and overall make people less content with those we live and work with.

Women's Soccer: Huskies win double overtime thriller to punch NCAA tournament ticket

by **Brayden Gorski**
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
brayden.gorski@uconn.edu

The UConn women's soccer team defeated Xavier Sunday afternoon in a double overtime victory.

Connecticut only had one real opportunity in the first half of play. First team All-Big East forward Chioma Okafor was in a battle with Big East Defensive Player of the Year, Natalie Bain, all game long. Okafor broke free for a moment against Bain in the 11th minute, sending a shot which hit the side of the net. For the rest of the half, UConn was on the defensive.

UConn goalkeeper Kaitlyn Mahoney was brilliant, keeping the Huskies afloat while the offense was stagnant. Emma Flick took a shot for the Musketeers, which was saved by Mahoney. Later, Samantha Wiehe was wide open, but her shot went directly to Mahoney who made the save. Standout freshman Samantha Erbach made a cross pass which found Regan Dancer. The cross pass put

Mahoney out of position and gave Dancer a semi-open goal opportunity. Mahoney made a great recovery and with the help of Kelly Monaco who deflected Dancer's shot away to Weihe. The senior rifled a shot which Mahoney punched out of bounds with her gloves.

UConn was not so fortunate minutes later as a loose ball forced Mahoney out of the net once again. The ball was tipped and landed at the feet of Wiehe who saw the opportunity and took it. She fired it past the defenders trying to cover for Mahoney and into the left corner for the first Xavier goal of the game.

Wiehe had a shot at a second goal in the first half as Erbach's pass hung in the air long enough for her to make a break on it. Mahoney met the midfielder at the apex and got enough of her body on it to clear the ball out of the box. Right before the half, Reese Slater had the ball centered for her inside of the box. The 2023 Big East Goalkeeper of the Year read Slater like a book and made yet another save.

Xavier took a 1-0 lead into the

second half.

The second half was all UConn starting in the 51st minute when Naia Ocio made a cross pass which Xavier goalie Maria Galley could not read properly. Laci Lewis took advantage of the miscue and slid towards the ball, tipping it in for the equalizer. Lewis, who scored her first ever goal on senior night, picked a great time to score her second career goal.

The Musketeers did not go quietly, as a cross pass set Dancer up with a one-timer. The junior could not get a good foot on it, and her touch went high and out of play. Xavier earned a corner kick later in the half, which was sent into a flurry of players. UConn successfully built a wall of defenders, blocking any shot attempt.

Connecticut then took their turn on the offensive as a free kick was sent to Okafor, whose shot was deflected to Maddie Fried. The Villanova transfer's shot sailed well out of bounds. Okafor was in the mix a few minutes later when she headed a ball in Galley's direction. Her shot was sent away, but it earned

the Huskies a corner kick. Another free kick for UConn almost resulted in a goal as Alayna Taylor and Galley were in a foot race for the dribbling ball. A sliding Galley beat Taylor to it, keeping the Huskies at bay for the moment.

The first of two controversial no-calls took place toward the end of the second half. Fried was taken down in the box and stayed down for a few moments. The Connecticut fans and players wanted a penalty call but received nothing. The fans had to hold their breath again as right before the final whistle blew, Olivia Lawson received a pass right near the net. Mahoney and Monaco were there again to sniff out any possible Xavier opportunity as time expired.

To ensure their spot in the NCAA tournament, all Connecticut needed to do was score one goal and beat a team that they had never beaten in the history of the program.

The first overtime began with Joyce Ryder firing a shot that Galley saved. On the other end, Dancer almost ended it for the Muske-

teers; however, her shot hit the side of the net.

The other controversy came when Okafor took a fall in the box and again, no call was made. Erbach then sent a strike high and out of bounds. One overtime was not enough to determine the winner.

Ocio had a headbutt chance off an Anna Carson free kick, but she got a little too much on it as it landed on the net.

Okafor dropped it off for Taylor a few possessions after the Ocio missed header. Taylor dribbled around the edge of the box before letting an off balance shot fly. The ball continued to travel and went over the head of Galley and into the top right corner.

The Huskies swarmed Taylor and the celebration was on.

For the first time since 2016, the UConn Huskies are going to the NCAA tournament. A monumental moment for head coach Margaret Rodriguez in her seventh season. The first round of the women's NCAA soccer tournament begins on Nov. 15, and fans can find the complete bracket on Monday.



The UConn women's soccer team claimed a 1-0 victory over Seton Hall at Morrone Stadium on Oct. 27, 2024 securing their spot in the BIG EAST Tournament (10-4-4, 4-3-3 BIG EAST). This win marks their 10th of the season, the first time since 2016 that the Huskies have reached double-digit regular season victories.

PHOTO BY SAHANA GANESH, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Soccer: Season likely over in Big East Quarterfinals at No. 25 Providence

by **Sam Calhoun**
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
samuel.calhoun@uconn.edu

UConn men's soccer's season is likely over after a 2-0 loss to No. 25 Providence College in the Big East Quarterfinal round.

The Huskies have not won a game since their Oct. 19 1-0 road victory at Butler University. Since then, they have scored three goals combined in the final four games of the season, shut out in the last two games.

The Friars did not waste any time being aggressive on the attack, firing six shots through the first 25 minutes. Goalkeeper Max Kerkvliet continued to prove why he is in the conversation for Big

East Freshman of the Year, with three of his five saves coming in the first half.

Both teams had a chance to erase the scoreless tie with penalty kicks, but each call was overturned due to VAR reviews. The Huskies had an additional chance in the 35th minute with a free kick by defender Jack Loura, but his shot was saved by Providence goalkeeper Lukas Burns.

Each team had three shots on goal at the midway point, but no one was able to break through.

That was until the 53rd minute, when midfielder Israel Neto found the back of the net for the Salvador, Brazil native's third goal of the season. Neto had a chance in the first half, along

with West Hartford native Pearse O'Brien, but Kerkvliet was able to stop both opportunities.

Midfielder Marco Valentini had an opportunity to even the game at one goal in the 80th minute but could not prevail.

The Friars' lead doubled in the 81st minute, as forward Bruno Rosa converted a penalty kick due to a hand ball in UConn's box. It was the fifth goal of the season for the Cascais, Portugal native.

Despite the Huskies' desperate hopes to climb back into the game, UConn's Big East Championship hopes ended at Chapey Field on Saturday night. Burns was the backbone of the Friars' win, recording his seventh shutout of the season and mak-

ing some pivotal saves late in the game, including a diving save in the 79th minute.

Providence outshot the Huskies 19-13 and had the upper hand on shots on goal, corner kicks and were the more physical team with 14 fouls to Connecticut's 11.

UConn has now lost the last three games to Providence but leads in the series 24-10-2. The Huskies last win in the Ocean State over the Friars happened on Sep. 28, 2016.

Connecticut likely ends the season with an 8-4-6 record overall and a 3-2-3 record in Big East play. If they were to make the NCAA Tournament, their next game would be on Nov. 21. However, that is unlikely.

There was a three-way tie for the team-lead in goals: Scott Testori, Eli Conway and Sabri Hanni. Testori, a Madison, Connecticut native, also led the team in assists and points with four and 12, respectively. Kerkvliet, a Houston, Texas native, allowed 13 goals this season and saved 81.4% of the shots coming his way.

It was the first postseason win for the Friars over UConn. Providence now holds a 6-0 record at home in the Big East Quarterfinals and are 9-3 in home games in the postseason.

Providence's season will continue Thursday, traveling to the Maryland SoccerPlex in Boyds, Maryland to face No. 3 seeded St. John's University.



The Huskies play Akron on Nov. 2. The game ended in a tie, 0-0. PHOTO BY MADISON HENDRICKS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women's Hockey: Huskies drop weekend against Northeastern

by **Jackson Crainich**
HE/HIM/HIS
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
jackson.crainich@uconn.edu

The UConn women's hockey team came into the weekend ranked No. 10 in the country, with a 6-4 record and sitting atop the Hockey East standings with a 5-0 record in conference play.

The matchup between UConn and Northeastern was a rematch of last year's Hockey East Tour-

namment Championship, where Connecticut took the crown, winning 1-0 in overtime.

The Huskies welcomed the unranked Northeastern Huskies to the Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, Connecticut on Friday, Nov. 8.

Both teams had early opportunities to get on the board, as they both found themselves in a power play in the first period, but neither were able to make anything

come of it as both goalies refused to let the puck get past them.

The game continued to be scoreless through the second period, but Northeastern was doing everything right. UConn struggled to get shots off and by the end of the second period, the Huskies had only had nine shots while Northeastern had 26.

Northeastern struck in the third period as junior forward Lily Shannon took a shot that found the back of the net, her third goal of the season and giving her Huskies a one goal lead late in the matchup.

As the game went on, the stellar freshman Lisa Jonsson continued to shut down the net, not letting the puck get past her, as

Northeastern would take the first of the double header, winning 1-0.

Connecticut would need a quick turnaround, as they would travel to Boston the next day to face off against Northeastern again.

Unlike the night before, the scoring started early, as a UConn turnover led to a Skylar Irving goal, giving Northeastern a 1-0 lead in the middle of the first period. While Connecticut was unable to find the net in the first period, the Huskies outshot Northeastern 15-6, drastically different than the night prior.

The second period didn't see much, as no goals were scored, but UConn continued to push offensively and get off 23 shots to

Northeastern's 11.

While Connecticut continued to push in the third period, Jonsson shut down the net for the Huskies again, making 13 saves in the third and final period as Northeastern won 1-0 for the second night in a row.

Jonsson finished the matchup with 37 saves and shutout UConn in back-to-back games, the first time that has happened this season.

Dropping to 6-6 on the season and 5-2 in conference play, the Connecticut Huskies look to bounce back next weekend when they travel to North Andover, Massachusetts and then back home to take on Merrimack in a Hockey East double header.

Sports

Photo of the Day | Shot of the Season



UConn mens basketball faces off University of New Hampshire in Hartford Conn. on Nov. 9, 2024. UConn secured a 39 point lead with a final score of 92-53 at the first XL center game of the year. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Ice Hockey: UConn falls to Merrimack in weekend series

by **Tyler Lato**
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
tyler.lato@uconn.edu

After a weekend full of offensive prowess, the Huskies looked to take their momentum up north to take on fellow Hockey East foes, the Merrimack Warriors, in a two-game weekend series. They played game one on Friday at Lawler Rink in North Andover, Massachusetts; the Warriors then traveled down to the Toscano Ice Forum the following day for game two.

On Friday, Merrimack was able to stifle the hot sticks of the UConn Huskies in a 4-1 win in front of over 2000 fans. The Warriors played a

great game on defense while scoring timely goals to secure a home victory.

In the first period, the Huskies outshot the Warriors 11-9. Despite this, neither team was able to find the back of the net. Huskies junior goaltender Tyler Muszelik put on a show early, hunkering down in the crease and keeping the puck out of the net for the entirety of the period.

However, the Huskies' defense began to bend as Warriors forward Antonio Venuto snuck the puck past the stick of Muszelik for the first goal of the game, bringing the score to 1-0. However, this lead was short-lived. On a power play,

Joey Muldowney found first-year defenseman Trey Scott open to tie the game at 1-1. The game would remain tied for the rest of the period.

It was not until the third period that the Huskies' defense faltered, allowing the Warriors to score three consecutive goals to ice the game. Merrimack's Ethan Bono lit the lamp two times, while David Socco added a goal himself to add to the Warriors' 4-1 win in game one of the series.

Although the Huskies had a home rink advantage for game two, the result was much of the same as Merrimack prevailed by a score of 5-2.

The Warriors jumped on the Huskies early in the first period with a goal from David Socco, giving Merrimack a 1-0 lead for the entire period. Despite many scoring chances, the Huskies' offense failed to capitalize.

In the second period, Caelan Fitzpatrick found Zach Bookman open to add to the Warriors lead. Then, Fitzpatrick took matters into his own hands, finding the back of the net to give Merrimack a 3-0 lead. On a power play, freshman Ethan Gardula found a wide-open Muldowney open to narrow the Warriors lead to two; however, Ethan Bono found the back of the net for his second goal of the week-

end to give his team a 4-1 lead going into the final period.

UConn's Hugh Larkin started the third period off with a bang, bringing the score to 4-2, making the Huskies hopeful for a third period comeback win. Nevertheless, the Huskies' offense remained dormant for the rest of the game, marked by stellar goaltending play by Merrimack's Nills Walstrom. Caden Cranston tacked on an insurance goal at the end of the game, helping Merrimack win 5-2.

The Huskies (5-5-1) look to snap their two-game losing streak on Friday in a thrilling 7 p.m. matchup against perennial powerhouse Boston College.

Football: Huskies secure first winning season since 2010 in comeback bid over UAB

by **Bridget Bronsdon**
SPORTS EDITOR
SHE/HER/HERS
bridget.bronsdon@uconn.edu

The Huskies defeated the University of Alabama at Birmingham 31-23 in a historic comeback campaign to secure their first winning season since 2010.

In their first road win of the season, Connecticut, 7-3, overcame a 17-point deficit at the half to take down the Blazers (2-7) and tie the UConn program record for the largest comeback previously, set in 2003.

The first half was quiet for Connecticut as the only points came from a 26-yard field goal by Chris Freeman late in the first quarter. Though there were some bright moments throughout the first half, including an interception by Cam Chadwick, UConn struggled to capitalize on their moments of

strength.

UAB, on the other hand, earned 20 points in the first half alone, with a field goal in the first quarter complemented by two touchdowns and another field goal in the second. The second quarter was particularly quiet for UConn as they were held to just six passing yards and 43 rushing yards, compared to the Blazers' 43 passing yards and 103 rushing yards.

Heading into the third, Connecticut trailed 20-3 but began to show a subtle change in dynamics midway through. Coming off a 15-play drive, Durell Robinson sealed the deal on a one-yard rush to elevate UConn 20-10. Robinson, who has been a consistent force on the ground this season, finished the contest with a touchdown and 59 yards on 13 carries.

From there, UConn still struggled to find their rhythm whereas

UAB wasn't finished. With just under four minutes left in the third, the Blazers notched a 32-yard field goal to increase their lead to 23-10.

In addition to UConn's unsteady rhythm, they also faced a change in the quarterback position as Nick Evers left with an injury. Joe Fagnano, who has amassed 1071 yards and 13 touchdowns this season, came in as relief. Fagnano proceeded to create a perfect storm in the final quarter to change the tide in favor of Connecticut.

The Huskies came alive with just over eight minutes left in the fourth as they stormed through an eight-play drive to quickly reach red zone territory in just over a minute.

Shamar Porter earned his third touchdown of the season on a six-yard reception from Fagnano on a fourth and goal play, cutting the

Huskies' deficit 23-17. Only needing one more touchdown to take the lead, victory was finally within reach for Connecticut.

The newfound momentum wasn't reserved for just the offense. Just seconds after their touchdown, the Connecticut defense forced a fumble on the opening play of UAB's drive to turn over the ball to the Huskies on the Blazers' 21-yard line.

Just twenty seconds later, Jashaiah Gathings connected with Fagnano and fought against tight coverage in the back of the endzone for a 21-yard reception to elevate the Huskies to 24-23, their first lead of the day. Gathings has consistently been among the top receivers for the Huskies as he's collected 249 yards this season, averaging 24.9 yards per game.

As for the Blazers, the contest wasn't over as they still had over

eight minutes of play left to take back their lead. However, Connecticut shut down any UAB opportunities and forced three-and-outs to shift control into UConn's hands.

UConn's final push came just before the two-minute warning as a massive 48-yard rush up the left sideline from Cam Edwards closed out the Huskies 31-23. From there, Connecticut's defense remained an unbreakable force as they forced a turnover on UAB's final chance with the ball.

The victory officially marks a winning season for Jim Mora's Huskies as they head into the final stretch of the season with just two games left against Syracuse and UMass.

Looking ahead, UConn will be off next weekend but will head to Syracuse, New York to take on the Syracuse Orange on Nov. 23.



UConn football versus Georgia State on Nov. 1, 2024 at the Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field. It was Senior Night for the Huskies, and they fought hard and were able to win with a final score of 34-27. PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women's basketball: Huskies grab Bulls by the horns, beat USF 86-49

by **Jake McCreven**
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
jpm23012@uconn.edu

The UConn women's basketball team defeated South Florida, 86-49, in front of a sold-out Gampel Pavilion crowd on Sun-

day afternoon to improve to 2-0 on the season.

Redshirt senior Paige Bueckers led all scorers with 22 points in just 28 minutes of gametime. Sophomore Ashlynn Shade scored 15 points, 12 of which came in the second half. Third

leading scorer Sarah Strong tallied 13 points in the Huskies 37-point victory.

Kaitlyn Chen found redshirt sophomore Ice Brady for the game's first points off the tip, and Brady scored again after a second chance rebound to put the Huskies in front 4-0.

"I think she's been really solid and really patient," said head coach Geno Auremma, "and she's going to make some of, you know, 15, 17-footers which will really change the way we play." Brady scored the game's first two baskets and

finished with eight points on 4/5 shooting, playing nearly 23 minutes of gametime.

Bueckers got on the board with an early three pointer which forced USF to take a timeout not even two minutes into the game, as the Bulls started 1/7 from the field and UConn raced to a 9-0 lead.

The Huskies ended the first quarter with a 19-13 lead but shot just 1/6 from three. Auremma addressed this postgame saying "I'd still like to maybe get 25 threes every night, but I know, a bucket's a

bucket."

Jana El Alfy started the second quarter scoring with a post hook, putting the Huskies up eight before Paige Bueckers extended the lead to 10 with a shot-clock-beater on the next possession. USF climbed within six points four minutes into the period, aided by Sammie Puisis' seven points off the bench, before Chen and Bueckers found the basket from the interior to start a 16-4 Husky run to end the half.

For more of the story visit [DAILYCAMPUS.COM](https://www.dailycampus.com)

Brayden's Breakdown: Predicting the winners of college basketball's best invitationals

by **Brayden Gorski**
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
brayden.gorski@uconn.edu

As the college basketball season kicks off, teams' non-conference schedules can determine their direction for the entire season. While some teams like to schedule "buy" games against lower Division 1 teams to pick up easy wins, others challenge themselves against NCAA-tournament-level teams outside of their conference. These neutral-site tournaments have opportunities for teams to pick up early Quad 1 and 2 wins for their resume come March when they could see themselves on the bubble of tournament play. Now that the implications are set for all teams, here are four CBB invitational tournaments and who I predict will be the winner.

Maui Invitational: UConn
Every year, the Maui Invitational brings the biggest and baddest teams to Hawaii and this year is no exception. Every team but Colorado is ranked inside of the top 35 in the KenPom rankings, and four teams are nationally ranked by the Associated Press. UConn definitely has the "easier" path to the finals, as all they have to do is beat Penny Hardaway's Memphis squad and the winner of Michigan State versus Colorado. Auburn and Iowa State will be an early Game of the Year contender. The winner of that bloodbath will have the pleasure of playing either North Carolina or Dayton.

The two-time defending national champion Connecticut Huskies come into Maui with a massive target on their back. To be the best, you have to beat the best and teams bring their A-game every night against the Huskies. Dan Hurlley and his squad have never backed down from a challenge and have looked great in the first two games of the season.

Alex Karaban became the first player to record 20 points,

seven assists and seven blocks in a Division 1 game since 2003. He followed that performance up with a 17-point, four-block outing against UNH. Michigan transfer Tarris Reed Jr. has been a beast on the glass, grabbing 11 boards in the opening game and adding eight in the second. Reed also contributed



UConn mens basketball faces the University of New Hampshire in Hartford Conn. on Nov. 9, 2024. UConn secured a 39 point lead with a final score of 92-53 at the first XL Center game of the year.
PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

double figures in the scoring department for the Huskies.

Top recruit Liam McNeeley's college career got off to a hot start against Sacred Heart. The Texas native dropped 18 and 10 on Wednesday, then followed it up with another double-double on Saturday. UConn's depth is once again a key factor as 2024 Big East Sixth Man Award Hassan Diarra is joined by Jaylin Stewart and Jayden Ross on the bench. If Connecticut can stay healthy and wear off just a bit of championship rust, a Maui Invitational championship should not be out of reach.

Shriners Children's Hospital Charleston Classic: Miami

The 2023-2024 season was a disappointment for the Hurricanes after the two greatest seasons in program history. Back-to-back Elite Eight appearances and a Final Four appearance in 2023 had the Canes trending in the right direction. Unfortunately, they lost players such as 2023 ACC Player

of the Year Isaiah Wong, Clippers draft pick Jordan Miller and four key transfers. A 15-17 season and a first-round exit in the ACC tournament led head coach Jim Larranaga to hit the transfer portal. Miami added seven transfers including four graduate students headlined by the Stetson transfer Jalen

just missed the NCAA tournament last year. However, a loss to Fordham at home is not the way you want to get your season started if you are Shaheen Holloway and the Pirates. VCU is the highest rated team according to the KenPom rankings. Ryan Odom's Rams have a chance to knock off the Hurricanes, but Miami's experience could challenge Virginia Commonwealth. Miami should be crowned champions if players like Blackmon and Pack show up and show out.

Myrtle Beach Invitational: Princeton

The Myrtle Beach Invitational seems to be a three-team battle for the crown. Princeton, Bradley and South Florida are some of the best mid-major teams in the country heading into the 2024-2025 season. Tragically, South Florida's head coach Amir Abdur-Rahim passed away just weeks before the season started. The Bulls had one of their best seasons in program history in 2023-2024; however, it would make sense if they are not 100% after the loss of their head coach.

Bradley is always in the mix of the MVC. With a 22-11 record last year, they were right back in the conference semifinals before losing to the eventual champions Drake. This year, Bradley is the consensus No. 1 in the MVC, sporting a very deep roster under head coach Brian Wardle. The Braves were handed their first loss of the season to a Washington State team ranked right below them in the KenPom rankings. They have two more chances to get back on track before facing Texas State at Myrtle Beach.

Riding high off their Sweet Sixteen berth in the 2023 NCAA Tournament, Princeton looked poised for another great run in 2024. Those hopes would be dashed from them as Brown University stunned them in the Ivy League semifinals. The Tigers have not let this diminish any hopes for the upcoming

season, retaining their two best players from the 24-4 season last year. Ivy League Player of the Year Caden Pierce and star point guard Xaivian Lee returned to Princeton looking to do damage this March. Head coach Mitch Henderson and his squad kick off against Wright State at Myrtle Beach and can add some hardware to the trophy closet by ripping off three wins in South Carolina.

Hawaii Airlines Diamond Head Classic: Loyola Chicago

This one is a real toss-up between Nebraska and Loyola Chicago, but the Ramblers' experience and coaching should put them past the Cornhuskers. Since this is not until Christmas time, the tournament also has a "time will tell" factor which could benefit or hinder every team's chances.

Loyola Chicago used the transfer portal to their advantage despite losing guard Braden Norris. Drexel transfer Justin Moore could fill the gap left by Norris' departure. The junior averaged 12.4 points and a steal last season for the Dragons. Francis Nwaokorie is also an intriguing transfer, coming over from UCSD. The big man averaged at least 11 points in all three seasons at UCSD, along with at least 5.5 rebounds a game every year. Coach Drew Valentine returned some key pieces for the 2024-2025 season. Des Watson is back after leading the team in scoring, Jayden Dawson has taken a bigger offensive role and Sheldon Edwards Jr. has continued his steady play from last season. The Ramblers' first opponent in the Diamond Head Classic is the depleted Oakland Grizzlies who lost Jack Gohlke and Trey Townsend among others.

Another team in the classic is the College of Charleston, who lost head coach Pat Kelsey to Louisville. Rounding out the tournament field is Oregon State, Murray State, Charlotte and Hawaii.

Field Hockey: UConn heads to the NCAA tournament after winning the Big East championship

by **Tyler Pruneau**
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
tyler.pruneau@uconn.edu

The UConn field hockey team took home a pair of wins against Liberty and Temple over the weekend to become the 2024 Big East Champions and added their 17th title to the trophy case.

Coming into Friday's challenge, UConn and Liberty knew each other all too well after facing off two weeks ago. In the regular season, defending impacted the contest immensely for both teams and this weekend's matchup told the same story. Keeping the score close, the Huskies shot 10 for five on goal and Liberty took eight for four on goal.

Connecticut immediately drove the ball down the field and took the opportunity to get on the board first. No. 11 Milou Heuker attempted a shot, followed by a block by keeper Michaela Skinner. Failing to get any shots off for the rest of the quarter, the Huskies saw nothing but substitutes.

Unlike UConn, the Flames had a different outcome to end the first quarter. Using a penalty corner to their advantage, No. 32 Dara Semmartin scored the first goal of the Big East semi-finals. Nearly deflected by the keeper, Natalie McKenna, the ball managed to get into the top right bin.

Entering the second quarter, the Huskies once again wasted no time getting into Liberty's territory. After the referees awarded Connecticut with three consecutive penalty corners, tying up the contest looked to be on the horizon. Luck was not on UConn's side, as No. 12 Julia Bressler's attempt was

blocked. In addition, Skinner saved both of No. 21 Sophie Perschk's shots. After deflecting Perschk's second shot, No. 4 Juul Sauer made an effort to redirect the ball into the goal. Hitting a mid-

halftime, the score remained 1-0, Liberty.

Trading shots in the beginning of the third quarter, neither team found the back of the net. Less than five minutes later, No. 7 Olivia McK-

tage, the Huskies almost gave the ball away on a bad pass by No. 13 Isabel Soeters. Luckily, the ball bounced off the defender's stick, rolling to Perschk and knocking it in for the lead. Unable to respond

five times and shooting three on goal, Temple nearly shut down Connecticut's offense.

Embarking on the first quarter, neither team generated much offense in the defensive battle. Taking two shots with one on goal, Temple's keeper, No. 16 Isabella Ospitale, denied the early gain attempt, keeping the contest even.

For the entire first half, McKenna sat back in the net relaxing as the Huskies deconstructed the Owls' offense. Temple failed to test out the water as every attempt made was declined. In addition, No. 20 Mathéa Lassalle got a green card in the second quarter. Unable to find success with the edge UConn had, the contest remained scoreless at the half.

Connecticut then pressured Temple early in the third quarter. The pressure paid off as the Owls blocked Perschk's shot illegally, leading to a penalty stroke. Seeking to overturn the call, head coach Michelle Vittese challenged the ruling on the field but failed. Bressler, who succeeded with penalties in past showdowns, took the shot and found the back of the net, putting UConn on top.

Trailing by one in the third, Temple jumped right back, looking for an equalizer. Earning two penalty corners, Connecticut stood their ground, denying the Owls' attempts. Coming down to the final three minutes in the fourth, the team acquired another three corners. Preventing Temple from bringing this into overtime, UConn stood strong, ending the game and becoming Champions.

The 2024 season is not over for the Huskies yet as they head to the NCAA tournament.



UConn Field Hockey takes on Syracuse University for senior night in Storrs Conn. on Oct. 27, 2024. Despite Syracuse's 3-1 win over UConn, it was evident that the team played as hard as they could and honored their seniors.
PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

air shot, the ball missed the net, going out of bounds.

Playing stellar defense, the Huskies only allowed the Flames to get one shot off during the second quarter. Looking for their second goal off another corner, McKenna intercepted those plans. The keeper repelled the ball by sticking her leg out. Striving for redemption off the rebound, Liberty failed as McKenna made a diving save, pushing the ball out of the shooting circle. Heading into

enna found an opportunity and took the ball up the field. Passing to Bressler, the forward found Sauer, who transferred the ball over to No. 23 Juana Garcia, tapping it in and putting UConn on the board.

Approaching the end of the third quarter, No. 12 Martu Cian for Liberty was given a green card. The team was forced to play with one less player for two minutes, putting them at a disadvantage. While trying to take advan-

with another goal, Connecticut moved on to the Big East finals against Temple.

Breaking down the nail-biting championship match, both defenses once again played a key role in keeping the score close. Outshooting UConn with four more attempts, Temple struggled with accuracy as they only aimed for the goal three times. As for the Huskies, taking their openings for granted was not an option. Seeing the opponent's net



Sports

Men's Basketball: No. 3 Connecticut breezes by Wildcats 92-53 in XL Center home opener

by **Connor Sargeant**

ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR
HE/HIM/HIS
connor.sargeant@uconn.edu

Riding high off a solid and, in many ways, complete performance in their season opener at Gampel Pavilion, the UConn men's basketball team returned to action last Saturday. Ultimately, the program came ahead, routing the UNH Wildcats 92-53. While the Huskies got the job done in front of the Hartford crowd, the journey to get there was anything but ideal.

The first 20 minutes of Saturday's contest was a basketball coach's worst nightmare. Sloppy cross-court passes, ugly fouls and poor shooting from both sides on all spots of the floor. However, the most significant problem surrounded center Samson Johnson. In the program's last campaign, the Togo native struggled with fouling, frequently sitting on the bench as a result, and Saturday was no different. After scoring the first bucket of the night on a baby hook, the UConn big man picked a pair of fouls within the first four minutes, meaning that Tarris Reed Jr.'s night was starting a bit earlier than expected. Despite being summoned early, Reed Jr. answered the call, which was a significant reason why the program led by 11 at the end of the half. The Michi-

gan transfer accumulated seven points and five rebounds in 10 minutes of play. However, similar to Johnson, Reed Jr. picked up two fouls of his own, meaning that head coach Dan Hurley opted for a "small ball lineup."

With Alex Karaban taking charge at the five, the program did lack its usual advantage in the rebounding department, snagging only three more boards than the Wildcats. As is common in early season basketball, there are still some kinks to be worked out, and plenty of film for the UConn coaching staff to churn over.

While UNH only shot 30.8% from the field, the Huskies got lucky on some of these misfires. Connecticut had numerous defensive breakdowns, often on the fast break where players did not know their assignments, and a shooter would trail the play for a three at the top of the key. Luckily for the Huskies, the Wildcats went 1-9 from downtown in the first 20 minutes. Similarly, Connecticut struggled to find its mark from beyond the arc. After starting 0-9, the program took 11 minutes to sink its first triple, thanks to Karaban. That was the Massachusetts native's only made three for the first half, but he made game winning plays on both sides of the ball. Karaban continued his defensive assault

from the last game, swatting a pair of layups and a jump shot. Not to mention, his offensive presence was noticeable. He did an excellent job at blowing by his defender and getting into an advantageous position, as evidenced by his four fouls drawn and 6-6 slash from the charity stripe.

Despite Karaban's positive performance, the program took a minute to get going, which is a big reason UNH led for nearly nine minutes. Karaban noted that these first-half struggles are attributed to simply not playing up to the UConn standard and not meshing as well as the program can.

"Just defensively, [we] didn't get out and guard the way that we were supposed to or expected to," Karaban told media personnel. "Offensively, we didn't click as well as we wanted to. We didn't execute at the level that we needed."

When it was all said and done, Connecticut finished under 40% from the field and 15% from downtown. Despite this, the Wildcats did not shoot much better, finishing worse in both regards.

The second half of this contest started similarly to the first: poor defense and lackluster offense. Yet Karaban's concerns were partially alleviated as time went on, as the program started

to put the pieces together.

While box score-wise, Solo Ball had a nearly identical second half to his first 20 minutes, the guard's offensive contributions wore down the UNH defense bit by bit, allowing Connecticut to keep its foot on the gas and run away with this contest. Ball demonstrated his strengths as a slasher at a high level, finishing a tough and-one at the rim despite eating some solid contact. Liam McNeeley also showed that he isn't afraid to go in and get a difficult bucket, getting to the free-throw line on two separate occasions. However, the second half belonged to Jayden Ross.

Ross accumulated 12 points on 5-8 shooting, including 2-4 from beyond the arc. Hurley noted that he believes these are the types of performances the program needs and expects from him.

"We've got to invest in Ross. That's what a big wing, UConn guard, from an athleticism talent standpoint, that's what it's supposed to look like. His second half, that's what it's supposed to look like," Hurley noted postgame.

The turning point that seemed to destroy any momentum that the Wildcats had came at the 10:33 mark. Hassan Darrar threw a perfect lob to Jaylin Stewart on the fastbreak,

and the Seattle native slammed it home, giving the Huskies a 21-point lead, their largest advantage of the night. This got the XL Center crowd into the game, and the program started playing its most complete basketball all night long.

Thanks to the performance of players like Ross and even Karaban's eight second-half points, the Huskies began to run away with the contest, and it seemed that whoever touched the rock found the bottom of the net. UConn's 63.6% performance from the field and 46.7% from illustrates this story perfectly.

Saturday was far from Connecticut's best showing. Hurley, Karaban and the rest of the program were very open about this and acknowledged that the team still has some growing to do. However, it's hard not to notice the high level that Karaban is playing at or the fact that the team wore down UNH over time, going on a 12-1 run to close out the last four minutes of a nearly 40-point win.

The Huskies return to action this Wednesday, Nov. 13, back at the XL Center to host Le Moyne. While Connecticut is expected to cruise to victory, there is a higher standard that Hurley and the Huskies want to play at, and their matchup against Le Moyne is the perfect opportunity for them to showcase their most complete 40 minutes of basketball.

McCreven's Mashup: Previewing the top college basketball games of the week

by **Jake McCreven**

STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
jpm23012@uconn.edu

Admittedly, some of these games are nothing more than my personal favorites picked from the vast expanse of mid-week mid-major college basketball games. There's nothing wrong with that — college basketball is still college basketball.

Below are five college basketball games throughout the week of Nov. 10-17 bound to have an influence come March. Each game is complete with a date, time and network.

Villanova (2-1) @ Saint Joseph's (1-1) - Nov. 12, 5PM CBSSN

Both teams enter the annual Big 5 Classic with a disheartening early season loss — Villanova to Columbia and SJU to Central Connecticut — but can readjust early season blunders with a win against a city rival.

Saint Joseph's is championed by its backcourt which includes Erik Reynolds II and Derek Simpson, as well as youngster Xzayvier Brown who splits time with Simpson at the point. Coach Billy Lange prefers playing all three guards at the same time, which creates a natural small-ball-quick-pace mind-

set on Hawk Hill. The addition of Harvard big Justice Ajogbor has been huge — literally — down low.

Inversely, the Wildcats center its, at times, sluggish offensive attack around forward Eric Dixon, who has scored 33 and 22 points in the two games he has played. Wing Wooga Poplar has been a solid second option but needs to find consistency in order for the Wildcats to sustain success offensively.

A Big East team looking to reprove itself and an Atlantic-10 team looking to take the next step under a veteran head coach in an inner-city, annual rivalry grudge match — what else can a college basketball fan ask for?

No. 7 Duke (2-0) vs. No. 23 Kentucky (2-0) - Nov. 12, 9PM ESPN

Both programs are newly rebuilt and feature budding stars that contribute on both ends of the court. The Blue Devils have disposed of both of their two opponents thus far and UK has scored 100 points in each of their first two contests.

The Blue Devils' chippy offensive attack is honed in on the frontcourt, which features potential lottery picks at each position in Cooper Flagg and Khaman Maluach. The shooting of fellow

freshman Kon Knueppel has been a pleasant surprise early, and the veteran leadership in a backcourt featuring Caleb Foster and Tyrese Proctor completes Duke's star-studded roster.

Mark Pope opted to build his first roster in Lexington through the transfer portal, nabbing notable names such as Lamont Butler, Jaxson Robinson, Koby Brea and Amari Williams to complete one of the more potent offensive attacks in the SEC.

Both teams will be tested on their ability to match-up with higher-tiered competition, especially a Duke team starting three freshmen.

No. 2 Alabama (2-0) @ No. 14 Purdue (2-0) - Nov. 15, 7PM PEAC

The two Final Four squads that did not meet last March will face off in West Lafayette in an early season clash between two of the best offenses in high-major college basketball.

Alabama is led by All-American guard Mark Sears who is averaging 19.5 points per game, as well as feisty forward Grant Baker and towering big Cliff Omoruyi in the frontcourt. The Tide bolster one of the most explosive offenses in all of basketball and have — thus far — improved on the defensive

end.

Purdue returns a chunk of backcourt experience but looks to replace the void opened by Zach Edey's departure. Two seven-footers will help. The Boilermakers have the same makeup of last season's team and will contend among the goliaths in the Big 10.

Grand Canyon (1-0) vs. Arizona State (2-0) - Nov. 14, 9PM ESPN2

Tyon Grant-Foster's return aids the Lopes' hopes at returning — and winning another game — in the NCAA Tournament. The Sun Devils rebuilt a large portion of their roster this offseason but have looked efficient in games one and two.

Grand Canyon barnstormed the country after plowing through Saint Mary's last March. The return of most key pieces and the addition of JaKobe Coles from TCU pits the Antelopes among the top mid-major contenders and in prime position for a regular season upset.

The Sun Devils won each of their first two games by seven points, which warrants concern from a box score point of view, but peeling away the statistical face reveals that ASU is an extremely efficient squad that is respectable to runs due to poor transitional

defense.

An upset — no matter who is favored — is likely. Both teams are almost equal talent-wise, but execution will be key in Tempe.

Arkansas Little Rock (1-1) @ Arkansas State (1-1) - Nov. 12, 8PM ESPN+

This was the game that spurred my introduction. Both teams have already suffered losses, and the game will only be available through ESPN+. Yet, this game holds immense impact on the power rankings of mid-major college basketball.

The Trojans enter Tuesday's game with a split record after a loss to Winthrop crushed their pre-season momentum. Little Rock's roster is chock full of high-turned-mid major transfers, including former LSU forward Mwani Wilkinson, which gives Little Rock potency on the offensive end and toughness on defense.

The Red Wolves hung around with No. 2 Alabama until midway through the second half before slipping away and falling to 1-1. A strong backcourt duo of Taryn Todd and Derrian Ford spearheads the Red Wolves' scoring, as Arkansas State looks to rebound better so they can stick around with the bigger teams in the Sun Belt.



UConn mens basketball faces the University of New Hampshire in Hartford Conn. on Nov. 9, 2024. UConn secured a 39 point lead with a final score of 92-53 at the first XL Center game of the year. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS