



Chancellor of Connecticut State college system being investigated for lavish spending

by Patrick Boots
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In an era of budget cuts and restructuring, college administrators in Connecticut claim to be doing everything they can to help keep schools afloat. State leaders announced they will be initiating an audit of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system and its chancellor, Terrence Cheng, after reports of controversial spending decisions. Before Cheng took the post with the CSCU, he was the campus director of UConn Stamford, a position he held from 2016 through 2021.

"The tone-deaf champagne tastes of Chancellor Cheng are not a good look for the chancellor or for the CSCU system," said senator Stephen Harding to the press.

Cheng oversees the CSCU system, which comprises the four state universities (Eastern, Southern, Western, and Central), Charter Oak State College Online, and the 12 community and technical colleges, which are in the midst of consolidation. Although CSCU is a separate body from the University of Connecticut, certain

decisions in procurement, interoperability agreements and finances are shared between that system and UConn.

Using documents and information obtained from a Freedom of Information (FOIA) request, reporters at the Stamford Advocate published a detail on Cheng's purchases including hundreds of dollars in meals and chauffeur services from his home in Westchester, N.Y. As part of his contract with the state, Cheng was provided a state vehicle and a \$71,000 stipend with the expectation he would move to Connecticut. He's also provided \$25,000 annually for "housing and entertainment expenses."

So far, he's been renting an apartment in Hartford-but he doesn't use it all the time. A recent interview indicates that he still uses his New York residence as his primary address.

"I believe myself and others feel he should be here in the state of Connecticut," said Richard Balducci, a member of the Board of Regents, the group that oversees CSCU and works with the state, in the Stamford Advocate report. At UConn, the Board of Trustees would be the equivalent body.

Governor Ned Lamont an-

nounced on Oct. 25 that the state comptroller's office would initiate an independent audit on CSCU's financial management and hopes a comprehensive review can be furnished. His announcement said the main purpose of the inquiry would be to "assess whether public funds have been managed in accordance with state financial policies and in alignment with the educational mission of the CSCU system," with itemized purchases and review of meals and vehicle usage part of the request.

Earlier this year, Cheng was lambasted by the leadership of Eastern State Connecticut University through a vote of no confidence. According to the ECSU senate's statement as reported on by the CT Mirror, they believe the CSCU system has been mismanaged under Cheng's direction.

Adam Joseph, vice chancellor for external affairs at CSCU, said at the time to the CT Mirror that "administrators recognize the uncertainty faculty at all levels are feeling."

The merger of the state's community colleges into one institution, originally devised as a way for CSCU to save money during former system



Terrence Cheng, the chancellor of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system. Cheng serves more than 85,000 students in the state of Conn. PHOTO COURTESY OF CT.EDU

president Mark Ojakian's tenure, was handed off to Cheng and resulted in over 100 layoffs and various internal changes at the 12 campuses, according to reporting by the Norwalk Hour and Connecticut Post.

Any information contained in the state comptroller's investigation into CSCU will be made public. No changes to

Cheng's position or current allowances are planned, but he said in a statement to the Stamford Advocate that he is looking to improve.

"This is one of those moments, right, where you learn as you're doing your job," said Cheng.

The Halloween Ladybug Swarm: Why it happens and how to get rid of them

by Gianna Salisbury
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Marie Woodward first encountered a ladybug swarm when she moved into her 200-year-old house in Columbia, Conn. in the fall of 2013. At the time, she was a dental hygienist and had no idea why dozens of these bugs were collecting in the corners of her ceilings.

Woodward, now retired from dental hygiene, works for the University of Connecticut's Home and Garden Education Center as a horticultural educator since receiving her master gardener certificate from the UConn Extension Service. At the center, she has studied why this annual swarm occurs.

The ladybugs that swarmed her home then continue to swarm Connecticut homes and UConn dorms every fall as the weather begins to cool, according to Woodward. However, these are not the typical ladybugs one may think of. According to the UConn Home and Garden Education Center website, the ladybugs people find in their homes around this time are known as Asian Lady Beetles, which are an invasive species. Because of their timely appearance, these bugs are known as the "Halloween lady beetle."

These lady beetles are small, sizing from one-third to two-thirds of an inch, can have a varying number of spots rang-

ing from zero to 20. They can also be a wide array of colors, including pale yellow, brown, bright orange, red, black or mustard, according to the Home and Garden Education Center website.

Woodward stated that these bugs are harmless and beneficial to the environment, but the sheer number of them has become an inconvenience for many Connecticut residents, as they seek warmth by coming through the cracks and openings in people's homes.

"When the weather starts to drop, they start looking for ways to get warm to over winter. They don't die after the first frost. They want to go hunker down," said Woodward.

According to the Home and Garden Education Center website, after the first frost, the lady beetles will overwinter in trees, leaf litter, logs or other protected areas. These protected areas can include people's homes.

"While looking for overwintering sites, it tends to cluster in hundreds or thousands on rocks, houses or other structures. It favors light colors and sunny, southwest exposures. It usually leaves on its own in a few days or weeks," the website reads.

Once winter hits, the lady beetles will often find their overwintering spots in the crevices of houses, Woodward stated. Most homeowners never know they are there.

Once spring comes around and the weather begins to warm, the lady beetles will start to reemerge looking for ways out of the house so they can eat and lay their eggs, said Woodward.

"They're going to start looking for a way out because they're hungry and looking for food. They just want to get out of there. That happened to me this spring. They're flying all over my bedroom walls," said Woodward.

Aaliyah Reid, a sixth-semester political science student, experienced the Halloween swarm starting two weeks ago in her Busby Suites dorm. She explained that around the second week in October, she found dozens of them crawling on her ceiling.

"I was scared of the ladybugs, so I was a little freaked out that they were in our rooms, and we couldn't do anything about them," said Reid.

Since then, they have slowly disappeared, but she stated that she will find one on the ceiling every once in a while, and will remove it by capturing it in a cup and putting it outside.

Woodward recommended that those who wish to remove these bugs from their homes use a vacuum.

"Your best way to control them is a vacuum cleaner. All you have to do is vacuum them up, put them in a garbage bag, and then take the garbage bag outside right away, or they're

going to go back where they were," said Woodward.

She also stated that you should not crush them, as they will start to reflex bleed, releasing an odor that can stain walls and furniture.

"What they will do if you smash them, or hit them like a fly, is they will release an odor which is called reflex bleeding, and it's actually from their joints. It's like a yellow and orange [and] is pretty unpleasant," explained Woodward.

She also recommended not using Raid or any kind of insecticides, as it will not do anything to the lady beetles and hurt the person more than anything else.

Woodward explained that although these bugs may be annoying, they are not dan-

gerous they are beneficial to the environment, as they help control the population of the aphid bug, which is harmful to some plants.

These bugs were first introduced to America to control the aphid bug back in 1916 according to Woodward, and were suspected to have come over on ships through imported goods from Asia. The population of Asian Lady Beetles was not found in America until 1988 in Louisiana, near a port of New Orleans, said Woodward.

More information on the Asian Lady Beetle can be found on the Home and Garden Education Center website and Woodward encourages anyone with questions to reach out through both phone and email.



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NEWSLETTER

News

The Circle arrives at UConn as its newest social networking app

by **Samantha Brody**

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The University of Connecticut recently had a new piece of technology join the group of communications-based mobile apps in the form of The Circle. Developed by UConn student Nicholas Elsener, The Circle is a social network for UConn students specifically.

The Circle functions like many other apps of its kind, giving students the opportunity to create a personalized account from which they can post, send direct messages, interact with others and much more. The Circle is also synced with UConn's dining menu, allowing students to see menus

from different dining halls without leaving the app.

"The Circle was inspired by a desire to create a more genuine, campus-centric social network," said Elsener via email. "Many existing platforms can feel too broad or impersonal, Yik Yak pretty much only allows you to post anonymously, and I wanted to create a campus social media app that is more personal, giving students a space to connect, share, and talk about campus-specific topics in real time."

One notable aspect of The Circle is its ability to create a web of user connections, also called Circle. Once a user has made a few friends on the app, The Circle will create a web of connections, allowing the user to see and

reach out to friends of friends.

When discussing the creation of the app itself, Elsener said "the process took several months, as I wanted to create something that would be both easy to use and meaningful for students. Testing, refining, and responding to user feedback has also been a big part of it."

Despite this long development period, The Circle is still changing and growing as Elsener adds features and refines others.

"I would definitely say the app is still in development and I hope to improve it with every new update," he said. "Future updates may include more interactive features, enhanced user customization, and even collaborations with campus organizations. I plan on allow-

ing video uploads next week, for example."

Elsener has primarily marketed the app through posters, which can be found throughout campus. Each one depicts an orange and purple circle—the app's logo—and many promise giveaways alongside their QR codes to download the app.

"I've used a few different strategies beyond just posters," said Elsener. "I have tried doing giveaways and paid referral codes, but I've found that these two haven't really been as successful as just the posters despite money being involved. I have done events in the Union and Fairfield Way where I would give away Krispy Kreme donuts in exchange for downloading the app, and those have

been very successful."

As for how Elsener views The Circle himself, he said "I think The Circle can serve as a central hub for students to connect over shared interests, stay updated with campus events, and just feel more connected with each other. It's a place where students can feel comfortable expressing themselves and discussing things that matter to them on campus."

Elsener currently plans on adding a club discovery feature, allowing students to see the communities within clubs and determine if they would be a good fit.

UConn to receive new electric and hybrid buses

by **Pierce Colfer**

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The Windham Regional Transit District, which operates the University of Connecticut's bus system, is set to receive two electric buses and nine hybrid buses from the State of Connecticut, according to UConn Today. This comes amid an initiative from the state to pursue cleaner energy options to reduce carbon emissions.

This transition to cleaner energy options from UConn coincides with their goal to attain carbon neutrality by 2030 and to become net carbon zero by 2040. According to Stan Nolan, UConn's interim associate vice president for facilities operations, "transportation is a critical piece in the puzzle at UConn as we work towards [those goals]."

"Transitioning our university vehicles to models that operate on more sustainable fuel sources will significantly enhance our progress, along with providing amenities like the charging sta-

tions to support and encourage others to adopt green-friendly transportation in our community," said Nolan to UConn Today.

The two electric buses will begin running in the 2025 spring semester, while the nine hybrid buses are currently on order.

The electric buses don't produce any tailpipe emissions and "provide all the features that today's students need for a comfortable and productive ride," according to UConn Today. These features include three-position bicycle racks, phone charging ports, comfortable silica cushion seats and on-board electronic information displays.

About three-quarters of UConn vehicles currently run on fossil fuels, though that number has been decreasing. According to UConn Today, UConn has been attempting to replace vehicles that run on gasoline or diesel with cleaner options once those vehicles reach the end of their serviceable lives. Many more of those vehicles will be taken off the road in coming years.

In addition to new buses, the University of Connecticut is in

the process of installing multiple electric vehicle charging stations across the Storrs campus, UConn Health and other locations across the state, according to UConn Today.

Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont issued an executive order in 2021 that aimed to "reduce carbon emission" and "adapt to the climate crisis," according to the State of Connecticut's website. This has led to initiatives from the Connecticut Department of Transportation and the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection to transition from diesel to zero-emission models.

These buses are a part of the state's hope to transition at least 30 percent of the medium and heavy-duty transit fleet statewide to electric by 2030, and 100 percent by 2035.

Other initiatives that the Connecticut Department of Transit has started, besides the purchasing of electric and hybrid buses are installing a hydrogen fuel dispenser at Storrs next spring and replacing 24 aging utility fleet vehicles with hydrogen-fueled models.



One of UConn's new hybrid buses that they've begun rolling out across the Storrs campus. These buses contribute to UConn's effort to become more green and sustainable.. PHOTO COURTESY OF SYDNEY HERDLER/UCONN TODAY

Earlier this year, UConn announced the 2024 Sustainability Action Plan, which includes a net carbon zero by 2040. These buses were included in that action plan as UConn continues to reach this goal.

For more information on

the 2024 Sustainability Action Plan, visit Stephanie Reitz's statement in UConn Today from April 2024. For more information on UConn's buses, visit the UConn Transportation Services website or contact them at 860-456-2223.

The Daily Campus

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- ACROSS**
- 1 State that's easy to draw
 - 5 South American bean
 - 10 Loyalty program level
 - 14 Post-WWII alliance
 - 15 Celebrity gossip source since 1991
 - 16 Princess athlete in the 1976 Summer Olympics
 - 17 Air quality factor
 - 18 *Pop-up shop on the edge of the road?
 - 20 Device called a "cashpoint" in the U.K.
 - 21 Matching
 - 22 Stellar
 - 23 *Underground market for home goods?
 - 26 Court tie
 - 27 Host
 - 28 Forensic profiling material
 - 30 Solstice mo.
 - 31 Corp. head
 - 33 Ripe old ___
 - 34 "___ we forget"
 - 35 *Butcher's knife that's very hard to handle?
 - 38 Chop garlic, say
 - 40 Address bar character
 - 41 Car wheel part
 - 42 Coxswain's lack
 - 43 Pressure meas.
 - 44 Justice Sotomayor
 - 48 Feudal lord
 - 50 *Snuck up on a chicken coop to collect breakfast?
 - 54 Bringing up the rear
 - 56 Hindu honorifics
 - 57 Truly regret
 - 58 Give clear directions, or how to make the starred clues match their answers?
 - 60 ___ Williams bourbon
 - 61 Ale holder
 - 62 Thrill to bits
 - 63 Stitch up
 - 64 Supersmall
 - 65 Many a forty-niner

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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54				55		56				57		
58					59				60			
61				62					63			
64				65					66			

By Renee Thomason & Katie Hale 11/1/24

- 66 Bank for mil. families
- DOWN**
- 1 In need of a Mr. Yuk sticker
 - 2 Instrument also known as a chuangong
 - 3 Infinitesimal
 - 4 Selfish type
 - 5 Labor leader Chavez
 - 6 Inner self, to Jung
 - 7 Surrendered
 - 8 Veneration
 - 9 Mae's sister on "Star Wars: The Acolyte"
 - 10 Decorator's asset
 - 11 Unwelcome visitor
 - 12 Intertwines
 - 13 Word on some campaign posters
 - 19 MyPlate org.
 - 21 Heifer's brother
 - 24 Summary
 - 25 Polygon part
 - 29 Not far
 - 32 Probability calculations
 - 33 Key not found on a Mac
 - 34 Finger bowl slice

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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

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- 35 "Let's check the map"
- 36 Spiral
- 37 Exchange program papers
- 38 Future Hill worker's maj., maybe
- 39 Slicker accompaniment
- 43 Wasp, for one
- 45 Jitters
- 46 Tropical lizard
- 47 Meeting list
- 49 Nervously clumsy
- 51 Egyptian market city
- 52 Furious
- 53 Person eager to tackle home improvement projects, briefly
- 55 Those folks
- 59 New Haven student
- 60 Petting zoo bird

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

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

Solution to Thursday's puzzle 11/1/24

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

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

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Life

HALLOWEEN CANDY TIER LIST

Can you name a more cheerful food than candy? Sweetness, bite-sized packaging and vibrant marketing are all staples of the candy industry, but the options have become so plentiful that as Halloween season rolls around, shoppers are often left stumped as to what to purchase. So, in this Life collaborative piece, writers suggest good candies to treat yourself to this season.

by Benjamin Lassy

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I am a happy man when holidays and seasons make copious amounts of candy consumption appear normal. When splurging on candy is in vogue, you best bet I'm going all in. However, when candy is on the menu, I am very careful with my order.

First, I tend to break candy down into two groups: chocolates and flavored candies. Chocolates include Hershey bars and other pure chocolate delights, but also include more than just bars. Reese's Peanut Butter Cups are in this category, and so are Twix, Snickers and any candy that has real chocolate in it. The other end of the spectrum are flavored candies. These include candies like Jolly Ranchers, Nerds, lollipops and anything made of sugar that's the colors of the rainbow.

Chocolates are undoubtedly superior; they're sweet but not over the top. Even still, there are standouts and duds in both of these categories, and you need both to complement each other in your candy bag. Too much chocolate will make you sick,

after all! Here are the best and worst of each group.

S-Tier chocolate candy: Reese's Peanut Butter Cup

I am hopefully saying this in good company, but the Reese's Peanut Butter Cup is the best chocolate candy out there. I mean, it has an unboxing experience. You open the wrapper and you're greeted by the little muffin wrapper-esque packaging that makes you feel special.

F-Tier chocolate candy: Any mini-sized bar. I used to be a fan of these. They're bite-sized and nice, but they're a waste of wrappers and time spent opening each candy. Commit to the bit and buy a big bar.

S-Tier pure flavored candy: Airheads

Not a lot needs to be said about Airheads. They have a fun texture, a wide variety of flavors and are generally a top-tier candy pull.

F-Tier pure flavored candy: Gummy worms

Ever since I was a kid, I feel like I've just been eating worms...

by Patrick Boots

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S-Tier: Reese's Peanut Butter Cup and Milky Way

These two classic chocolatey candies mark the top of my tier list. Milky Way bars are luscious, with a combination of caramel and nougat all dressed in chocolate. My personal favorite is the "midnight" style, which features dark instead of milk chocolate. And then there's the Reese's cup—a defining choice. They're two great tastes that taste great together. "You got chocolate on my peanut butter! Well, you got peanut butter on my chocolate!"

A-Tier: Peanut M&M's, Kit Kat and Twix

Break me off a piece of that Kit Kat bar! As far as chocolates go, it's certainly unique. Who would have thought to dip a waffle cone in chocolate? Plus, there are so many flavors—nothing can beat the original style though. When it comes to M&M's, the peanut center ones are the top dog. It's that balance of salty and sweet, just right! Twix and Milky Way are neck-and-neck for me—both good chocolate bars.

B-Tier: Regular M&M's and Snickers

Classic candies are always good to receive. Regular M&M's are practically as good as the peanut variety, but they're missing that extra oomph I've come to love. They've never steered me wrong. The Snickers bar is alright, not bad in fact, but feels too chewy for me and sometimes the peanut pieces don't

bring the right pizzazz. But we're getting nitpicky here.

C-Tier: Fruity and chewy candy

Don't get me wrong, I love fruity and chewy candy. Halloween may not be the right time for them, though—chocolate rules supreme. It's inevitable you'll receive some fruit-style treats and they're not bad for what it's worth. Laffy Taffy and Sweet Tarts are the clear winners for this category. Bubble gum and ultra-sours? Maybe not.

D-Tier: Tootsie Rolls and Almond Joy-Mounds

Maybe I'll eat Tootsie Rolls every once in a while, but more often than, not they end up rolling around. It's not quite chocolate, existing in this interesting, chewy, in-between sort of category. The fruit-flavored ones are well-enjoyed and would fall under my fruity and chewy label. Almond Joy and Mounds are two halves of the same candy, because sometimes you feel like a nut and sometimes you don't. I actually enjoy them, but coconut is one of those acquired tastes.

Honorable Mention: Spider ring

You'll never know what surprises are in store when you ring the doorbell or knock when trick-or-treating. In my family growing up, we always added spider rings to our candy selection. It was always a hit and a good memory. Plus, it's good to show off your spooky spirit.

by Noa Climor

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Halloween is a special holiday to me, and there's something fun about trying many types of candy. However, some are better than others, and I have created a ranking that makes sense. (To me! Everyone has different tastes, and I'm sure many are not overly fond of the candies I like.) First on the list is any kind of chocolate candy, specifically the top three: Reese's cups, Kit-Kats, and Snickers.

Next on the list are Twix and Milky Ways (depending on the vibe) for me. The bottom tier of candies includes those weirdly flavored tootsie rolls, like the vanilla and fruit ones. There is something so evil and deceiving about lime-flavored candy as well, but I know I'm weird about this because I almost exclusively only eat blue candies. (Percy Jackson was right! Blue food all the way!) The bottom tier is rounded out by milk duds (they get stuck in my teeth) and candy corn.

Although iconic, I fear that I don't particularly enjoy the taste of candy corn too much. Butterfingers, however, have risen the ranks, as I realized their texture is quite delightful. Twizzlers get a lot of hate, but I think their texture is so fun, and they don't taste like licorice, which is a big win.

I wish all who celebrate a very happy Halloween, and I hope you get the candy you want on this spooky evening!

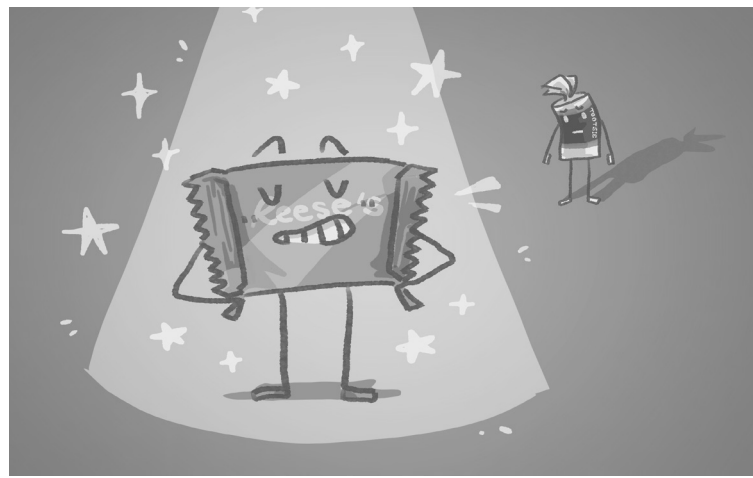


ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The best election podcasts to check out before Election Day

by Dan Stark

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Election Day is less than a week away and many students at the University of Connecticut have already cast their ballots. The election, specifically the hotly contested presidential race, has dominated the headlines with a new story or development seemingly coming out every day. This makes it hard to keep up with the ever-changing state of the race, which is especially difficult for voters. Many have turned to podcasts as a main source of election news and analysis, as well as to learn about the candidates, thanks to the frequent appearances of Donald Trump and Kamala Harris on some of the nation's biggest podcasts. Here are some of the top election-related podcasts

to check out in the run-up to Tuesday.

The NPR Politics Podcast

The NPR Politics Podcast is a daily podcast that covers the latest breaking election stories. NPR reporters on the campaign trail join the podcast to discuss the state of the presidential race, as well as the elections to the House of Representatives and Senate. This is a great source for those who want a streamlined way to get the biggest election headlines from an outlet that doesn't have bias like many 24-hour news networks do. The podcast's format of featuring a rotating cast of reporters keeps it interesting for frequent listeners, providing variety for each episode.

FiveThirtyEight Politics

Though the website FiveThirtyEight was simplified and left as a shell of its former self with the new website 538, the site's podcast has remained the same. The podcast looks at the election with a numbers-driven approach to analyze and predict the outcome of the ballot. Topics include what the polls are saying about who will win and trends from the polls. Host Galen Drake also keeps things fresh by bringing in different elections experts and analysts to offer their insight.

Donald Trump's appearance on The Joe Rogan Experience

In the final stretch of the campaign, Harris and Trump

have engaged in a "podcast war" by appearing on various podcasts to talk about the issues, and try to connect with voters. Arguably the most notable appearance was when Trump appeared on The Joe Rogan Experience, the nation's most listened-to podcast. The three-hour long interview allows listeners to hear Trump talk about issues like foreign policy, but also some more light-hearted banter about whether aliens exist and "The Apprentice." This is a must-listen episode for those who want to know more about the candidates as people and not just their policies.

Kamala Harris' appearance on Call Her Daddy

In the midst of the "podcast

war," Harris appeared on an episode of "Call Her Daddy," the nation's most popular podcast among women and the second most listened-to podcast only behind Rogan. The 40-minute-long episode featured a sprawling conversation between Harris and host Alexandra Cooper about some of the most important issues to female voters, including abortion rights and increasing support for female survivors of abuse. Harris also talked about her experience as a prosecutor and as a stepmother. Like Trump's appearance on "Rogan," the episode is a great way for voters to learn more about Harris, her policies and her background.

How the hell do I vote? A first-time voting experience

by Sarah Barker

CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
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I wasn't able to vote in the last election (I was 17), so being a first-time voter this time around has been an interesting experience. During the last election cycle, I was paying attention to the debates and, the night of the election, I watched the outcome in real time. Being able to vote now is kind of scary, knowing that I'm helping decide the outcome for the next four years.

For a while, it didn't register that I would be out of my home state for the election. Then I started to panic, trying to figure out what I was going to do. My trip home is anywhere from six to eight hours. My mom reminded me of absentee ballots, which posed a new challenge: how do I complete an absentee ballot? For Virginia and many other states, you can go to a

voting website and find all the information you need. You can register to vote, check your voter status, find your polling place and submit an absentee ballot application. It was a simple application, just registering to vote and then giving the address of where you're living outside of Virginia.

For other states, you can go to vote.gov and find information of how to vote in your state. The website also includes resources for voting as a college student, someone with a disability and other unique cases. States also have their own websites where you can register to vote and apply for absentee ballots or vote by mail depending on what your state allows.

This part was actually so easy. After submitting all my information, I got an email that my ballot would be delivered in five to seven business days. It

arrived mid-October and I was able to mail it back within a day.

The University of Connecticut has also had some great voting preparation opportunities. If you're a Mansfield resident or a UConn student registered to vote in Mansfield, then you're able to vote on campus at the bookstore. In the Homer Babidge library, there is a display of books that center around voting. On Nov. 4, they're hosting an online workshop called Ballot Ready. They'll be giving resources on finding reliable and nonpartisan sources to help understand the upcoming ballot, researching candidates and ballot measures and critically approach election-related information on social media.

Being a student during election season, specifically in college, can be a stressful time. Even if you're not hearing debates and having the candidates

shoved down your throat all time, having an important election such as this one is a lot. With all the tension this middle part of the semester brings, being in the know of what's going on in politics is an added pressure. Figuring out your voting plan, especially if you're not local to where your college is, deciding what your ballot is going to look like and overall counting down the days to Nov. 5 is a lot for young adults.

Having preparation from early September of what my voting is going to look like took the edge off and allowed me to focus on school while feeling secure in my part of the election.

Next Tuesday is a very important day for the next four years of our lives. If you're able to, go perform your civic duty and vote!



An early voter casts their ballot in Virginia. Students at UConn's Storrs campus are eligible for early voting until to Nov. 3, 2024. PHOTO COURTESY OF EPA IMAGES.

ROUNDTABLE: IS THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS A HALLOWEEN MOVIE OR A CHRISTMAS MOVIE?

Merry Halloween and Happy Christmas to you! It's that confusing time of year again when the spooky season blends into the time of holiday cheer as the year ends. What better way to dive into this often-confusing tradition than to watch the beloved beloved film. However, the question remains: what holiday/season does the film really belong to? Is it primarily a Halloween nightmare? Or a bad dream right before Christmas? Let's see where the Life section stands.

by Noa Climor
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

"The Nightmare Before Christmas" is a divisive movie, but not for the reasons you think. It took me a long time to answer this question, and after consulting some of my friends, I ended up even more confused, so I rewatched it. My friend Fran made a good point: it is called "The Nightmare Before Christmas," not after. Therefore, it should count as a Halloween movie. (Also, the vibes are spooky, and Jack Skellington is a Halloween icon). My friend Colleen also stated that it starts with Halloween, but then the plot is more about Christmas... so, Christmas?

My sister Hila was no help at all and said that the movie is both since Jack explores Christmas but exists in Halloween-town. Now, personally, I see it as a Halloween movie. After rewatching it, I see how the main characters truly embody Halloween. (Count how many times I say Halloween in this and get back to me), and the main song that you typically hear is "This Is Halloween."
So ... Halloween (with the spirit of Christmas).

by Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

I'm sick and tired of the rhetoric that a movie has to be appropriate for one specific holiday alone. Why can't it be both? The character designs and the general feel of the movie is great for a kid-friendly Halloween, but if you prefer something more unique and not "Hallmark-y" for Christmas, "The Nightmare Before Christmas" is a great pick. I support both arguments, but we need to see the bigger picture: these holidays coexist with each other in a calendar year.

by Benjamin Lassy
LIFE EDITOR

It's not called "The Nightmare Before Halloween." That's a pretty direct piece of evidence to support my stance on the brilliant movie. But if you're still a skeptic, you don't have to take my word for it. Take director Henry Selick's words from a New York Post interview: "thirty years after I directed the film, beneath its candy corn coating, skeletons and vampires, corpse child and witches, I know 'Nightmare' at its heart is a Christmas movie." I rest my case.

by Abby Krim
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

This is one of my favorite movies of all time, and this argument is brought up every time I tell someone. It follows me around like the "Is math red or blue" debate. (The answer is blue by the way). My answer is that "The Nightmare Before Christmas" is an amazing Christmas movie. I watch it year-round, don't get me wrong, but it is most definitely a Christmas movie. The whole plot revolves around the Christmas holiday and saving Christmas, however, is not Halloween.

by Mikayla Murphy
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

Christmas. Argue with a wall. And don't listen to Abby-math is undoubtedly red.



ILLUSTRATION BY KLEA OMERI, CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Life

@dailycampuslife

HEALTHY HUSKIES: HALLOWEEN SAFETY

by **Abigail Bonilla**
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Even though Halloween was yesterday, the festivities are sure to extend all weekend in Storrs. Halloween is a particularly exciting event for many college students. It provides a much-needed break in the midst of a busy semester and allows you to dress up and go out with friends. It can also be great for our mental health to enjoy a holiday spending time with our friends instead of our families. However, it is very important to keep yourself safe on a night out. Below are some tips to help guide you through your Halloween weekend. Wishing you more treats than tricks this Halloween!

Drink Wisely

If you're going to be drinking this Halloween, it's important to pace yourself and know your limits. It's generally recommended to follow the "one-in-one" rule, which is having one drink per hour. Another method of pacing yourself is ordering drinks with ice. It can be useful to have a friend cut you off at a certain point or ask the bartender to close your tab once you've ordered a certain number of drinks. Never leave your drink unattended and try to keep it covered in larger crowds. It's best to throw it out if you notice anything different about the appearance or taste of the drink.

Buddy System

Sticking with your friends is the best way to have a great time, while also staying safe.

Make a pact with your friends to arrive and leave the event together, and use a group chat to keep in touch throughout the night. Check in with each other and make sure you're all drinking water. The night will be way more fun sticking with your friends anyway.

Call A Ride

When in doubt, the best choice is to call a ride home at the end of the night. Never get behind the wheel—it could cost you and potentially others their lives. Use a ride-share app like Uber or Lyft with your friends or call a sober friend for a ride. If you're walking back to campus, always bring a buddy and use a digital map to avoid getting stranded in the middle of nowhere. Otherwise, it will feel like a real-life horror movie!

Keep it Comfortable

Choosing a comfortable costume can mean the difference between a fun night and a truly terrifying one. Make sure your costume doesn't have any large attachments or pieces that may break off during the night. Avoid heels if you plan to be on your feet for a while and bring a jacket if you'll be outside.

Have Fun!

Most importantly, remember to have fun. Halloween weekend is one of the best times of the semester and gives many students a chance to take a break from the stress and monotony of their academic lives. Whether you are enjoying a night out with friends or staying in for a relaxing evening, I hope you have the best Halloween!



LOGO BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



CARTOON COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

'Summoning Spirits': Peter Boie shocks magic show attendees

by **Michelle Pawlos**
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Whether you are a believer or non-believer of paranormal activity, "Summoning Spirits" would have had your heart racing. On Oct. 30, students joined magician and entertainer Peter Boie for his magic show in the Student Union Theatre. Boie visits colleges to perform shows like this one, especially during this time of year. Students were thrilled to attend the event.

The show started lightly, with Boie coming onto the stage and spilling out building blocks from a bag. While stacking them, Boie told students a story about a ghost named Mary. Afterward, he stood away from the blocks and asked Mary to give him a sign that she was there. After a couple of seconds, the block tower fell apart. Already intriguing the students, Boie moved on to more intense acts.

Many acts were performed, and throughout, he either picked out students from the audience or asked for volunteers to join him. One act involved Russian roulette, where Boie put a sharp nail in one paper bag out of five and then asked a student volunteer to mix them up while he wasn't looking. The student held a bell that, if it rang, was a warning from a ghost named Mimi that Boie was about to slam his hand onto the paper bag with the nail inside. The bell rang right when he was about to slam his hand into the second to last bag left. The bag was then revealed to indeed have the nail inside.

Another act that surprised many students was one involving an issue of TIME Maga-

zine. Boie wrote something on a whiteboard but did not reveal what he had written to the students. He then asked the student volunteer, "have you ever changed your mind before?" When the student responded, "yeah," he returned to the whiteboard and wrote something else.

The student then stuck a paper into the middle of the magazine. Then, holding the magazine behind her in one hand and a pen in the other, she drew a small dime-sized circle on the magazine. Boie asked the student which word she thought was in the middle of the circle, to which she said, "leader." He told her to pick another one, and she chose "always." After some deliberating, she decided to stick with "leader" as the most centered word. Boie displayed the whiteboard, where the word "always" was crossed out and then the word "leader" was written below it.

After performing various skillful acts, the finale shocked the whole theatre. Boie left the stage and played a video of him in Vermont parked outside "Emily's Bridge." For reference, Emily was a woman who had died on the bridge in the distant past. Many who have crossed the bridge claim to have heard something or left with a scratch somewhere on them.

Boie left his car with a Ouija board and a camera and admitted that after 20 minutes of trying, he got nothing. However, he then decided to take out a noose to "provoke" Emily into coming out, since that was



Peter Boie poses after revealing a magic trick. Boie appeared at the "Summoning Spirits" event at the Student Union Theater on Oct. 30.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @PETERBOIEMAGICIANFORNON-BELIEVERS ON FACEBOOK

how she died. The Ouija board moved and Boie ran back to his car, where we saw a scratch on his cheek.

"Who wants to talk to Emily?" asked Boie as he returned to the stage. Angela Radoncipi, a third-semester psychology student, was chosen for this act. When asked about her experience, Radoncipi said, "I went on stage for the last act, and I sat down, and we used my phone for the voice memo to talk to Emily. Everyone was quiet, and she was answering when the magician asked her, 'What is your name?' 'What do you want us to do for you?'" She also said "stuff like that was scary because the Ouija board moved, the lights went out and the bell rang. It was crazy."

When Boie asked the questions, the students could not hear any response from Emily. However, the recordings

hear Emily answering every question. As for the question, "What do you want us to do for you?" she told the crowd to "stop breathing," which was a bit rude and terrifying.

"The fact that that voice recording was still there on the phone even after the show and you could still hear the voice, like, that's crazy to me because I'm also a non-believer of this stuff," said Chloe Mirasol, a first-semester civil and environmental engineering major, when asked if there was anything that especially surprised her.

After the show, students gathered around Radoncipi to listen to the recordings, even asking if she could send them so they could share them with friends and others. While some students immediately left after this frightening show, some could not get over the experience.



Opinion

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COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Halloween and sexual violence at UConn

by Tomas Hinckley | HE/HIM/HIS | OPINION EDITOR | tomas.hinckley@uconn.edu

As the end of October comes, there are few things as heavily present in the minds of University of Connecticut students as Halloween, and more specifically, Halloween weekend. The anticipation, the brainstorming of costume ideas, the planning of what parties to go to and the rush of trying to get work done beforehand for a stress-free time all combine to make a weekend that is unrivaled on the UConn social scene (aside from natty week). As this article will have come out on Friday morning, many students will have already started festivities on Wednesday and Thursday nights, and many more will be itching to get out of class to prepare for the next few days off. Aside from all of the fun people will have, it's worth taking some time to truly consider parts of this holiday that people don't usually talk about.

Halloween falls right in the middle of what's known as "The Red Zone," a period of time from August to November wherein about 50%

of sexual violence occurs on college campuses. It specifically presents as an especially dangerous time within this already heightened period because of the extreme nature of the weekend. Anyone can tell you that there's going to be (and already has been at the time of this article's publication) a lot of alcohol being consumed, and in fact, research shows that this is one of the heaviest weekends in the entire year for alcohol consumption at colleges. When this is taken into account with the increased amount of social events during this weekend and the fact that at least 50% of campus sexual assaults involve alcohol, it presents an increased risk to the weekend that people should be aware of. For younger students, this is incredibly relevant because part of the reason this time period is so dangerous is because they don't

know how to gauge their limits. This weekend will be for many their first time ever experiencing something like this, and a lot are going to end up going too far.

Now, this is not to say that it is any-body's

fault for getting too drunk; ultimately, it is the perpetrator's fault, no matter the circumstances. It is wrong to say that a victim becoming too intoxicated or wearing a revealing costume is the reason they were violated. According to The Independent, approximately 55% of these myths are just poor excuses to justify violating someone else's personhood. Halloween is an especially dangerous time for members of vulnerable populations. There should be awareness of this topic, while at the same time people should be allowed to go out and have fun with their friends safely. Plus, part of developing a healthy and informed relationship with anything is being critical of its parts.

At UConn specifically, it can be easy for many people (read: men) to be relatively unaware of the culture of sexual violence that exists here. This university has reckoned with the existence of and lack of support for victims in the past,

such as with the major protests in 2022 following the public story of one student's experience, yet the problems still exist. According to the 2024 Student Experience Survey, 29% of students experienced some form of sexual harassment and 8% of students experienced a form of sexual violence within the last 12 months. Especially when considering the fact that approximately 90% of campus sexual assaults go unreported, it is clear that this behavior is ever present on campus.

So, as Huskies across campus prepare this weekend to go out, I hope that in the back of everyone's mind there exists a watchful eye for fellow students. We decide the culture of this university and especially its social scene. The effort to reclaim the holiday from perpetrators comes from everyone in the little things we do to protect each other, and taking this time to help those around you is what changes a culture to one where people can always feel safe on one of the most fun days of the year.



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Support UConn:

Vote for Gregg Haddad (54th) and Ann Bonney (53rd) for State Representative

by Denise W. Merrill
SECRETARY OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, EMERITAS AND FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 54TH DISTRICT

As the former representative for the 54th Assembly district, which includes the main campus of UConn, I was proud to help build UConn into the university it is today. In the 1990s, we invested substantially as a state to bring UConn up to a world class standard. And it wasn't just UConn; we also dramatically upgraded the Connecticut State University system and the community colleges.

To continue this tradition of supporting public higher education, I heartily endorse the candidacy of both Gregg Haddad (54th District) and Ann Bonney (53rd district) for state representative. We need people who understand that their districts rely on UConn and other higher education institutions in this part of the state, and who will fight for the funding necessary to keep them strong.

Our historic investments have netted great results for our state. Today, higher education is a significant economic

engine and community hub, driving both local and statewide growth. The total eco-

I was therefore disheartened to learn that State Representative Tammy Nuccio, who

sighted view of the role of public higher education. She endorsed a budget plan that

more than 100 years of constitutionally required state support for public higher education in Connecticut. Contrast her views with the efforts of State Representative Haddad, who represents the 54th district (Mansfield and UConn), and who has been a leader in the fight for support for higher education. Contrast them with Bonney's, the Democratic candidate opposing Nuccio in the 53rd district (Willington, Tolland and Vernon), where funding for UConn is particularly crucial. In addition to thousands of students, UConn employs over 6,500 residents in Tolland County alone. Bonney recognizes the role of higher education both as an economic driver for her district and an indispensable pillar of our state's future. She has pledged to fight for the necessary funding to keep UConn strong.

I hope you will support both these wonderful candidates for the state legislature. We need every voice to keep our state a place where students can get a high-quality educational experience at our public institutions. Higher education is not a luxury. It is a fundamental necessity to prepare our citizens for the 21st century.



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

would have withheld as much as \$200 million in support from public colleges and university students, and she didn't stop there. She went on the offensive and attacked the very concept of state support for public higher education! This view would be a catastrophic change to represents the district surrounding UConn, has made multiple inflammatory claims regarding the state's investment in Connecticut's public institutions of higher education on the floor of the State Assembly. She has a dangerously short-

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Halloween vibes



Students sitting on a lawn at UConn's Storrs campus on a crisp October day. Some students wore costumes around campus today on Halloween.

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

The First 'Venom' is the best one

by Isaac Grad | HE/HIM/HIS | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | isaac.grad@uconn.edu

Warning: Spoilers ahead

With the release of the third and final film in the "Venom" trilogy, we can finally compare each of the films. While the films in this trilogy weren't well-received by critics, they have consistently garnered support from fans. The first film performed best of the three in the box office. All three of these movies focus on the relationship between Eddie and Venom, knowing that's what fans loved about the first film.

The first film introduced viewers to our protagonists, Eddie Brock and Venom. We are thrown into a dynamic that hadn't been explored in other projects. Marvel has its fair share of protagonists with a lack of control and a darker, more dangerous and less predictable side to them, most popularly with The Hulk. "Venom" stands away from other iterations of this trope because the seemingly scary Venom is quickly revealed to be caring. Unlike Hulk and Banner, Venom and Eddie only need one movie to essentially resolve their differences and learn how to cooperate.

This movie does a great job of introducing these characters, showing their initial dynamic and then clearly showing the development in how they work together. I love the first film, despite poor reviews from critics, because they went into it thinking it would be a superhero movie. In reality, it's a buddy cop romance starring a sweaty garbage-eater and a pile of sludge. The film was original both in the portrayal of these characters and the avoidance of tropes. The best example is the dynamic between Dan and Eddie, which would typically be focused on jealousy and hatred, but instead centers on care and genuineness between them. Dan helps Eddie multiple times throughout the film and expresses genuine concern. Eddie in turn shows him respect and gratitude.

The second film, "Venom: Let There Be Carnage," still stood out as different from other superhero movies and handled the original characters well. Despite this, it was not nearly as good as the first, which is too good to beat. I was disappointed to see less of the dynamics I liked in the first movie, such as Dan and Eddie, who seemed to start falling into the trope they originally avoided. Along with that, they altered aspects of the relationship between Eddie and Venom that

destroyed the balance present in the first movie, where they were working with and against each other at the same time. I did like that the second movie explored their disagreements as part of a relationship, rather than the common trope of an internal morality and control

any backstory through force, and I thought they did a good job including some hints of information in the second film where appropriate

The third movie fell flat. Perhaps I went into it with higher expectations than I should have, but I didn't feel it was a

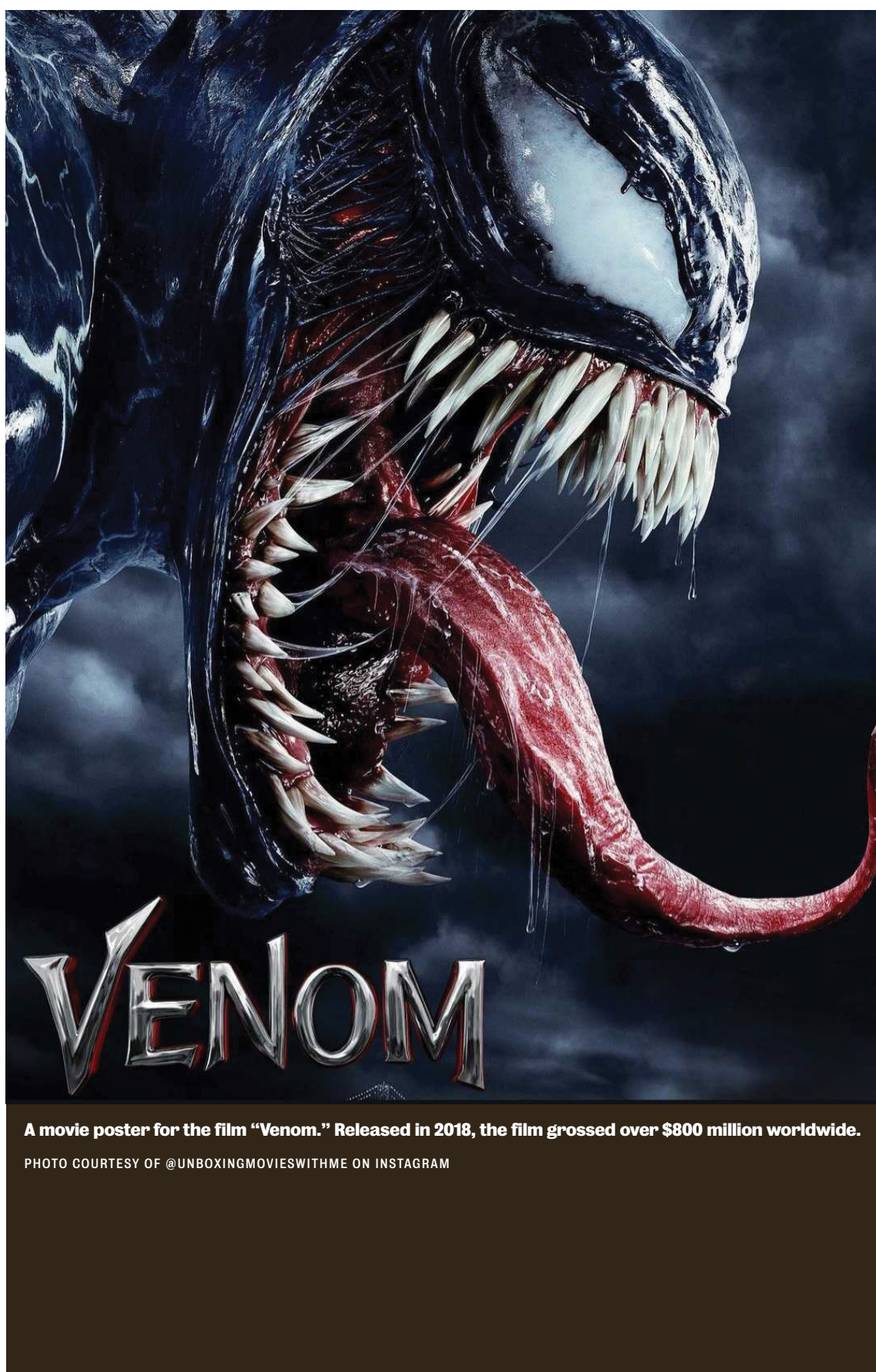
them hanging out over the three films set to "Memories" by Maroon 5. They also introduced us to Dr. Payne, who will seemingly continue the franchise. She was decent, but her character itself wasn't very strong. Her character was quite surface level, but we'll have to see

ing either, seeing as they were only a risk if Venom was in his full form, which he annoyingly decides to transform into multiple times throughout the film. There were also other details overlooked, such as a scene that could've been used to delve into the anti-hero aspects of Venom more, where they inadvertently leave a plane filled with people to crash and burn, and it's never mentioned again. I do feel like it was a missed opportunity to explore this concept of Venom and Eddie trying to do good, but still being viewed as a villain, especially considering part of this film's plot was them being chased by police. I also wish there was more of the Eddie and Venom dynamic, but this movie had a lot going on, so it didn't feel like a focus.

There's something about having the protagonist of a superhero movie be a complete disaster. It encapsulates the concept that anybody could be a hero. In fact, Eddie was a hero in his own right before he had any special abilities. He treated people with respect, and he cared more about the truth and taking down bad people than keeping his job. At times, he made mistakes, as does everyone, but it was clear that his heart was in the right place. Even mid-fight, when he's being unjustly attacked, he apologizes for Venom protecting him. He doesn't like to see others hurt, good or bad; he's a realistically good guy. The best part of the films is knowing that the only reason they exist is because Eddie Brock managed to prevent an alien invasion by making one fall in love with him, and honestly nobody would be better for that role than Tom Hardy.

We can also remain impressed with all three films in which they managed to create Venom as a stand-alone character, independent from Spider-Man, though of course, we can hope that the three will meet in a movie at some point. Rather than making the crux of Eddie and Venom's relationship being their shared hatred of Spider-Man, they share being losers, which I think is much more fun and interesting.

One thing that can be agreed upon is that Tom Hardy absolutely carried these movies and had amazing chemistry with himself. Despite hating on certain aspects of each of the films, they were all entertaining and fun movies that I would watch again. I'll watch any movie with a good bromance, and with this franchise we got three.



A movie poster for the film "Venom." Released in 2018, the film grossed over \$800 million worldwide.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @UNBOXINGMOVIESWITHME ON INSTAGRAM

struggle. I liked Venom's portrayal as constricted, unloved and underappreciated.

They didn't get into any of Eddie's backstory in the first movie, and they just barely touched on it in the second one. I like that they didn't add

satisfying ending to characters I love. There was a lack of subtlety and substance to this film that the final scene solidifies. They replaced a well-written, truly emotional response for Eddie to the death of his best friend with a cheesy montage of

where they go from here. The villain, Knull, was also pretty bad. They opened with him explaining the plot of the movie and that's all we saw of him. The aliens doing the dirty work of tracking Eddie and Venom weren't that threaten-

Sports

Photo of the Day |



UConn women's softball team standing in a huddle after a hard fought game. The team was 31-24 in the 2024 season. PHOTO BY MADISON HENDRICKS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Football:

HUSKIES CLOSE OUT SIX-WEEK HOMESTAND AT THE RENT WITH GEORGIA STATE

by **Bridget Bronsdon**
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The Huskies will close out their dynamic six-week homestand at Rentschler Field against Georgia State with senior night on Friday evening.

The home tenure, which began over a month ago, has brought the Huskies to life. UConn stands 4-1 at home in the program's best start since 2009. However, the Rent has seen its fair share of ups and downs, including week two's record-breaking 63-14 finish over Merrimack and week six's nail-biting 29-20 victory over Temple in the final moments of the match.

Most recently, the squad faced off against Rice and earned a hard — fought 17-10 victory. Three-and-outs, incompletions and an overall lack of chemistry stalled the first half to prevent both teams from finding the red zone, but a change in pace in the second half brought the Huskies to life.

After first-half stagnation, a 68-yard rush by Durell Robinson snapped the dry spell to catapult the Huskies ahead 7-3. The narrative officially changed in the fourth quarter as UConn notched another touchdown on a 4-yard rush from Cam Edwards and a 30-yard field goal by Chris Freeman to elevate Connecticut's lead 17-10.

The final action of the contest manifested in a 100-yard kickoff return by Rice's Quinton Jackson to cut the deficit and close out the contest 17-10.

Even with their success,

the Huskies identified areas of improvement for the upcoming week. Following the Rice win, head coach Jim Mora noted the caliber of play the UConn offense put up.

"It's an understatement to say that we didn't play well offensively in the first half. I want to focus on the resilience and grit that our football team showed," he said.

Leading the offensive charge was quarterback Nick Evers, who was 9-for-24 in passing and threw for 128 yards and one interception. On the ground, Robinson rushed for 132 yards and one touchdown. In comparison, Rice was held to just 90 rushing yards and 88 receiving yards.

The defense, led by Jayden McDonald and Tui Faumuina-Brown, flexed their muscles in an impressive performance over Rice as they held the Owls to just 178 total yards and nine tackles for loss. McDonald and Faumuina-Brown will be key players to watch in the Georgia State matchup.

Georgia State has also had its fair share of ups and downs as they sit 2-5 this season and last in the SBC East with zero conference wins. Last weekend, however, victory just barely slipped through their fingertips as they fell 33-26 to Appalachian State.

Freddie Brock and Michel Dukes have consistently led the Panthers running game this season and demonstrated a dominant showing

against the Mountaineers with Brock picking up 67 yards and Dukes rushing for 81 yards and one touchdown.

Wide receiver Ted Hurst also got points on the board, as he picked up 57 yards and one touchdown.

Brock, Dukes and Hurst have been consistent targets for Panthers quarterbacks Christian Veilleux and Zach Gibson. Despite the consistency with offensive receivers and rushers, the quarterback position has seen many changes throughout the season. Though junior Veilleux has seen most of the action this season and started in the Georgia Tech season-opener to throw for 210 yards and one touchdown, Gibson has also hit the ground.

Gibson took the field for three straight weeks in October but recorded three straight losses against Old Dominion, Marshall and Appalachian State. Most recently, against Appalachian State, Gibson threw for 192 yards and one touchdown.

Whether it be Gibson or Veilleux leading the charge, the Panthers head into the match eight-point underdogs and haven't enjoyed a victory since Sept. 14, where they barely outscored Vanderbilt 36-32. The Huskies, on the other hand, are coming off of a win and will enjoy the home-field advantage in their final game in East Hartford.

Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday in East Hartford and UConn will honor its graduating class for senior night.



PHOTO BY KALI REED, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Field Hockey:

UCONN LOOKING TO BOUNCE BACK AGAINST OLD DOMINION BEFORE HEADING INTO THE POSTSEASON

by **Tyler Pruneau**
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The UConn field hockey team looks to end the season on the right foot after losing to Syracuse on Sunday. The game kicks off at noon on Friday, Nov. 1 as the team takes on Old Dominion.

The in-conference rivalry dates back to 1987. At the beginning of their annual meetings, the Huskies struggled to find success. Dominating the head-to-head matchup until 2013, Old Dominion handed UConn 16 losses, only slipping up three contests. Turning the tables in their second match-up in 2013 and going on a 13-game rampage, Connecticut put their past behind them. Ending the streak in 2023, the Monarchs took back their throne in a 3-2 overtime thriller. Seeing two overtime deciders in recent weeks, Connecticut knows how to take care of business if this clash goes into extra time.

Compared to the previous season, neither team is the same coming into this contest.

From finishing 5-13 last season to clinching a spot in the Big East Tournament, it is no secret that Connecticut has a solid chance of winning. To further make the case, after taking one on the chin to No. 12 Syracuse and moving down in the rankings to No. 10, the Huskies have a good chance of coming out victorious.

Shifting towards their opponents, the Monarchs finished the 2023 season 14-6, winning the Big East Championship. Entering this season, the team earned a spot in the top 25 rankings after starting their campaign impressively. That title slowly disappeared from Old Dominion after losing key contests and becoming unranked by week four. Coming off a win against Appalachian State, the Monarchs look to continue their two-game win streak.

Unraveling the Huskies' roster, watching out for players like Sophie Perschk is a must. Syracuse shut down Connecticut's offense on Sunday, but Perschk fought for opportunities. Leading UConn in shots attempted, the freshman ended

the day with a pair of shots. She also showed off her playmaking skills with one assist leading to a goal. In addition, the team's defense stepped up over the weekend, keeping them in the contests. Holding Liberty to one goal and shutting down Orange's offense until the fourth quarter shows that UConn's defense is a problem.

Turning over to Old Dominion, pressuring the goalkeeper is what Serena Langendoen and Tess Jedeloo do best. Combining for 16 shot attempts, with 11 on goal, a productive day for UConn keeper Natalie McKenna is on the horizon. Finding the back of the net is a possible struggle to watch out for, as McKenna has proven to come up with big saves.

The Huskies have had an excellent season up to this point. An away win on Friday would be the cherry on top of a great season and a nice way to head into postseason play. However, UConn certainly has the keys to victory in this one; they just need to execute at a high level like they have so many times before.

Men's Ice Hockey:

PERCIVAL AND THE HUSKIES LOOK TO CARRY MOMENTUM INTO WEEKEND SERIES AGAINST VERMONT

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On Saturday, the UConn men's ice hockey team will defend their home ice in a two-game series against Vermont.

These two teams have over a decade of history against one another. UConn has had the upper hand in this Hockey East rivalry, winning the last three matchups, and six of the last seven. The last time these teams squared off was in the first round of the Hockey East Tournament last year, where UConn won in a definitive 4-1 final score.

The Huskies are 4-2-1 overall on the season to this point, and currently sit at third in the Hockey East standings with four points and a 1-1-1 record. UConn has yet to be defeated when playing at home this season, boasting a 4-0 record. On top of that, the Hus-

kies have a 9-5 record when playing the Catamounts at home. Vermont hasn't overcome UConn at home since 2022. UConn comes into the game hot off of their upset victory over UMass, who was ranked No. 15 at the time.

The Catamounts need to find a way to stifle third year forward Jake Percival to be successful in the Constitution State this weekend. Percival was just named the Hockey East player of the month after an incredible start to his season. He is currently leading the conference with six goals and ranks third in total points with eight.

Vermont is off to a rough start to their 2024-25 campaign. In their five games played, the Catamounts have yet to find themselves in the win column with a record of 0-3-2. In their first Hockey East series of the year, they fell to Providence in overtime 3-2, before playing them to a

4-4 draw in game two. Providence won the penalty shootout to be awarded the standings point.

The duo of freshman Colin Kessler and junior Massimo Lombardi have led the way for Vermont offensively, each contributing five points. Kessler has nailed three goals on an impressive .214 shooting percentage, as well as tallying two assists. Lombardi has assisted on three Catamount goals this year, as well as burying two of his own. In their series against Providence, the two were key contributors in keeping it a tight series.

The first game of the series is set to be played in Hartford at the XL Center, while game two will take place at the Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs.

Puck drop is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Saturday as the Huskies look to continue their strong start to the season.

Women's Ice Hockey:

HUSKIES SET FOR A HOLY CLASH WITH THE CRUSADERS

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The UConn women's ice hockey team will face off against Holy Cross on Friday and Saturday in a Hockey East clash.

The Huskies are coming off of a challenging weekend where they defeated a strong Providence squad, but then fell short the next day 1-0 to a feisty Harvard team. Nevertheless, the Huskies look to get back on track this weekend as they aim to take both games. The first game will be a home game for Connecticut and the second will be in Worcester at Holy Cross.

The Crusaders will come into the game 4-3-1 and will be a good early season test for Connecticut. Holy Cross is led by Emily Crovo and Reghan Chadwick, who each have six points on the season.

The goaltender play has

also been solid for Holy Cross as goalie Brooke Loranger has allowed 2.47 goals a game on average. This mark gives her team a strong advantage, though nothing is set in stone. Holy Cross is led by head coach Katie Lachapelle who will look to get her team an upset win against over UConn.

For the Huskies, they are paced by Claire Murdoch, Jada Habisch and Ava Rinker, who all have six points on the young season. The leading goal-getter, Murdoch, will look to continue her hot start to the season and she will look to be set up by the leader in assists on the team, Rinker.

In net, the goalie duo has played an equal split in games as Megan Warrenner and Tia Chan both hover just around two goals per game. The Huskies have also been highly successful with penalties this year.

However, the team has run into trouble on the penalty kill, which could hurt them in this series. The most goals UConn has surrendered in a total game was four against Minnesota, but even if the opponents score that marker, the game still would not be out of reach for the Huskies.

Overall, the Huskies are 4-4, which means there's a lot of room to improve and excel. Connecticut is 3-0 in conference play, which is a good sign; however, they have yet to play any of the traditional Hockey East powerhouses.

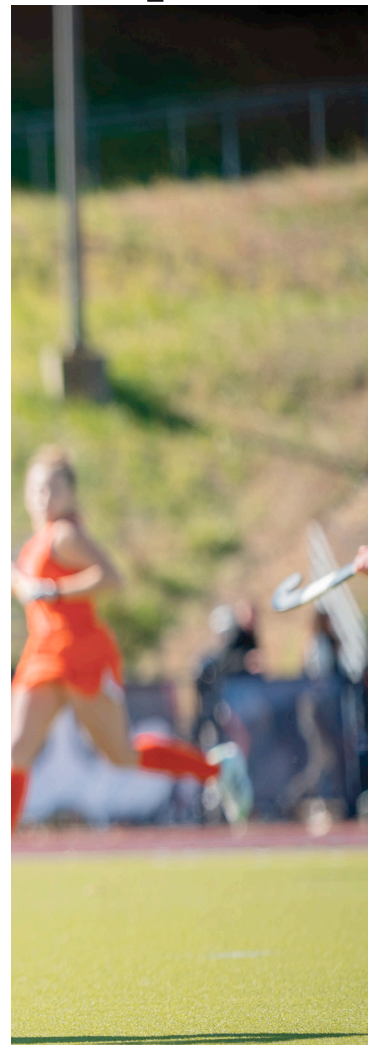
This should overall be a good weekend for the Huskies if they stay out of penalty trouble and control the puck. It's not a race for this team, but more of a marathon as the Huskies will look to sweep Holy Cross this weekend.

Puck drop on Friday is scheduled for 2 p.m. in Storrs, while Saturday's contests is set for 2 p.m. at Holy Cross.

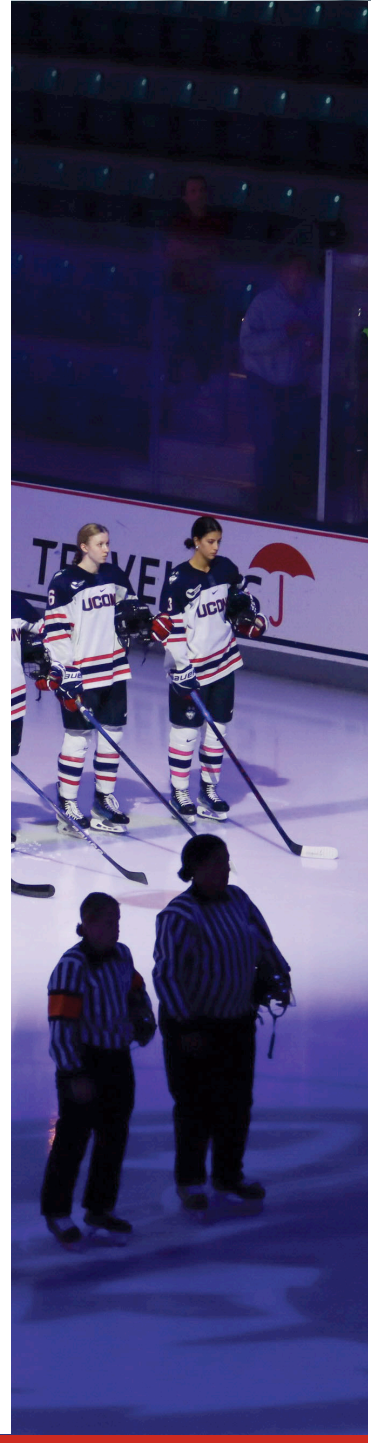


The UConn Huskies take on UMass at the Toscano Family Ice Forum on Oct. 26, 2024. The Huskies closed the game with a 3-2 victory. PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

UConn women's ice hockey plays The University of New Hampshire, in a 2-0 game at the Toscano Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn. on Oct. 12, 2024. Senior goalkeeper Tia Chan finished with 25 saves, while Maya Serdachny and Claire Murdoch both scored goals. PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



UConn field hockey takes on Syracuse University in Storrs Conn. on Oct. 27, 2024. Despite Syracuse's 3-1 win over UConn, it was evident the team played hard and honored their seniors. PHOTO BY SYNDEY CHANDLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS





Sports

Women's Basketball:

HUSKIES KICKOFF 2024-25 CAMPAIGN WITH EXHIBITION BATTLE AGAINST FORT HAYS STATE



UConn destroys the Georgetown Hoyas in the Big East Tournament final 78-42 to punch their ticket for the NCAA tournament. While the Huskies didn't win the tournament, they put up a strong performance.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Avery Becker
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Eleven national championships, 23 Final Fours and 40 years have brought head coach Geno Auriemma and the UConn Women's Basketball team to their 2024-2025 campaign, as they begin their quest for ring No. 12 this Sunday.

Connecticut is coming off of their odds-defying season last year, where they reached the Final Four against the Iowa Hawkeyes and Caitlin Clark. With most of their roster injured and only two forwards at their disposal, the matchup between the Huskies and the Hawkeyes was a tough battle until the last second, with the final score 71-69, Iowa.

"Obviously having the game I did in the Final Four was not what I wanted to have and I think it really set in

and stung me in a different type of way where I have a reality check," said Paige Bueckers after the team's first practice of the year. "I sat down with myself and wanted to get my goals out in front of me and make sure how can I attain those goals. I have a completely different mindset on how I want to approach playing basketball and how I play on the court."

With four additions to the roster — freshmen Sarah Strong, Morgan Cheli and Allie Ziebell and transfer from Princeton, Kaitlyn Chen — the team is ready for a brand-new season, despite players like Azzi Fudd, Caroline Ducharme, Aubrey Griffin and Ayanna Patterson still reeling from their injuries.

"We have some pieces that are still on their way back, but what we do have is nine players who can all contribute when they step on the floor and now it's just a matter of finding the pieces," said Auriemma at the Big East media day. "We gotta find a way to be really good when [Bueckers] is not on the floor."

Auriemma touched on how he believes that Chen and KK Arnold can be assets to the team when Bueckers or Fudd are not on the court. Although, Auriemma anticipates he will not have to worry about other players not stepping up.

An exhibition game against Fort Hays State will be a great opportunity for players to shake the rust off before the regular season begins next week. Auriemma said he expects Cheli to be ready for this game after a lower body injury, but does not expect Fudd to play, as she's still progressing.

Ahead of this match-up multiple players made pre-season award watch lists. Bueckers and Fudd were both named to the 2024-25 Naismith Trophy Women's player of the year watch list, Bueckers was named to the 2025 Nancy Lieberman Award watch list and Strong was named to Cheryl Miller Award watch list, which recognizes the best small forward in Division I women's college basketball.

A player on the Tigers that the Huskies will have to look out for is graduate student guard, Katie Wagner. In her senior year campaign, she led her team with 569 points and was the 2023-24 Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association player of the year.

The Tigers are coming into this season ranked at No. 23 in the preseason coaches' poll for Division II women's college basketball.

Tip-off is scheduled for noon at Gampel Pavilion. If Husky fans cannot make it to Storrs, they can tune in on UConn+ or the UConn Sports Network.