



Republican Senatorial candidate contests integrity of Mansfield election procedures

by **Gabriel Duffany**
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In a Nov. 12 filing to the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC), Republican candidate Chris Reddy of Connecticut's 29th Senate District challenged the integrity of Mansfield's ballot count, citing unlawful election procedures and coercive Democratic campaigning at the University of Connecticut's Storrs campus.

"Chris Reddy and his team called on the Secretary of State's office to withhold certification of this election until these red flags are satisfactorily investigated and resolved," reads a Nov. 12 Facebook post from Reddy's campaign.

Reddy claims voter integrity issues gave Democratic incumbent Mae Flexer the lead in an already close race, with the CT Secretary of the State ballot totals declaring 20,796 (48.41%) votes for Reddy and 21,385 (49.78%) votes for Flexer.

According to Reddy's submission to the SEEC, "Voters in the 29th District and across the state of Connecticut find it shocking to see that the Town of Mansfield recorded 1753 Same Day registrations by the morning of 11/06/2024, only to adjust their final numbers by the evening of 11/08/2024 to record 2522 total SDR. That is an adjustment of 769 additional registrations."

Reddy's team raised alarms at the numbers, which they claim are disproportionate in relation to the size of Mansfield. "A simple web search of the population of Mansfield, CT yields a 2024 population of approximately 25k residents. With New Haven receiving the next highest number of same day registrations at 2058, and a 2024 population of about 137k residents, it highlights the extreme disparity be-

tween Mansfield's outrageous numbers and every other municipality across the state," the submission continued.

The focus of Reddy's concerns surrounds the University of Connecticut's Bookstore polling location, where he alleges Flexer's campaign "overtly pressured" student voters and election officials engaged in fraudulent tabulation.

"I can confirm that we have knowledge of a direct witness to the Mansfield election official who was seated, alone, in the conference room with the door closed, handling, opening and counting ballot envelopes. This is a clear violation and calls into question every ballot that was in her presence during this time," Reddy stated in a Nov. 17 release. "If one considers the fact that Election Day Registration ballots numbered 1139 in Mansfield, poll workers would have to confirm voter eligibility status at a rate of more than 1 per minute for the duration of the 14 hours (840 minutes) polling centers were open on Tuesday."

The Republican candidate further disputed the practices of his opponent, calling into question the legality of Democratic campaign practices. "We have questions as to whether actions employed by the Democrats in Mansfield and the influencing of UConn students to same day register to vote and then vote exclusively 'Row A, Vote Democrat', even if they live somewhere else. For example, thousands of door cards were placed on doorknobs inside dormitories at UConn despite this activity being expressly prohibited. The text on the door card stated that students can vote even if you aren't registered or are registered in your hometown."

Connecticut electioneering prohibitions regarding Reddy's claims of door-to-door cam-

paing are vague in their interpretation, with statutes allowing for the distribution of political material on most public property, with some exceptions. The question of whether UConn dormitories are private property has not been codified in state law, although UConn itself is a public institution.

Reddy's comments alleged that preferential treatment towards UConn voters by local Democrats raised the question of conspiratorial intentions, noting, "After the aggressive dormitory inducement to vote Democrat, the Mansfield DTC provided luxury buses and offered free pizza to UConn students at the polling location. Questions arise as to whether these actions were intentionally created to produce such an unmanageable volume of Election Day Registrations at the Mansfield location that officials and poll workers would be stretched too thin to manage proper verification and processing procedures."

Reddy additionally claimed that services to assist and incentivize voter turnout were directed primarily towards the student population, and disregarded other Mansfield residents including senior citizens.

"All voters and students who believe that fairness is an essential right and that election integrity is paramount should question that none of the other 16 polling locations in the 29th district received any of these same overt pressure tactics, all of which were aimed directly at students. To many constituents these questionable and unprecedented tactics appear to be heavy-handed attempts to put pressure on impressionable, first-time voters," stated Reddy.

In response to Reddy's claims, the Mansfield Republican and Democratic Town Committee

Chairs G. William Tomecko and Ben Shaiken issued a joint statement on Nov. 10 upholding the validity of polling outcomes.

"We are confident that the votes cast in Mansfield, including those of approximately 3,000 UConn students, were lawfully cast and properly counted," stated the release. "We are disappointed that Chris Reddy and his campaign are challenging the validity of Tuesday's election and attempting to disqualify the votes of thousands of Mansfield citizens. It was a free, fair, secure and extremely well-organized election and his comments do nothing but sow discord and division among the voters of Mansfield and the 29th district."

The Reddy campaign addressed this condemnation directly, stating, "The joint statement issued by the Mansfield DTC/RTC chairs was released without the RTC chair (G. William Tomecko) contacting myself or my campaign to learn the allegations surrounding the numerous potential violations we have knowledge of or witnessed either before, on or after Election Day at the Mansfield Town Hall, Mansfield Community Center or other locations."

The Republican campaign additionally emphasized their view of Mansfield polls being aberrant in relation to other in-district municipalities, stating, "In the larger context of fairness, consider the fact that six of the nine towns in the 29th district voted overwhelmingly in the majority for Chris Reddy for State Senate on Nov. 5. Despite my tireless efforts in the district, the single most destructive weapon to the will of the majority appears to be the Mae Flexer legislative orchestration of Same Day Voter Registration and Early Voting on the UConn campus."

Flexer, who has served as Mansfield's state Senate elect since 2015, spearheaded ballot accessibility efforts to create a mandatory early-voting window and to implement no-excuse absentee ballots. The Democratic incumbent viewed Reddy's challenges as a threat to the representation of UConn students in local government.

"In the Senate District that Mr. Reddy unsuccessfully sought to represent, nearly one out of every five constituents is a college student. These constituents deserve a strong voice for their community - something I always have been and always will be, especially as someone who first sought office while a UConn student. While I work to balance the needs of everyone in our district, I tell the same thing to every classroom that I get the opportunity to speak to, from kindergarten to college students - no one is more impacted by the decisions that I am charged to make than young people," said Flexer in a Nov. 17 statement.

"College students have a vested interest in state budgets that determine their tuition and academic opportunities, public health infrastructure in an area of the state where hospitals are struggling to provide care, finding solutions for affordable housing and job growth and so much more. And since the Dobbs decision, the state legislature is the front line for protecting reproductive freedom. I find it extremely troubling that someone who sought this office is making the case that students do not deserve a voice in our local elections," concluded the release.

Editor's Note: This article continues online and can be read at dailycampus.com.

Last minute campaigning in front of the Mansfield town hall on Nov. 5, 2024. Parties in Conn. cannot advertise within 75 feet of any entrance to any polling place but as seen, will have many signs just outside the border. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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News

The Comeback: How Donald Trump pulled off a 2024 victory

by **Harika Goteti**
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On Nov. 6, the winner of the race between Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump was announced. It left everyone with the question: how did he win? What went wrong for Harris?

The Latin American population in the states make up a vibrant community among voters in the U.S., including in key battleground states such as Pennsylvania, Florida and Arizona, which all went red this election.

According to the Miami Herald, Trump put more effort than Harris in courting specific Hispanic groups, such as Cuban Americans and Puerto Ricans in Florida, for the state has 30 electoral votes. According to statistics from NBC Chicago, in 2020, 32 percent of Latinos supported Trump compared to 45 percent in 2024. The stark difference showcases how important key issues were to Latin American voters, as according to NBC Chicago, “cost of living, jobs and the economy and housing costs were very key issues that Harris didn’t focus on.” These

issues were so important to Latin Americans that one in four Latino voters were voting for the first time, NBC Chicago further stated.

Professor Thomas Hayes, who teaches Intro to American Politics and The Politics of Inequality at the University of Connecticut, believes identity can play an important role in elections.

“Identity politics can be observed among Republicans as well,” Hayes said. “For instance, public opinion surveys show that Democrats are more likely to identify groups like African Americans or women as facing discrimination, while Republicans often cite white people or Christians. This reflects how identities are activated by elected officials across the political spectrum.”

Pennsylvania, Florida and Arizona weren’t the only key battleground states that Trump won. Michigan played a key role in this election as well.

According to Black Voice News, Dearborn, Michigan is home to the country’s largest Arab American diaspora. In Hamtramck, Dearborn and Dearborn Heights, Harris re-

portedly received “at least 22,000 fewer votes than Biden did in the previous election,” according to an article by The Guardian. These same cities represent nearly 27 percent of the 81,000-vote difference between Harris and Trump in the state.

In Michigan, 53 percent of Muslim Americans voted for Jill Stein, who is known as a strong advocate for Palestine. However, the same poll showed 21 percent of Muslims cast a ballot for Trump and 20.3 percent for Harris. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI), a U.S. representative for Michigan’s 12th district and a strong advocate for Palestine, is the first Palestinian American woman to serve in Congress and one of the first two Muslim women elected to Congress. Tlaib, a Democrat, won in a state that Harris lost in. According to PBS News, the Israel-Gaza war has been a key issue for many Arab and Muslim Americans that cost Harris the election.

News outlets played another major role in swinging people. Hayes also believes that the media holds an important role in elections.

“People reading news in the right-wing media ecosys-

tem tend not to be sharing news from The Washington Post, for example, or PBS, so they’re not seeing a lot of the things that are more critical of Trump,” Hayes said.

Hayes talked about how the type of media people consume can shape their political views. He pointed out that “if you read a newspaper – online or print – or if you watch network news, you’re much more likely to vote for Harris,” while “if you got your news on YouTube, Twitter or podcasts, you’re much more likely to vote for Trump.”

Hayes also touched on how the media, regardless of political leaning, had been hard on the Biden-Harris administration when it came to the economy.

“Media outlets from both sides of the spectrum were hammering the administration on the economy for the past three years,” Hayes said, adding that “52 percent of people said yes, we’re in a recession” just two days before the election.

Hayes also said he conducted a survey in one of his classes to assess the general predictions of UConn students. Most of his students predicted Harris would win the election.

“You know, I asked my class—I did like a Slido survey the day be-

fore the election or two days before the election—Who do you think is going to win? And two-thirds of them thought Kamala Harris was going to win,” Hayes said.

Harris was in a tough spot this election, a BBC article stated. She had to critique the Biden administration without it seeming like she was undermining it as she was still the vice president. The article further stated that Harris tried to stray away from Biden’s policies, though she also could not promote them on the campaign trail as Biden’s approval ratings were heavily dropping, according to an article by Politico. As a result, Harris attacked Trump’s policies, especially those on abortion, instead of focusing on what she would do for the country and what she would change from what was already going on, the BBC article further suggests. According to an Edison Research exit poll, only 14 percent of voters cited abortion as their top issue in the White House race, while 32 percent cited the economy. According to the BBC article, Harris failed to convince voters she would handle economic concerns.

Residents of Mansfield line up at the town hall to register and vote in the 2024 elections on Nov. 5, 2024. With 741,895 votes cast early according to the Secretary of the States Office, one mansfield poll official said “it still has been a busy day”.

PHOTO BY GONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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ACROSS

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- 5 "F" on a test, often
- 10 One-named "Believe" diva
- 14 "A Streetcar Named Desire" director Kazan
- 15 Like days of yore
- 16 In robust health
- 17 Big spender in Vegas
- 19 Land in a lake
- 20 Had a dinner date
- 21 TV cooking competition hosted by Kristen Kish
- 23 Flat French hats
- 24 Loafer, for one
- 25 Extremely volatile situation
- 31 "You go, ___!"
- 35 Kanga's son
- 36 Running total
- 37 Like two jacks in a deck of cards
- 39 Drool
- 41 Ward (off)
- 42 "I Like ___": 1950s political slogan
- 43 "No Ordinary Love" singer
- 44 Southern breakfast side dish
- 48 Art hub in New Mexico
- 49 Desert that covers most of North Africa
- 54 Item in a makeup bag
- 58 Connect to a power supply
- 59 ___ the hump
- 60 Sigh from a weary traveler, and an apt title for this puzzle
- 63 Musical Auntie played by Angela Lansbury
- 64 Levels in some subscription plans
- 65 To ___: perfectly
- 66 Sound of a stone skimming failure
- 67 Celebrities
- 68 Email button

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- 1 Post-surgery regimen
- 2 Crème de la crème

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By C.W. Stewart

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Monday's Puzzle Solved

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11/19/24

- 3 Chad neighbor
- 4 Lake between the Silver State and the Golden State
- 5 Tender after too much walking
- 6 ___-purpose flour
- 7 "Bad" cholesterol, for short
- 8 Get hot under the collar
- 9 Plant securely
- 10 Hip and stylish
- 11 Corned beef ___
- 12 Fashion magazine with a French name
- 13 Big name in flip-flops and surfing apparel
- 18 The "R" of the Supreme Court's RBG
- 22 Green sauce
- 24 ___-cone: icy treat
- 26 Curtain holder
- 27 Grabs
- 28 Actor Idris
- 29 Winter coaster
- 30 One of four on a British car
- 31 Gentle expression of surprise
- 32 Division word

- 33 Printer's package
- 34 Strauss of jeans
- 38 Blabbermouth
- 39 Compete in a slalom
- 40 "I don't think we want any!"
- 42 April 15 agcy.
- 45 America's Cup vessels
- 46 "Get cracking!"
- 47 Basic food preservative

- 50 Oahu dances
- 51 Marble material
- 52 Out of the sack
- 53 Added a chip, say
- 54 Free ticket, casually
- 55 Elongated circle
- 56 Note from the boss
- 57 Get ready, briefly
- 61 ___ culpa
- 62 Make a mistake

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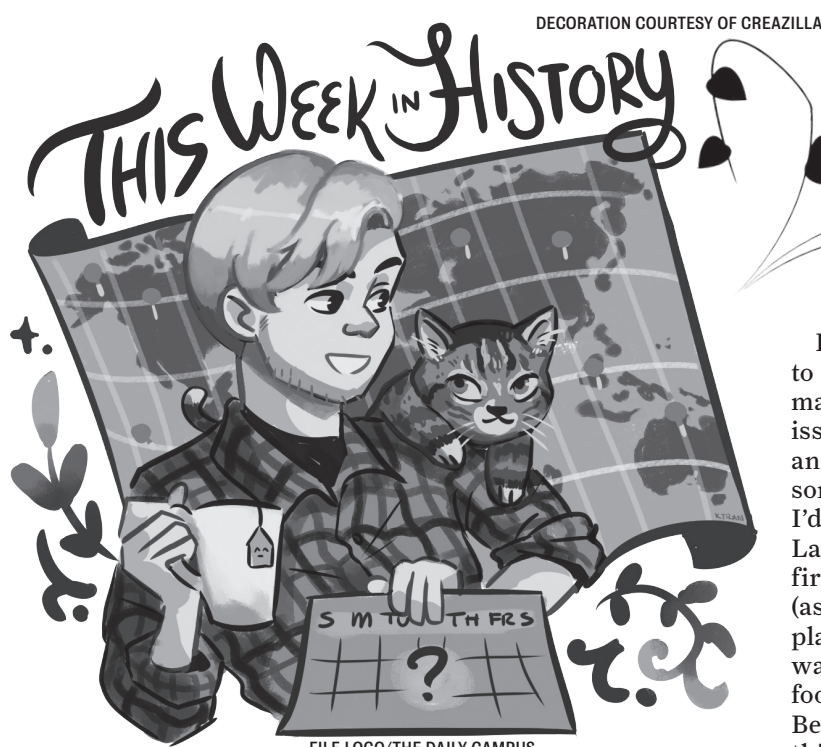


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Life



“Steamboat Willie”

by Benjamin Lassy | LIFE EDITOR | HE/HIM/HIS | benjamin.lassy@uconn.edu

Hello, and welcome back to This Week in History! You may have noticed there was no issue of the column last week, and that was for a ton of reasons, but among them was one I'd like to briefly highlight. Last week in history was the first ever Life section party (as far as I'm aware), taking place in the mid-afternoon. It was a nice time to share some food and games as a section. Beyond that, I'm back, and this week we've got some Disney history to cover.

When the name Disney is mentioned anywhere, my first thought is of the magical Mickey Mouse. Whether it's his early forms as a black-and-white cartoon mouse, or later on in animated games and movies where Mickey takes on a colorful persona, he's undoubtedly the company's icon and possibly the biggest animated character of all time. At first, I thought Mickey's importance and near-universal appreciation comes from his simplicity, but behind the character is a history of innovation and change that is absolutely staggering.

That history generally comes to be in the late 1920s, as theatergoers were at the precipice of a great shift in the media industry. While the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries saw plays and concerts grow in complexity and even recordings (records) start to be produced in limited numbers, by the late 1920s, companies such as RCA Victor were working on new commercial technologies that would completely alter humanity's consumption of media. RCA developed flat discs that would ultimately become vinyl records. Meanwhile, microphones were

also being developed by companies such as RCA at this time, with broadcast microphones coming into use in the late 1920s.

As a backdrop to these technological innovations — partially spurred by the relative peace following World War I and the “Roaring Twenties” — Walt Disney was innovating in the animation industry with his own Walt Disney Animation Studios. He was caught in a difficult spot in the mid-1920s. With Oswald the Lucky Rabbit (Disney's initial character) being owned by Universal Pictures, the studio was without a main character. Yet, even when Mickey came to be, two initial cartoons were unable to attract a distributor.

These setbacks were substantial, yet among the theatergoers of the 1920s was Walt Disney himself. It was while watching the first commercially released audio and video synchronized film, “The Jazz Singer,” that Disney committed to release a cartoon with sound of its own.

Thus, after months of work, with Disney as director and his staff, including producer Pat Powers and co-director Ub Iwerks, this week in history, “Steamboat Willie” released in theaters for the first time.

The short cartoon premiered on Nov. 18, 1928, in Universal's Colony Theater in New York City, playing as an opener for the film, “Gang War.” Ironically, “Gang War,” the film that “Steamboat Willie” was there to support, ended up being totally lost and forgotten, while Mickey's debut became incredibly popular, sending the mouse to success within its initial run. Critical acclaim was also nearly universal, with Disney's inno-

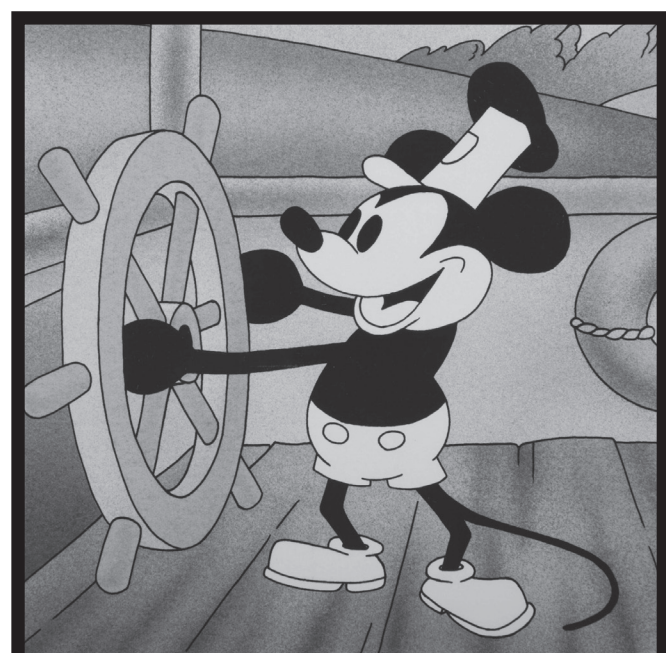
vative blend of animation and sound capturing an audience of theatergoers and critics alike.

It's interesting to think of the success of Disney, and the company's repeated use of “magic” as a concept in their branding and plotlines today. There is some serious merit to Disney's ability to produce magical products, as that's how “Steamboat Willie” must have felt for audiences used to viewing their films without audio, or at least without recorded audio. As Variety commented in 1928, “Giggles came so fast at the Colony [Theater] they were stumbling over each other.”

What a magical evening that must have been. Imagine being seated in a room full of people watching a completely new form of media for the first time, one that could make you jump as speakers play audio that syncs up perfectly with the cartoon's exciting moments.

Those exciting moments, amazingly, have also now entered the public domain as of January 2024. After years of copyright extensions, often by acts of the U.S. legislature, the original “Steamboat Willie” can now be watched in their entirety free of charge.

There are so many moments of quirky cartoon-work, from pulling pigtailed to spitting towards the wind, but everything is nonetheless charming. It is certainly worth a quick watch, though imagine if this was the first time you saw and heard a comic. That's how it would have been for initial viewers in 1928, and that's where the magic of Disney comes from. The spirit of innovation for the pursuit of fun has yielded many great technologies and pieces of media, and “Steamboat Willie” may be the



“Steamboat Willie” remains one of the most notorious cartoons since its creation. Willie was invented by Walt Disney in 1928.

IMAGE COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Shoot absolutely everything in ‘Risk of Rain 2’

by Desirae Sin | STAFF WRITER | SHE/HER/HERS | desirae.sin@uconn.edu

Hello, and welcome back to The Backlog, the weekly column where I review video games based on a certain genre each month. As we get closer to Thanksgiving break, it's important to reconnect with friends and family we haven't seen in a long time. As such, November continues to be our “multiplayer” month. So, here's a game I recently got into with my family: “Risk of Rain 2.”

“Risk of Rain 2” is a third-person shooter developed by Hopoo Games and published by Gearbox Publishing. The game is set on an alien planet where humanity is able to traverse the stars. It was released as an early access title in 2019 as a sequel to “Risk of Rain,” which came out in 2013, and the full release was in 2020. It's available on Stadia, Nintendo Switch, PlayStation 4 and 5, Xbox One, Series X/S and on PCs through Steam.

The premise of this sequel is similar to the first game. In the first game, the player is a crew member of the ship, UES Contact Light. It crashes on a planet called Petrivor V and you have to battle against ancient enemies. “Risk of Rain 2” is a continuation of this story in that you play as the crew members from another ship that responds to the UES Contact Light's distress signal.

Players can choose a variety of survivors to play as in “Risk of Rain 2.”

The default and most basic survivor is the Commando. He's an experienced fighter and can be used by new players instantly. Other survivors include the Huntress, Artificer and the Bandit. Each one has their own skills and abilities. The Huntress' arrows will auto-seek enemies, making it easy for players who can't aim. The Artificer is similar to a mage and can shoot lasers or create walls of ice. The Bandit is — surprise — a cowboy with a shotgun.

Personally, I like to use the

Railgunner, but she is available through the “Survivors of the Void” expansion for the base game. In most shooter games, I'm drawn to sniper rifles or these types of characters. The beauty of having a selection of survivors means players can change how they play each run.

Each time you play, you land on a certain biome on Petrivor V. In these stages you must survive and find a teleporter. Enemies will spawn constantly, and as players fight, they'll be traversing their environment. Boxes around the map contain items to help boost different aspects of your character. The basic ones are health, movement speed or damage. Some items are more lucrative, but many of them can be stacked.

My strategy with the Railgunner is to stock up on Tri-Tipped Daggers, Crowbars, Kjaro's Bands and Hopoo Feathers. Although it's good to get a variety of items, in most cases, the item will benefit you in some way. The items vary in rarity as well. White items are common, green is uncommon, red is legendary and yellow items are dropped by bosses. There are also blue items which are considered lunar items. They provide some sort of buff but at a cost, so be wary. Purple items, or void items, are available through the “Survivors of the Void” DLC and are very useful for stacking effects. Orange items are considered equipment and can be used by the player. I usually stick with the Seed of Life item as it provides a second life, but it is consumable.

The goal in each stage is to collect as many items as possible and find the teleporter. Activating it will spawn a boss (or multiple bosses). Players must also stay within a certain radius of the teleporter to charge it and allow them to travel to the next area. Each stage gets more dif-

icult; as time goes on the difficulty increases. Before you begin your run, you can choose a starting difficulty, the easiest being Drizzle and the hardest being Monsoon. But within the run, the difficulty increases on a scale. It starts off as Easy, but can quickly reach Hard, Impossible, I SEE YOU, I'M COMING FOR YOU and HAHAAAAHA. Even though HAHAAAAHA is the last difficulty, it still increases with time.

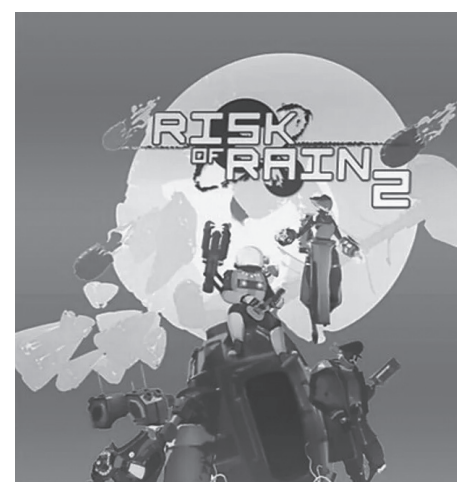
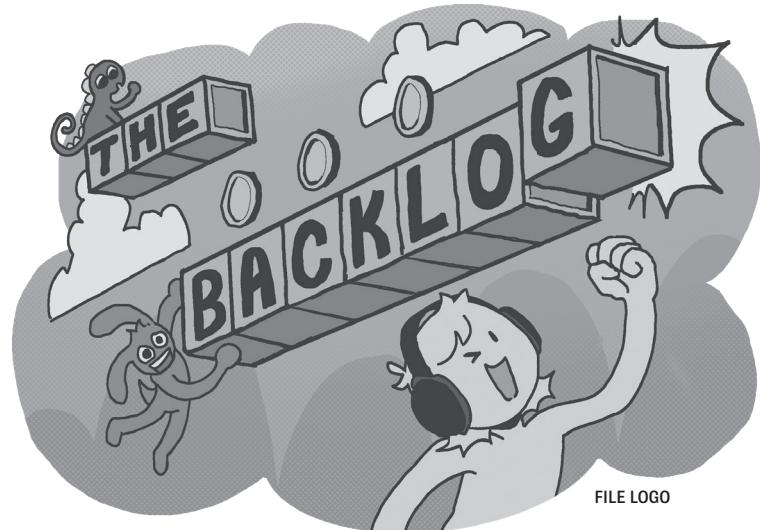
Most of the story is contained within descriptions of items, enemies and even the characters. But “Risk of Rain 2” isn't a game for those looking for a coherent narrative. Instead, it's for those who value gameplay and want to see how far they can go.

Every five stages, the player is given the chance to fight the final boss, but you can also choose to loop again and get stronger for another five stages. Mithrix is the final boss of “Risk of Rain 2” and is found on the moon of Petrivor V. As my brother knows, I've nicknamed Mithrix as “hammerhead shark guy” because that's what he looks like: a shark, and he wields a hammer.

There are also other final bosses available like the False Son and the Voidling, given you have the proper DLCs.

“Risk of Rain 2” can be played online with friends or locally through a split screen. Although you can play by yourself, I believe “Risk of Rain 2” fits within our “multiplayer” category because it's better with friends. I'd rather be stranded on an alien planet with friends than alone.

Rating:
4/5 Lunar Coins



“Risk of Rain 2” is the sequel to the original “Risk of Rain,” and is available to play on Stadia, Nintendo Switch, and other platforms. The original game was released in 2013.

IMAGES COURTESY OF PRINTerval



'UNIVERSAL LAWS OF SHAME':

SYBYR DOESN'T CARE WHAT ANYONE THINKS

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab** | STAFF WRITER | SHE/HER/HERS | lilith.rampertab@uconn.edu

Sybyr, also known as Landfill when he produces and formerly known as Syringe, is a rapper, singer and producer from Maryland with a cult following due to his music being a source of comfort for people with mental illnesses. His 2016 albums "HELLHORSE" and "Anti-World," namely the latter, pioneered the trap metal subgenre.

However, he has since fallen into mediocrity with many half-baked projects with generic trap beats. Sybyr is at his best when he experiments, especially as a singer, but he does what he wants and expresses himself boldly without a care in the world, it seems. "Universal Laws of Shame" demonstrates his creative freedom in a pretty annoying way.

When listening to his works, it is often the case that there are a few diamonds in the rough. As such, I will only cover the highlights and ignore the many mediocre tracks this album has.

"Laws of Shame (Intro)" is an introspective opener with an instrument similar to a kalimba and a reversed stringed sound. He asks, "How'd the fuck did I get here if I'm surely anti-social?" and "I'm the North of the South and the East to the West, I don't even fit the picture, I'm a whole damn mess" is relatable as a Guyanese descendant oddly enough since Guyana isn't a Hispanic country, so people don't consider Guyana to be Latine although it's a part of Latin America. Failing to fit in is a common theme in some of Sybyr's music, but he boldly established a trend in the underground rap scene and made a name for himself.

"Warehouse" is a hedonistic earworm of a song produced by Landfill about a party with women of the goth subculture and getting promiscuous. There's a slightly off-kilter but stylistically rich reverb-drenched feature by Siouxxie Sixxsta, creator of the 2021 EP "witchpop." The synths are the cornerstone of this infectious song.

"Aura Shine" is an ominous-sounding bass-heavy song about Sybyr dotting over a lone woman at a party and trying to get with her. It's pretty creepy.

"Hope You Ain't Forget" is for the fans of the old Sybyr, as he used to refrain from screaming after the name change, but he broke his oath to release his violent rage for somebody else through music. The beat for this song is similar to fellow influential underground rapper SICKBOYRARI's "Flash Out (Free C Murder)," especially with the lead guitar.

Sybyr singing "I'll kill you in Jesus' name" is reminiscent of the old Sybyr in the worst ways. A mature Sybyr can make something truly beautiful, but this is like a relapse into maladaptive ideology. Still, it's enthralling.

"No, It's Not You It's Me" is reminiscent of Sybyr's "The Mill" with the production quality and his singing. The bass is mixed weirdly, poking out while the synth lead is a bit buried. Guardian's feature fits well with the beat and is a good parallel to the singing.

"Anti-American N****z" is Sybyr's interpretation of the trend

of using the off-kilter stream-of-consciousness-seeming flow of fellow influential underground rapper RXXNephew. The song functions as a hate message for Americans, who can never be "cordial" according to him, an American. "I might start a motherfuckin' war with this one," Sybyr says before starting his verse where he disses former American president Barack Obama for advancing gay rights. The beat sounds like something that could be made in 15 minutes on FL Studio with the sporadic claps.

"Livelihood" is as gothic as Sybyr gets. The gloomy yet somewhat energetic production and the quirky vocals are cool, and I respect Sybyr trying something new, but this is an example of an experiment not being too fruitful.

"Bad Habits" is super annoying. From the attempt of an earworm on the hook to the chorus sample and the generic trap percussion, this isn't it. The guitar on "Different Everything Tho" is reminiscent of semi-mainstream alternative rapper BONES' song "I Think I Will Be Ok."

"B.P.O.M.L." has a great beat with electronic stylings. The hedonistic and materialistic lyrics about trying to have the best party ever are certainly like him, especially considering the other songs about attending parties.

The hi-hats on "Forever Rookie" are mixed horrendously; they're so buried in the synths. Nonetheless, this song is a testament to Sybyr's dedication to experimentation and making whatever he wants to. He also flexes about being broke in this song.

"To Miss Lady" is Sybyr's way of introducing himself to a woman, saying that he makes music and that he doesn't have a job.

"Last Time Playing Fair" sees the return of the introspective Sybyr from the intro. "I want to change my life, I want to change my circumstances," he sings. The desolate-sounding guitar sets the mood for the reflection well. He said he doesn't trust women and then a long bleep plays over his voice censoring what he said.

The closer, "Better Luck," sounds similar to "Dreamworld" by infamous underground rapper Thaiboy Digital at the beginning with the piano and trap percussion. When the synths come in, it also reminds me of Bladee, another infamous rapper and singer. Eric North's vocal contributions are great. Sybyr's lyric "Life is like a puzzle, gotta keep my piece/peace" is brilliant, and his vocals are some of the best on the album.

"Universal Laws of Shame" is a hot mess. It's disappointing because the introspectiveness is there in some tracks, but the mediocrity of hedonism, materialism and bigotry paired with generic trap beats with not too much going on is boring and overdone. Sybyr has the potential for brilliance in his current style as we've seen with "Anti-World II" and "Reflections Before Daybreak," but this isn't it. It's his life, though, and he certainly doesn't care about a college student's opinion of his art. I still reserve the right to be disappointed, nonetheless.



Sybyr's "Universal Laws of Shame" is available for streaming on YouTube. The album was released on Friday, Nov. 15. PHOTOS COURTESY OF @SYBYR_RINGE/INSTAGRAM



RATING





Life

@dailycampuslife

UConn Jazz Ensemble delivers a dazzling performance



CLIPART COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL

by Dan Stark | STAFF WRITER | HE/HIM/HIS | daniel.stark@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut Jazz Ensemble took to the stage at von der Mehden Recital Hall on Sunday, Nov. 17, for an evening of energetic jazz music that showcased the talents of UConn music students.

After some quick tuning notes, the ensemble wasted no time and jumped into its opening number, “Blues for Stew’s Shoes” by Alan Baylock. The song kicked off with the rhythm section launching into a fast swing groove as pianist Isadore Palacpac took the lead, dancing around the keys to set the mood. This relatively soft opening set the stage for the saxophones and brass sections to triumphantly enter, delivering intense and flowing lines punctuated by sharp and short staccato hits. Drummer Ohm Soni finished the song with elongated, powerful drum fills, ending a fiery first song that set the tone for what was to come.

Next on the bill was a medley of “Pure Imagination” from “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory” and “Never Never Land” from “Peter Pan.” The “Pure Imagination” portion highlighted the saxophone section, with their warm and flowing tones wrapping the audience in a beautiful blanket of sound. The energy picked up in the “Never Never Land” portion, as the band settled into a mid-tempo groove. The dynamics and

busyness of the piece continued as the sections weaved their harmonies, while drummer Sean Byington navigated the band through the changes in volume.

The ensemble’s high command of dynamics and volume control was on full display in the third piece of the night, “A Study Was Done,” by Carl Murr. The song started soft, but this introduction was played in a menacing and pointed way. The group effortlessly flowed between quiet and louder portions of the piece, with powerful hits by the trumpet section interspersed throughout. At one point, the band stopped playing entirely, leaving the audience on the edge of their seats waiting to see what would happen next. The ensemble then built the sound right back up to a roaring height, punctuated by Byington’s potent drum fills.

After the complexity of “A Study Was Done,” the ensemble took on a simpler piece with Miles Davis’ standard “All Blues.” Bassist Brendan McManus kicked off the piece with a free jazz-inspired upright bass solo that made the medium-sized recital hall feel like an intimate jazz club. The rest of the band then faded in, with each section playing with restraint so as not to overpower each other. The 12-bar blues arrangement that serves as the song’s basis served as a launching pad

for extended solos by multiple members of the group. The star of the show during the song was trumpeter Michael Rentz, who took center stage playing the song’s main melody line, while also laying down a suave solo that channeled Davis.

One of the highlights of the night came with the next piece, “I Hear a Rhapsody,” which prominently featured tenor saxophonists Michael Farina and Noah Lafond as the piece’s main melody line. The two played in absolute lockstep with each other, weaving their individual parts perfectly with each other. This gave way to a solo section that can only be described as a saxophone duel for the ages. Farina and Lafond exchanged lively solos before entering a call-and-response section, during which they traded licks with each other like guitarists in a jam band would. The crowd sat in amazement watching the two engage in an engaging musical conversation that stood as one of the best moments of the evening.

The evening concluded with a rendition of “Minuano,” a composition by jazz guitar legend Pat Metheny. The brooding intro led by Ciara Garcia and Caroline Shadman on baritone saxophone and trombone, respectively, gave way to a viva-

cious Latin-esque groove. The trumpet section played some of its highest notes of the night, which led to a smooth solo by guitarist Colin Quigley. Quigley glided across the fretboard as the rest of the band fired away behind him, creating a musical contrast that worked spectacularly. The band soon went into a dramatic buildup with a marching snare drum line and swelling horns, before ending loudly and abruptly to bring the energetic concert to a close. The crowd then responded with roaring applause.



CLIPART COURTESY OF VEXELS



UConn Jazz Ensemble performing in their concert in April 2024. Pieces made by students and notable composers were played.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @UCONNMUSICDEPT/INSTAGRAM



Opinion

The Daily Campus

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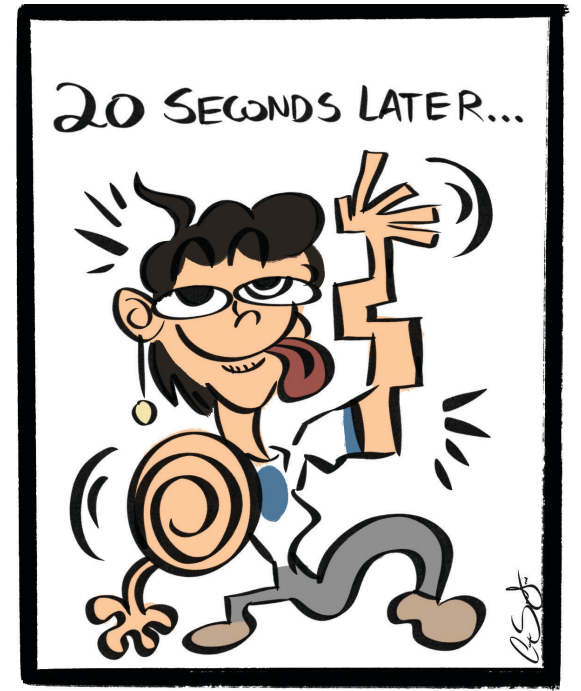
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COMIC BY CONNOR SZREJNA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Rapid Fire

If we're lucky in the Opinion section, we work through our beliefs completely and support them with great arguments. But sometimes, we don't need a deeper reason to hold our convictions. Rapid Fire is for those short length takes that only take a few sentences to get out — no more justification needed.

Last weekend's fight between Jake Paul and Mike Tyson dominated social media and added to a quickly growing list of celebrity boxing matches. Whether you're a fan or not, these events combine over-the-top entertainment and competition, creating spectacles that people from all walks of life want to tune in to see. This week, the opinion section answers the question: Which celebrities do we want to see in the boxing ring next?

Evelyn Pazan, Associate Opinion Editor:

This is sort of random, but I would pay actual money to watch Snooki hop in the ring against Shaq. Besides the insane height difference of over two feet, I want to see the energy that two "New Jerseyans" would bring to fight night. Suggested walk out song for Snooki, this "Before He Cheats" Jersey club remix. For Shaq, "All I Do Is Win."

Tomas Hinckley, Opinion Editor:

Look, I'm not saying we need another celebrity boxing match, lord knows these things are horrid, but I have an undying need, perhaps a burning desire to see Elon Musk face the octagon. I'm not saying there would be joy in my heart seeing him get punched in the face, but there would be something deeply satisfying about it. Bring back the proposed match for him v. Zuckerberg, let it happen.

Raegan Skelly, Contributor:

I am begging for Dave Portnoy and Zach Bryan to box for many reasons. Mainly because it would be advertised so well, since Portnoy owns Barstool Sports and would love nothing more than to show off his hatred for Bryan. I've listened to all of the seemingly endless diss tracks made by Barstool ever since Bryan's breakup with Barstool's own Brianna "Chickenfry" LaPaglia ("Small Man" is by far the best). There is also nothing Barstool loves more than to release topical merchandise, and the idea of a shirt featuring Zach Bryan getting beaten up by the infamous Miss Peaches (Portnoy's viral adopted dog) brings me sincere joy.

Noa Climor, Contributor:

Personally, I think many celebrities need to duke it out in the ring. Get rid of the academies and make them fight for whatever award they are nominated for. Maybe Tom Holland, Andrew Garfield and Toby Maguire? Make them battle for who the best spiderman really is. Critics can say whatever they want, but in the end, the best spiderman is the one that wins it all.

Patrick Minnerly, Weekly Columnist:

The world needs a Kendrick versus Drake matchup. Think of how many views that would get! Kendrick already won the war, so it would just be an absolute popcorn fight. They both could have their walkup songs be the diss tracks they wrote about each other.

The Evie-dence: Is Bluesky "better" social media or is it a false promise?

by Evelyn Pazan
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR
SHE/HER/HERS
evelyn.pazan@uconn.edu

Tired of advertisements, creepily accurate algorithms and misinformation on your social media apps? You might not be alone. Since the election, new social media app Bluesky has experienced rapid growth as X users run from right-wing rhetoric posted by owner Elon Musk. It is estimated that during the past week, Bluesky has acquired around one million new users each day. But what is it that's drawing people to Bluesky?

Unique to other social media platforms, Bluesky promises users a self-curated algorithm and a decentralized set up. It was created by former head of Twitter, Jack Dorsey, who has since stepped down, and wanted to create an X-like experience, but without an owner company. Rather, Bluesky's goal is to create a shared ownership experience that combines multiple independent servers into one cohesive experience.

This app using the AT Protocol allows users to create or choose multiple different algorithms or transfer between servers while maintaining your friends, data and set-up. This way, users will be able to control what takes up their attention, prevent the sale of their information for advertisements and personally curate their moderation settings on a server-to-server basis.

While all of these promises for change sound productive, they beg the question: How much will they really improve the user experience and how long will they last until the need for money trumps privacy?

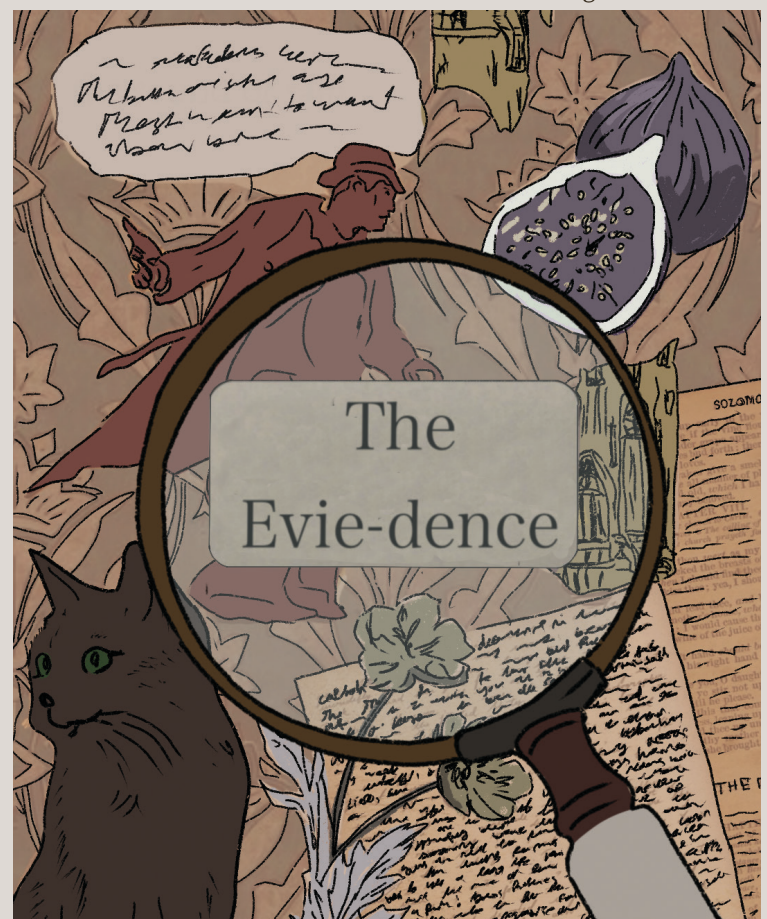
Bluesky may have addressed the alarming control that app owners have over algorithms, but the introduction of a personally curated algorithm raises other issues. When users are left to design their own algorithm, it may raise more concern for social media users to become addicted to the app. Studies by the California State University system estimate that five to 10 percent of Americans meet the criteria for social media addic-

tion. These numbers could be even higher in children who lack a fully developed reward system and self-control tactics. Since Bluesky users can control what they see, they will be constantly bombarded with content that triggers their reward system, encouraging more time spent on the app.

Another issue with Bluesky's current set up is the fact that there are limited pathways for the company to generate profit or funding. Bluesky relies on private investments like the \$15 million Series A financing it received in October from individuals and ventures. Aside from these investments, Bluesky has no way to directly generate money from the application. There are no ad revenues or user data sales which are the typical avenues for social media monetization. Bluesky has also asserted that they are not interested in becoming a subscription-based service. In a blog post by the Bluesky Team, they insisted that the app "will always be free to use" and "[they] believe that information and conversation should be easily accessible, not locked down."

There are no guarantees as to how long this will last. There are existing fears of companies abandoning user safety in favor of profits, seen most recently when OpenAI announced a transition from non-profit to public benefit. Unless Bluesky can fully develop and successfully execute subscription ideas around profile customizations and domain-name registration, they may be forced to explore new and less private profit generation avenues.

We may never see an app that fully encompasses ideas of privacy and autonomy, but that doesn't mean that social media is all bad. When used in moderation and mindfully, social media can be a great way to connect with others and develop new interests. Bluesky is certainly a step in the right direction but be aware that no matter how "private" or "safe" it might seem, everything on the internet is permanent and there is always someone watching.



LOGO BY LILIAN LAFEMINA, ASSOCIATE ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Lights of Storrs



The UConn Storrs campus on Nov. 18, 2024. It was a busy day in Storrs, Conn. as the semester continued to dwindle and students waited in anticipation for Thanksgiving break. PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The Breakup:

A quick death for the ‘special relationship’ under a second Trump term

by James Watson | CONTRIBUTOR | HE/HIM/HIS | mip24003@uconn.edu

Within the first few days of November, America had found itself with a new President. Beyond being hugely important inside of the U.S., this was an election that was being followed keenly around the world. Five months ago, another record election took place, this time to elect a leader of the opposition party for the first time in 14 years. Kier Starmer, who represented a centre-left Labour party secured a sweeping victory with 411 out of 650 seats in the British Parliament.

The reasons why Starmer would have preferred a Democrat leader as a close ally for the next four years are relatively clear. Similar internationalist outlooks and a mutual interest in an increase rather than a decline in government aid would have made for natural bed fellows with the Labour Party. His emphasis on social justice and government accountability at home and increased interventionism abroad are about as far from Trump’s protectionist ‘America first’ position as you can get.

However, much like the proportion of the U.S. who did not vote for Trump, this is something that other world leaders, including the U.K.

Prime Minister, will have to deal with.

On Nov. 6 the Prime Minister readily made a call to offer President-Elect Trump a “hearty congratulations.” It is alleged that they exchanged pleasantries about their meeting in September and Trump told the Prime Minister that he looked forward to keeping up relations with a country he had a great affinity for. However, this should not be mistaken for the same degree of warmth that the relationship has had in the past. Over the next four years, the relationship between the president and the Prime Minister will likely become tepid.

Both Starmer and Trump have gained the mandate to be more assertive in the role, the problem is, they are running in opposite directions. Trump’s reinvigorated brand of “America first” rhetoric leaves little room for the Prime Minister. At the same time, members of Starmer’s cabinet have previously belittled the President-Elect, calling him a “tyrant” and “a woman-hating, neo-Nazi-sympathising sociopath.” Admitted or otherwise, this will certainly take a toll on already strained relations between the president and the prime minister.

The channel Prime Minister’s Questions provides a weekly opportunity for those outside of the governing party to scrutinise both the Prime Minister and the wider government. During last week’s session, Kemi Badenoch, the leader of the opposition Conservative Party, said the U.S. was the U.K.’s single biggest trade partner and warned the prime minister he would need to “look after the special relationship.” It may be apparent however that this is not currently a priority for Starmer. The prime minister has already been challenged on the amount of time he spends abroad, and it looks like spending greater amounts of time with the new president will put him in the spotlight for reasons that are undesirable.

The diplomatic relationship between the United Kingdom and the United States is something that has been decades in the making. At its height, it drew together two of the world’s preeminent powers under the banner of liberal economic policy and conservative social policy. This was characterised by the joint premiership of Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher. Today, it seems that Starmer and Trump could not be a more

ideologically distant pairing. Trump’s strong protectionism and dislike for robust foreign interventionism will put a great dampener on Starmer’s diplomacy and liberal outreach to other world powers.

As Trump begins to firm up the cabinet appointments in his new administration, one thing is clear. The foreign policy in his second term will look to rely more on America and be more transactional than before. This makes it more likely that Starmer’s seat at the small and rather paranoid table of people that President Trump trusts will disappear. This may also lead to an ideological dog fight in which Starmer comes out more than wounded.

If it seems there are not many good options for Britain in terms of its foreign policy strategy with the U.S. right now it is exactly because there are not. Like many whirlwind romances, it may be time for Britain to consider whether or not their relationship with the U.S. was built to last. As both countries become wrapped in what will be beneficial for themselves, rather than mutually beneficial, it could become likely that the Western world will end up seeing red.

Op-Ed

PSA to UConn Students:

Those pregnancy resource vans are lying to you

UConn students, do not seek help from on-campus “pregnancy resource vans” if you want judgment-free, comprehensive reproductive health care. They will not provide that to you.

We are Revolution Against Rape (RAR), a student-run organization at UConn committed to ending rape culture through education, activism and reform. As a group concerned with the sexual health and well-being of the student body, we were disturbed to uncover some deceptive and dangerous practices happening on our campus.

If you subscribe to the Student Daily Digest, you may have seen advertisements for free pregnancy resource vans under the Health, Wellness and Safety section. The most recent promotion for Nov. 4 said “the van hosts medical professionals who may distribute pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, options counseling, parenting support/education and community refer-

als—all free of charge and confidential.” Most anyone reading this description would assume this service provides all-encompassing reproductive health care. Indeed, the people behind these pregnancy resource vans deliberately appeal to people in crisis and imply that they will support their patients’ personal health decisions. However, their true intentions are to manipulate vulnerable individuals to comply with their anti-choice ideologies.

These vans that periodically come to campus are organized by UConn Students for Life and the Catholic Center @ Storrs, an affiliate of St. Thomas Aquinas, Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish. The organization that actually operates the vans and interacts with patients is called Caring Families, a Christian, pro-life 501(c)3 non-profit based in Connecticut. According to their website, “Caring Families Pregnancy Services does not recommend, provide, or refer for abor-

tion or abortifacients [nor do they] recommend, provide or refer single men or women for contraceptives.” Caring Families repeatedly expresses its pro-life stances and emphasizes that any and all care must abide by these restrictions, regardless of what the patients’ beliefs or circumstances may be.

Furthermore, their online employment applications and “Guiding Principles and Statement of Faith” espouse hateful belief systems including sexism, misogyny, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, sex shaming and body policing.

Every human being deserves access to high-quality reproductive health care just as they deserve to be treated with respect, dignity and equity. In RAR’s opinion, organizations such as Caring Families that deceive the public, reject bodily autonomy and foster such deplorable values have no place at UConn.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF COACH GENO AURIEMMA AND CHRIS DAILEY

by Nahum Valiente | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | nahum.valiente@uconn.edu

On Nov. 15, 2024, Geno Auriemma achieved a record 1,216th career win, tying with former Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer for most wins in Division I College Basketball history, across both men and women. Coach Auriemma will have the opportunity tomorrow to achieve a milestone not just for himself, but for the sport. But how did we get here? How did Coach Auriemma find himself on the verge of achieving the coveted title of “winningest coach”?

Humble beginnings

It began in 1985 when the basketball program at the University of Connecticut was in poor form. It wasn't until the Huskies decided to take a chance on the young Auriemma and entrusted him to turn the program around. However, he didn't enter UConn alone. Alongside Auriemma came Chris Dailey from Rutgers who decided to expand her horizons and join Auriemma and the Huskies on a journey that no one expected to unfold the way it did 40 years later.

It took a few years for Coach Auriemma and Dailey to find success with the Huskies. In 1989, the group made a statement about college basketball by winning both the Big East Regular Season and Tournament. Soon, many were taking the Connecticut women seriously. Up to this point, it became apparent that UConn was a serious player in the world of Collegiate Basketball. Then came the recruitment of Rebecca Lobo, which set the stage for UConn to propel its program.

UConn on the National Stage

In 1995, Connecticut con-

tinued to shatter expectations and secured their first National Championship with a 70-64 win over Tennessee. One cannot understate the impact this season had for women's basketball. Providing exciting rivalries such as UConn vs Tennessee and over a hundred thousand fans flocking to Hartford to catch a glimpse of the perfect '95 team truly marked a turning point for the sport. It was a team that not just inspired the small New England state that has been overlooked but created a new generation to invest in women's sports.

For the rest of the 1990's, UConn continued to dominate the Big East, winning both the Regular Season and Tournament every year. As the new millennium began, Connecticut's success continued with their second national championship in 2000 which saw another win over rival Tennessee. As the era of the 1990s came to an end, the program ushered in a new wave of talent through their recruitment class. Coach Auriemma recruited All-American Diana Taurasi to commit to UConn, which was pivotal for the team's success in the following years. The guidance and leadership of Auriemma and Dailey cemented UConn's dynasty, with the program winning three national championships in a row from 2002 to 2004. Over those three years, the Huskies recorded an astonishing 107-5 record, with one perfect season. Connecticut was no longer just the top dog in the Big East, but nationally.

The Huskies bounce back

The years following the threepeat brought new challenges to

Auriemma and Dailey. With high expectations and a growing competitive field, UConn struggled to match their previous winning ways. The team experienced setbacks throughout the next few years, failing to win the Big East Regular Season in 2005 and 2006 and a year later, in 2007, failing to clinch the Big East Tournament title. While setbacks are normal at any time, it was abnormal at this point for Connecticut's standards; all of that would change with the recruitment of Maya Moore. Moore was critical for the team's success and led the team with back-to-back national championships in 2009 and 2010, undefeated in both seasons.

A historic four-year run

At the end of this era, UConn began another, this time through Conference Realignment. In 2013, Connecticut joined the American Athletic Conference (AAC) During their time in this conference, the team secured the AAC regular season title and tournament every year they were members of the conference. However, 2013 also saw the coming of Breanna Stewart. Her ambition and drive, alongside the winning mentality of Auriemma and Dailey, created an unstoppable UConn, which saw the program win a historic four national championships back-to-back from 2013 to 2016 and a staggering 151-5 record. During this era, Auriemma and Dailey achieved a record 11th national championship, the most championships in women's basketball.

Connecticut today

After heartbreaking Final Four losses years after and a tournament canceled due to a pandemic, UConn was look-

ing for a comeback. In 2021, Connecticut recruited five-star recruits Paige Bueckers and Aaliyah Edwards. With these new freshmen coming in and the team rejoining the Big East Conference to increase competitive play, there was a sense that the program would enter a new era that would bring the team back to National Championship glory. Unfortunately, injuries plagued the team and saw many players, such as Bueckers, miss out on a full season.

Even with many setbacks, the team has still managed to be successful given its circumstances. The Huskies continue to win their conference season and tournaments, and against all odds even made a Final Four Appearance in 2024 but fell short to Iowa. At the dawn of their ruby anniversary, there is no doubt this team has the capability to end its national championship drought.

Students and fans alike have been integral to the program. It is a culture created by students who have made the environment of support needed for the success of women's sports. UConn Basketball stated that “the impact they have had on their student-athletes, our fans and all of UConn Nation has been tremendous. Our students have also always been great supporters of our coaches and women's basketball.”

Fans will be able to not only celebrate the 40th anniversary

of coach Auriemma and Dailey tomorrow but potentially witness a historic 1,217th win in the team's matchup against Fairleigh Dickinson. Fans will all receive a t-shirt commemorating the coaches' 40th Anniversary with a Gampel wide red out.

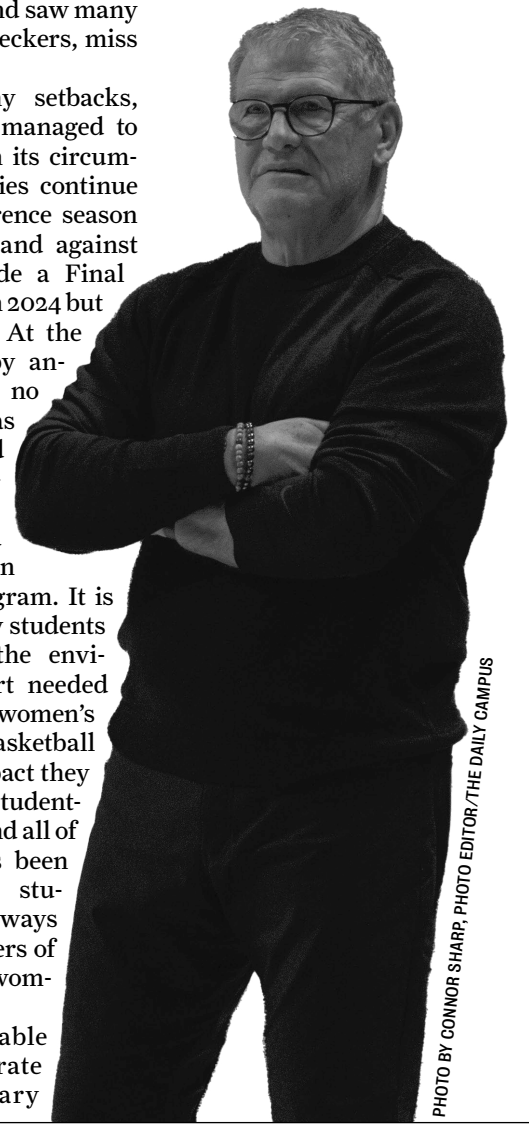


PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

MEN'S BASKETBALL: NO. 2 UCONN RETURNS TO STORRS TO HOST EAST TEXAS A&M

by Connor Sargeant

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All is well for fans of the UConn men's basketball team. Not only are the Huskies coming off a dominant 90-49 win over Le Moyne, but Connecticut has moved past the Alabama Crimson Tide in the latest AP Poll, slotting them right behind No. 1 Kansas. Fans will get another look at the Huskies this Tuesday as the program returns for a Gampel Pavilion showdown against East Texas A&M. While the Huskies are expected to cruise by the Lions in convincing fashion, there are still many long-run trends that fans will want to keep tabs on.

The biggest headline heading into this matchup surrounds the 6-foot-10 big man Samson Johnson. The center has a notorious fouling issue, often racking up a boatload of whistles, which has relegated him to the bench. However, in the program's Nov. 13 showdown against Le Moyne, Johnson was disciplined, picking up only a pair of fouls in 24 minutes of work. The Togo native also racked up four blocks in addition to his excellent at the rim defense. Head Coach Dan Hurley told media personnel on Monday how valuable Johnson is when he does not foul, noting that the backcourt's inability to get the big man involved in the lob game has played in part with Johnson's foul issues.

“His defense, when he is in the game, blocks per minute is like top two in the country,” Hurley told media personnel following Monday's practice. “The guards got to help [Johnson]; the guards are hurting [Johnson], hurting his production. I think he's getting antsy. We are not getting him in the lob game the way we have in the past. The guards aren't seeing it yet.”

The other UConn big man, Tarris Reed Jr., has gotten off to a red-

hot start for Connecticut, averaging nearly 13 points and 10 rebounds per night. However, what's even more impressive about Reed Jr. is that he ranks near the top of the country in offensive rebounding percentage, according to KenPom. The importance of coming away with offensive rebounds cannot be understated as, for a program as good as the Huskies, they cash in on second chance points as much as any program in the country. Not only is Reed Jr. getting it done in this department, but Connecticut is among the best rebounding teams in college basketball so far.

Connecticut fans will also want to keep their eyes out for UConn guard Aidan Mahaney, who has yet to return to form offensively. Despite this, Hassan Diarra has noted that he is confident that Mahaney's cold spell will not last much longer, and a big game is imminent.

“He's coming in and working each and every day,” Diarra told media personnel. “He's not giving in yet. He's getting better and better each and every day, and, eventually, it's going to come to fruition, and he's going to go out and have a big game pretty soon.”

UConn fans will also want to watch out for Alex Karaban and what he does, as he is looking to build on his excellent start to UConn's 2024-2025 campaign. The 22-year-old has not only been scoring points in boatloads, but he is as efficient as ever, ranking near the top of the country in eFG%, which weighs his three-point percentage his shots while also considering his higher within the arc. Of course, Karaban is also playing the best defense of his collegiate career so far, which is a positive sign for Connecticut, considering this program has shown some vulnerability on this side of the ball. Despite the defense not being up to Hurley's high standard, it hasn't been poor, as the program

has performed as a top ten defensive unit, according to KenPom.

Despite this, Tuesday is another opportunity for the program to meet the UConn standard defensively against the Lions. However, to do so, the Huskies need their backcourt to excel on this side of the ball, as East Texas A&M guards rely upon their guards at a high level to create their offense. Khaliq Abdul-Mateen, a four-year veteran of the program, leads the Lions in scoring, averaging nearly 14 points a game on 40% shooting. Scooter Williams Jr. also looks to lead the East Texas A&M offense, scoring around 13 points a night on a 40% field goal percentage. Outside of the Lions' guard play, the scoring comes from nearly the entire roster, with 10 players averaging more than 10 minutes a night, though only eight of these athletes have laced up for every game. Expect the Lions to feed scoring through their guard play and give the Huskies many different looks, as they have demonstrated so far.

A player for the Huskies who has done it all on both sides of the ball so far is forward Liam McNeeley. The Texas native is the reigning Big East Player of the Week after a 15-point performance against Le Moyne. Like Karaban, McNeeley's scoring has been as efficient as it gets, cashing in on over 48% of his tries, including 41.2% from beyond the arc.

While Connecticut should have no problem handling business in front of its home crowd, fans will want to watch out for the program's ongoing storylines. Not to mention, the competition starts to ramp up quickly as the Huskies will participate in the Maui Invitational. This means that the coaching staff will want to address any lingering kinks heading into Tuesday as the road toward March only gets more treacherous from here.

Sports

Photo of the Day | Game on



UConn women's basketball plays its first game of the regular season against Boston University at the XL center on Nov. 7, 2024. The Huskies took home a win with a final score of 86-32. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

LOGO BY LILLIAN LAFEMINA, ASSOCIATE ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

DROPPIN' DIMES: YOUR NBA TEAM IS STRUGGLING? HERE'S HOW WORRIED YOU SHOULD BE

by Matt Dimech | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | rwq24001@uconn.edu

The start of the NBA season is always full of fun and excitement, but for others it may become a source of dread and despair. With just about a month of basketball behind us, the landscape of the league is beginning to take shape. Teams with playoff aspirations find themselves near the bottom of the ladder, while a second-round exit has started off the year 15-0. With so much basketball yet to be played, let's take a look at some of these struggling teams, and whether or not it's time to smash the panic button.

Milwaukee Bucks: Panic

Last season, the Milwaukee Bucks replaced Head Coach Adrian Griffin with former NBA Championship Coach Doc Rivers, while they were one of the top teams in the Eastern Conference with a 30-13 record. In the subsequent 77 regular season games since then, the Bucks have a record of 31-46. They currently rank No. 12 in the East with a 4-9 record. Paired with Doc Rivers this year as his top assistant coach is Darvin Ham. He was fired as the Los Angeles Lakers head coach last year after serving for just two seasons. Ham's discharge was due to a

combination of player frustration and poor decision making. Another factor was his failure to manage two generational talents in Anthony Davis and LeBron James. Now, this coaching staff is charged with the task of exploiting the potential of their superstar duo in Giannis Antetokounmpo and Damian Lillard. It is clear that leadership is sorely lacking for the Milwaukee Bucks, who entered the season with hopes of getting back to the championship caliber team they were years ago. With rumor lurking that Antetokounmpo could be departing from the team, there is an added pressure for this team to find success this year.

Philadelphia 76ers: Don't Panic

The Philadelphia 76ers have one of the most impressive lineups in basketball. The only challenge is getting them all on the court at the same time. Between injuries and suspensions, the 76ers have yet to have the chance to establish continuity with their new lineup. Paul George, Joel Embiid and Tyrese Maxey have all yet to play more than seven games this year, and even more scarcely all playing at

the same time. They sit at 2-10 which places them at No. 14 in the Eastern Conference. There is plenty of hope for the 76ers however, with George back from injury and Maxey expected to return soon as he is being re-evaluated sometime this week. Jared McCain has been a major source of relief for Philly fans as well. The No. 16 overall pick is averaging nearly 15 points per game, as well as putting up 20 points or more in each of his last four games. When Maxey, George and McCain are sharing the court from the perimeter, with Embiid sitting inside the paint, NBA defenses are going to have their hands full. If Philly fans haven't heard it enough already, trust the process.

Los Angeles Clippers: Panic

The Los Angeles Clippers have been on a roller coaster over the past five years since pairing Kawhi Leonard and Paul George together. That experiment has been an utter disaster, with the Clippers failing to reach the finals in the all-star tandem's tenure together, despite additions of fellow NBA superstars Russell Westbrook and James Harden to attempt to bolster their roster. With George

packing up for Philadelphia and Westbrook finding a new fit in Denver, the Clippers have been left with a shell of their former team. On top of that, Leonard has yet to even suit up this season with knee issues that have been plaguing him for years. When he does return, there will of course be the looming uncertainty whether or not he will need to miss time again. Harden is having a decent season but is past his prime and isn't going to be able to keep this team afloat in a very competitive Western Conference on his own. They have fallen to No. 11 in the conference with a record of 7-7. While it is still tight in the west with several teams within just a game or two of one another, if something doesn't change, the Clippers are likely going to fall behind as the season continues.

San Antonio Spurs: Don't Panic

The San Antonio Spurs are having a slow start to their season, but one that comes with a number of things for fans to be extremely optimistic about.

Starting with the obvious, Victor Wembanyama in his second season is solidifying himself as one of the best players in the NBA as well as the future of the league. He is averaging 22.7 points and 10.5 rebounds per game. Last week against the Washington Wizards he posted 50 points while knocking down eight three pointers. The Spurs have surrounded Wembanyama with young talent. Six of the top seven leading scorers on the team are 25 years old or younger, averaging double digit points. The addition of Chris Paul in the offseason was exactly what the Spurs needed. His veteran leadership and experience are going to help cultivate the team's young core as the season progresses. He is averaging 8.4 assists per game and has been facilitating the offense which has allowed Wembanyama to tap into his potential as a player. While they are sitting at No. 12 in the West at 6-8, this developing roster has the potential to make an impact this year.



LOOKING AT THREE PLACES THE HUSKIES COULD GO BOWLING

by Jake Loomis
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The UConn football team is off to its best season in 10 years with time left to go. Not only this, but it will have a chance to snag two more wins in the regular season. It will also have an opportunity to steal a third, as for the second time in three seasons, the Huskies are bowl eligible. Its last bowl game, two years back, the Huskies fell to the Marshall Thundering Herd in the Myrtle Beach bowl by a score of 28-14. Following the bowl defeat, Connecticut had an abysmal campaign last season and what looks like the start of another this season following a blow-

out loss at Maryland. Since then, the Huskies have flipped a switch as they have only lost two games since, one of which was a nail-biter with Duke of the ACC. This is a new look for UConn football, and a quality bowl and potential bowl win could do a lot for this program. We will now preview some bowl matchups that the Huskies could face.

Union Home Mortgage Gasparilla Bowl

This would be a great bowl game for the Huskies to jump into this year. This game would be played in Tampa and should draw a Power Five team to play the Huskies. The Gasparilla Bowl has mid-level prestige and is watched by a fair share of fans. The Huskies will most

likely play a power five team here, but Virginia Tech would be a good starting point for who they might play. The game will be played at Raymond James just outside Tampa on Dec. 20.

Boca Raton Bowl

The Boca Raton Bowl has been a bowl game that has been on the lower end of games, but it still has showcased its fair share of notable teams over the years. However, this bowl is a newer one, so it comes with less prestige for the teams that play in it. If UConn was to be slated in Boca, you could see them playing a team like Miami Ohio or the Thundering Herd from last year. Don't be overshadowed by its low level of prestige. A bowl win here could kick-start the program

for years to come. The game will be played at FAU stadium, on Dec. 18.

New Mexico Bowl

The next bowl, the New Mexico Bowl, could be a very interesting game that UConn could play in. The bowl is on the later side this year, playing on Dec. 28, so the Huskies would have more than enough time to prepare for their opponent. The place where it gets wild is who they could be playing, as there would be a good shot that UConn would face off with a former foe from the regular season. This team is the Maryland Terrapins, who blew the Huskies out earlier this year. If UConn could secure victory, this would be giant for the program after failing to beat Maryland earlier this year.



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Sports

BIG EAST BALLER UPDATE NO. 3: VILLANOVA, SETON HALL DIG THEMSELVES IN DEEPER HOLE

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The second week of the regular season in men's college basketball was far better than the first.

DePaul is 4-0, eclipsing last season's win total where they had a 3-29 record. It may feel like forever since the Blue Demons were not the dead-last team in KenPom ratings. However, they were a better team than Georgetown during the 2022-23 season, finishing with a 10-23 record. The Chris Holtmann era is off to a strong start, but time will tell if DePaul has its first winning season since going 19-17 during the 2018-19 season.

Villanova head coach Kyle Neptune keeps digging himself into a deeper hole. On Tuesday, the Wildcats started the Big 5 Classic on the wrong note, losing at Saint Joseph's 83-76. While forward Eric Dixon is a bright spot, averaging 24.8 points and 8.3 rebounds per game, the rest of the team seems to have already given up on their season. On Friday night, Villanova lost by 10 to Virginia, a team that lost head coach Tony Bennett due to retirement right before the season. Talk about a team that has quit already.

Seton Hall was expected to have a down year, with star guard Kadary Richmond transferring across the Hudson River to St. John's. However, their expectations were much higher than what they are doing right now. The Pirates went into the Nassau Coliseum, seeking a neutral site win over Hofstra, but fell a point short, being held under 50 points. On the bright

side, Seton Hall earned a big win for their confidence on Saturday, defeating Wagner 54-28.

Lastly, the week ended with a Pitino vs. Pitino matchup. New Mexico, led by head coach Richard Pitino, came in to face the Rick Pitino-led St. John's Red Storm. The Johnnies came out on top 85-71.

Weekly Awards

Player of the Week: Kam Jones, G, Marquette (20 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 4.5 apg, 2 spg, 51.8 FG%, 50.3P%, 63.6 FT% in two games)

Jones is one of the top scorers in college basketball. This has shown so far, averaging 24 points in the four games he has played in. That scoring average is 13th in the country.

The senior from Memphis, Tenn. may have picked a few tips from former Marquette teammate Tyler Kolek about leading the offense. Kolek was the nation's leader in assists the last two seasons. While Jones is only tied for 72nd in the country in assists per game, he is averaging

five per game, more than double what he averaged last year (2.4). He showed off his passing ability last Monday, recording eight assists in an eight-point win over Central Michigan. Jones stepped up scoring-wise in a massive road test against Maryland, scoring 28 points on 55.6% shooting in a 78-74 win.

Freshman of the Week: Liam McNeeley, F, UConn (vs. Le Moyne: 15 pts, 3 reb, 1 blk, 1 stl, 5-10 FG, 3-8 3PT, 2-2 FT)

There were few candi-

dates for this week's Freshman of the Week in the Big East. However, in UConn's only game of the week, McNeeley came through. The five-star freshman from Richardson, Texas has averaged 14.3 points and eight rebounds per game, shooting 48.1% from the field, 41.2% from deep and 71.4% from the free-throw line.

Best games coming up

No. 6 Purdue at No. 15 Marquette (9 p.m., FS1)

Marquette just went neck-and-neck with Maryland, and now they are going head-to-head with the top-ranked team (AP Poll-wise) in the Big Ten. The two programs met almost

exactly a year ago in Hawaii, where the Boilermakers came out on top with a 78-75 victory. However, Purdue does not have Zach Edey at this time, who ended his career as one of the greatest players in program history. On the other hand, Marquette lost Kolek to the NBA as well. The guard matchup of Jones and Purdue's Braden Smith will

be the key to the game. However, Trey Kaufman-Renn has found his groove and is coming off a 26-point performance in a massive win over Alabama on Friday night.

No. 13 Baylor vs. No. 22 St. John's (Thursday, 7 p.m., CBS Sports Network)

One word to describe this matchup: theater. Expect this game to come down to the wire as two national championship head coaches go head-to-head in Nassau, Bahamas on Thursday. Baylor can be the best team in the Big 12, while St. John's has one of the best backcourts in the country with Richmond and Utah transfer Deivon Smith. The winner of this game will take on the winner of the Virginia-Tennessee matchup later that night, with the losers facing each other too.

Villanova vs. Maryland (Sunday, 1 p.m., ESPN)

No team in the Big East has started more disappointing than Villanova has. If they take care of business tonight against Penn (and they should, but would not put it past them to drop this game as well), they will go into the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. with a chance to increase their winning percentage above .500 for the first time since defeating NJIT on Nov. 8. The situation in this game that should pique your interest is who Neptune assigns to guard Maryland star freshman Derik Queen, who has become a go-to guy for the Terrapins. He has a two-inch advantage over Dixon, which may force Neptune to use the taller Enoch Boakye.



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THE PUCK DROP: THE NEW JERSEY DEVILS' RED-HOT START

by Avery Becker
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For the last few seasons in the National Hockey League, we've seen many instances of how when a team gets a new coach, they find themselves becoming extremely successful, after struggling in seasons prior.

This happened to the Vancouver Canucks last year when they hired Rick Tocchet as their head coach and named defenseman Quinn Hughes as captain. Now, it's happening to his brother's, Jack and Luke's team, the New Jersey Devils.

With the new edition of Sheldon Keefe behind the bench, the Devils have found themselves extremely successful this season and are currently sitting at No. 3 in the entire league.

Most recently, the Devils swept the reigning Stanley Cup Champions, the Florida Panthers, on their home ice on Nov. 12 and 14. In both games, the Devils took the win, having scored at least two more goals than the Panthers in the final result.

On Thursday, the 14th, the Devils defeated the Panthers 6-2, with Jesper Bratt notching his second hat trick of his professional career and newcomer Stefan Noesen adding two goals to his resume, all contributing to their team's win.

"Noesen did an unbelievable job at winning some hard puck battles and then we're getting to use our skill and our creativity when the pucks get to the open area. But it starts with the really hard puck battles that keep the puck in," Bratt said to NHL.com when asked about his teammate, Noesen.

Despite the Devils having gritty opponents on their schedule's horizon, including the Carolina Hurricanes later this week, it will be a test for this Eastern conference team given their current record of 12-2-7 and multiple players averaging numerous points per game.

Even though Keefe was not as successful when he previously coached the Toronto Maple Leafs, he is a coach that has experience developing younger players with lots of talent.

"Sheldon jumped to the top of my list when he became available, and I was thrilled when he agreed to be a part of what we are building here. He is an excellent communicator, believes in collaboration and will take what he has learned previously to make this team a Stanley Cup contender," general manager of the Devils Tom Fitzgerald said to ESPN after Keefe was hired.

With the Devils having players like Bratt, Jack and Luke Hughes and more, he is a great addition to the team's leadership as the Devils hope to make it to the Stanley Cup playoffs again.



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