



AT LEAST 245 ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AT RISK OF ELIMINATION IN PROVOST’S REVIEW



UConn students enjoying the fall weather as they play a game of catch on the Student Union terrace. The terrace is often a place of recreation for students at UConn.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @UCONN ON INSTAGRAM.

by **Liliana French**
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The University of Connecticut’s Provost’s office is evaluating at least 245 programs which are at risk of being cut, including 70 undergraduate majors, 72 master’s degree programs, 76 graduate certificate programs and 27 doctoral programs.

UConn shared documents accessible to anyone with a UConn NetID relating to the provost’s evaluation in a statement shared with all faculty members on Friday.

According to a university document regarding evaluation of programs, all programs at or below a certain degree completion threshold over the past five years will be evaluated.

Low completion programs are defined as those at or below a certain threshold over the five-year period between August 2018 and May 2023. The thresholds are as follows: 100 undergraduate majors, 50 master’s degrees, 25 graduate certificates and 10 doctoral degrees.

The document says that undergraduate minors and post-baccalaureate certificates are not currently being reviewed. UConn President Radenka Maric and Provost Anne D’Alleva sent a statement to all faculty on Friday. They outlined what evaluation could look like.

“This may include continuing the program as it is; making changes to the program such as curricular updates or consolidating it with others to increase its appeal to students; continuing the program with a strategic plan designed to increase levels of enrollment; or the closure of the program,” the statement says.

The 70 undergraduate majors at risk include 26 majors in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 16 majors in the

College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, 15 majors in the Neag School of Education, eight majors in the School of Fine Arts, two majors in the School of Engineering, two majors in the School of Business and one major in the School of Social Work, according to university documents regarding the thresholds.

A memo from the Office of the Provost sent on May 14 to all academic deans at UConn gives a timeline.

“By November 1, 2024, each school or college must provide a summary report of planned program closures,” the memo says. “This will consist of a summary memo of why a closure decision was taken for each program and the evaluation reports attached.”

Evaluation reports are required for all programs below the low-completion program threshold, excluding programs that plan to shut down.

The provost will report college closure decisions to the Board of Trustees at their meeting on Dec. 11.

“By working through the evaluation, programs will have the opportunity to share whatever information is relevant to help understand why they should be continued,” the document says.

Maric and D’Alleva mentioned UConn’s budget, which is being cut by 15% over the next five years, in a statement.

“Given the budget situation of the university, evaluation of low-enrollment/completion programs is essential to ensure that we maintain the right balance of programs to support our institutional mission, standards of accreditation, and to meet the needs of our students, in addition to being common sense academic ‘housekeeping’ the university should engage in on a regular basis,” the statement said.

Languages, Cultures and Literature

The Languages, Cultures and Literature (LCL) department met on Wednesday to discuss cutting all individual majors within the department, according to Spanish professor Rosa Helena Chinchilla. The decision at the meeting was postponed.

The meeting was announced by LCL Department Head Jennifer Terni in a statement sent out to all LCL faculty. The staff participated in a poll ahead of the meeting.

Terni said that the LCL’s executive committee, consisting of all eight LCL department heads agreed that there were three options: creating a single major in LCL; proposing two majors in the LCL and in Spanish; keeping all majors with all sections except Spanish going through a review process. Terni says that this would include a provision to only have one major if the two-major solution did not get enough votes, or if the provost rejects it.

Spanish is above the threshold for consideration, meaning that university documents suggest that it should not be evaluated or be at risk of elimination. However, an email from Associate Dean Evelyn Tribble to Terni suggests that the Provost’s office would be opposed to keeping Spanish as an individual major.

“We have suggested that one way forward might be to consolidate the major, as we discussed, and to convert majors to concentrations,” Tribble said. “Whether all become concentrations, or some become minors, is up to you. Similarly, the question of the status of Spanish should be a departmental decision. As I mentioned, Dean Harel did not think the Provost’s office would support separating Spanish from the rest of LCL.”

Chinchilla said if faculty did not agree to becoming one department with one major, there was a risk that they would not

have new hires for professors who leave, which would destroy programs.

According to Chinchilla, AAUP president Chris Vials attended the meeting and told faculty that there were 70 undergraduate majors in the same position. Faculty debated and failed to reach a decision, so the meeting was postponed.

“I mean, according to the straw poll [which was taken to find LCL faculty preferences for how to proceed], we were evenly divided, but I think we’re more than evenly divided,” Chinchilla said. “I think a lot of people feel that they don’t want to give up their major.”

Chinchilla said that she asked her students on Thursday how they would feel if their transcripts stated their majors as Languages, Cultures and Literature.

“They said that would be terrible,” Chinchilla said. “They said that they felt it would harm them in finding job prospects.”

According to Chinchilla, other majors above the threshold are at risk, including Spanish and Human Rights.

“But the problem for us and the Institutes [...] is that they’re trying to make one department of social inquiry and that’s where human rights and all those things would go,” Chinchilla said.

UConn Spokesperson Stephanie Reitz did not immediately respond to a question regarding potential cuts to majors not considered to be low-enrollment.

Chinchilla also discussed the benefits of the humanities.

“Even though humanities classes may not be 100 students in every class, I have had so many students say to me, I’m so happy I was a Biology and Spanish major, because at least in my Spanish major classes, I had the opportunity to discuss and to talk and to participate,” Chinchilla said. “Because in

most of their biology classes they were generally one of 200 students, so there was no participation and no exchange.”

Maric and D’Alleva denied that humanities were being targeted in the statement.

“This process does not target any particular disciplinary field and makes no assumptions about the programs. There is a narrative taking hold that the humanities are being targeted at UConn,” the statement says. “Nothing could be further from the truth. We want to have vibrant humanities at UConn – this is essential to our mission as a flagship and Land Grant institution.”

University guidelines for cutting courses

According to a document on the evaluation of courses, the Guideline for Archiving/Suspending, Closing/Terminating, or Reactivating Academic Courses or Programs should be followed when a decision is made to close a major.

“Periodic evaluation and, where appropriate, suspension or closure of outdated or low-demand courses and programs is vital for the successful academic operations of the University,” the guideline says.

The guideline states low enrollment, financial considerations and faculty availability as reasons for eliminating a program. It provides instructions for developing a plan for the closure of courses, or a “teach-out plan.”

“The University is committed to supporting enrolled students in successfully completing the program in which they initially enrolled,” the document says. “In cases where a program is offered at a specific location through a particular modality that is slated for discontinuation, the University has a responsibility to ensure that currently enrolled students can finish their studies in the same location or modality as initially enrolled.”

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 **THE DAILY CAMPUS NEWSLETTER**

UConn professor spends 45 days aboard NASA Mars Simulation

by **Gabriel Duffany**
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This past summer, Professor Jason Lee of the University of Connecticut’s Mechanical Engineering Department traded in his usual lab clothes for a spacesuit, spending 45 days in NASA’s Human Exploration Research Analog (HERA) Mars habitat in Houston, Texas.

“I left for training before the spring semester was done,” said Lee. “Part of my brain was still thinking about work.”

As a member of the four-person crew on the mock starship Polaris, Lee did not arrive at the Johnson Space Center as a researcher, but as the subject of experiment.

“We have two weeks of training, and the whole point of it was to run experiments and look at how isolation ef-

fects how procedures are done, how teamwork is done,” noted Lee.

In preparation for the May 10 launch of HERA’s Campaign 7 Mission 2, the Polaris crew was held to a meticulously plotted daily schedule. “Every single person had a specific task,” said Lee. “Al-right, eight o’clock, I gotta take my temperature. Oh, nine o’clock we have to take a shower. Like, it was that regimented during training, and even way more during the actual mission.”

Polaris’s simulated voyage included all the elements of a true mission to Mars and back, featuring supply limitations, communication time delay – up to 20 minutes both ways at its peak, and a fully realistic timeline of trip duration.

“At 7 a.m. they would play music. We gave them a playlist. So, every morning, one of our songs would play, turn on the lights, they would talk in the comms, ‘Good morning

Polaris, this is MCC Mission Control,’” detailed Lee.

Each day’s tasks were preceded and followed by a series of physical assessments, carefully measuring and maintaining the health of the team, who were required to exercise six days a week.

“We’re always wearing Garmin watches and active watches to measure heart rate. We had Dexcom for glucose measurements,” said Lee. “From time to time, we hook up electrodes to our bodies or to our heads, depending on what tasks we’re doing.”

The greatest concern to NASA researchers, according to Lee, was the capacity for crewmates to work together despite diverse backgrounds and disciplines. Alongside the UConn professor, crew members included Piyumi Wijesekara, a NASA researcher studying the effect of inhaled moon dust on the lungs, airline pilot Shareef Al Romaithi of the United Arab Emirates’

MBRSC space program and Stephanie Navarro, a space operations officer for the U.S. Air Force with a background in physics.

From working, exercising and eating together to partnering up for virtual reality space walks on the Martian surface, Lee emphasized the critical importance of teamwork.

“What I most brought back is that teaming effect. I try to bring that back to what we work with our students on,” said Lee. “Always the issue is how team students do or don’t work well with each other.”

Looking back on the experience, Lee’s excitement at fulfilling, in some capacity, his life-long dream of space travel shone through.

“As, like, the space nerd and kid, in my head, I feel very lucky ... They let us use some of the things that are in the very early stages that they might use, so we have AR glasses, VR glasses,” said Lee,

whose tone pitched up when reflecting on Canadarm, the outer-space robotic hand he was trained to operate. With cutting-edge technologies at his fingertips, Lee noted feeling like a character in a world of near-cinematic science fiction.

Back ‘on the ground’, Lee has returned to his professional duties as the Undergraduate Director of UConn’s School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Manufacturing Engineering, as well as being UConn’s NASA Connecticut Space Grant Consortium Campus director (CTSGC).

Spearheaded by the University of Hartford, the CTSGC hosts a variety of internships, scholarships and grant opportunities for all space-travel related endeavors. All those interested in pursuing a career in the aeronautics and space industries are encouraged by Lee to apply for the spring 2025 call for proposals at ctspacegrant.org.



Professor Jason Lee and three other crewmates working together in the Human Exploration Research Analog (HERA). The Project began on May 10 and concluded after 45 days.
PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF JAMES BLAIR/NASA

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By Micah Sommersmith

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PIPE-EYE PIPE DEFIES PIPE DREAMS WITH NEW PIPE ALBUM

by Henry St. Pierre

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From Cook “Cookiedawg69” Craig, rhythm guitarist for band King Gizzard & the Lizard Wizard, comes another warm and upbeat record of psychedelic synth pop. Under the name Pipe-eye, Craig has been releasing work since early 2015, with a sleek retro-futurist aesthetic. His debut EP, “Cosmic Blip,” sounds much like what every other Australian band was producing at that time: a long-lost piece of 1960s garage rock.

With his next two albums, “Laugh About Life” and “Inside/Outside,” Craig would find his own distinctive style. As Craig is proficient in guitar, bass and keys, every record is self-recorded. While playing every instrument by oneself is undoubtedly a daunting task, Pipe-eye proves that ability can lead to a hyper-distinctive style.

This latest record, “Pipe-defy,” is standard affair for the Aussie musician: wonky synth rock with highly introspective lyrics. The lead single, “Lords of Lithium,” exemplifies Pipe-eye’s ethos perfectly. Bubbly sawtooth pads and a busy bass line backdrops an ominous chorus about phone addiction. Craig muses “I’m coming up freely with the lords of lithium / They’re who I’m tethered to, and I can’t get no freedom.”

The next cut, “I’m Coming Back,” is an energetic and light-hearted song about homesickness, filled with odd percussion instruments and Craig’s distinctive nasal harmonies. “Travertine,” the second lead single, is a highlight of the record. A much more laid-back track, Craig sings monotone over the tightest groove on the record. The orchestral stabs that come in between the second verse and chorus are laughable in the greatest way possible, and the saxophone solo in the back end of the song sounds like something from fellow Melbourne band Men at Work.

“Best Party Ever II” is a sequel to “Best Party Ever” off “Inside Outside.” The first song is completely instrumental, reminiscent of “Being for the Benefit of Mr. Kite” by the Beatles. The sequel has almost nothing to do with the original, save for the subject matter. Featuring a shakily energetic flute and a chorus of hand clapping over reverb-drenched synth lines.

“Fortune Cookie” leans heavily into funk, emphasizing Craig’s wildly busy bass-playing and the steadfast drumming from King Gizzard’s Michael Cavanaugh. It’s one of the catchiest cuts off the record and showcases Craig’s ear for inventive melodies and danceable grooves. “We’re In This Together” is a kitschy love song, featuring a sparse synth bass line

over a shuffle groove. The track also features guitar, which is a rarity on this record in particular. Though this song is overall one of my favorite cuts, it was at this point that I started to get a little tired of Craig’s vocals.

The record’s closer, “Don’t Fade Away,” starts off very unusually, with a moody chord progression accented by staccato flute and bongos. However, it does turn more so into standard Pipe-eye affair once Craig’s vocals kick in.

“Pipe-defy” contains all the hallmarks of Craig’s work. Although, there are some stylistic leaps that could’ve been taken further, and after a certain point the songs all start to sound the same.

With that being said, the overall aesthetic present in this album is its greatest strength, being a unique blend of mesmerizing synthesizers and melancholic lyrics. Plus, it must be very tough being a part of two touring bands on top of this solo project. In this new record, Pipe-eye starts to take steps into new territory; changes that will hopefully be expanded upon in future releases.

RATING:
3.5/5

Projecte Úter: Drawing the way for Reproductive Freedom

by Maleena Muzio

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Visual storytelling has been valued throughout history. When words are no longer enough, art can evoke feelings in people that begin conversations surrounding touchy subjects. On Thursday, Oct. 24, Spanish artist Carles Garcia O’Dowd emphasized the connections between art and oral stories in his workshop at the Homer Babbidge Library.

Addressing various humanitarian issues over the course of his career, O’Dowd is most famous for his piece, Projecte Úter. Projecte Úter is a poster of collective scenes that stress the importance of reproductive rights and bodily autonomy. Inspired by the proposed 2014 abortion bans in Spain, O’Dowd and his creative partner, Tonina Matamalas, were determined to contribute to the retaliation efforts. Influenced by the punk culture he loved in his youth, while grabbing elements from more prestigious art, O’Dowd explained that he wanted to create an image similar to those by “The Beehive Collective,” a volunteer organization O’Dowd previously worked alongside, which produces narrative graphic campaigns.

The event was briefed with the history of abortion laws in Spain, as well as by O’Dowd explaining his creative process. However, the bulk of the workshop was spent creating community and discussing the piece together. In O’Dowd’s words, Projecte Úter is a “slow digestion image.” The poster is not made to be understood in a glance but requires effort from its audience to dissect its imagery. It was also designed to be accompanied by a storyteller, clarifying and expanding on the audience’s initial interpretations.

Modeled after the uterus and fallopian tubes, Projecte Úter is pictured as a cave-like structure, representing the

labyrinthlabyrinth of individual stories that create the collective whole. After meeting with people who had experiences with abortion and speaking to doctors who had performed them, O’Dowd did not want merely a single voice to be heard. Instead of depicting people in this piece, animals are used to avoid stereotypes and misrepresentation. As O’Dowd shared, each of the animals pictured are used as derogatory terms against women, especially in the Spanish language. As many groups have done, O’Dowd and Matamalas decided to reclaim these terms and use them for empowerment and awareness.

Spreading awareness through difficult conversations was made much easier when O’Dowd split the audience into smaller groups, each assigned with analyzing a scene from the poster. The groups were tasked with working together to examine the minuscule details representing a specific subject or scenario. Though overwhelming at first, people were laughing and smiling as they attempted to understand the madness on the page in front of them. Professors and students alike came together to use their best judgement to decipher the segments.

Minal Faheem, a sixth-semester psychology major expressed, “I honestly had no idea what to expect ... but within 10 minutes I was really entertained by hearing all of the different metaphors of the animals and just how intricate it all was. I see why this had to be two and a half hours, which would usually bore me, but I was having a really good time.”

O’Dowd made his way to each of the groups, asking their thoughts on their portion of the poster and giving hints at what he was trying to say in those scenes. He spoke passionately about each of the parts as if the

project were his own child. By the end of the workshop, each group was asked to share their interpretations in chronological order, with O’Dowd finally telling the story of the entire poster as it moved along.

As the event was wrapping up and the audience got to the final scene, O’Dowd explained that Projecte Úter concludes with a celebration of life and diversity. Animals that give birth or become parents in different ways are shown to express that there is no one way to live life. People who have a uterus come in different shapes and forms and are as complex as the biodiversity of the ocean, hence why O’Dowd chose a scene plentiful with sea creatures to hone in on this idea. Setting limits and regulations on what people do with their bodies is harmful and education, rather than restriction, should become the new norm.

Leaving the workshop feeling empowered to speak up, audience members raved about how personable O’Dowd was. He made a typically uncomfortable topic become humorously intriguing.

Kianna Williams, a first-semester political science major stated, “I actually enjoyed [the presentation] way more than I thought I would, and I’m glad I went today. At the discussion there were a lot of opinions and ideas I had never thought of before, and I feel like I have a new perspective on women and our experiences with the reproductive system and abortion in general. I am excited that I learned more and can tell other people about what I heard today.”

What could have easily been a drag of a presentation was instead an insightful and inspiring experience for those who were able to attend. O’Dowd kept the essential conversation of abortion continuing through his love and talents for visual art and storytelling.

UConn Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble preview concerts

by **Samantha Brody**
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The University of Connecticut's Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble performed at the von Der Mehden Recital Hall this past Thursday, Oct. 17, as a preview for this year's upcoming performances. Each group played three different works by various composers, with the event running from 8 p.m. until about 9:30 p.m.

Both ensembles are in-person classes that involve seven hours of instruction per week — but, many students will practice outside of class as well. They each are a part of the MUSI 1110 course which, in addition to Concert Band, teaches “repertoire, rehearsal technique, preparation and presentation of concerts,” according to the UConn class catalog.

Conducted by Ricardo T.

Brown, the UConn Symphonic Band opened the night with “Flourish for Wind Band” by Ralph Vaughan Williams, followed by “Lux Aurumque” by Eric Whitacre and “Illumination: Overture for Band” by David Maslanka. With 27 different musicians on stage, the band included instruments such as the flute, clarinet, trumpet, tuba, euphonium and saxophone.

Brown is currently the associate director of athletic bands and interim director of Wind Ensemble for UConn, which has led to his involvement in the UConn Marching Band and Pep Band.

“I think the concert was the perfect way to encapsulate the wind bands,” Ethan DeBaise, a member of the Symphonic Band, said when asked about his thoughts on the night. DeBaise is a third-semester music education major, who performed as a clarinet player.

“Both groups did an amazing job performing a variety of different pieces, and I couldn’t be happier with my performance and the group’s. While individual performances are fun and exhilarating, nothing beats the joy I get from performing music with friends.”

The Symphonic Band was then followed by the Wind Ensemble, conducted by Janet Song Kim, who uses any pronouns. The group performed “Redwood” by Ryan George, “Deep River” by Benjamin Horne and the first movement of “Symphony No. 6” by Julie Giroux, titled, “The Blue Marble.”

Made up of 45 members, the Wind Ensemble contains many of the same instruments as the Symphonic Band but also includes oboe, bassoon, upright bass and piano. Similarly to the Symphonic Band, many of the students in

the Wind Ensemble also participate in the UConn Marching Band and/or the UConn Pep Band.

Kim is the director of Wind Bands and coordinator of Large Instrumental Ensembles at UConn. Not only do they conduct the Wind Ensemble and teach multiple music classes at UConn, but they also facilitate wind conducting studies at the graduate level.

This year, the Wind Ensemble has themed its performances around the idea of “humanity’s footprint,” with each song having some connection to life on Earth. One aspect of this idea is represented by Julie Giroux’s “The Blue Marble.” According to Alexander Molina, a member of the Wind Ensemble, the ensemble will continue to add a new movement from this symphony to their performances as the year continues.

“The Blue Marble [is] based around the advent of life on Earth,” Molina said, along with “the beauty that exists in nature, and the good and bad that can be done to the environment.” Molina is a member of the committee that decides on the pieces that the Wind Ensemble will perform during the year and played in the percussion section for Thursday’s concert.

UConn’s von der Mehden Recital Hall, located within the Fine Arts Complex, is the home of many performances throughout the year. Upcoming events include Julia Kaliszewski’s Senior Saxophone Recital on Oct. 22, the UConn Symphony Orchestra on Oct. 24 and the UConn Trombone Choir on Oct. 27.

The UConn Wind Ensemble will be performing at the von der Mehden Recital Hall on Nov. 15, and the Symphonic Band will perform there next on Nov. 19.



SAVE THE DATE
Thursday,
17 October 2024
8:00PM EST

FEATURING WORKS BY
Ralph Vaughan Williams,
Eric Whitacre, David Maslanka,
Ryan George, Benjamin Horne,
Julie Giroux,



IMAGE COURTESY OF @UCONNWINDBANDS ON INSTAGRAM

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY: OCT. 20 – OCT. 26 “TIME CAPSULES”

by Benjamin Lassy
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"History is written by the victors" is a phrase often used amongst historians to describe the social-Darwinist tinges of history. There is a competition of ideas, stories, narratives and values that pervade any telling of history. Nevertheless, today, I make a case for the opposite. This week in history, history was written by someone else.

The Pearlman Cup is an annual flag-football game between two of the University of Connecticut's Tier-III organizations, The Daily Campus and UConn Student Television (UCTV). It's a fierce rivalry, and this week in history on Oct. 20, 2024, for the 11th year in a row, The Daily Campus fell just short of winning the title. While other articles covering the subject will be out this week in the Sports section, I made some personal history after participating in the event myself and have some history-related thoughts to layout as well.

Before I dive into the history that was made on Sunday,

I want to bring up something I often think about with this column: This Week in History is a time capsule.

Whether it be preserved in UConn's archives — which has practically every physical issue of the paper ever made — or stored on The Daily Campus' website servers forever, the words you read now will live far beyond my time here at UConn and will quite likely lurk on a page somewhere far after my time on Earth concludes.

So, every word I write in this paper is a time capsule, a little cross-section of the calm afternoon on which I sit at a computer screen and type my thoughts on some history every week. In the future, I'll likely look back on my writing and notice the ups and downs; ups being the days when I write a ton of in-depth history, and downs being the days when I slow down and focus on a small event or write a brief piece. This isn't unique to me. If you write or contribute in some way to The Daily Campus, you're added to a long history of writers from every year at UConn since 1896.

So, to all future readers of this time capsule — yes, we did lose the Pearlman Cup

this week. But, for the first time in my own history, I played a flag football game. I'm not very good at it, but the camaraderie between teammates from The DC and the energy of our singular practice session was palpable and is what inspired me to — despite the weakness in my knees — sit at a computer and write this down. While on the surface we were a highly competitive, victory-hungry football squad, in reality, everyone on The DC team was having some of the best moments of their lives by just being there. I'd like to preserve that in this time capsule.

From the high energy at our singular practice only two days before the game, The Daily Campus geared up for a challenge together, and that — regardless of the outcome — was something special. In one sense, it's almost a bit out of a comedy skit that a bunch of newspaper writers who spend time typing up articles now find themselves in one of the most physical sports against a team of people who frequently hold heavy camera equipment. It's like the episode of "The Office" where Michael

Scott and the Dunder Mifflin team play the warehouse workers in a game of basketball. Despite the unexpected role of a journalist to play football, the sportsmanship and effort put in by the team was immense. Lots of cheering, yelling, substituting-in and teamwork were seen on the field. If that isn't worth recording in the history books, then nothing is.

So, for those reading this at the DC at an undisclosed time from now, as you gear up for the next Pearlman Cup battle, just remember that, win or lose, you're making history. Keep spirits high, keep the energy flowing and recognize that history isn't written by the winners. It's written by those who write.

See you next week for another issue of This Week in History!



‘NO SKIPS’: YOU’RE LOOKING AT LOTS OF DOTS AND LOOPS

by James Fitzpatrick
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Hello! This is “No Skips,” a column where I go over records that have, as the title suggests, no skips — at least in my opinion. Music fans galore would likely agree on this pick from Stereolab's discography: “Dots and Loops.” Released 27 years ago, I unfortunately and knowingly missed the album's anniversary last month, yet its recurrence in my nearly 10,000-song playlist has been calling my name.

I'm infatuated with French music as a whole, but this sounds nothing like your typical 20th century French pop music. The album actually wasn't recorded in France, and lead vocalist Lætitia Sadier alternates songs singing between English and French. The album's musical styles are varied, but can be summarized in the broad term of art pop. Furthermore, there are surprises and turns at multiple points during the record, so I guess I should warn you there are spoilers ahead!

I could reiterate it with other instances on this album, but the opening track encapsulates the juxtaposition between Sadier's lyrics and the musical backdrop. “Brakhage,” after some strange noises, begins with this statement: “We need so damn many things / To keep our dazed lives going.” Backed by a gentle vibraphone melody and the pleasant voices of Sadier

and another vocalist shadowing her, one wouldn't expect a track with those lyrics to sound so jubilant.

“Miss Modular” is a much brassier song, and while I can't understand the lyrics, French is a beautiful language and arguably works better on this song's soundscape than English. They are also considered a rock band on Wikipedia, which would be a major stretch if not for the unusually quiet electric guitar on here.

My relative lack of knowledge of their complete line of albums doesn't deter me from naming “The Flower Called Nowhere” as their definitive song. An airy and breezy atmosphere mixed with a fair share of vocal and non-vocal passages compels me to claim that if you take nothing else away from this review, listen to this song.

“Diagonals” borrows the best parts from previous songs: the brass and percussion (particularly the drums and marimba) and blends them both for a wonderful tune. The marimba bounces around the left and right audio channels at the beginning and end of the song while wood-

winds assist in building up this cherished track.

“Prisoner of Mars,” which — people, get this to one million plays on Spotify, please — is a banger like any other. I bring that up since songs on an album with a dip in play count are usually interludes or skits, yet this one is fully fleshed out, placed in the middle of the record, follows the previous song (which bolsters six million plays) and is certainly not a skip-worthy track.



PHOTO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Following the string-oriented “Rainbo Conversation,” inspired by bossa nova, the 17-minute epic, “Refractions in the Plastic Pulse,” hits the ears. I would've made a big deal out of the length if I hadn't already explained how a song of this scope can be thoroughly amazing, as in the case of “Cop Shoot Cop” by Spiritualized. It certainly takes its time in the first five minutes before picking up in tempo, but no two minutes are the same here. Although the album was partially recorded in Düsseldorf, “Refractions in the Plastic Pulse” was recorded in Chicago. Regardless, there's an undeniable Kraftwerk influence here, a band from the aforementioned German city. I would likely skip this song in a playlist, though during a full listen, I wouldn't mind it.

The lyrically sparse “Parsec” is all about vibes, as there are only six unique lines. Still, its five minutes of runtime are a fun time. “Ticker-tape of the Unconscious” is sparse in general, though it's in English, so there are crazy lines such as, “Each memory is a mixture of excrement and honey,” what-

ever that means. The combination of this and the repetition of “potpourri” reminds me of those obnoxious Poo-Pourri advertisements from a few years ago. If you know, you know.

The nine-minute “Contronatura” may be the most mellow song here — perhaps with potential for addition to a sleep playlist. The instrumental passages are almost ambient in nature until they transition into a bop of an outro five and a half minutes in. While I can understand someone thinking “Dots and Loops” drags on for too long, moments like these throughout the 65 minutes make the record feel fresh at every corner.

Their album covers during this era also evoke a certain feeling of nostalgia that a young person may feel when watching gameplay of the original “Pong,” feeling far removed yet attached to it. Considering that timeframe, the font used on the cover for “Dots and Loops” was from 1972 according to fontsinuse.com, while the graphic design on their previous album, “Emperor Tomato Ketchup,” uses colors and patterns that look even more dated.

Even in sections where the vast amount of sound is overwhelming, like in “The Flower Called Nowhere,” the music is warm and enveloping, not distressing. It's an easy listen; turn on your stereo and hop in the lab!

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COMIC BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Diabetic weighs in on Ozempic

by PJ Bekkali
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Ozempic is the latest craze in the cycle of body modification. It's a drug made for Type 2 diabetics to help manage blood sugar levels and fullness cues. It stimulates the pancreas to produce insulin, slows digestion and causes rapid weight loss. The latter side effect has come back into vogue in lieu of the exaggerated hourglass figure. Being super skinny is in, regardless of which drugs celebrities are taking from disabled people, and the side effects of misuse.

However, rapid weight loss can have some unintended consequences. When most people talk about losing weight, they mean to shed a few inches off their mid-section. Some celebrities have taken to misusing Ozempic to cut corners and achieve such a look. Unfortunately, you cannot spot reduce fat. When you lose weight, especially quickly, the fat deposits in your face are typically one of the first places to show it. It's called facial wasting, and it gives your face an aged, gaunt look. This warp-speed "diet" of Ozempic produces zombies with hauntingly starved faces, robbed of their youthfully full faces. They look unnatural, sick, and have fallen victim to "Ozempic face".

Some people enjoy that look. They reminisce over the 90s and early 2000s fad of "heroin chic," where appearing sickly thin is dubbed effortlessly cool. And good for them, if they genuinely enjoy maintaining a trim figure. But the problem lies in which drugs they are taking to sustain such an unsustainable body type for most people.

Whenever you take medication, your eyes may glaze over at the long list of warnings on the side of the box. It may warn you to "use as prescribed" and say that it's for "single patient use only." But nobody really reads these messages; the "Terms and Conditions" of drugs are mind-numbingly dull — unless you start getting those symptoms.

The side effects of Ozempic use may include muscle loss, intestinal disruptions, pain and hypoglycemia, to name a few. These risks are carefully weighed by a doctor against the risks of uncontrolled diabetes. It is a calculated choice for a diabetic to start using Ozempic, under the watchful eye of a physician — unless you have enough money to circumvent this life-saving system of bureaucracy.

What further concerns me is that this is done to fit a body trend. What comes next? What will happen when the pendulum swings in the opposite direction, back to fuller figures? No

matter how morally reprehensible it may feel, different body types have always cycled in and out of fashion. But diet pills and weight gain shakes have always been a hot and readily available commodity. The difference now is that disabled people are having their medications sold to the highest bidder, leaving us to suffer in poverty.

What someone else is doing to their body is none of my business. I try to live by the idiom "to each their own." Unfortunately, in this case, there is not enough "own" to go around. Ozempic is a life-saving drug for many Type 2 diabetics. It could vastly improve the quality of life for so many people. It is also in short supply. There is not enough to support recreational use, even if the side effects weren't injurious for non-diabetics.

Type 2 diabetes can be managed. It can be caused by excessive weight and food intake, and/or by lack of muscle to process said food intake. The leftover glucose that cannot be processed moves into the bloodstream, causing hyperglycemia, or in layman's terms, diabetes. Ozempic can reverse this type of diabetes. Type 2 diabetics can still produce some insulin, but not enough. Under the right circumstances, such as Ozem-

pic, they may jumpstart their insulin production and take control of both their blood glucose and their lives back.

I am a Type 1 diabetic. I have exactly zero pancreas function, and this will most likely never change. I need synthetic insulin several times a day in order to eat food, ergo live. Even if I or other Type 1 diabetics took Ozempic, it would not cure our diabetes. Take it from me, diabetes is a miserable disease. It's the art of balancing unpredictable and unsteady blood sugar; mood, amount of exercise and time of day all have to be taken into account when calculating my next dosage of insulin. I can't usually eat food if I don't know the nutritional information, and sharing meals is basically out of the question. I have to be wary of the very thing that gives me life and energy: food.

When I first heard about Ozempic a few years ago in a diabetic forum, I was excited. A win for Type 2 diabetics is a win for the greater diabetic community. I was cautiously hopeful that medicine would advance to the point of curing any type of diabetes. Fast forward to a few years later, I see celebrities flaunting their thin new (recycled) body standard. It's followed up by whispers of

a drug called "Ozempic," one that could've healed my siblings in glucose management. But it never will, because they cannot afford it. To hear that people bought a life-saving drug out from under us just for vanity's sake is gutting.

There is only so much Ozempic to go around. When pharmaceutical companies see that they can upcharge rich people to maximize their profits, they will do so. It's simple economics; supply is low and demand is high, so the price goes up. And prices will continue to inflate. Diabetics will ration their doses (if they are even lucky enough to afford any), and their quality of life will continue to be lower than necessary.

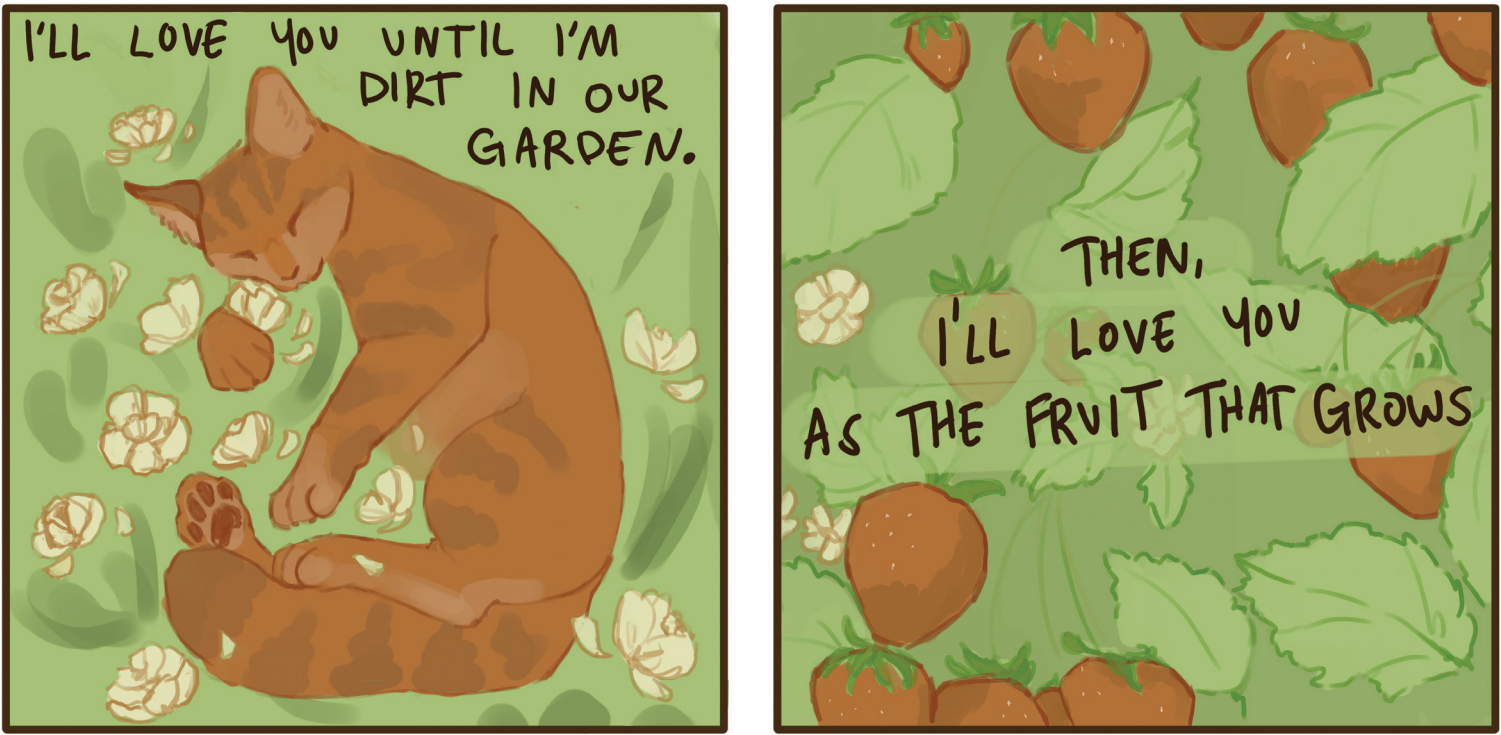
I encourage you to ruminate on its causes the next time you see a suspiciously rapid weight loss transformation by a public figure. I implore you to consider the diabetics who are living in misery. Be skeptical. We may be looking up to model-thin celebrities now, but within our lifetime, the relationship between the scales of beauty and weight will tip in the other direction. Ozempic may sound like a cool new wonder weight loss drug, but there are people who actually need it, and it may add to your list of problems. Don't be selfish. If you want to lose weight, do so with diet and exercise.



Ozempic is an injection drug used to treat people with Type 2 diabetes and help manage blood sugar levels. It has recently been used by people without Type 2 diabetes for weight loss. IMAGE COURTESY OF FLICKR



Comics



Ah Reum Kindness, Contributing Artist



Alexa Pappas, Contributing Artist

Field Hockey: Huskies split weekend matchups



CLIPART COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

by Jackson Crainich
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The UConn field hockey team went into this weekend ranked fifth in the country and holding a strong record of 12-1, winners of seven straight. They traveled to Rhode Island to take on Big East opponent Providence before coming home to face off against No. 14 Massachusetts.

The Friars came into the matchup against UConn holding a 5-8 record, 0-3 in conference play, and on a five-game losing streak.

Connecticut entered into this game as heavy favorites, being undefeated in conference playing and only having one loss on the season, but this matchup would turn out to be a dogfight.

UConn struck first, as Sol Simone found Juul Sauer to give the Huskies a 1-0 lead 10 and a half minutes into the game. However, that lead would not last long. Only a minute later, Providence senior Celia Preveza scored and tied the game at one a piece.

Just as time expired in the first period, Huskies Julia Bressler scored, assisted by both Juana Garcia and Simone, the junior's second assist of the game.

Following this score, the Huskies had a very hard time getting things rolling again offensively. The Friars struck again at the 37-minute mark, as graduate student Ally DeCoste scored off an assist by Cami Crook, tying the game at two and giving Providence momentum.

Both teams would step up their defense throughout the rest of regular time, as neither were able to find the back of the net and found themselves needing more time to settle this con-

ference matchup. Neither team scored in the first overtime period, as the defense remained relentless. At the 74-minute mark, sophomore Bo Martina scored for the Friars, upsetting No. 5 ranked UConn 3-2 and winning their first conference game of the season.

The Huskies looked to bounce back from this loss during their ranked matchup against No. 14 Massachusetts. UMass came into this game with a 12-3 record, having notable wins over No. 20 UMass Lowell, No. 6 Saint Joseph's and No. 12 Boston College.

Connecticut came into this matchup with a 3-1 record against ranked opponents, with the lone loss against No. 7 Harvard, and undefeated on their home turf.

This ranked matchup was nothing short of a defensive battle, as the game was scoreless heading into halftime, with the Huskies holding UMass to only one shot during the first two periods.

The Huskies struck first in the third, as Bressler scored yet again, her eighth goal of the season, and the lone goal of the matchup.

Connecticut's stellar defense would remain unbearable for the UMass offense, as UConn would only allow Massachusetts to get off six shots, three being on goal, and would earn their seventh shutout of the season.

This win was a big one for the Huskies, rebounding off the loss against Providence and carrying the momentum into next weekend, when they will be playing host to two more ranked foes, looking to continue defending their home turf and climbing up the national rankings.



The UConn women's field hockey team celebrates after winning its game against UMass. The team was defeated at the game prior against Providence by a one-point difference.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNFHOCKEY ON INSTAGRAM

Cross Country: Huskies battle in high-pedigree pre-nationals race on Saturday

by Jake McCreven | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | jpm23012@uconn.edu

The UConn women's cross country team wrapped up its regular season slate on Saturday while competing at the Pre-Nationals Invitational meet hosted by the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

The team finished 27th out of 33 schools in a highly competitive field, which featured over a dozen regionally ranked teams and many schools the Huskies will see again before the season concludes.

Chloe Thomas continued her sterling senior season by finishing fifth overall in the women's 6K Run CC Championship and setting her 6K personal record with a time of 19:11.8. Thomas' fifth-place finish is her lowest of the season, but her personal best (for the season) was shattered 12 seconds exactly. She finished first among Big East athletes, with second-place conference finisher Jenna Zydanowicz finishing 34th with a time of 20:05.5, respectively.

Thomas also finished first among competitors from the Huskies' region (Northeast Region), with fellow top five ranked teams Syracuse (No. 2) and Boston College (No. 3) also competing in Madison on Saturday.

Zydanowicz finished just five seconds above 20 minutes and was a part of the bottleneck from 24th to 41st place, which saw all competitors finish within 10 seconds of each other. Zydanowicz's time of 20:05.5 is a season's personal best by just under two seconds but 8 seconds shy of her career best of 19:57.7, set at the Arturo Barrios Invite in October of last season.

The duo of Thomas and Zydanowicz is one of the Big East's and Northeast's best, with both runners fully capable of competing at the top of the conference championship race on Nov. 2.

The third-placing Husky was senior Caroline Towle, finishing 134th overall with a time of 20:53.5. Her third race of the season was short of her personal and season's best of 20:14. Towle will have at least one more opportunity to run on Nov. 2 when the team competes in the Big East Cross Country Championships.

Malin Rahm finished 198th overall with a time of 21:23.6, leading the pack from 198th to 206th who all finished within six seconds of each other. Rahm has run three

times in 2024, finishing within an 11 second range in all three races.

The next three Huskies to finish were sophomore Chloe Trudel (21:49.8), junior Madison Relyea (21:50.2) and senior Rachael Woodruff (21:54.4). All three runners finished within five seconds and seven places of each other.

The final Husky to finish was sophomore Loghan Hughes, clocking in at 22:31.2 (247). Hughes will also have at least one extra chance to compete in 2024 during the Big East Championships.

Brigham Young finished first overall with an average of 19:52 and a score of 105 (52 points ahead of second place Washington). The Cougars' top finisher came in ninth when Lexy Halladay-Lowry finished with a time of 19:33.4.

Fellow Northeast Regional teams Syracuse and Boston College finished 15th and 20th, respectively. The Huskies finished within seven seconds of the Orange and Eagles in terms of team average.

The Huskies will compete next on Nov. 2 when they will travel to Leesburg, VA. to race in the Big East Cross Country Championships.

Photo of the Day |



UConn men’s soccer versus Georgetown on Oct. 12, 2024. The Huskies fought hard but fell short losing 0-1. PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men’s Basketball:

Ring Ceremony, First Night kick off season’s festivities

by **Sam Calhoun**
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Following the 102-75 victory over the University of Rhode Island, the UConn men’s basketball team continued its back-to-back national championship tour later in the week with a Ring Ceremony on Thursday night and the annual First Night pep rally the following night, both being held at Harry A. Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn.

For the first time, the Ring Ceremony was open to the public, with NBC Sports Boston’s Kayla Burton emceeing the event. CBS Sports’ Bill Raftery spoke at the event last year but did not return this year.

The past five national championships were honored. Assistant coach Tom Moore represented the 1998-99 team, Final Four Most Outstanding Player Emeka Okafor represented the 2003-04 team, former UConn starting guard Jeremy Lamb represented the 2010-11 team, former UConn guard Terrence Samuel represented the 2013-14 team and South Bay Lakers guard Joey Calcaterra represented the 2022-23 team. Lamb also attended First Night the following night.

“It’s just good to share a night with [the team] and to have some of the former players: For Emeka [Okafor] to be around for a couple of days and Jeremy Lamb and [Terrence Samuel] and obviously Joey [Calcaterra], it was a cool thing,” Hurley said.

There were also panels. Those

included players on the last two national championship teams, a one-on-one interview with head coach Dan Hurley and a panel with players returning from last season’s team.

The 2024 national championship ring included: six stones to represent the six national titles, the Big East trophies to represent sweeping the conference titles (regular season and tournament) and the New York City skyline to pay homage to “Storrs South,” which is the home of the Big East Tournament. They also included the 21 Big East wins the team had throughout the regular and postseason. On the inside of the ring, the NCAA Tournament scores were listed, highlighting the incredible margin of victory in each game. The side opposite the Big East trophies included the 2024 national championship logo, along with the team’s historic overall record of 37-3. “BK - BOS - PHX” were engraved to represent the cities last season’s team played in during the NCAA Tournament, with the abbreviations representing Brooklyn, Boston and Phoenix.

Jostens, the company responsible for the ring, made the first-ever back-to-back ring.

“These rings not only celebrate their dominance on the court, but also embody the legacy of excellence, resilience and teamwork that UConn Basketball is known for,” Chris Poitras, the senior vice president and general manager of Jostens Professional and College Sports Division said in a press release posted to GlobeNewswire.



The ring opens at the top with the back-to-back logo. Underneath the top of the ring are the mottos of the last two seasons: “We Season” and “Everything” for 2023 and 2024, respectively. The circle of initials not only represented those who were part of both national championship teams, but it was in the form of a circle to represent the tradition of standing in a circle together at the end of every practice.

On the outside of the ring, the first thing you will notice is the throwback wordmark of “Connecticut.” Both national championship games included the Hus-

kies sporting their throwback uniforms. Behind those are two NCAA trophies to represent both national titles. At the bottom of each trophy are three small stones for six total, representing how many national championships the Huskies have won. There is a 26-stone border surrounding the trophies and the wordmark to represent the 18 Big East regular season and eight Big East Tournament titles. The end of the front of the ring includes “Back 2 Back” and “Champions” on the top and bottom of the side respectively, surrounded by 16 white stones to symbolize the 16-0 record at home during the 2023-24 season.

One side of the ring shows the 2024 Final Four logo with the national championship score, along with the Final Four location, Houston, engraved at the top of the side of the ring. The other side emulates the same but for the 2024 national championship game.

The following night was First Night at Gampel Pavilion, a pep rally for the men’s and women’s basketball teams.

The event lasted just under an hour and was available to watch on WFSB (Channel 3) and UConn+. During the introductions, Hurley came out to “Born to Run” by Bruce Springsteen. He walked out to midcourt and slapped the logo.

“It’s a unique opportunity in men’s and women’s basketball to have one of the best basketball organizations in the world,” Hurley said, claiming that the programs are some of the best in basketball

regardless of level.

Following the introductions of the blue and white teams for First Night, both teams competed in a three-point contest. Each team had one men’s and one women’s basketball player.

Allie Ziebell and Jayden Ross won the three-point contest with 17 of 24 shots made. Ziebell, a sharpshooter for the women’s team, nearly went perfect in her first round of the threepoint contest.

Freshman star Liam McNeeley, known as a three-point shooting threat, was not involved much. Hurley told the media before the event that McNeeley has a lower calf strain, which flared up on Thursday midway through practice.

“We’re hopeful that he’ll be all right,” Hurley noted. “Maybe a two-week type of a thing.”

The scrimmage replaced the dunk contest and was split into four quarters, with the men playing the second and fourth quarters and the women playing the first and third quarters. It was an NBA All-Star game type of scrimmage, with rarely any defense being played and players showing off their range and athleticism. There was no box score available, but the white team won the scrimmage 31-30.

Following the media availability, Hurley exclaimed “We’re back!” With 16 days (about two and a half weeks) until the season opener against Sacred Heart University and Big East Media Day on Wednesday, he is not wrong about basketball being back.



The UConn men’s and women’s basketball teams make their debut at Gampel Pavilion during First Night. The teams are both considered to be two of the best in the nation. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNHUSKIES ON INSTAGRAM

FOOTBALL: HUSKIES SUFFER FIRST HOME LOSS

23-20 AT THE HANDS OF WAKE FOREST

by **Connor Sargeant**
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It's no secret that playing at home gives the hosts a massive advantage. Not only is everything familiar, but you have your crowd behind you. The other program doesn't share these benefits, putting them at a competitive disadvantage. For the 2023 CFB season, the UConn football team had one of the most unique schedules in all of college sports, playing six home games in a row. Not to mention, the program hosted Merimack a week before their week three showdown against Duke. Despite this advantage, the Huskies dropped to 4-1 at the Rent this weekend, falling 23-20 to Wake Forest.

Two weeks ago, the Huskies narrowly escaped with victory against Temple in a 29-20 thriller that truly came down to the game's final play. In that contest, UConn struggled to get going early offensively. These struggles seemed to be an outlier case, as the program dominated offensively in their three other home showings. However, these offensive shortcomings followed the program into Saturday's contest as the offense struggled to get going.

Connecticut failed to establish the outside run at a high level like it has done so many times before. The program finished Saturday with 45 yards on the ground on 23 carries. As a result, UConn had a much tougher time setting up the passing game, which was a significant reason why the program trailed 13-6 at the half. Another reason the program trailed at the end of 20 minutes of action was their inability to stop the Demon Deacons offense through their read-option mesh concept.

The offensive concept that Wake Forest ran on Saturday was not only one of the most unique we have seen in college football but also in football in general. Quarterback Hank Bachmeier would take the snap. Simultaneously, whoever was in the backfield for Wake Forest would come up on the ball but not take it immedi-

ately, as the receivers would also run routes. Since their offensive line dominated, the Demon Deacons had a plethora of options offensively based on this. Huskies defensive back Malik Dixon-Williams explained what makes this seemingly odd play challenging to defend, despite the program accounting for it and why Wake Forest kept returning to it.

"I knew it was going to be difficult. The reason why they do it is to kind of like freeze up the low defenders," Dixon-Williams told media personnel postgame. "If you have a curl or hook drop, you don't wanna trigger because it's going to leave a lot of space behind you, but you also just don't want to sit there, so it kind of puts you in a bind."

While some fans may feel differently, Connecticut's defense played a solid game. While the program undoubtedly struggled to defend against Wake Forest's delayed option, they made solid plays when Connecticut needed it.

With less than two minutes to go, both the passing and running attack was in full force, with the delayed mesh at its center. Considering that the Huskies were down by a touchdown at this point and failed to move the ball downfield at a high level, giving up points was not an option. However, the Demon Deacons were in striking distance, getting all the way to the Connecticut 18-yard line. However, as so many times before, the defense came up and made a play. Bachmeier threw a goal-line fade, although Cam Chadwick beat his man and made a great interception in the endzone, limiting the damage to 13-7 at the break.

Unfortunately for the Huskies, they didn't get off to the start they would have liked for the second half. Between the rushing attack from Demond Claiborne, the air attack from Taylor Morin and Co., and a late hit out of bounds, Wake Forest was in the red zone in no time, with Claiborne running in a score for the Demon Deacons. While Claiborne's 60 yards on 24 carries won't break any records, his ability to punch it in from short paid dividends for Wake Forest,



The Huskies take on Wake Forest University at The Rent on Saturday, Oct. 19. Despite coming close in the fourth quarter, the Huskies lost 20-23.
PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

finishing with two scores on the day.

A major reason Wake Forest was able to do all it could offensively was the performance of its offensive line. The Connecticut pass rush wasn't as good as it had been in weeks past, failing to bring the same effect. Despite this, the Huskies responded.

A huge kickoff from Durell Robinson set the Huskies up at midfield, which was the turning point for this offense. After a couple of runs and throws to Jasaiah Gathings later, the Huskies were set up on the Demon Deacons 20-yard line. Then, Nick Evers made his best throw all day to Gathings, finding him 20 yards downfield for the program's first score all day. All of a sudden, UConn made it a game. A couple of punts, dropped passes and even a kick off the right guard's helmet later and still, neither side could put this one away fully.

All Saturday, the UConn defense bent but never broke, and this was still true in the fourth quarter. Matthew Dennis hit a 36-yarder midway through the fourth quarter for Wake Forest, and this came on a drive that saw a relentless offensive attack out of the Demon Deacons mesh con-

cept. Despite this, Jayden McDonald made the play, with the team's second sack all day, and limited the damage to three points.

All day, Evers and the team felt they would need to make a big play to emerge victorious. With four minutes left in the fourth quarter, the program finally got that from their offensive unit. A fourth-down conversion, some solid passing plays later and Evers found Louis Hansen for a 25-yard touchdown reception. Now, the Huskies were only down a field goal.

Instead of opting for the onside kick and losing the field position battle, Chris Freeman booted the ball to the back of the endzone. With three timeouts and the two-minute warning remaining, a three-and-out would guarantee that Connecticut would get one more solid offensive drive. The defensive unit made the plays needed and got the offense the ball back with 2:02 remaining in the fourth.

Evers immediately found TJ Sheffield for a 21-yard reception, and from there, it was clear that the Huskies weren't going down without a fight. Despite this, after a couple of incompletions later, it was fourth down. A false start

made it fourth and eight for the program, and they needed a big play. Evers opted to go back to Gathings, but he couldn't come down with it this time. However, the drama was far from over. The stadium replay showed that defensive back Jamare Glasker held onto Gathings much more than he should have, yet the officials missed the call, which would have put the Huskies in prime position to at least tie Saturday's contest.

Of course, no one on Connecticut was pleased with the egregious no-call, but that was not the point of focus for anyone on the team. This was far from their most complete performance, and everyone, from head coach Jim Mora to Evers, took responsibility, saying that "we need to be better."

The Huskies will have a chance to play up to their expectations when they take the field next on Oct. 26 against Rice. This is a game that could define the rest of their season, as the Huskies have a significant chance at playing in a bowl game this year. If UConn can shake off this loss and hit the ground running fast next Saturday, this game will serve as fuel for a program that is hungry to bring football glory back to Connecticut.

Women's Soccer:

Huskies go scoreless for the first time this season and ties Villanova

by **Brayden Gorski**
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The final road game of the regular season was not as successful as previous Husky matchups. A battle on the defensive end and a few missed scoring opportunities left both teams with no goals after 90 minutes.

Chioma Okafor, who has not scored in two games, was one of the first Huskies to take a shot but ultimately finished unsuccessful. Sophie McCarthy also took a shot, but the ball made its way into the hands of Villanova goalie Hannah Dickinson.

The Wildcats took their first attempt on net moments later as Madison Shumate's shot was saved by a jumping Kaitlyn Mahoney. Abbey Jones then pushed the pace for the Huskies, sending a ball to Okafor, who was tackled cleanly in the box. Former Villanova Wildcat Maddie Fried tried to follow up on the play with a header, but the senior's shot was too high.

Gabby Koluch attempted a shot on goal, which was

snagged by Mahoney. Morgan Kotch had a great opportunity after faking her defender out and going the opposite way, but she was tackled before getting a proper shot off. No foul was called, so play continued.

Captain Lucy Cappadona also tried to put the team on the board; however, a header went out of bounds. UConn goaltender Mahoney made another smart play as she left the net to race Alex Little to the ball. The sliding Mahoney beat Little and sent the ball out of play.

Okafor then made an exceptional run at the net, starting from the UConn box all the way to the Villanova box. Although her efforts were unsuccessful, Okafor nailed another shot before the half that was saved by Dickinson.

A defensive first half ended with both teams knotted up 0-0.

The defensive theme continued into the second half as the first five minutes of the half were conservative. Alayna Taylor attempted her first shot for Connecticut, but the ball was deflected before

it could make it to the goal.

Villanova's Elon Rutty then had an opportunity inside the box for the Wildcats, but her shot was deflected by a Husky defender and cleared by UConn.

Although Shumate was then able to get another shot on goal, it was just wide to the left and out of play. The shot was the last real chance for the Wildcats, as the final twenty minutes were controlled by the Huskies in search of their first goal of the day.

Lina Dantes started the chances for Connecticut as she found Okafor for a one-timer in the box. Okafor, who did not have much time to think, fired a shot towards the center of the net, which Dickinson got a finger on to force it out and keep the game scoreless. Anaya Johnson had two shots in the final 10 minutes to try and get the Huskies on the board; however, neither were successful.

UConn almost pulled off a miracle as in the waning moments the ball ended up at the feet of Taylor. The sophomore did not get a clean shot off as



UConn women's soccer loses 2-1 to Butler. The team is currently 8-4-4 overall.
PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

there was a defender blocking her path.

Afterwards, the referee blew the final whistle and Connecticut walked away with a single point after the draw. Connecticut had scored in all 15 games prior to Sunday afternoon.

With just two games remaining in the regular season, the Huskies still sit in

the middle of the pack in the Big East standings. Finishing with a 3-1-3 road record, UConn aims to finish the season strong in Storrs and punch their ticket to the Big East Tournament.

The next chance for Connecticut to get in the win column is Thursday night against the DePaul Blue Demons.



Sports

McCreven's Mashup:
It depends on who you ask

PRESEASON COLLEGE BASKETBALL RANKINGS COMPARISON

by Jake McCreven | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | jpm23012@uconn.edu

The annual release of the Associated Press Top 25 Preseason Poll caused inevitable fallout throughout the college basketball world, with fans of teams such as North Carolina, Texas and Kentucky being outraged by their team's "low" ranking while Alabama, Arkansas and Rutgers sit pretty inside the top 25.

KenPom's annual preseason rankings released the same morning, with many hardcore fans resorting to the analytical rankings to cope with their team's AP placement.

Comparing the two rankings is like comparing apples to oranges, but it's still fun to stir the pot of college basketball drama to determine where these teams truly stand.

Arkansas — 16 AP, 25 KenPom
Where I land: Leaning KenPom

The Razorbacks were the darling of the offseason after saying goodbye to Eric Musselman (USC) to replace him with former Kentucky head coach John Calipari and a bevy of former high-profile recruits who followed the storied coach from Lexington. KenPom seeded the Hogs at No. 25 due to its dislike of teams built on a bedrock of transfers, with the Associated Press opting to drink the Fayetteville Kool-Aid ahead of 2024.

Although the gap between its rankings (nine spots) is far from the largest on this list, the difference between a top-16 team and a top-25 team is significant come tournament time. Erring on the side of caution, I decided to stick with KenPom on this one. The Hogs are one of the most volatile teams in the country this season and could win from anywhere between 17 and 25 games in Calipari's first year at the helm.

Rutgers — 25 AP, 63 KenPom
Where I land: Leaning KenPom

The Scarlet Knights made waves in the college basketball world this offseason with the commitment of two top-five prospects and four additional impact freshmen in its fourth-ranked recruiting class. The AP voters thought enough of the Scarlet Knights to slide Ace Bailey and company into the rankings at No. 25, while the analytics seeded Rutgers back at No. 63.

Much like KenPom, I have a hard time trusting teams reliant on incoming freshmen and portal additions without a stable veteran presence (something Rutgers doesn't have with the transfer of Cliff Omoruyi to Alabama). Still, Rutgers is one of the highest upside teams in the nation and can absolutely find itself playing in the second weekend of March Madness. Improving its league worst three-point shooting percentage and free throw rate will be crucial to the team's progression in 2024.

Little Rock — 49 AP, 251 KenPom
Where I land: Somewhere in the middle.

The Trojans were the only team from the Ohio Valley Conference to receive votes in the preseason AP poll, placing 49th overall and seventh out of the 10 mid-major schools to receive votes. The over 200-place difference from voter to computer is the largest out of any team



Arkansas -- 16 AP, 25 KenPom
WHERE I LAND: LEANING KENPOM

Rutgers -- 25 AP, 63 KenPom
WHERE I LAND: LEANING KENPOM

Little Rock -- 49 AP, 251 KenPom
WHERE I LAND: SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE

in college basketball this preseason, largely in part due to KenPom's overall dislike of mid-major teams with low graded opponents.

With such a gaping difference between the two rankings, it's hard to side with one or other. I'm splitting the middle on this one, as the Trojans – despite a relatively easy conference slate – possess one of the most talented mid-major rosters in America with shifty guard Khalen Robinson and LSU transfer Mwani Wilkerson forming one of the conference's top scoring duos under Little Rock's rim-running style.

McNeese — 37 AP, 103 KenPom

Where I land: Leaning AP
The Cowboys enter 2024 as the highest ranked mid-major team in America, collecting 11 AP votes ahead of Will Wade's second season in Lake Charles. McNeese returns three starters, including potential Southland Player of the Year Christian Shumate and dynamic guard Javohn Garcia, forming a formidable mid-major nucleus.

KenPom is fading McNeese most likely due to its projected strength of schedule (which is fair), but from a pure talent perspective, the Cowboys are a surehanded pick to win their conference and compete in the NCAA Tournament this March. McNeese's slow-paced tempo is a giant-killer capable of suffocating undisciplined defenses such as Michigan's last season.

St. Louis — 40 AP, 105 KenPom

Where I land: Leaning KenPom
The rebranded Billikens gathered one of the Atlantic 10's top overall rosters this off-season behind newly hired coach John Schertz. Schertz took top players Robbie Avila and Isaiah Swope with him from Indiana State after taking the Sycamores to the NIT Championship last season. St. Louis garnered nine AP votes yet ranked outside of the top 100 of KenPom's preseason rankings.

Considering the conference slate, I am leaning KenPom for the Billikens. SLU is a part of the six-team bottleneck atop the Atlantic 10: A group of teams bound to beat each other up come conference play. St. Louis is also in year one of a new regime and will more than likely take time to acclimate to coach Schertz's scheme.

Villanova — UR AP, 20 KenPom

Where I land: Leaning AP
The Wildcats are the only team on this list to not receive a single AP vote, yet Kyle Neptune's squad placed 20th in KenPom's preseason rankings. Puzzling, yes, but who's more to blame? The Wildcats return just one starter from a lulling 18-win campaign in 2023 in All-Big East big man Eric Dixon. A litany of transfers were brought in to surround Dixon this off season, including Wooga Poplar (Miami), Tyler Perkins (Penn) and Enoch Boakye (Fresno State). So where does Villanova stand heading into 2024?

In a rare case of siding with the AP in overrating a team, I chose to fade KenPom's No. 20 preseason ranking. The Wildcats still appear to be a year or two away from competing under Neptune, especially with such a refurbished roster in Philadelphia.

McNeese -- 37 AP, 103 KenPom
WHERE I LAND: LEANING AP

St. Louis -- 40 AP, 105 KenPom
WHERE I LAND: LEANING KENPOM

Villanova -- UR AP, 20 KenPom
WHERE I LAND: LEANING AP