

Fall Frontiers event showcases student research and ingenuity

by Samantha Brody

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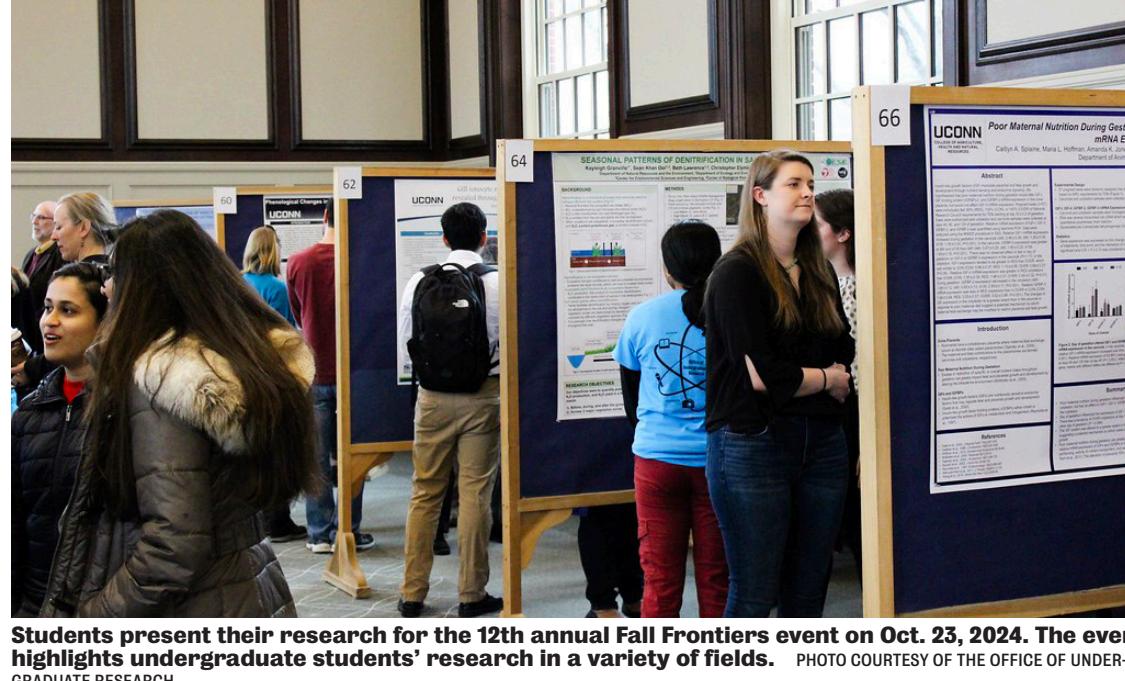
The 12th annual Fall Frontiers Poster Exhibition, hosted through the Office of Undergraduate Research, showcased 73 different undergraduate student research projects, each examining a different research topic. Taking place on Wednesday, Oct. 23, from 5 to 7 p.m., the exhibition allowed students to share their findings and show off the work they had put into their projects.

The event was attended by Dan Schwartz, the vice provost for academic operations at the University of Connecticut, who briefly spoke at the start of the event.

"It's education and it's research," Schwartz said, when talking about the experience of being an undergraduate researcher. "To me, undergraduate research really is the best kind of encapsulation of both of those elements. It's sort of the perfect marriage of research and education."

"You get the opportunity to work with world-leading researchers who are at the top of their field - world-renowned researchers," he said. "And it's also an amazing educational opportunity. There's no better way to learn."

As noted by both Schwartz and other attendees, students at this event spent the summer



Students present their research for the 12th annual Fall Frontiers event on Oct. 23, 2024. The event highlights undergraduate students' research in a variety of fields. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

researching their topic and putting their information together on a poster to be shown at the event. Student researchers stood by their projects, ready to expand upon their findings if needed.

Projects also covered a wide variety of majors and disciplines, including computer science, biology, political science, psychology and various branches of engineering.

Seventh semester biology student Crystal Zhu focused her work on the taxonomy of podostictina, a genus of fungi. In her project "Phylogeny-Based

Taxonomic Revisions of Podostictina, a Genus of Lichen-Forming Fungi," Zhu used DNA barcoding and chromatography to analyze the makeup of various types of podostictina and clarify the taxonomic names of different species.

"From a conversation standpoint, if you don't know what species are out there in specific areas ... you can have conservation efforts, but they can be misdirected," Zhu said, when discussing what she saw as a benefit of her research. "Research basically feeds into research ... without these other

people's research, then I wouldn't have this much data."

Zhu's project was a part of the department of ecology and evolutionary biology and was advised by Professor Bernard Goffinet.

Another student showcasing their work at the event was Nicolas Rodriguez, who was the research assistant for Jennifer Scapetis-Tyce, an associate professor of dramatic arts. Rodriguez's project, titled "Singing Into Accents: Intonation and Music," focused on how musical terminology can be used to describe the way dif-

ferent accents sound.

"This project takes terminology from music, in a way, and translates it into accents, so actors and musicians can replicate that accent as best they can," Rodriguez said. He used a program called Pratt to break down and analyze the way different accents sound to the human ear.

"It is definitely a different area of research to me," he said. "Initially it was troublesome, because I didn't know exactly what I was looking for, so it took a bit of work there. It was really interesting to figure out these accents and see how they can translate into music."

Rodriguez spent around 90 hours on the project, which took him about two months.

"It gives the opportunity to work with a professor, but also gives them the opportunity to enter a field of research that isn't specifically classes or anything like that. It gives them, for me at least, a general purpose of research," Rodriguez said when asked about the benefits of research.

The Fall Frontiers event is a part of UConn's "Month of Discovery," which included four signature events designed to get students excited about research and innovation. The Fall Frontiers event was the last of these signature events, although UConn's Innovate Labs will still be hosting events throughout October.

Explainer: Connecticut's ballot question is on absentee voting

by Samantha Brody

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On this year's ballot, Connecticut voters will have the option to approve or deny a proposed amendment to the Connecticut Constitution. The proposed amendment in question would allow for no-excuse absentee voting. Currently, Connecticut residents can only receive an absentee ballot if they have specific excuses, and not all excuses can guarantee an absentee ballot.

According to the website for the Connecticut Secretary of State, valid excuses for absentee voting are religious beliefs, whether someone is an active member of the United States military, leaving town, disability, sickness and if the individual

is an election official who will be working at a polling location. The website itself refers to these as "strict laws regarding who can vote absentee."

Although Connecticut is not alone in its strict voting laws, it is also not aligning with current trends. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), 28 states allow for no-excuse absentee voting. Voters in these states can simply request a ballot and have it mailed to their current location, no explanation necessary. In addition to these 28, eight states and Washington D.C. are entirely mail-in elections.

Out of the 36 total states, many are neighbors to Connecticut, including New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Maine, Vermont, Pennsylvania and Maryland, as

noted by the NCSL. Connecticut and New Hampshire are the only states in New England without no-excuse absentee voting.

This also isn't Connecticut's first attempt at no-excuse absentee voting. According to the Connecticut General Assembly, the 2014 ballot had the question "Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to remove restrictions concerning absentee ballots and to permit a person to vote without appearing at a polling place on the day of an election?" However, Connecticut citizens voted against it, leading to a second try ten years later.

"In the past 40 or 50 years, 36 states and the District of Columbia have passed absentee voting for all," Connecticut Representative Matt Blumenthal (D-Stamford) said to CT Insider.

"Now we finally have an opportunity to join them and increase access, efficiency and security for all of our voters," Blumenthal is also the chair of the legislative Government Administration and Elections Committee.

"This is a matter of racial justice, as it ensures that everyone, including marginalized communities have equal access to voting," said David McGuire of the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut in a press release. "We're confident that making voters aware of this ballot referendum and explaining why and how this gives people more rights and more of a voice in their government will encourage passage. There's an enthusiasm and a demand for voting rights nationwide that's particularly salient in Connecticut. We wanted to capture that

energy across the state today."

Conversely, in conversation with CT Insider state Republican chairman Ben Proto argued "We adopted early voting this year, which provides 14 additional days that people can go vote. So why do we need now to have no-excuse absentee voting? The legislature is hell-bent on changing a whole lot of stuff within our election laws very quickly."

Although the deadlines for online voter registration and for requesting a mail-in ballot have already passed, Connecticut residents can still register to vote early from now until Nov. 3, provided they do it in-person, according to Democracy Works. For those who don't plan on voting early, it is still possible to register in-person on election day, Nov. 5.

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THE DAILY CAMPUS

NEWSLETTER

Civil rights, women's movement to be discussed in the context of puppetry at Ballard Museum this weekend

by Patrick Boots

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The Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry is hosting a two-day event, the "Wonderland Puppet Theater Symposium", this weekend, Oct. 25-26, offering an opportunity for University of Connecticut students to explore how art, activism and social movements intersect.

The event is part of the Ballard's ongoing exhibition "Wonderland Puppet Theatre: Visions of the Beloved Community," curated by Paulette Richards. The goal is to provide a platform to explore the work of two pioneering women in puppetry, Alice Swann and Nancy Schmale,

whose productions engaged with major social movements of the 1960s. Richards, a self-described independent researcher, has taught puppetry programs at schools including Georgetown University, Tulane University and in Senegal.

Swann and Schmale's original puppet work, inspired by Martin Luther King Jr., reflected contemporary issues from the Civil Rights movement to the evolving roles of women in society. For attendees, the Ballard is promoting the symposium as a chance to foster discussions about how themes of desegregation and the "marriage agreement" continue to shape today's cultural landscape.

The symposium will be held in the Ballard Museum black

box theatre, located in Downtown Storrs Mansfield at 1 Royce Circle.

The event kicks off on Friday with a tour of the exhibition and a keynote address by Richards, followed by a screening of "In Black," a documentary on African American puppeteers directed by Jacqueline Wade. Post-screening discussions with Wade will offer students a unique perspective on how African American artists have used puppetry to share stories of resilience and identity.

On Saturday, the symposium shifts to panel discussions that may resonate with a wide range of academic interests. Topics include how female artists have historically navigated gendered divisions of labor, the influence

of children's media on social values and the continuing issue of residential segregation. The panels will be presented by UConn faculty members, including Nancy Naples, a sociology and women's, gender and sexuality studies professor, and Stephen Ross, an economics professor. Additional speakers from Rutgers University and University of Exeter will also be featured, alongside puppetry talent.

According to the event listing, the workshop is being supported by a UConn School of Fine Arts Anti-Racism Grant and UConn Humanities Institute Speaker, Conference, and Workshop funding. It also lists the event as being co-sponsored by UConn's African American

Cultural Center, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program and the Robert T. Leo Jr. Fund for Excellence in the Dramatic Arts.

The Wonderland Puppet Theater Symposium is free, but registration is required. To register for in-person and virtual attendance, visit bimp.ticketleap.com.

The Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry is an extensive museum, showcasing exhibitions, performances and forums related to puppetry and theater. UConn is one of few colleges to offer puppetry programs and is the only school in the country to offer three degree levels in the field, according to the School of Fine Arts webpage.

Tim Burton talks about his dread of AI as an exhibition of his work opens in London

LONDON (AP) — The imagination of Tim Burton has produced ghosts and ghouls, Martians, monsters and misfits — all on display at an exhibition that is opening in London just in time for Halloween.

But you know what really scares him? Artificial intelligence.

Burton said Wednesday that seeing a website that had used AI to blend his drawings with Disney characters "really disturbed me."

"It wasn't an intellectual thought — it was just an internal, visceral feeling," Burton told reporters during a preview of "The World of Tim Burton" exhibition at London's Design Museum. "I looked at those things and I thought, 'Some of these are pretty good.' ... (But) it gave me a weird sort of scary feeling inside."

Burton said he thinks AI is unstoppable, because "once you can do it, people will do it." But he scoffed when asked if he'd use the technology in this work.

"To take over the world?" he laughed.

The exhibition reveals Burton to be an analogue artist, who

started off as a child in the 1960s experimenting with paints and colored pencils in his suburban Californian home.

"I wasn't, early on, a very verbal person," Burton said. "Drawing was a way of expressing myself."

Decades later, after films including "Edward Scissorhands," "Batman," "The Nightmare Before Christmas" and "Beetlejuice," his ideas still begin with drawing. The exhibition includes 600 items from movie studio collections and Burton's personal archive, and traces those ideas as they advance from sketches through collaboration with set, production and costume designers on the way to the big screen.

London is the exhibition's final stop on a decade-long tour of 14 cities in 11 countries. It has been reconfigured and expanded with 90 new objects for its run in the British capital, where Burton has lived for a quarter century.

The show includes early drawings and oddities, including a competition-winning "crush litter" sign a teenage Burton designed for Burbank

garbage trucks. There's also a recreation of Burton's studio, down to the trays of paints and "Curse of Frankenstein" mug full of pencils.

Alongside hundreds of drawings, there are props, puppets, set designs and iconic costumes, including Johnny Depp's "Edward Scissorhands" talons and the black latex Catwoman costume worn by Michelle Pfeiffer in "Batman Returns."

"We had very generous access to Tim's archive in London, stuffed full of thousands of drawings, storyboards from stop-motion films, sketches, character notes, poems," said exhibition curator Maria McElroy. "And how to synthesize such a wide ranging and meandering career within one exhibition was a fun challenge — but definitely a challenge."

Seeing it has not been a wholly fun experience for Burton, who said he's unable to look too closely at the items on display.

"It's like seeing your dirty laundry put on the walls," he said. "It's quite amazing. It's a bit overwhelming."

Burton, whose long-awaited horror-comedy sequel "Beetle-

juice Beetlejuice" opened at the Venice Film Festival in August, is currently filming the second series of Netflix' Addams Family-themed series "Wednesday."

These days he is a major Hollywood director whose American gothic style has spawned an adjective — "Burtonesque." But he still feels like an outsider.

"Once you feel that way, it never leaves you," he said.

"Each film I did was a struggle," he added, noting that early films like "Pee-wee's Big Adventure" from 1985 and "Beetlejuice" in 1988 received some negative reviews. "It seems like it was a pleasant, fine, easy jour-

ney, but each one leaves its emotional scars."

McElroy said Burton "is a deeply emotional filmmaker."

"I think that's what drew me to his films as a child," she said. "He really celebrates the misunderstood outcast, the benevolent monster. So it's been quite a weird but fun experience spending so much time in his brain and his creative process."

"His films are often called dark," she added. "I don't agree with that. And if they are dark, there's a very much a kind of hope in the darkness. You always want to hang out in the darkness in his films."



"The World of Tim Burton" opens Friday and runs until April 21, 2025. PHOTOGRAPH BY ALBERTO PEZZALI/AP NEWSROOM

The Daily Campus

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By Patti Varo

10/25/24

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

A crossword puzzle grid with the following words filled in:

- Across: DIVER, ADIEU, AIDE, EMIR, DEAD CENTER, PINE, ESL, STIR, FISTS, LOADED, NACHOS, ROBINS, EARS, OVEN, AMISS, FAT, WEEKEND, ACTIVITY, CLOP, SRS, LEDGE, OBOE, SCRAPE, IRON, ONION, DECALS, RENEW, ROMA, EMU, ISSA, DANCE, MOVES, STEM, ALSO, PRIME, HST, BETA, SELLES.
- Down: (No explicit down words are provided in the image, only across words are listed.)

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23 Concluding piece	37 Non-neutral	50 So last century
24 __ node	particles	51 Get ready to eat
25 Not even fair	38 Add (up)	55 __ fly
26 Jazz home, initially	39 Much of a sunset photo	56 Indoor rower, for short
27 Ore. neighbor	42 Abate	57 Selena portrayer, familiarly
31 French queen	43 Tam pattern	58 Orecchiette
32 UFO crew, presumably	44 Members of a TikTok subculture	shape
33 Violinist Zimbalist	46 Yukon, e.g.: Abbr.	59 Local source of produce: Abbr.
35 Ailing	47 Not even close	60 Biblical
36 Spring's opposite, in tides	49 "Into the Water" novelist Hawkins	possessive

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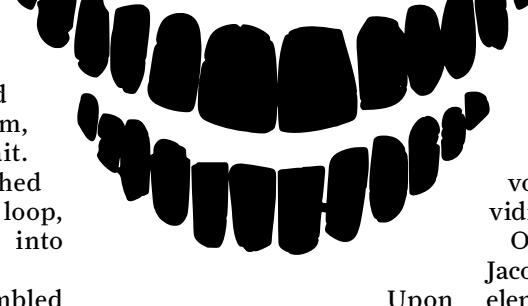
SCARES, SCREAMS AND SUSTAINABILITY:

HAUNTED

HEEP

2021

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by Benjamin Lassy

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With Halloween less than a week away, students at the University of Connecticut have already begun to get immersed in the season of scares and frights. But what better way to dive headfirst into horror than a late-night walk through a haunted forest? On Wednesday, Oct. 23, the Office of Sustainability (OS) invited students to Hillside Environmental Education Park (HEEP) for a one mile walk through a host of horrifying scenes filled with volunteer actors.

HEEP is a remediated landfill site on the Storrs campus and contains 165 acres of preserved land, including open meadows, woodlands and wetland areas, like Cedar Swamp Brook. With trails and a wildlife observation platform open to the public, HEEP is a great place for students to unwind and find nature near campus.

With the event's entrance located off Discovery Drive near the Innovation Partnership Building, attendees gathered in a long line eagerly awaiting the scares to come. The hike followed a one-mile loop through a woodland portion of HEEP, with trails illuminated by small lights. The trails were clear, and though there were rocks and roots, they were marked with spray paint.

Many students dressed up in costumes and theorized about what was awaiting them in the woods. As the event started at 7 p.m., the sun was already setting, and the darkness added a layer of horror to the atmosphere even before entering the woods.

Before entering HEEP, students had to fill out a waiver; although, if you filled out the early RSVP form, there was a shorter wait. As participants approached the starting point of the loop, they were sectioned into groups of 10-12.

As my group assembled and began the walk, we were handed a small flashlight emitting red light for the people in front to guide the way and illuminate any rocks or obstructions on the trail. Although participants could use their phone flashlights if needed, the singular flashlight was sufficient for most of the walk.

Upon entering the woods, the approximately 30-minute journey commenced. Volunteers dressed in costumes of all varieties, ranging from zombies and ghouls to plague doctors and lifeguards. The acting was brilliant; although, when — to cope with the horror — I said, "have a good night" to one of the actors, they responded with

a "thank you, you too." Though there were plenty of scares to be had, beyond it all was an appreciation of the park and the effort that the OS and volunteers had put into providing the free event.

One member of my group, Jacob Gilson, a third-semester elementary education and history major, shared his thoughts on the effort put into the mile-long loop, saying "I thought the trail was very well maintained."

The scares were also inventive and exciting. Gilson noted, "the scaring were really scary; the Burger King guy was the scariest." Other highlights included a scene with several ac-

tors dancing in an off-putting way, a lifeguard blowing a whistle from behind a tree and one flannel-wearing villain pretending to join a group at the back only to scare its members who didn't realize it was an actor.

Both in front of and behind our group were constant screams reverberating through the woods from nearby groups. The foginess lit by nearby lights also added to the ambiance and the weather was warm considering the timing of the event; the mood was perfect for the hike. Our group laughed and screamed together and by the end of the journey, we emerged thoroughly spooked and excited.

As event volunteers highlighted at the start of the walk, HEEP is an integral part of UConn's environmental impact and is the product of many years of hard work and conservation innovation. Gilson also noted that the Haunted HEEP event "is a good way to get this piece of land known."

After finishing the loop, attendees were invited to fill out an exit survey, which had a question about the history of HEEP, and no doubt that history was learned in the process of attending the Haunted HEEP.

For those in attendance looking for more trail walks, or if you could not attend yet want to connect with nature while temperatures and weather still permits, HEEP is open to the public and both trail maps and the history of the park can be found on the Office of Sustainability's website. More updates for future events hosted by the Office of Sustainability can be found at sustainability.uconn.edu/calendar/.



Students line up at the Hillside Environmental Education Park (HEEP) on Wednesday, Oct. 23 for the Haunted HEEP trail hike. Volunteers and staff of the Office of Sustainability provided scares and thrills throughout the mile-long loop.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BENJAMIN LASSY, LIFE EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

‘Split Record Review: ‘Old’

Welcome to another week of “Split Record Review,” where two writers give their takes on an album. In the spirit of a recent Danny Brown release, the deluxe version of “Quaranta” from last year, let’s glance at an interesting point in his discography, his 2013 album “Old.” If you can get down with his style of over-the-top and often vulgar rap, most of his music is acclaimed across the board — not this record, though. It’s the career equivalent of Tyler, the Creator’s “Cherry Bomb,” an album equally praised and criticized for its moments of genius and missteps, but that’s for another week, so what do Henry and James have to say about “Old?”

by Henry St. Pierre

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This might be one of the stranger records we’ve covered on “Split Record Review.” There certainly are parts of this record that I didn’t enjoy, but as a whole, I had fun listening to “Old.” I didn’t expect to enjoy it as much as I found myself, given the discourse surrounding this album, but there weren’t many points that left me scratching my head.

I’ve always admired what Danny Brown was doing in the rap scene; however, I can’t say I ever really got into his work until “Scaring the Hoes.” That record in particular made me realize how much I had been sleeping on him. I had heard “XXX” and a few other singles, but I never considered myself a Danny Brown fan until just last year.

I went into “Old” with a feeling of nervous excitement, not really knowing what to expect. Overall, I see both sides of the

argument. Parts have undoubtedly aged poorly, but other parts showcase Brown’s evolution as an artist.

Side A had better songs. In fact, I was really enjoying the record up until Side B. The sudden switch to a harder, club-oriented sound was an unexpected change, and didn’t really work all that well. Brown’s lyrics and delivery lend themselves to the energetic vibe, however it’s unbelievably corny.

“Side A [Old]” is an excellent opener, featuring an infectious sample and one of Brown’s best flows on the entire record. “The Return” carried the energy, with a fantastic feature from Freddie Gibbs. The pleasant surprise from the first two tracks soured somewhat with “25 Bucks.” The reverb-drenched club sound almost gave me whiplash.

Brown’s flow didn’t interest me as much as the first two tracks, and the Purity Ring feature was alright, but didn’t sound quite right over the beat. If this song hadn’t been done in an over-the-top EDM style, it could’ve really worked.

“Wonderbread” was another highlight. Truth be told, I’m a sucker for wonky beats like this one. The rest of side A was full of infectious samples and brash, yet humorous and clever bars from Brown. The feature from ScHoolboy Q on “Dope Fiend Rental” was a highlight for me, that track did the overly flashy high-energy sound right. If Side B had the same energy, I really wouldn’t have had as much of an issue with this record.

Side B kicks off with “Side B [Dope Song],” and was the first sign that the acrimony associated with this record might be a little deserved. Overall, Side B featured dated beat after dated beat, and not even an

A\$AP Rocky feature could save it. Credit where credit is due, Brown’s wild personality shines through on some tracks, like “Dip.” I see why many might enjoy this record, however I just couldn’t get into it as much as Side A.

The album’s closer has an interesting feature from Charli XCX, and is probably my favorite part of Side B, being more mellow and laid back than everything else on the album. It was the best way to close the record, and quite the diamond in the rough.

As a whole, “Old” has its strengths, but Side B dragged the whole thing down. The cheesy club beats were far too goofy to legitimately enjoy, although there were some funny bars here and there from Brown and company.

RATING



by James Fitzpatrick

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My focus with this review will be on this album’s second side, but I will compliment areas deserving of praise from the first side. The beat on “The Return” with Freddie Gibbs, who obviously cooks, combines woodwinds and sitar, along with bleeps and bleeps to make for a unique track. “Wonderbread” is memorable for even more woodwinds and an interesting rhyme scheme from Danny, while “Gremlins” must be a B-

side from his previous album “XXX” (which is a good thing). “Torture” is an introspective cut about growing up in Detroit produced by Oh No, a curator of the “Grand Theft Auto V” soundtrack and brother of Madlib. “Red 2 Go” is a skittery and fitting segue into the up-tempo second side, which is unfortunately where the problems arise.

My biggest gripe with this album, ironically enough, is many of its songs sound old. There are tunes from almost 100 years ago that I can get down with; yet, something about the dubstep beats behind Danny Brown’s manic voice is like oil and water.

The issues start arising on Side B of this record, noted by track 11, “Side B (Dope Song).” The first 20 to 30 seconds are promising until the song’s beat comes in and Danny proclaims, “31 years old so I done been through all that dizzirt.” A lackluster chorus that repeats the song’s title and voice changes that he especially doesn’t need to be paired with his high-pitched delivery all signal a steep decline for the album’s second half.

While the lyrical content of “Dubstep” is mostly a play on the term, referencing weed when he says, “I had them dubs on the step,” the woozy and washy beat doesn’t reflect the outdated genre. The classic clap sounds, hi-hats and cowbell also don’t work on this song which fails to go anywhere, and neither does the verse by Scrufizzer, who drops the questionable “I’m a Mac Miller, spittin’ A\$AP Rocky.” You can tell what he’s trying to say, but it just doesn’t stick the landing. The agonizing repetition on “Dip” includes multiple 15-second blocks where a digitally altered voice rehashes “Dip, I dip, you dip.” Danny promotes the club lifestyle, yet I really can’t see this going hard in such a setting because people will think they’re having a bad trip when stuck in the time loop of “dipping.”

“Smokin & Drinkin” is a little more tolerable than the previous tracks, likely due to the production by the legendary A-Trak, though “Break It (Go)” actually still slaps in 2024. After Danny says, “she go in and make that booty go,” clap sounds follow; it’s a clever production choice that recurs throughout the song. The bass embellishments and distant yelps on “Handstand” work well as Danny continues to bring the energy. I would argue there’s a bit too much bass on “Way Up Here,” which features Ab-Soul; him and this beat are like a puzzle piece that doesn’t fit, too.

You would think the album’s best track is “Kush Coma” featuring the aforementioned A\$AP Rocky and ZelooperZ, but the latter’s chorus with a vocoded voice is terrible, ruining the song for me. Rocky’s output from this time sounds dated at this point, yet this song as a whole takes the cake for a song that should be sealed in a time capsule and forgotten about. The album’s actual best song is “Float On” with a young Charli XCX. The brat sounds angelic when paired with Frank Dukes and BadBadNotGood production, while Danny matches the sublime vibe with a toned-down delivery.

As with “TA13OO” by Denzel Curry, the separation between the separate sides on “Old” aren’t too far apart from each other but there’s plenty of material on here that would put this album in the same league as “XXX” or “Atrocity Exhibition.” As a whole, however, that’s not how I and many others feel about this album.

RATING



HALLOWEENKEND 2024: WHERE TO CATCH LIVE MUSIC THIS WEEKEND

by Dan Stark

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Halloweekend has made it to Connecticut and with that comes a flurry of activities and events. One of the best ways to spend Halloweekend is by catching some live music at one of the many shows happening this weekend. Starting Friday night, students can catch a variety of local bands right near Storrs or make the trek with other UConn bands to shows happening across the state. Here's a look at some of the great lineups that will be gracing the stages of Connecticut this Halloweekend.

Friday 10/25: Club K-9 Halloween Pregame - Storrs

For those looking to pregame a trip to the bar or Halloween party, look no further than Club K-9's Halloween Pregame right here in Storrs on Friday, Oct. 25. The show is the first DJ set hosted under the brand Club K-9 at The Dog Pound, the preeminent venue for UConn bands. DJ SD-129 will be spinning the discs at the show in his Storrs debut from 6 to 10 p.m. on Friday night for only a \$3 cover. For the address, message @thedogpound on Instagram.

Friday 10/25: The Jaws House Show - Broad Brook

The Jaws, a psychedelic alternative rock group who has made frequent appearances in Storrs, will be hosting a house show in Broad Brook on Friday, Oct. 25. The show is roughly 35 minutes from Storrs, making it a good option for those who want to get off campus without having to drive too far. The lineup features The Jaws alongside Overloded, Symposia and Aus & Veda, providing a mix of music from punk to jam-influenced alternative rock. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and music starts at 8:30 p.m. Guests are also encouraged to wear costumes. For the address, message any of the four bands on Instagram.

Friday 10/25: WYBCx Halloween Show - New Haven

WYBCx, Yale University's student-run radio station, is hosting a show at 216 Dwight St. in New Haven on Friday, Oct. 25. There are only three bands on the bill, but it's a lineup that's worth the trek from Storrs. Included on the bill is Pond View and Tilt, both of whom make



regular appearances in Storrs. They are joined by Death Valley Sun Troopers and their punky, gritty garage rock sound. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. and music starts at 9 p.m.

Saturday 10/26: The Dog Pound "Haunted Husky Horror Show" - Storrs

If you're looking for a show and don't want to drive, look no further than The Dog Pound's "Haunted Husky Horror Show" on Saturday, Oct. 26 right here in Storrs. The four-band lineup features some familiar names to the Storrs scene, including Pond View and The Rotting Twentys. Rounding out the lineup is alternative rock group Arcalyde and three-piece riot grrrl band Part of the Problem. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with music starting at 7:30 p.m. and admission is \$10. For the address, message @thedogpound on Instagram.

Saturday 10/26: Halloween Show at Art Monster Studio - Norwalk

Though quite the hike from Storrs, one of the best shows of the weekend will be happening at Art Monster Studio in Norwalk, Conn. on Saturday, Oct. 26. The lineup is headlined by Ruby Leftstep and Esmer, two artists who bring their talents to Storrs on a regular basis. They will be joined by Brooke Dougan, an indie folk solo artist, and Babe City, a New York-based synth-pop group. The show will also feature a costume contest for guests to enter. Doors open at 7 p.m., music starts at 8:30 p.m. and admission is \$15.

Saturday 10/26 and Sunday 10/27: Gannonfest at Crunch House - West Haven

Crunch House, the West Haven venue that's one of the most well-known spots in the Connecticut music scene, will be hosting Gannonfest, a two-day live music extravaganza that features the biggest lineup of any show this weekend. Thirteen different groups will perform over the two day-span, featuring a variety of punk and indie groups. Faces familiar to Storrs crowds include Cat Crash, Don't Go Outside! and Overloded. Those who come down from Storrs should also be sure to check out groups like The Microbes, Wax Input, Chemical X and Go Home, You're Drunk. For both nights, doors open at 4 p.m., music starts at 5 p.m. and admission is \$10.

Subject Bloom starts fresh with "The Blank Canvas EP"

by Tomas Hinckley

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Local Glastonbury, Connecticut-based band Subject Bloom recently dropped their debut release, "The Blank Canvas EP." The two-piece band, made up of drummer Declan Zawrotny and guitarist and lead singer Ryan Bernhart, released the EP last Friday, Oct. 18, after weeks of buildup. The "Blank Canvas" in question represents the new start of the band and the potential for their musical future unburdened by an expected style or characteristic tone.

The project's first track, a more subtle song named "Walk Through Quiet," starts light, featuring an introductory arpeggiated riff from Bernhart leading into a section of soft strumming and drumming. The song is heavily instrumental with heavier choruses that feature a grittier guitar sound familiar to those listeners of other rock groups like "Royal Blood" or "The Hives." The lyrics focus on themes of miscommunication that will persist throughout the project.

The EP continues with "Void," which immediately introduces a higher energy, fast-paced rhythm that it maintains throughout most of the track. The heavy crashing hits of the cymbals and hi-hat

contrast heavily with the softer, spaced-out cross-stick feel of the previous track. Between the drums, long-struck overdriven guitar tone and what seems to be multitracked chorused effects on the voice of Bernhart this song presents a much fuller sound, capped off with a large buildup and smashing finish. Yet, after the dust has settled and the cymbals have quieted down the song continues with a much more reflective, softer and open-ended riff that gradually ebbs and flows like a lullaby into the next track.

"Nail Polish" immediately differentiates itself with the steady swaying feel of the 6/8-time signature. The rhythm of the first half of the song is accentuated by the distinct accentuation of the guitar and rapid-fire lyrics that seem to be building towards a release. The drums come in fast and hard around two minutes in, signaling a shift in tone with the bridge to the final chorus, which features a special sparkling glockenspiel melody over the rest of the band.

In a way heavily resembling an army marching chant, the beginning of "Deceit" starts with punchy lyrics and smooth bass drum hits. The most angsty song in the album, by way of the dynamic contrast between the stripped-back verses and pumped choruses, adds

extra layers to the song, while the drums hold a steady head-banging beat throughout. Arguably the most fun song on this record, this short two-minute track stands out among the others in terms of sheer feel-good energy.

"Hangman" keeps up the style of this record while raising the stakes and tension as the album makes its way to its final few tracks. If the rest of the songs before this could be defined by a certain "restrained" characteristic, this is the song where the breaks come off. In the most extreme crescendo with the repeated call of the title's namesake, the guitar is pushed forward with the harshest tone seen so far in the album while steadily rising higher and higher alongside explosive drumming pushing the tempo. The song ends with a dramatic breakdown of a slowed-down repetition of the main riff with hard and heavy coordinated hits to add extra effect.

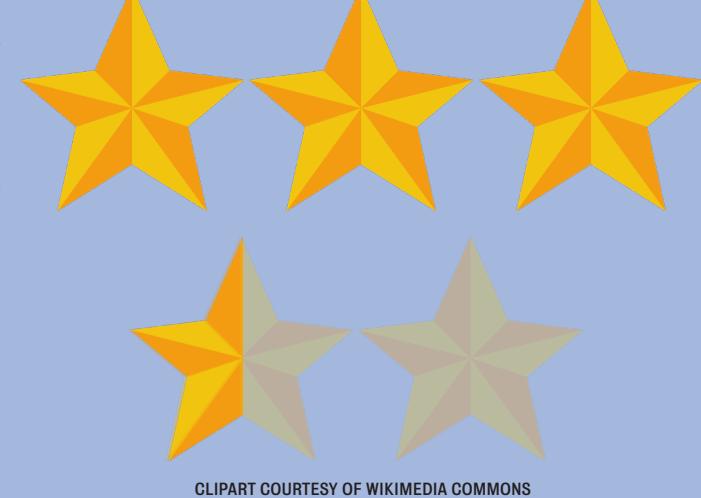
"Adam Lovelace and the San Francisco All-Stars" caps off the release with easily the most interesting song title of the entire album. A drum-heavy song, the final track enters with a solo breakdown from the percussion before going into a wistfully nostalgic riff fit for an ending.

The two members come together for the first time on the vocals

to tell a story of broken-down barriers and the consequences that come with letting someone else in. The ending of the track continues in the style of its direct predecessor, ending off with a bang in what can only be described as the most raw moment of the album, featuring strained screaming vocals from both artists. The crash of the drums and resounding hum of the bass echo out signaling the end of the album.

As Faye Webster said when talking about her empty white walls, this blank canvas set out by Subject Bloom is ready to be filled. Through the stripped-back, raw sounds of this local duo, Connecticut listeners will have much to look to as the band starts to develop its style and sound within the genre. The potential of this blank canvas remains to be fully seen, but for now, this is a good start to the scene.

RATING



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SHOW DON'T TELL:

Celebrating LGBTQIA+ artists at the Rainbow Center

CLIPART COURTESY OF VECTORPORTAL

by Maleena Muzio

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October, being LGBTQIA+ History Month, has offered a plethora of engaging activities and events from the Rainbow Center on campus. LGBTQIA+ History Month was first observed in the United States in 1994, started at a small high school in Missouri. Decades later, the month is still celebrated on a much larger scale.

The founder of the month, Rodney Wilson, initially envisioned it to be a time of celebration, recognizing all the icons and historical figures that have paved the way for better freedoms regarding sexual orientation and gender identity. Coinciding with National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11, LGBTQIA+ History Month is a reminder to have pride all months of the year, not just during June.

In the name of self-expression, the Rainbow Center hosted its annual Art Gala on Wednesday, Oct. 23. Accompanied by light refreshments and music, the event was a friendly social centered around vast student talent. Art is often a universal way of forming connections and creating community, which is one of the major goals of the Rainbow Center. The Art Gala provides a place for queer artists to showcase their work and tell their personal stories, in a setting surrounded by love and support.

"Art as a medium communicates a lot about the human experience in ways other mediums cannot," said Sam Arevalo-Hoefer, a fifth-semester anthropology major and art



The Rainbow Center at UConn puts on an art gallery in the student union in Storrs, CT on Oct. 23, 2024. Many art mediums were displayed, and students enjoyed walking around to admire the pieces.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

minor, who shared their own artwork at the gala. "Queer artists can recreate experiences via art that connects people. The art demonstrates oppression and encounters outside of cis-heteronormative society by allowing a queer voice to give us new perspectives to learn and understand from."

Despite efforts to move forward, oppression towards the LGBTQIA+ community still exists in today's world. Hosting events like this helps to create a safe space for those in the community and their allies, meeting to share a common love for art. Coming together to celebrate differences and acknowledge

unique experiences is so important in a time where the media is filled with endless hate.

"It's a pretty casual event, but the Rainbow Center gives a place to show things off," Arevalo-Hoefer said. "Being queer is a part of our lives and it is important to share that with people. The art humanizes our experiences."

Many of the pieces — whether they were digital art, sketches or paintings — were accompanied by a brief bio from the artists. However, there were opportunities for artists to remain anonymous if they did not feel comfortable sharing their name or identity.

Beautiful collages and intricate penciling and blending were all present to provide insight into the lives of the artists. Several artists explained that their pieces were meant to serve as empowerment, while others focused on darker themes of identity, overall creating a balanced experience for those who observed the showcase.

Avi Obie, a seventh-semester digital media and design major, stated, "C.J.'s piece is my favorite because of the collaging. It's very cool, a good way to show off pictures to put a collective thought together."

C.J. Srour is an artist that depicted many scenes from punk culture and riot grrrl lifestyles in their work. Srour's identity as a genderfluid lesbian plays heavily into their feminist art.

The Rainbow Center's Art Gala was a successful night of celebrating beauty and expression, as complicated as the subject may be.

Obie summed up the event perfectly, explaining that "the people who get to come see it witness the community building and education aspect of the Rainbow Center's mission. The Art Gala is a great first introduction into queer art, which is not so common in grades K-12. People witness how queerness can be interpreted into art."

HEALTHY HUSKIES

by Abigail Bonilla

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Mental health is a topic that many forms of media have touched upon in recent years. While representation is important, the way it is portrayed on screen can sometimes do more harm than good. Media portraying serious mental health struggles often run into the problem of being too graphic or detailed. This can exacerbate the issue it aims to solve; instead of a piece of media bringing awareness to a topic, it can make their viewers struggle even more.

A notable piece of media that ran into this issue was the Netflix show "13Reasons Why." The show was first created to bring awareness to teen mental health struggles, but quickly fell off in popularity due to several graphic scenes depicting assault and suicide. The show faced intense scrutiny and ended up having to edit the series in order to make it more watchable for viewers.

While many shows try to touch upon these issues, showrunners often don't do enough research before releasing the project. Below are a few recommendations for media that (in my opinion) accurately represent mental health issues. Remember to read trigger warnings beforehand if you need to. Enjoy, Huskies!

"Beautiful Boy" (Amazon Prime)

"Beautiful Boy" tells the true story of Nic Sheff (played by Timothée Chalamet), a young man struggling with drug addiction, and his worried father David Sheff (played by Steve Carell). The movie explores the heartbreakingly struggles of a

person living with addiction, as well as how the addiction affects everyone around them. Both the book and the film have stuck with me for years. It is a powerful story and worth a watch if you or anyone you love has experienced addiction.

"BoJack Horseman" (Netflix)

This adult animation series follows the humanoid horse and fictional 90's sitcom star, BoJack Horseman (voiced by Will Arnett). As he tries to regain his fame over a decade later, BoJack struggles with addiction, relationships and his dark past. Notably, it shows how untreated mental health issues can damage friendships

and ruin lives. The show manages to remain comedic while also diving deep into real-life issues.

"All The Bright Places" (Netflix)

This young adult romance film follows two teenagers taking a road trip across their home state of Indiana for a school project. Violet (played by Elle Fanning) and Finch (played by Justice Smith) are each grieving the loss of their family members and dealing with mental health issues when they meet. The movie is an honest portrayal of mental health struggles in youth and remains accurate whilst not being graphic. I highly recommend reading the novel as well - it was one of my favorites as a teenager!

"Heartstopper" (Netflix)

"Heartstopper" is a popular Netflix series that follows a group of queer high schoolers. The third season, which premiered on Oct. 3, catches up with the group as they deal with intimacy, mental health issues and going off to university. One of the storylines for the new season focuses on the character of Charlie as he navigates recovery from anorexia.

The show tackles the subject with ease and respect, showing viewers all the different aspects of recovery. "Heartstopper" gives an incredibly realistic and respectful view of mental illness. While this season does touch upon hard subjects, the overall show is definitely a feel-good watch!



CARTOON BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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COMIC BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

RAPID FIRE

Loose Tooth Extravaganza

CLIPART COURTESY OF ICONSCOUT

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 tweet-length takes that can be explained in just a sentence or two — no more justification needed.

This past Sunday, Oct. 20, Opinion Editor Tomas Hinckley got two of his front teeth broken in the annual Pearlman Cup Flag Football Match vs. UCTV. In the spirit of the Opinion Section, this led to great debate at work later that day over the pros and cons of getting different parts of your mouth injured. For today's Rapid Fire, the Opinion Section seeks to answer:

If you had to get any of your teeth broken and couldn't fix them, which teeth would they be and why?

Tomas Hinckley, Opinion Editor (he/him/his):

After almost losing two of my current front teeth, I can safely say that is NOT the correct answer. Although the pictures of me posted to the many thousands of DC followers on Instagram were dope, that is not a look for the long term. Wisdom teeth are a cop out answer too, not those ones either. The real optimal answer is to lose one tooth slightly on the side of your mouth so that you can whistle out of it, as someone who can't whistle, I think that'd be cool.

Evelyn Pazan, Associate Opinion Editor (she/her/hers):

Considering that it is Halloween, I would like to lose my top canine teeth so that I can replace them with some crazy fake vampire fangs and call it a day.

Patrick Minnerly, Weekly Columnist (he/him/his):

I don't have wisdom teeth yet, so I can't pick them. I'd probably choose one of the bottom teeth at the back of my mouth that are hard to see.

Raegan Skelly, Contributor (she/her/hers):

I think for this you need to go big or go home. One of the most exciting parts of being a little kid was losing a tooth at elementary school and getting to wear it in a little necklace for the rest of the day (I hope other schools did this too or else this sounds very weird). We need to fully pay homage to the six-year-old charm and lose the two-front teeth. My little cousin Chloe is currently rocking this look, and it's iconic.

Dan Stark, Campus Correspondent (he/him/his):

Wisdom teeth would be my choice. They're already useless, so getting them knocked out would do me a favor.

AI isn't going to save us

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

When ChatGPT was first released in November 2022, it fundamentally changed the world. After becoming the fastest web app to reach 100 million users in history, taking only two months, it fundamentally reshaped how the public understood what generative AI is capable of. Instantly, a revolution began as people wanted to apply it to every area of life they could, and every industry competitor sought to take a piece of the growth for themselves. It feels almost impossible for the average American to escape talk of AI as it pervades every aspect of the modern technologized life. Now, we stand on the precipice of something new and unknown, but it is clear that the future of AI will greatly influence the future of all our lives. Yet, AI is fundamentally a tool, and its direction will be decided by those at the forefront of technological development. Right now, OpenAI, Google, Meta and other large tech companies, who do not have society's best interests at heart. So long as this is the case, AI is not going to save us.

To be clear, this article is not meant to be one necessarily anti-progress or anti-tech. Although there have been many negative effects that AI has already had on society, which need to be reckoned with in a genuine way, the potential for benefit is also clear.

Development in this capitalist society is inextricably tied to the interests of capital, which are decidedly separate from the interests of people. The

funding for new projects from the private sector is dominated overwhelmingly by corporate tech giants who, in 2023 for example, were the source of 2/3 of the \$27 billion raised by emerging AI startups, with much of the rest coming from venture capital. The most well-capitalized companies on the planet are racing to pour the most money and partner with the most lucrative prospects to establish their position in the new AI world order.

Meanwhile, a majority of Americans are more concerned about AI in their daily lives than excited, according to recent Pew Research data. In terms of interest in growth and daily application, it is clear there is a base level difference between those profiting from it and those being affected by it.

The federal government, for its part, is no better. According

to a Brookings Institute analysis of federal agency contracts from 2022 to 2023, the Department of Defense's spending grew exponentially to the point that it made the combined efforts of every single other agency look like a rounding error. The fact that the government's

is profitable, as it very much is (especially right now), tech companies will naturally see opportunity in tuning their products towards military uses. When invading people's privacy and surveilling them is profitable, companies

Israel to use, have been used to better surveil, track, identify and eliminate Palestinians for years. Although the

profits have surely been significant, the use of AI for murder, genocide and apartheid cannot be accepted as valid reasons to push forward this technology.

For a more domestic focus, look no further than how the Department of Defense wants to create new technology to better impersonate real people on social media explicitly for the purpose of information gathering. This is not only a dangerous game to play when it comes to increasing the proliferation of this type of technology to other actors around the world, but also presents the genuine and not unsubstantiated fear that this could be used to surveil and gather information on US citizens as well.

The thing is that there is the opportunity for so much more to come from this technology, both in terms of the bad if this trend continues, but also the good it can bring when used for the benefit of people. For a better example than the earlier two, the medical field has seen genuine use of analytical models and its ability to accurately diagnose and treat patients. When technological efforts are put towards these ends, that is when people truly benefit from progress.

In the same way that an airplane can both drop a bomb on a city and help transport lifesaving goods, we need to find ways to sustainably develop AI for the public good and not private wealth.



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

sole focus is on developing technologies that will undoubtedly be used to further surveil, covertly influence or kill people at home and abroad should be of serious concern to American public. The point is that similar material conditions lead to similar interests and outcomes. Across the tech industry, people are coming to similar conclusions because their positions ensure their priorities are profit. When militarism

Photo of the Day | Fall foliage



The trees behind the Benton Museum of Art turn vibrant autumn colors as the weather starts to get colder. Fall is in full swing at the UConn Storrs campus.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL FRANOVIC, PHOTO PRODUCER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The 'X-Men' movies are underrated

by Isaac Grad

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Everyone has heard of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, and chances are you've seen at least one movie from the canon. Marvel dominates the superhero movie industry, but there's a separation in the films featuring Marvel characters. In terms of franchises, there's the MCU, which has the Avengers, Guardians, etc. Then there are the Fox Marvel movies, which are dominated by the "X-Men" films. Marvel was able to take characters, both known and unknown, and make movies garnering huge fan bases, with the focus being completely on the Avengers. But before the Avengers were brought to cinemas, the "X-Men" were. The first "X-Men" movie came out in 2000, eight years prior to the release of "Iron Man," when the MCU began. In fact, three "X-Men" movies came out before the beginning of the MCU. While the "X-Men" movies were successful, the MCU movies were even more so. It seems many people are more aware of the MCU films, maybe due to marketing and budgets. Despite the success of the "X-Men" franchise in terms of monetary gain, many people haven't seen the films, or have otherwise forgotten about their existence completely, instead focusing on the MCU.

The "X-Men" movies certainly range in quality, with a handful being almost unwatchable if not for the strength of characters like Erik and Charles. For instance, "Dark Phoenix" is recognized to be horrible with "Apocalypse" as a close second. However, any franchise with the number of movies they have created is bound to have a few that suck. Especially when

we take into account the other movies in the franchise.

My personal favorites are "X-Men: First Class" and "X-Men: Days of Future Past," both of which feature the younger versions of the beloved characters from the original "X-Men"

films, we really get to explore certain characters in depth and come to understand their motives which stay realistic over the course of the films.

The "X-Men" movies delve into important topics in a way that we don't see in other superhero

Charles' beliefs. One can have real discussions after watching these films, which is a big factor making them so enjoyable.

The attention paid to the characters and their beliefs is crucial to what makes these films stand out. For instance,

despite stating he agrees with essentially everything Shaw is doing. But unfortunately, Shaw killed his mother, and that trumps anything else he may be fighting for. I love this scene because it makes Erik feel much more real. Despite what he's fighting for, there's a consistency that it all stems from his experience during the Holocaust and the murder of his mother, so when there's a scenario such as the one in "X-Men: First Class," it makes complete sense that he could agree with this man in beliefs, but still work with Charles and the "X-Men" to kill him.

Additionally, I don't find many general inconsistencies in terms of how the characters behave. They rarely do things that don't fit into their characters. In reality, people do develop, and their beliefs can shift enough for them to fight a side one may not expect. Along with that they allow the characters to be flawed and make mistakes, which allows for much more interesting characters. At the end of the day, though, the "X-Men" movies choose to explore the nuance of issues, which isn't something that is as present in the MCU.

The "X-Men" franchise has some really great movies focusing on truly interesting and well-thought-out characters that are often forgotten. They explore characters more deeply and focus on them at various ages providing a lot of context and information for viewers to better understand and relate to them. Plus, the "X-Men" movies have Wolverine, no need to say more. With the merging of the Fox Marvel movies and the MCU, hopefully we see more people returning to the "X-Men" films and giving them the attention they deserve.



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

movies. These movies have great stories that focus on the characters as opposed to leaning on effects and fight scenes. This is what sets the "X-Men" movies apart in my opinion. While they do have cool displays of mutant abilities, what makes these films so enjoyable are the characters and their stories. Since there are so many

movies, which sometimes opt to take the safer route in discussing politics. The "X-Men" movies focus on injustice and portray it in a way that viewers pick up on, specifically in the nuances of progress and how to move forward. I also enjoy films that can be discussed and debated outside of the movie. In "X-Men," it's mostly comparing Erik and

Magneto always has consistent and clear motivations for his actions. He is never tied to one "side," as it's clear that he truly operates based on his motives as opposed to making it simple and just going against one opponent that he disagrees with consistently. We see this in "X-Men: First Class" when he kills Shaw

comics



COMIC BY ALEXA PAPPAS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Inside the turmoil of the New England Patriots

by Matthew Chmura
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The New England Patriots defeated the Cincinnati Bengals in week one of the regular season, giving their fans much-needed hope for a season that they thought would be a rebuilding year. After dropping six straight games since then, Patriots fans are already looking at the draft board. Losing is not easy for any team or fanbase, but it is even harder for the Patriots, as not so long ago, they had arguably the greatest dynasty in NFL history. Fans and players alike have become uneasy and restless. In the past week, the locker room drama has boiled over into the public and has become a mess. This column will address the drama and look at a path forward for the organization.

Most of the drama that surrounds the team involves the wide receiver room. Second-round pick Ja'lynn Polk has struggled with drops and running the wrong route throughout the season. Head

Coach Jerod Mayo called out Polk, saying he needs to work on bringing his confidence back up. Polk countered his coach's opinion, saying he has the best hands in the league and his confidence is not an issue. In their London game against the Jacksonville Jaguars, Polk dropped a pass on the first drive and slipped a later route. This caused Polk to have reduced snaps, leading to him posting a cryptic message on social media after the game. The post had the peace sign emoji and was deleted quickly after. The coaches must be careful with how they treat Polk, as the franchise used a

high draft pick on him and he has shown flashes of potential. Polk needs to clean out the drops in his game and the coaches must do their job and instill confidence in him. Polk is not the only wide receiver surrounded by drama on this team.

New England inked former Vikings receiver K.J. Osborn to a one-year deal in the offseason. Osborn has been a reliable depth option throughout his career and was brought in as a mentor to one of the younger receiver rooms in the league. Despite an established career, he has been non-existent in Patriots games this season, only appearing in five games and, until last week, was without a touchdown. After he scored his first touchdown with the team, Osborn did a "call me" celebration implying that he wanted other teams to trade for him. The drama continued after the game when Osborn shared a text from his agent on social media. The text revealed that New England was supposed to healthy scratch Osborn, but reversed their decision at the last minute. It is unclear what New England will do with the veteran receiver, but one thing is clear: Osborn does not want to be on the Patriots.

At times since taking the head coach position in January, Mayo has said some things to the media that he later had to take back. Examples of this include saying the team would go all in on free agency, stating that Drake Maye was the better quarterback, but then naming Jacoby Brissett the starter and claiming Brissett is the guy, and naming Maye the starter a week later. Every week, it seems like Mayo is stirring up drama in the media, which can lead to distractions for their team. This week was no different, with Mayo telling the press that his team was "soft" and needed to toughen up if they wanted to change the trajectory of their season. While Mayo was speaking the truth to the media, this is something that should have stayed in-house. Professional football players do not like being called

"soft," especially not to the press. Former Patriots coach and Mayo's mentor Bill Belichick defended the defense, saying that they were not soft, evidenced by their formidable status last year. He implied that coaching may be the reason for the defensive struggles.

The Patriots' drama has not been all football-related, as they have also dealt with off-the-field drama as well. A few weeks ago, starting safety and team captain Jabrill Peppers was arrested and charged with assault, strangulation and drug possession. A few days later, Peppers was placed on the Commissioner's Exempt List, meaning he cannot practice or play in any games until an investigation is complete on his case. Peppers was one of the few bright spots on the team during the first month of the season and their defense has regressed in his absence. Peppers is not the only member of the team that has had trouble with the law in the past month. Star defensive lineman Christian Barmore, who has not played this season due to blood clots, was pulled over in a contested traffic stop in Providence and accused the

department of being rac-

ist.

After the video was released of the incident, which showed Barmore acting erratically, Barmore apologized to the department and the team for the incident.

Simply put, the Patriots are a mess right now. Mayo and the team need to fix it before it boils over to a point of no return.

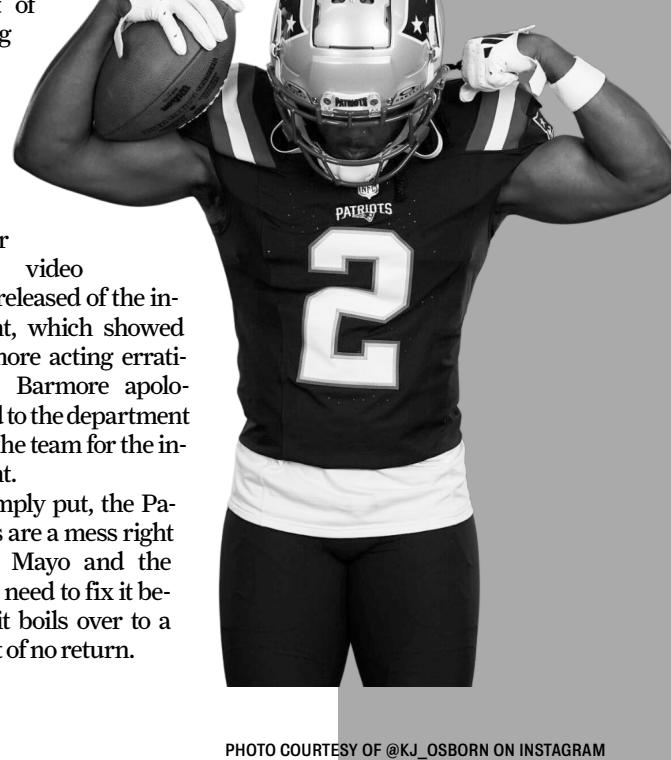


PHOTO COURTESY OF @JPOLK_22 ON INSTAGRAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF @KJ_OSBORN ON INSTAGRAM

Men's Hockey:

HUSKIES SET FOR HOME AND HOME SERIES AGAINST UMASS

by Ava Inesta
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The UConn men's hockey team is set for their first two-game Hockey East series of the season with home games against UMass. The Huskies will start off with traveling to Amherst on Friday, Oct. 25, and then will travel back home to Storrs to welcome the Minutemen to Toscano Family Ice Forum on Saturday, Oct. 26. Both game's puck drops are set for 7 p.m.

Through the fourth weekend of the season, the Huskies offense has continued to succeed. In the first five-game span, UConn has scored a total of 18 goals. Last weekend, the Huskies started Hockey East action as they faced off against No. 3 Boston University on Friday, Oct. 18. The Huskies fell to BU by a final of 4-2 in their only game of the weekend, but they look to bounce back this weekend.

Against BU, freshman Thomas Heaney made his first career start and finished the game with 25 total saves.

Junior Jake Percival

and sophomore Jake

Richard

have made their presence known early this season. Both of them are leading the team with four goals and two assists, which totals six points each. They have both been anchors for the Huskies offense and have continued to do damage game after game thus far.

The Huskies have received a single point from 19 total skaters. Of the 19, seven of them are new players for the Ice Bus. Whether it's freshman or transfer players, they have all started to make an impact on the ice. In his first college appearance against Holy Cross two weeks ago, Trey Scott scored the game winning goal.

Another element that has been a strong suit for the Huskies is their five-on-five hockey. They have scored 13 of their 18 goals this way to start the season. Even though the newcomers have contributed numbers to this Huskies team so far, their returning players like Richard,

graduate student Hudson Schandor, graduate student John Spetz, junior Thomas Messineo and sophomore Joey Muldowney have also maintained their impact.

In injury news, defensemen Spetz is day-to-day after dislocating his shoulder against BU last weekend. He received a five-minute major and a game misconduct after colliding with a Terriers player along the boards. Another questionable Husky is Tyler Muszelik after he missed the contest against BU with a lower body injury. Coach Mike Cavanaugh explained that Muszelik returned to practice on Tuesday, but the team is still waiting to see how his body responds to being back in action on the ice. Cavanaugh is hopeful for his return against UMass this weekend.

If Muszelik is unavailable, Heaney will get the nod to start at goaltender, as he is the only available goalie left on the roster. Heaney started against BU last Friday and was able to hold the fort

down against the Terriers.

He stopped 25 of 29 shots

that came his way

and was able to

keep the Huskies in the

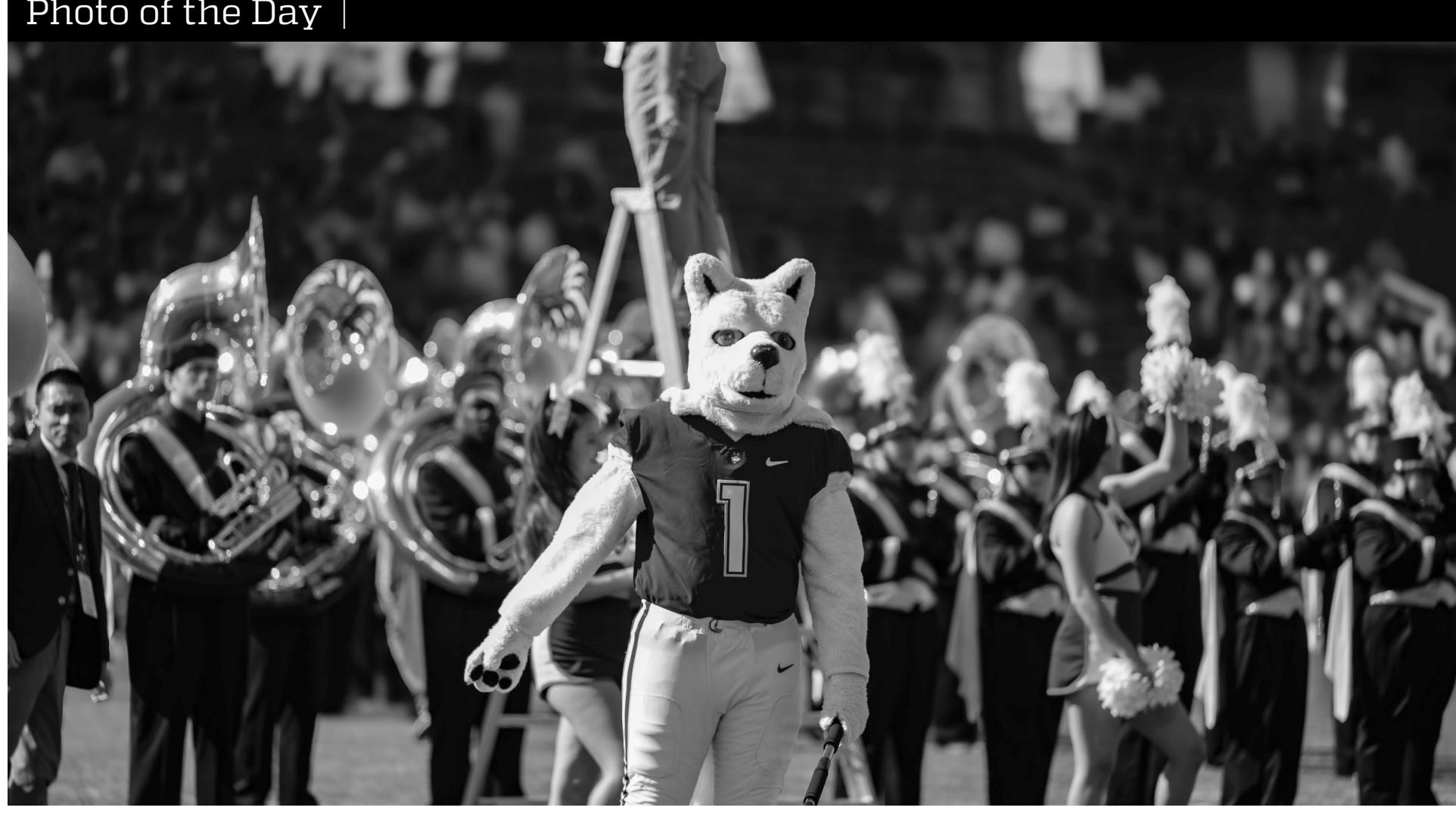
game.



The UConn men's hockey team versus Colgate on Oct. 6, 2024. Despite a quick goal by Colgate, the Huskies rallied back with a final score of 6-2. PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sports

Photo of the Day |



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

Volleyball:

UCONN GOES ON THE ROAD TO CONTINUE BIG EAST PLAY

by Julia Sasso

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The UConn women's volleyball team will continue their Big East play on the road as they take on the Xavier Musketeers and the DePaul Blue Demons.

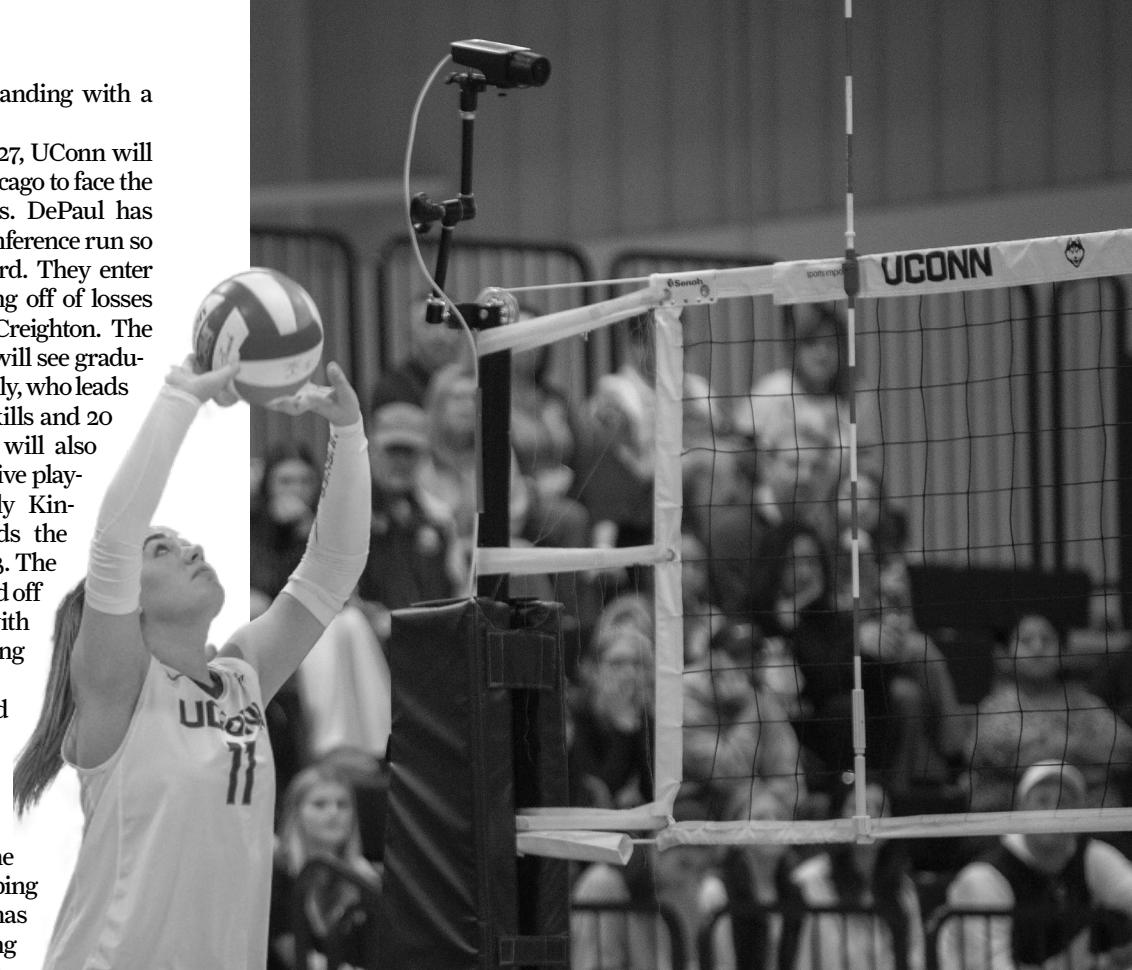
The Huskies come into the weekend with a 6-2 conference record and six-game winning streak. They will be hoping to extend that streak and bring a strong roster to back up those hopes, including graduate student Taylor Pannell, who was just named Big East Defensive Player of the Week. Pannell is also the second on the team in kills with 181 and blocks with 52.

First up, the Huskies will take on Xavier in Cincinnati on Friday, Oct. 25, at 6 p.m. The Musketeers have faced many difficulties this season, leaving them with a 6-12 overall record. However, their conference run seems to have been more successful, owning a 4-4 record. They will be coming off two consecutive wins to Creighton and Marquette over last weekend. The Musketeers bring redshirt junior Anna Taylor, who leads the team with 195 kills. Their roster will also include another redshirt junior, Emma Grace, who leads the team in both service aces, 19, and digs, 194. The Huskies have faced the Musketeers

six times before, standing with a 4-2 record.

On Sunday, Oct. 27, UConn will make its way to Chicago to face the DePaul Blue Devils. DePaul has had a successful conference run so far, with a 5-3 record. They enter the weekend coming off of losses to Marquette and Creighton. The Blue Devils' roster will see graduate student Jill Pressly, who leads the team with 325 kills and 20 service aces. They will also bring strong defensive players, like senior Aly Kinselberger who leads the team in digs with 63. The programs have faced off 13 times before, with the Huskies standing with a 10-3 record.

Both Xavier and DePaul will be looking to bounce back from their losses last weekend. Whereas, the Huskies will be hoping to continue what has so far been a strong season with an overall record of 18-2, only losing two conference games. Both games will be broadcasted on FloSports.



UConn Volleyball versus St. John's at the UConn volleyball Center on Oct. 20, 2024. The Huskies played well and ended up winning 3 sets to 2 in a thriller of a match.

PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



The UConn women's field hockey team plays against Quinnipiac at a home game on Oct. 11, 2024. The Huskies unanimously won the match 6-0.

PHOTO BY SAHANA GANESH, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Field Hockey:

HUSKIES PREPARED TO FACE TWO RANKED OPPONENTS

by Jackson Crainich

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The UConn field hockey team will be at home this weekend for two tough matchups against No. 18 Liberty and No. 12 Syracuse.

The Huskies dropped in the national rankings following their 3-2 loss against Providence last week, falling from No. 5 to No. 8.

The Huskies rebounded from that loss with a big win over a ranked UMass team, but they will be tested this weekend. The Huskies are 3-1 this season when taking on ranked opponents and hold an unbeaten 8-0 record on their home turf.

Liberty is a team that is battle tested, having faced off against some of the best teams in the country. While holding losses to No. 14

Albany, No. 2 North Carolina,

Old Dominion and No. 4 Virginia, they also have a convincing win against No.

10 Duke and carry a four-game winning streak into this matchup.

The Flames are 3-2 in Big East play, and a win against the Huskies would go a long way in continuing their season following the upcoming conference tournament.

Following a 5-13 record just a season ago, head coach Paul Caddy has completely turned his team around as his Huskies sit at 13-2 and are in the driver's seat in the Big East. A conference championship and NCAA tournament appearance would be massive for Caddy's squad as they continue to prove that the five-time national champions are still a threat and aren't going anywhere.

The Syracuse Orange have had a season of tightly contested matchups but have persisted with several wins. The Orange are also a strong opponent, holding wins over No.

17 Penn State, Louisville, No. 13 Princeton and California. Syracuse is coming off of a 2-3 loss against No. 4 Virginia, which they fell in the shootout in an ACC battle.

The Huskies are hoping to continue their home dominance and finish out the season strong. With three games left in the season and these being the last two on their home turf, Connecticut is looking to improve to 10-0 at home and remain as a top ten team in the nation.

Winning the final three games of the season would be massive for UConn, as they look to win the Big East tournament and make a push for their sixth national championship.

Following a 5-13 record just a

season ago, head coach Paul Caddy has completely turned his team around as his Huskies sit at 13-2

and are in the driver's seat in the Big East. A conference championship and NCAA tournament appearance would be massive for Caddy's squad as they continue to prove that the five-time national champions are still a threat and aren't going anywhere.



Men's Soccer:

HUSKIES TO TRAVEL TO QUEENS TO FACE ST. JOHN'S SATURDAY

by Avery Becker
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After falling 4-2 to Providence on Wednesday night, the UConn men's soccer team (8-3-4) looks to put this loss behind them as they prepare to face St. John's (6-5-4) on the road Saturday afternoon.

Looking back at the history between these two Big East foes, it's been a checkered past. Although, the most recent game between the Huskies and the Red Storm, on Nov. 4, 2023, Connecticut came out the top dogs and took the win in overtime, 2-1.

The Red Storm are coming off of a shutout 1-0 win against Seton Hall on Wednesday night and are looking to add more conference wins to their resume.

Two key players for the Red

Storm that the Huskies will have to look out for are junior forward Miguel Diaz, who has 11 points on the season, and midfielder Tyler Morek, who has nine points on his sophomore campaign.

"I think the message was just trying to find our way. Those are the games you have to find a way. It becomes a bit of a theme. We gotta find a way to win those kinds of games," the Huskies' Head Coach Chris Gbandi said in an interview on the team's Twitter.

"I thought they [UConn] played well, but then they [Providence] made that play at the end of the game," the coach said when asked about the message in the team huddle.

Lately, the squad has had trouble gaining shots on goal and into their opponents' box. They needed a player to step up and take the reins for the better.

Last night, that player for the team was sophomore Mikah Thomas. The defender put fire behind the squad in the tying goal in the second half of Wednesday night's matchup, after his third season start.

After a dish from Max Gummesson at the back of the goal post, Thompson put his skills to the test and scissor kicked the ball into the top left corner of the net, notching his first goal of his collegiate career.

"Mikah's been doing well for us," Gbandi said in the team's Twitter interview. "Certainly defensively, he's doing well and then obviously for him to get a goal like that, it was so important to us."

Kickoff is scheduled for 2 p.m. from Belsom Stadium Queens, N.Y. If Husky fans wish to watch the match, they can do so by streaming in on FloFC.





Sports

Football:

HUSKIES LOOK TO BOUNCE BACK AT HOME AGAINST RICE

by Connor Sargeant
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While some Connecticut fans might be ready to set off all the alarm bells, they're still 4-3 and have an excellent chance at adding another W to the win column this weekend. However, to do so, some things need to go right for UConn.

After a week of controversy and an underwhelming performance against Wake Forest, the UConn football team is back and ready to make some noise at home against Rice.

Unfortunately for Connecticut fans a week ago, there wasn't much to cheer for. The game exhibited both offensive and defensive flaws that have not been seen much all season long, and it was why that contest came down to the final drive, with the Huskies losing 23-20. While the team was the victim of an egregious no-call pass interference on the final play of the game, they did not play their best brand of football, and the team acknowledged that.

To come out on top this week, perhaps the biggest thing that the program needs to get back to is its strong outside run game. The trio, comprised of Cam Edwards, Durrell Robinson and Mel Brown, has been running defenses in circles on the gridiron all season. As a result, this has opened up Connecticut's passing game, led by Nick Evers. While the team's success throwing the rock isn't attributed to the rushing game alone, it plays a big part and keeps opposing teams on their feet.

Of course, the Huskies will need another big game from Skyler Bell, who struggled to get it going last week. However, there is no reason to believe that the Bronx, N.Y. native can't break out of his funk this week for several reasons. Not only is Bell immensely talented and quick, as evident by him finishing

with over 100 yards receiving in three weeks, but the Huskies have had a rotating cast at quarterback. Evers and Joe Fagnano have both started

The Huskies struggled to defend against one of the oddest delay options in all of football, which was on par with the Wake Forest offense. While this play was an anomaly for

sively. The Owls' running game will play a major factor this Saturday, as halfback Dean Connors plays a significant role for this squad. The senior has the talent to rush for over 100 yards with ease and find the endzone on some monster runs, so look for Rice to get him started early. Connors is not only averaging over six yards per carry, but is also a threat in the receiving game. The Rice offense causes serious damage in the check down game, as Connors will take what should be losses for positive gains sometimes for significant yardage.

Saturday is a massive day for UConn football. The squad has only two games left at home before a short road trip, and possibly a bowl game. This is expected to be a close game, and the Huskies have a solid chance at emerging victorious, but how they establish their offense early will be a telltale sign of how Saturday afternoon will go. However, with how dedicated and driven everyone on UConn football is, the shortcomings of last week will not bog them down. In fact, it serves as motivation for a program that desires to bring football glory back to the state of Connecticut.



The UConn football team play a tremendous game against University at Buffalo on Sept. 28, 2024 at the Pratt and Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field in East Hartford, Conn. The Huskies blew away the Bulls on a sunny Saturday afternoon winning the game 47-3.

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