



Voting in Connecticut: A breakdown for college students

by The Daily Campus News Section and The College Voice

Note: This article was written by Jenna Outcalt, Liliana French and Gianni Salisbury from the Daily Campus News Section along with Kevin Lieue and Tara Kamen from The College Voice at Connecticut College.

As college students in Connecticut prepare to cast their votes for the upcoming election, the Daily Campus and The College Voice from Connecticut College examined voting patterns among students and where to vote.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, voters aged 18-24 had the lowest turnout in the 2020 election, with only 51.4% of the demographic voting. However, despite younger citizens voting less, their numbers in 2020 were higher than the 2016 election, in which the Census Bureau reported 46.1% of citizens aged 18-29 voting. Even this percentage was an increase from 2012 however, only by 1.1%.

Seth Warner, a University of Connecticut political science professor who specializes in state and local politics in the United States from a behavioral perspective, spoke on how many anticipate youth voting trends to keep increasing.

“The youth vote is becoming a more determinative part of the election outcome. So, most indications suggest that college students’ votes are going to be higher this year than they were four years ago,” Warner said.

Warner believes this is due to recent events including the Israel-Palestine conflict.

“I think a lot of young people have had political experience through protests around the Israel-Palestine war. I think political experience like that can translate into interest in the issues, but then also a willingness to vote,” Warner explained.

Connecticut has voted Democratic in every presidential election since 1992. A poll from the CT Mirror published on Sept. 23 showed Harris leading Trump by 16 points in Connecticut. The poll showed very few plans to vote against party affiliation among Connecticut residents, with 93% of Democrats planning to vote for Harris and 89% of Republicans planning to vote for Trump.

Early voting in Connecticut
This is Connecticut’s first year offering early voting. On the first day early voting was available, Oct. 21, over 56,000 people cast their votes, according to a press release from the office of the Secretary of State.

The Hartford Courant and CT Mirror reported that lines were so long that Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont, who came to the early voting location in Greenwich, decided to vote another day.

“There’s a half-hour line here, which I appreciate. People are taking their votes seriously,” Lamont said.

According to the Secretary of State’s office, early voting ends on Nov. 3. On the final two days of early voting, the normal hours of 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. will be extended to keep the polls open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Connecticut instituted early voting after 60% of voters supported adding it to the state’s constitution in 2022, according to the press release. This made Connecticut the 47th state to implement early voting.

In the press release, Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas praised early voting.

“After all the hard work put in by our election workers to prepare for yesterday and the next 13 days, I am glad to see voters taking advantage of this convenient form of in-person voting,” Thomas said. “It provides voters more opportunities to cast their ballot, which is helpful for those with challenging schedules or when any last-minute issues make getting to the polls on Election Day impossible.”

Warner believes that early voting plays a positive role in getting college students to come back to the polls each year in the long term.

When talking about people’s voting habits, Warner believes that early voting has reduced the time and effort it takes to vote. This reduced effort means college students are more likely to go out and vote, which creates a pattern of voting.

“I think early voting has significantly reduced the costs, and that’s a good thing, right? Warner said. “You want young people to be involved, because once you start voting, it becomes a habit. We like that. People who participate, the more representative outcomes tend to be.”

Absentee and Out of State Voting

Absentee voting allows those who cannot physically make it to a polling place on election day to vote. For college students, this can be essential to their ability to vote as some are away from their hometowns where they are registered on Election Day.

Each state has different laws related to absentee voting, meaning students who live out of state and are registered under their hometown must act under their state’s laws. Vote.org provides a list of how absentee voting works in each state.

According to the Secretary of State’s office website, Connecticut voters can apply for absentee ballots by providing an “excuse” or reason. A person qualifies for absentee voting if they will be out of town on Election Day or cannot vote in person because of sickness or disability, military service or certain religious tenets. Those working during voting hours at a polling place other than their own also qualify.

Warner said he believes that the less restrictive absentee voting is, the easier it will be for college students to vote when they are off at college. Although students have the ability to register in their college town, Warner found that many want to vote in the town they grew up in.

“Some young people will say, ‘I’ve been part of this community for four years. I want to vote here’. That’s a perfectly reasonable rationale. Other folks will say, ‘I grew up in this other place for 18 years, and I never got to have a say. I’d like to do that before I move somewhere else permanently,’” Warner explained.

This year, Connecticut voters will be able to weigh in on the ballot if they would like no-excuse absentee voting in the years to come, meaning that voters would not have to give a reason as to why they need an absentee ballot.

Where to Vote in Connecticut

To check if you are registered to vote and to find the nearest polling place, visit the Connecticut Office of the Secretary of State website. Anyone who is not on the list of registered voters can register to vote in person at early vot-

ing or on Election Day at their designated voting location.

UConn students can vote early at the UConn Bookstore or Mansfield Town Hall open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day through Nov. 3 excluding Oct. 29 and Oct. 31. On Election Day, students should vote at their assigned voting location.

Connecticut College students can vote early at the New London City Hall through Nov. 3. On Election Day, they should vote at their assigned voting location.

Mansfield’s Democratic Registrar of Voters Anne Greineder said that election officials have not encountered any significant challenges to early voting.

“We haven’t really had any challenges; it’s gone pretty smoothly,” Greineder said. “It’s been going pretty smoothly because it hasn’t been super busy. It’s kind of been steady.”

According to Greineder, there were long lines at the town hall when early voting opened, but no long lines at the bookstore. She thought that was because people were trying to avoid long lines on Election Day.

“We aren’t [anticipating long lines] because we don’t often have long lines because we have four polling places and that’s a lot for a town our size, so there’s fewer people at each polling place,” Greineder said. “But we do expect a lot of voters.”

Greineder said that she will not know the cost of early voting in Mansfield until the end of the election, but she said that extra workers were the biggest expense. She stated that extra training, equipment and food were other expenses.

Connecticut College Professor Borrelli Offers Insight on Student Perspectives Amid Presidential Election

As Connecticut College students dive into the 2024 presidential election season, Professor Mary Borrelli, a longtime Government department faculty member, spoke about her observations on student engagement, shifting generational perspectives and how the college community navigates political dialogue.

She opens her classes with an activity aimed at exploring the structure of the political landscape: students list their state, congressional district and relevant election details like Senate and Electoral College votes. This setup allows them to examine political systems collectively and neutrally, creating space for inquiry without focusing on individual voting choices.

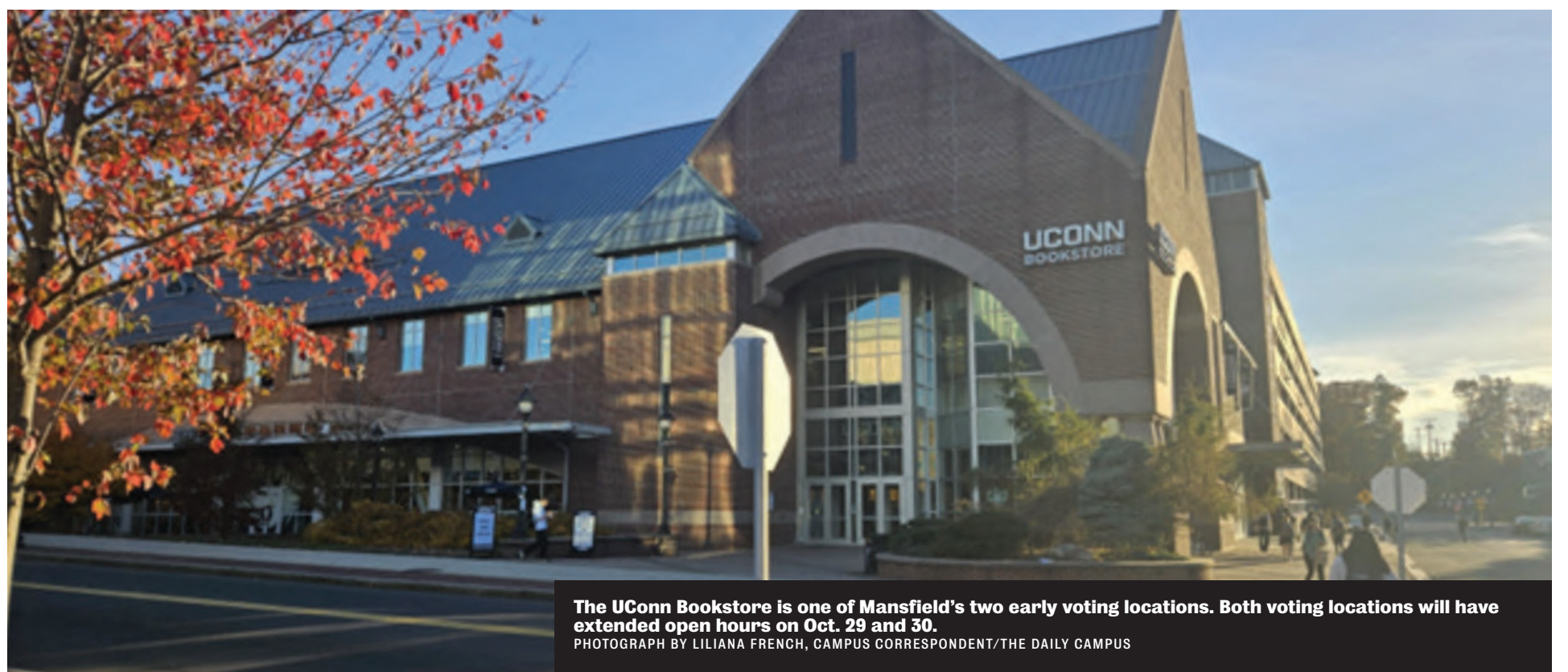
“I want my students to form a voting plan without feeling pressured to defend or justify their political affiliations,” explained Professor Borrelli. “It’s important they understand political processes as much as policies.”

In line with her emphasis on informed participation, Borrelli observed that students are increasingly interested in the mechanics of politics, asking questions about how political processes shape outcomes. Rather than focusing only on policies, her current students grapple with political volatility and uncertainty — factors that may be fueling students’ desire for moderation and understanding over taking strong partisan stances.

“I think the questioning I see now is very deep and very strong,” she noted. “They have this courage to ask tough questions, which is impressive given the volatility around them.”

Reflecting on campus-wide engagement, Professor Borrelli shared that Connecticut College has long had a politically active student body. She fondly recalled the 2016 election, when students of different political leanings gathered together to watch election results with mutual respect. “People were gentle with one another,” she said, describing how students found space to respect one another’s views even amidst a contentious election.

While the current political climate poses new challenges, Borrelli remains hopeful about the role her students will play in creating a more thoughtful political environment. “I see them learning to engage deeply, even when the stakes feel intensely personal,” she said. “And that gives me hope — because when this generation makes space for one another, it is a true social gift.”



The UConn Bookstore is one of Mansfield’s two early voting locations. Both voting locations will have extended open hours on Oct. 29 and 30. PHOTOGRAPH BY LILIANA FRENCH, CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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News

Connecticut warns of extreme wildfire danger as governor declares state of emergency

by Jenna Outcalt
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR
SHE/HER/HERS
jenna.outcalt@uconn.edu

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) released a warning for extreme fire danger and banned outdoor flames on state land due to the severe fire conditions on Saturday, Oct. 26.

“This measure is part of an effort to prevent new fires in light of the forecast for prolonged dangerous fire weather conditions, and as a proactive measure to avoid overtaxing available fire-fighting resources we have to fight existing fires, which are occurring in several areas across the state,” DEEP said in a press release.

According to DEEP, Connecticut is currently at a very high

to extreme risk for fires with no predicted rainfall this week.

“Multiple smaller fires have ignited across the state due to dry conditions, with several requiring substantial resources and posing continued risks to nearby communities,” the press release said.

These smaller fires are in addition to the Hawthorne Fire on Lamentation Mountain in Berlin and Meriden that emergency responders have been fighting since Oct. 21, which DEEP said has spread over 100 acres.

The Hawthorne Fire led Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont to declare a state of emergency on Friday, Oct. 25.

“Due to severely dry conditions and lack of rain in the previous two months, the Hawthorne Fire has spread

from Berlin to Meriden and potentially threatens other communities. The fire required and continues to require significant resources to keep the public and property safe,” Lamont said in the declaration.

Due to interference of recreational aircraft with emergency response, DEEP has also advised the public that drones should not be in use anywhere air support is responding to wildfires.

“Recreational drones, unauthorized hiking, ATV use and low-altitude flights near active fire zones have also hampered firefighting operations. These activities delay response times, create hazardous conditions for firefighters and increase risks to both first responders and the public,” DEEP’s press release said. “The public is advised to

avoid all non-essential activities in areas near active fires to ensure safety and aid emergency efforts.”

DEEP stated that most wildfires originate from human activities, naming grilling, discarded smoking materials and sparks from power equipment or vehicles as a few common ways fires can ignite.

“DEEP calls on every resident and visitor to recognize the power of their actions in these conditions. Preventing wildfires isn’t only about personal safety—it’s about protecting our neighbors, our communities and the first responders risking their lives to keep us safe,” DEEP’s press release said. “Each decision to follow fire safety measures, to refrain from outdoor burning and to avoid risky activities

near fire-prone areas directly reduces the likelihood of a new outbreak.”

Katie Dykes, the commissioner of DEEP, said in the press release that banning outdoor burning in state parks and forests was an important step that could save lives.

“These conditions represent a real and immediate threat to communities across Connecticut. We need every resident and visitor to understand that their actions directly impact the safety of their neighbors, firefighters and natural areas,” Dykes said.

DEEP asked anyone who observes a wildfire to immediately call 911 and provide the fire’s location. More information about fire prevention can be found on DEEP’s wildfire prevention page.

Evangelicals emerge as a potent lobby for US support of Ukraine

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) — Since the war in Ukraine began, Yaroslav Pyzh, a Baptist pastor in Lviv, has worn many hats.

He runs the large and growing Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary, while overseeing a network of 18 humanitarian aid centers across the embattled country.

He’s also become an ambassador of sorts to American evangelicals.

Several times a year, he treks to the Polish border and once permitted to leave, travels to the United States to preach about the plight of his country and its need for continued American support.

He is not alone in his advocacy. There has been sustained outreach by Ukrainian Baptists and other evangelicals to their American counterparts in the past two years, through coordinated campaigns and individual efforts. They have crisscrossed the U.S., visiting churches and Christian colleges, Capitol Hill and the Republican National Convention.

They are appealing to American evangelicals who hold sway politically within the GOP — an increasingly isolationist party with standard bearers who remain skeptical of Ukrainian aid.

“That war is a loser,” Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump said on a recent podcast. His running mate, JD Vance, has said, “I don’t really care what happens to Ukraine.”

Gary Marx, a longtime conservative operative in the U.S., has been working with Ukrainian evangelicals to amplify their message — part of a \$3.6 million contract between a Ukrainian organization and the lobbying firm DCI Group, according to foreign agent registration documents.

“(Ukrainians) know that their nation’s existence rides on whether the U.S. is supporting them,” Marx said. “It’s that simple. If the U.S. pulls support, there’s no way that they’ll survive.”

During his latest U.S. trip, Pyzh made stops in at least eight

states, including meeting with Southern Baptist officials in Nashville, Tennessee.

An English speaker, Pyzh has translated for American church groups visiting Ukraine. He earned his doctorate at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Texas.

He is still a translator, moving between both countries.

“I serve as a bridge for two sides,” he told a gathering at a St. Louis church in August.

He said he has American friends who have visited Ukraine many times and supported his ministries but now are torn.

“What I see in them is that struggle between what they want to do, the way they want to help us, and some of their ideas on the political side,” Pyzh said. “Their heart is in Ukraine, but their mind is somewhere else.”

Evangelicals in the halls of Congress

Ukraine has often been called the “Bible Belt of Eastern Europe.” Though evangelicals account for only 2% to 4% of the population, that amounts to hundreds of thousands of people — a vibrant, influential religious presence. They have an outsized connection to an important constituency: Southern Baptists, the largest Protestant denomination in the United States with 13 million members.

Baptists from both countries beseeched Republican Speaker of the House Mike Johnson — a Southern Baptist and former denominational official — to support Ukraine aid earlier this year, even though his party’s right flank threatened to oust him if he did.

Pavlo Unguryan, a prominent Ukrainian Baptist leader, met with Johnson several times.

“We are brothers in one body of Jesus Christ,” said Unguryan, who once served in Ukraine’s parliament and leads the country’s National Prayer Breakfast.

After an attack in Odesa

killed the daughter and infant grandson of a Baptist pastor, Unguryan arranged for the grieving son-in-law to meet with Johnson, just before the speaker helped push forward \$61 billion in war-time aid to Ukraine.

While intelligence briefings may have given Johnson “the intellectual information about why it’s in U.S. interest to support Ukraine, our work and the work of others like us gave him the emotional and spiritual connection to Ukraine,” said Steven Moore, founder of the Ukraine Freedom Project. It has helped fund Unguryan’s U.S. travel.

Moore, a veteran Republican Hill staffer, founded the project in 2022. It has coordinated meetings with more than 100 congressional offices.

During the debate over Ukraine aid, Moore’s organization ran digital ads in Johnson’s district. A billboard went up across from Johnson’s church in Louisiana, paid for by Razom, a Ukrainian humanitarian group Moore has advised. It showed a damaged Ukrainian Baptist church and invoked the biblical book of Esther: “Speaker Johnson, for such a time as this.”

Moore’s organization also created a website with stories of Ukrainian Christians alleging they were tortured by Russians.

“Every day, we try to figure out how to build and maintain Republican support for Ukraine,” Moore said. “And the evangelical Christian messaging is one of the ways that we do that.”

Debating religious freedom in the U.S. and Ukraine

This advocacy work taps into a deep well of concern among Americans about religious freedom — something that’s also a talking point used by Ukraine’s critics.

Russia has asserted Ukraine is the one discriminating against Christians, particularly since Ukraine passed a law seen as targeting the branch of the Orthodox Church historically aligned

with Moscow. The law bans religious groups who support Russia’s invasion and those tied to the Russian Orthodox Church that backed Vladimir Putin in his efforts to seize Ukraine.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has raised concerns about Ukraine’s new law, but “stresses that Russia remains the most profound threat to religious freedom in Ukraine.”

“There’s significantly less religious freedom and religious pluralism in Russia than there is in Ukraine,” said Catherine Wanner, a Penn State professor of history, anthropology and religious studies who focuses on the region.

Evangelicals face persecution and repression in Russia and the occupied territories in part because of their faith’s perceived ties to the United States, Wanner said.

Russian authorities “assume all evangelicals are American spies,” said Igor Bandura, senior vice president of the Ukrainian Baptist Union. He spoke to The Associated Press by phone from suburban Kyiv, after a sleepless night hearing sirens and drones.

Hundreds of churches and religious sites have been destroyed during the war. Bandura said 110 of 320 Ukrainian Baptist churches in the newly occupied Russian territories have ceased to exist because members fled. “Those who stayed are really under great, great pressure.”

Bandura visited the U.S. in May and June on a trip coordinated by Marx’s DCI project. His itinerary included the Southern Baptist Convention’s annual meeting in Indianapolis, where he spent much time outside the hall, talking with fellow Baptists about Ukraine.

Southern Baptist churches have a long history of missionary work in Ukraine. After the war began, SBC representatives

voted to “stand in solidarity with our Ukrainian brothers and sisters.” The SBC’s humanitarian organization, Send Relief, said it has served 2 million people in the region since 2022. And Brent Leatherwood, head of the SBC’s public policy arm, has urged continued American support of Ukraine.

In April, Daniel Darling, director of the Land Center for Cultural Engagement at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, signed a letter with Pyzh and other prominent Baptists, urging Johnson to support aid to Ukraine.

“For the most part, when I talk to Southern Baptist pastors — rank-and-file pastors — they really do want Ukraine to prevail,” Darling said. “Many of them have ties there with missions. And so, I don’t think it’s as controversial as it often appears to be.”

Evangelicals see military conflict in Ukraine as a spiritual war

Sitting in the parlor of a Virginia Baptist church just outside Washington, Pyzh reiterated that he’s grateful for American support. He noted that millions of Ukrainians will be watching the U.S. presidential election closely.

His seminary keeps adapting to the many needs that war imparts.

It now has more than 1,300 students, with thousands more in certificate programs. It recently started a counseling program to address growing mental health needs. This year, for the first time, the incoming class includes recent war veterans, some of them wounded and released from military duty.

Pyzh echoes other Ukrainian evangelicals when he says that for them, this is a spiritual war and an earthly one, waged for religious and political freedom.

“This is an existential fight for us in a sense as a nation,” he said, “but also as Christians, as believers.”

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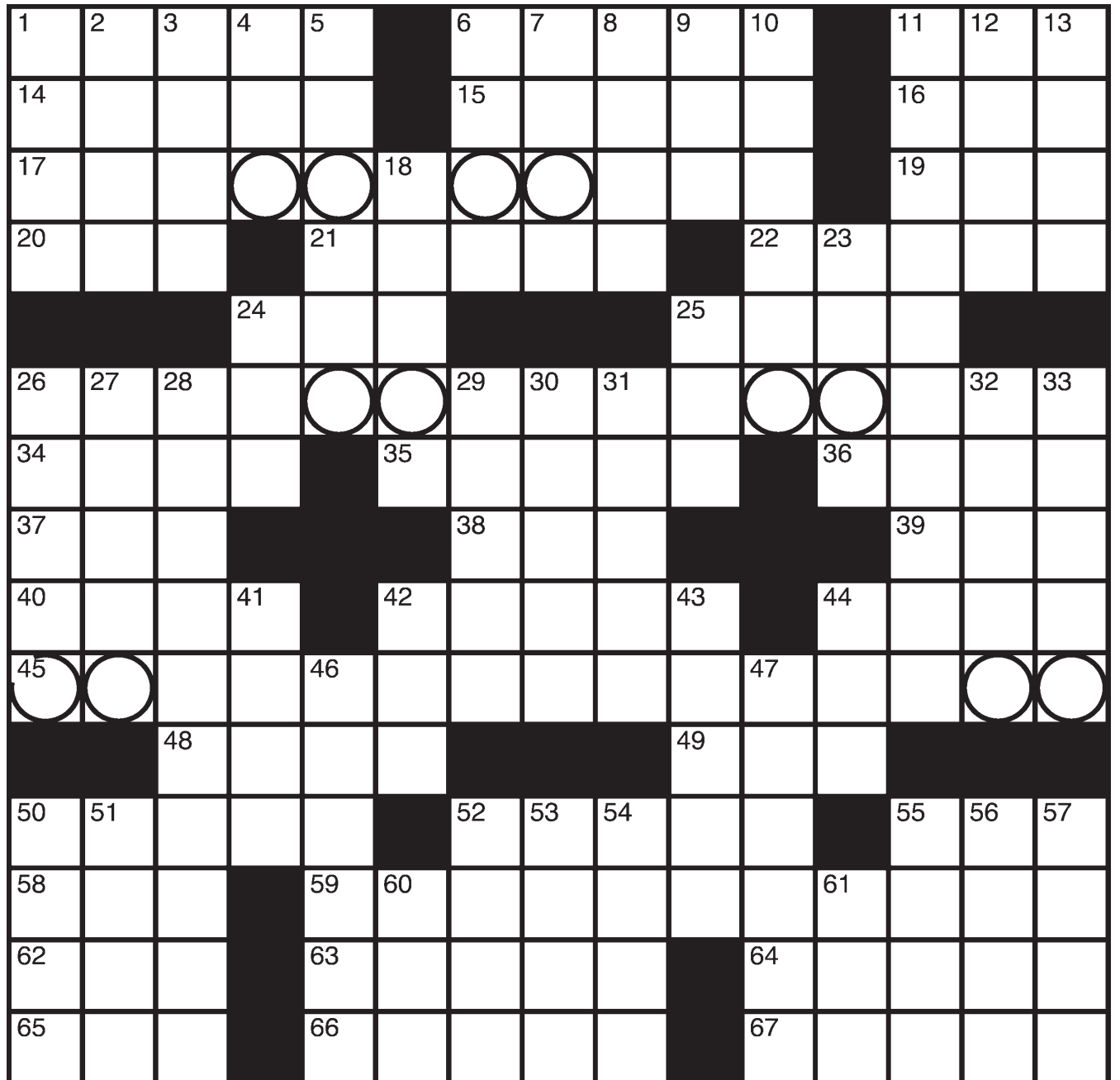
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ACROSS

- 1 Useful quality
- 6 "All ___ Up": Elvis hit
- 11 LED TV brand
- 14 "¡Hasta ___!"
- 15 Satirical 2022 biopic about Al Yankovic
- 16 Pole worker
- 17 Person announcing numbers in a hall
- 19 "Houdini" singer Lipa
- 20 Justice Dept. worker
- 21 Rock groups
- 22 Many an early email user
- 24 Dot on a domino
- 25 Childish comeback
- 26 Grammy Award won twice by CeCe Winans
- 34 Canyon sound
- 35 ___ protector
- 36 Workplace protection agcy.
- 37 Opponent
- 38 Scuff up
- 39 Yogurt container
- 40 Wallet bills
- 42 Military trainee
- 44 ___ moments ago
- 45 Notre-Dame de Paris, notably
- 48 Floor protectors
- 49 Bendy letter
- 50 Watercooler gurgles
- 52 Poet T.S.
- 55 No. 1 pal
- 58 Apple's mobile platform
- 59 Crowdfunding target, and what can be found in three of this puzzle's answers
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- 63 Ram, in the zodiac
- 64 Privileged group
- 65 "Not Dead Yet" TV network
- 66 Undersized
- 67 Upscale watch brand

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- 1 Actress and entrepreneur Jessica
- 2 Court filing
- 3 Shipped off



By Doug Peterson

10/29/24

- 4 Pancake batter ingredient
- 5 Oversized
- 6 White lake bird
- 7 Grasped
- 8 Paints on palettes
- 9 Extracted resource
- 10 Subtitled TV show from Seoul, e.g.
- 11 Chain known for Cheddar Bay Biscuits
- 12 Whodunit game
- 13 Hardly close
- 18 Guitar clamps
- 23 Scandinavian capital
- 24 Compensated break from work: Abbr.
- 25 Tavern beverage
- 26 Enshroud in mist
- 27 Thrifty, in brand names
- 28 Pianist's reference pages
- 29 Poison ___
- 30 Designer bag name
- 31 White marsh bird
- 32 Communications officer on the Enterprise
- 33 Selena's "Only

Monday's Puzzle Solved

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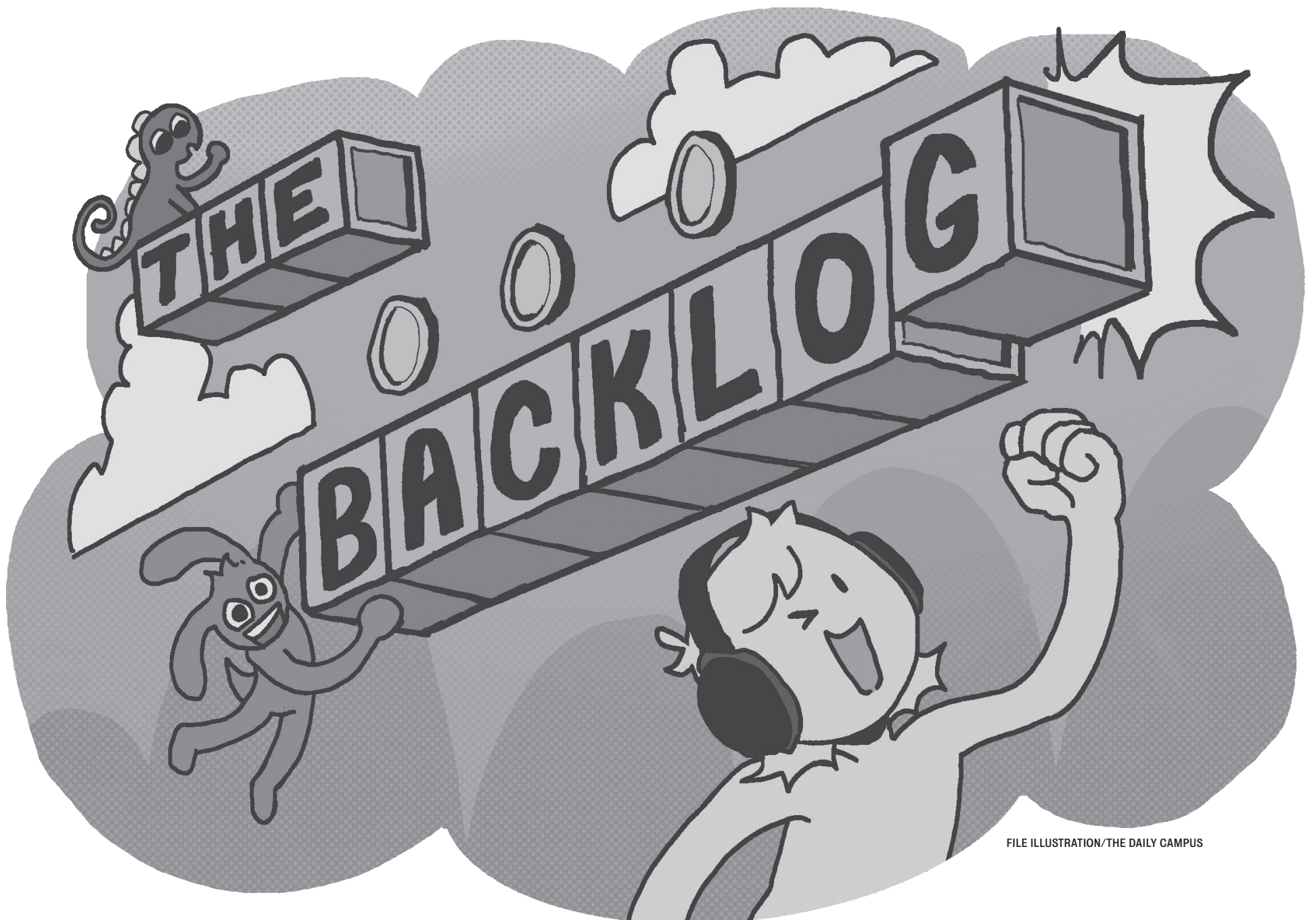
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10/29/24

- Murders in the Building" role
- 41 Thick carpet
- 42 Loops in via email
- 43 2000s teen series set in Newport Beach
- 44 Surgeons' degs.
- 46 "How tragic"
- 47 Old Testament queen
- 50 Arizona county or river
- 51 "Feel What U Feel" Grammy winner Lisa
- 52 Olympic speedskater Jackson
- 53 Onion kin
- 54 Teeny
- 55 Bubble, as water
- 56 Destiny
- 57 Show off, in slang
- 60 Bi- plus one
- 61 Day-___ colors

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Can you solve ‘Amanda the Adventurer 2?’

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

Hello and welcome back to “The Backlog,” the weekly column where I review video games based on a certain topic each month. This is the last edition for October, which means we’re wrapping up our reviews on scary games. Personally, I think horror is a great genre for video games; the medium is immersive and can be more terrifying than watching a movie. But today we’re going to be looking at a game that was released just in time for our last review this month: “Amanda the Adventurer 2.”

“Amanda the Adventurer 2” was released on Oct. 22 and published by DreadXP. Developer MANGLEDmaw Games is a small studio based in Ontario.

Their first release, “Amanda the Adventurer,” was a popular choice for gamers, particularly on YouTube, and people who loved solving internet puzzles.

To summarize the plot of the first game, you play as Riley, who receives a letter from their deceased aunt, Kate. The letter gives her home to Riley but also alludes to secrets within the attic and to a mysterious tape. Upon putting the VHS tape into the TV, players begin watching an interactive children’s show titled “Amanda the Adventurer,” which is very similar to the real show, “Dora the Explorer.”

Throughout the first game, Riley watches the tapes and completes various puzzles to

progress, revealing that there’s more to the tapes than meets the eye. Through hidden lore and by playing the game, players discover that originally there was a live-action children’s show, “The Amanda Show,” which was created by a father named Sam and starred his adopted daughter, Rebecca. After gaining popularity, a bigger company named Hameln proposed another show starring Rebecca and switching to an animated format, being the show players are watching on the tapes.

It’s clear that Rebecca, or some form of her, is trapped within the show and the tapes. It’s up to Riley to save and free her, but a monster resembling Amanda, dubbed by fans as the Entity, can attack players

and trigger a game over.

The second game takes place right after the first one. After Riley solves the main story of what’s happened to Rebecca, and to other children that Hameln has gotten their hands on, a masked figure gets the player out of the attic and brings them to the library — Aunt Kate’s place of work.

It’s once again up to Riley and the player to find the rest of the tapes and try to help Rebecca, or whatever is left of her as Amanda. There are much smaller details littered throughout both games that explain the lore deeper, but “Amanda the Adventurer 2” continues the story through difficult puzzles and tricky tapes.

“Amanda the Adventurer 2” is made by a small indie studio; their LinkedIn profile estimates they have two to 10 employees, yet they’ve been able to create a popular game that manages to maintain a great fan base. On its surface, the graphics are not very polished or fancy, but that’s not where the game excels.

One of the biggest reasons why the game is so popular is because of the mystery surrounding it, and how players across the world have searched both games for secrets to explain more about what happened to Rebecca.

Most of the gameplay involves watching the tapes and pausing them at appropriate moments to complete puzzles. The first puzzle involving the tapes is to fill up a piggy bank with 10 coins. Whatever happens on that tape influences reality, and vice versa. By placing the piggy bank next to the TV when Amanda gains coins, players can fill it up and receive the next tape.

This was one of the easier puzzles in “Amanda the Adventurer 2,” since all that most players had to do was pause the tape and take the piggy bank off the table or put it back on. Others are not so easy, which is a major complaint for this game.

Usually, I don’t complain about the difficulty of a game since that’s how it should be experienced. Unfortunately, a lot of players got stumped on the first puzzle in “Amanda the Adventurer 2,” which was looking through a series of books to find the code to open a safe, which houses the first tape. This puzzle was also used for the demo of the second game. The tricky part about this puzzle is that there are more books than necessary for this puzzle

available to the player. Some books do hold the code, but others should be used for a puzzle later on in the game.

Poor design like this can stump players, forcing them to either look up the answer or get frustrated and turn off their screen. As this was the first puzzle, I can see how it can spark a negative initial reaction.

But most puzzles are fun, and much easier to solve than the first one. What “Amanda the Adventurer 2” rewards is patience — a theme of one of the episodes — and diligence. On a first playthrough, most players could get by without too much trouble, since the game only takes a few hours to complete. But those who want to uncover more secrets will replay the game over and over again, getting each ending and solving puzzles they didn’t before.

An aspect that differs from the first game is that the second gives hints to players who are stuck. Around the library there are printers, and if players interact with them, they’ll print out a page with drawings associated with the current puzzle. They usually show drawings of important items, so it can help players move along.

Small design choices like this display MANGLEDmaw Games’ growth as a studio. They listened to what fans said about the first game and designed around that while maintaining the aesthetics of “Amanda the Adventurer.”

Unfortunately, I do feel that this sequel is not as scary as the first game. It could be due to already having knowledge of what’s going on, or the environment being brightly lit with a homey feeling. The original took place in a creepy attic, while the sequel is set in a library with a fun children’s area.

However, it does leave players anticipating more from MANGLEDmaw Games. Without divulging major spoilers, the ending of “Amanda the Adventurer 2” hints towards another game coming, which isn’t necessarily a spoiler since the previous game did the same thing. Either way, I’m excited to see what else is in store for us, and as to whether we can save Rebecca and stop Hameln.

RATING: 3.5/5



Amanda the Adventurer 2 is the sequel to the original indie horror game released in 2023. This newer version was released on Oct. 22.

IMAGES COURTESY OF USER/DEVIANTART



Community and cattle:

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE HOSTS BEEF CATTLE AUCTION

by **Hayden Cromer** | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | hayden.cromer@uconn.edu

Over this past weekend on Oct. 27, the Animal Science Department hosted their annual Beef Cattle Auction at the Cattle Resource Unit at Horsebarn Hill. People from around Connecticut and the New England area came to Storrs to place their bids on cattle in hopes of turning them into a good long-term investment.

The Cattle Resource Unit was filled with the backbone of our country, farmers and their families, with many throwing bids out there for cows of all kinds. The bidding wars were quick and intense with the help of the fast-talking auctioneer, while emotion — and lack thereof — filled the faces of bidders and prospective cow owners. With bids shooting up by the second and cows being sold the next, there was no time wasted during the auction, as everything had run incredibly smooth.

This was thanks to the help of Executive Program Director of the Department of Animal Science, Mary-Margaret Smith, who told me about what goes into planning for the event. “The proceeds benefit the animal science department,” she said in reference to the bids. When asked about prepping the animals, she told me “the animals are halter trained and groomed by animal science students. The process starts in early September and the calves are haltered, brushed and walked four to five days per week. Students washed the animals and clipped their heads, necks and tails this past week.”

I was also able to get an interview with one of the students that had helped run the event: Abigail Wilber, a seventh-semester animal science major. She told me that this auction does a lot, not only for the Animal Science department but also for kids involved in the 4-H youth development program, as “the kids get involved helping with the animals, which possibly leads to new [UConn agriculture] students.” Events like this play a crucial role on the development and upkeep of the Animal Science program here at UConn.

But with throwing a bid out there comes intensive research and time. While at the auction, I ran into Ben Lassy, Daily Campus life editor and seventh-semester history and GIS double

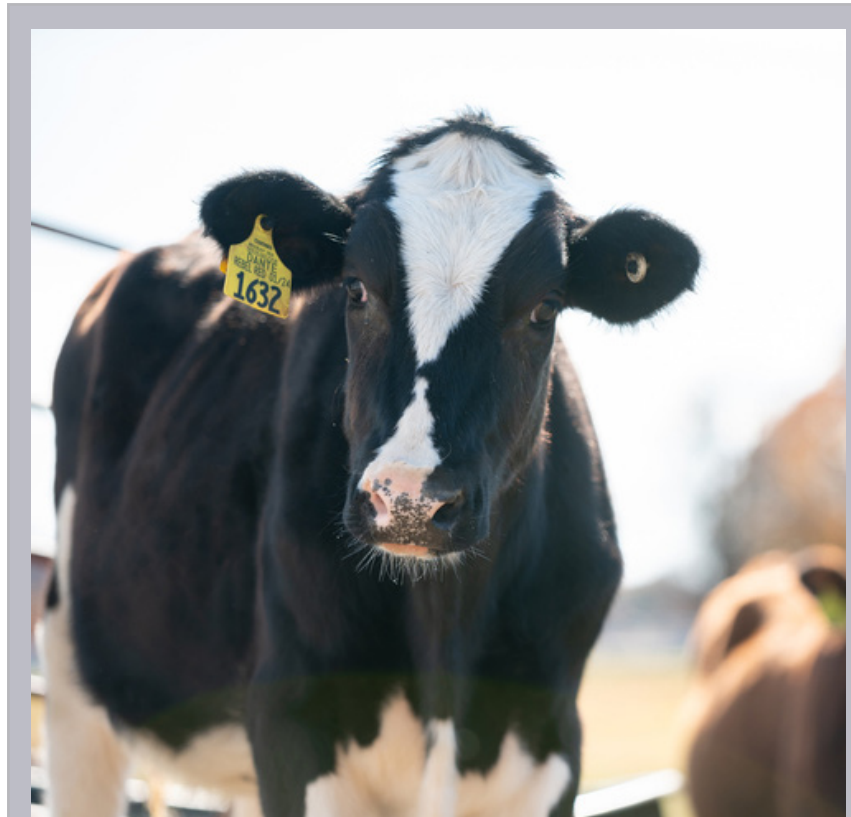
major, who told me about what comes with preparing for a livestock auction like this. “Before the auction, my dad and I look through the sales list. It shows every animal for sale with their birth and post-weaning weights, as well as their breed and sire. Gauging the quality beforehand is crucial as it informs your bids.”

After asking about the thought process and what you’re looking for when they bring cattle out and it’s time to make an offer, he added, “if a cow has a well rounded belly and weighs quite a bit, you know it takes to eating and can fatten up — this is especially important in steers.” He continues, “bulls and heifers are often judged by appearance and stature, bulls with higher shoulders and calm demeanor are usually sought after, while heifers with decent proportions are best!”

While research and time are big factors that play into placing a bid on cows, for others it’s different. I spoke with Tom Kalal, co-owner of the family owned and operated Cranberry Meadow Farm out in East Lyme, Connecticut. He walked me through the bidding process as we watched his wife put up a good fight for the final cow up for auction. He told me that the main thing she looks at when bidding for a cow is the “overall color of hair, eyes, hooves” but he adds that she ultimately relies on her intuition.

When asked about Cranberry Meadow Farm he told me that they do it not only for financial reasons but for the sake of land preservation, as they want to protect and care for the land. He mentioned that “the topsoil is great land for animals and plants,” as that’s exactly what they care for. Kalal told me that he and his wife are sort of “odddies” in the sense that they are part of the people that truly care about the land, but he also told me that they’re “happy to be odd.”

On the surface, the beef cattle auction may only seem like a bidding war for cattle, but it’s much more than that. It’s an intersection of many people from different walks of life: Students, faculty, farmers and—as Tom Kalal calls him and his wife—“people of the soil.” All of them being brought together by one thing — a UConn staple — cows.



Cows grazing Horsebarn Hill on Monday, Oct. 28. Students can visit the cows and walk along Horsebarn Hill, which is located on Storrs Rd across from Towers Residence Halls.

PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Why you should use Microsoft Office

— AND HOW TO MAKE IT COMFORTABLE FOR THE GOOGLE USER

by **Patrick Boots**
HE/HIM/HIS
UNDER THE ROCK COLUMNIST
patrick.boots@uconn.edu

As many students know, the University of Connecticut has transitioned our accounts from the Google Workspace to the Microsoft Office suite. Like it or hate it, the switch is here to stay. In today’s edition of “Under the Rock,” we’ll be giving some tips to help make the most of your Microsoft Office usage and maybe make it more hospitable for some of the Google diehards among us.

Microsoft Office is a suite of applications including Word (word processing), OneNote (notetaking), PowerPoint (slideshows), Excel (spreadsheets) and a lot more — it’s free for UConn students and is the world’s leader in productivity software.

TIP 1: Use the desktop versions

The full-fat desktop Office applications are where it’s at. If Google is Duplo, then desktop Office would be Lego.

Microsoft offers an in-browser version, called “Office 365 Lite” that you may have already fallen prey to; don’t use it. Lite doesn’t have many features and is even worse than Google. There, I said it. But remember, that’s the in-browser version, not the real version; this column exclusively refers to the desktop applications.

If you remember Google, you need to be connected to the internet to even view a document. Office doesn’t have this limitation; you can work offline and save files wherever you’d like. If you are connected to the web, then you can enjoy your free OneDrive cloud storage, document sharing and collaboration and all the great features you’ve come to enjoy — including auto-save.

Don’t just use the “app” versions from the store. Instead, follow these download steps:

First, you’ll want to sign in to office.com with your UConn credentials. Next, click on “Install and more” in the top righthand corner of the homepage. Third, select “Install Microsoft 365 Apps” in the drop-down menu. Then, if you are brought to another page, choose “install Office.” That will let you download the setup installer (exe file). Fourth, run the Office Setup Installer. Lastly, open Word, go to File > Options > Advanced >

scroll to File Open Preference, and choose “Desktop.”

TIP 2: Install this familiar interface plugin

Some students say they don’t like Office because the user interface is harder to master than Google’s. Microsoft’s default experience, called the Ribbon, splits up the functions into tabbed menus with large icons, while Google uses drop-down menus and small icons. Actually, before 2007, Microsoft also believed in a similar menu.

UBit, a Swiss technology company, has developed a free, lightweight plugin that aims to repli-

cate that simpler menu interface.

You’ll want to make sure all open Office applications are closed. Just visit tinyurl.com/fixmyribbon - that will download the UBit plugin. Run the installer and that’s it.

If you really want to get rid of the other Ribbon tabs after installing this plugin, right click the File tab and choose “Customize the Ribbon” — then uncheck all the ones you don’t want.

For alternative non-English language versions of the plugin, visit the UBit webpage at ubit.ch.

TIP 3: Explore the features Office has to offer

Microsoft Office has a lot more features and useful tools than Google does. It’s a professional work-driven suite of products with a ton of helpful tricks up its sleeve, but it’s up to the user to take advantage of them.

Students may be most interested in OneNote, Office’s note-taking program. Users can type and draw any

way they’d like, import and annotate lecture slideshows, live-edit with other students and more. It’s sort of set up like a paper notebook, where you can label tabs and color-code pages for different classes or purposes.

There are many great things Office has that are new, even to me. You can record and transcribe audio in Word, use thousands of snazzy templates in Publisher and convert handwriting into text in PowerPoint — and that’s just a few options. No more paying for those online services!

TIP 4: Actually be open to trying it

Not everyone likes change. Sometimes I don’t either, but I think UConn’s move to Microsoft Office will allow students to set themselves up for success.

Google Docs, Sheets and Slides may be good in a pinch — but they’re basic web apps. Sometimes I will hear students say Google’s products are “easier” to use ... because they have less tools? Businesses and corporations don’t typically use Google software, so at least dipping your toes into Office will help if you ever need to use it during professional life.

Hopefully, this article helps with making that transition a little more comfortable for you, or perhaps you learned something new about Microsoft Office. See you again next week — until then, I’m going back “Under the Rock.”



ILLUSTRATION BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Life

@dailycampuslife

Pixies album review: 'The Night the Zombies Came'

PIXIES DO NOT STRIKE MAGIC

by Maleena Muzio | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | SHE/HER/HERS | maleena.muzio@uconn.edu

American band Pixies, released their 10th studio album on Friday, Oct. 25. The album, "The Night the Zombies Came" consists of 13 songs, playing for about 39 minutes in length. Famously known for setting the scene for alternative punk bands in the early 1990s, Pixies has a lot to live up to, needing to prove the indie rock group is capable of topping their former work.

Pixies first came together in Boston, Massachusetts, despite their classic "California" sound. The band's style falls somewhere on a strange line between surf music and eerie punk. Dating back to Pixies' creation in the late '80s, they have embodied a sort of distinct sound, despite not fitting one genre. It had always been a goal of the band not to be easily defined. This leaves listeners to ask the question: Is not fitting in a box necessarily a good thing? Breaking boundaries is important, but creating an incohesive album may not be the means of achieving this.

Many of the songs on the album are forgettable. However, longtime fans of the band may be less harsh as the signature sound is still present. "The

Night the Zombies Came" is Pixies' first album with new bassist Emma Richardson, though there do not seem to be many observable changes on the instrumental scale. Vocals, however, are a different story. Black Francis is accompanied by Paz Lenchantin on backup vocals in several of the tracks, similar to past albums. He sounds tired on many of the tracks — and not in an indie sleaze aesthetic choice kind of way. The songs Lenchantin is featured on are typically the better ones on the album.

Opening with "Primrose," the album begins on a more mellow note. Introducing a more serious tone, the song sets up the rest of the album well. As the album progresses, themes of yearning, self-improvement and religion (from multiple areas of belief) are explored frequently.

Sudden changes are common on the album, as they are throughout all the work from Pixies. At times, these changes feel very out of place. That being said, the transition to "You're So Impatient" is sudden, but successful. "Primrose" picks up slightly at its end, making the jump to the more upbeat, punk-inspired proceeding

track feel more purposeful. "You're So Impatient" is a feel-good song with nice guitar.

"Jane (The Night the Zombies Came)" is the closest to the title track that the album has. Unfortunately, it is one of the worst songs on the album. It has the same energy as a childhood rhyme that never ends, except this nursery rhyme is about drugs and is sung in a raspy, low voice.

Moving on from "Jane," "Chicken" fortunately brings some redemption to the album. "Chicken" changes things up once again, this time adding blues into the mix. The song features sensual riffs accompanied by lyrics of begging and pleading for a missed lover. The hopeless energy of the song is counteracted by somewhat humorous references to a ridiculous bird. "Chicken" perfectly encompasses what Pixies do best: making the strange enjoyable and meaningful. However, many of the other songs on this album include weird aspects but managed to leave out the flare that makes the strangeness work.

Coming back to a more indie, sort of twee sound, "Hypnotized" invites nostalgia

from the 2010s. With tempo changes throughout, the song is interesting, another strong element of the album.

"Johnny Good Man" is a decent song about rebirth, followed by the similar-in-style yet worse "Motoroller." Both songs are forgettable and do not stand out in any way.

Nursery rhymes, previously mentioned for their sound, now come up in a different sense. "I Hear You Mary" is a dark take on the classic song, "Mary Had a Little Lamb" and draws on Christianity. The song discusses flesh, bones and death— everything you would never expect from a nursery rhyme. Shortly after, "Oyster Beds" shifts the album back to a traditional punk sound, playing off the darkness from its predecessor.

Taking an unexpected turn, "Mercy Me" adds psychedelic rock and some synth to the album.

The song is relaxing but boring. The subsequent song is "Earnest Evans," a much harder, more awful track. The songs really do not make sense next to each other. While some sudden changes may have been effective, this definitely was not. The song is plainly annoying and makes you want

to skip it almost immediately.

Thankfully, "Kings of the Prairie" helps to end the album on a better note. The song is folk-inspired with alternative aspects. It is delicate and light, once again playing on a more traditional indie sound inspired by the 2010s.

Closing the album is "The Vegas Suite." It is definitely one of the best songs on the album; the instrumentals and vocals in this song work hand in hand to create warmth around an overwhelming topic. The song discusses religious salvation as well as forgiveness between people. "The Vegas Suite" carefully returns listeners to a powerful message after what felt like a roller coaster of an album.

"The Night the Zombies Came" is packed with many ups and downs, making it difficult to judge. As a collective, the album does not work well together, but some individual songs stand strong alone. Unfortunately, this was not a sequence of singles, though. It was an album that did not prove successful, despite producing a few great songs.

Rating: 2.5/5



The Pixies perform live at The Anthem in Washington, DC on June 10, 2023. The band released its 10th studio album this past Friday.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

'MG Ultra':

MACHINE GIRL AND THE IMAGINATION OF PSYCHOTIC MINDS

by Bonnilil Lilith Rampertab | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | SHE/HER/HERS | lilith.rampertab@uconn.edu

Content warning for depictions of mental illness and self-harm.

CLIPART COURTESY OF ICONSCOUT

If you've been following the online music scene since 2012 with "WLFGRRL" being released two years later when Machine Girl was still just a solo act, the New York experimental electronic duo would likely not need an introduction. The band's insane meshing of grating but addictive electronic sounds, intense percussion inspired by a cocktail of electronic-adjacent subgenres and nihilistic lyrics that are usually screamed makes for music that is jarring to most who aren't too deep into the rabbit hole of experimental music. Regardless, it's irrefutably unique and innovative. For those who aren't scared by experimental music, you're in for a treat with Machine Girl's "MG Ultra" as they continue to refine their sound.

The lead single and introductory track, "Until I Die," starts the album off strongly and cinematically. The opening lyric of the song and the album is "My

dreams are all I have while reality's collapsing," which paints a bleak picture of either one's dilapidating mental health turning into psychosis, a crumbling society and world or a combination of the two. Still, the chorus is more hopeful as the protagonist is "fighting to survive" and won't give up until he's dead. This allows one's imagination to think up action scenes that would be appropriate for the bombastic production. The breakdown of the first verse near the end of the song is addictive to listen to and rewarding to get to on subsequent listens.

The beginning of "Nu Nu Meta Phenomena" is heavier version of electro-jazz artist Hakushi Hasegawa's "Scary Point." The hi-hat rolls before the beat drops are enthralling to listen to. The bass compliments the post-apocalyptic and surreal lyrics which are somewhat

based on our reality. "Freaking out inside but I still speak soft" is a lyric that may resonate with a lot of people with mental illnesses such as anxiety, depression and psychosis as Machine Girl tends to depict mental illness in a decadent manner.

The part of "Sick!!!" where Matt Stephenson, the vocalist and producer, chants, "There is no cure, there is no purpose, there is no hope, there is no service" is hypnotizing. The lyrics are depressing and edgy, which are typical for Machine Girl.

"Just Because You Can" does a better job at being anti-drug than Nancy Reagan, not by saying "no", but by depicting what the purpose and effects of taking recreational drugs are with the introspective lyrics describing how using can turn "never-ending pain into momentary bliss." Matt likens self-harming to a drug as well with a lyric about a razor. The outro sounds like something an experimental hip-hop producer could sample.

"Half Asleep" is a peaceful interlude for "MG Ultra" that could serve as a time to breathe from all the high-energy and overwhelming music sequenced before it.

"Motherfather" is a directly happy and saccharine-sounding Machine Girl song despite the lyrics delving into generational trauma and a disconnect between parents and their son. "I'm a cycle killer, not a psycho

killer like you want" is such a witty way to describe breaking cycles in generational trauma. The chorus' heaviness with the booming percussion compared to the light and bright verses is cathartic to listen to, and the breakdown of the chorus at the end of the song is reminiscent of the breakdown in pop duo Magdalena Bay's "Watching TV."

"Ass2Mars" is pretty cryptic as to what it's about beyond going to Mars. Maybe it's a satirical commentary on how some want to abandon Earth and colonize Mars.

"Cicadas" seems jaded in its worldview, using sardonic humor to cope, seen in the lyrics "What's the antidote to global psychosis? Another world war, or the children of the COVID?" and "You can listen to the beast within: start a crypto scam or weed business." The concept of global psychosis as this album has been depicting is fascinating.

"Grindhouse" is like Generation Z's "Closer" by industrial band Nine Inch Nails in a way with its dynamic of sexual deviancy and sadomasochism, though the similarities are mostly surface-level. In "Motherfather," Matt quips that he isn't a pillar of salt, but in this song, he wants to turn to salt, tying into the pillar of salt's symbolism in the Book of Genesis story of Sodom and Gomorrah and their own destruction largely in part due to sexual deviancy. The production is pretty

trance-like. Perhaps goth clubs would love this song.

"Schizodipshit" has Matt boldly claiming his mental illness by using a derogatory term to refer to himself. The lyric "Maybe I'm a little sick, but I'm not a victim" is a stern reminder to empower the mentally ill instead of boxing them to be seen in an unfair perspective. The bass is similar to that of "The Perfect Drug" by Nine Inch Nails.

"Psychic Attack" is the protagonist fully succumbing to his mental illness, claiming that people are going to have their heads explode and that he has a third eye. The instrumental is simply incredible and hard to do justice in words. The song very abruptly ends, which is baffling and unsatisfying.

As someone with psychosis, I feel comforted by this fucked up, toxic and bleak album about living with mental illness and not caring about the consequences of societal expectations. It's unfortunate that the depiction of mental illness is tied to violence as the mentally ill are typically not violent, but I suppose the lyrics are a form of sublimation and catharsis. The most beautiful thoughts are beside the darkest after all.

Rating: 4.5/5

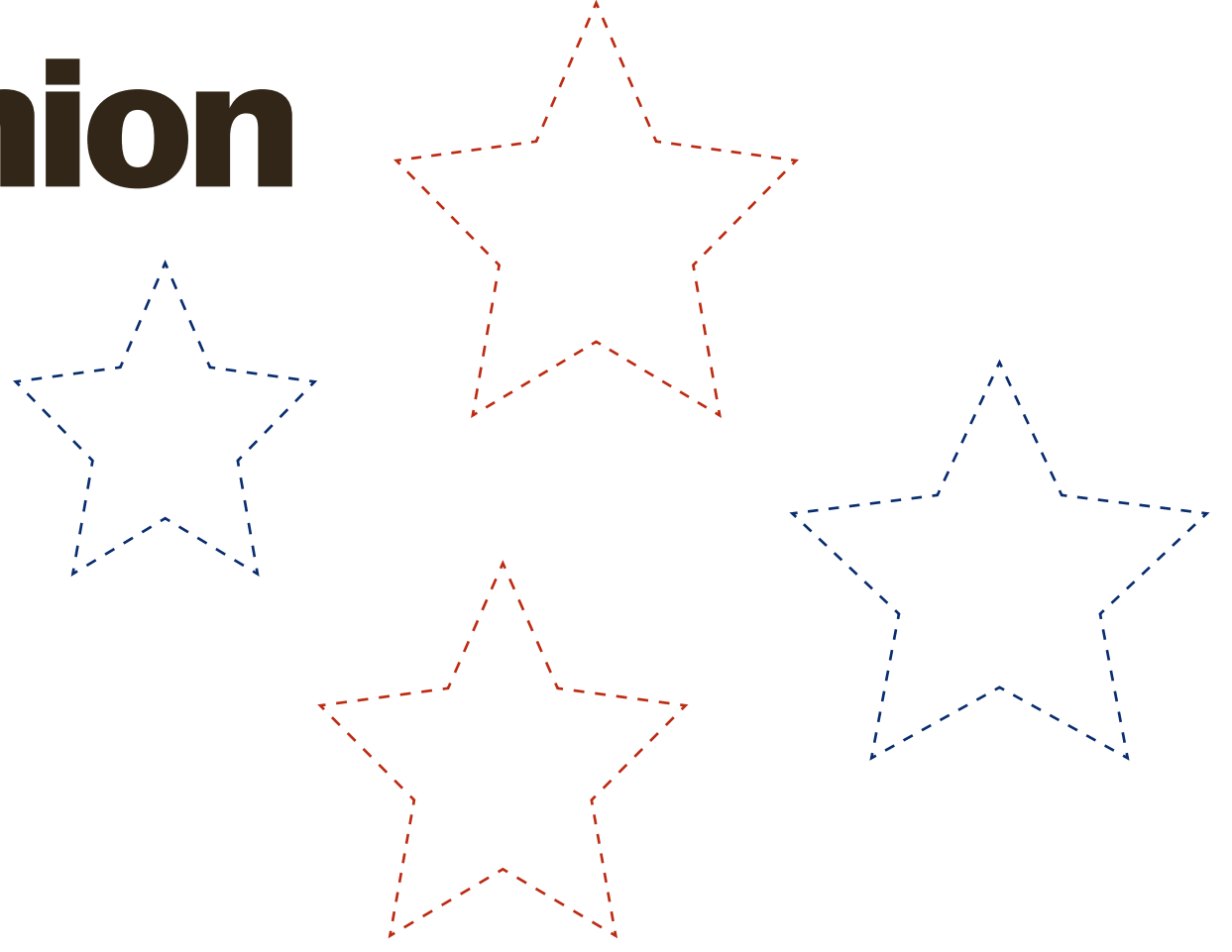


The cover art of Machine Girl's latest album "WLFGRRL." The album was released in February 2014.

IMAGE COURTESY OF PRINTerval



Opinion



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Editorial: Huskies, go vote!

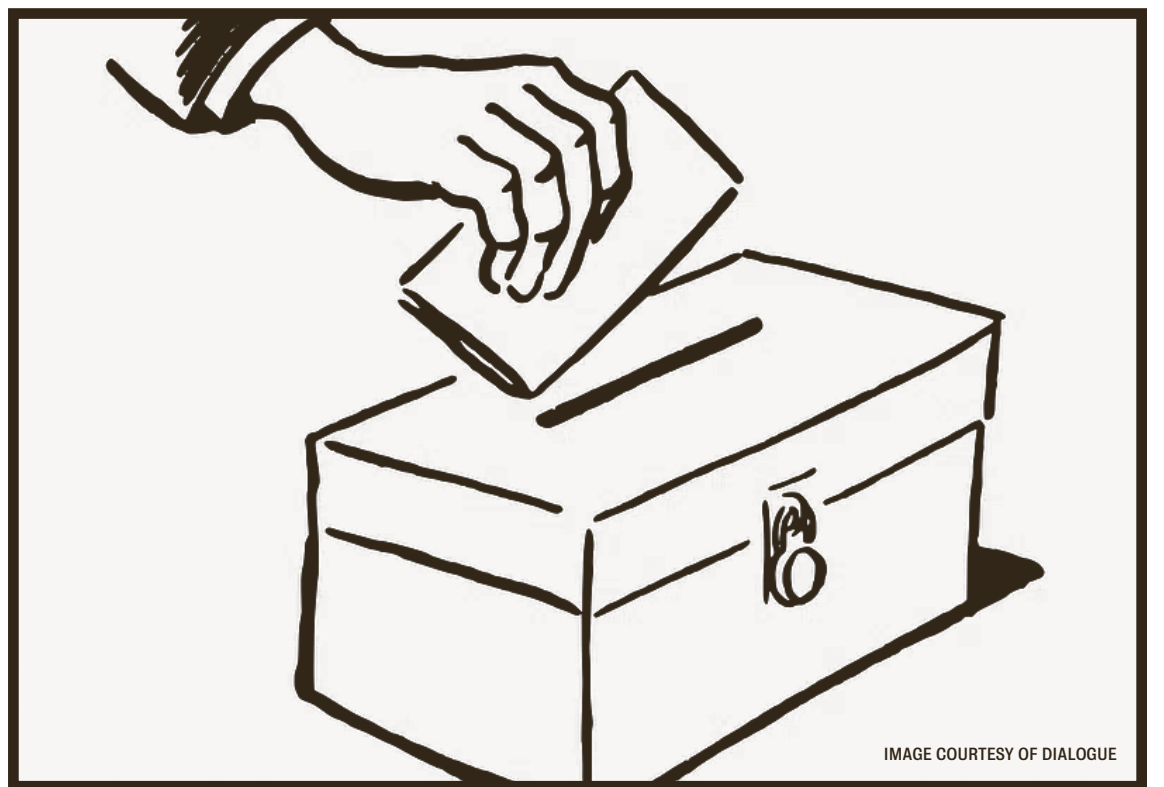


IMAGE COURTESY OF DIALOGUE

Today is Tuesday, which means that Election Day is only one week away. For most undergraduate students, this is the first time they are eligible to vote in a presidential election and for many, it will be the first time they vote at all.

Likely due to a lack of mobility, poor education on the registration and voting process and the nerves around voting for the first time, young Americans have historically had significantly lower voter turnout rates than other age groups.

To combat this issue, the Mansfield Town Council and University of Connecticut have opened the first on campus early voting location on the second floor of the UConn Bookstore, open until Nov. 3. Students living on campus are eligible to vote in Mansfield using their UConn address, regardless of

the state that they come from. The addition of this location marks a concerted effort by lawmakers to make voting more convenient and just for the UConn community.

Students who wish to vote in the town or state that they come from may request a mail-in absentee ballot, though Vote.org recommends that the request is sent no later than one week before election day. For students who are not yet registered but still want to vote, they can participate in same-day registration and voting at the Mansfield Town Hall location.

Thanks to Connecticut state law, you will be protected when you vote. There will be no campaigning allowed within 75 feet of a polling place. Additionally, you have the right to an accessible voting process where accommodations can be made for indi-

viduals with difficulty standing in line and marking or casting a ballot. You are also entitled to receive instructions on marking ballots and operating voting machinery, so you can be fully educated on the process before you begin.

The Editorial Board encourages all eligible students to register to vote and exercise their rights in the upcoming election. As young citizens, it is our duty

to participate in the electoral process and shape the community we want to live in, both on the national and local level. There is more to this year's ballot than the presidential race. State and local representatives, as well as an amendment to the Constitution of the State regarding future absentee ballot voting rights will be included. This question about the proposed amendment asks whether or

not Connecticut should adopt absentee voting for all, meaning voters would not have to provide an excuse to fill out an absentee ballot.

This year, choose to be part of the electoral process and involve yourself in the activity that so many Americans have fought valiantly to be part of. Millions of Americans will do their civic duty this week. We hope that you are one of them.

The Evie-dence: Big Vape faces challenges, but Big Tobacco is here to stay

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

This week, dozens of individuals on TikTok reported receiving Venmo payments from "Juul Labs, Inc. Settlement Administrator" as a result of claims filed in a class action lawsuit that asserted that Juul marketed its products toward minors and charged high prices, despite the lack of accurate information about safety and addictiveness. Despite refusing to admit to the claims in the suit, Juul agreed to pay the \$300 million settlement.

These payouts bring the dangers of vaping and nicotine into the limelight and are meant to hold the company accountable so that users or potential future users know the risks, but even though Juul might be challenged now, nicotine usage isn't going anywhere.

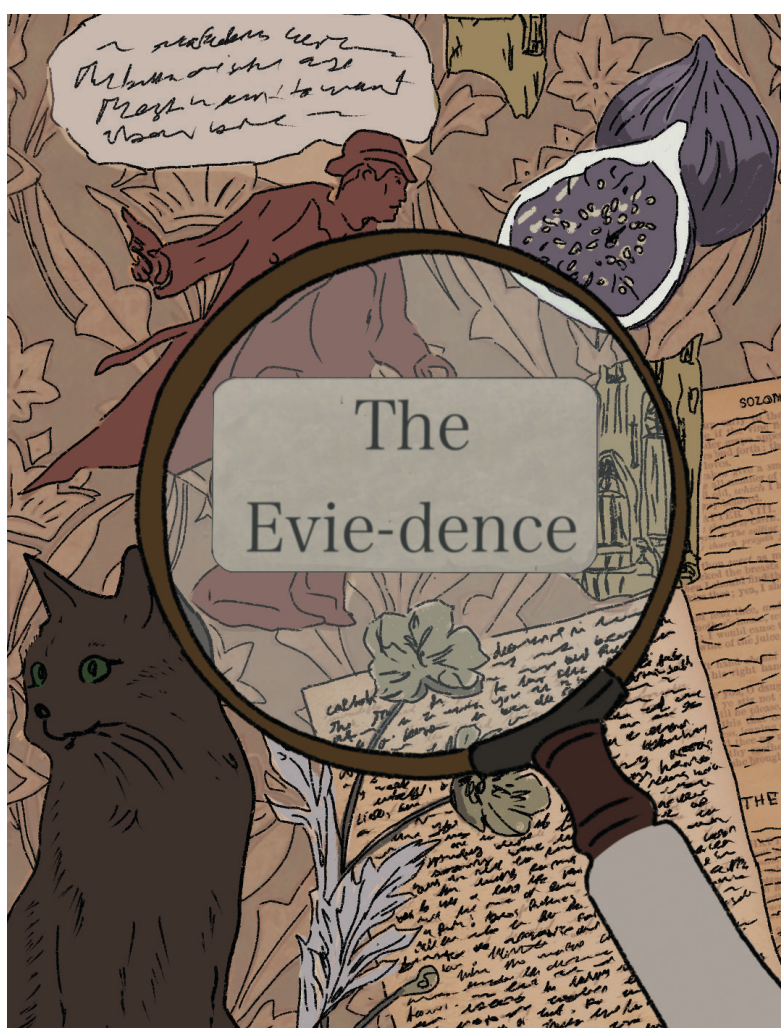
Over the past five years, nicotine usage has taken on new forms that are more appealing to all generations. Products like Zyn, snus and vapes seem to offer a "cleaner" and more modern approach to nicotine usage than traditional cigarettes. Because of this, they've been more prevalent in the media and in American culture than ever before.

Since its national debut in 2019, Zyn has taken off in the tobacco market, boasting a 62 percent year over year increase in shipments from 2022 to 2023. This year, shipments are expected to grow another 35 percent. The demand for

Zyns in 2024 was so strong that despite a cessation in online sales due to legal troubles, Zyn demand remained steady and there was a nationwide shortage of the nicotine pouches.

Zyn has also taken on a cultural aspect. As its popularity has exploded, so has the popularity of "Zynfluencers," typically men marketing the product to college students and other young people. Notable Zynfluencers include right-wing political commentator Tucker Carlson, podcast hosts Joe Rogan and Logan Paul and business owner Max VanderAarde, also known as Cheddy on Instagram.

Not only do these Zynfluencers promote the product as a safer way of consuming nicotine, but



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

they also claim that it has other beneficial effects on one's life. Carlson claims that nicotine increases mental acuity and raises testosterone levels while others push the desired narrative of the masculin-

ity, power and fitness that comes with the small, white pouches. Many psychologists and researchers have noted that this narrative fits well within the campaign strategy of conservatives.

Conservative lawmakers have even expressed their support for the products during investigations. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene declared the need for a "Zynsurrection" and Rep. Richard Hudson tested Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer with a post supporting Zyns with a caption that reads, "Come and take it."

Zyn isn't the only nicotine product that has been glamorized in the media. Despite falling from grace in 1964 when it was discovered that cigarettes were incredibly harmful, cigarette

usage has surprisingly become less stigmatized. According to a report by Truth Initiative, an anti-nicotine organization, 64% of the top binge-watched shows among 15 to 24-year-olds included depictions of nicotine usage and only one of them was markedly anti-smoking while half were pro-smoking. The pro-smoking scenes often included messages of "wealth, power, success, fun, harmlessness, rebellion or glamor."

To top it all off, there has been a revival of the "heroin chic" obsession with thinness in the past few years. With it comes the glamorization of drugs like the aforementioned heroin, cocaine, Ozempic and nicotine, which is proven to be associated with weight loss, despite how unhealthy it may be. Models who fit the standard of thinness like Countess Lara Cosima Henckel von Donnersmarck, model and former intern at Dior, can be seen flaunting their look while lighting up a cigarette.

Just like clothing trends are recycled every few decades, nicotine has made its way back into popular culture. It has permeated every aspect of what young people experience, from figures they look up to their choice of political candidate. So even though Juul might be reaching the end of its glory era, Big Tobacco will keep coming up with ways to stay relevant and nicotine will remain a part of American life in the years to come.

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Runaway geese!

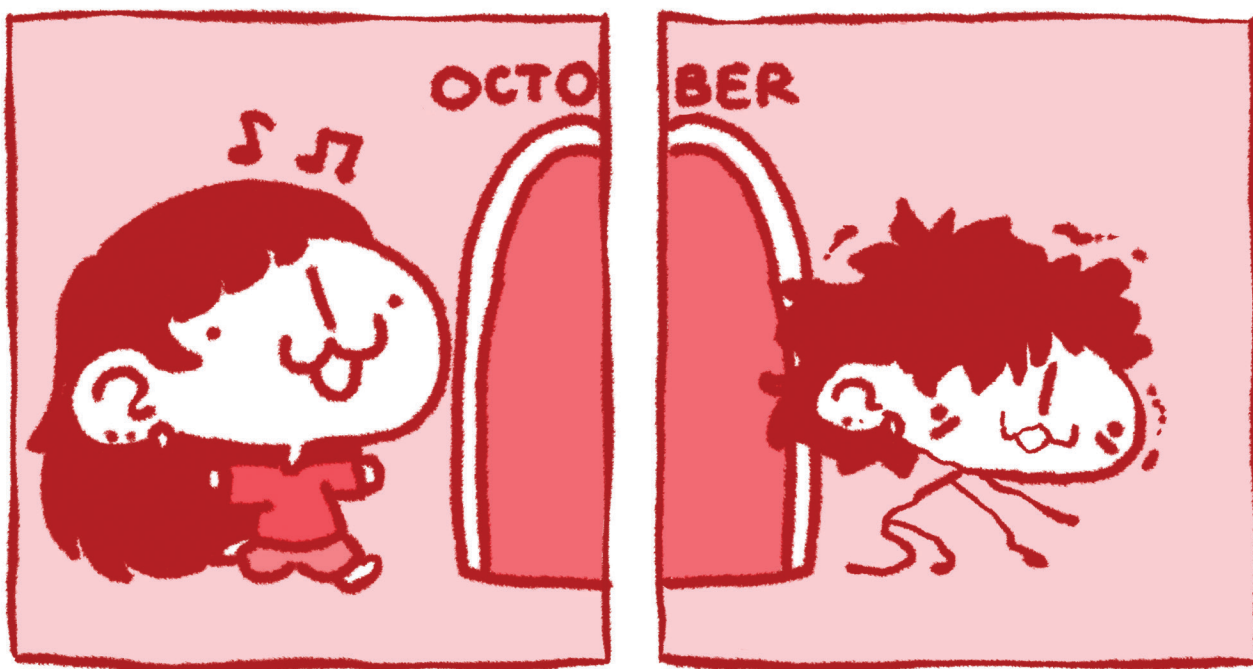


A view of Mirror Lake on Monday, Oct. 28. Geese returning back to their home on vibrant fall afternoon. PHOTO BY VON LINDENTHAL, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

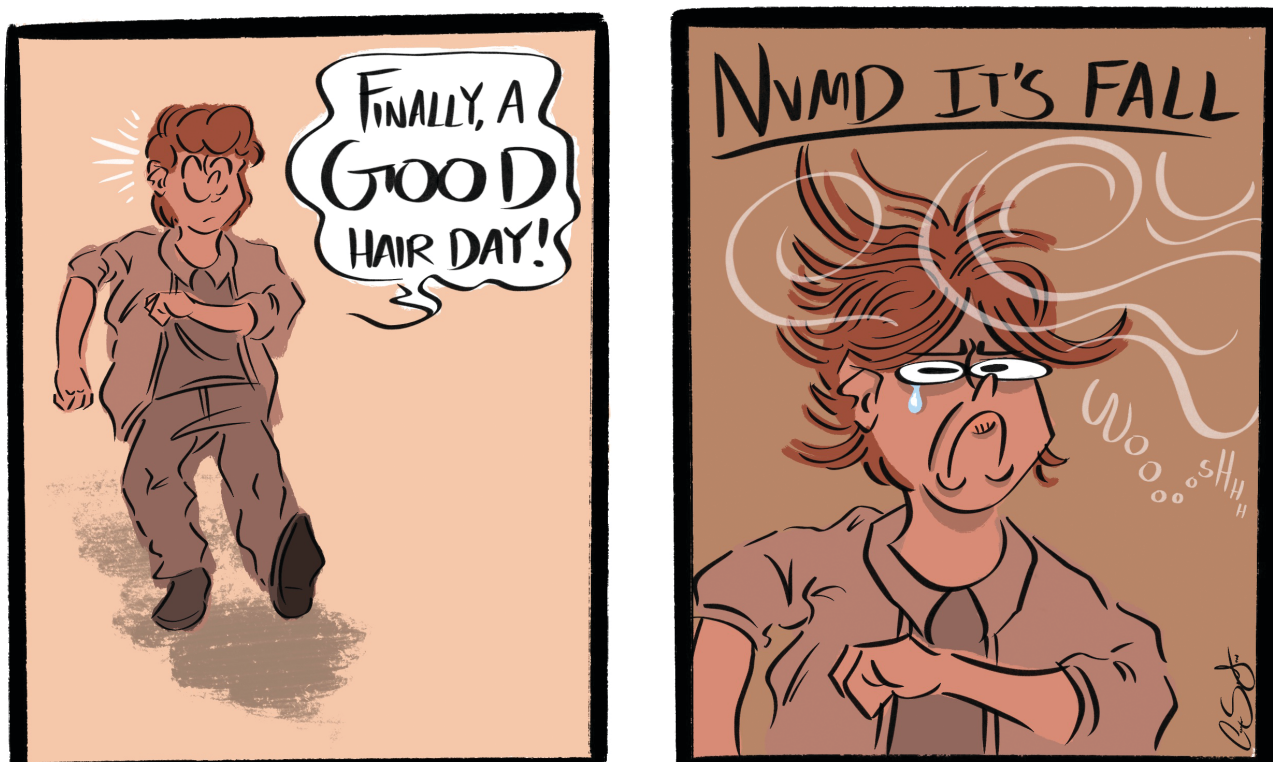
Comics



COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY CONNOR SZREJNA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

THE DAILY CAMPUS SUDOKU

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

Solution to Monday's puzzle

10/29/24

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

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

Sports

Photo of the Day | Sunny day games



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

PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WOMEN'S SOCCER: UConn clinches a spot in the Big East tournament with a shutout win against Seton Hall on senior night

by Nahum Valiente

HE/HIM/HIM
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
nahum.valiente@uconn.edu

The UConn Huskies (10-4-4, 4-3-3) ended their regular season by securing their spot in the postseason tournament with a 1-0 win against the Seton Hall Pirates (4-11-3, 1-6-2) on Senior Night.

With so much at play, such as a spot in the conference tournament, the pressure fueled UConn to put on a strong offensive effort early in the half, especially in their final game at home and of the season. The dominance displayed by the Huskies left Seton Hall scrambling to get anything started. In the 17th minute, UConn junior Chioma Okafor nearly got a shot into the net with a header. The momentum never left UConn's side and in the 19th minute, de-

fender Laci Lewis buried one in with a right-foot shot to put the Huskies into the lead. For Lewis, this marked her first career goal.

The Pirates' offense had a few opportunities, but the UConn defense shut down any chances. Okafor's agility could not be detained by the Seton Hall defense, and she got a shot off in the 26th minute. However, it went over the crossbar. The Huskies' leading goal scorer was keen on making this a blowout game.

The remainder of the half had both teams gridlocked. Mainly in the midfield, UConn was trying to recapture the early pressure of their frontline while Seton Hall was trying to find a response to their one-goal deficit. At the death of the half, UConn nearly doubled their lead with a shot within the penalty area by senior Maddie Fried-

However, it was deflected by the Pirates right outside the box.

Once the second half began, the Huskies quickly regained the momentum that made them so dominant early on. In the opening minutes, Okafor once again created shooting opportunities, but they were stopped. Minutes later, the Pirates miraculously stopped multiple shots made by the Huskies that were sure to go in. Seton Hall narrowly avoided another goal and kept the fixture still in play for them. The game continued to be played well inside the penalty box area. The Pirates were able to hold off the onslaught of shots by UConn, many of which should have found themselves into the net.

Seton Hall was not going away, as they were able to find some breakthroughs through the Huskies' defense. The Pi-

rates saw their first shot of the half in the 63rd minute, but it was off target and Connecticut quickly rebounded to find their rhythm and apply offensive pressure.

UConn's ability to gain possession of the ball after Seton Hall's attempts was consistent throughout the game. They also were proficient in creating great breakaways. In the 79th minute, Okafor was the one to take advantage and capitalized on the breakaway by taking a shot, but again, it was off target. Things worsened for the Pirates when in the 83rd minute, Seton Hall player Brina Micheels received a yellow card.

While the game was slipping away for Seton Hall, UConn was still looking to bury the Pirates and increase their lead. In the 85th minute, UConn's Naia Ocio had an open net but slipped

and her shot was off target. As the clock wound down to 90, Seton Hall continued to push the UConn defense in their effort to preserve the lead. In the closing minutes, UConn's goalkeeper Kaitlyn Mahoney had to come out of her area to save a shot and avoid a late-game equalizer. The Connecticut defense prevailed at the end and UConn earned a crucial three points that secured their postseason campaign.

With this win, the Huskies became the fifth team to secure a berth in the post-season tournament. While they have their bye for the last matchday of the season, the possibility of hosting the first round of the conference tournament will be in the hands of the other results on Thursday. The first round of the Big East Tournament is slated to begin on Nov. 3.



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

PHOTO BY SAHANA GANESH, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

AVA'S ANGLE

The 2024 Miracle Mets

by Ava Inesta
SHE/HER/HERS
STAFF WRITER
ava.inesta@uconn.edu

The magic of the New York Mets ran out in the National League Championship Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers. But for fans, this was one of the best series in the books for the Mets. Through the season, there were so many ways that the Mets proved the league wrong, so many characters and so many memorable, cinematic game moments. The Mets have not been competitive in the MLB playoffs since 2015 when they made it all the way to the World Series to face the Kansas City Royals. So this year's postseason runs had all fans from young to old on the edge of their seats.

To start off the season, the Opening Day roster was not notably improved from last season's team who didn't even make the playoffs. All of the moves that David Stearn's new front office made were mostly set for the team in the future, and not exactly to win in 2024. The team signed starting pitchers like Sean Manaea and Luis Severino on low-commitment deals that would have made those types of guys easy to trade at the deadline if the Mets season were not performing to be a potential playoff team. It was set up so that the Mets would not have a sky-rocketed payroll but also have a chance to be competitive. At the time of the trade deadline in mid-July, the Mets seemed like a team who could compete for a Wild Card spot, so they were buyers at the deadline and did exactly that.

The Mets were competing for the last Wild Card spots until the very last day of the regular season, they received the sixth and final bid of the 2024 MLB postseason after a doubleheader split with the Atlanta Braves. Starting the season with a 0-5 record lead to an excruciating first two months for the Mets. They were 11 games under .500 at the end of May and quickly became the team that ended up as the winningest team from the start of June. A little bit of sports magic is what the Mets considered their turnaround to be credited to. June 12th was the day that the well-known McDonalds purple mascot Grimace threw out the first pitch at Citi Field. From that day on, the Mets just kept winning--for months, all the way to October. All of this started making sense for the Mets and everything started to piece together game after game. Francisco Lindor was the MVP of the Mets, the guy that everyone looked at to take the Mets to new and winning heights. The younger guys on the team like Mark Vientos and Francisco Alvarez found their sparks as major league players and continued to make an impact on the field. The offseason moves for the starting pitching were effective and the bullpen carried their weight, even if it wasn't always easy.

The whole idea of some things that are supposed to happen, actually happen and some things that aren't meant to be, aren't kind of explains this year's Mets' team. But that's how baseball is--some teams who maybe shouldn't be in playoff position, have every single thing go right for them and suddenly they are the best team, some teams who deserve a spot in the playoffs get unlucky. Another one of the Mets' team staples was the saying "OMG." This came from the Mets' second basemen, Jose Iglesias who released a single called "Candelita" during the season. The single became a sensation on Latin music charts and practically the Mets' new theme song. The song would play after every home run that the Mets hit at Citi Field and the players would run through the dugout to take a photo with the infamous 'OMG' sign every time. In late June, after the Mets' win over the Houston Astros, Iglesias performed the song live in front of all Mets fans at Citi Field and the whole team was there to sing along. That's when the Mets truly saw their team chemistry come to life and build the team camaraderie that carried them into postseason play.

As the month of September went on, the Mets became a team that everyone just had to start accepting were good and a contending team because of the ways that they were winning games. They were winning in increasingly wild and uncanny ways by repeating various extremities and heroic plays that you feel are only in the movies. The magic of this team was felt by Mets fans and the entire league. Then, Mets' first baseman, Pete Alonso brought in the 'playoff pumpkin' that traveled with the team from their games in Atlanta, Milwaukee, Philly and Los Angeles. It was just another one of the Mets' lucky charms that continued to grow their postseason magic. Speaking of Alonso, he became the guy that the Mets had imagined him to be since he was a prospect in the Mets' farm systems. Being the guy to step up to the plate and launch homers to keep New York winning and advancing in the playoffs was another one of the main factors that kept the team alive.

Unfortunately for the Mets, their magic ran out in Los Angeles against the Dodgers in the NLCS, but they did not go down without a fight. No one would have thought that the New York Mets, who had a disappointing 22-33 record on May 29th after a loss to the Los Angeles Dodgers at home, would make it all the way to Game 6 of the NCLS. It took every ounce of the team's energy to make it to the playoffs, winning a game in a double header on the last game of the season on the road against their division rival of the Braves, to the magic of every single postseason game, all the way until the last pitch.

The New York Mets will be back.



FILE LOGO



Sports

Roundtable:

Best individual postseason performance in any major sport

Whether it is Madison Bumgarner's 2014 postseason pitching performance or the fact that more people have walked on the moon than scored on Mariano Rivera in the postseason, there have been some unreal playoff performances in recent memory. However, this need not be limited to baseball. Don't sleep on Joe Flacco in the 2012 playoffs, where he put on a truly elite performance for the Baltimore Ravens on their way to their 34-31 Super Bowl win over the 49ers. In this week's roundtable, our group of writers will discuss what they believe is the best individual performance in postseason history for all the major sports.

MADISON BUMGARNER'S 2014 POSTSEASON

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

When thinking of the best playoff performances in sports history, my brain kept returning to Giants pitcher Madison Bumgarner. The southpaw's performance for San Francisco in their 2014 run was so special that there's a chance we will never see it done again. Not only did Bumgarner complete a five-inning save in game seven of the World Series, but he also came in despite throwing a 117-pitch shutout two games before. He also still owns the record for most innings pitched in a single postseason, with 52.2, demonstrating the lost art of pitcher durability. In that World Series against Kansas City, he threw an absurd 21 innings, allowing just one run in that span. Bumgarner also owned an ERA of around 1.00 that postseason. Rightfully so, "Mad Bum" was crowned World Series MVP, as he put that Giants team on his back and put on the greatest performance in playoff history. It is a once in a lifetime performance no pitcher has come close to since, and I don't see it ever being done again.

HAKEEM OLAJUWON'S 1994 POSTSEASON

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

If the internet was as prominent in the '90s as it is today, people would talk about Hakeem Olajuwon's run how fans talk about LeBron James in 2018. "The Dream" took home MVP and DPOY honors in 1994, a feat only five players in NBA history have achieved in the same season. The storybook season did not stop there Olajuwon lead all players in PPG (28.9), total blocks (92) and total field goals made (267) during the postseason. His Rockets won a thrilling seven game series against the Knicks in the 1994 NBA Finals with Olajuwon taking home Finals MVP after averaging 26.9 points and 9.1 rebounds. In the win or go home game seven, Olajuwon scored 25, grabbed 10 boards and even dished out seven assists in the victory. Mind you, this is before the Rockets acquired Clyde Drexler in 1995, so Olajuwon completed NBA's triple crown with Vernon Maxwell as his second option.

KEMBA WALKER LEADING UCONN TO 2011 NATIONAL

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

From Manhattan to Houston, All-American guard Kemba Walker took the college basketball world by storm in the 11 games the UConn men's basketball team played in the postseason. The 2011 Final Four Most Outstanding Player led the Huskies in scoring in 11 games, averaging 24.6 points per game. His most impressive performance came in the semifinal round of the Big East Tournament, where Walker had 33 points, 12 rebounds, five assists and six steals while shooting 50% from the floor. Without that, the legendary five wins in five days at the Big East Tournament would not have happened, as Connecticut sneaked past Syracuse in overtime. Walker averaged five assists per contest and had as many as 12 in the team's NCAA first-round rout over Bucknell. He played nearly the entire game in every one of the 11 games, averaging 38 minutes per game. Walker was unbelievable during the 2010-11 season, but his run in the postseason remains one of the most legendary performances of all time.

ISAIAH THOMAS 2017 NBA PLAYOFF GAME VS. THE WIZARDS

by Jake Loomis
 HE/HIM/HIS
 CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
 jd123004@uconn.edu

The best postseason performance ever was not a series specifically, rather a game. In the 2017 NBA playoffs, a game was played that had more meaning to this player than any other game ever. This is due to the fact that before the game, Celtics Guard Isaiah Thomas lost his sister, Chyna Thomas, just a day prior to a car crash. However, Thomas played even though he was grieving, and led the Celtics to a win over the Wizards. Thomas dropped 52 points in this game, with 29 of them coming in the fourth quarter. This game truly solidified his nickname in Boston as the King of the 4th Quarter. He also had four rebounds and four assists to go along with three steals. This will go down as one of the most memorable games in playoffs history and a game that die hard Boston fans will remember forever.