



UConn Ski Team raising money to compete in national competition



University of Connecticut's Ski Team hits the slopes. The team is looking to raise \$10,000 to go to the U.S. Collegiate Ski Association championships. PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN SKI TEAM

by Patrick Boots
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Students on the University of Connecticut Alpine Ski team are asking for support as they prepare to hit the national slopes. Part of UConn's club sports teams, the men's and women's ski teams hope to raise the money to go to the U.S. Collegiate Ski Association championships in Mount Bachelor, Oregon.

The team is looking to raise \$10,000 in order to make it there.

"While UConn provides some support, it won't fully cover the costs — especially with Nationals being across the country this year," the ski teams wrote through GoFundMe.

The group wrote that the UConn teams placed impressively this year, with the women's team securing 3rd place overall and the men's at 4th place in their respective standings in alpine skiing as part of the Eastern Collegiate Ski Conference. The teams' success in competition based around the Northeast gained them eligibility for the national contest, but at a price the clubs cannot currently afford.

"This is an incredible opportunity, but it also comes with significant costs. Each athlete

must cover a \$540 entry fee, plus expenses for flights, lodging, food and transportation," said Kenna McCaughey, the captain of the women's ski team and trip co-organizer.

According to the group's webpage, the UConn ski teams have qualified for the national competition every year since 2015. In those previous years, fundraising efforts by the clubs have resulted in them being able to compete atop mountain peaks in Wyoming, Oregon, California and upstate New York. During the season, UConn competes in the "McConnell Division" of the Eastern Collegiate Ski Conference, a division the team says is known for qualifying for the national championships.

The teams' performance in the Eastern regional championship, held recently at Sugarloaf Mountain in Maine, brought multiple accomplishments for team members in the top 20 places according to the team's record — and the men's team won the 2025 Giant Slalom title. Those competitions also came at a cost per athlete.

The UConn Ski Teams also fundraise externally through an independent nonprofit organization, which also helps organize events for teammates and alumni.

Club sports teams have struggled with funding in the

past. The Daily Campus reported on funding struggles the UConn Climbing Team and other club sports face because they aren't yet sponsored by the Recreation Department. Although men's and women's skiing are each listed as one of the 36 club sports teams that are sponsored, the funding structure for each of their five tiers tops out at \$8,500 in initial funding — and with stipulations regarding the money's usage.

Club sports teams seeking additional funding are encouraged to request from the Undergraduate Student Government's budget for Tier II organizations, which may afford the team an additional \$15,000 allocation per year, if USG has the money to spare.

"Our friends, family and alumni have been very generous to us and we are so grateful for your past support," McCaughey said. "We are hoping that you will once again consider donating to help offset our out-of-pocket expenses needed to compete this year at nationals."

Those who are able to support the fundraiser can do so on GoFundMe at gofundme.com/f/support-the-uconn-ski-teams-road-to-nationals. More information about the UConn club skiing teams can be found at skiing.rso.uconn.edu.

UConn becomes first in the state to install Plan B in vending machines

by Sonia Ahmed
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In January, UConn Student Health and Wellness (SHaW) installed a vending machine in the Student Union containing over-the-counter medications including emergency contraceptives.

The machine also features items like pregnancy tests, urinary tract medications and diarrhea supplements.

"The list of items to stock was based primarily on SHaW data about medicines most recommended by our providers and most purchased by students," said Peter Davis Smith, the medical director at SHaW. "We are actively soliciting and reviewing feedback and are open to adjusting the offerings."

Some planned items, such as toothbrushes, ear plugs and generic chewable Pepto Bismol, weren't included as they could not fit in the machine, according to Smith.

The vending machine was installed after a new bill, Connecticut Public Act 23-

52, was passed on Jan. 1. The bill permits businesses to sell over-the-counter medications in vending machines as long as they obtain permits from the state.

The bill also allows pharmacists to prescribe over-the-counter medications, such as emergency contraceptives. UConn's School of Pharmacy used this bill to develop a training program for pharmacists to prescribe emergency contraceptives and other forms of birth control, according to a press release. Pharmacists interested in registering for the four-hour training can visit the UConn School of Pharmacy website.

Other universities, such as the University of North Carolina and the University of Rhode Island, have installed such vending machines on campus and have been successful, according to Smith. Previous successes were a contributing factor in the decision to install the machine, said Smith.

Additionally, UConn's Undergraduate Student Government has partnered with

SHaW to make Plan B free for all students. To claim a free Plan B, students must present their UConn ID at the SHaW pharmacy.

USG and SHaW also provide other safe sex resources for students, such as a gloveBOX that includes condoms, lubrication and other items, according to USG's Instagram. The gloveBOX is free for students and can be delivered to their dorm address, or Wilson Hall in South Campus if they live off campus. To sign up for the gloveBOX, students can visit the SHaW website.

The vending machine was a "response to student request and advocacy," according to Smith, and was installed to increase student access to over-the-counter medications.

If the Student Union vending machine is successful, Smith said that SHaW is open to installing more in locations that "have equal or greater hours of access to students."

For more information, students can contact SHaW at studenthealth@uconn.edu or (860) 486-4700.



The new vending machine installed by SHaW in the Student Union outside the One Card Office. Students are able to purchase over-the-counter medications using Husky Bucks.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SONIA AHMED, CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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WEATHER ANALYSTS ARE DIVIDED OVER THE POLAR VORTEX'S INFLUENCE ON WEATHER AND WHAT THAT MEANS FOR THE REST OF THIS YEAR'S WINTER.

by **Kevin Guinan**
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The polar vortex is an area of low pressure and cold air that encircles both the Earth's polar regions, according to the National Weather Service. The Arctic polar vortex and its proximity to North America are gaining media attention for causing recent frigid temperatures in the United States. However, the scientific consensus is less certain than the media may lead one to believe.

Strong westerly winds banded together in the stratosphere of the North Pole are what make up the Arctic polar vortex, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The winds are called a vortex because they trap cold air by surrounding the North Pole with winds blowing in a circular motion. The way the vortex captures the cold is similar to a person cleaning a swimming pool by creating a whirlpool to cluster dirt in the center. If a vortex is strong, then cold weather is better contained, just like faster whirlpools collect more dirt.

Outlets like The Washington Post and The Boston Globe have both reported that recent cold weather dumping snow and ice all over the country could be partially linked to a weaker polar vortex stretching where cold air is contained. The Post clarifies the connection by citing previous records being broken in South Dakota this month for coldest temperatures.

A meteorologist working with The Washington Post, Ben Noll, attributed only the irregularity in South Dakota's weather to the vortex.

"This spot has been colder, relative to average, than any other place on the planet, due in large part to its proximity to this year's polar vortex," Noll said, specifying how the displacement of the vortex influenced South Dakota's weather pattern. This differs from other coverage of polar vortices which generalize some large cold spells as solely caused by a split in the vortex.

The New York Times published an article asserting the polar vor-

tex's responsibility.

"What's responsible for the sudden wind chill?" Austyn Gaffney, author of the article, proposed to the audience; a question she answered by saying the reason is "the polar vortex".

Why is it a problem to assume the polar vortex is responsible for the United States being an outlier of chilly weather in a warming world?

One explanation comes from atmospheric scientists Amy Butler and Laura Ciasto in NOAA's Polar Vortex Blog. The experts point to discrepancies over methods of scientific measurement as an underlying issue with the assumptions being made in media coverage.

"Scientists have not agreed on a common method for measuring this "extension," which makes it hard to say on the fly whether the vortex really was more stretched than normal this winter," the blog said.

Butler and Ciasto's blog shows how the speed at which news operates sometimes contradicts the speed of scientific study. Misconceptions about polar vortices appear when they are mischaracterized as winter storms despite them being natural parts of Earth's circulation, according to research meteorologist Brian McNoldy in an interview with News@TheU.

Butler and Ciasto in their blog assert that there is a lack of understanding about the research used in reports of the vortex.

"The idea of the polar vortex influencing weather patterns through stretching is relatively new, and the mechanics by which it might occur are less understood," the blog said.

Amidst the confusion about the accuracy of reports on the Arctic polar vortex is another prediction. Seasonal forecast director Judah Cohen saw another stretch of the vortex in computer forecast models that could bring more cold weather around March 5, according to AP news. However, current AccuWeather forecasts for Connecticut contradict this prediction and show warmer temperatures persisting through next week.

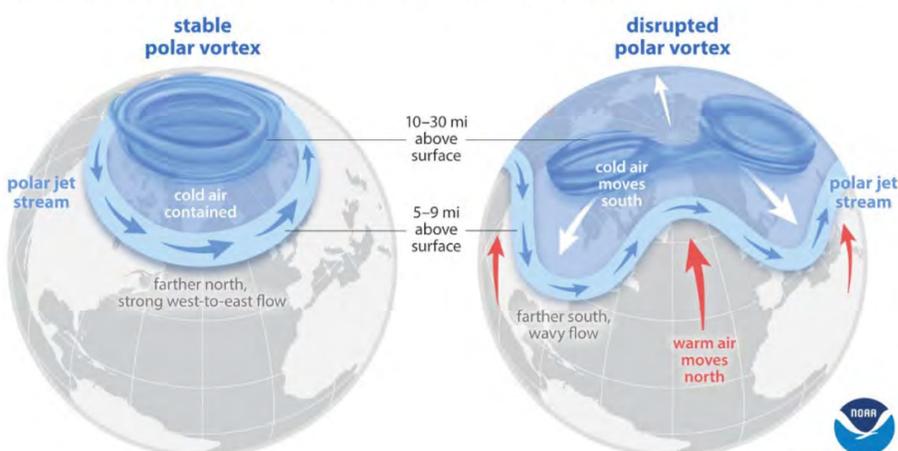


Understanding the polar vortex

The Arctic polar vortex is a strong band of winds in the stratosphere, surrounding the North Pole 10–30 miles above the surface.

The polar vortex is far above and typically does not interact with the polar jet stream, the flow of winds in the troposphere 5–9 miles above the surface. But when the polar vortex is especially strong and stable, the jet stream stays farther north and has fewer "kinks." This keeps cold air contained over the Arctic and the mid-latitudes warmer than usual.

Every other year or so, the Arctic polar vortex dramatically weakens. The vortex can be pushed off the pole or split into two. Sometimes the polar jet stream mirrors this stratospheric upheaval, becoming weaker or wavy. At the surface, cold air is pushed southward to the mid-latitudes, and warm air is drawn up into the Arctic.



NOAA Climate.gov
2021

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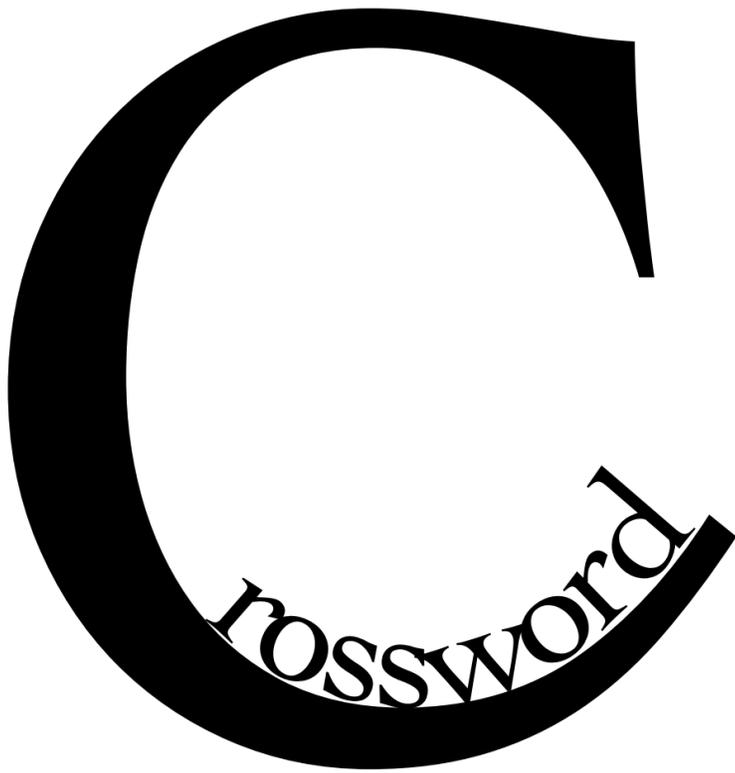
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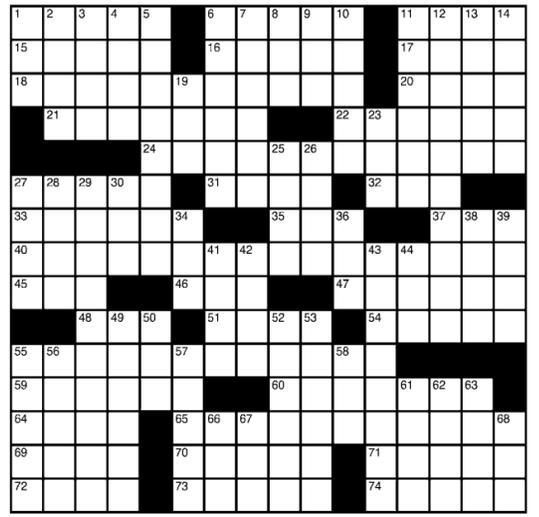
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The Daily Campus



- ACROSS**
- 1 Worthless stuff
 - 6 Eyewear, informally
 - 11 Sacred Egyptian bird
 - 15 Zing
 - 16 Prepare to start a hole
 - 17 Slam ___
 - 18 *Chimp aboard a rocket, say
 - 20 Luxury hotel chain
 - 21 Pink pencil parts
 - 22 Beat on eBay
 - 24 *Entertainment systems sold with controllers
 - 27 Calico's outdoor enclosure
 - 31 Walk of Fame symbol
 - 32 Furrow maker
 - 33 Nuts in a chipmunk's hoard
 - 35 TV hosts
 - 37 Flock sound
 - 40 *Storage area in a dashboard
 - 45 Hearty laugh
 - 46 Goose Island brew, for short
 - 47 Put on the right track
 - 48 "The Addams Family" cousin
 - 51 "Tell Mama" singer James
 - 54 Analyze for purity
 - 55 *Garage employee
 - 59 Attack vigorously
 - 60 Ancient musicians
 - 64 Dutch painter Frans
 - 65 Kinks hit about the local palais, and what can be found in the answers to the starred clues?
 - 69 Awards acronym
 - 70 Chess grand master Krush
 - 71 "Later, ___!"
 - 72 Damp at dawn
 - 73 Eccentric
 - 74 Madeleine of "Revenge"
- DOWN**
- 1 Green Day album released between "¡Uno!" and "¡Tré!"
 - 2 Rock climber's line
 - 3 Actor Epps
 - 4 Pet adoption org.
 - 5 Hall & Oates soul ballad
 - 6 Blizzards, e.g.
 - 7 Gift for writing?
 - 8 "Yikes!"
 - 9 Actor's alert
 - 10 Track with malware, say
 - 11 "Same here!"
 - 12 Fuzzy pollinators
 - 13 Concave navel
 - 14 Slides after braking
 - 19 ___ culpa
 - 23 Show to a seat, slangily
 - 25 ___ David
 - 26 Apex predator in the ocean
 - 27 Evasive
 - 28 Free speech advocacy gp.
 - 29 Didn't rush
 - 30 Music producer Gotti
 - 34 Bio or chem
 - 36 Hit show letters
 - 38 "Pushing Daisies" actress Friel
 - 39 Legal dept. staffer



By Doug Peterson

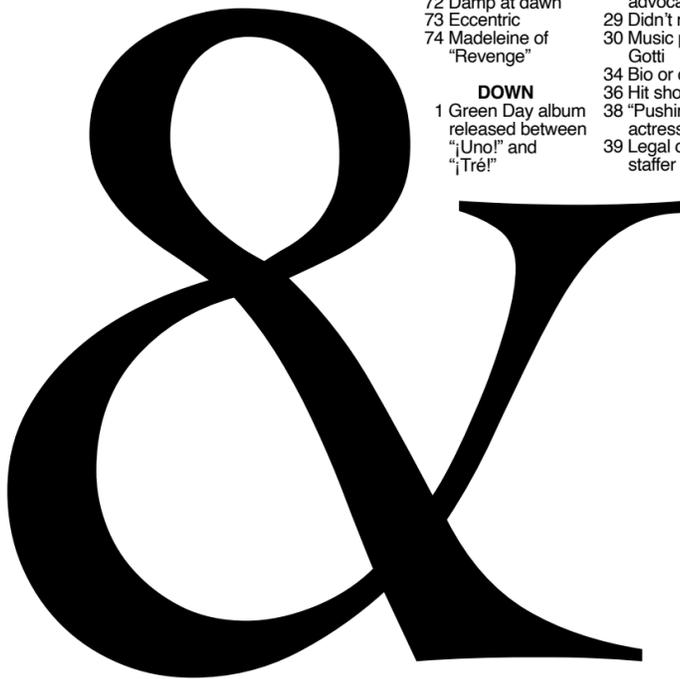
2/27/25

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



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- 41 Intl. crude cartel
- 42 SAT section
- 43 Copies made with see-through sheets
- 44 Grafton's "___ for Malice"
- 49 Warm and comfy
- 50 "OMG, no more details!"
- 52 Knack
- 53 Very soon now
- 55 Oohed and ___
- 56 Water bill statistic
- 57 Spanish folk hero
- 58 NPR host Flatow
- 61 "Beat it!"
- 62 Bandleader Puente
- 63 Imitation flakes in a clear globe
- 66 Guadalajara gold
- 67 Univ. near Harvard
- 68 Univ. senior's test



Level **1** 2 3 4

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

Solution to Wednesday's puzzle

2/27/25

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

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



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Show Scanner: Where to catch live music 2/28-3/1

by Dan Stark

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February is flying by, Huskies! The shortest month of the year lived up to its reputation, going by in a blur. But the snow is melting on campus, March is here and spring is on the way, bringing an end to seasonal depression and ushering in warm weather and good vibes. So why not start the party early and dance the night away at a show this weekend? That sounds like a good plan to me. If you're celebrating the melting snow and the upcoming season, here's the best spots to catch live music in Storrs and

across Connecticut.

Friday 2/28: The Dog Pound "Sailboat EP Release Show" — Storrs

We're starting the weekend on a high note with this absolutely stacked show at The Dog Pound right here in Storrs on Friday, Feb. 28. The night will serve as a release show for Sailboat, the Connecticut-based screamo band who is releasing their debut extended play that night. The group highlights a mammoth six-band bill that's a dream lineup for those who like tearing it up in the mosh pit. Joining Sailboat in the lineup are Jury, Remedies, Solace in Bloom, Teen Dating Violence and My Body Was Found

in a Hollow Tree. It's one of the most aggressive lineups that's come together in Storrs in recent memory, so get ready to get heavy. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., music starts at 7:30 p.m. and admission is \$10. No parking is available on site. For the address, message @thedogpound on Instagram.

Friday 2/28: South Whitney Pizza — Hartford

There's nothing like catching a show at a pizza place, especially when that spot is South Whitney Pizza in Hartford, who's got a dynamite four-band lineup taking the stage on Friday, Feb. 28. Highlighting the bill is Second Opinion, a grunge and alterna-

tive rock-tinged group who has made regular appearances in Storrs. Also on the bill is iDani, an experimental progressive rock-inspired group who will be making their debut show. Rounding up the lineup are Where's the Caveman and Foundations of Wednesday. Doors open at 7 p.m., music starts at 8 p.m. and there is a \$10 suggested donation. All ages are welcome to attend, though attendees must be 21 or older to drink.

Saturday 3/1: The Dog Pound "Shredfest" — Storrs

If you're in Storrs and survive the mosh pit on Friday night, then drink some Gatorade and get ready for "Shred-

fest" at The Dog Pound on Saturday, March 1. The night is a Warped Tour-inspired night of skate-punk and pop punk vibes, with a four-band lineup of emo, hardcore and punk bands ready to shred the night away. The lineup features Suburban Surf Club, Pull The Curtain, Sunday Morning and South of One. Every band will be making their Storrs debut, making this a great show to check out some new bands without having to leave campus. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., music starts at 7:30 p.m. and admission is \$7. No parking is available on site. For the address, message @thedogpound on Instagram.



Bands "Overloded" and "Don't Go Outside" performing for the UConn Moon Club on Friday, Sept. 26, 2024. The Moon Club hosts meetings on the first Friday after every full moon. PHOTO BY MICHAEL FRANOVIC, PHOTO PRODUCER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

UConn professor previews book project on the relationship between disease and capitalism

by Samantha Brody

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A talk on sugar consumption, its relationship with capitalism and changes in human biology was held by the University of Connecticut Humanities Institute on Feb. 26. Located in the Homer Babbidge Library, the fellow's talk was given by César Abadia-Barrero as he previewed his next book project.

Abadia-Barrero is an associate professor of anthropology and human rights at UConn with interests in activism and capitalism. His talk, "Sweetness and Disease: How Capitalist Sugary Industries Have Destroyed Human Biology," focused on the first chapter of his current book project.

Before beginning his talk, Abadia-Barrero thanked various members of his audience for attending, including colleagues and students. He also noted that some of the students in the room had assisted with his research for the project.

Abadia-Barrero drew inspiration from the book "Sweetness and Power" by Sidney Mintz to explain the history of sugar before moving on to a discussion about humanity's increase in sugar consumption.

"What has happened over the course of history?" Abadia-Barrero asked, switching to a slide depicting a graph that displayed this rapid increase. "What happened to human biology, when we changed our patterns of consumption?"

Abadia-Barrero then moved on to discuss how capitalism has contributed to this meteoric rise. He discussed The Coca-

Cola Company and Nestlé, as well as ad campaigns run by Coca-Cola to decrease worry about sugar in American diets.

"They flipped the public health narrative on its head, to say sugar is actually beneficial for you, because it's a source of energy," Abadia-Barrero said.

Abadia-Barrero also touched on the human body's method of processing sugar through enterocytes, which he called "the protagonists." He then moved on to discuss obesity and diabetes, linking them to ultra-processed foods, as well as explaining how the body processes insulin specifically. Human cells use

insulin to make adenosine-triphosphate, also known as ATP, which acts as the body's main source of energy.

"Without ATP, without glucose, we cannot survive," he said. "Now imagine, if over the course of around 50 years that we've had ultra processed foods, this mechanism is altered."

Abadia-Barrero clicked to the next slide, featuring a long list of conditions. Cardiovascular disease, hypertension, various kinds of cancer, dementia, depression, Crohn's disease — all of which are linked to obesity, Abadia-Barrero explained.

"We know that there is a

relationship between higher disease and higher profits," Abadia-Barrero said, before adding his own observations. "Higher profits are creating diseases. Can we demonstrate that capitalists have harmed human bodies?"

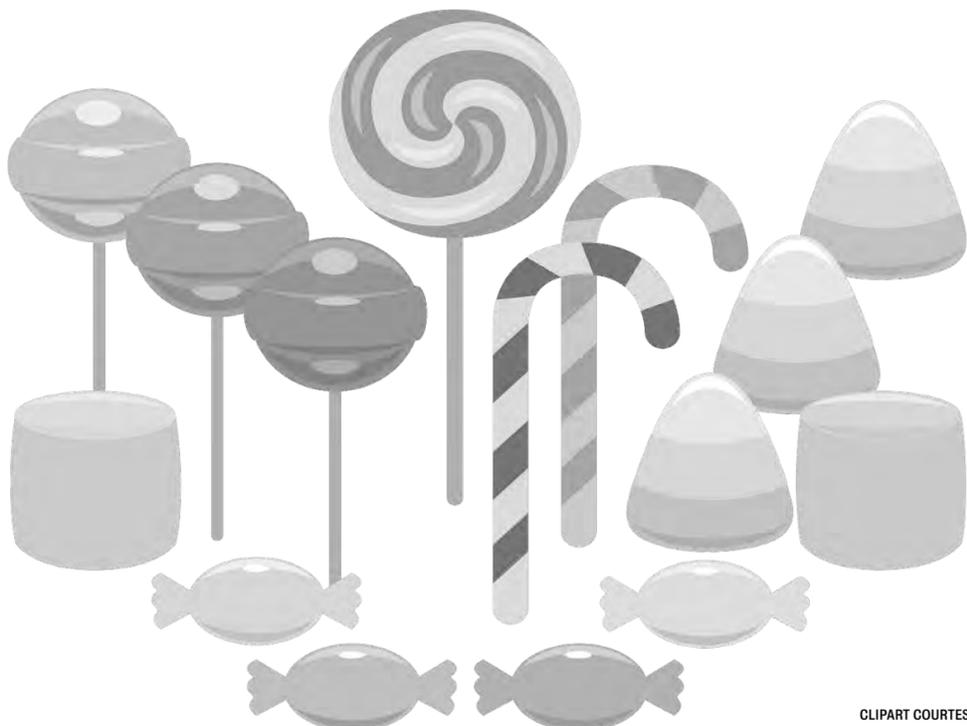
In the final section of his presentation, Abadia-Barrero detailed his current plan for the layout of his book. He plans to discuss the food industry, plastics and the war machine and outlined chapters related to topics of addiction, trauma and depression.

The event then transitioned to a brief speech by 2024-25 Draper Dissertation Fellow

Yusuf Mansoor, who praised Abadia-Barrero's ability to explain the topic in a way that was easy for him to understand despite it not being his area of expertise.

Abadia-Barrero then had the opportunity to answer questions related to his work. Questions were related to topics such as capitalism, biology and human nature. One of his last questions was related specifically to billionaires and their addiction to profit.

"Capitalism is incompatible with human rights," Abadia-Barrero said. "Under this argumentation, it is incompatible."



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SHOW DOWN: THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE, AND IT MIGHT BE AN 'INSIDE JOB'

by **Noa Climor**

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Birds aren't real, the earth is flat and I am actually Jonathan the Husky ... is what I would say if we were in the "Inside Job" universe. Got you good, huh? No? Well, okay.

Anyway, hello again, friends! Welcome back to Show Down, the column where I break down a show and walk you through whether I think it will get canceled or if there's hope for another season. This week, we will discuss a show that is unfortunately already down — and has been for a while: "Inside Job."

After last week's article on "Yellowjackets," I decided on the criteria for whether a show is down or not: premise, cast, promotion and fan reaction. I would like to add one more category: viewership data. More specifically, this is the data Netflix releases when they explain why a show was canceled. But more on this later. Let's get into the show!

As per usual, we are starting with the show's premise. Simply put, conspiracy theories are real. Less simply put, "Inside Job" is an adult animated comedy about a company called Cognito Inc. which controls the United States government and orchestrates every single conspiracy that has ever existed.

From the genius mind of "Gravity Falls" writer Shion Takeuchi, the show is a doozy. There are so many layers of conspiracy theories that some people may have never heard of, which creates the perfect opportunity for an almost never-ending show. I truly felt as though we were just starting to grasp the concept of what could have been if we saw just a little more of the plot unfold, and it's heart-

breaking that we never did.

Lizzy Caplan voices Reagan Ridley, the show's main character. Ridley is a brilliant and socially awkward head roboticist, team leader and conspiracy believer. Christian Slater voices Rand Ridley, Clark Duke voices Brett Hand and they are joined by Tisha Campbell, Andy Daly and Chris Diamantopoulos, along with more incredibly talented actors.

I often find that voice actors aren't acknowledged for their skill, and it's about time people realized that a lot of the reasons they love these characters so much is because of the talent and dedication of the voice actors. The cast is marvelous and gives the characters life in so many ways.

Now, what about promotion? I had to dig into Netflix's social media accounts to find things, since the last time we got any content was in 2022, but there is an Instagram account for the show that is still up — although nothing is posted anymore — and there was an "ask me anything" on Reddit by Takeuchi prior to part two coming out. She discussed working on "Gravity Falls" and being friends with its creator, Alex Hirsch, who was a co-executive producer for "Inside Job" alongside Takeuchi and Mike Hollingsworth.

There were, of course, interviews with Takeuchi where the show is discussed, as well as the concept and ideas behind it. In an interview with the Los Angeles Times, Takeuchi said, "Every conspiracy theory is only worth exploring [on the show] if you can find a relatable conflict that a character could go through in relation to that setting or to that concept."

So "you have to generate tons of ideas about character stories,

interpersonal stories, and then tons of ideas about concepts or conspiracy theories that would be a good umbrella for them. Then you kind of throw them against the wall to see [whether] these things feel like they fit together thematically," Takeuchi elaborated. This makes sense when you consider just how many conspiracy theories exist.

There were some cast interviews, many Instagram posts and a few videos that I could find. What I was able to look into was the amount of reaction from fans. Most of the show's promotion and the discussion around it came from the fandom it gained over the years. When I looked "Inside Job" up, the first thing that came up was a Reddit thread theorizing why it was canceled, and doing an in-depth analysis of the numbers made my head spin.

Fans still comment on the show's Instagram account, and I have seen fan art and discussions floating around. I can relate to these fans since I too wish for the show to have another season. Speaking of: why did that not happen?

When a show is canceled by streaming services, the main reason is that viewership rates are not high enough.

What happened to "Inside Job" was rather brutal, as it wasn't necessarily canceled in the traditional sense; rather, it was un-renewed. The show did receive a green light for a second season in June 2022, and Takeuchi announced that it was canceled on Jan. 8, 2023.

In the tweet, Takeuchi doesn't explain why the show was canceled but she does speak about the characters and thanks fans for watching.

Hirsch also tweeted to show support and said that "Shion had an awesome ending in store



ILLUSTRATION BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

for these characters. I'm so sorry that she won't get the chance to share it. Grateful to have had the chance to help on [sic.] one of my best friends shows, for however briefly."

In this Netflix Engagement Report from 2023, the year of the show's cancellation, it was reported that part one of "Inside Job" had 21,500,000 hours watched on the platform. Part two had 17,400,000 hours watched, with part one airing on Oct. 22, 2021, and part two airing on Nov. 18, 2022. There was a drop in viewership, but it doesn't seem that large in the grand scheme of things.

There were 10 episodes in part one, signifying 2,150,000 hours streamed per episode. The math

is not exact, as I am unsure exactly how this is gathered and what the true division is, but 2,175,000 hours were streamed per episode of part two, which had eight episodes.

The math does not necessarily add up, and it seems like the numbers are not telling us the whole story. Maybe the show was outranked by others on the Top 10 chart and maybe the streaming platform wanted to test out a new show with a fresh batch of viewers. The truth is currently unknown.

What I can tell you is that even though the second season was canceled and there is no renewal in sight, "Inside Job" is a show worth watching.

'TOXIC TOWN': A POWERFUL LOOK AT THE HUMAN IMPACT OF HAZARDOUS WASTE

by **Nick Sorokobi**

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"Toxic Town," a new four-episode TV series starring actress Jodie Whittaker, made its premiere on the streaming platform Netflix this Thursday, Feb. 27 and has received mostly positive reviews from the press so far.

Directed by Jack Thorne, "Toxic Town" is inspired by the infamous Corby toxic waste case, a landmark court case that postdated a years-long campaign led by a group of mothers from Corby, England, whose children were born with severe birth defects as a result of dangerous toxins that were being emitted from the site of a former British Steel plant in the town.

In 2009, a judge from The High Court of Justice ultimately found the Corby Borough Council to be liable for negligence, public nuisance and a breach of statutory duty for their handling of the situation. The case, which impacted both Great Britain and the rest of the world, was historically significant as it is considered the first law in the world to establish a

link between atmospheric toxic waste and birth defects.

Whittaker (of the Doctor Who fame) plays Susan McIntyre, a mom with a young son, Connor, who is born with a deformed hand as a result of her baby absorbing the airborne toxins in utero. In episode one, we see Susan delivering Connor in a hospital room alongside another mother whose baby is also born with a birth defect. As more and more infants enter the world with congenital abnormalities, ranging from clubbed feet to missing fingers, McIntyre begins to suspect that something is seriously amiss. A journalist subsequently reaches out to McIntyre and breaks the news to a major British newspaper, igniting the flame in a series of crucial events that are depicted throughout the rest of the show.

In a 1999 Sunday Times article, residents described the town as having "muddy lagoons that smelled 'like a hospital ward' and children playing by large pools of liquid that fizzed when stones were thrown into them."

Many of the people who were left impacted by the toxic waste were former steel work-

ers working to decontaminate the site. Many had been left unemployed after the steel industry receded, yet didn't have any experience in toxic waste removal. Toxic material ended up sticking to the wheels of the vehicles that were transporting it, and the wheel-washing that was cleaning the tires was making the situation worse.

Watching Toxic Town, you can't help but think about the mother's anguish and frustration at such a dreadful situation; their children are disfigured, their lives turned upside-down by something so easily preventable. Much like the 2000 Academy Award-winning film "Erin Brockovich," Susan McIntyre stands out as the main protagonist in the shows as a crusader for human health and environmental safety (the case has been dubbed "the British Erin Brockovich" by several media outlets).

Overall, "Toxic Town" is an intriguing, powerful and at times emotional look at a group of ordinary people who became extraordinary fighters for environmental stability, happiness and most importantly the right to live a healthy and safe life.

4.5 STARS



Life

@dailycampuslife

Life Roundtable!

WHAT IS THE BEST AND WORST FROZEN FOOD?

From Kid Cuisine to Swanson's and beyond, the college student cannot escape the allure of a frozen dinner when the dining halls are shuttered. Yet, there's always something slightly off with a frozen dinner; sometimes the vegetables appear to be made of rubber and other times the Swedish meatballs are better left untouched. That said, when the stars align, a frozen dinner can't be beaten, so let's hear from the Life section all about everything frozen never fresh!

by **Nick Sorokobi** | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS

For me personally, frozen foods have been a comfort snack for much of my childhood and in my adult life as well; I personally think Swanson's is overrated, and it's also WAY before my generation (my grandparents eat it every time they watch the evening news broadcast from their living room). I don't think anyone would actually want to sit down and enjoy a cheap piece of Salisbury steak with a side of cube-shaped carrots and watery mashed potatoes.

Instead, to bring back some nostalgia for us all, I would have to say that Kid Cuisine is my top pick. I mean, we all remember sitting down in the cafeteria in elementary school, opening our lunchboxes, reading a sappy handwritten note from mom, and then picking up and tearing open a cardboard box that inside contained a juicy cheeseburger, crinkle-cut french fries, corn and a side of chocolate pudding with decorative chromatic sprinkles on top.

I ate Kid Cuisine even when I wasn't at school, so this frozen food brand brings back some good memories for me and I'm sure it does for you too.

by **James Fitzpatrick** | ASSOCIATE LIFE EDITOR | HE/HIM/HIS

My favorite frozen food brands include Devour and evol., who make some incredible frozen macaroni and cheese. Devour's dishes are more savory and are typically larger portions than those from evol., but they both get the job done. The target audience is those in a rush or people less culinarily inclined, so some pasta and chipotle or buffalo chicken hits the spot once it's warmed up.

My frozen food experience is unanimously good apart from a few incidents. When I was a young lad, frozen Bird's Eye peas, corn and carrots graced my plate and it graced my toilet undigested soon after. Lean Cuisine, while it spearheads the Kid Cuisine line of meals, has some lackluster Swedish meatballs. The gravy is bitter, the concoction they call a "meatball" is pathetic and the pasta is bland as hell. While I didn't throw it up, it left a poor taste that I still remember today.



CLIPART COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

by **Mikayla Murphy** | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | SHE/HER/HERS

As a former Lean Cuisine enthusiast, that is my favorite frozen food. I will admit that they aren't the greatest taste wise, but I would get them with my grandma every Friday after school, so eating them reminds me of her, and for that reason, they're my favorite. I was a huge fan of the chicken parm and mac and cheese.

Memories aside, in terms of general frozen food, I am also a huge sucker for frozen strawberries and blueberries (really any frozen fruit). They're great to make smoothies with, they go great on ice cream and other desserts and you can eat them straight out of the bag. Frozen fruits are even better if they're the Tru Fru brand with chocolate or peanut butter on them.

In terms of the worst frozen food, I am not a fan of any frozen vegetable. I think they're bland and the texture when they're frozen is not my favorite. It feels chalky and like I'm eating paste sometimes, so I choose to avoid them at all costs. I will also admit that Lean Cuisine dishes aren't the greatest. The food is nothing special and there are definitely better options if you're looking for a frozen meal.

by **Benjamin Lassy** | LIFE EDITOR | HE/HIM/HIS

Now I know that diced potatoes aren't exactly the first thing that comes to mind when you think of frozen food, but hear me out on this. Potatoes require a lot of work to go from whole to washed, peeled and diced. You have to dirty a knife, scratch up a cutting board and muddy up the whole kitchen. Frozen diced potatoes give you the luxury of never having to lift a finger to get that sought-after cube of potato goodness.

You may be asking, why not use diced potatoes from a can? And I've got an easy answer: They come in a nasty brothy substance. Frozen diced potatoes don't have that, they're just pre-diced and shoved in a bag. To cook them, just throw some oil in a pan and add some home fry seasoning, and we're off!

Despite the glory of frozen diced potatoes, there is something dreadful about pre-seasoned vegetables of the frozen variety. Are they pre-seasoned with pepper shavings? Seriously, no amount of butter or added salt and pepper can save these vegetables. They are a black hole of flavors and make me wonder if rubber tires would make a better side dish.



Opinion

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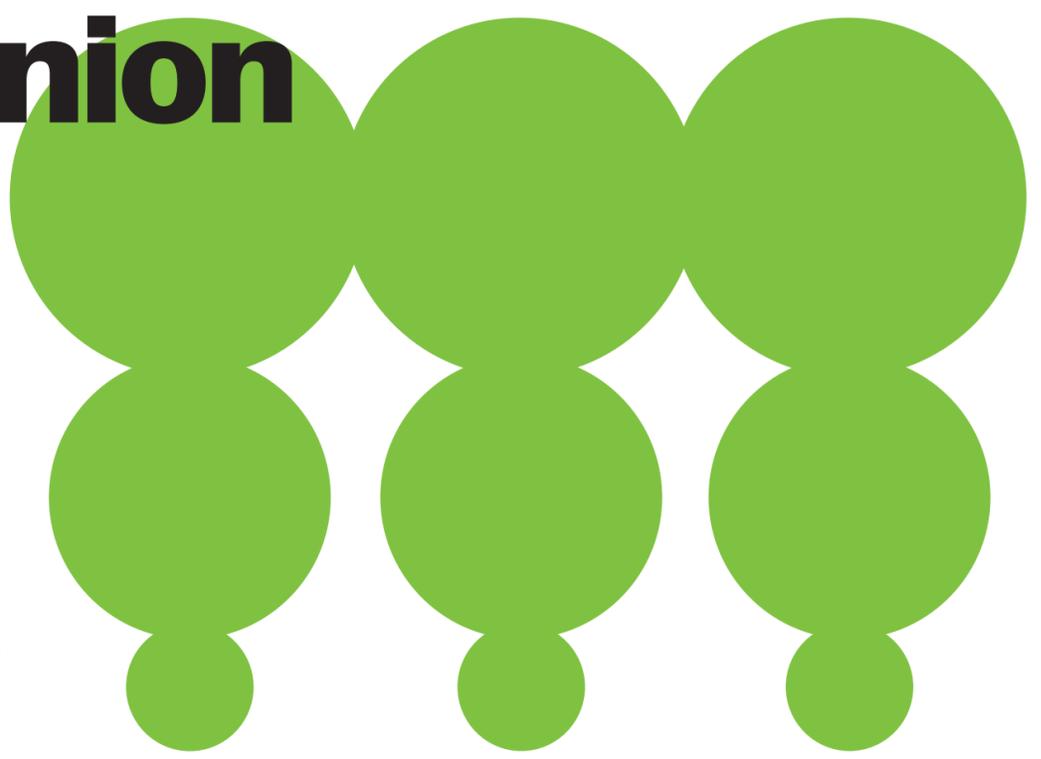
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IF YOU RESELL STUDENT TICKETS, THERE'S SOMETHING MORALLY WRONG WITH YOU

by Tomas Hinckley
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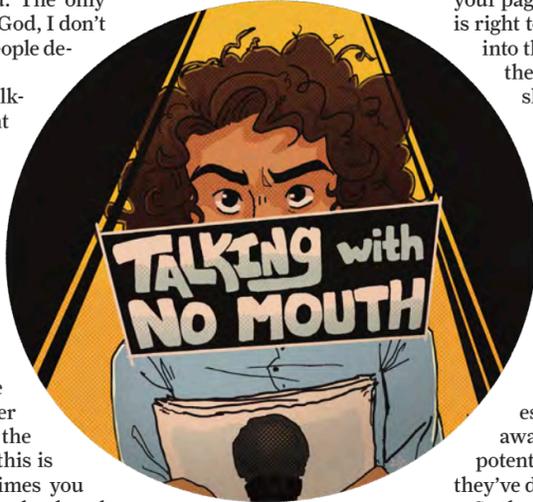
There is nothing that makes this campus go into a frenzy like basketball season, especially those few opportunities we get to see our favorite teams play against great competition here at Gampel Pavillion or the XL Center in Hartford. It's one of the unique privileges of this university that we are able to attend such events almost entirely for free. At other schools across the country student tickets can cost an arm and a leg in comparison. The University of Michigan asks students for \$190 for home game season tickets. Marquette and Seton Hall, two of UConn's Big East foes, want \$150 for the same. In many schools that are more football dominant, such as the University of South Carolina, the University of Washington, Penn State University or Ohio State University, season tickets for those games can frequently cost up to or more than \$200. Now, are these insane prices for multiple high-level Division I games? No, but the fact

that at the University of Connecticut we have eliminated any extra cost barrier to attending most games is good. The only problem? I swear to God, I don't think some of you people deserve it.

I'm specifically talking about student ticket resellers, one of the worst phenomena to hit UConn sports since Caitlin Clark last year in the Final Four. These are people who are price gouging the tickets they received for free and preventing other fans from seeing the team. I believe that this is one of the worst crimes you can commit at this school and I'm tired of how little it is talked about.

To start, I get it: we're all college students and money is a struggle. However, this excuse doesn't really cut it either way when it comes to justifying this act. There are better options than up charging by \$50 or more

to get income and lowering ourselves to that standard is not the solution. For



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

those that don't charge that much, is \$15 really a substantial enough amount to use money issues as an excuse? No.

The thing is that there is no labor put in to get these tickets; it's ultimately a complete matter of luck. I understand that

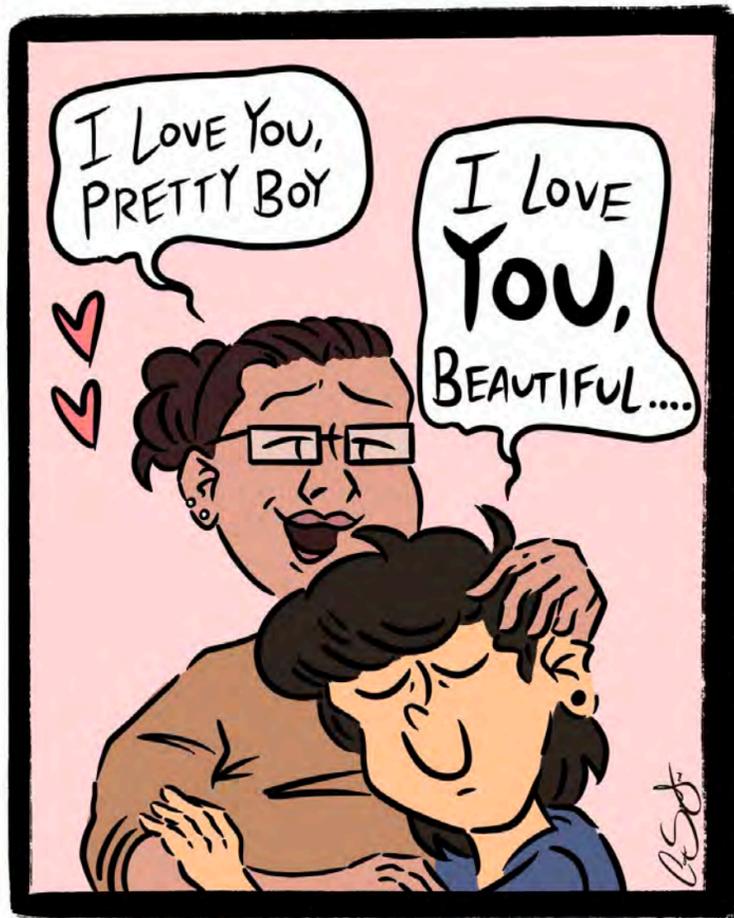
you can do your best to get in the online queue earlier than others and make sure to refresh your page exactly when the time is right to be the first to load up into the queue, but the fact of the matter is that with the sheer number of people attempting to get tickets and the complicating factor of technology, it's ridiculous to chalk this up to a matter of skill or being the most "deserving." As such, there's no good reason to be able to charge for more than you got it. Nobody loses anything from giving away a ticket except the potential for more money that they've done nothing to get.

So then, what should students do if they get a ticket but can't go to a game? Give it away for free. There are always students who are left out of games because they don't get tickets, and depriving them of the experience, especially for those of us who are graduating soon, is frankly very selfish. There is an oppor-

tunity to be kind, to be generous and to help out the community around you, if only we're willing to give up on money which technically isn't even ours.

On a larger scale, it's also worth exploring what UConn could do to erase this issue from its community. UConn athletics claims that tickets are not transferable, but in actuality, every student knows it's incredibly easy to beat the system. There should be more verification when it comes to entering games that requires people to actually have the ticket attached to their name. There needs to be a higher penalty on students who repeatedly buy tickets and don't show up. Alternatively, if we refuse to give up this marketplace for tickets that we've created, UConn should regulate it more and create an official place that can at the very least get rid of scammers.

Overall, I strongly urge all students to consider taking another route when they get a ticket they plan on using. Don't let yourselves fall victim to excess greed or selfishness. Give your tickets away



CONNOR SZREJNA
STAFF ARTIST
HE/HIM/HIS

Opinion

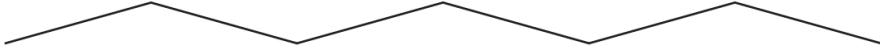
Photo of the Day | Pretty sky :]



The sun sets on a cloudy and wet day, creating a colorful scene over UConn's South Campus dorms in Storrs, Conn. This beautiful event occurred on Thursday Feb. 27, 2025. PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

DUO COMIC

CONNOR LAFFERTY, MANAGING EDITOR


 COLBI LORANGER, ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR



THE DAILY CAMPUS BUILDING BY CONNOR LAFFERTY, MANAGING EDITOR
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BASEBALL: HOOK C GEARS UP FOR DODGER CLASSIC IN LOS ANGELES

by **Avery Becker**
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After notching their first win of the season against Florida Atlantic on Sunday in an extra-innings thriller, the UConn

baseball team (1-5) is set to participate in the Southern California Classic this weekend. The Huskies will take on USC (7-1) on Friday at Great Park in Irvine, Calif. Then, on Saturday and Sunday, they will play UCLA (7-2) and Vanderbilt (8-1) at the Jackie Robinson Stadium in Los Angeles.

In Connecticut's matchup against FAU on Sunday, sophomore Tyler Minick played an integral role for the Huskies after missing the program's opening weekend due to a facial injury.

Against the Owls, the Pennsylvania native racked up a homerun in all three games of their series: one being a three-

run homer last Friday, a grand slam on Saturday and a two-run homer in the eighth inning on Sunday to tie the squads up at three.

Adding this win to their record was imperative for the Hook C squad, who kicked off their season and non-conference schedule with a 0-5 record,

the program's worst since the 2008 season. In addition, with Connecticut starting off their season with five losses, it's the third time that has happened in head coach Jim Penders' 22-year coaching tenure, per the team's website.

In the Huskies' history against the USC Trojans, they hold a record of 3-1. Both programs last met in 2022. Against UCLA, Connecticut notched a 5-2 win, and against the Commodores, the Huskies currently hold an 0-4 record.

In addition to Minick, a tremendous asset for the Huskies in these three games will be second baseman Ryan Daniels. The junior has racked up a batting average total of .440 and led the Huskies to their win over FAU with his two-run go-ahead home run in the tenth inning.

When looking at the Huskies' depth at the mound, UConn's pitchers have started the season allowing 39 walks, with 11 of those resulting in hits in their first six matchups. However, one of the members of the pitching staff, Brady Afthim, has notched five strikeouts, four shutout innings and opponents have been hitting .077 against the Maine native.

First pitch for Friday's game versus USC is scheduled for 9:30 p.m. EST, Saturday's game versus UCLA for 5 p.m. EST and for Sunday's game against Vanderbilt, the first pitch is scheduled for 1 p.m. EST. Husky fans can tune into these three separate matchups on B1G+ or MIXLR.

UConn men's baseball showcased their 23-24 roster with a win against UConn Avery Point at Elliot Ballpark on Sept. 21, 2023. The Huskies took the fall ball win comfortable with a score of 28-6. FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS



TRACK & FIELD: HUSKIES SET TO HEAD TO CHICAGO FOR BIG EAST CHAMPIONSHIPS

by **Brayden Gorski**
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After a dominant season full of school and personal records, it is time for UConn to put it all together in front of the entire conference.

Both the men's and women's track teams will be competing for their fourth consecutive Big East Indoor Track & Field Championship this weekend. Last year's Big East Championship win for the men's team gave them sole possession of most Big East Championships, surpassing Georgetown after they were both tied with 11 each.

Head coach Beth Alford-Sullivan has led the team to the last two championships after legendary coach Greg Roy retired following the 2022 season.

Kasey Savage is a name to watch on the men's side. The senior has tallied the most points out of every competitor at each of the last three Big East Championships. A four-peat could be in play for Savage this weekend, as he will likely compete in all the jumping events. At the 2024 Big East Outdoor Championships, Savage cleared 6-foot-8 on the high jump, a personal best for the Pennsylvania native.

Kyle Johnson is also looking to build off his performance from last year when he earned the Outstanding Field Performer Award. Johnson won the triple jump and placed second in the long jump with a personal best jump of 23 feet-8.5 inches. The Montverde Academy-product is the school record holder in the triple jump.

Connecticut as a team has been killing it on the podium, winning at least seven individual and relay race first places at each of the past three Big East Championships. In 2022, they

set the Big East record with ten first place finishes.

UConn has one competitor looking for a three-peat in an event and another looking for his third win in four years. Long jump school record holder Marc Morrison aims for the three-peat this weekend after jumping over 24 feet at the 2024 championships. Morrison will try to top his career best jump of 25-feet-7 inches in the Windy City.

Terrel Williams is trying to

get back to the top of the podium in the 60-meter hurdles. Williams won the event in 2022 and 2023 but lost to Darius Brown of DePaul last year. Williams is the UConn school record holder in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 7.7 seconds.

On the women's side, A'lyyah Thomas will be competing after earning Outstanding Field Performer at the 2023 Big East Championships. At the 2024 championships, Thomas was the runner-up in long jump and

grabbed a bronze medal in the 60-meter hurdles.

The field events are where the team really strives. Malory Malz returns to defend her pole vault title, an event that has been won by three different Huskies in the past three years. Multi-event specialist Alyssa Elliott will be competing for her second consecutive Pentathlon victory. The Maine native scored 3,817 points at the meet in 2024.

With plenty of talent gradu-

ating in 2024, the women will be neck-and-neck with the 17-time Big East Champion Villanova Wildcats. However, the field event returners along with the new 3000-meter school record holder Jenna Zydanowicz will be there leading the charge to the four-peat.

Having two weeks to prepare for this meet and then a two-week recovery period before the NCAA Nationals, the Huskies will bring their all to Chicago this weekend.



The UConn men's and women's track and field teams had a successful showing at the Northeast Challenge meet at home on April 15, 2023. Both teams finished first overall, with 19 personal records set throughout the weekend. FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sports

TENNIS: HUSKIES PREP FOR THEIR ROAD MATCH AGAINST SOUTH DAKOTA

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The UConn tennis team has been on a roll since the season began. Connecticut is 2-0 against conference opponents and 6-1 overall, with a clean 4-0 record at home. Since Jan. 29, they've been running through the competition, with their only loss coming on Feb. 1 against Army, the second game of the season. Since that loss, it's been

nothing short of dominant, with their latest win being a statement 7-0 home win against Sacred Heart last week. On Friday, they'll be going on the road to face South Dakota, hoping to keep their winning streak alive, which is currently sitting at five.

Against Sacred Heart, the Huskies showed the full splendor of the talent on their roster. Sophomore Isabella Asenov, sophomore Victoria Matos and senior Isabel Petri Bere lead the team in most singles victories, with a 10-6, 11-8 and 11-8 record,

respectively. As for doubles, the doubles team of seniors Maria Constantinou and Olivia Wright has been heads and shoulders above everyone else with a 17-2 record, contributing to almost half of all their doubles wins. They've been a force of a duo since the season began and will be key players to watch in their matchup against South Dakota, and given the track record thus far, it seems they show no signs of slowing down any time soon.

As for South Dakota, they've been underwhelming since the

start of the season, with a current record of 3-5, with their last matchup being a 7-0 shutout loss against Iowa State. They've been struggling to find their footing throughout the month, losing four out of their last five games. Their last win came against Utah State back on Feb. 1, beating them 4-3. All things considered; they will be the underdogs going into their game on Friday.

The Huskies hope to continue with the dominance they've displayed all season against South

Dakota, especially after what happened against Sacred Heart. Even with the close games they've had so far against Fairfield and Georgetown, the Huskies have shown their ability to play under pressure and come out with the win, which will play a hand in how they perform against South Dakota if they show out. It'll be an intriguing game if both teams bring their A-games to the court.



UConn Tennis matches up against Georgetown in Manchester, Conn. on Feb. 16, 2025. The gloomy day didn't stop friends, family, and fans of UConn players from supporting their team.

PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

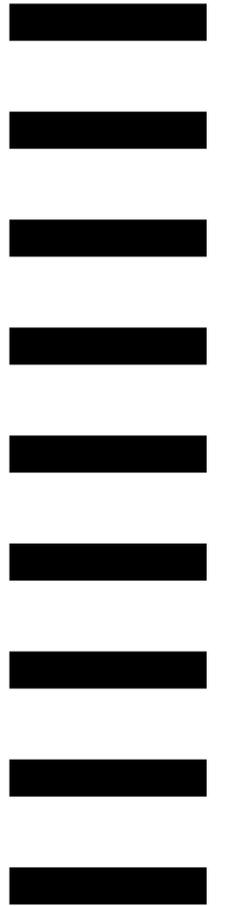


Photo of the Day | Men's basketball



Solo Ball controls the ball as he waits for a play to open up. Ball had 20 points in the Feb. 26 game vs Georgetown.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MADISON HENDRICKS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



SARGEANT'S ORDERS: A YANKEES FAN'S GUIDE TO THE 2025 MLB SEASON

by Connor Sargeant
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While losing out on the highly touted Juan Soto to cross-town rival New York Mets is a spot of shame for the New York Yankees, the 2025 season is far from lost. Finding one player to replace someone who slashed .288/.419/.569 a season ago is nearly impossible, but the New York front office did much more than change the longstanding "facial hair" policy. In this week's edition of Sargeant's Orders, we will go over what this latest MLB season has in store for the Bronx Bombers.

A significant move that the Yankees made was to move on from first baseman Anthony Rizzo, inking Paul Goldschmidt to a team-friendly one-year \$12.5 million deal. While the 37-year-old's best days are well behind him, the former Diamondback has proven that he can still do some damage from the dish. Despite coming off his worst season offensively, Goldschmidt slashed .245/.302/.414 from the plate, including 22 home runs. Considering that this is a one-year deal, New York still has the option to bring someone else in mid-season if this arrangement does not work out.

New York also massively improved their rotation, bringing in Max Fried on an 8-year, \$218 million deal. The 31-year-old is coming off an excellent 2024 campaign where he posted a 3.25 ERA, appeared in 29 contests and was an excellent ground ball pitcher, forcing ground balls on over 58% of batted balls. This is a positive sign considering nearly any hard hit flyball in Yankee Stadium is a

homerun. Since Fried is only 31, the southpaw is entering his "prime" for his career, meaning that there is a chance that he can come close to replicating his Cy Young Award-worthy 2022 season.

Of course, a significant addition to New York's roster this offseason was Cody Bellinger, as New York acquired the former Dodger in a trade with the Cubs. The 29-year-old is coming off a down year, slashing .266/.225/.426. However, the lefty has shown in the past that he can be an effective hitter down the stretch. His 2019 campaign with the Dodgers is nothing to scoff at; Bellinger slashed .305/.406/.629 with a WAR of 9.0. Considering that Yankee Stadium is the home of the "short porch," there is an excellent chance that Bellinger will feast this season and post yet another career year.

As proven as all of New York's newest acquisitions are, the team will need a big 2025 from Jasson Domínguez, who is poised for a breakout year. While The Martian's .207 career batting average is enough to dispel some on the 22-year-old's major league potential, the Yankees should not be so quick to throw in the towel. A season ago, Domínguez was extremely disciplined at the plate, swinging at less than 30% of balls outside of the strike zone and boasting a Z-Swing% of 71, meaning he is seeing pitches well at the major league level. Not to mention, a season ago, Domínguez owned a hard-hit rate of 46%, meaning that the bat is getting to the ball. For context, the league average in this metric is around 35% whereas the MLB's best hover around 45%. By no means am I implying

that Domínguez will have a 40-40 season, but if Aaron Boone gives the outfielder 600 at-bats or so, a .250 20-25 home run season near the bottom of the order is a real possibility.

Of course, when you talk about the Yankees, it's impossible to not talk about the captain: Aaron Judge. While Judge dominated the regular season, winning AL MVP and terrorizing opposing pitchers along the way, his postseason was significantly worse. This team will only go as far as Judge will take it; considering that Soto is gone, Judge is the big bat in the Bronx, and with this year's squad, it will be nearly impossible to make up for his lack of production. While October is a long way away, his postseason bat will single-handedly decide this team's fate. Though extreme, this is not an overstatement, and Yankee fans should be cognizant of this.

One of the biggest strengths of this year's Yankees team is their rotation. Boasting a rotation consisting of Fried, Gerrit Cole, Luis Gil, Carlos Rodon and Clarke Schmidt, nearly no other franchise in the league can compete. The Yankees also improved their bullpen in a significant manner, trading for Devin Williams from Milwaukee. This acquisition proves that even if the bats only plate two or three runs, this pitching staff can limit the damage that their opponents cause and single-handedly win a significant amount of ball games on any given night.

At the time of writing this, the Yankees are the betting favorites not only to win their division but also to win the American League outright and rematch the Dodgers in this year's fall classic. Of course, the

Mets have also improved, but in terms of the American League, it is the Yankees league to lose. Seeing how players like Rodon bounce back from a tough 2024 and how Anthony Volpe leaps from a solid second year will be the difference maker in how this season shakes out for New York.



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS



N.Y. Yankees shortstop Alexander Vargas hits a 3-run home run at the top of the 8th inning against the Philadelphia Phillies on February 27, 2025. PHOTO COURTESY OF @YANKEES ON INSTAGRAM

SOFTBALL: HUSKIES HEAD SOUTH FOR THE CHANTICLEER SHOWDOWN

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This weekend, the UConn softball team (8-5) will travel to sunny Conway, S.C. for more out-of-conference action in the Chanticleer Showdown, hosted by Coastal Carolina. The showdown will consist of five games: one will be against Wisconsin, two will be against Bowling Green while the other will be against the host team, Coastal Carolina. The Huskies look to continue their offensive hot streak after a strong showing in their previous games, proving why they're the team to beat in the Big East this season.

The headline of the Huskies' offensive success comes from none other than freshman infielder Cat Petteys. Petteys has immediately made an impact for the Huskies right from the get-go, recording 16 hits (including two home runs) in her 37 at-bats and posting a team-high .432 batting average. Last week, she was awarded Big East Conference Honor Roll and Big East Freshman of the Week for the first time in her young career, and it surely won't be her last.

Another player having herself a fiery season at the plate is junior catcher Grace Jenkins. While her efforts have been somewhat unnoticed in terms of Big East Honor Roll accolades, Jenkins has been absolutely mashing the ball. Posting a .395 batting average, Jenkins leads the team in total bases (34), home runs (5) and RBIs (19). Jenkins has been crucial in driving in runs via the long ball, which has been critical in the Huskies' solid start to the season.

Defensively, the Huskies have somewhat struggled, recording 22 errors compared to their opponents' 15. However, it is still early in the season and the Hook



UConn scrimmages against Stony Brook on Oct. 5, 2024. The game took place in Storrs at Burrill Family Field. PHOTO BY MADISON HENDRICKS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

C still has plenty of time to kick these defensive woes out of their season.

The good thing about out-of-conference softball action is seeing where you stack up against teams from all over the nation, some of which play at very high

levels of competition. One of those teams is Coastal Carolina. The Chanticleers are 12-2 on the season and have been virtually dominating their opponents in all facets of the game. The Chants are highlighted by Idaho native Delaney Keith,

who is hitting .429 at the moment with a whopping 11 home runs. With Keith, the Chanticleers are no joke, making their games against the Huskies very interesting.

The Wisconsin Badgers are also having a solid season them-

selves, currently boasting a 9-6 record in out-of-conference play. Pitcher Gabi Salo is having a very good season in the circle, posting a 4-2 record while displaying an impressive .95 ERA through 36.2 innings pitched, also striking out 27 batters. Husky fans should keep an eye out for her to make an appearance against the Huskies this Friday.

Though Bowling Green is struggling with their 3-7 record, the Falcons are coming off a very nice 9-4 win over a tough Tulsa team. Though the Falcons have displayed lots of early season struggles at the plate, sophomore middle-infielder Taylor Behrendt is slashing .355/.419/.412, solidifying herself as a bright spot in the Falcons young, struggling lineup.

Each game will be played in Conway at the beautiful St. John Softball Stadium. The Huskies will take on Wisconsin at 11 a.m., followed by another matchup against Bowling Green. The following day, the Huskies will take on Coastal Carolina at 6:30 p.m., preceded by another dual against Bowling Green at noon. To conclude the series, Hook C will face Coastal Carolina yet again, this time on Sunday at 12:30 p.m.





Sports

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY: UCONN GEARS UP FOR THEIR FINAL HOME GAME OF THE SEASON



UConn men's hockey plays Boston University in Storrs, Conn. on Feb. 25, 2025. Toscano was full of fans who cheered on the Huskies the whole game. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Matt Dimech**
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The University of Connecticut men's ice hockey team will take on Northeastern University in a two-game slate this weekend.

This marks the first meeting between UConn (17-10-4, 9-8-4) and Northeastern (11-16-3, 6-11-3) since March last season, when the teams split the series, each winning on the road. Northeastern boasts the advantage in the all-time series 15 games to nine, as well as winning the most recent matchup. This will be an important game for both teams, with the Hockey East tournament drawing near.

UConn came into the contest after an overtime tie with Boston University on Tuesday, before losing the shootout. The tie allowed UConn to creep over Providence College in the Hockey East standings, positioning them in fourth place. Meanwhile, Northeastern also comes off a matchup with the Terriers (18-12-2, 12-8-2), finishing their weekend series 1-1.

Second-year Joey Muldowney is just one goal away from becoming UConn's all-time leader for goals in a single season during the Hockey East era.

He is currently tied with Tage Thompson at 19, after posting a hat trick against the University of Alaska Anchorage. With just three games remaining in the regular season, the clock is ticking for Muldowney to make history. He also leads the team in points with 35.

The red-hot second-year Jake Richard has been on a tear lately. Richard has scored 12 points in his past seven games. In their win over the University of Maine last week, he finished the game with two goals including burying the overtime game

winner. In their game with Boston, he scored to take the lead in the third period. Richard is second in assists for the Huskies, while also being the team's second most accurate shooter, with a shooting percentage of .167. The second-year tandem will be integral to the Huskies weekend success.

For Northeastern, third-year Jack Williams has been a key contributor, posting 35 points to this point in the season. He leads the team in goals with 15 on a .167 shooting percentage. Williams is coming off a mon-

ster game over the weekend, accumulating four points in the Beanpot Huskies' game one win over Boston. It will be important for UConn to keep Williams out of the action for them to be successful this weekend.

The series opener is set to be played in Storrs at the Toscano Family Ice Forum before the Huskies hit the road to Boston to play at Matthews Arena.

Puck drop is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, as UConn looks to get back in the win column and secure their position for the Hockey East tournament.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: HUSKIES NOTCH 31ST BIG EAST REGULAR SEASON

by **Avery Becker**
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When the Huskies arrived at the XL Center on Thursday night, it was just their last game of the season in Hartford for 2024-25. However, when they left, they were named the Big East regular season champions after notching a dominant 72-53 win over No. 22 Creighton.

On the offensive side of things, Sarah Strong was the catalyst for the program racking up 22 points and nine rebounds on the night.

"Strong has been really key in both games," head coach of the Creighton women's basketball team Jim Flanery said about Strong in their two recent matchups. "They get her some pretty easy looks, and we have to switch a lot just because of how well and how quickly they run that action."

Despite the feisty finish, the Huskies struggled to make their way, especially in the beginning of the first quarter. The Bluejays kicked things off to a scorching start, notching the first six points of the game over a six-point stretch.

However, with a driving layup off the fast break, Strong silenced the clapping from the crowd to notch the first Husky points of the game.

From there, with a triple from KK Arnold and a pullup jumper from Azzi Fudd, the Huskies took their first lead of the game 11-10 to close out the first frame.

Connecticut's momentum continued on in the second quarter with the Huskies going on a 20-3 run after previously falling behind 8-0 at the beginning of the game.

What prompted this dominant stretch was the full court press and consistent defense put on by sophomore Ashlynn Shade and graduate student Au-

brey Griffin.

In addition to this feisty play and without Creighton's best player Morgan Maly not out on the court, the Blue Jays offense started to stagger.

This strong defensive play is something that the Huskies have been working to build on game after game.

"I think we've come a long way in terms of our communication," said Bueckers on the defense the Huskies put on in the second frame. "In the way we talk and help each other, creating runs, a lot of actions that forces you to talk, and if you don't, they maximize on your mistakes."

Heading into halftime, the Huskies held a comfortable 38-22 lead and forced 14 turnovers for the Blue Jays.

Coming out of the locker room into the second half of the game, the Huskies were locked and loaded, giving Bueckers her time to shine, that being her

ability to set up her teammates for scoring opportunities.

As of late, Bueckers has been racking up assists in her recent games and Thursday night was no different. The Minnesota native notched a total of seven assists. According to Auriemma, this has been something the team has been working on in practice.

"Paige [Bueckers] is playing the way she wants to play, and it's actually better for us to play that way. So that's, that's what those numbers reflect, really," Auriemma said.

Throughout the second half of the game, the Huskies maintained their composure, despite only notching nine points in the final quarter of the game.

In total, the Huskies shot 47% from the field and 35% from beyond the arc, but their defense is what kept them in this game.

Even though this being the program's 31st Big East regular season championship, it still

feels unique for the squad compared to the other years.

"We still have to win this weekend, but if they [Creighton] would have won tonight, then we'd be sharing the title," said Auriemma. "So, it wasn't like we were playing the eighth-place team or the tenth-place team. And you know, we had to do it the hard way. We had to be a really good team, so that's unusual."

Next up, the Huskies will host the Marquette Golden Eagles at Gampel Pavilion for Senior Night and their last game of the regular season. The program will honor Paige Bueckers, Azzi Fudd, Caroline Ducharme and Aubrey Griffin. Tip-off is scheduled for 2 p.m. If Husky fans cannot make it to the Basketball Capital of the World, they can tune into matchup on FS1.