



## Professors' union asks for 16 weeks of paid parental leave at press conference

by Liliانا French STAFF WRITER SHE/HER/HERS liliانا.french@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut's chapter of the American Association of University Professors asked for 16 weeks of paid parental leave at a press conference on Friday from 10:30 to 11:50 a.m.

Currently, UConn's policy on parental leave varies by college, according to professors at the press conference.

AAUP President Chris Vials said the AAUP's target is not restricted to union members.

"As the union for faculty, researchers and athletic personnel, we want to ensure that all workers have access to guaranteed leave and not just in our bargaining unit, all workers across campus," Vials said.

State Sen. Mae Flexer, who represents the 29th district, which includes UConn, attended the press conference along with State Rep. Gregg Haddad and State Rep. Susan Johnson.

"More than a decade ago, I began conversations with my colleagues in the legislature to create our state system of paid family and medical leave. And 10 years ago, it was a challenge," Flexer said.

She said that six years ago, the state legislature passed a paid family and medical leave program after hearing stories similar to those shared at the press conference.

"I don't understand, frankly, why this is even a debate. We have a system of paid family and medical leave here in the state of Connecticut, and I'm really proud of that fact," Flexer said. "The people who have been excluded from it are our public employees. And that's wrong."

Flexer said that a few years ago when her dad was sick, she had to care for him and was able to take advantage of family and

medical leave. The burden of care fell on her because other members of her family were public employees, so they could not receive paid leave in order to care for him.

Human rights professor Sandra Sirota discussed the challenges and surprises for her and her husband's adoption process such as background checks, the cost, medical screenings, home visits and interviews.

"We were also shocked to learn as a UConn faculty member, I would not get one day of paid parental leave, not one bit," Sirota said. "When my husband and I adopted our newborn son last April, we travelled to Texas on short notice so we could be there for his birth. We then had to wait with our adorable little baby for an unknown period of time for interstate paperwork to clear until we could bring him home to Connecticut."

Sirota described their time in Texas, which lasted two weeks, as full of joy, but overwhelming being far from family and friends while caring for a baby.

"During those two weeks, I was also working every day, including teaching class," Sirota said. "I was able to hold the final two classes online thanks to support from my supervisor. I was also lucky in some ways that it was at the end of the semester, but I run a year-long program with a big summer component, so I continued to work throughout the summer."

Sirota said that her husband had paid leave, and she didn't know how her family would've managed without it. She wondered if couples where both parents were UConn faculty would be able to adopt, knowing that they would not get any paid leave.

Physics professor Cara Battersby said that she gave birth to her two children while tenure-tracked at UConn.

"For each child, my department head and dean were supportive and I was given a semester off teaching," Battersby said. "I say given, because they had full authority to grant or deny my teaching relief request for maternity leave. The official policy states that this is not time off, but rather an option for modified duties — same workload, just redistributed."

Battersby discussed how it was difficult to manage working as a new parent.

"So rather than teach a class covered in spit-up, I can run important administrative committees that affect student programs covered in spit-up," Battersby said. "It is crazy to ask new parents to fulfill any kind of full-time duties within days or weeks of a new baby, even on a flexible schedule."

Ecology and evolutionary biology professor Robert Bagchi discussed his experience having three children while working at UConn. Bagchi said that he was not aware of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) policies which would've allowed him to switch to administrative work while he had his first child. He said the semester was tough for him, his family and his students. He was on campus when his daughter was five days old.

"To compound the situation, my father became terminally ill that semester and so I spent many hours responding to student emails from his hospital room or in the middle of the night, cradling my daughter, so my wife who was also teaching could get half the night to

sleep," Bagchi said.

Bagchi said that this did not allow him to provide a quality education.

"For my next two children, I was better informed and took advantage of CLAS policy to have a semester off teaching," Bagchi said. "But that policy was not a legal right, that was offered at the discretion of my department head and it has been watered down since January 2024."

A previous CLAS website, which has since been taken down, outlines former parental leave policies.

"As a matter of policy, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences supports 6 weeks of paid leave for faculty members who give birth to a child, or eight weeks in case of a Cesarean delivery," the old website said. "Department heads in CLAS and the dean will routinely sign requests for paid medical leave under these conditions."

A newer CLAS policy which became effective Jan. 1, 2024, allows for modified duties.

"Of note, duty modifications do not decrease a faculty member's responsibilities; instead, modification allows the faculty member, in conjunction with their Department Head and/or Dean, to exchange duties on a short-term basis," the website said.

Parental leave policies vary by department.

Deputy University Spokesperson Mike Enright did not respond to specific questions or say what current parental leave policies are at UConn, but he provided a general comment.

"The University is committed to our faculty and staff as a basic value of the institution," Enright said. "We engage in

good faith negotiations with the AAUP and other collective bargaining units that represent University employees."

Vials said that parental leave policies were not a new issue.

"Many people in this room have been advocating for changes for some time now, including a letter circulated from over 200 faculty to the administration that Sarah [Hird] was instrumental in [...] and to which they did not respond," Vials said.

Hird's letter was co-written with 19 other women and was addressed to UConn President Radenka Maric and Provost Anne D'Alleva. It asked for 12 weeks of paid parental leave following the birth or adoption of a child.

"This change would bring UConn into accordance with Connecticut state law, as the Connecticut Family and Medical Leave Act and the Connecticut Paid Leave Act stipulate all employees should receive 12 weeks of paid parental leave on the birth or adoption/placement of a child," the letter said.

The letter also asked for professors to receive a semester off teaching after having a child and for the establishment of a working group.

"Many employees expressed concerns and frustrations that are not addressed by the requests above," the letter said. "Therefore, we request that the Office of the President and/or the Office of the Provost officially convene a working group of UConn employees from diverse backgrounds that is focused on family leave and is broad in scope."

Hird said that UConn did not respond to the letter. Enright did not comment on the lack of a response.

## Trump plan would cut UConn research funding by \$35 million

by Liliانا French STAFF WRITER SHE/HER/HERS liliانا.french@uconn.edu

The National Institutes for Health (NIH) cut indirect funding for research to 15%, according to supplemental guidance from the NIH. This includes a \$35 million cut to the University of Connecticut and UConn Health research, according to a press release.

In response, 22 states including Connecticut have sued, with the effort being led by attorney generals of Illinois, Massachusetts and Michigan. A federal judge has temporarily placed the cuts on hold, according to CBS News.

University Spokesperson Stephanie Reitz explained what indirect costs are in an email.

"In addition to grant funds that go toward federally funded research, institutions can recover part of the overhead costs they incur to undertake that research," Reitz said. "The percentage that's reimbursed to the institution is the 'indirect costs recovery rate' they reference in their letter."

Indirect costs for UConn and similar institutions which conduct NIH-funded research are money for use and depreciation of buildings, research equipment, labs and other administrative costs, according to Reitz.

"Currently, UConn can recoup 61% of its indirect costs for NIH-funded research at Storrs and the regional campuses, and 66.5% for research at UConn Health," Reitz said.

According to Reitz, this cut would increase costs to UConn or a reduction in research activity.

"Federal funding, including from the NIH and other agencies, comprises 85% of UConn's external revenue for research, training, and public service," Reitz said.

UConn President Radenka Maric, Provost Anne D'Alleva, UConn Health CEO Andy Agwunobi and Vice President for Research Pamir Alpay released a statement to staff and faculty.

"If implemented as announced, this change will impair our ability to produce innovative research that benefits all parts of society and place a sig-

nificant financial strain on the university," the statement said.

UConn and UConn Health combined got \$620,648,927 in funding from the NIH this year, according to a press release explaining the lawsuit from Chief of Communications for the Attorney General's Office Elizabeth Benton.

In Benton's press release, Attorney General William Tong discussed the impacts of the cut.

"Donald Trump is defunding cancer research. He is defunding treatment for heart disease. He wants to defund research into autism, Alzheimer's, and preventable newborn deaths. He wants to make us all sicker, and we cannot let him," Tong said in the press release. "In his sloppy rush to slash funding, Trump has ignored federal law, and we are seeking a court order immediately blocking this illegal overreach."

The press release discussed indirect cost agreements.

"Indirect cost reimbursements are based on each institution's unique needs, negotiated with the federal government through a carefully regulated

process and then memorialized in an executed agreement," the press release states. "The Trump Administration's purports to toss those agreements aside, putting public health and medical advancements at risk. The coalition's lawsuit seeks to prevent that reckless and illegal conduct."

The lawsuit from 22 states alleges that the suspension violates the Administrative Procedure Act, which governs how federal agencies can enact regulations.

UConn issued a declaration in support of the action.

"The cut will create a burden on UConn and [UConn Health] as many of these costs are unavoidable and committed (such as the facility cost of a laboratory) to conduct NIH research," Alpay said in the declaration. "Such reduction may result in jobs loss."

Another statement from UConn said that this policy would not result in a reduction in costs but would force UConn to take on these costs through things like state appropriations, placing burden on taxpayers, tuition revenue which could increase

costs to students and endowment funds.

Supplemental guidance from the NIH defended the cut.

"Indirect costs are, by their very nature, 'not readily assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefitted' and are therefore difficult for NIH to oversee," the guidance said. "Yet the average indirect cost rate reported by NIH has averaged between 27% and 28% over time. [...] And many organizations are much higher—charging indirect rates of over 50% and in some cases over 60%."

The guidance compared funding from private foundations to funding from the federal government.

"Most private foundations that fund research provide substantially lower indirect costs than the federal government, and universities readily accept grants from these foundations," the guidance said. "For example, a recent study found that the most common rate of indirect rate reimbursement by foundations was 0%, meaning many foundations do not fund indirect costs whatsoever."

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## News

# First Thursday at the Benton brings music, therapy dogs to campus

by **Donte Mills**  
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The William Benton Museum of Art at the University of Connecticut hosted its First Thursday open house event on Feb. 13, after being rescheduled from its original date of Feb. 6.

The event, which was free and open to the public, featured a variety of activities, including live music, crafts, pet therapy dogs and an interactive art scavenger hunt. It was organized in col-

laboration with Student Health and Wellness (SHaW), WHUS Radio, the Student Union Board of Governors (SUBOG) and the Beanery Cafe.

The open house kicked off at 3 p.m. with the Beanery Cafe open for guests looking to grab a drink or snack while exploring the museum. The café provided a central hub for attendees to gather, take a break between activities and socialize.

At 3:30 p.m., SUBOG began its open mic session, which continued until 6:15 p.m. The event

invited students and community members to step up and perform in a supportive environment. Singers, musicians and poets shared their work. Audience members had the opportunity to hear a diverse range of performances.

As the evening continued, activities in the museum galleries drew attendees deeper into the artistic experience. From 4:30 to 7 p.m., visitors had the opportunity to interact with pet therapy dogs Wrigley and Andy. The dogs offered a relaxing and

comforting presence, allowing students and visitors to take a break from their daily routines and enjoy some stress relief through pet interactions.

Throughout the museum, WHUS provided live DJ music, adding an upbeat soundtrack to the night's festivities. The music complemented the various creative activities available, including a Valentine's Day card-making station, where guests could craft their own designs. Additionally, attendees picked up collectible art stickers and

participated in an art scavenger hunt, which encouraged them to explore different exhibits and engage with the museum's collection in an interactive way.

The museum gift shop offered a 20% discount on all items throughout the day. This provided an opportunity for visitors to purchase art-related merchandise or books at a reduced price.

The event concluded at 7 p.m., offering attendees an evening filled with creativity, relaxation and community engagement.

## Snow days at UConn: A guide to open facilities and services

by **Tabitha Baker** CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT SHE/HER/HERS tabitha.baker@uconn.edu

This winter season, the University of Connecticut has cumulated a decent amount of snow. When the university cancels classes, other on-campus events and services are also interrupted. Transportation, dining halls and bus routes are affected by heavy amounts of snow.

Even in severe weather, there are certain operations on campus that stay open. These include public safety, residential and dining services, health services, animal care and facility maintenance, according to the

UConn Alert website.

"[The dining halls] will always be open no matter how large of a snowstorm that we may get. All our dining kitchen and management staff are essential/level 1 employees and are required to report to work," Stephen Sharkis, UConn's associate director of residential dining, said.

The only change that is made among the dining halls are the Late Night units that usually stay open until 10 p.m.: South and Northwest. If the University cancels classes for the day or

evening, Dining Services will cancel Late Night, and all dining halls will close at 7:15 p.m., according to Sharkis.

There are certain operations that follow university closings and cancellations. The UConn Recreational Center and on-campus cafes are just some of the places on campus that close along with the cancellation of classes, according to the Dining Services and UConn Rec websites. Other places such as the Student Union and the library remain open during emergency closings but potentially operate

at different hours.

When it comes to the Student Union during snow days, it is custom for it to follow university delays and closings as a guide to when they shut the building down, according to Sharkis.

When it comes to transportation on campus, the buses run a different route than usual. According to Facilities Operations' Associate Director of Logistics Andy Kelly, the bus routes follow the weekend routes rather than their typical route,

"Our default plan when class-

es are cancelled due to weather is to run the same service we do on weekends and breaks. This consists of Campus Loops 1 & 2. There is consideration given to the ability of our drivers to operate safely," said Kelly.

"The University's goal is to maintain normal operations to the greatest extent possible," the UConn Alert website stated. Students are alerted if there is going to be a cancellation by 5 a.m. that day, unless conditions change abruptly, according to the university's emergency policy.

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FOR RELEASE FEBRUARY 17, 2025

News

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Speak of the \_\_\_!"
  - 6 Pick up a newspaper
  - 10 \_\_\_ Valuable Player
  - 14 Singer Menzel of "Frozen"
  - 15 "Uh, that's wrong"
  - 16 Culturally pretentious
  - 17 Chocolate treat from Reese's
  - 20 NBC sketch show since 1975, familiarly
  - 21 "Disgusting!"
  - 22 Lady Gaga's instrument
  - 23 Many a restaurant owner
  - 24 One-named "Chandelier" singer
  - 25 Replacement on the mound
  - 31 Pampering place
  - 32 Tomato sauce brand named for a New York restaurant
  - 33 Chicken serving
  - 35 Storyline
  - 36 Put one's foot down
  - 38 "Dancing Queen" pop group
  - 39 Spring mo.
  - 40 Molecule part
  - 41 Slender woodwinds
  - 42 Venue for summer concerts in Los Angeles
  - 46 Ginger \_\_\_
  - 47 Partnership for Peace gp.
  - 48 Dwelling
  - 51 Actress Hayek Pinault
  - 53 Civil rights monogram
  - 56 High-level government post, and what the ends of 17-, 25-, and 42-Across may have?
  - 59 Buffalo's lake
  - 60 City near Phoenix
  - 61 Viking language
  - 62 Sinks out of sight, as the sun
  - 63 Ready for customers

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By Janice Luttrell

2/17/25

- 64 California, for one

**DOWN**

- 1 Salsa, and some salsa moves
- 2 Biblical garden
- 3 Lab container
- 4 B and B
- 5 Classic TV show hosted by Rowan & Martin
- 6 Wear away
- 7 Tall birds in some insurance ads
- 8 Aardvark snacks
- 9 Ellipsis element
- 10 Grammy winner Carey
- 11 Killer whale
- 12 Shock
- 13 Keyboard blunder
- 18 Genealogy chart
- 19 Long stories
- 23 Form a clump
- 24 Hit the brakes
- 25 Designer Lauren
- 26 Spanish Olympian's goal
- 27 "Coming soon" ad
- 28 First words of "Green Eggs and Ham"
- 29 Macaroni shape
- 30 Defy authority

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

Y	A	P		A	C	H	E	S		S	T	A	R	E				
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2/17/25

- 31 Pampering place
- 34 Highway sign
- 36 Eyelid problem
- 37 AAA service
- 38 Suffix with bug or peek
- 40 \_\_\_ wrench: tool that comes with flatpack furniture
- 41 Gets
- 43 Women
- 44 Checked out, as a library book
- 45 River barriers
- 48 The tops
- 49 Plain
- 50 Solemn bio
- 51 Ladder rung
- 52 Church recess
- 53 Actress Sorvino
- 54 Baffled
- 55 Leg joint
- 57 Angsty music genre
- 58 Tyke

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SUDOKU

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## Life

## Tackling climate change in business through the courts

by Maleena Muzio

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Climate change is a persisting issue, heavily impacted by businesses and corporations. The Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute held a virtual meeting on Thursday, Feb. 13 with the University of Connecticut to discuss the power of the courts in relation to business and climate concerns, with an expert sharing his findings.

Hassan M. Ahmad, an assistant professor at Osgoode Hall Law School, was the main speaker of the event, presenting his research on the topic. Ahmad recently wrote a paper called “Litigating Corporate Purpose: Climate Change and the Courts” which expresses Ahmad’s ideal steps towards

achieving a more just corporate world.

“Courts still remain as fairly dynamic, reactive, independent institutions,” Ahmad said. “Courts act as a check on powerful actors in society.”

Ahmad explained that although the separation of powers is important, relying on legislation to solve issues surrounding the environment is not enough. He holds a more functional view of the separation of powers, seeing the need for a more goal-oriented approach to politics.

“Courts push back against power dynamics,” Ahmad said.

To back up his argument, Ahmad shared historical events in which the judiciary was the only branch of government to serve the people properly. He explained that the

courts allowed for the progression of helping the more helpless party over time.

“I really appreciate the urgency and call to action in your paper,” Aaron Dhir, UConn Law professor and guest speaker of the event, said. “Corporate purpose is a key part to this overall puzzle you are trying to solve.”

Ahmad’s main goal is to utilize the power of the courts to shift corporate purpose to a more stakeholder-friendly stance. Rather than only thinking about how to benefit wealthy shareholders of a company, businesses need to be more conscious of stakeholders and everyday consumers to be more conscious of the environment.

Hassan studied the United States, Canada and other Eng-

lish-speaking countries to come to such conclusions. He pointed out that the topics in which social movements are lacking are where the courts must step in. Throughout history, organized social movements have placed pressure on legislators, but climate change lacks such a specific movement.

“I remain skeptical but do not rule out the impact and benefit of legislation. But will it happen?” Ahmad asked.

Ahmad explained that the mindset must be changed. Climate change needs to be viewed “in light of the existential crises that faces us,” Ahmad said.

Dhir pointed out the doctrinal issues of government that stand in the way of change. However, Ahmad shared that the courts must go after easier litigation in order to create new

doctrine and therefore change the trickier areas of law. The key, according to Ahmad, is to align the outcomes of small, strategic cases with doctrinal issues.

Other than the courts, Ahmad claims he does not “see any other potential successful avenue” to creating more environmentally friendly policies.

This workshop was one of many in a series co-sponsored by the Business & Human Rights Initiative (BHRI), a partnership founded by Dodd Human Rights Impact Programs, the UConn School of Business and the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute. The informal structure of the meeting allowed for group discussion and suggestions after Ahmad presented his initial ideas.



The Sustainable Clean Energy Summit, hosted in the Student Union Theater on Sept. 23, 2024. Events include guest speaker Gene Rodrigues, panel discussions and a student challenge. PHOTO BY MIKAYLA MURPHY, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Despair is a dead end. Peace isn't

by Benjamin Lassy

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Hello, and welcome back to This Week in History! Humanity loves symbols and icons. Just think about what’s on your phone screen right now — lots of bright, bold and eye-catching app logos are sitting there awaiting your attention 24/7.

Although they’re not carried in a pocket like today, history has had a plethora of icons spanning pretty much every historical period. But one symbol alone stands out in the modern era for its rapid rise to ubiquity. It’s a sign of peace, and it’s made up of two simple letters.

Our story begins with the grief — or perhaps frustrations — of artist Gerald Holtom. Holtom was not only an artist, but also a skilled designer who graduated from the Royal College of Art in the United Kingdom.

As a conscientious objector during World War II, Holtom lived a life that was committed to deterring, or at least protesting, any war that broke out. Indeed, Holtom’s life was punctuated by wars, as he was born in 1914, just a few months before the outbreak of World War I. After the end of WWII, the world didn’t warm up to peace. In fact, it cooled down, with Soviet-Allied relations essentially freezing.

Amidst the backdrop of a looming conflict was an increasing presence of bombs that if detonated, would in-

discriminately kill millions across the globe. Holtom, like many, was not merely frightened by this new post-war reality, but deeply grieved by the thought.

This despair soon spilled out onto the streets — literally — as the U.K.’s Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear War (DAC) rallied and assembled a protest. The DAC hosted a march from London to Aldermaston, a town home to a nuclear research facility. This 52-mile march, however, needed something to rally behind.

What symbol conveys an anti-nuclear warfare sentiment? Perhaps one could use the Red Cross iconology, but that could be interpreted as some sort of medical march. And to use the flag of the United Nations, well, that would just be foolish. The UN was — and is — dominated by nuclear powers.

Holtom was tasked with designing anything that could capture the essence of the protest. He began his task while remaining in that deep despair that surrounded the movement.

Nuclear weapons kill millions, so what can a single human do but die when faced with a warhead? Well, perhaps they would be devastated and worried.

Holtom noted in letters how his design process began. “I was in despair. Deep despair. I drew myself: the representative of an individual in despair, with hands palm outstretched outwards and

downwards in the manner of Goya’s peasant before the firing squad.”

This despair, although terrible, prompted Holtom to bring together elements of design philosophy from across history and styles.

Holtom refers to “El Tres de Mayo” by Francisco Goya, a painting that shows a Spanish man in the sights of a French firing squad. The French soldiers face away from the frame, which is set moments before they pull the trigger. In that instance, standing amongst the bloody bodies of his countrymen, the Spanish man stands with arms outstretched.

This was the catalyst for Holtom’s design. He wanted to capture the futility of existence that all humanity must face at the expense of their ability to destroy everything and everyone at any moment.

With inspiration in mind, Holtom set out to construct a new interpretation of his feelings of despair, submission and worry.

He kept it simple. Using semaphore, the method of waving flags to represent letters of the alphabet — you may have seen this portrayed in 19th-century naval operations — Holtom took the letter N, shown by two flags, or like Goya’s painting, arms reaching downwards. He added to it the letter D, represented by one outstretched arm upwards.

The symbol he created was revealed this week in history to the DAC on Feb. 22, 1958. It



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

soon spread to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and became known as the Nuclear Disarmament logo.

Despite its rapid and widespread use, Holtom perhaps got one key concept wrong. Despite the terror in his eyes, the Spanish man painted by Goya actually has his arms reaching out upwards. In his final moments, the man yearns for life, raising outstretched arms despite it all.

Despite being designed out of despair, Holtom’s symbol incorporated hope by design.

From the DAC march, to protest movements in the United States, Holtom’s peace sign has likely been on the bumper of a car in front of you while you’re driving down the

highway. Maybe you’ve seen it spray-painted or printed on posters. It has become a universal symbol, and you could likely argue that it is the most pervasive symbol in the modern era.

Holtom passed in 1985, but his symbol endures. Dare I say, this symbol has given humanity the confidence to combat its despair. So, let us go forward in hope, knowing that if we face destruction, at the very least, our hearts yearn for peace.



# UPLINE ROPE STUDIO HOLDS A SAFETY SEMINAR

by **Bonnibel Rampertab**

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As part of the “Sexual Liberation Week” campaign that helps destigmatize taboo sexual topics, the University of Connecticut’s Sexperts organized a rope and safety seminar taught by Seva and Corwin of Upline Rope Studio on Thursday, Feb. 13. The event was supposed to be in the Rainbow Center, but due to the high volume of interested students and space concerns, the event was held in the Women’s Center instead.

While waiting for Corwin to set up the truss-like rig used to tie people on, there were free condoms, lubricant and Valentine’s Day cards available on a table for attendees to take.

Seva and Corwin introduced themselves to the audience, explaining that they were both quite experienced in tying. Seva was the “bottom” who was going to be tied up and Corwin was the “rigger.”

Together, they were going to teach about the history, culture, safety and applications of tying as a form of sexual bondage. At the end, they would perform a professional demo.

“This stuff is dangerous. We’ll teach you stuff that is safe and easy,” Corwin said.

He began the history of rope bondage with the Japanese practice of hojojutsu, which was a martial art of tying criminals up with rope when handcuffs weren’t yet available. “It was a martial art, it was not for fun,” Corwin said. The art of rope bondage in a sexual manner is popularly known as shibari or kinbaku.

After World War II, there was increased tourism to Japan. Shibari was implemented as a tourist attraction and artistic project. Some people’s jobs were to rig or get tied up as a performance. Westerners saw this practice when visiting and brought them to their own communities. Corwin noted that hogtying people came from farming cultures and not necessarily from shibari, recommending that attendees listen to “The Kinbakunomicon,” a historical podcast on rope bondage, to learn more.

According to Corwin, rope bondage is its own niche in the BDSM community. There is a phenomenon Corwin noted called “rope-bombing” where people would tie others who consent to objects as quickly as possible.

Rigging is a very technical and detailed practice according to Corwin, who mentioned engineering terminology such as the “American Death Triangle” and

several types of knots. There are communities of riggers who nerd out about how they tie and what knots they use.

“Rope is dangerous. There are various ways to injure somebody,” Corwin said. “Panic or passing out in rope” was the first worry he addressed, recommending that riggers actively communicate with their partners. They should also invest in safety shears that EMTs use, in case the person who is getting tied up urgently needs to get out of the bind.

Scissors and knives add a level of danger to the cutting of the rope, whereas safety shears are dull and do not pierce. Corwin recommends replacing the shears every three usages, using the retired shears as regular scissors and not cutting rope in an emergency. An injury or death is way more pressing than ruined rope, which is replaceable.

“The second thing I worry about is face-floor and falling,” Corwin said. Falling can be prevented by having the person getting tied sit down, lie on the floor and have the rigger snugly hold the rope or the person being tied up by the shoulders.

Nerve damage was the third concern Corwin mentioned. If the person getting tied is feeling a sensation similar to pinpricks

or a loss of strength, that is a clear sign that nerves are dying and the person should get out of the bind. A loss of circulation, however, is normal and no immediate concern. A good rule of thumb is to not tie rope on inside joints or the neck. Having the person getting tied do movement tests can be a preventative measure.

Corwin made a quick aside to explain how to properly and safely choke a consenting person. He said to squeeze at the jugular area and not the front of the throat because of the tiny bones that could be crushed. He also recommended having the bottom put their hand on the top’s arm, so that if they let go, it’s a non-verbal sign to stop choking.

Circulation loss was the fourth concern. Corwin said that purple or white skin was not a concern as long as the blood flow and circulation weren’t completely cut off. “Rope is not inherently comfortable. If anything’s uncomfortable, speak up,” Seva added.

The final main concern Corwin had in rope bondage was consent. “Generally speaking, you want to negotiate. The difference between kink and abuse is consent,” he said. The tops must respect the bottoms’ wishes or else the consent is lost.

Planned Parenthood’s “FRIES” acronym was cited: Freely given,

Reversible, Informed, Enthusiastic and Specific. Mind-altering substances could cloud judgment and therefore invalidate consent. He likened participating in rope under the influence to driving under the influence.

Corwin shared that the scariest thing is when his partners say they’re willing to do “anything” because it means “nothing.” They need to be specific about what they want. “Go for what you’re interested in,” he said, not the opposite.

Aftercare is important. “How do I follow up with you the next day?” Corwin asked hypothetically. The endorphin rush from the pain could lead to euphoria and then depression, so it’s important for the tops to be available and a source of comfort for the bottoms. Corwin explained that some people are masochists and that the types of pain they enjoy vary and are not universal.

After passing out various ropes and explaining synthetic and natural ropes, Seva and Corwin showed the audience how to do a Somerville bowline knot.

“Rope is for everybody” who can consent no matter their race, gender, sexual orientation or other human variables, according to Seva and Corwin. Corwin recalled tying a 62-year-old, for example.



Students enjoying an event at the Womens Center on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024. The center celebrated 50 years in 2024. PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Connecticut bands duke it out at WHUS Radio's Battle of the Bands

by **Dan Stark**

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WHUS Radio, the University of Connecticut’s student-run radio station, hosted its annual Battle of the Bands concerts on Saturday, Feb. 15, in the Student Union Ballroom. The show featured four Connecticut bands duking it out in a competition for the ages, with energetic performances from each band.

The event was structured so that two bands would play their sets and the audience would pick which band they liked better. After two rounds of this, the remaining two bands played an additional set. To determine the winning band in each round, the crowd was encouraged to yell in support of what band they wanted to move on. The band that was determined to have gotten the loudest reaction moved on to the final round.

The night started off with The

Rotting Twentys, an alternative rock group based in Storrs, Conn. The group’s set featured two originals and two covers, highlighted by their closing rendition of “Man in the Box” by Alice in Chains. The four-piece band played with a ton of groove, with their rhythm section rolling along. This, combined with atmospheric guitar chords and soaring, anthemic vocals started off the night on a high note as the crowd slowly rolled in and warmed up to the music.

Next up was 2/14, an emo rock band from New York City. The three-piece group hit the ground running, wasting no time as they turned their amps up to 11 with their high-octane sound. Though they only had one guitarist, Sky Carlson’s guitar made it sound like there were multiple people wielding six-string beasts.

2/14 combined fast pop-punk style riffs with on-the-fly tempo

changes that were “smoother than a fresh jar of Skippy,” as the great Bruno Mars once quipped. The crowd also began clapping along during the build-ups of two of their songs, which was the biggest audience participation of the night so far.

After their set, Sophia Curran, the general manager of WHUS Radio, took to the stage to poll the crowd about who would be moving on. After a couple of tries to get the crowd into it, 2/14 was chosen as the winner of round one, moving on to the finals.

The second round kicked off with Braintree, who describes their sound as “evil wizard punk.” With “Godzilla” clips playing on the projector in the background, the band stormed on stage with their cover of “Gila Monster” by King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard.

This bold choice of a set opener worked greatly in their favor, as the crowd began moshing and

two-stepping to the thunderous beat — though the moshing was soon shut down by event security. The band rocked through the rest of their set with a mix of fuzz-laden guitar, rumbling basslines and energetic shouted vocals.

Following Braintree was Elizabeth, a band that labels themselves as “mental breakdown metal.” Armed with a wall of sound, frontperson Icez Killz took control of the stage with a commanding performance, combining powerful vocals and screaming. The band behind them was locked in to a T, with their guitarist and bassist playing synchronized heavy riffs as their drummer hammered away in perfect time.

Curran returned to the stage again, joined this time by WHUS Radio’s Operations Manager Gill Brown, to poll the crowd to see who won this round. After more yelling from the audience, Braintree was

selected as the winner of the second round, creating a final round of 2/14 versus Braintree to crown the winner.

In the final round, each band got to play another four-song set. Though the crowd had thinned out substantially at this point, those who stuck around continued to keep the energy up, two-stepping and dancing along. Both bands gave it their all in the final rounds, pushing through to deliver passionate sets to sway the crowd to their sides.

After one final poll of the crowd and more yelling, Braintree was declared the winner of this year’s Battle of the Bands. The group joins a stacked list of recent winners of the event, which includes Stattic and Ruby Leftstep. The crowd quickly dispersed at the end of the three-hour event, concluding a night featuring electric performances by four rising groups in the Connecticut music scene.



WHUS' Battle of the Bands photographed on Feb. 3, 2024. This event occurs annually around February. PHOTO COURTESY OF @WHUS ON INSTAGRAM



# Life

@dailycampuslife

## NO SKIPS: CONNECTICUT COVERAGE OF 'CALIFORNIA BLOODLINES'

by James Fitzpatrick  
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Another chilly day has elapsed on the calendar, so here's to another edition of No Skips, the weekly column where I argue why an album is devoid of any skippable songs. To feel some sort of warmth during this incessant winter season, we're going back to late 1960s California when folk trendsetter John Stewart released "California Bloodlines." No, I'm not referring to one of the iterations of Green Lantern. And even though he has gray hair, I'm also not talking about comedian Jon Stewart.

The title track, which also serves as the intro, is fairly solemn with its inclusion of longing female vocals alongside Stewart's. As avid readers may know, I'm from San Diego, California yet reside in Connecticut, so the themes of this song resonate greatly with me. Although "California Bloodlines" was recorded in Nashville, Tenn., Stewart disregards this for the sake of the song.

The verses play out hypotheticals about if the speaker was born in New York City or Tennessee instead of California, the difference being that Stewart lived in and around San Diego for much of his life, unlike my one-year residence there as a baby. I tend to contemplate the same situation, given I wouldn't be attending the University of Connecticut or be part of the Daily Campus.

"Razor-Back Woman" revolves around Stewart's tumultuous relationship with his father, something which connects to why I'm in Connecticut despite having "California bloodlines." The cho-

rus is more about "the razorback woman who stood by his side" but the lyrical substance of the track includes "I was only 14, and my dad, he was mean when his face shined a river of sweat." Whether it was these experiences with his father or that he got Stewart hooked on the nicotine, it sounds like he matured far quicker than the "other young boys" who "were enjoying their toys."

"She Believes In Me" says less than the previous tracks but its references to the titular "she" believing in witches and gold at the end of a rainbow revives a bit of innocence that was lost on "Razor-Back Woman." I'll admit that Stewart doesn't provide the best vocals of all time, yet his emotion is undeniable. Speaking of rainbows, "Omaha Rainbow" is the most upbeat track so far, blending the tendency to look at the past with rose-tinted glasses and optimism about the future. Additional vocals add layers to this track that could rejuvenate someone on a Southern road trip.

The mother at the beginning of "The Pirates of Stone County Road" calling her boy, Henry, for supper definitely dates the song to the '60s. So do the choir-like background vocals as well as "And we'd sail pulling for China." Regardless, I enjoy Stewart's call and response with the vocalist acting as the mother, culminating in a more memorable track.

"Shackles and Chains" demands comparison to a fellow John, as the song reads quite similar to what Johnny Cash would do with his "American" album series in the '90s and 2000s. Considering Stewart and Cash had recorded a song before, and Stewart would write a hit for Cash's daughter,

Rosanne, it's not too farfetched to mention this. I specifically enjoy Stewart's falsetto vocals at points in the track along with the general energy of this folk tune.

"Mother Country" is so patriotic that it was one of the few songs played during the Apollo 11 space mission due to Buzz Aldrin's fondness for it. While that overshadows anything else to say about the track, the pick is surprising based on how it takes a minute-and-a-half to get going, though the Americana-coded lyrics make it sensible that it helped soundtrack one of the greatest American achievements ever.

"Lonesome Picker," not to be confused as a shortened title for Stewart's fourth album, is a love letter to creating music, with his acute hope that his songs are cathartic to people out there. He juxtaposes feelings of loneliness with the belief that he's a musician for a reason, while the use of more feminine vocals — and possibly a violin — elevates the already uplifting track.

"You Can't Look Back" is the simplest and most straightforward song on the record with masterful acoustic guitar work, a killer chorus and more falsetto crooning from Stewart. This would be my recommendation to any interested listeners, even if it contrasts with the rest of "California Bloodlines."

The 10th track, "Missouri Bird," cools down the tempo a bunch, though Stewart continues to call out prominent American cities. This time, St. Louis is in rotation. He also is talking to Susanna, one of roughly a dozen female names with seemingly no connection to the real world that he brings up throughout the record.

This point is underscored in

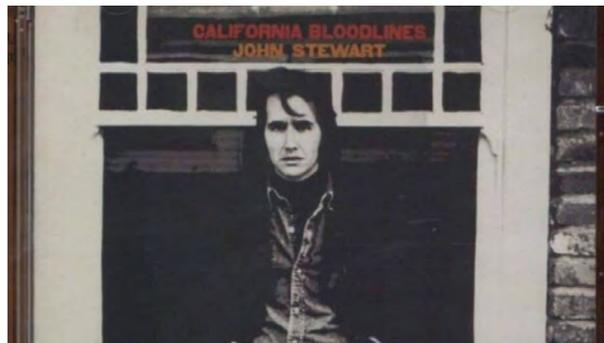
"July, You're a Woman," which may lead one to think the song is about a woman named July. Yes, it is, but a "girl named Shannon" is also alluded to. This could be due to the fact he's "drunk out of [his] mind" but I'm not going into that. The "la-da-da-da-da" chorus works well despite my usual criticism of such a trope and the tone progresses in the last-minute making for an epic prelude to the finale.

"Never Goin' Back" may as well be subtitled "(To Nashville Anymore)." It's odd considering the recording location of "California Bloodlines," yet his infatuation with the rest of America understandably proves he wants to move on to other places, even though his final residence was back in San Diego. The sentiment, "But these are only cities, but they're cities without you," is ambiguous and contradictory, but I think he means his appreciation for places is based on the people he met and spent time with there. If this is the case, I agree fully, hence my fondness for Connecticut and California alike.

For those who haven't yet read the other Monday column, This

Week in History, I'll highlight a few neat facts relating to "California Bloodlines" and John Stewart himself, as there's a web of history revolving around his name. For much of the '60s before going solo, he was one-third of the Kingston Trio, who don't have a ton of hits these days but were a contemporary smash. He's also behind the lyrics of the Monkees' "Daydream Believer," though he could've received more recognition for doing so. Finally, Stewart's legacy lives on in the form of... Xiu Xiu!?

That's right: One of the strangest forces in music has a direct "bloodline" to John Stewart, as he was the uncle to Xiu Xiu's founding member and frontperson Jamie Stewart. The experimental band was formed right before Michael Stewart, John's brother and Jamie's father, tragically committed suicide in 2002. Xiu Xiu's 2024 album, "13" Frank Beltrame Italian Stiletto with Bison Horn Grips," is indescribably removed from the conventional folk tunes of John Stewart. Nevertheless, John passed away in 2008 and began an impressive lineage of musicians that hopefully continues forward beyond himself and Xiu Xiu.



The second album by John Stewart, "California Bloodlines." It released in May of 1969 with a bunch of Folk Hits. PHOTO COURTESY OF @JOHN\_STEWART ON INSTAGRAM

## Neil Young revisits the past with 'Oceanside Countryside'

by Maleena Muzio  
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"Oceanside Countryside" is Neil Young's newest album, previously known to be lost, consisting of a combination of songs recorded by the artist in 1977, some of which were never released and others that have been slightly altered.

The name of the album, "Oceanside Countryside," plays into the nature of the physical vinyl record. Side one is titled, "Oceanside," displaying songs written on the coasts of California and Florida, playing into the seaside aesthetics of the time. Side two, "Countryside," features songs that have a more authentic country feel and were primarily written in Nashville, Tenn.

Although the album of unreleased mixes has not been released on streaming services yet, many of its songs have come out in other compilations and albums in the

past, so here is what to expect when the original mixes on "Oceanside Countryside" release sometime in March.

Very fittingly, the opening track to side one is called "Sail Away." The discusses elements of nature, such as the moon, wind and ocean. Despite being the first of the "coastal songs," the instrumentals in this track have a very country sound.

Track two, "Lost In Space," foreshadows the remainder of this side of the album much better, encapsulating a more-stripped, acoustic sound. Again, this song plays heavily on ocean imagery, referencing the "deep sea blues." Following is "Captain Kennedy," which has a blues feel, reminiscent of an early American folk song. The song shares the story of a mariner whose father was involved in World War II, and it is arguably the best song on this side of the album.

"Goin' Back" follows with a soft-

ness in the acoustics that we have not heard yet. The song plays similarly to a lullaby with a beautiful guitar melody. Young dwells on the past in the lyrics of the song, remembering and longing for a broken relationship, wishing for "goin back, back where there's nowhere to stay."

"Human Highway" sets up the perfect transition to the second side, as it is the final song on "Oceanside," symbolically allowing listeners to travel to the next part of the work.

Marking the beginning of "Countryside" is a song titled, "Field Of Opportunity." This song, like the opener of the album, has a very country-folk sound, with both the guitar and the fiddle heavily coming through. This song paints the picture of the countryside perfectly, referencing opportunity as seeds in a field that have risen and been plowed, as Young desperately awaits spring again.

The next song, "Dance Dance Dance," is in my opinion, the worst song on the album. It is supposed to be a love song of admiration for a girl who is full of life, but the harsh fiddle combined with Young's whiny vocals do not do these themes justice. The lyrics "feel it all around you" are repeated, but all I can feel is the agony of waiting for this song to end. There may be a reason why this version of the song was not released before.

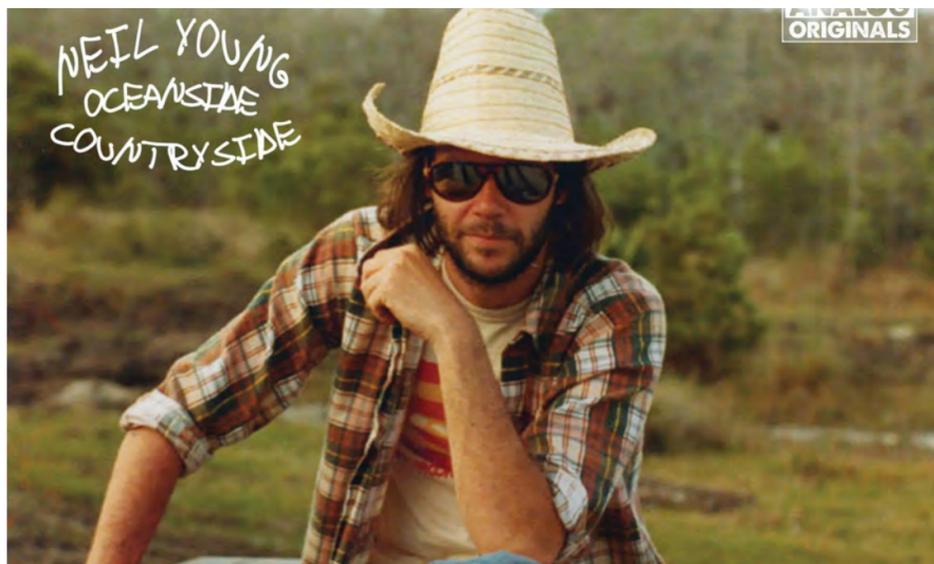
Thankfully, just after this mess is "The Old Homestead," the best song on the album. "The Old Homestead" is the longest song featured, totaling almost eight minutes, but it does not drag at all. The song is cohesive, fading in and out, playing into a much darker sound. Messages of the passage of time are displayed in this eerie piece, and Young's soul, as well as artistry really shine through on this track.

"It Might Have Been" is another country song about regret and

making the past right. One of my favorite lyrics on the whole album, from this song is, "Instead of tearing our romance to pieces, why don't we try to write what we've done wrong?"

Closing the album, is "Pocahontas." The track references the nature of America and its history, while simultaneously referencing Hollywood and old movie stars, like Marlon Brando. The song does a fantastic job of tying together such conflicting areas of interest. The song serves as a message of overcoming adversity and moving forward, especially for Indigenous peoples.

"Oceanside Countryside" consists of songs that tell great American stories, despite coming from a Canadian singer. The album is a letter from the past, reminding people of the good and the bad from our nation's history while highlighting experiences of man that are still common today.



One of Neil Young's lost albums that was taped in December of 1977. It is now being re-released in the modern era. PHOTO COURTESY OF @NEIL\_YOUNG ON INSTAGRAM



Buffalo Springfield in 1966. This photo was taken of the band before their musical careers initially ended. PHOTO COURTESY OF PICRYL



# Opinion

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# DOGE: A good idea, bad execution

by Yousef Macary  
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On Jan. 20, President Trump issued an executive order to create the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). The executive order claims the purpose of this department was "to implement the President's DOGE Agenda, by modernizing Federal technology and software to maximize governmental efficiency and productivity." In theory, this concept makes sense. The government could be more efficient, reduce spending and modernize its technology to increase productivity. This is not the craziest idea and could even have been something that greatly benefited the federal government. However, in reality, this department's implementation has been a disaster, focused on slashing major programs without thought of con-

sequences, rather than an actual effort to make the government more efficient.

The United States government is in a lot of debt, and that does not seem to be changing. For the past several years, the federal government has been running a deficit of over one trillion dollars. We're now at a point where the federal debt has topped 35 trillion dollars. This is a clear issue and stems from a lack of fiscal responsibility from the federal government. So a president coming in and creating a department focused on making the government more efficient is not the worst idea in addressing this issue.

One department that DOGE has focused on making cuts in is the Department of Education. Recently there was a \$900 million cut from the "Education Department's Institute of Education Sciences." This cut limits the research being done on the

U.S. education system and the outcomes it creates and will hinder the ability of the Department of Education to make the education system as effective as possible. Such a cut comes at a time when "more countries are edging ahead of the United States in math and science achievement," according to EducationWeek.

Another area DOGE has focused on is the National Institute of Health (NIH). This policy "would limit NIH research funding for "indirect costs," or overhead expenses, to 15%, which is far below what some institutions receive." This is a cut that would disrupt research activities across the country. This is a bold move, especially given that President Trump has issued an executive order to withdraw the United States from the World Health Organization. Research is what helps us to build knowledge and develop as a society,

and health research in particular is extremely important. Cutting this funding hurts the institutions that conduct this vital research.

DOGE has also worked to cut the United States Aid Agency. The Trump administration has more or less destroyed the agency, reducing "the number of workers... from more than 10,000 to about 290 positions." Assuming these cuts get past the legal challenges they are facing, they will cause issues and disruptions with the aid that the United States provides to other countries, including HIV prevention and treatment and helping provide food to the hungry. It is also important to consider how cutting this aid will be perceived by other countries and the impact it could have on the rest of the world's perception of the United States.

Education, health research and aid to other countries are

three very important initiatives that DOGE focuses on cutting. While there is likely an argument that these institutions may need to be more efficient or that their funding could be cut, to make major cuts in this manner makes absolutely no sense. Health research is important. Education is important. And helping other countries and maintaining our standing in the world is important. But right now, DOGE is focused on making massive cuts to all of these sectors. The government can be more efficient, and it should be. However, it's not going to happen by making massive cuts to essential programs. Unfortunately, it seems that DOGE took what could have been a good idea to help the country and turned it into a force for dramatic budget cuts for important departments and agencies within the federal government.

## Roundtable: Favorite snow day activity

The Opinion Section | [opinion@dailycampus.com](mailto:opinion@dailycampus.com)

With all the snow that we have had over the past few weeks, University of Connecticut students have been finding creative ways to entertain themselves both inside and outside. Today, the Opinion Section shares their favorite snow day stories or activities, just in case you need some inspiration for the next one.

by James Watson  
CONTRIBUTOR

I, for one, like the feeling of getting behind the glass of the dining hall where you are safe from the snow and seeing a wall of different foods staring at you, then making the trip to CVS to get more food. Being warm and fed cannot be better goals as the cold takes over your extremities.

by Evelyn Pazan  
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

My favorite snow day memory is from this year's Super Bowl Weekend, when my friends and I decided to run to Walmart pre-snowstorm to get some rations and Super Bowl celebration food. Convinced that the snow wouldn't be that bad, we spent about two hours in Walmart, during which about 4 inches of snow fell. On the car ride home, the car stalled, slid right through lights and refused to move at some points, conveniently right in front of a police officer. Safe to say we won't be doing that again.

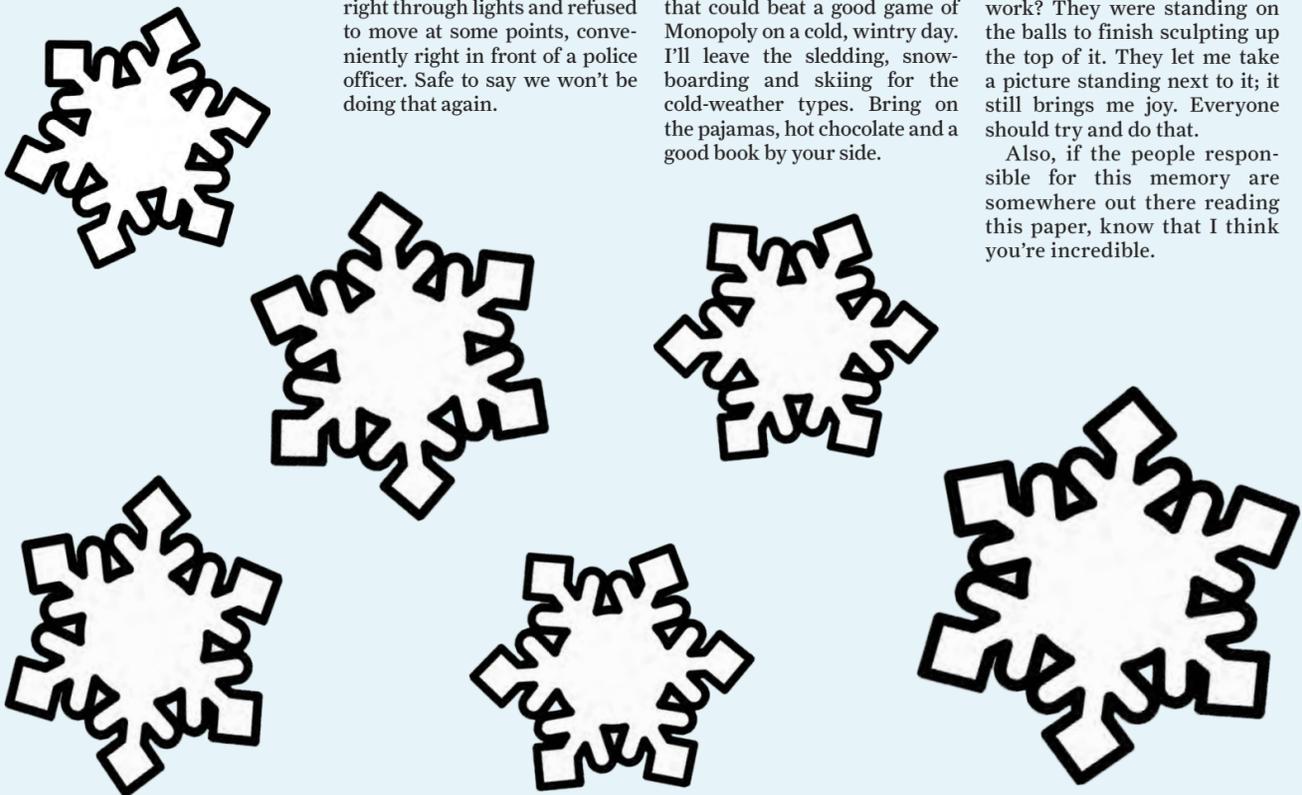
by Patrick Minnerly  
WEEKLY COLUMNIST

As a person who firmly believes in indoor activities during a snow day, there's nothing better to me than watching a good movie or TV show, reading a book or playing a board game - which I think is the best of all. I do feel like snow days have lost a bit of their luster for me, as I've often had to do work during them recently, but as a child there really wasn't anything that could beat a good game of Monopoly on a cold, wintry day. I'll leave the sledding, snowboarding and skiing for the cold-weather types. Bring on the pajamas, hot chocolate and a good book by your side.

by Tomas Hinckley  
OPINION EDITOR

My favorite snow memory here at UConn (which I didn't mention in my entire article on snow days because I didn't want to ruin a perfectly good and sentimental article) is when I saw people outside the back of Werth make a seven-foot-tall snow penis. I don't think I've ever been so impressed by anything ever in my life, like how does that even work? They were standing on the balls to finish sculpting up the top of it. They let me take a picture standing next to it; it still brings me joy. Everyone should try and do that.

Also, if the people responsible for this memory are somewhere out there reading this paper, know that I think you're incredible.



CLIPART COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL

# Opinion

Photo of the Day | Snowy stroll in Storrs



Another snowy day in Storrs, Conn. on Feb. 16, 2025. This weekend's winter storm left campus covered in a snowy winter wonderland. PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# COMICS



COMIC BY CHRISTIAN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY AH REUM KINDNESS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# AVA'S ANGLE: MLB SPRING TRAINING IN FULL SWING

by **Ava Inesta**  
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It's the middle of February and the Super Bowl is officially over, which means that baseball is on deck. All 32 MLB teams are ready to get back in the swing of things down in either Florida in the Grapefruit League or Arizona in the Cactus League. The thrill of spring training baseball occurs down in smaller, more intimate setting-type ballparks with sunny skies. It is an atmosphere where the professionals and even prospects square up for around six weeks in order to prepare for the start of the MLB season. Rookies compete for roster spots and the season veterans prepare for yet another season in the books. All of this action will bring everyone closer and closer to MLB's Opening Day at the end of March.

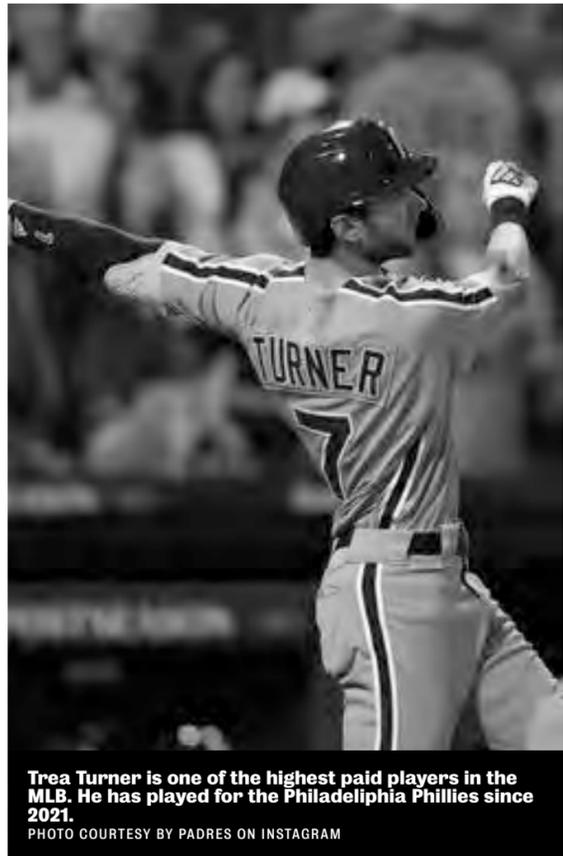
For the Cactus League, the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Chicago Cubs will face off in the first spring training game on Feb. 20. The Grapefruit League season will open the next day as the New York Yankees host the Tampa Bay Rays on Feb. 21. To follow, the rest of the 30 MLB teams will play on Feb. 22.

Spring training is the first opportunity where newly signed players are seen in their new threads for the first time. This season, the most anticipated player rocking new colors will be Juan Soto, who signed the largest contract in MLB history with the New York Mets. The Mets also just brought back their home-grown slugger, Pete Alonso on a two-year contract. The Dodgers were another team who stayed busy this offseason, signing Blake Snell and Japanese pitcher Roki Sasaki to their already stacked rotation. Meanwhile, the Boston Red Sox recently signed star third baseman Alex Bregman who was on the market until just this week. The Yankees were another team who will have multiple new faces on their squad. They gained outfielder Cody Bellinger, pitcher Max Fried, pitcher Devin Williams and first baseman Paul Goldschmidt. The Texas Rangers added Joc Pederson, Jake Burger and re-signed Nathan Eovaldi; they also hope to have a healthy Jacob Degrom sometime this season, which will bolster their pitching as a whole. Veteran pitcher Max Scherzer signed with the Toronto Blue Jays

and Justin Verlander signed a one-year deal with the San Francisco Giants. From new rookies to older veterans, there are so many players who have changed threads this offseason, and we will now see firsthand how they adjust to their new teams.

This year's Opening Day will be on Thursday, March 27. On that day, 28 clubs will play in 14 games, including 10 interleague series and four division matchups. One change of scenery for this year will be the Rays playing the 2025 season at the Yankees' spring training field in Tampa after their home stadium of Tropicana Field was damaged during Hurricane Milton back in October.

Spring training is a time where little clues of the season to come are hinted at, which will make more sense once the season is fully underway. Clubs will decide their final rosters during this spring training timespan, and fans will get to experience some baseball under the sun for the first time since the 2024 World Series concluded. Spring training marks the start of the 2025 baseball season, and many fans are counting down the days until MLB's Opening Day.



Trea Turner is one of the highest paid players in the MLB. He has played for the Philadelphia Phillies since 2021.  
PHOTO COURTESY BY PADRES ON INSTAGRAM

# SOFTBALL: GRACE JENKINS HITS TWO GO AHEAD HOMERS AS HUSKIES GO 3-1 IN JACKSONVILLE

by **Ryan Lombardi** | HE/HIM/HIS | STAFF WRITER | ryan.lombardi@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut softball team came away with a 3-1 record at the JU/UNF Invitational in Jacksonville, Fla. this past weekend.

The Huskies (4-4) rebounded from a disappointing 1-3 start to their season the weekend prior at the Elon Softball Classic. They opened the first day of competition with a two-game sweep before splitting their Saturday slate. Their Sunday matchup with Cleveland State (1-8) was cancelled. Electric offensive performances from fourth-year Lexi Hastings, and third-year Grace Jenkins, propelled UConn to their impressive weekend.

UConn kicked off the tournament by taking down Middle Tennessee State University (3-6).

After falling behind 1-0 in the top of the first, Jenkins belted a double scoring Hastings from first base to tie the game. Fourth-year Rose Garcia batted in Jenkins, marking her sixth RBI of the season. Garcia would cross the plate following a double from third-year Hope Jenkins to give the Huskies a 3-1 lead. The Blue Raiders battled back and would retake the lead in the fifth inning at 4-3. UConn took the lead right back in the bottom of the inning, after Hastings and Grace both scored runs on hits from third-year Kaiea Higa and first-year Cat Petteys to make it 5-4. Middle Tennessee tied it at 5-5 in the top of the seventh, but once again UConn had an answer as Petteys earned her first career walk off to win it 6-5.

In their second Friday game, the Huskies took down the invitational co-host, the University of North Florida (9-3).

The game remained scoreless through the sixth inning, until Petteys hit a two-run shot to break the stalemate, the first homerun of her career. The Ospreys responded right back with a three-run inning to take their first lead of the game. In the top of the seventh, Grace put her power on full display, hitting a towering three-run homerun to take the 5-3 lead. The Ospreys continued to fight in the bottom of the inning, but to no avail as the Huskies would win 5-4. Hastings finished with another multi-hit game, bringing her total on the weekend to five and extending her base streak to 26 games.

UConn squared off with Middle Tennessee for the second time in the tournament in their first game on Saturday.

The Huskies jumped out to an early lead after Hope scored Higa on a single to right field. The score remained unchanged till the fifth inning when a two-run single gave the Blue Raiders the lead. But just like in their game on Friday, UConn had an answer. In the top of the sixth, Hope earned another RBI scoring Garcia from second after a leadoff double tie the game at two apiece. Hope would come in to pitch in the bottom of the inning to close out the game for the Huskies. The game remained tied and went into extra innings. In the top of the eighth, Grace would once again emerge as the hero for UConn, breaking the tie with yet another homerun. The bomb would score two runs to give the Huskies a 4-2 lead. Middle Tennessee brought the game within one in the bottom of the inning and even managed to put the tying run on second, but Hope slammed the door on the Blue Raiders to claim the "Huskies" third straight win.

UConn was handed their first loss of the tournament in game two on Saturday, after being throttled by the other co-host of the event, Jacksonville University (6-4).

Third-year Sydnee Koosh started the game for the Huskies, her third of the season. After two strong innings, Jacksonville broke the game open hanging six runs on UConn in the bottom of the third inning. Hope came in relief to notch the final two outs of the inning. Jacksonville tacked on another run to their lead in the fourth to seven. The Huskies did not let up, and in the sixth inning Garcia drove in Grace on a sacrifice fly to centerfield. Hope threw two scoreless innings to end the game, but it was not enough as the Huskies fell 7-1.

Despite the tough loss to end the weekend, the Huskies left the sunshine state with much to hang their hats on. After having her on base streak snapped in Saturday's first contest, Hastings put together yet another multi-hit game against the Dolphins, bringing her team-leading season hit count to 13. The reigning Big East Player of the Year has picked up right where she left off last season. Meanwhile, Grace showcased her power in the most critical moments of the game, as her slugging percentage has now crept over one at 1.040. She tallied three extra base hits on the weekend. The Huskies will use their newfound momentum as they prepare to travel to Charlottesville, VA. for the Rawlings Classic.

They will open their five-game weekend against the University of Delaware, at 12 p.m. on Friday.



The Huskies playing against Stony Brook on Oct. 4th, 2024. The team's next game will be on Friday, Feb. 21.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MADISON HENDRICKS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Sports

Photo of the Day | Huskies are fired up!



Huskies prepare during time out for a challenging game. The men's basketball team will take on Villanova on Tuesday, Feb. 18.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## TRACK AND FIELD: Huskies deliver program-best performances ahead of conference championships

by Ryan Lombardi | HE/HIM/HIS | STAFF WRITER | ryan.lombardi@uconn.edu



UConn track and field warms up for day one of Husky Challenge. The event was held in the Hugh S. Greer Field House on Thursday Dec. 5, 2024.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MERCER FERGUSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The UConn track and field team finished up a busy week, competing in three meets in Boston and New Haven as their final tests before the upcoming Big East Championships. However, the Huskies faced several challenges along the way, with multiple athletes dealing with illness and winter weather cutting some competitions short, forcing them to leave earlier and miss some later events. Despite these setbacks, UConn still gave an impressive showing, with multiple athletes delivering top performances in the program's history.

Husky pole vaulters competed in the Eagle Elite on Friday, hosted by Boston College. Junior Rachel Mason was among their standout performers, reaching the fourth best score in program history at 3.61m. Freshman Piper Linn was close behind at 3.61m, putting her 10th on the list.

Connecticut also took on high-level competition in the Valentine Invitational at Boston University. The biggest story for the Huskies was senior Jenna Zydanowicz. In her final season at UConn, Zydanowicz has been having an impressive year. She continued to impress after setting the women's in-

door program record in the 3000m event, earning a time of 9:25.56, and finishing 18th out of 253. Sophomore Malin Rahm also delivered a top-ten 10 program time, with a mark of 9:35.76, the seventh best in UConn history. In the 1000m, junior Sarah Trainor put together a seven7th best time for the program at 2:48.73.

The Huskies wrapped up their weekend in New Haven at the Giegengack Invitational held by Yale. Sophomore Anna Connors won the women's 400m in 55.47, leading a podium sweep for the Huskies alongside senior Rachel Rosa and junior Jessica Starr. Se-

nior Terrel Williams took the top spot in the Men's 60m hurdles at 7.88, followed by fellow senior Donovan Wright, who claimed second.

As for the field events, freshman Enaji Muhammed claimed first in the Men's High Jump event, clearing 2.00m. Senior Mark Morrison won the Men's long jump event with a mark of 7.84m. Senior Zayin Roe finished second in the Women's Triple Jump at 12.50m, a top-ten performance in program history. On the men's side, sophomore Kyle Johnson took home the Triple Jump event with an impressive mark of 15.88m. The

top two spots for the women's shot put were taken by junior Sinclair Fryer (13.52m) and sophomore Gabriela DeFelice (13.48). Last and not least, senior Travis Roux secured the Men's Weight Throw at 20.52m.

Despite their setbacks and busy schedule, the Huskies proved their resilience with strong performances across the board, which should prepare them for the upcoming conference championship. With many athletes setting top program marks, UConn should have momentum as they gear up for the Big East Championships.

UConn track and field leaping forward on Dec. 6, 2024.

PHOTOGRAPH BY FRANCESCA BAZIL, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# WOMEN'S LACROSSE: HUSKIES LOSE FIRST ROAD GAME OF THE SEASON TO JAMES MADISON

by Ryan Cotjanle | HE/HIM/HIS | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | RYAN.COTJANLE@UCONN.EDU

The UConn women's lacrosse team fell to James Madison on Saturday by a score of 11-8.

The ranked matchup was originally slated to begin at noon, but was moved to 11 a.m. However, the early start did not seem to affect the Huskies. Less than two minutes into the game, Emma Dacey netted her first goal of the season to give the Huskies a quick 1-0 lead. For the next 10 minutes, each team was stout defensively. UConn's Tori Cini stopped three shots and kept James Madison off the scoreboard. With 5:01 left in the first quarter, sophomore Eve McGrogan was fouled and rewarded with a free position shot. McGrogan took advantage of the James Madison miscue and buried her fifth goal of the season, putting the Huskies up 2-0. That score would hold for the remainder of the first quarter.

However, the Huskies shut-out bid did not last long into the second quarter. James Madison scored two goals in less than a minute to tie the score. UConn took the lead right back, as Rayea Davis found the back of the net for her team-leading 10th goal of the season. The Huskies struggled to get anything going after that and turned the ball over seven times in the second quarter. James Madison was able to take advantage of UConn's struggles and scored three goals to close out the first half to take a 5-3 lead.

UConn responded quickly coming out of the locker room. Eliza Bowman took advantage of a James Madison yellow card that carried over from the end of the first half and got the Huskies back within one. James Madison answered right back with three goals in less than three minutes,



UConn women's lacrosse takes on Fairfield University at Joseph J. Marrone Stadium in Storrs, Conn. on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025. The Huskies took a massive 18-5 win over the Stags, with #6 Rayea Davis scoring a career-high six goals.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ZACH MOLLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

including Maddie Epke's second and third goals of the game. After Bowman's goal 12 seconds into the third quarter, UConn did not score again in the quarter despite firing six more shots on goal. After James Madison's three quick goals, they were also unable to extend their lead, and the score stayed at 8-4.

The Huskies battled back. Davis scored her second goal of the game on an assist from Ava Plata. Seconds later, Anna Magennis forced a turnover and found Plata for a goal of her own. James Madison ended the UConn threat there, as they added two goals to stretch their lead back to four. Bowman scored her second goal of the afternoon, which was immediately followed by another James Madison goal. Plata scored her second of the game with 3:48 left in the fourth, but UConn was unable to cut the deficit again.

Davis, Bowman and Plata scored two goals apiece. Plata and Jenna Giardina each had two assists. Abby Beran led the Huskies with four draw controls and three caused turnovers. The Huskies managed to register 20 shots on goal and had 11 draw controls to James Madison's eight. UConn committed one more turnover than their opponent and both sides accounted for 13 groundballs and 12 fouls each. The biggest discrepancy came from free position shots. James Madison converted on four of six free position shots, while the Huskies were able to score on only one out of five attempts.

Next up, the Huskies will head home and look to get back in the win column when they face Manhattan at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22

## WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY: HUSKIES SWEEP BY PROVIDENCE IN VALENTINE'S DAY WEEKEND SERIES

by Patrick Minnerly | HE/HIM/HIS | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | PATRICK.MINNERLY@UCONN.EDU

The No. 14 UConn women's ice hockey team fell to the Providence Friars twice over the weekend, losing important ground in the race for first place in the Hockey East conference. Although the Huskies (19-11-2, 17-6-2) battled hard against the Friars (19-10-3, 15-8-2) in the two games, their efforts came up empty. As a result, Providence swept the series versus Connecticut.

The first game, which took place in Storrs on Valentine's Day, began scoreless as the teams traded a nearly even number of shots in the first period. Both UConn and Providence had their chances, however, the Huskies gained a power play opportunity almost six minutes into the period. Unfortunately for the Huskies, that advantage only produced one shot on goal for UConn, that being an effort by defender Ava Rinker

that was saved by Friars goalie Hope Walinski.

The second period provided a breakthrough moment for Connecticut. Four minutes in, UConn's Ashley Allard won the faceoff and passed the puck to Jada Habisch. Habisch, a graduate student, slotted it home for her 12th goal of the season and sixth in five games. After gaining the 1-0 lead, UConn was able to fend off the Providence attack through the rest of the period thanks to the efforts of goalie Tia Chan, who made 25 saves in the contest.

The game was tight heading into the third period, but the floodgates soon opened for the Friars. Friars forward Millie Sirum put the puck past Chan, knotting up the score at 1-1 for Providence with just four minutes gone in the third. Then, in a game where penalties were few and far between, UConn gave up a power play midway through the period, and the Friars

capitalized. After a flurry of unfruitful shots, Providence took the lead with a goal from Sarah Davies at 16:08. The Huskies wouldn't go down without a fight, though, pulling their goalie with under two minutes left in the search for an equalizer. UConn was unable to get through the staunch Friars defense, and a late empty netter from Providence's Audrey Knapp made the final score 3-1.

The Huskies traveled to Providence for the second game of the series on Saturday. The match played out very similarly to the previous game, with the same goalies minding the net for both teams, and the exact number of total penalties as before.

UConn again struck first; graduate student Sophie Robinson fired a shot past Walinski to put Connecticut up 1-0. The score was Robinson's second of the campaign.

The excitement didn't last

for Connecticut, however. Shortly after the start of the second period, the Friars' Jessie Pellerin scored an equalizing goal, setting up the same kind of scenario as in UConn's Valentine's Day loss. The game stayed in a tie for the remainder of the second; both teams had a power play each but couldn't find a second goal.

Going into the third and final frame, the Huskies seemed to have the advantage in momentum, securing a second power play just two minutes in. Nothing came of the penalty minutes, but seconds after the power play lapsed, UConn's Megan Woodworth scored to give the Huskies a 2-1 lead. But Providence fought back to tie the score again. A shot off the stick of Sirum found its way between the posts, making the score 2-2. From there, Providence extended their lead with a goal from Knapp. Despite UConn's best efforts to get back into the game, in-

cluding another move to pull the goalie, Providence withstood the attack. To bring the two games full circle, the Friars' Hannah Johnson scored on an empty net with a minute and 30 seconds left, finalizing the score at 4-2.

Following the stinging defeats at the hands of Providence, UConn faces off against Hockey East front-runners Boston University in two clashes that will determine the No. 1 seed in the conference tournament. The Huskies sit five points back of BU, so anything short of winning both games in regulation will see Connecticut settle for the second seed. Puck drop for the first game will be at 3 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 21 at the Toscano Family Ice Forum; the game will also appear on ESPN+. The second match, UConn's final regular season game, will start at 4 p.m. on Saturday in Boston and will be broadcast on ESPN+.



# Sports

## MEN'S BASKETBALL: UCONN FALLS IN NEWARK FOR FOURTH CONSECUTIVE SEASON, 69-68 IN OVERTIME

by Sam Calhoun  
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For the fourth straight year, the UConn men's basketball team (17-8, 9-5 Big East) lost to the Seton Hall Pirates (7-18, 2-12 Big East) at the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. The Huskies were 14-point favorites to win the contest and end the curse of The Rock.

"I feel like in the end, we got what we deserved," UConn head coach Dan Hurley said while opening his postgame press conference.

Samson Johnson won the tip for the Huskies, but neither team could buy a basket for the first 2:58, with Johnson's layup breaking a scoreless drought.

The Pirates came into the game after losing nine straight games and had nothing else to lose, which was clear for the first 12 minutes.

That would continue out of the media timeout, with the Pirates going on a 7-0 run to lead by four and forcing Hurley to use a timeout.

"It took us a while to get control of the game," Hurley said. "[We] should have won it in regulation [and] should have won it in overtime."

Alex Karaban continued his struggles from deep in the first half, missing his first two shots from downtown and had not made a shot from three-point range in his last 14 attempts. The last time he made a three-pointer was in the second half of the Huskies' upset win at Marquette.

Seton Hall led 25-22 at half-time, holding the Huskies to their fewest first-half points since 2022. It is the 10th time this season that UConn has trailed at

the half. Both of Connecticut's three-pointers came from Solo Ball, who tied the game-high at the midway point with eight points.

Karaban's drought from deep got to 16 straight misses before burying a deep three-pointer toward the end of the shot clock with 10:15 left in regulation. For the first time in what seemed like forever, Karaban led the team in scoring with 20 points.

"I was supposed to be doing that for the past month," Karaban said. "So yeah, it feels good

to snap out of it, but I'd rather miss all those shots and win the game. I'd rather stay cold and stay in this slump but win the game."

Johnson's poster dunk brought the Huskies within one point, and Ball's third three-pointer of the game put UConn up 39-37 with 8:27 left, forcing Shaheen Holloway to call timeout.

An 8-0 run headlined by Liam McNeeley and Karaban making three-pointers brought the Huskies lead to 55-48 with 1:42 to play, forcing

Holloway to call another timeout.

UConn was up 58-55 with the ball before McNeeley fell and the Huskies could not inbound the ball, resulting in a five-second violation. Dylan Addae-Wusu, who missed the last eight games, drilled a three-pointer to tie the game and force overtime. He scored 13 points, including the Pirates' final 10 points in regulation. Isaiah Coleman led all scorers with 23 points.

Seton Hall scored the game's final six points as Connecticut

turned the ball over three times in the final 59 seconds of overtime. Despite successfully inbounding the ball after a fiasco of press break failures, Garwey Dual forced Ball to turn the ball over and allowed Seton Hall to have a chance to win. Scotty Middleton put back his own miss to put the Pirates in front with three seconds to go.

"We knew they would pressure us," Karaban said. "We knew they would get after us and really try to rough up the game, but it's all on us. We were soft on defense; we were soft on offense. We did everything soft. We put ourselves in that hole and we just never turned it up to the level that we needed to.

Hassan Diarra tried a Hail Mary shot from halfcourt but was not successful. UConn lost while shooting a season-low 37.3% from the floor, making it four straight games under 40% from the field. Their shooting has not been superb, but the more glaring problem may be their inbounding as teams will look at the tape from Saturday's game.

The last time a team outside the top 200 on KenPom beat the Huskies was on Nov. 13, 2019, when 218th-ranked Saint Joseph's shocked UConn at Harry A. Gampel Pavilion.

According to CBS Sports' Matt Norlander, it is the first time a reigning national champion lost to a team at least 12 games below .500 entering the game since 7-19 USC upset then-11th-ranked Arizona 91-90 in overtime on March 5, 1998.

The Huskies will have a chance to redeem themselves on Tuesday night as they host Villanova at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn.



UConn men's basketball lost to St John's on Friday, Feb. 9. After a tough game the Huskies fall despite a strong start.  
PHOTOGRAPH BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## WOMENS BASKETBALL: BIGGER IS BETTER, UCONN'S ADVANTAGE ON THE GLASS HELPS IN BLOWOUT WIN OVER NO. 4 SOUTH CAROLINA

UConn women's basketball takes on St. John's at Gampel Pavilion on Feb. 12, 2025. The Huskies secured a score of 78-40.

PHOTOGRAPH BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Jake McCreven  
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It was personal, it was emphatic and it was extremely lopsided.

Joyce Edwards hit on a runner with just over four minutes remaining in the first quarter to give No. 4 South Carolina (23-3) its first lead of the afternoon in a pivotal top-10 non-conference matchup in mid-February.

That was South Carolina's only lead of the game, as the Huskies (24-3) responded with nine straight to build an 18-11 lead just three minutes later.

Connecticut ran rampant on the boards and hit on over 45% of its three pointers in a season-defining victory in Columbia on Sunday afternoon, defeating South Carolina for the first time in four years 87-58.

The 29-point victory snapped the Gamecocks' 71-game home win streak and UConn's 11-year drought of winning on the road against an AP Top 5 team (Louisville 2014).

Perhaps paralyzed in trying to find the mismatches down low in the early going, the Gamecocks fell victim to the run-and-gun, up-tempo approach of the Huskies.

Connecticut hit on transition three pointers early from the likes of Ashlynn Shade and Paige Bueckers to build its lead to seven after the first period, owning a 21-14 advantage at the break. The seven-point margin was the largest home deficit after one quarter since 2021 for the Gamecocks.

Jana El Alfy was stout in the paint defensively for UConn in the first period, forcing Chloe Kitts to lose the ball out of bounds and grabbing a critical board to stymie the Gamecock momentum after tying the game at nine.

Head coach Geno Auriemma stressed the importance of El Alfy's paint presence to the media on Friday after declaring both Ice Brady (upper body) and Morgan Cheli (lower body) out

due to injury.

El Alfy finished with eight points on 60% shooting, grabbing six rebounds (two offensive) and one steal in a hardy effort from the paint.

Bueckers' two free throws were answered by Kitts down low and again by Edwards on the next possession. The Gamecocks scored just three points the rest of the quarter (Paopao three pointer) as UConn ended the period on a 12-3 run.

Sarah Strong, Shade, Azzi Fudd and Bueckers piled on a quick ten points to build the lead to 17 three minutes into the second period. The 10-0 spurt was a part of a 20-3 run by the Huskies over 6:56 that opened up the game offensively.

The Huskies shot a sharp 45.7% from the field and 50% from three in the first half, racking up 23 rebounds and 12 assists en route to taking a 22-point lead into the break.

Connecticut out-shot South Carolina by eight percent, had

a +10 advantage on the glass and +6 margin in turnovers (+11 in PFTO) at the half – a vast difference from the first halves of losses at Notre Dame, vs. USC and at Tennessee.

How did the Huskies find offensive success early? They stuck to their identity and got the ball into the hands of Bueckers, Fudd and Strong – all of whom struggled to find looks early in the three losses.

Oh, and winning on the boards every quarter goes a long way in producing second chance points, which the Huskies dominated.

The 22-point halftime deficit was the largest the Gamecocks had faced in Columbia since Dec. 2018 against Baylor.

Fudd got going early in the third, knocking down a jumper to stretch the lead to 24 at the 9:15 mark. Then again under basket with a reversing layup, and again from three off a fast break opportunity.

The sharpshooting guard hit on seven of nine third quarter field goals, including four three pointers, wrapping up an 18-point period which saw Fudd eclipse her 17-point third quarter against St. John's last Wednesday.

The Husky lead reached heights of 29 points in the third, aided by Fudd scoring 18 of the team's 25, as Connecticut took a 70-44 lead into the final quarter.

Fudd struck again from deep in the fourth, knocking down a step-back triple from the top of the key to restore the lead to 28. Strong reached a double-double status, recording 16 points, 13 rebounds and four assists in a physical effort against Edwards on the post.

The 29-point margin falls one basket short of Stanford's 30-point defeat of South Carolina in 2008 as the largest home defeat under Dawn Staley, per Stathead, and hands USC its first home loss since Dec. 2020 versus NC State.