



University bylaw revisions to increase senate population and add senator removal process

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The University of Connecticut Senate held a meeting on Monday, March 31 to discuss potential revisions to the UConn bylaws and the UConn Senate bylaws. These changes would expand the size of the senate to account for changing populations, create backups for people unable to fulfill the duties of their senate role and codify a process to remove senators.

A vote to approve these revisions will be held at the next University Senate meeting on April 7. If approved, the university senate by-laws will be enacted immediately, while the university bylaws will be sent to the board of trustees for approval. The board of trustees will then hold a vote to enact the bylaws as early as June 25.

At the meeting, Michelle Everard, the University Senate administrator, said that the purpose of the bylaw revision was to “clean up things that were outdated, simplify language that was confusing, build in flexibility... and also just modernize things.”

The full list of proposed changes to the bylaws can be found on the University Senate’s website. A significant amount of the revisions are language changes that do not affect the contents or addi-

tions that are already common practice among the senate but aren’t written in.

The senate started by discussing the proposed changes to the university bylaws.

Large changes to the bylaws were made in Section B, titled “Elections.”

In the current bylaws, a constituencies’ size remains at a set number regardless of a change in population. Currently, the faculty constituency has 72 senators, the professional staff constituency has 17 senators and the undergraduate and graduate constituencies have nine senators and three senators, respectively.

The revised bylaws would determine a constituencies’ size based on its total population. The revisions would allot one senator to the faculty constituency for every 25 eligible faculty, one senator to the professional staff constituency for every 125 eligible staff members and one student to the undergraduate and graduate constituencies for every 2,500 respective students.

During the meeting, an amendment was made to the revisions to prevent the number of student senators from decreasing below the number allotted in the current by-laws.

Another revision in the bylaws would increase the number of senators in the dean constituency by one, which is to be filled by a campus dean from one of the regional campuses.

If these revisions are approved, then the size of the senate would increase by five seats to 109 senators, with one new senator in the dean constituency, one new senator in the undergraduate constituency and three new senators in the staff constituency.

Section G, titled “Committees,” also saw changes relating to the representation of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in the Senate Executive Committee.

The SEC, which “is responsible for organization and coordinating the business of the Senate and of Senate committees” according to the current bylaws, consists of eight faculty members, two professional staff members, two undergraduate students and two graduate students. The current bylaws state that at least two and at most four of the eight faculty members should be from CLAS.

The revisions to the bylaws would change it so that at most three of the eight faculty members could be from the CLAS, reducing the total number of possible CLAS members by one. The revisions also state that any CLAS faculty members on the SEC must be from different CLAS subconstituencies.

These revisions were made to “ensure balanced representation from CLAS subconstituencies,” and to “further balance the SEC... as CLAS

currently represents approximately 1/3 of faculty,” according to the meeting agenda.

After the discussion around the revised university bylaws concluded, the senate moved on to discussing the proposed changes to the by-laws of the university senate.

A revision was made in Section C. 2, which relates to “Standing Committees/Special Committees,” to rename the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) committee to the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice and Accessibility (DEIJA) committee. This change was done to “include ‘accessibility’ in the title and to avoid references to Star Wars by the original acronym,” according to the meeting agenda.

The largest change to the bylaws of the University Senate was the addition of a new section, titled “Removal from Senate Service.” This section highlights what behavior can get a member removed from the University Senate and the process to remove them.

Under this change, senators could be removed for “non-participation in Senate or committee activities,” “actions that undermine the effectiveness or integrity of the Senate or its committees” and “any conduct detrimental to the fulfillment of the Senate’s responsibilities.”

The removal process would require a recommendation

of removal from the SEC or a senate committee or a petition signed by at least 25% of voting members.

The recommendation will then go to the senate nominating committee, who shall notify the member in question of the initiation of the removal process and how to submit a response. After hearing the response, the nominating committee shall decide whether to recommend removal by a two-thirds majority vote of all committee members.

If the nomination committee recommends removal, the member in question will be given the option to accept the recommendation or to appeal the recommendation to the University Senate at the next regular meeting. If the member appeals, the senate will hear from the nomination committee and the member in question, and afterwards will take a vote on the removal, with a two-thirds major vote required for removal.

In the meeting agenda, it says that “it was found that most University governance structures include processes for removal. The intention [of this section] is to have a safeguard in place in case a situation arises where these processes are necessary.” During the meeting, Everard said that the addition of this section was not spurred on by any individual’s behavior.

UConn hosts admitted students for UConn Bound Day

by **Maanya Pande**
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The University of Connecticut invited admitted students to explore the campus and get to know what it’s like being a Husky at the first UConn Bound Day on Sunday, March 30. With admission decisions having been released recently, the university is hosting a number of events to encourage admitted students to consider UConn.

These events are run by the Husky Ambassadors Program, with the ambassadors being students themselves. Currently, the events running are UConn Bound, Husky-for-a-Day and Admitted Student Lunches.

“April is a busy but exciting time for Admissions, and we love every moment of it. We especially love UConn Bound because it’s a wonderful opportunity to connect with admitted students and welcome the future generation of Huskies. Seeing their excitement when they arrive and their eagerness to ask questions is truly rewarding. It’s an incredible feeling to help them navigate this important decision—and sometimes, even be the reason they choose UConn,” said Kate Koval, a Husky Ambassador Coordinator.

UConn Bound Day began at 9 a.m. with a welcome ceremony at Gampel Pavilion. The ceremony had both student and faculty speakers talking about the UConn experience. After the Welcome Ceremony, admit-

ted students and families had a full day of events. Each pre-professional office held a presentation about the resources and career tracks offered. Additionally, every individual school had separate presentations to discuss opportunities within each school and major.

“All the admitted students seemed so nervous to talk to the Husky Ambassadors, and it was so rewarding to slowly break down those barriers, get to know them, and answer personalized questions. Bound Day reminded me how far I have come since I attended so hesitantly a year ago; there were no words I could conjure up to express how UConn has truly become my home, despite all my apprehensions when visiting and committing,” said Katleen Azpiri, a second semester Urban & Community Studies Husky Ambassador.

At 12:30 p.m., there was an Honors college informational session at Jorgenson. Honors Ambassadors assisted with the presentation by handing out water bottles and answering any questions students or families had about the Honors program at UConn.

“I really loved being able to answer questions and be a resource for new students to go to for information. I’m thrilled that UConn offers opportunities to support incoming students and for us current students to share our passion, knowledge, and excitement about UConn!” Lina Wille, second semester Honors account-

ing and economics student, said over text.

The Husky Ambassadors also led a number of tours around the campus, as well as specific buildings. Tours of the Recreational Center ran from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., according to the informational pamphlet. The

Husky Ambassadors Program is also hosting more events at the moment.

“As Husky Ambassadors, we take part in husky-for-a-day —where admitted students experience a day in the life of a husky. Large call campaigns to congratulate them on their ac-

ceptance, event greeting to welcome families for tours, and, of course, our favorite: Open Houses,” Koval said.

The second UConn Bound Day will be on Saturday, April 12 and will follow a similar schedule, according to the website.



ILLUSTRATION BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST



UConn School of Nursing students tabling for UConn Bound Day. Each school of the university aims to inform admitted students about their programs during the event. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNNURSING ON INSTAGRAM

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News

UConn Stamford to unveil new Center for Academic Success and Engagement

by Patrick Boots

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The University of Connecticut's satellite campus in Stamford is celebrating the grand opening of the renovated Center for Academic Success and Engagement on Wednesday, April 2. The festivities will kick off with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to be presided over by UConn leaders and Connecticut elected officials.

The new center, also to be known as the "CASE," is located on the second floor of the UConn Stamford building in downtown Stamford and acts as an extension of the campus' tutoring facilities. The CASE will be the "home base" for Stamford regional students' access to the Writing Center and Quantitative Learning Center in addition to virtual access for numerous other course subjects according to the campus webpage.

"CASE is a one-stop hub designed to support students by bringing together essential resources in one place, creating a centralized space where students can access peer tutoring, mentoring, academic workshops, and guidance programs," a press statement on the new center said.

Campus officials also announced that the new center will incorporate programs from the current UConn Center for Access and Postsecondary Success, which provides support and access for students who are traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

ConnCAP, one of these initiatives sponsored through the Stamford campus, partners with high school students in the region as a pathway for advising and college preparation through unique summer programs based out of the UConn Stamford facilities.

"Students on the Stamford Campus have additional resources and programming, sponsored by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) and Dominion Energy, that exposes them to STEM experiences and careers," the ConnCAP webpage says. "Students selected as part of this program will earn college credit, learn from energy industry leaders and learn more about careers in STEM."

The new CASE facility was constructed through gift funding from Synchrony Financial, a credit and consumer savings services company based in Stamford. In 2019, Synchrony donated \$1 million toward the "Connecticut Commitment," a program that allowed lower-income students living in Connecticut to attend UConn for free.

The program was "regrettably but unavoidably" cancelled in the fall of 2020 due to fundraising struggles, according to a 2020 UConn Today announcement.

Synchrony is also the namesake of the Synchrony Digital Technology Center based at UConn Stamford, a "next generation tech" lab space with focuses in software engineering and internet-connected innovation, and the Synchrony Cybersecurity



Student mentors in the UConn Stamford Center for Academic Success and Engagement on Sept. 16, 2024. The space hosts a multitude of ways for students to receive academic support, including tutoring and workshops. PHOTO COURTESY OF @STAMFORDFYE ON INSTAGRAM

Center based at the main UConn campus in Storrs, which helps conduct cybersecurity research and data-focused internship pipelines.

"We're committed to Connecticut's economic success and ensuring that local students from diverse backgrounds are

equipped with the experiences and skills needed to tackle tomorrow's challenges," said Margaret Keane, CEO of Synchrony Financial, to UConn Today following their \$1 million contribution.

The UConn community and members of the public are invited to join the ribbon-cutting for the

new Center for Academic Success and Engagement at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, April 2. The celebrations will be held at UConn Stamford on the corner of Broad Street and Washington Boulevard — just a short walk from the Stamford Metro-North train station or Exit 8 off Interstate 95.

Unsolved violent crimes in Native American communities to get more attention with FBI surge

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — The FBI is sending extra agents, analysts and other personnel to field offices in 10 states over the next six months to help investigate unsolved violent crimes in Indian Country, marking a continuation of efforts by the federal government to address high rates of violence affecting Native American communities.

The U.S. Justice Department announced Tuesday that the temporary duty assignments began immediately and will rotate every 90 days in field offices that include Albuquerque, Phoenix, Denver, Detroit, Minneapolis, Oklahoma City, Seattle, Salt Lake City, Portland, Oregon, and Jackson, Mississippi.

The FBI will be working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Missing and Murdered Unit, tribal authorities and federal prosecutors in each of the states.

"Crime rates in American Indian and Alaska Native communities are unacceptably high," U.S. Attorney General Pamela Bondi said in a statement. "By surging FBI resources and collaborating closely with U.S. attorneys and tribal law enforcement to prosecute cases, the Department of Justice will help deliver the accountability that these communities deserve."

Work to address the decades-long crisis stretches back to President Donald Trump's first term, when he established a special task force aimed at curbing the high rate of killings and disappearances among Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

President Joe Biden issued his own executive order on public safety in 2021, and then-Interior Secretary Deb Haaland launched efforts to implement the Not Invisible Act, charging a federal com-



Families and victims advocates participate in a prayer walk around the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center to mark Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Day in Albuquerque, N.M., Sunday, May 5, 2024. (AP PHOTO/SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN, FILE)

mission with finding ways to improve how the government responded to Indian Country cases. Public meetings were held around the country as part of the effort.

In 2023, the Justice Department established its Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons outreach program, dispatching more attorneys and

coordinators to certain regions to help with unsolved cases.

In past years, the FBI's Operation Not Forgotten had deployed about 50 people. This year, it's 60.

According to federal authorities, the FBI's Indian Country program had 4,300 open investigations at the beginning of the fiscal year. That included

more than 900 death investigations, 1,000 child abuse investigations, and more than 500 domestic violence and adult sexual abuse cases.

The operation in the past two years has supported more than 500 investigations, leading to the recovery of 10 children who were victims and the arrests of more than 50 suspects.

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The Daily Campus

- ACROSS**
- Cloth that protects waves
 - Jazz pattern
 - Future atty.'s exam
 - Native people of Missouri
 - Campaign for Smart Justice org.
 - Córdoba coin
 - Sired, biblically
 - "You ___ me?"
 - Marching insects
 - Leg day exercises performed while holding dumbbells
 - "Uh-uh"
 - "¿___ te llamas?"
 - Pipe material, for short
 - Rectangle-shaped football formation
 - "So cool!"
 - Marvel's God of Mischief
 - Breakfast or brunch
 - Close shave
 - This ___ up
 - Natural fence
 - Seize
 - Not here anymore
 - In the style of
 - Stephen King novel about a graveyard curse
 - Homer's wholesome neighbor
 - "In my opinion ..."
 - Not trans
 - Therapist's statement, or what can be said about the first parts of 20-, 28-, and 46-Across?
 - Skip over
 - ___ bean
 - Nest on a cliff
 - Santa Monica landmark
 - "That true?"
 - Itty-bitty
 - Site with handmade stock
 - Crop-sharing orgs.
 - Wipe data from

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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65					66				67			
68					69				70			

By Stella Zawistowski 4/2/25

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

C	R	O	P	I	D	E	A	L	F	U	M	E		
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			B	U	N	K	H	O	U	S	E			
T	A	C	O	K	T	O	W	N	B	R	U	T		
E	A	R	N	H	O	T	O	O	Z	E				
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P	O	K	I	E	R	A	W	S	N	A	P			
S	U	P	D	I	S	P	U	T	E	H	U	E		
A	T	O	M	F	A	L	S	E	M	E	D	S		
L	I	T	E	F	L	E	E	S	F	L	I	T		
M	E	S	H	S	T	A	R	T	A	L	T	O		

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3 Rao's rival	40 Get into	54 Easy running pace
4 Excited toddler's cry	41 Pause before deciding	55 Give off
5 Not beyond one's solving skills	44 Violin or guitar section	56 Draw scores
6 Nadal's nickname	47 Columbus sch.	57 Nike rival
7 Coats with frosting	48 Genre with unofficial sequels, familiarly	58 Sphinx and Siamese
8 Warm jacket lining	49 Skip over	59 Carpeting measurement
9 Stuffed with	53 See-through	60 Sardine containers
10 "When you're not strong" song		64 Organ with a retina
11 Like operas and oratorios		
12 Opere e oratori		
13 Chuck		
21 Shoe designer Jimmy		
22 Japanese plum		
25 Drop in the mail		
26 Language learner's topic, for short		
27 R&B singer Khan		
29 Classic Jaguar model		
30 Wild dog of the Australian Outback		
31 Car rental option		
32 63-Across nester		
36 Head up		
38 Wedding couple's wish list		

Crossword

Sudoku

	4			5	6	8	
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Solution to Tuesday's puzzle 4/2/25

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

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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DEAFHEAVEN DELVES DEEPER INTO BLACK METAL WITH 'LONELY PEOPLE WITH POWER'

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab**
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Don't let the album covers deceive you: Deafheaven is neither your standard rock nor black metal band. The blackgaze band has been polarizing to many people for various reasons. For example, black metal purists hate how Deafheaven takes black metal and experiments with it in more palatable ways, making the music more accessible for a larger audience, from the visual aesthetic to the music itself.

Furthermore, your average rock fan might be misled by the cover art and dislike the harshness and abrasiveness of the compositions, whether in the banshee-like vocals, the heavy drums or the wall of sound that the guitars make, even if it's blackgaze and hypothetically softer on the ears due to the shoegaze elements.

"Lonely People with Power," released on March 28, comes after a rough point in Deafheaven's discography. In 2021's "Infinite Granite," the band made the creative deci-

sion to tone down the black metal aspects and focus more on shoegaze and dream pop.

The result was a neutered and somewhat uninspired album that was a far cry from the glory of Deafheaven's previous works, especially their 2013 breakthrough blackgaze album "Sunbather" and 2018's "Ordinary Corrupt Human Love." That changes here.

"Lonely People with Power" gives the listener one chance to click off and listen to something else with the ambient-inspired intro "Incidental I." It flows incredibly well into the next track.

"Doberman" showcases the return of classic black metal elements such as the banshee-like shrieking vocals and the blast beat drums. The guitars are super atmospheric, likely influenced by the band's previous blackgaze instrumentation.

The lyric "All hail now the panopticon, see all around me, all of my failure" can relate to people who have paranoia. The panopticon could be a metaphor for God or a different authority power, but there are Biblical lyrics later in the song, so the former is more likely.

"Magnolia" has an annoying melody at the beginning that barely progresses. Luckily, later on in the song, it's replaced by a really beautiful guitar melody that meshes well with the drums that slow down a bit to maximize the impact of the music.

A striking highlight of a lyric is "I owned everything thought to be suicidal mania," which may reference the manic state many people with bipolar disorder might develop in between the states of depression. It's a cryptic line that is easy to fixate on.

"The Garden Route" has fantasy-like and adventurous lyrics. The lyric "Drinking silver from a dim spring of mercury, on the outskirts of a desert, the lifeless slither, still we seek, thirsting and wandering" sounds fantastical and grand, like an epic story.

"Heathen" is an excellent song that is abrasive yet enthralling to listen to. It has a great melody, courtesy of the guitar, along with impressive drum playing.

"Amethyst" begins more calmly before exploding into a cathartic black metal masterpiece within its eight-minute runtime. It's so euphoric

to listen to lyrics that read like poetry.

The parting lyrics "Majesty and misanthropy, beginning at forty, from the zenith underneath, nadir, nadir, nadir, nadir, nadir, nadir, nadir, nadir, nadir, from everyday living, waking in fear" show us that reaching rock bottom is despair-inducing. However, the nadir and zenith take turns existing like the sun and moon, so there is some hope in between the misery for change.

"Revelator" has a repetitive guitar lead, but the part with the blast beat drums sounds great. There's a part of the song where an acoustic guitar is the only instrument playing and you can hear the looming of sounds in the background before the song returns to black metal.

"Body Behavior" has one of the best guitar melodies on the entire album. The lyrics about wanting to pursue romantic love over sexual desire but failing to do so in the long run by succumbing to depression is tragic.

"Incidental III" is a heavenly synth-based interlude with spoken word by influential rock band Interpol's vocalist Paul Banks, delving into sex-

ual attraction towards a woman and a protagonist. There is also a third person, according to how Banks says, "We looked" instead of "I looked."

"Winona" is yet another solid blackgaze song under Deafheaven's belt with the guitar melodies. The lyric "Power bastard, pathetic master, I'm reliving Saturn eating, his flesh is everything of mine" references that famous art piece by painter Francisco Goya of the Roman god Saturn cannibalizing his son and is generally a standout line for the power dynamic expressed.

"The Marvelous Orange Tree" has multiple great melodies peppered throughout the song with a good mix of clean and banshee vocals as well. Under a beautiful synth line, the lyric "Showing shivering skin, with you, my endless illness, with my endless illness, walking into blackness" is such a beautifully tragic way to wrap up the album.

The worst part about "Lonely People with Power" is its cover art. Beyond that, there's a lot to love within the collection of songs. It's understandable if it's not for you, but this album is something special and poetic.

Rating: 4.5/5

THIS IS AMERICA AND THE UNTOLD STORY OF ISOLATIONISM

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The University of Connecticut's History Department held their 152nd Foreign Policy Seminar last Friday, March 28. The speaker was Professor Christopher McKnight Nichols of Ohio State University. His talk was titled "The Untold Story of Isolationism" and he detailed the history of the United States' relationship with the isolationism ideology since the 18th century.

Nichols started his talk by stating that history acts as a "vaccine against superficiality," and that context is essential to protect one from superficial ideas.

Nichols next stated the three core ideas for U.S. isolationism that emerged from the founding fathers and early presidents. First, George Washington pushed for a neutral U.S. and a unilateral strategy. Thomas Jefferson supported the same ideals, especially unilateralism and focused inwards on American prob-

lems instead of global ones. Finally, the Monroe Doctrine from President James Monroe focused on European powers. The Monroe Doctrine considered the movement of European powers into the Americas as a hostile act towards the U.S., essentially creating a sphere of influence in the Americas for the U.S.

Nichols next jumped to 1898, a time of modernization for America and the isolationist movement. This is around the time when the term "isolationist" gets thrown around. It's also the time when more people start moving to cities and reform movements are in full swing.

The late 19th century is also when the first isolationist lobby, the Anti-Imperialism League, was established. The League was a diverse and reputable organization, filled with a lot of different voices across the political spectrum.

As seen in the name, the league's main goal was to combat imperialism and bring the U.S. governments attention back towards itself. Nichols next fast-forwarded to World War One, just before the hey-

day of the isolationism movement in the 1920s and '30s. That doesn't mean the isolationism movement is wavering as both presidential candidates in 1916 ran on isolationist platforms, advocating for reduced immigration, an America-first focus and staying out of WW1.

Nichols then explained the context behind America's involvement in World War I in 1917. First, it took three years for America to get dragged into the war. Even while fighting in the war, they fought on their own terms and settled their own peace with Germany. According to Nichols, these actions do strongly follow the tenets of isolationism set by Jefferson.

World War I also brought up another concern: Who should be responsible for leading America into wars?

This soon became a highly politicized question. In 1934, the U.S. Senate's Nye Committee tried to answer this question as they looked at who stood to profit from World War I. They found that the defense industry profited most from war and that war was mainly about profit, not na-

tional honor or defense. The committee's finding led to a radical rethinking of World War I, and this revisionist history became a part of the core tenets for the next isolationist lobby: America First.

America First, much like its predecessor, was also a diverse and reputable lobby, comprising members from all across the political spectrum. Founded in 1940, America First had one core policy: Stay out of World War II — an implicitly isolationist rhetoric.

America First also had other issues they wanted to address, like the growing power of the executive branch. Nichols manages to tie this back to the whole debate about who should have the authority to lead the U.S. into wars: Congress or the people? Nichols talked about the proposed Ludlow Amendment that would have let a national referendum decide whether America should enter a conflict.

The final period of isolationism Nichols covered is the 1950s. Approaching the 1952 election, isolationism appears again but with a new

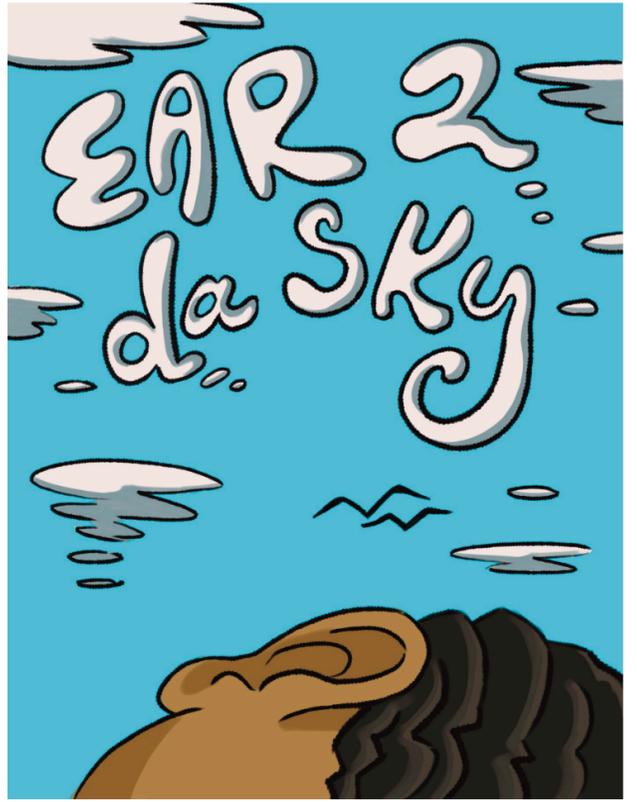
coat of paint. The likely Republican candidate, Robert Taft, subscribed to the "free hand" ideology, which states that "American sovereignty should be protected at all costs," according to Nichols.

This was bad news for the incumbent Truman and the Democrats, as this idea proved both persuasive and popular to voters. In the end though, Eisenhower became the republican candidate and president in the '52 elections and continued down the cold war interventionist route.

To conclude, Nichols went over the main branches of isolationism. There is political isolationism, where advocates argue America shouldn't enter global agreements and alliances. Then there is protectionist isolationism, where advocates are skeptical of international trade and support trade barriers within the U.S.

Nichols' final point is to emphasize that isolationism is not about geographic borders but is rather a game of "us versus them" and exclusivity. To Nichols, they focus on "conceptual borders" rather than literal ones.

EAR 2 DA SKY: EL COUSTEAU STAYS CORDIAL WITH 'MERCİ, NON MERCİ'



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Hayden Cromer**
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Welcome to Ear 2 Da Sky! Each week, I will be going over topics within music culture and reviewing albums and EPs across genres, eras and artists that are submitted by readers like you, and listeners of my radio show, ear 2 da ground, every Wednesday at 11 p.m. on WHUS 91.7 FM! Between studying, sleeping, working and eating, I got the chance to listen to El Cousteau's "Merci, Non Merci."

This is the fifth studio album by the DMV-based artist. Released on Nov. 7, 2024, it spans 17 songs and clocks in at 35 minutes. Sonic growth can definitely be seen in most artists if you pick apart their discography, but I think it can be most prevalent in Cousteau's albums.

Having released music since 2016, there has been a maturing of his sound over the years. You can also treat these projects as a time capsule of rap, with different trends in the genre both seen on the cover art and heard in the music.

Track one, "Joe Black," opens with a feel-good instrumental and Cousteau reflecting on where he is and where he used to be: "Everything happenin' for me that ain't happen before." He further reflects on the idea of time passing, people changing and families being created.

He ultimately questions not only how far his career will go, but also how long he will be happy with himself and his life, "If we ain't enjoyin' every second, what we doin' it for? / I ask myself about all these choices to come."

The second track, 'New Red,' has some of the best and funniest punchlines, he also shows a lot of what makes El Cousteau on this track: his delivery.

A big thing that makes him stick out from other rappers is the pockets he can find with his raps and the emo-

tion he can convey through how he delivers each bar. He doesn't take himself too seriously to the point of rapping straight-faced and monotone. You can hear each smile, frown and signs of annoyance in his music.

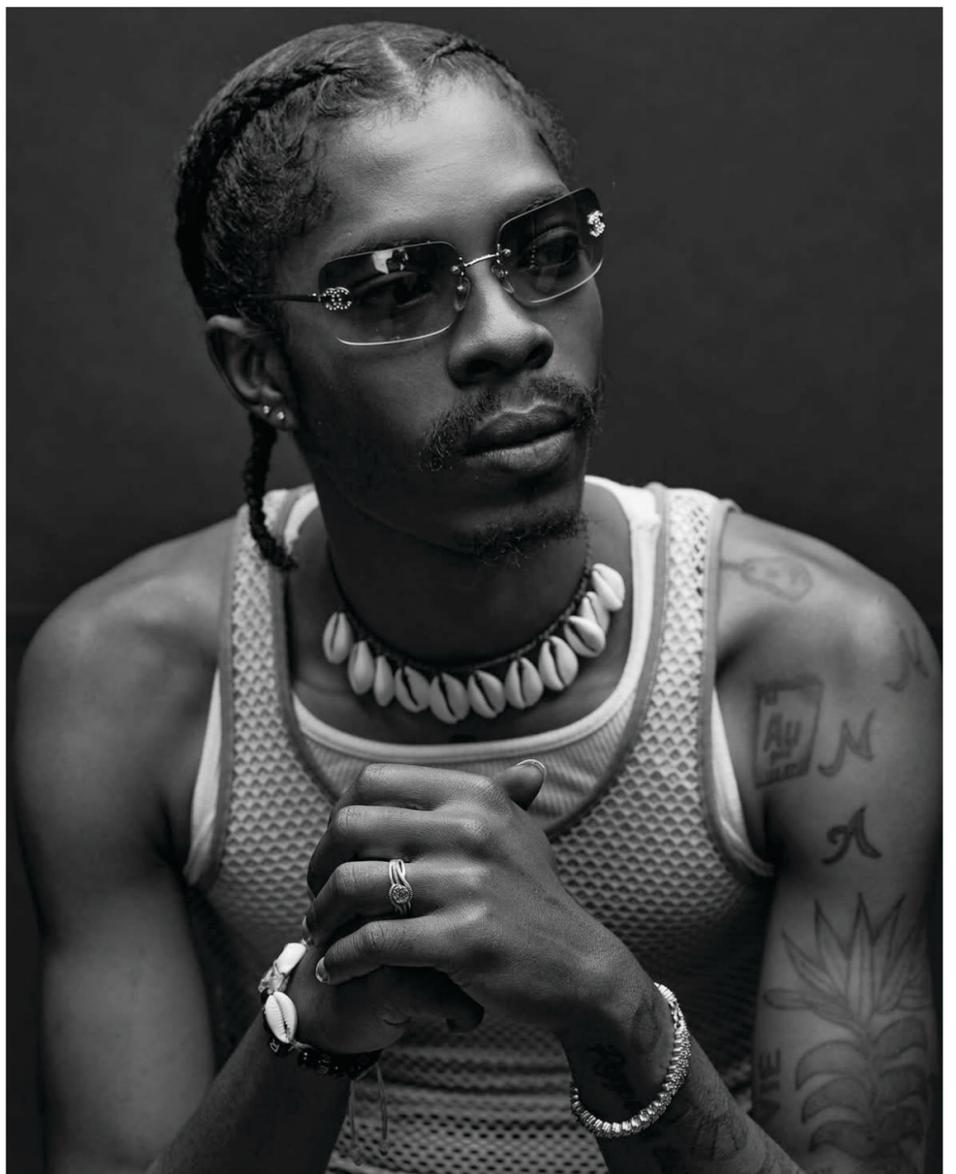
Track four is the most popular song off the album, "Words2LiveBy." Featuring the likes of Earl Sweatshirt, this song was all over the place in the rap world in the fall of 2024. If only I could fit Earl Sweatshirt's entire verse in here - it's just too good. The rap on this track is amazing; go and give it a listen.

The 10th track off the project is "Ballad of France," opening with a Slum Village sample and introspective spoken word poetry in the intro from Cousteau. "Plans now they seem, more mandatory than recreational / Can't tell if you're being yourself or the person you've never had in your life / I think we all need to speak easy, talk about our feelings over basslines / Ask what it comes to the confine."

Cousteau continues with his introspection as he speaks on the balancing act of family and work. He's remorseful for staying out of touch with his family, being left with an overwhelming feeling of guilt. But he comes to terms with his actions as he understands that it was ultimately a step he had to take if he wanted to see his career blossom.

El Cousteau's "Merci, Non Merci" is an exploration of sounds and styles, which I think is a sign of life and future in an artist. There is homogeneity in the first half of the album before getting a bit experimental, which I don't think brings down the overall experience. Cousteau is still finding direction and taking one step at a time. I'm excited to see which direction he'll take next.

If you want to submit something to my radio show, ask for advice, hear your music on the radio and possibly even see an album or EP you submitted get reviewed in the paper, submit it here: <https://bit.ly/ear2dasky>



El Cousteau is a Washington D.C. native who began making music in 2016. "Merci, Non Merci" is his fifth studio album, released on Nov. 7, 2024.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF @ELCOUSTEAU ON INSTAGRAM

**RATING:
3/5**



Opinion

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COMIC BY CONNOR SZREJNA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Editorial

UConn's denial of budget cuts shows a lack of needed transparency

by The Editorial Board
opinion@dailycampus.com

The University of Connecticut College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) may be required to cut budgets by 19.5% over the next five years, according to reporting done by The Daily Campus. Despite denial from UConn regarding this statement, three CLAS department heads and the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) have come forward, asserting that the CLAS dean has requested these cuts across the college, as well as the development of department specific strategies for cut implementation due at the end of April.

These cuts come on the heels of other financial issues at UConn such as dwindling support from the government. They also come after UConn announced that they would be evaluating low enrollment programs, with up to 24 programs being suspended, permanently discontinued or consolidated.

Through all of these announcements, there has been a lack of clear and consistent communication from the university. In response to concerns raised by members of CLAS and the AAUP, Provost Anne D'Alleva and Chief Financial Officer Jeff Geoghegan released a statement in UConn Today denying the 19.5% cuts, rather saying that all units were instructed to prepare for 15% cuts. This number does not include the 4.5% reduction for the most recent wage increase which went unfunded by the government and went completely unmentioned in the UConn Today statement.

Conflicting statements from department heads, deans and the UConn administration make the truth of the situation unclear, denying UConn students, staff and prospective attendees the transparency they deserve.

As the commitment deadline for prospective students approaches, it is vital that they know the full truth about the future of the institution. Major budget cuts like these could have an important impact on their decision-making process, and shrouding the truth could harm future students deciding on a major.

For current students, these cuts have an even bigger effect. According to a leaked email from a CLAS department head and statements from political science Department Head Oksan Bayulgen, graduate students will be impacted more than most. Budget cuts and a reduction in fellowships will make recruitment into specific programs difficult. In the same statement, Bayulgen states that graduate assistantships in particular would make for much of the cuts, possibly reducing the number by 60 or 70% of the current total.

These changes put a large burden on staff, forcing them to completely re-evaluate the organization of their programs, the way that they teach and the manner in which they conduct their research.

While all sources, excluding UConn Today, point towards the 19.5% cuts becoming a reality, the future budget cuts of CLAS remain unknown. CLAS staff and administration have been given very little time to mitigate the detrimental effects of major cuts to their programs, and it seems as though they have been given no transparent guidance as to what these cuts will be.

If UConn's mission is to embrace integrity, then why are they publishing information that directly conflicts with what they've told the leaders of CLAS? The UConn community, students and faculty alike, needs an administration that is honest and cooperative as we all deal with our struggling budget.



Connecticut citizens holding signs against Project Maple in Hartford, Conn. on Feb. 11, 2025. The project is a state-crossing gas expansion project proposed by Enbridge.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @VALEDEMS ON INSTAGRAM

Op-ed

Stop Project Maple Coalition

by Dylan Steer | HE/HIM/HIS | UCONN SENIOR | dylan.steer@uconn.edu

Each day climate destruction becomes clearer as it moves closer to home, from the devastating fires in Los Angeles and orange skies in New York City following Canadian wildfires, to destructive hurricanes in North Carolina and roads splitting from intense flooding right here in Connecticut. As a senior at the University of Connecticut, the question of what we can do to stop the climate crisis has been top of mind for me, especially with the threat of expanded fossil fuel infrastructure right here in Storrs.

While students such as myself fight for climate action through groups like EcoHusky and Fossil Fuel Free UConn, both of which I've organized with for years while also working at UConn's Office of Sustainability, those in positions of power continue to make decisions that sacrifice our futures and heighten the destruction that we see daily.

In January, Governor Ned Lamont stated his support for the continued use of "natural" gas, more accurately called methane gas. Methane is an extremely potent greenhouse gas that is over 80 times more powerful than carbon dioxide for over 20 years. This is of extra concern because of a recent proposal from the fossil fuel company Enbridge: the expansion of a methane gas pipeline known as Project Maple. This project would expand a pipeline that runs

from New York to Massachusetts, including through most of Connecticut.

This pipeline also runs through Mansfield and the UConn Storrs Campus. Unfortunately, UConn also continues to feed into the demand for methane gas, even as they claim to be a climate leader. It's unclear which, if any, buyers in Connecticut have expressed interest in the expanded gas capacity from Project Maple, although Eversource in Massachusetts has. However, UConn has bought gas from previous expansions of this same pipeline. That means that they are directly buying into the destruction of the climate and harming communities along the pipeline route.

The expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure signifies our state's total capitulation to the monied interests of fossil fuels and a complete betrayal of its citizens' health, safety and future. UConn must separate themselves from this and commit to not buying any added gas from the Project Maple expansion.

We have seen what it looks like when one of these pipelines breaks; it destroys communities and there are little to no consequences to the corporate actors who have brought nothing but harm to the communities they occupy. Furthermore, pipelines leak at an estimated rate of about 3% of all gas transported, with devastat-

ing effects on the climate.

Instead of constantly bowing down to fossil fuels even when we know their destructive effects on our health and our environment, Connecticut must become a leader in the energy transition. The state's last coal power plant closed in 2021 and made commitments to expand grid capacity at the Clean Energy Summit hosted at UConn in September 2024. Those were critical steps, but we cannot stop there.

It's time for meaningful change. Our state must invest in clean energy and leave fossil fuels in the past. Act now by signing the Sierra Club petition and urging Governor Lamont and Katie Dykes, the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, to Stop Project Maple and the expansion of methane gas across Connecticut. You can also join the Stop Project Maple coalition for an educational forum about the impacts of this pipeline on local health and climate change on April 16 at the Mansfield Town Hall. More information is available at tinyurl.com/mansfieldforum.

Dylan Steer is an eighth-semer student at the University of Connecticut studying political science and environmental studies with minors in middle eastern studies and WGSS, and an organizer with the Stop Project Maple Coalition.

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Spring weather



A beautiful day at the UConn Storrs Campus on April 1, 2025. Students can be found outside enjoying the recent spring temperatures as the days continue to warm up. PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Locked in on LinkedIn: College and career competition have turned toxic

by Evelyn Pazan
SHE/HER/HERS
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I am beyond excited and grateful to announce that I have taken the next step to match the accomplishments of my peers. But at what cost? My sanity, maybe. My self-esteem, definitely.

Every day I log in to LinkedIn to leave comments on other's posts, inform people of my career development and connect with mentors, but for me and many other business students, LinkedIn has now taken on another role. LinkedIn is no longer just a platform made to help people find careers and inspiration, it is now a battleground for young people to compete for the most recognition - like most other social media platforms.

Owned by Microsoft, LinkedIn is the premier career social network with over 260 million users in the United States and over 1.1 billion users worldwide. Of this total, Generation Z and Millennials make up 76% of users, making it a popular social media choice for young people seeking jobs.

While LinkedIn is a powerful tool for companies and individuals to "develop their brand", the negative effects of the platform have started to cripple confidence and sew insecurity into peoples' minds, much like what

we've seen with Instagram and other platforms.

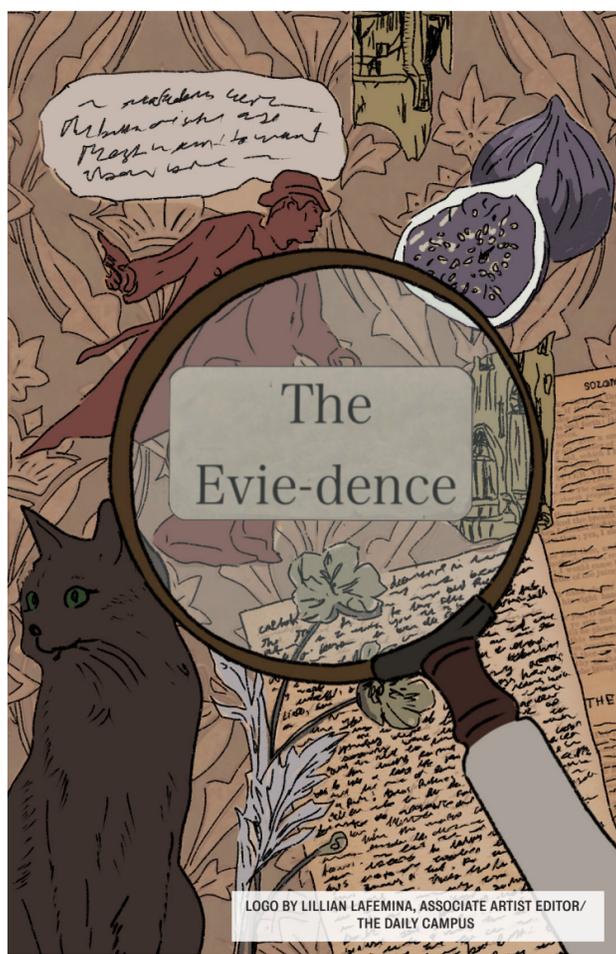
For new graduates and people looking to climb the corporate ladder, the competition is already enough. Multiple studies have shown that unemployment rates are rising, and the duration of unemployment is extending. Combined with a volatile economic environment and the increased cost of owning a home, the pressure is on for young people.

We've already seen this stress trending on social media, so much so that it has a name: "LinkedIn Envy." LinkedIn has caused people to feel immense anxiety, negative physical effects and an overall feeling of despair.

Some might say that while these symptoms are prevalent on other platforms, they are even more pronounced on LinkedIn. On Instagram, Snapchat, X and Facebook, users disguise their successes and happiness as efforts to share their life or keep their friends updated. On LinkedIn, there is no façade. LinkedIn users are generally there to brag. They might throw in a "thank you" and "grateful" to act humble, but everyone else on the platform knows the etiquette and reason why they are posting. They want to be seen and envied, both inside and outside of their existing circle. LinkedIn has lost its original

purpose as a place where people can lift each other up and recommend avenues for success. Now, LinkedIn is more like a track race. We are constantly in competition, whether we know it or not. It isn't enough to get accepted to college or get an internship from a major company. To feel merely adequate, students now feel like they have to get into the best college and get an internship in the best city. The competition is unhealthy and dangerous, but it is irresistible for so many of us.

LinkedIn may be harmful but it's nearly impossible to avoid it entirely, as it is a vital part of the job search. With this in mind, it is our responsibility to use LinkedIn mindfully. It's easy to look at other's successes and question your potential. It's easy to feel inadequate when your peers seem to be moving so much faster than you. The truth is that giving into these feelings will not hand you your dream internship. Instead, holding onto hope and doing the best we can is essential. Stop competing with yourself. After all, no one will remember your "excited to announce" post. What matters is the meaningful relationships that you made along the way. Those relationships, whether career-related or not, are what will truly help you achieve your dreams.



Guest Comic
by @caped.phil
on Instagram

POINT COUNTERPOINT: SHOULD MLB BAN THE TORPEDO BATS?

by **Jake Loomis**
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The new Torpedo bats that the New York Yankees are using are one of the hottest topics in baseball this year. The new bat, which is legal, changes the location of the barrel as it is now closer to the hands of the hitter. This has helped many players, such as Jazz Chisholm, in the early going as the barrel location better fits his swing path. Chisholm already has three home runs in three games and is hitting for a .417 average as the Yankees sweep the Brewers in the first series of the year. As a team, the Bronx Bombers have

blasted 15 home runs over the fence with star Aaron Judge (not using a torpedo bat) leading the pack with four.

The torpedo bats are all similar, however each player has a slightly different model based on their bat size and their swing path analytics. The bats just came out, and they are already sparking controversy in the baseball world. Per MLB rules, they are considered fair game. Rule 3.02 states that bats cannot be more than 2.61 inches in diameter and 42 inches in length, and the torpedo bat meets those requirements. The question that many are still asking is whether the MLB will ban this style of bat.

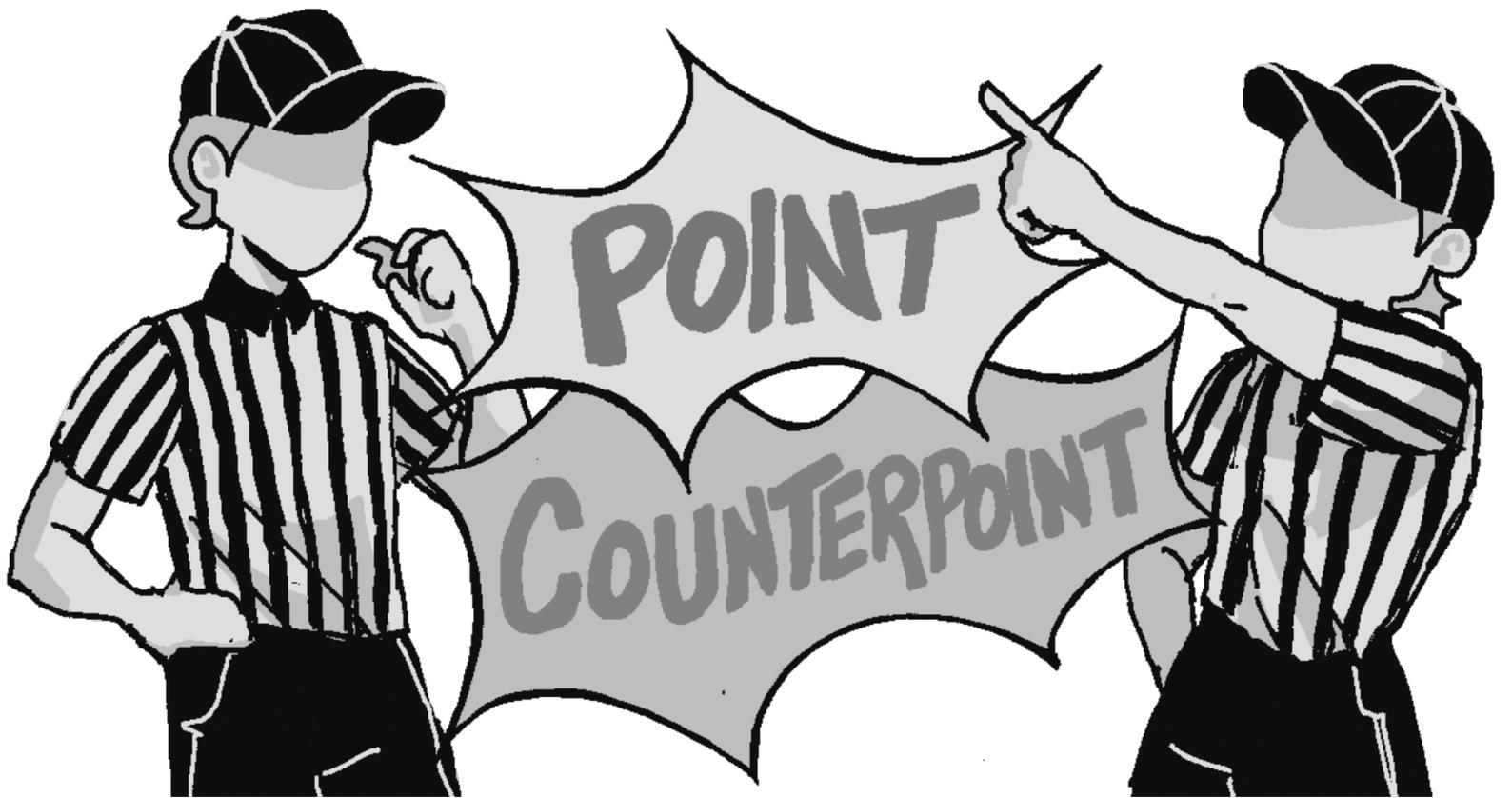
The MLB should not ban this bat due to the fact that every player has the ability to use it. The only reason for the bat to be banned would be if it were too overpowering for pitchers. However, when players are throwing 100 mph fastballs, hitters need every advantage they can get to hit the ball. Hits and home runs are also great for the game, as many more fans are drawn to big flies rather than strikeouts. It's always great to see a no-hitter or a perfect game. However, those feats are rare compared to the home run, which, on average, happens 1.21 times in a regular game.

Not every player will use the torpedo bat as it's not a fit

for all swing paths. As mentioned, the barrel is closer to the hands, and for players who like to reach for pitches, this might not be the greatest fit to generate power and contact. Cody Bellinger is an outlier; in his first series with the new barrel, he generated some great contact with the bat, while also experiencing some weaker contact when reaching over the plate. The weaker contact was a good thing as it worked as a perfect bunt, allowing him to use his legs to get on base.

The torpedo bat is the newest MLB innovation crated by former Yankees staff member Aaron Leadheart, who now works for the Marlins. The

goal will always be to innovate and if the Torpedo bat is banned, the innovation will hit a pause. This bat has the potential to change the game not only for hitters now, but also for those in the future. Scientists and baseball gurus will continue to search for the next cutting-edge innovation that will revolutionize the game for players. As a fan, home runs and a slightly different bat form do not make me hate the game, it just makes me love it more. This season is shaping up to be one of the best in the MLB in a while as numerous storylines surround the game, including the new bat that should be allowed to remain in play.



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Connor Sargeant**
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MLB should ban the torpedo bats, and it's for a simple reason: allowing these bats in sets a dangerous precedent that undermines all of America's pastime traditions since the game's inception. While the MLB has changed the shape of the glove multiple times throughout history, a significant reason for this was to re-

duce hand injuries as pitchers threw harder and allow fielders to make plays on the ball. The new torpedo bats do not serve this function.

From detailed scouting reports to the best pitcher simulations on the planet, the tools that hitters have to thrive have never been greater, which puts pitchers at a significant competitive disadvantage. While pitchers do throw harder than ever before and have breaking balls with historic snap, there

is evidence to suggest that the league has "juiced" baseballs, putting pitchers at yet another disadvantage. Instead of having to improve and adjust their ideal swing path to get on base, loading the bats in this manner eliminates the hard work of making swing adjustments and being a true competitor. Players can now go to their analytics department and find their ideal bat but again, what about the pitchers? They have no tailor-made advantage to

their position quite like the hitters have, and in what world is that fair?

While complaining about more runs and more "excitement" may not be controversial to some, low-run pitcher duels are exciting and this move signals that MLB disagrees with this notion. It's not out of the question that these types of games could become extinct within the next 10 years, as these bats are only the start. With the pitch clock, pitcher throwover

rules and now torpedo bats, it is clear that MLB cares for money first and fans last.

While it is not illegal right now, these bats are altering America's pastime in a way that could render baseball unrecognizable in the near future. Rob Manfred and the league should come together and make the right decision: Ban the torpedo bat and update the language surrounding what hitters can use at the plate.

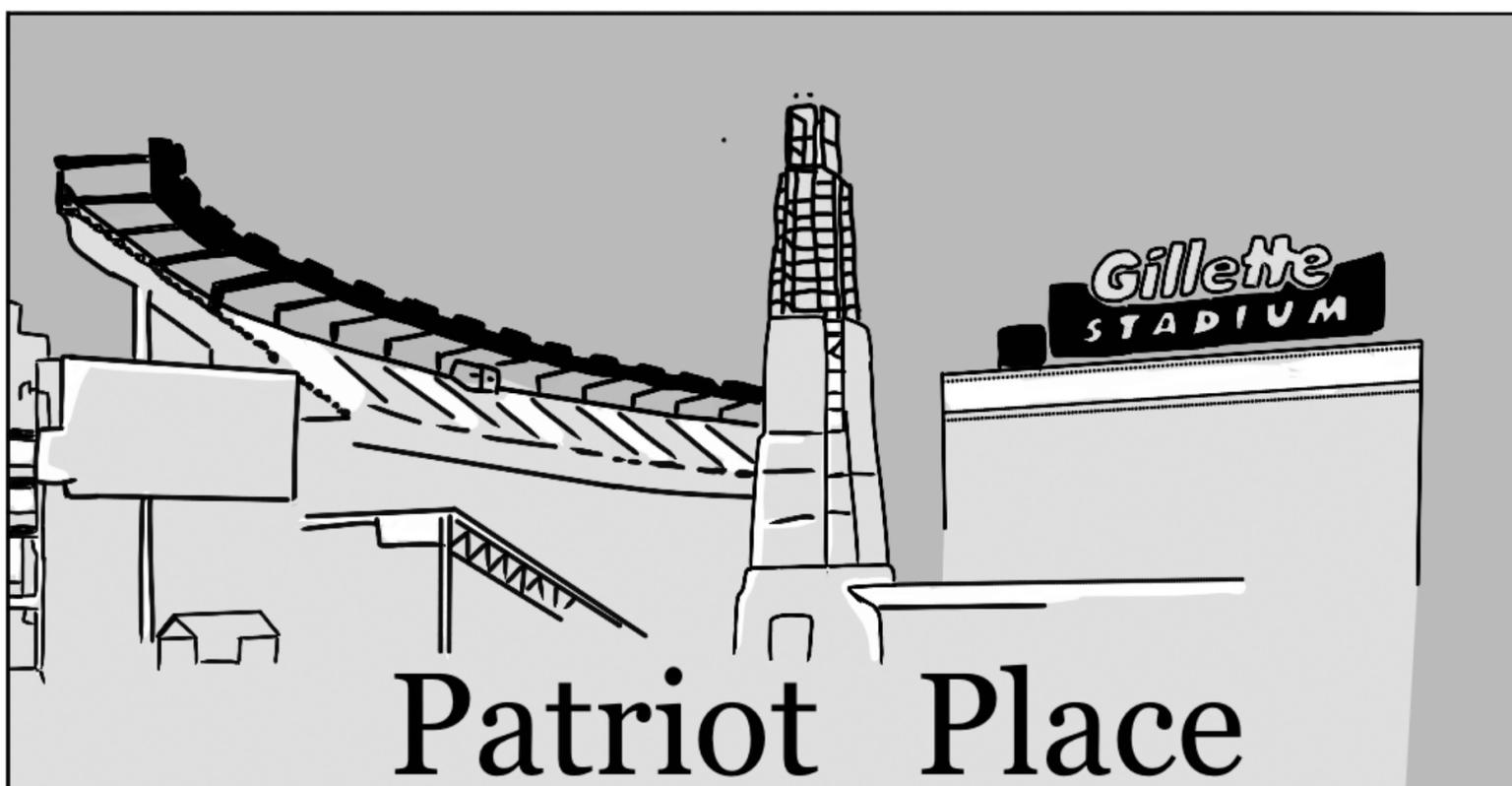
Sports

Photo of the Day | Women's Basketball



UConn defeats Oklahoma after a strong second half with a final score of 82-59 on Saturday, March 29. UConn will play in the Final Four on Friday, April 4.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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

PATRIOT PLACE:

FULL SEVEN ROUND MOCK SEES THE PATRIOTS SELECT AN SEC STANDOUT

by **Graham Wilker**

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Round 1, Pick 4: OT Will Campbell, LSU

The Patriots addressed the offensive line in part during free agency, signing Morgan Moses to play right tackle and Garrett Bradbury to replace the now released David Andrews. The last gaping hole to fill is left tackle, and Campbell is the man to do it. He wore the famous "No. 7" as a patch due to uniform restrictions during junior year and was a sophomore and junior captain. Arm length should not steer teams – particularly the Patriots – away, given three excellent seasons for a top SEC school: he allowed just four sacks during his career. The Patriots snag the best lineman the draft has to offer.

Round 2, Pick 38: ED Donovan Ezeiraku, Boston College

Vrabel and company certainly bolstered the edge play through the additions of Harold Landry and K'Lavon Chaisson, but as a whole, the position could still use another addition. Ezeiraku's 16.5 sacks and NFL frame should be more than enough for the Patriots to be clam-

oring for the pass rusher, who is projected by many experts to land at the end of the first round. Combined with Landry, Anfernee Jennings, Keion White and K'Lavon Chaisson, Ezeiraku would help form a respectable and deep unit.

Round 2, Pick 57: WR Jayden Higgins, Iowa State

Trade: Patriots send Round 3/Pick 69 and Round 4/Pick 105 to the Panthers for Round 2/Pick 57 and Round 7/Pick 230*

The addition of Stefon Diggs is big time: a legitimate wide out that can play on the outside and in the slot, something the team hasn't had of his caliber since Josh Gordon's 11 games with the club in 2018. While Jayden Higgins may not end up a No. 1, his big frame and 4.4 speed are attractive tools for OC Josh McDaniels to work with. The team has plenty of slot options, but adding a big body and deep threat on the outside is something they don't have many of. Higgins should help the team take the next step towards solidifying the position.

Round 3, Pick 77 (via ATL): RB D.J. Giddens, Kansas State

Acquired via Atlanta (Matt Judon Trade)

Rhamondre Stevenson was

pretty disappointing for Patriot's fans last season. Excluding his excellent week one outlier performance, he recorded 681 yards on the ground and just 3.7 yards per carry, all the while leading the league in fumbles. He'll have the opportunity to bounce back next season, but not adding competition to the room would be irresponsible in my eyes. Giddens was very productive at K-State and tested well at the combine: he ranked seventh in the forty-yard dash, second in both the vertical and broad jump, and fourth in the 20-yard shuttle. Giddens would have the opportunity to work in as a rookie and potentially become the long term starter.

Round 5, Pick 144: CB Zah Frazier, UTSA

Zah Frazier is the prototypical developmental cornerback: a 4.36 forty-yard dash ranked him fifth among cornerbacks at the combine, and his 6-foot-3 frame makes him an asset in redzone coverage. The team does have similar developmental pieces, most notably Miles Battle, who performed very well in the final game of the season against Buffalo. The Patriots should be in the business of adding athletes, and if Frazier can follow in

the footsteps of former UTSA corner Riq Woolen, this could be an excellent pick.

Round 7, Pick 217 (via TEN): OT Carson Vinson, Alabama A&M

Acquired via Tennessee (Nick Folk Trade)

Despite the addition of Campbell in round one, the team should continue to add depth across the line. Vinson is an excellent athlete, the 6-foot-7 tackle is thought to have some flexibility due to his athleticism, despite three years of starting on the left side. Offensive line coach Doug Marrone has plenty of experience in the league, and Vinson has all the physical traits to be a very solid lineman.

Round 7, Pick 220: K Caden Davis, Ole Miss

John Parker Romo is the only kicker on the roster after Joey Slye departed to the Titans last week, so adding some quality competition would make sense. Davis went 109/111 on extra points across his five years of college football, but had missed success from deep, just 4/9 from 50+ in his career, but still made a 57-yarder during his final season for the Rebels. Davis may be the answer for the kicker car-

ousel we've seen since Nick Folk's departure.

Round 7, Pick 230 (via CAR): DL Jared Harrison-Hunte, SMU

Acquired via Pick 57 (WR Jayden Higgins) Trade*

The Patriots snagged an extra day three pick from the trade with Carolina, and they use that to continue to bolster their defensive line. Daniel Ekuale's departure will leave a void to be filled by Jeremiah Pharms, free agent signing Khyiris Tonga and now Harrison-Hunte. He managed 15.5 sacks during his four years with the Miami Hurricanes and final season with the Mustangs.

Round 7, Pick 238: OL Joe Huber, Wisconsin

Acquired via L.A. Chargers (J.C. Jackson Trade)

Huber was one of the most versatile linemen in college football over his career, playing at least 750 snaps at three different positions. The Patriots teams of old had versatile linemen that helped the line not miss a beat when someone went down, Ted Karras the most recent. Huber's vast array of experience would do this roster well as a developmental backup.



CLIPART COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL.COM

ALEX'S MOTORSPORTS RECAP: NASCAR AT MARTINSVILLE SPEEDWAY

by Alex Klancko
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This past week had some of the highest highs and lowest lows of any race weekend this year. Denny Hamlin won the Cup Series race at Martinsville for the first time in over 10 years, there was an out-of-control finish during the Xfinity Series race and Daniel Hemric won his first ever Truck Series race.

Let's start out with the Friday Truck Series race, where Corey Heim started out on pole position followed by Ty Majeski, Kaden Honeycutt, Chandler Smith, Hemric, Tanner Gray, Layne Riggs, Jake Garcia, Lawless Alan and Rajah Caruth rounding out the top 10.

There were seven cautions on the race-day which accounted for 69 out of the 200 laps of the Martinsville race. The most notable would be when the race leader Heim spun Ryan Roulette on lap 13 as he was going to lap him. On lap 168, Majeski, Heim

and Honeycutt got into a wreck causing Heim to endure a flat rear-left tire and the final caution.

Heim won Stage One, followed by Honeycutt, Majeski, Connor Mosack, Gray, Smith, Hemric, Alan, Byron and Stewart Freisen and Heim won Stage Two as well, with Honeycutt, Majeski, Mosack, Hemric, Smith, Gray, Byron, Alan and Tyler Ankrum following behind. As the races ended, Hemric took home the race win with Ankrum in second, Jake Garcia in third and Smith, Ben Rhodes, Heim, Andres Perez de Lara, Caruth, Friesen and Alan rounding out the top 10.

The next Truck Series race is on Friday, April 11 at Bristol Motor Speedway.

Then, there was the Xfinity Series race on Saturday where Connor Zilisch started on pole position. Zilisch was followed by Carson Kvapil,

Austin Hill, Jesse Love, Harrison Burton, Justin Allgaier, Brandon Jones, Corey Day, Daniel Dye and Sammy Smith to create the top 10.

During the race, there were 14 cautions that took up 104 out of 256 total laps on the day. The most notable caution was on lap 248 with Matt DiBenedetto spinning out to bring out overtime. During overtime, Gray took the lead going into the final lap by bumping Smith out of the way. On the last corner Smith retaliated and dumped Gray causing both to spin out and Allgaier to hit Smith as well, giving fourth place Hill the win. Hill was followed by Sheldon Creed, Allgaier, Brennan Poole, Sam Mayer, Dean Thompson, Dye, Ryan Sieg, Kyle Wright and Smith.

Stage one was won by Connor Zilisch under cau-

tion, and he was followed by Kvapil, Jones, Allgaier, Aric Almirola, Taylor Gray, Hill, Smith, Christian Eckes and Thompson. Zilisch won Stage Two with Kvapil, William Sawalich, Dye, Nick Sanchez, Almirola, Josh Williams, Allgaier, Blaine Perkins and Gray.

The next Xfinity Series race will take place on Saturday, April 5 at Darlington Raceway.

Finally, there was the cup race on Sunday with Christopher Bell on pole position followed by Chase Elliott, Alex Bowman, Kyle Larson, Denny Hamlin, Chris Buescher, Joey Logano, Bubba Wallace, Tyler Reddick and William Byron.

There were 10 cautions taking up 86 out of the 400 total laps of the race with no notable cautions affecting the top ten.

Logano won Stage

One followed by Bowman, AJ Allmendinger, Brad Keselowski, Erik Jones, John Hunter Nemechek, Ryan Preece, Elliott, Hamlin and Cole Custer. SHamlin won Stage Two with Elliott, Wallace, Ty Gibbs, Chase Briscoe, Ryan Blaney, Ross Chastain, Bell, Larson and Reddick.

Hamlin ended up leading 274 out of the 400 laps of the race including the final 74 laps in a dominant race from him. Using lapped traffic, Hamlin extended his lead to second to over four seconds. Hamlin was followed by teammate Bell, Wallace, Elliott, Larson, Chastain, Preece, Logano, Briscoe and Todd Gilliland.

The next Cup Series race will take place on April 6 at Darlington Raceway.

It was a great weekend of racing, even when it was last lap chaos in Xfinity to Denny Hamlin dominance in the Cup and it will only get better next week at Darlington.



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Sports

MCLA REWIND: THE DRIP KING MAKES HIS MARK

by Jake Loomis
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The UConn club lacrosse team, following their losses down south, shifted their focus towards the Liberty Flames, who are a powerhouse in D1 MCLA. Led by Caleb Hammet, a former D1 transfer from UMass who goes by the “Drip King,” the Huskies had a tough task slowing this roster down. Their matchup against Liberty would be a home game for the Huskies, though it would be 45 minutes down the road in Madison, Connecticut. This battle would be a true test for the Huskies due to the age of the Liberty roster compared to theirs.

In their matchup against Liberty, the Huskies played excellent defense in the first quarter, as goalie Harrison Slade only allowed two goals. The offense also got things going early, netting one score of their own, making the score 2-1 going into the second. During the second, the Flames gained momentum as their offense duplicated its points from the first half. The Flames also held UConn scoreless in the second quarter, which stalled the momentum that UConn had built in the first. In the third, the Flames went on the attack again as they were able to net home six goals to break this game wide open. UConn tacked on one in the quarter to make the score 10-2. In the fourth, it was more of the same for both sides as the Huskies’ offense could do little against the stout Liberty defense. The Flames netted home two goals in the quarter while UConn responded with one, marking the end of the game. Liberty took this one 12-3 as they cruised to a dominating road win.

The Flames were led by Keaton Mohs and Braden Landry, as both had three goals for the team along with an assist as they both totaled four points on the day. Junior Luke Branham netted home two goals while providing three assists, making him the leading points-getter in the game. In net, sophomore Ian Carvajal was solid as he had seven saves on 10 shots. For the Huskies, Jake Saldutti had all three goals as he was their only offense in this one, scoring two out of the three unassisted. Slade struggled in net for this one, although he did a good job given the task at hand. He had 24 saves on 36 shots in the game, marking just around a 67% save percentage for the day. Through the shot numbers for both teams, you can see that Liberty is much more represented as they had more looks on the day as opposed to the Huskies.

The Huskies will have to wait a while until their next game as they will hop into division play at Buffalo, who is currently 0-5 on the year. Sophomore Jayden Ginsburg said this following the Huskies’ loss versus Liberty. “Playing three teams of that caliber in a five-day stretch is tough for any team, we aren’t discouraged at all. The team’s mentality going into conference play is to take these next two weeks of practice very seriously and just put our heads down and grind. We know the potential this team has is very high, and we can really make some noise in the CLC in these upcoming games.”

Buffalo will be a must win for the Huskies. The program hopes to gain some much-needed momentum as they look to dominate conference play.

SOFTBALL:

HUSKIES SHIP UP TO BOSTON FOR NON-CONFERENCE CLASH WITH EAGLES

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This Tuesday, the UConn softball team (18-12, 7-2) will travel to Brighton, Mass., for some out-of-conference softball action against the Boston College Eagles (15-15, 3-9). The Huskies are fresh off a series victory over Big East rival Creighton and are looking to continue this momentum to defeat this solid Eagles squad.

For the second week in a row, second-year outfielder Kaitlyn Breslin has received Big East Player of the Week honors for her stellar performance in the series against Creighton. Breslin clobbered a total of five home runs, including four in the Huskies’ 22-18 win in the second game of the series. Her four home runs in a single game tied the NCAA record — a feat that only six other players in history have accomplished. She also posts an average of .368 and leads the team in total home runs (10), playing a gargantuan role in her team’s early season success.

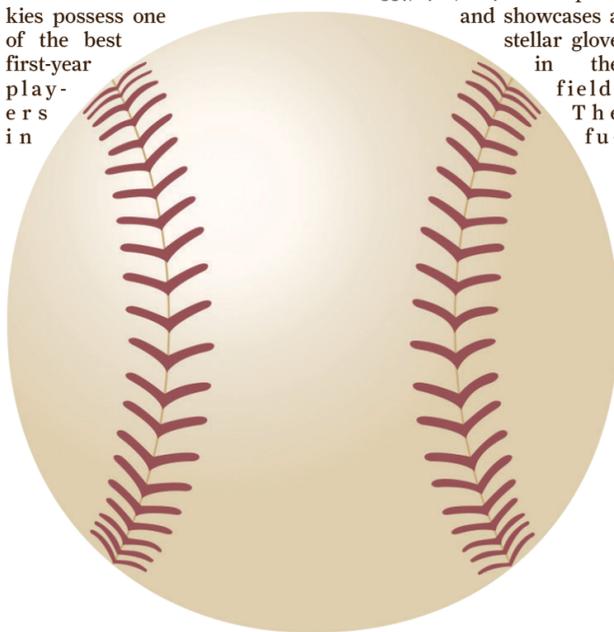
Including Breslin, the Huskies’ lineup has a total of six players with a batting average of .300 or higher. Grace Jenkins, who leads

the team with a .378 average, has had herself a stellar junior campaign thus far, leading the team in nearly every offensive category while yielding zero errors defensively behind the dish.

Not to mention the Huskies possess one of the best first-year players in

the country in infielder Cat Petteys. Petteys collected her second Big East Freshman of the Week award this season for her performances against the Bluejays. She’s slashing .357/.466/.607 at the plate

and showcases a stellar glove in the field. The future



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ture is certainly bright for this young UConn softball squad.

Pitcher Payton Kinney has dominated the circle this season, posting a 2.04 ERA and a 6-2 record. Whenever Kinney pitches, it’s really tough for opposing offenses to score runs, as Kinney is virtually unhittable at times.

Though Boston College has struggled in ACC play, senior outfielder Jordan Stephens has been a consistent force at the plate, leading the team in batting average (.326), home runs (6), RBIs (18), runs (18) and total bases (52). Defensively, Stephens has only made two errors thus far, proving to be a reliable presence in the Boston College outfield.

Pitching has been a weak link for the Eagles. In total, their pitching staff holds a team ERA of about 4.28 compared to their opponents’ 3.62. If they keep this up, it’ll be extremely hard for the Eagles to tame an explosive UConn offense.

The first pitch is scheduled for 6 p.m. at the beautiful Shea Field in Brighton, Mass. This will be an excellent nonconference test for the Huskies as they continue to keep the train rolling and become the winning team in the Northeast.

THE WEEKLY POWER PLAY:

A LOOK AT THE CURRENT NHL PLAYOFF STANDINGS

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With just a few weeks left in the regular season, the run for the Stanley Cup is set to begin on Saturday, April 19. While some teams have already secured their place in the playoffs, others will have to fight until the very last game to earn a spot.

The Washington Capitals were the first team in the NHL to secure a playoff spot, which was the complete opposite of last season, where they were the last team to clinch one. Captain Alex Ovechkin talked about the importance of securing points early on in the season to AP News, “It’s hard. Every game, it’s hard, especially at the end because every team is fighting. That’s why in the beginning of the year and the middle of the year it’s very important to (be) collecting the points and feel comfortable at the end. Last year it took us 82 games to clinch it and since 20 games

left last year, it was playoffs for us already. We take it and move on.”

Along with the Capitals, the Winnipeg Jets and Dallas Stars are the other two teams who have earned a chance at the Stanley Cup so far. The Jets are also on track to win the Presidents Trophy as they are currently first in the league.

In the Metropolitan Division, the Washington Capitals currently sit in first place with 103 points. In second place are the Carolina Hurricanes with 94 points, and right behind them are the New Jersey Devils with 85 points. The Atlantic Division is a close race as the Toronto Maple Leafs currently hold the top spot with 94 points, with the Tampa Bay Lightning and Florida Panthers right behind them, each with 91 points. At this time in the season, each point is crucial, so looking ahead at their schedules, the Lightning and Panthers are two teams to watch out for as they will be fighting for each win.

In the Central Division, the Winnipeg Jets and Dallas Stars have already earned a spot in the playoffs and the Colorado Avalanche look to be the third and final team in the division to earn their own. The team currently has 93 points, with the Minnesota Wild and St. Louis Blues behind them each with 87 points. Looking towards the Pacific Division, the Vegas Golden Knights are likely to make the playoffs as they have 98 points. The Los Angeles Kings and Edmonton Oilers are currently in a close race for second place, with the Kings having earned 91 points so far and the Oilers right behind with 89 points.

Currently in the two spots for the Eastern Conference wild card are the Ottawa Senators with 84 points and the Montreal Canadiens with 77 points. However, the New York Rangers also have 77, and the Columbus Blue Jackets are just two points shy with 75. All three teams need to watch out for one another and take each remaining game seriously to try and secure

their place in the playoffs.

In the Western Conference, the Wild and Blues are tied for points in the wild card race (87) with the Vancouver Canucks close behind with 81 points.

Looking ahead, the Blues are currently on a nine-game winning streak and will try to keep this momentum going to attempt to earn the top spot in their wildcard race. The Capitals are sitting in a good position having already earned a spot in the playoffs, but Ovechkin is someone to look out for as the captain will look to score just five more goals to beat out Wayne Gretzky’s all-time NHL goals record.

Each team has about seven games left in their regular seasons so fans can expect the standings to change after each night. It may come down to the very last games of the regular season for some teams to know their fate in the playoffs.

Upcoming NHL games can be watched on ESPN+, TNT and NHL.com, just to name a few places.