



THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT SINCE 1896 • VOLUME CXXVIII, NO. 119

Friday, April 4, 2025

## Construction begins at Mirror Lake

by Kevin Guinan

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Spillway replacement and dam reconstruction on Mirror Lake began at the University of Connecticut over spring break with workers fencing the project site. The work is expected to last around a year and is starting eight months later than predicted.

Initial drafts of the im-

provement involved hydraulic dredging as one action addressing safety concerns regarding the lake's water quality and flooding concerns. Dredging increases water capacity by removing sediment and debris from the bottom of a body of water, according to the NOAA. Challenges in the budget required a redesign of the plan that held off on the dredging and delayed construction, according to UConn Today.

Stephanie Reitz, University of Connecticut spokesperson, said that this redesigned plan for financial responsibility doesn't detract from the demand for dredging.

"The project was delayed as UConn reviewed its financial constraints and determined that the proposal involving fully dredging Mirror Lake was cost prohibitive at this time," Reitz said.

in an email to The Daily Campus. "While we agree on its benefits, the resources were needed elsewhere as we prioritize our academic and research missions and our student services amid budget challenges."

The revised plan under construction focuses on repairing the dam and spillway of Mirror Lake instead of dredging according to the record of decision. The repairs come as a response to the safety concerns brought up in a 2019 DEEP survey that classified the lake as a hazard according to the Hartford Courant.

According to UConn Today, sediment runoff contributed to the hazardous conditions by reducing the capacity of Mirror Lake. As a result, water was overflowing near the spillway and pooling up in drainage pipes downstream. A spillway is defined by Brazos River Authority as a part of a dam designed for water to flow freely over the dam during floods.

A StoryMap created by UConn faculty for an environmental storytelling course said that the hazardous condi-

tions of the lake can be explained by the history of development around Storrs.

"Runoff increases with development because, while rainwater can be absorbed by natural groundcover like trees, grasses, and shrubs, rainwater cannot be absorbed by impervious surfaces like buildings, streets, parking lots, and other paved surfaces," the StoryMap explained.

Based on an email with Reitz, only some of the sediment causing this overflow can be characterized by human development.

"The material that has built up on the lake's bottom is a deep layer of muck containing sediment (dirt, sand, etc.) that has flowed into the river over time along with leaves and other vegetation, waste from the ducks and birds that frequent the lake, and other runoff," said Reitz in an email.

The ducks and birds who frequent the lake and create sediment demonstrate a natural presence of solid particles in water from wildlife sources. On the other hand, the dirt and sand creating that layer of muck is likely instigated by the increasing delivery of sediment to streams that

roads deliver according to the U.S. Forest Service.

While the construction is for improving the lake's ecosystem, the process UConn has to go through to make these changes won't come without its downsides according to the record of decision for Mirror Lake improvements. These downsides include "limited unavoidable temporary impacts are anticipated during the construction phase, including construction-related impacts to traffic, air quality, noise, hazardous materials, solid waste, aesthetics, turbidity, and stormwater."

Stephanie Reitz explained how UConn will manage some of these obstacles for students, saying that "...Route 195 will not be closed during the work. The work will be paused during the biggest high-traffic periods on campus (Commencement, move-out from dorms, move-in next fall, etc.)" she said.

Reitz said that students may see workers near the dam, spillway, or in the water as they set up temporary dams and other equipment, but there's no reason to be concerned.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN TODAY

## UConn, URI to strengthen Electric Boat-centered workforce development programs

by Patrick Boots

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The University of Connecticut and University of Rhode Island recently announced that they were awarded a joint contract to reinforce workforce development initiatives in partnership with General Dynamics, the company that operates naval submarine builder Electric Boat in Groton, Conn. The new contract will help provide training to work at the Navy Maritime Industrial Base, as part of the "Advancing Naval Careers through Higher Ed. Outreach and Research" program, or ANCHOR, through UConn's regional campus at Avery Point, according to the announcement.

"By working alongside URI and General Dynamics Electric Boat, we are not only advancing naval engineering and skilled trades but also in-

spiring a pipeline of talent to meet the demands of this vital sector," said JC Zhao, dean of the UConn College of Engineering, in a press statement.

The new access will allow both UConn and URI to further education in marine trades and as part of the Navy STEM Coalition, which integrates related career-based training in K-12 education as one possible STEM pathway for area students to consider. The coalition reports that they've engaged with over 13,000 students as part of the coalition in the last three years.

ANCHOR announced that the new contract will allow both schools to offer innovative summer courses for coalition-member students and integrate related education for undergraduate engineering students at both institutions and fund extra research fellowships.

"Through targeted summer programs in engineering and

skilled trades, we are committed to preparing students for careers in the submarine industrial base," said Dr. Alexandra Hain, a UConn professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, in the

**"The ANCHOR program demonstrates the power of public institutions investing in their local communities and their student body."**

SEAN MORRONE

announcement. "By offering partial and full scholarships, along with free options, we're dedicated to inspiring and

equipping the next generation of talent, breaking down barriers to ensure that a skilled workforce is ready to meet the unique demands of submarine production and innovation."

The program also announced that the coalition has established a partnership with the National Institute for Undersea Vehicle Technology to provide funding for further education for those employed by Electric Boat and the Navy to come to UConn or URI for graduate school.

"The ANCHOR program demonstrates the power of public institutions investing in their local communities and their student body," said Electric Boat manager of workforce development Sean Morrone. "Partnerships like this create a sustainable impact on the economic growth and community well-being of our region."

UConn Avery Point hosted a launch event to commemorate the program on Thursday,

April 3 at the Branford House, which featured officials from both UConn and URI in addition to the U.S. Navy and General Dynamics. UConn hopes that the ANCHOR workforce program can serve as a model to be adopted nationally, the launch event webpage says.

Southern New England is a hub for marine industrial activity, with Electric Boat operating three facilities alone, including its headquarters in Groton, design and engineering offices in New London and a fabrication plant in Quonset Point, Rhode Island — supplementing the Navy Maritime Industrial Base in New London. UConn and URI co-founded the Navy STEM Coalition in 2017 in partnership with the Office of Naval Research and the National Defense Education Program as part of the two school's longstanding relationships with the regional maritime industry.

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ROUNDTABLE | PAGE 6

LeBron's a BOOM!



OPINION | PAGE 7

Why protesting genocide can get you deported



MBB | PAGE 12

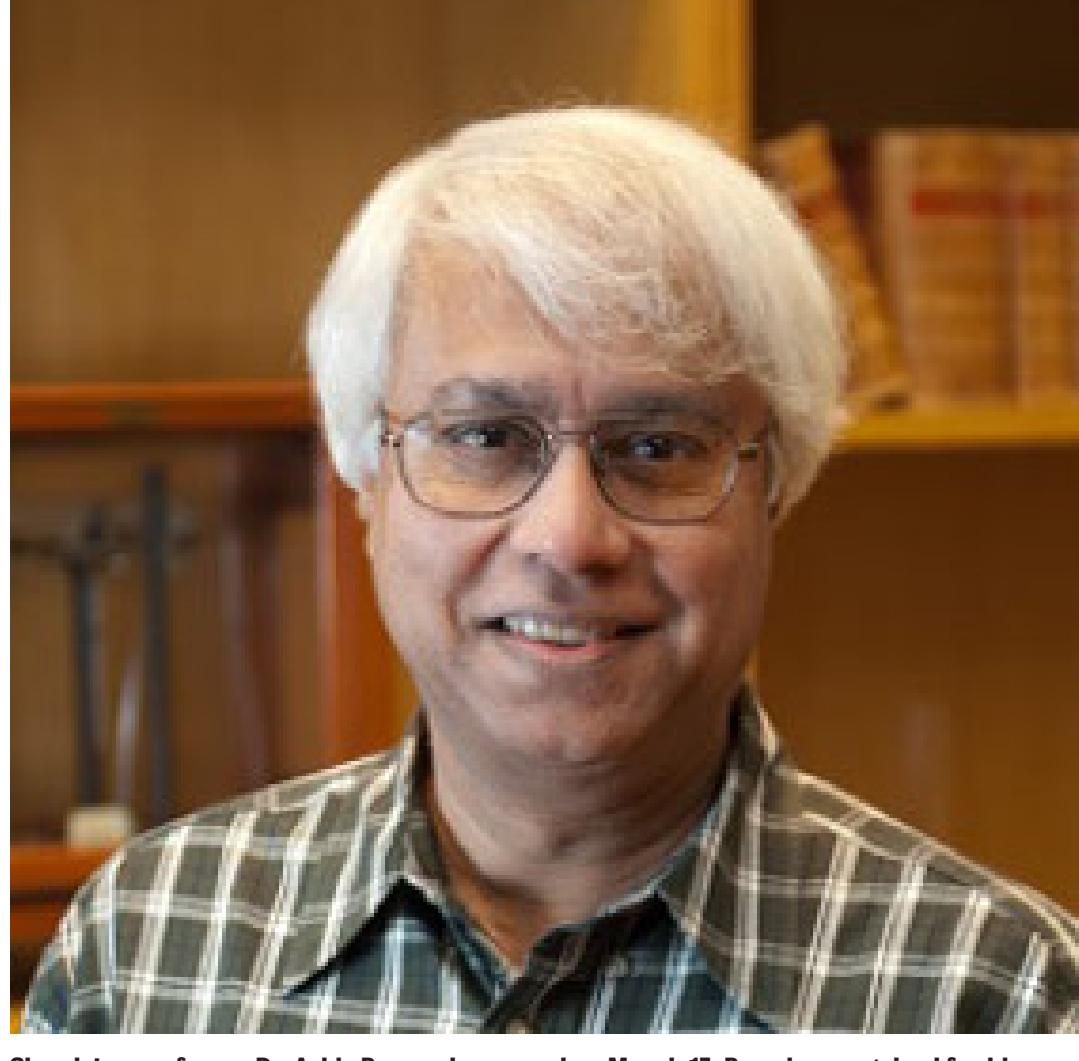
Georgia transfer Silas Demary Jr. commits to UConn



THE DAILY CAMPUS NEWSLETTER

## News

# UConn mourns loss of Chemistry Professor Dr. Ashis Basu



Chemistry professor Dr. Ashis Basu, who passed on March 13. Basu is recognized for his research and the lasting impact he made on the university. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT

by Pierce Colfer

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The University of Connecticut mourns the loss of chemistry professor Dr. Ashis Basu, who died on March 13.

The university put out a statement in which they expressed the impact Basu had on UConn and its students.

"Dr. Basu imparted his knowledge to many generations of students, guiding them through the complexities of sophomore organic chemistry and graduate-level biological chemistry," the statement said. "His gentle demeanor and steadfast, principled judgment earned him deep respect from his students and colleagues. Dr. Basu's contributions as a scholar and gentleman left an indelible mark on our institution."

Basu received a B.S. from the University of Calcutta and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Wayne State University and began working at UConn in 1990 following a post-doctoral appointment at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, according to the statement.

Basu garnered recognition for his research across his 35 years spent at UConn.

"His research at the interface of chemistry and biology used organic synthesis to introduce specific lesions into DNA residues and the subsequent investigation of their impact on duplex structure and the mechanism of their repair within organisms," the statement said.

"His research focused on elucidating the biological consequences of DNA damages induced by antitumor drugs, carcinogens, or radiation. Throughout his academic career, Dr. Basu garnered wide recognition and published extensively in his field. He served in multiple roles in funding review panels, scholarly societies, and as editor in the leading journals in his discipline."

According to the statement, a celebration of Basu's work is currently being planned.

"There will be no calling hours," the statement said. "A celebration of his life and career is being planned by his family and will be publicized at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please await an announcement about suggested donations."



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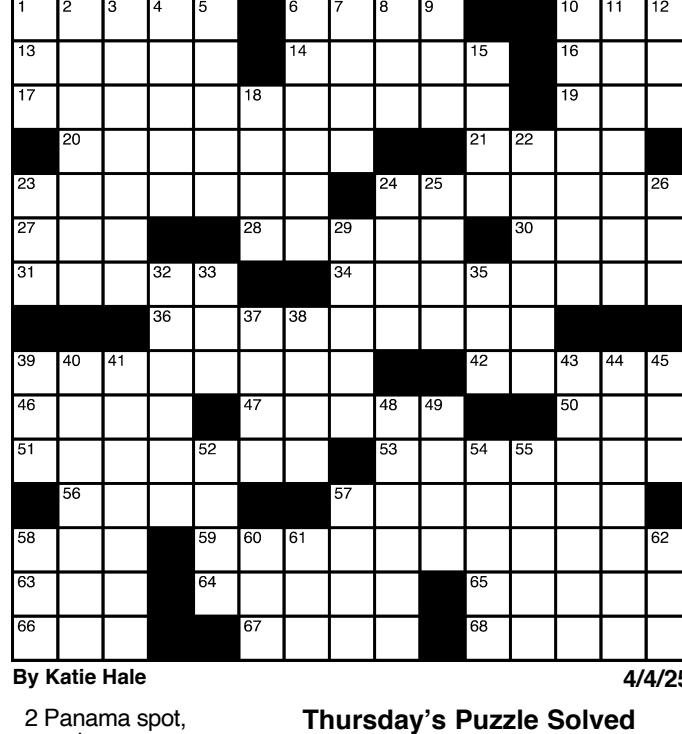
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The Daily Campus welcomes writers, photographers and artists of all backgrounds, interests, majors and levels of experience. To get involved, it's as easy as attending section meetings on Sunday nights, all at the Daily Campus building, (1266 Storrs Road) or reaching out to an email below:

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**ACROSS**

- 1 Service singers
- 6 latte
- 10 Bygone airline
- 13 P-A-G-E turner, maybe
- 14 Brother of Groucho
- 16 Cool, once
- 17 The ever-increasing size of deer antlers?
- 19 Flow back
- 20 Alter ego of Harvey Dent
- 21 "Let me try"
- 23 Like 51-Across
- 24 Grammy-winning soprano Renée
- 27 Above, poetically
- 28 Board game with forbidden words
- 30 Exclamation with a hand clap
- 31 Actress Davis
- 34 Makes shiny, in a way
- 36 Adversaries from Avignon?
- 39 Dessert that may be topped with cheddar cheese
- 42 Bangladesh's capital
- 46 Bakery unit
- 47 Like a big brother
- 50 Fish and chips fish
- 51 Novelist who created the detective Adam Dalgliesh
- 53 Maybelline product
- 56 Walking stick
- 57 Put back
- 58 Rec. device
- 59 Opinion piece with too many qualifiers?
- 63 Mex. neighbor
- 64 "What are you !?"
- 65 Best course of action
- 66 "Mic Drop" boy band
- 67 Airport board info
- 68 Teen magazine of the 1990s



By Katie Hale

4/4/25

**DOWN**

- 1 Docs sent to potential employers
- 15 and for all
- 18 Final
- 22 Surprise attack
- 23 Peat spot
- 24 Head inside a bar?
- 25 Centers
- 26 Team execs
- 29 Run, as dye
- 32 Likely Super Bowl viewer
- 33 Exist
- 35 Proof letters

**Thursday's Puzzle Solved**

H	U	P	A	B	C	S	A	D	M	I	R	E	
O	P	I	S	L	A	M	G	U	I	N	E	A	
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V	R	(H)	E	A	D	(S)	E	T	E	R	N	I	E
E	L	M	E	R			E	D	I	S	O	N	
R	Y	E	G	R	O	T	T	O	B	E	N	D	
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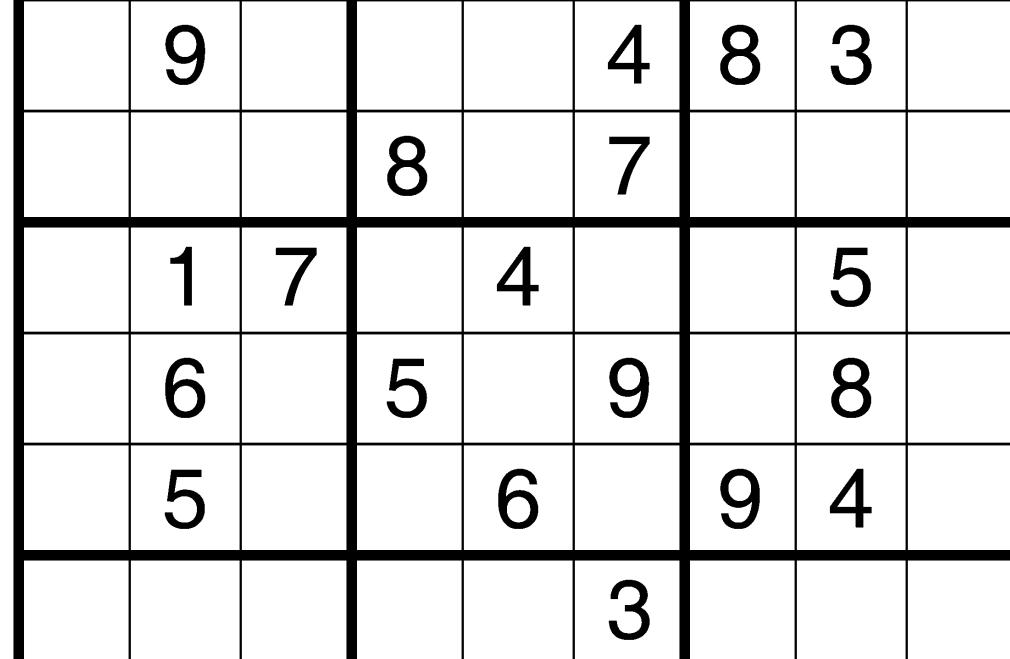
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37 Fencing sword

- 38 Lofgren of the E Street Band
- 39 Weisshorn, e.g.
- 40 Radio program that plays only whale song?
- 41 Bed clothes
- 42 Surprise attack
- 43 Trees also known as wattles
- 44 Seoul natives
- 45 Oral care org.
- 46 Cool, once
- 47 Like a big brother
- 48 Reveal one's true self
- 49 Totally focused
- 50 Renaissance faire quaff
- 51 Splashes (over)
- 52 Actress Gugino
- 53 Maybelline product
- 54 "La Vie Bohème" musical
- 55 "Mic Drop" boy band
- 56 Walking stick
- 57 Put back
- 58 Rec. device
- 59 Opinion piece with too many qualifiers?
- 60 Pester
- 61 Through
- 62 down the law



## Crossword

Level **1** **2** **3** **4**

## Sudoku



# THE MODERN MONSTER: “THE ROAD” AND FEARING THE INEVITABILITY OF GROWING UP

\*\*CONTENT WARNING FOR DISCUSSIONS OF VIOLENCE, DEATH, MURDER, CANNIBALISM, CHILDREN IN PERIL AND GENERAL THEMES OF THE APOCALYPSE\*\*

by Samantha Brody

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If you’re on the lookout all the time does that mean you’re scared all the time?”

I had this whole plan to make every Modern Monster article for this month be about the “Alien” movie franchise — “Alien April” if you will — and then I lost my laptop charger and have since been left “Alien”-less. I wasn’t going to disrespect the great Dr. Ellen Ripley by watching her heroics on my lowly phone, so I instead turned to a recently purchased graphic novel that I read just a few days ago.

Today I’m taking the “Apocalypse April” route in the form of a deeply disturbing graphic novel adaptation of Cormac McCarthy’s 2006 novel, “The Road.” Every week, I find something spooky and bring it to your attention by talking about the way horror and fear affect our everyday lives. This week I’m talking about the gruesome yet beautiful “The Road.”

I haven’t read McCarthy’s book and I don’t plan to. The visuals of Manu Larcenet’s graphic novel adaptation of “The Road” are so visually impressive and emotionally striking that I think reading the book would change my perspective too much. For as long as I’ve loved art, I’ve loved the art of comic inking, and Larcenet’s inking style matches the grim aesthetics of McCarthy’s world perfectly.

“The Road” is about an unnamed father and his young son — who we will be calling Father and Son for the purposes of this

article. Father is middle-aged and balding, with a long beard and a desperate attitude. Son looks to be around 10 years-old, and he’s still too young and innocent to fully grasp the horrors of the world he’s inherited. He has some guesses, though.

Father and Son are making an attempt at surviving the apocalypse. The reason for this apocalypse is never explained, but it’s left the sky choked with ashes and the people without food. The pair are American, traveling as far south as they can in hope of finding both warmth and civilization, neither of which are guaranteed. Along the road they walk, they find bandits, murderers and cannibals who have thrown humanity to the wayside in favor of survival.

“The Road” is not a happy story. Amid the violence and the starvation, Father does his best to give Son the best life he can. He teaches Son what it means to be a “good guy” or a “bad guy.” He does his best to prevent Son from seeing the corpses and skulls found along the road and inside its nearby buildings.

When a bandit attacks Son, Father shoots the stranger without hesitation, spraying blood across Son’s face. “Are we still the good guys?” Son asks, just a few pages later. Father hesitates, but he says they are.

If you skipped the content warning at the top of this article, now’s the time to read it.

Much of the horror found in “The Road” comes purely from the environment. We see most of the book from Father’s perspective, but the horrors inside are as new to the viewer as they

are to Son. On multiple occasions, Father finds evidence of death, including a truck filled with corpses stacked on top of one another. Whenever he sees death, he tells Son that there’s nothing there, but tells him to keep his distance anyway.

There are two occasions on which Son is exposed to the reality of the apocalypse that he’s in. The first is a basement populated with naked, desperate and starving people, along with rotting bodies. Some of them are missing limbs. Father can’t undo what Son has seen, but he can lock the basement door behind them to keep the misery inside.

The second horror that Son sees is much simpler but far more impactful. It’s the body of an infant left abandoned on a spit above the remains of a campfire. There’s no present danger, but Father picks Son up and runs. “I’m sorry,” Father says while holding Son. “I’m sorry.”

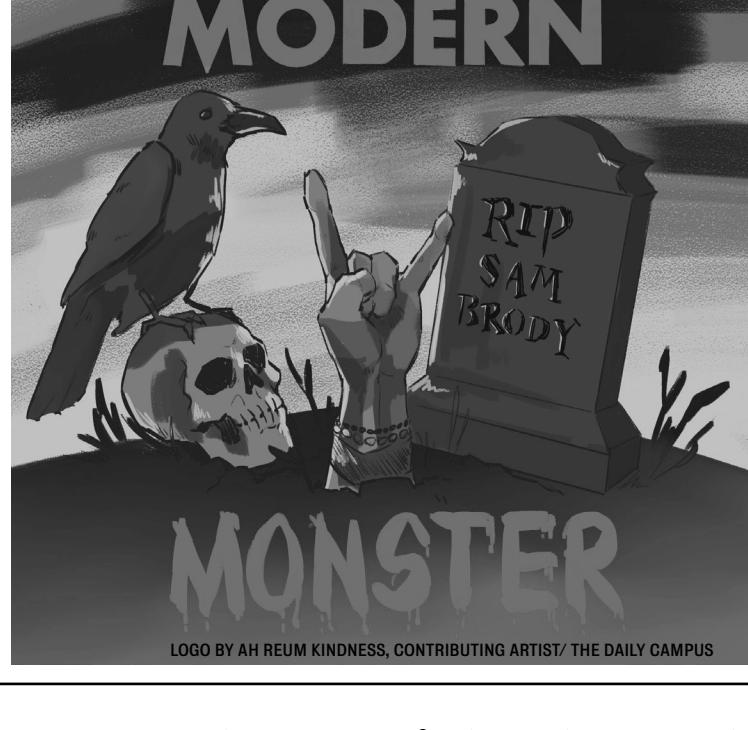
I’m reiterating all of this in the article because the horror in “The Road” isn’t just the misery and the death depicted on each page. It’s about a dad who’s trying to keep his son alive but fails to give him a life worth living. It’s about growing up and learning about how truly awful the world can be.

We don’t know if Son makes it to salvation. We learn that Father never will. At the very end of “The Road,” we see a shot of Son. The panels have more white than gray in them. He’s wearing his father’s goggles and holds his father’s gun. He’s tiny and malnourished. He’s still a little boy. But out of necessity, he’s become his dad.

This radical loss of innocence is a common theme in a lot of media, especially the stuff you’ve probably read in a high school English class, like “Lord of the Flies” or “Catcher in the Rye.” No one should experience what Father and Son went through, yet loss of innocence is still a part of everyday life. When someone experiences hardship, pain, suffering or grief, it shifts their perspective.

I’m sure a lot of college students can relate to this theme. I can. I’ve experienced a lot in my first year of college, and my thoughts on grand topics like relationships and society have all changed drastically. I’ve been trying to reflect on everything more often, and I can feel myself taking those final steps from Son to Father. Everyone makes this jump to adulthood eventually; it’s unavoidable. Despite Father’s best efforts, Son still sees death around him. Son is still left to wander America on his own, with Father’s teachings but without his help.

Father knows he’s dying. Without saying it outright, he gently prepares Son for the idea of moving on without him. Father knows that Son is still going to be aware of how tragic and horrible humanity is. Protecting his son from it is a mission that will only end in failure. And yet he still does his best to delay the inevitable. If I were responsible for the care of someone younger than me, I’d want to keep them from seeing the corpses too.



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

## ‘Portrait of My Heart’: SPELLING reflects on love with alt rock

by Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab

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SPELLING, the experimental pop artist who received a ton of positive reception for 2021’s “The Turning Wheel,” has returned after a 2023 album of re-recordings with “Portrait of My Heart” released on Friday, March 28. This album sees SPELLING singing with her usual whimsicalness and charm over alternative and pop rock instrumentation.

The album begins with the titular song “Portrait of My Heart.” With its glorious strings and epic vocals, this is an excellent way to open the album. It almost feels like an anime opening or part of a movie soundtrack. “Keep It Alive” continues the cinematic instrumentation, even adding synths on top of everything else.

“Alibi” is one of the most mesmerizing songs on the album. From SPELLING’s breathy vocals to the lyric “You’re a psychopath and I loved you for that” in the chorus being about prioritizing yourself over someone who you once loved, there is a lot to like within the song. It feels like summer as a song and at times the guitars sound similar to the indie rock band Car Seat Headrest.

“Waterfall” has a boring and predictable melody progression. SPELLING’s lyrics and vocals carry the song easily, but this isn’t something with a lot of replay value like the other songs.

“Destiny Arrives” has synths that sound like foundational electronic artist Mort Garson’s “Plantasia.” Perhaps there’s an influence from the plant-inspired album with the pretty lyric “A miracle grows at night, quietly like a flower so shy, hoping not to see the sun, the radiance,” though that’s a reach. The chorus is cryptic themed around love and destiny arriving. What this destiny could be is interpretive.

“Ammunition” has an abso-

lutely gorgeous piano melody paired with a jazzy ballad-like percussion. There’s something really cool about the imaginative lyrics about eloping and evading the law. The lyric “À la vie, à la mort, mon cheri” translates roughly to “Like life, like death, my love” from French. Judging from the lyric “Hello, my bride,” this song is about a queer relationship between two women.

“Mount Analogue” has some of SPELLING’s most amazing vocals. Her prowess is on auditory display in this song, especially by the chorus and the instrumental meshes well with it. The lyrics are simple and short, giving the sonic landscape more breathing room.

“Drain” has some of the best guitar playing on the entire album. Its heaviness is super pleasing to the ears. It almost feels like an alt-rock or softer metal song from the 1990s. The back end of the 5-minute song has a jarring and cathartic soundscape.

For a song named “Satisfaction,” the song is depressing. The synths at the beginning are foreboding, and SPELLING begins the vocals on the track with “Let me die” letting the audience know they’re in for a trip. The guitars are heavy and simultaneously ugly and beautiful, while synth layers on top are sugary and nice on the ears. There’s a more metal-sounding section of the song with heavier drums by the end.

“Love Ray Eyes” resets the album and gives an enjoyable and fun listening experience. SPELLING is beginning to forge her own sound now in her own way. It’s beautiful to hear just the guitar melody and synths on this song.

“Portrait of My Heart” ends with “Sometimes,” a collection of four verses over a shoegaze-like guitar sound wall and synths. It sounds majestic and breathtaking and SPELLING’s vocals are the cherry on top.

SPELLING is one of the most unique and talented vocalists in contemporary pop music.



APR 04 SAN FRANCISCO, CA GREAT AMERICAN MUSIC HALL  
APR 24 LOS ANGELES, CA TERAGRAM BALLROOM  
APR 25 TUSCON, AZ 191 TOOLE  
APR 26 ALBUQUERQUE, NM SISTER BAR  
APR 28 AUSTIN, TX PARISH  
APR 29 HOUSTON, TX WHITE OAK MUSIC HALL  
APR 30 NEW ORLEANS, LA SANTOS  
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MAY 3 ASHEVILLE, NC THE GREY EAGLE  
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MAY 15 OMAHA, NE  
MAY 17 DENVER, CO  
MAY 19 RENO, NV

UNDERGROUND ARTS  
MUSIC HALL OF WILLIAMSBURG  
THE DRAKE  
EL CLUB  
LINCOLN HALL  
FINE LINE  
BLUEBIRD THEATER  
THE HOLLAND PROJECT

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IMAGE FROM @SPELLING ON INSTAGRAM

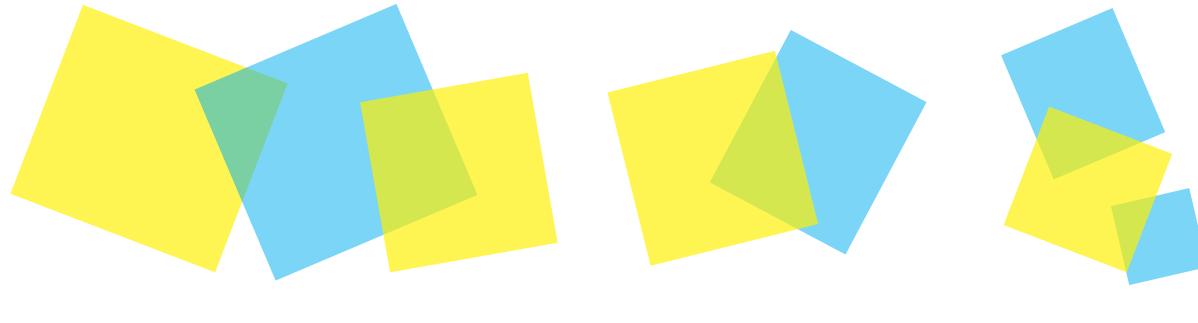
## Rating: 4/5





# Life

@dailycampuslife



## LIFE ROUNDTABLE: LEBRON'S A BOOM!

What a time to be alive. The Costco Guys, A.J. and Big Justice, have released a one-minute song glazing basketball legend LeBron James, titled "LeBron's a BOOM!" Their motives are unclear, but their musical talent has been cemented by this certified banger. Do the Guys want courtside tickets to every Lakers game or is this the motivation LeBron needs to start a music career with his kids? Either way, the Life section has you covered with five reviews, one for each BOOM! this song deserves.

by Ayyan Tamjeed

CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

HE/HIM/HIS

I have an exam in an hour's time, but instead of reviewing for that, I'll talk about the best song in the universe instead.

This song is like two stars colliding, as you have some of the best hitmakers in the business writing hooks about undoubtedly the best basketball player ever, LeBron James. They carry that same Beastie Boys-style production from their previous songs — Beastie Boys revival, when? But the standout feature of this song is definitely the songwriting.

"Yeah, he's on the attack / He even plays on the same court as Shaq!" is a great setup and punchline and a good way to highlight LeBron's stature within the game by comparing him to all-time great Shaquille O'Neal. These are some of the best bars I've heard in my life. Watch out Kendrick: you got a challenger for your throne.

**Rating: One LeBronian Booms/5**

by Noa Climor

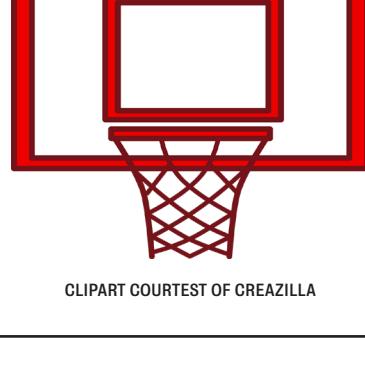
SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH COORDINATOR

SHE/HER/HERS

Hey Rizzler Enthusiast ... I hope this review is to your satisfaction. I think that you can't go wrong with LeBron, for he is simply too cool. You know, I really think I underestimated the superb writing skills of the Costco Guys and LePookie. This is some great stuff.

I am getting the vibe that they know exactly what the fans want, and they aspire to keep us on our toes. This is some March Madness level stuff — and they are in my bracket.

**Rating: MANY BIG BOOMS/5**



CLIPART COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

by Maleena Muzio

STAFF WRITER

SHE/HER/HERS

Although I'm typically a hater of the Costco Guys, "LeBron's a BOOM" has provided me with a change of heart. The song is a short and sweet lyrical masterpiece. Who loves basketball more than UConn students? I might go out on a limb here and say that the Costco Guys may have made this song for us. It feels so personal. SO beautiful. SO ... LeBron.

The catchy chorus has totally taken over my brain. The first time I heard this song, I was so inspired that I hung up a picture of the Costco Guys next to my LeBron shrine. The Shaq reference was superb. No other group could do justice to the king himself like the Costco Guys did. Don't even get me started on the instrumentals. I'm getting very '60s cool girl energy. The coolness of the song matches the topic perfectly, the cool-god himself: LeBron.

**Rating: 100 Shaq-Sized Booms/5**

by Dan Stark

STAFF WRITER

HE/HIM/HIS

I've considered myself an amateur songwriter for years, but hearing this song made me give up on writing. I felt the same way listening to "LeBron's a BOOM!" the same way Brian Wilson did when he first heard "Strawberry Fields Forever." I never thought I'd see the day where a song would combine my two favorite things: the Costco Guys and my glorious king LePookie Bear.

Some would call it glazing, but when it comes to a Demigod like LeBron James, there's no such thing as too much praise. I can't even be mad that they used the same instrumental as "We Bring the BOOM!" To quote Mike Love, "don't fuck with the formula," especially when it's as good as this.

Simply put, this is the Mount Everest of popular music, and I can confidently say that the human race will never come close to the heights of "LeBron's a BOOM!" ever again.

**Rating: INFINITE BOOMS/5**

by Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab

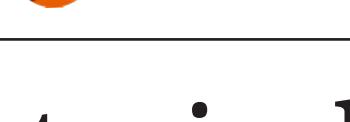
STAFF WRITER

SHE/HER/HERS

March Madness was the perfect time to shoot this three-pointer of a song. The Vine sensation LeBron James finally has a true anthem to his name thanks to the Costco Guys! Fireworks and explosive prices have skyrocketed due to increased demand. But enough exposition: The song makes my brain boom in the best ways possible.

The guitar is entralling, and the drums would make Zach Hill sweat. Everyone forgets about the bass, so we don't need to mention it. The vocals, however, feel immersive. It feels like you're really there with A.J. and Big Justice. LeBron, when you retire, you'll be honored to have this song carry the legacy of the 23.

**Rating: 23/5**



CLIPART COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

## MSU professor discusses historical antisemitism in America at UConn

by Samantha Brody

STAFF WRITER

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A professor from Michigan State University discussed the origins of early 20th-century antisemitism in America and its effect on the modern day at the Dodd Center on Wednesday, April 2.

In 2022, MSU professor of history and Jewish studies Kirsten Fermaglich set out to uncover the significance of American antisemitism as a part of the National Archives Distinguished Fellowship. This research into governmental records led her to her presentation, "Filthy, Un-American, and Dangerous in Their Habits: Antisemitism and the Emergency Quota Act, 1918-1921."

To Fermaglich, the history of American antisemitism has gone unresearched and undiscussed. She noted that while racism is a common theme in discussions of American history, antisemitism isn't, and she planned to look for evidence of it.

Fermaglich asked, "how significant was antisemitism in American immigration history?"

Fermaglich explained that American historians often describe historical antisemitism as being "private," meaning it wasn't overt. Fermaglich soon learned that antisemitism didn't quite fly under the radar as effectively as it seemed to.

One of the most shocking pieces of evidence she had found was a 1920 report from the House of Representatives. This document is where the phrase "Filthy, un-American, and often dangerous in their habits" comes from.

"A lot of times, antisemitism is kind of coded. It's really a code. And we were surprised by how much Jews were named, really identified," Fermaglich said, noting that antisemitism is rarely said so openly. "You're not always surprised, and it's good to be surprised when you do research."

Fermaglich associated the rise of American antisemitism with the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. According to Fermaglich, Americans



UConn's Dodd Center for Human Rights on a bright fall day. The building houses archives, relics, and historical documents on the Storrs campus. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

saw Bolsheviks and Jews as interchangeable and began to see Jewish people as communists.

"I found a lot of evidence that this belief permeates American culture and society," Fermaglich said. "That they are all Bolsheviks, and they are looking to destroy capitalism."

Additionally, many Jewish communities had been destroyed by World War I.

When these poor, often diseased Jewish people began emigrating to the United States for help, Fermaglich said the white elites of the state department only saw them as "dirty and diseased and dangerous."

Later, Fermaglich explained that a fabricated document known as "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" made its way to the

of antisemitism," Fermaglich explained. From here, American officials created the Emergency Quota Act of 1921, which began banning people of certain nationalities from entering the country.

Fermaglich's talk was presented in-person with an online option over Zoom. One of the people in the audience was Jackson Conlon, a fourth-semester UConn student majoring in psychology.

"I actually [attended the event] for an extra credit for history, but I actually found it really interesting at the end of it," Conlon said. "I didn't really know that all those things built up. I just wasn't aware of a lot of the things that went on, so I thought it was really interesting."

Conlon noted that while he thought the history was interesting, he hadn't heard much about it in his history classes. "I think it's really interesting just to see, like, hear about those things in American history that people don't really talk about."

When answering questions on her talk, Fermaglich was asked how her research informs our understanding of modern antisemitism. She noted that she saw a similarity between today's antisemitic language and the language of the 1920s.

"The language absolutely was stuff that you would see in social media; it did not feel distant at all," Fermaglich said. "It really is the use of conspiracy, right, that I think is really significant. And is clearly underlining a lot of this work."

Fermaglich has written two books, titled "A Rosenberg by Any Other Name" and "American Dreams and Nazi Nightmares," both of which examine Jewish history in the 20th century.

The Dodd Center for Human Rights will be hosting their next talk, "Our Walled World: Identity & Separation in Deeply Divided Societies," on April 12, presented by Dr. James Waller. According to the event page, this talk will be the "Inaugural Genocide Awareness Lecture at UConn for Genocide Prevention and Awareness Month."

United States and many U.S. officials believed its claim that Jews had a plot to take over the world.

This false belief, coupled with wealthy Jewish Americans helping poor Jewish Europeans move to the United States, led to an increased amount of American paranoia.

"This notion of conspiracy can really be a hallmark

Daily

# Opinion

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# The Palestine Exception: Why protesting genocide can get you deported

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

It started with Mahmoud Khalil. It has grown with Rümeysa Öztürk. It will continue with the disappearances of potentially over 300 more students at universities across the country who are being targeted for their pro-Palestinian activism. America is witnessing a historic bout of repression against its youth, but the question that remains unanswered in the public eye is "why?" Why is it just Palestine that can get someone expelled from this country overnight? The answers are key to understanding the current state of politics and "resistance" in the coming years.

Across America, there has been a drastic surge in activity from all manners of groups and campaigns in response to the drastic policy changes implemented since the inauguration of President Donald Trump. Activism has been easy to come by as there have been attacks on almost every social cause from the new administration. Whether it be a Stand Up For Science rally in defense of academic research funding, a People's March for abortion rights or even the demonstrations against Tesla for Elon Musk's actions, there's a movement for every person to participate in.

In fact, research from University of Connecticut Professor Jeremy Pressman has recorded over two times the amount of protests from January to March of this year than the same period in 2017 when Trump was first elected. The movement for a free Palestine has been no exception to this, as, after a relatively quiet few winter months, it is clear to see that students are back to leading a charge to stop government and educational institutions from materially supporting genocide.

This has created an interesting dynamic, where for the first time since the movement started, there exists strong alternative spaces for activism within the United States. Since the American public began widely recognizing the atrocities committed against Palestinians in the post-Oct. 7 era, this has become the dominant social movement. Outside of the presidential election in November (which isn't accurately described as a "social movement" anyways), there has been no other topic or debate which has captured such attention or mobilized people so readily from October 2023 until Trump's inauguration. So, there exists a special opportunity to understand the differences

across the vast landscape of political action right now.

So far, the clearest one seen has been the amount of repression faced by different campaigns based solely on subject matter. Pro-Palestinian college organizers have seen their universities defunded to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars just to pit administrators against them. They have seen universities and political officials collaborate with private groups like the Canary Mission to profile, record and dox anyone even remotely related to their groups. However, above all else, they've seen their fellow students kidnapped off the streets with visas revoked for no alleged crimes at all. The American government has waged an all-out war against students in complete violation of their right to free speech and without any criminal justification whatsoever. It has gone so far as to defy direct court orders in its detainment of these students and has called upon the direct authority of the Secretary of State to back its actions.

So, why is it just Palestine which has garnered such a response? Why has the environmental movement never seen such active repression? Why

have abortion activists never been expelled from the country?

Even anti-war activists during the height of the 1960s would only face jail time. This is a departure from the norm of dealing with dissent, and it's not just a matter of the power of conservatism in government.

The answer lies in the nature of what these movements challenge and how central their targets are to the structures they are a part of. Fundamentally, Palestine is a decolonial struggle at its core, presenting one of the most dangerous opportunities for mass bodies of people to learn about and recognize the continued tactics of settler colonial oppression facilitated by the United States. To challenge how these practices have been exported onto the state of Israel's oppression of Palestinians is to eventually challenge the same legitimizing myths that this nation is based on. When Israeli settlers claim that the land is rightfully theirs, that they are culturally superior or that they are "just defending themselves," these are the same arguments made to destroy indigenous culture in the US. These are the same arguments which further white supremacy in the US today. These are the same structures which further other nationalist, imperialist and capitalist forms of oppression.

In their popular understandings, although certain sects have challenged this dominance, movements for abortion access or a greener world have never inherently challenged the same structures. This is not to make a statement about their necessity in creating a better world, all these issues are connected, but more so to say that the large parts of these movements have not recognized the inherent connection to larger structural inequalities or other struggles. This makes them less threatening for the ruling class, which can easily co-opt or outright ignore them.

It is fundamental logic which is threatening to those in power, because once they are accepted by the people they can be recreated in many circumstances. It is the logic of a free Palestine which threatens the United States government. When Trump deports more activists and silences more dissent, understand that it is no coincidence why they all fight for the same flag. Their logic is the most powerful challenging force in all of America right now, more than any other movement, and that makes them dangerous. We need to be dangerous right now. Free Palestine.

# It's time for Democrats to reconnect with male voters

by Jannat Zouhad

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Four months have gone by since the election that shaped the America we live in today. It was a tense campaign with twists and turns (and the inevitable final tumble), but throughout it all, the most crucial voter group was overlooked: male voters. The Democratic Party's reach among young men has plummeted in recent years. In the last election, voter turnout for Republican men was 57% among men under 30, leading people to wonder: why is this issue occurring?

On the Democrats' website, a promise of inclusion is displayed with a list of personal identities Democrats vow to put their best foot forward to serve. Reading down the list, you can see virtually every group except for men. Granted, the left recognizes that these groups have been marginalized and set back for years, leading to more attention being granted to them. However, the average male will not perceive it this way. Instead, it will serve as another reminder of how their struggles are frequently left behind and unheard. Actions like these dis-

suade men from voting blue. Most men are never told what can be done for them, but rather what they should do for others. To men, the Democratic party has continuously downplayed the obstacles they believe they face. When pushed away, one will be led to where they are told they are important. Unfortunately, the place where they are important is in the right-wing manosphere.

The right-wing manosphere is a collection of internet subcultures centered around men and how they are "the prize." It feeds on the false notion that female empowerment must equal male disempowerment, and the idea that men are the actual marginalized group in modern America. With popular creators in this sphere, such as Andrew Tate and Joe Rogan, endorsing Trump in the recent election, it was no surprise that Trump did exceptionally well with male voters. To an unfortunate number of men in America, Andrew Tate is the pinnacle of true masculinity: wealthy, outspoken and brimming with testosterone. He gets their every thought and understands just how hard it must be to be a "traditional man" in an increasingly degenerate country. Men

are misled to think that it is the manly decision to vote red because Republicans are the only party who can empathize with men. This is why Democrats have been searching for their own "Joe Rogan of the Left"—someone young men can look up to and strive to be like. However, there is a bigger issue that Democrats face, which isn't just the lack of their own Joe Rogan. To young viewers, the Left has become increasingly uncool.

Democrats have an unappealing air of moral superiority. Rarely do they accept that people can change from bigoted past views and instead they choose to hold it against them for the rest of their lives. A recent example of this is when DNC member Harry Sisson was "accused" of exchanging nudes with women despite telling them they were the only one. His close colleague Dean Withers went live to publicly disavow his actions and distance himself from Sisson. What Sisson did was nothing short of average immature behavior you would expect from a 20-year-old, yet there was a deeper argument that could have been made. Yes, Sisson's actions were deplorable; but to alienate him for these actions only shows young male voters that

this is what the Democratic Party stands for. It seems that Democrats think that if you have ever participated in modern casual dating practices, you should be shamed and booted off the internet. How do we think we will garner more male votes if we continuously force this "holier than thou" energy?

To increase male Democratic turnout, the party must re-evaluate how they campaign moving forward. We do not need to center men in the way the right-wing does; after all, we live in reality, and in reality, men are more privileged. But I do believe that we should take another tone when talking to men. Instead of talking down to men about what they can do for us, we should occasionally ask what we can do for them. People do not live in a monolith of their identities. Instead of pushing people away by responding, "it's not my job to educate you; you should learn to be less ignorant yourself," we should lead them to the resources that will best equip them to make insightful decisions. It is only once Democrats change their treatment of young men in America that we will be able to take a step in the right direction and progress for 2028.

Photo of the Day | Ballin'!!!



Students playing basketball on a resident hall court Thursday evening. More students can be seen outside now that temperatures are getting warmer.  
PHOTO BY MADISON HENDRICKS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## the daily campus comics



by Connor Szrejna, Staff Artist



by Lee Ernest, Contributing Artist

# BASEBALL:

## HOOK C SET TO FACE CREIGHTON IN THREE-GAME SERIES ON THE ROAD

by Ava Inesta

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The UConn baseball team will continue their Big East slate on the road in Omaha for a three-game series against the Creighton Bluejays. The series will open on Friday, April 4 at 7:00 p.m., continuing on Saturday, April 5 at 3:00 p.m. and wrap up on Sunday, April 6 at 1:00 p.m. All of the games will be played at Charles Schwab Field in Omaha, Nebraska.

Last weekend, in their first series of conference action, UConn traveled to Xavier and lost two out of the three games they played in Cincinnati. However, the Huskies bounced back in a 9-3 victory over Quinnipiac during their midweek matchup at Elliot Ballpark in Storrs. Hook C will enter the weekend against Creighton with a 12-15 overall record and 1-2 in Big East play.

On Tuesday against Quinnipiac, the Huskies racked up 16 hits and had 10 stolen bases. Six players on the squad registered multi-hit performances against the Bobcats. The 10 stolen bases were the most for UConn since they

stole eight bases against Georgetown in 2010. Graduate student Caleb Shpur had a three-hit day against Quinnipiac. He walked twice, scored two runs and stole three bases in a game for the second time this season, as one of the fuels

of the Huskies offense. Speaking of offense, the Huskies top bats on of

fense have been sophomore Tyler Minick (.348/.410/.674), junior Ryan Daniels (.342/.443/.584) and graduate student Beau Root (.340/.385/.426).

Minick currently has 28 RBIs and eight home runs on the season, while Daniels is

not far behind with 24 RBIs and four home runs.

As for Creighton, they are entering this series with a 17-7 overall record. The Bluejays' most recent wins came over Samford in a series over the weekend and a midweek matchup win against Nebraska. Last week, Creighton right-hand pitcher Ian Koosman earned Big East Pitcher of the week for the first time. On Tuesday, March 18, Koosman pitched a seven-inning shutout to lead the Bluejays to a 1-0 win over South Dakota State. The junior pitcher recorded nine strikeouts and allowed only two hits and one walk on just 85 pitches. The win over South Dakota State marked the first time since 2007 that Creighton earned a 1-0 win in nine innings on their home field, with a huge credit to Koosman.

After this weekend at Creighton, the Huskies will begin a longer home stretch for the first time this season as the Connecticut weather is slowly starting to get warmer. The Huskies will begin their series against the Bluejays this Friday, April 4. First pitch is set for 7:00 p.m. in Omaha, and all the games will be available to stream on MIXLR.



The UConn baseball team defeats Quinnipiac 9-3. They completed 16 hits and had 10 stolen bases.

PHOTOGRAPH BY LUISA MASSASSO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# Track and Field:

## Huskies host Dog Fight Invitational

by Alex Klancko

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The UConn men's and women's track and field teams will host a total of seven programs this weekend on Friday, April 4, for the Dog Fight Invitational.

The first track event is set to start at 12:00 p.m., with the 3000 Steeplechase, while the last track event, the 4x400 meters, is set to start at 5:15. For all track events, the women's teams will start first while the men's teams will go second.

The first field event will start at 11:00 a.m., and the last event will start at 2:00 p.m., with both men and women athletes competing.

Some events that are happening at the same time are the 4x100 meter relay and pole vault at 1 p.m., and the 110-meter hurdles and the high jump at 2 p.m.

Some players to highlight this season are Joshua Mooney and Travis Martin, with Martin setting a new program record in the outdoor 5000 meter this season.

Both athletes have been

major

contributors to UConn's success at track and field, as the Huskies are ranked 19th in the country, their first top-20 ranking in program history. Mooney also took home silver for UConn in the heptathlon just a couple of weeks ago in the Big East Championships.

Other men to highlight are Mekhi Stone, who finished second in the 400-meter dash with a personal best time of 46.76 seconds. Brendan Kovar, Gabriel Cuffey, OJ Singletary and Stone are also athletes to look out for, winning the 4x400 meter sprint at Georgia Tech's Yellow Jacket Invitational.

For the women's team, Jenna Zydanowicz has had a successful final season with Zydanowicz running the second fastest time in the outdoor 5000-meter this season. Zydanowicz also

won gold in the 5000-meter sprint at the Big East Championship.

Some other women to highlight this season are Maresa Hence, who won the pentathlon, Mallory Malz, who claimed gold in the women's pole vault and A'liyah Thomas, who won gold in the women's long jump for the Huskies a couple of weeks ago in the Big East Championships.

Some Huskies have also competed at the NCAA Championships, with Kyle Johnson winning NCAA Division I Second Team All-American Hon-

ors in the triple jump after he achieved a jump of 15.82 meters. Marc Morrison also claimed Second Team All-Americans in the NCAAs.

Following the immediate conclusion of the track and field events, UConn will recognize 36 seniors who are graduating for their con-

tribution to the program.



UConn women's track and field team celebrating after a tough fought competition. The team is scheduled to participate in the UConn Northeast Challenge on Friday, April 18.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MERCER FERGUSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

UConn men's track and field team preparing for a meet in December. The team is scheduled to host the UConn Dog Fight Invitational competition on Friday, April 4.

PHOTOGRAPH BY FRANCESCA BAZIL, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Sports

## Photo of the Day | Up next: the Final Four



The UConn Huskies defeat USC in the Elite 8 at Spokane Arena on March 31. UConn won with a final score of 78-64 and moves on to play UCLA in the Final Four.

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Women's Final Four Breakdown: Matchups, players to watch and TV viewership

by Ava Inesta

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After traveling from either Spokane, Wash. or Birmingham, Ala. after the Elite Eight games, the women's Final Four starts tomorrow in Tampa, Fla. and the teams remaining (UConn, UCLA, Texas, South Carolina) will finish their fight for the national title this weekend. The Huskies are the only No. 2 seed left remaining in the tournament while the rest are all No. 1 seeds; even on the men's side, all the one seeds are still standing.

This March Madness tournament has been another marker of how much the game of women's basketball has grown. Last tournament, Iowa's win over UConn in the Final Four set a then-new record for the most watched women's college basketball game in history as it averaged 14.2 million viewers. A couple days later, it was then topped by the championship game between Iowa and South Carolina where it topped 18.9 million viewers. Caitlin Clark changed women's basketball viewership with her unlimited shooting range and the dominance that she brought to Iowa and now the WNBA with the Indiana Fever. Although Clark is not in this year's tournament, the viewership numbers are still up, which proves the growth of women's college basketball. The Elite Eight games from last weekend averaged 2.9 million viewers, which is the second most-watched Elite Eight round in history, following Clark's run with the TV numbers last season. LSU vs UCLA had 3.4 million viewers (No. 3 Elite Eight game all time), Duke vs South Carolina with 3.1 million viewers (No. 4 all-time), UConn vs USC with 3.0 million (No. 6 all-time) and TCU vs Texas had 2.3 million viewers (No. 9 all-time). This year's Final Four games are highly anticipated, and all the teams are filled with players that viewers cannot wait to see go head-to-head on the biggest stage in college basketball.

The first game of the night will

be between Texas and South Carolina. This is the fourth time that these teams will go head-to-head this season, but now in the Final Four. South Carolina is seeking their third national title game appearance in the last four seasons. But for Texas, they are looking for their first championship game appearance since 1986 when the program clinched its first and only national title. Some players keep an eye out for the Longhorns forward Madison Booker (16 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 2.7 apg) who has scored double-digit points in 31 of 38 games this season and guard Rori Harmon (9.3 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 6.1 apg) who is playing in her first NCAA Tournament since having a season-ending ACL surgery back in December of 2023. For the Gamecocks, forward Chloe Kitts (10.4 ppg, 7.9 rpg, 2 apg) has been on fire, having 14 of South Carolina's 54 points in their Elite Eight win and guard MiLaysia Fulwiley (12.1 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 1.6 spg) who did not have

apg) who has scored a total of 105 points in her last three games and is playing some of the best basketball in her career. Bueckers is no stranger to March Madness and the pressure that comes along with it. Especially since this is her last collegiate season, the star has her eyes on the prize. UConn also has a presence in their post with freshman forward Sarah Strong (16.1 ppg, 8.5 rpg, 3.5 apg) who recorded 22 points and a career-high 17-rebound double-double against USC in the Elite Eight, marking her sixth double-double of the postseason alone.

"Everybody's talking about Paige," said Meg Aronowitz, a senior vice president of production for ESPN and the company's top person for its women's basketball coverage. "It's not 'Paige Bueckers.' It's just 'Paige.' When you get to that point where you are first

name only, that's when you know, wow, people are starting to pay attention. The story that comes along with her, all of the injuries, the playing through COVID and the resilience of this young woman, that's a story that will get people to want to watch. So we are thrilled to have Paige in Tampa."

The more success ESPN sees with the women's Final Four, the more investment the games get as a whole, especially within technology. This year's Final Four is in high dynamic range (HDR) for the first time ever for the women's game. The production for the games has 45 cameras in total which includes more advanced slo-mo and high-frame-rate cameras than it's ever had before. This shows how much the game is growing and how high the demand is getting for coverage on women's basketball. The game has seen high numbers before with past championships in 2022 (UConn vs South Carolina) and 2023 (LSU vs Iowa) but the statistics now are much more consistent. This year's Final Four games and the national championship are expected to surpass the two, three million viewers mark comfortably, and it will all start now for the last weekend of Madness.

For the night cap game, it'll be UConn and UCLA. This will be the first time that these two teams will meet this season and both rosters are stacked with players who have been at the top of their game. This is UConn's 24th Final Four appearance and their 16th in the last 17 March Madness tournaments, but for UCLA this is new territory that the program has never seen before. Lauren Betts (19.7 ppg, 9.7 rpg, 2.9 bpg) is the star to watch out for on UCLA's roster, she is shooting 64.9% from the field and has led UCLA all season long. The Bruins also have guard Kiki Rice (12.9 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 5.1 apg) who went 1-of-7 from the field on Sunday but looks to rebound in the Final Four game. As for the Huskies, they have been led all season long by guard Paige Bueckers (19.2 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 4.8



UConn's softball team playing in 2024. The team beat Boston College 7-0 on Tuesday, April 1.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SOFIA DIGRANDE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Softball: Huskies look to carry momentum into weekend series with Butler

by Matt Dimech

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The UConn softball team will look to extend its conference momentum this weekend as they will take on Butler in a three-game home series.

The Huskies (19-12, 7-2) have dominated in the all-time series, commanding a 13-2 record over the Bulldogs (20-12, 9-3). This will be the first meeting between these Big East rivals since they met in March last season. UConn came away with two out of three in that series on the road. Butler will arrive in Storrs ready to even the score.

The Huskies boast a 7-2 record when facing conference opponents. They are currently positioned just ahead of the Bulldogs in second place in the Big East standings. Both teams will look to catch St. John's, who currently lead the conference with an 8-1 record.

UConn is riding a three-game winning streak coming into the series. In their conference series this past weekend, the Huskies took two out of three games against Creighton. Their game two victory came in a 22-18 final score, where second-year Kaitlyn Breslin blasted four home runs. She tied the NCAA record for home runs in a single game.

Breslin's weekend slugging brought her season home run

total to a team-leading 11. She also leads the team with a .375 batting average.

The Huskies followed their series victory with a 7-0 win over their New England rivals Boston College on Tuesday.

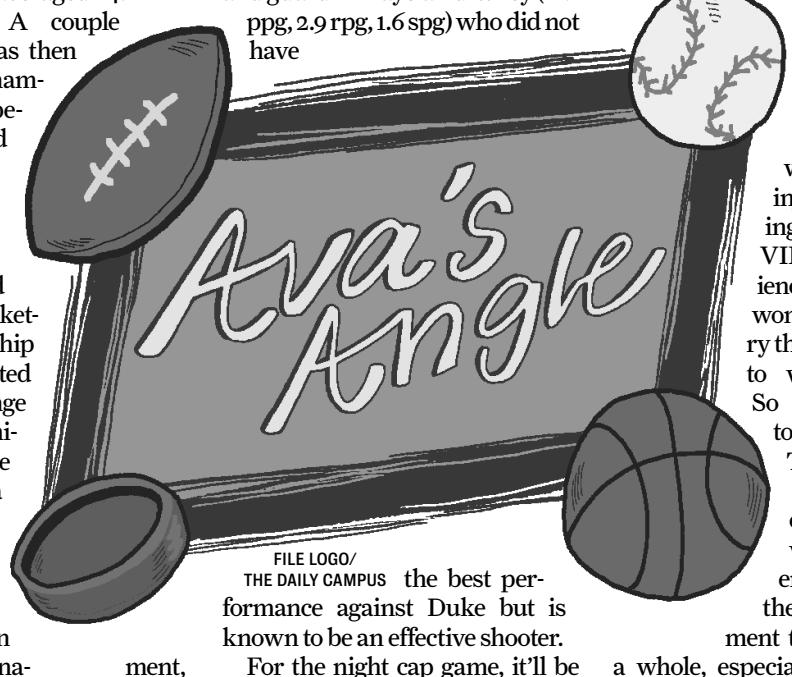
Butler will hope to thwart the Huskies momentum, after having their own three-game winning streak snapped by Indiana State on Tuesday. Prior to the loss, the Bulldogs had swept Georgetown over the weekend.

Cate Lehner led the Bulldogs to victory in the second game of their double header on Friday. She earned hits in three of her four at bats, while swiping two bases. Lehner scored a run in the bottom of the fifth to take the lead enroute to the win.

Lehner is tied with Creighton junior Lily West for most hits in Big East play this season at 15, while she holds the conference solo lead in batting average at a whopping .500. It will be critical for the Huskies to keep Lehner off the basepaths to be successful this weekend.

UConn will be running promotions throughout the weekend, celebrating Faculty Staff and Student appreciation on Friday, while Sunday's matinee is High School night.

The action will commence at 3 p.m. on Friday in a double header at Burrill Family Field at the Connecticut softball complex, fans can tune into the game on FloSports.



FILE LOGO/  
THE DAILY CAMPUS

the best performance against Duke but is known to be an effective shooter.

For the night cap game, it'll be UConn and UCLA. This will be the first time that these two teams will meet this season and both rosters are stacked with players who have been at the top of their game. This is UConn's 24th Final Four appearance and their 16th in the last 17 March Madness tournaments, but for UCLA this is new territory that the program has never seen before. Lauren Betts (19.7 ppg, 9.7 rpg, 2.9 bpg) is the star to watch out for on UCLA's roster, she is shooting 64.9% from the field and has led UCLA all season long. The Bruins also have guard Kiki Rice (12.9 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 5.1 apg) who went 1-of-7 from the field on Sunday but looks to rebound in the Final Four game. As for the Huskies, they have been led all season long by guard Paige Bueckers (19.2 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 4.8

The first game of the night will

# WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:

## Huskies return to Tampa a decade later for 24th Final Four

by Avery Becker

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After starting in Storrs and traveling to Spokane, Wash., the UConn women's basketball team will return to the east coast to take on the UCLA Bruins in Tampa for their 24th Final Four appearance.

The Huskies are coming off a 78-64 Elite Eight win over the USC Trojans, where the trio of Paige Bueckers, Sarah Strong and Kaitlyn Chen dominated on the hardwood.

Bueckers earned the Spokane

Region's most valuable player award, racking up a total of 31 points and six assists.

In addition, Strong reached a career high of 17 rebounds and notched a total of 22 points and four assists.

"There's a way that you win these games, and generally speaking, they are, you know, on the backs of one or two particular players that are going to put the team on their backs and get us to the next level, to get us to The Final Four," head coach Geno Auriemma said to the media postgame Monday evening.

This year marks the 16th

time of the last 17 years that Auriemma and his program has made it this far in the Big Dance, as the Huskies start their pursuit for their 12th National Championship.

"There's Disney Land, there's Disney World and there's UConn world; these are fantasy numbers," said Auriemma to the media postgame.

The last time the Huskies lifted the NCAA trophy was in 2016, when the Huskies put the cherry on top of a perfect season with an 82-51 win over Syracuse.

Standing in the way of the

Huskies heading to the national championship game is Lauren Betts of UCLA. Betts, a native of Centennial, Colo., averaged around 20 points per game in her junior campaign.

The Bruins are coming off a 72-65 win over the Louisiana State Tigers, where the 6-foot-7 center notched 17 points and seven rebounds.

To notch the dub, the Huskies will need to stay feisty by the boards to keep the ball in the offensive zone, as the Bruins, for the last five games, are in the 17th percentile for defensive rebounding and only notch a de-

fensive rebound 65% of the time.

Moreover, over the last five games, UCLA has only been averaging 6.2 steals and 10.2 offensive rebounds per game, as well as they are only scoring 40.7% of their points in the paint. If the Huskies maintain their consistency on defense, using KK Arnold and Ashlynn Shade at their disposal, Husky fans should expect the squad to return to Amalie Arena on Sunday afternoon.

Tip-off is scheduled for 9 p.m. from Amalie Arena; Husky fans can tune into the matchup on ESPN.



The UConn Huskies defeat USC in the Elite 8 at Spokane Arena on March 31. UConn won with a final score of 78-64 and moves on to play UCLA in the Final Four.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Women's Tennis:

## Red hot Huskies set to face pair of Big East foes

by Graham Wilker

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The UConn women's tennis team has enjoyed an excellent season to date, currently sitting at a 13-2 record. Over the last week, the Huskies enjoyed wins over the Big East's very own Providence and Butler, with Connecticut winning a combined 13-1, with a clean sweep over the Friars. This week, the Huskies will face another pair of conference opponents, DePaul and Villanova.

The Huskies continued to stay undefeated at home, and home's where they will stay all week. UConn looked strong in both games as referenced by their records across the matchdays, with Olivia Wright, Victoria Matos and Cameron Didion each winning in consecutive sets. Wright and Matos would also play doubles and win by a convincing 6-1 score during their face off against Butler. During their play against the Friars, every Husky won in consecutive sets in singles play, while the trio of doubles games ended 18-1 in aggregate in UConn's favor. At 109 singles wins across the season, UConn has the opportunity to continue their historic season and

strengthen their case for the No. 1 seed in the conference, as they'll hope to eventually bring home a Big East Championship. The trio all have strong accolades this season: Wright was the Big East singles player of the week in March, while Didion and Matos both boast records above an 80% win rate, standing at 14-3 and 17-4, respectively.

DePaul has been up and down this season with a record of 9-8, but is currently on a three-game losing streak. Villanova is in a similar situation. At 7-9, the Wildcats opened the season with three straight 0-7 losses and a 2-8 start, but have climbed back following five wins in their last six to reach a record not far off .500. DePaul has had more consistency across their season and will be looking to snap their win streak and get back to their winning 9-5 start to the year, while Villanova will look to carry their very strong momentum into the contest.

Both matchdays should be ones the Huskies feel confident in, given their form, but there's no doubt they will need to stay strong given the conference ties of these two opponents. The first serves are set for 2 p.m. on Friday, April 4, and 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 6.



UConn women's tennis playing on their home court in Storrs, Conn. UConn beat Butler 6-1 on Sunday, March 30.

PHOTOGRAPH BY FRANCESCA BAZIL, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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# Sports

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Georgia transfer Silas Demary Jr. commits to UConn to add veteran backcourt presence

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

The UConn men's basketball team now has a veteran guard to succeed Hassan Diarra, bringing in former Georgia Bulldog Silas Demary Jr. from the transfer portal Thursday afternoon.

"The reason for coming here, just want to be the next great point guard," he said on a Zoom call Thursday afternoon. "Like Tristen Newton, Stephon Castle and you look back even farther: Shabazz Napier, Kemba Walker. I want to be one of those names."

Demary led Georgia to its first NCAA Tournament appearance since 2015 and was one of the most underrated guards in the SEC, averaging 13.5 points per game.

"Silas is the type of big guard we love at UConn and we can't wait to get him in the mix," head coach Dan Hurley said in a press release. "He can score from all three levels, play-defense and use his length to guard multiple positions. Silas comes from a great family and will fit our championship culture to a tee."

Demary has trended in the right direction, averaging 19.2 points in the last five games (98th percentile

nationally). He led the Bulldogs in scoring in seven games this season, including six of the final 10 games. He finished his time in Athens leading Georgia in assists (3.1) and steals (1.7).

"The light flickered on for Silas Demary in early February and only a handful of guards in the vicious SEC were playing better than him down the stretch," 247Sports analyst Isaac Trotter wrote. "[He is] a tough cover because of his positional size and comfort operating with the rock in his hand. Demary made a major jump as a sniper, draining over 37% of his 3-pointers, which made his drives so much more impactful...He was a huge part of a Georgia defense that finished right outside the top-30 nationally."

What fans will love is his ability to get to the free throw line, which seemed to be missing during the 2024-25 campaign. His free throw attempt rate (48.2%) ranked in the 89th percentile nationally. He drew five personal fouls per game in his final season at Georgia, ranking in the 99th percentile nationally.

He has already developed a

great relationship with the coaching staff, especially associate head coach Kimani Young.

"When I first saw Coach Kimani Young, he was just like 'Man, there goes my PG,'" Demary said. "Hearing him say that gave me a lot of confidence in myself, and it just made me feel secure with who I was, and secure with him, knowing that he's going to be there for me, he's going to be that guy."

Connecticut lacked a big guard that could lead the way last season. That changes with Demary, standing at 6-feet 5-inches. That alone has given him comparisons to UConn legend Tristen Newton.

"I would definitely say it's a fair comparison," he said. "That was the mold [the coaching staff] was showing me."

What the rising junior will have to clean up is his discipline. He averages 2.3 turnovers and 2.5 fouls per game, with each stat ranking in the 11th percentile nationally.

According to 247Sports, Demary ranked 7th out of all college basketball players who entered the transfer portal.

UConn hosted Demary for a visit

on Tuesday after he spent Monday at St. John's. It became clear that Connecticut was the favorite following the visit to Storrs, with Crystal Ball Predictions signaling the sophomore to commit to the Huskies.

Demary, with two years of eligibility left, will join Solo Ball in a potential starting backcourt that could rank among the best in the country.

Demary will be the headliner of a loaded incoming class, including three McDonald's All-Americans.

"[The incoming freshmen] are coming into a program where they're willing to

work, be coached hard," he said. "They're going to come in ready to work."

As of today, UConn will have five open scholarships to play with.

Along with decisions from Alex Karaban, Tarris Reed Jr. and Jayden Ross looming, expect a lot more news coming from the Basketball Capital of the World.



PHOTO COURTESY OF @SILASDEMARYJR ON INSTAGRAM



## Huskies in The Pros:

### Breaking down the Huskies' performance in the final weeks of the NBA season

by Tyler Pruneau

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#### Stephon Castle:

Stephon Castle welcomed the new month with back-to-back double-digit score lines. The rookie notched a 16-point game against the Orlando Magic, knocking down one of two three-point attempts and making five of 11 within the paint. Additionally, the 20-year-old secured eight rebounds and assisted six times. However, with seven turnovers, the former Husky struggled to hold onto the ball. Following

Tuesday's contest, the San

Antonio Spurs traveled to face the Denver Nuggets, where Castle nearly achieved his first triple double. The guard dropped 15 points, going two for six beyond the arc and four for 12 from within. Moreover, the Georgia native grabbed a career-high 15 boards and dished out nine assists.

With a little more than a week left in the NBA regular season, Castle remains the favorite for Rookie of the Year. The guard has averaged a little more than 14 points, rebounded nearly three and a half balls and assisted nearly four players per match, according to the NBA. With a Victor Wembanyama and De'Aaron Fox-less roster, the Spurs sit at No. 13 in the Western Conference. Despite not getting eliminated from playoff contention yet, the team is barely staying alive.

#### Donovan Clingan:

Regardless of playing one contest so far in April, Donovan Clingan contributed 11 points in the Portland Trail Blazers' win over the Atlanta Hawks. In 29 minutes of court time, the big man cashed in his only three-pointer

and drained three of six two-pointers. In addition, the center snagged seven boards and assisted seven teammates. In the previous week, Clingan struggled against the Boston Celtics, only putting

up four points. However, the former Husky bounced back against the Cleveland Cavaliers, notching an 18-point game and rebounding 12 balls. Additionally, the 21-year-old swatted away three potential baskets and forced a turnover once.

To add on, the Connecticut native not only tops the team with a little more than one and a half blocks, but also leads with nearly seven and a half boards, per ESPN.

Similar to the Spurs, the Trail Blazers stand at No. 12 in the Western Conference. Holding a 33-43 record, the franchise has yet to get eliminated from the postseason.

#### Cam Spencer:

Cam Spencer last participated for the Memphis Grizzlies on Monday against the Boston Celtics. However, in the past five clashes, the rookie declined in minutes and only contributed four points when facing the Utah Jazz.

In that matchup, Spencer missed his only attempt beyond the arc and went one for two within the paint.

Turning to the G-League, the 24-year-old last performed with the Memphis Hustle G-League team on March 3 and drained 24 points. Looking at the Western Conference playoff picture, the Memphis Grizzlies dropped from securing a playoff spot to clinching the postseason play in tournament.

#### Tristen Newton:

Tristen Newton last appeared on the Minnesota Timberwolves' roster on Feb. 13. However, the

former Husky strived at the end of March for the Iowa Timberwolves G-League team. In a two-game series against the South Bay Lakers, Newton accumulated a combined total of 39 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists. Looking at the G-League tournament, the team missed the postseason, owning a 7-27 record.

#### Jordan Hawkins:

Jordan Hawkins missed two straight contests this week after suffering from back spasms, per CBS Sports. Before the injury, Hawkins knocked down 25 points against the Detroit Pistons. The 22-year-old drilled six of 11 shots from the three-point line and went perfect from two.

However, the guard declined in points when facing the Philadelphia 76ers and the Golden State Warriors, combining for a total of 17 points. With that said, the New Orleans Pelicans were eliminated from playoff contention, holding a 21-55 record with the second worst record in the Western Conference.

#### Andre Jackson Jr.:

Andre Jackson Jr. continued to fall in playing time, averaging a little more than four and a half minutes. Nonetheless, the guard played 11 minutes in the Milwaukee Bucks' loss to the Hawks. However, Jackson struggled, putting up only one point, three rebounds and one assist. The second-year player went zero for one from deep and zero for two from the field. Despite challenges, the Bucks hold a 41-34 record, sitting at the No. 6 seed in the Eastern Conference.

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