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Art club looks to break world record at UConn Stamford campus

by Pierce Colfer
THEY/ THEM/ THEIRS
STAFF WRITER
pierce.colfer@uconn.edu

An art club at the University of Connecticut's Stamford campus is currently working toward breaking a Guinness World Record: creating the largest dice mosaic ever. Husky Art Pack, the club behind this endeavor, is fundraising to begin working on the project, which they have called the "Art of the Roll."

The current world record belongs to a piece containing 40,000 dice and spans approximately 100 square feet. The "Art of the Roll" plans to create a piece comprised of over 200,000 that would span approximately 30 square meters.

The piece is being headed by five students: fourth-semester students Daniela Salas and Vivian Mendoza, who serve as co-leads and marketing directors, and eighth-semester students Jethro Asinas, Shania Chacon and Dorian Robinson. Asinas serves as a co-lead and data analyst, Chacon serves as the lead graphic designer and Robinson serves as the documentary director.

These students have collaborated with Johnny Face Off, better known as Design with Dice, to create the mosaic. Face Off is "an innovative artist who specializes in creating stunning works of art using dice as his primary medium," according to the "Art of the Roll's" website.

Salas, who founded the Husky Art Pack during her second semester, talked about the project and the club in an interview with the Daily Campus.

Salas talked about how this idea came to fruition.

"[Asinas] met the artist that we're working with, Johnny Face Off... at one of their art



Husky Art Pack and Johnny Face Off promoting the "Art of the Roll" at a UConn Ignite fundraising event. PHOTOGRAPH BY VIVIAN MENDOZA, DANIELA SALAS, AND MEAGAN ASHE.

shows, and they basically connected over the idea of breaking a world record for the world's largest dice mosaic," Salas said.

"[Asinas] brought the idea to us to see if we could get students

and just UConn involved in general, so we conceptualized the whole art program behind it."

The "Art of the Roll" is currently fundraising for the project through Ignite, an annual

fundraising event hosted by UConn. According to Salas, Husky Art Pack is the first club on the Stamford campus to participate in Ignite. Salas talked about the fundraising process

and what the money is going toward.

"As of right now we're kind of in the fundraising stages, since we do need around \$30,000 [to fund the project]," Salas said. "So as of right now we're at \$10,000 from internal fundraising, and then from Ignite [on Feb. 18] we had amazing student turnout. We have had one of the highest student donor percentages... it was amazing seeing all of the student turnout and the support."

According to Salas, the funding will be used to purchase the dice, pay for the Guinness World Record certification and to pay for the framing that will go around the mosaic. Donations are currently being collected on their website.

The assembly of the mosaic will take place over a two-week process at the beginning of next semester.

Salas talked about how it felt being able to lead a project of this scale on the Stamford campus.

"I find it astonishing... just seeing how overwhelming the support is on campus and seeing the direct impact that it's making on students... seeing people enjoy and have fun and really interact with the different creative programs that we're offering... it's been really nice kind of seeing how this small idea stemmed into something so big," Salas said.

Outside of the "Art of the Roll," Husky Art Pack hosts events "related with creativity, crafts, expression," according to Salas, including field trips to museums. More information can be found about the "Art of the Roll" on their website and on the Husky Art Pack's Instagram page, @huskyartpack.

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Huskies prepare for home court match against SHU



THE DAILY CAMPUS
NEWSLETTER

Denver Public Schools sues to stop Trump administration policy allowing ICE agents in schools

(AP) - Denver Public Schools became the first U.S. school district Wednesday to sue the Trump administration challenging its policy allowing ICE immigration agents in schools.

Colorado's largest public school district argued in the federal lawsuit that the policy has forced schools to divert vital educational resources and caused attendance to plummet.

"DPS is hindered in fulfilling its mission of providing education and life services to the students who are refraining from attending DPS schools for fear of immigration enforcement ac-

tions occurring on DPS school grounds," the lawsuit states.

The federal lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem says the Trump administration hasn't provided "good reason" for rescinding the rules nor adequately considered or addressed the fallout.

Last month, President Donald Trump lifted longtime rules restricting immigration enforcement near sensitive locations, including schools. The announcement came as the new president seeks to make

good on campaign promises to carry out mass deportations.

"Denver is standing up for its children and families and protecting the right of all children, regardless of their immigration status, to attend public schools," Elora Mukherjee, director of the Immigrants' Rights Clinic at Columbia Law School, said in an email.

Denver Public Schools serve more than 90,000 students — about 4,000 of which are immigrants, according to the lawsuit, which cites 2023-2024 school year numbers. More

than half of the students are Hispanic or Latinx.

The city of Denver has seen an increase in migrants recently. Since 2023, about 43,000 people have arrived in the city from the U.S. southern border, according to the lawsuit.

"Parents across Denver enroll their children in public schools believing that while at school, their children will be educated and enriched without fear the government will enforce immigration laws on those premises," the lawsuit said.

The school district says it has had to devote a lot of time and resources to adding policies that keep students safe and training faculty and staff on how to respond to people claiming they are conducting immigration enforcement at schools.

Denver Public Schools also want to see DHS publish the directive publicly, saying that not being able to view the change in policy has impeded their ability to prepare for it, according to the lawsuit.

The Trump administration did not immediately respond to an email from The Associated Press seeking comment.

13 states to sue over DOGE access to government payment systems containing personal data

(AP) - Democratic attorneys general in several states vowed Thursday to file a lawsuit to stop Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency from accessing federal payment systems containing Americans' sensitive personal information.

Thirteen attorneys general, including New York's Letitia James, said in a statement that they were taking action "in defense of our Constitution, our right to privacy, and the essential funding that individuals and communities nationwide are counting on."

"As the richest man in the world, Elon Musk is not used to being told 'no,' but in our coun-

try, no one is above the law," the statement said. "The President does not have the power to give away our private information to anyone he chooses, and he cannot cut federal payments approved by Congress."

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday afternoon.

Government officials and labor unions have been among those raising concerns about DOGE's involvement with the payment system for the federal government, saying it could lead to security risks or missed payments for programs such as Social Security and Medicare.

Also Thursday, a federal judge ordered that two Musk allies have "read only" access to Treasury Department payment systems, but no one else will get access for now, including Musk himself. The ruling came in a lawsuit filed by federal workers unions trying to stop DOGE from following through on what they call a massive privacy invasion.

It was not immediately clear when the Democratic attorneys general will file their lawsuit.

Joining James in the statement were the attorneys general of Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Vermont.

President Donald Trump tapped Musk, the world's richest man, to shrink the size of the U.S. government.

Democrats have criticized the tech billionaire's maneuvers, which include the hostile seizure of taxpayer data and the apparent closure of the government's leading international humanitarian aid agency.

DOGE recently gained access to sensitive payment data within the Treasury Department after Treasury's acting Deputy Secretary David Lebryk resigned under pressure.

"This level of access for unauthorized individuals is unlawful, unprecedented, and unacceptable," the attorneys general said. "DOGE has no authority to access this information, which they explicitly sought in order to block critical payments that millions of Americans rely on — payments that support health care, childcare, and other essential programs."

Democratic members of Congress have expressed similar concerns that Musk, an unelected citizen, wields too much power within the U.S. government and states blatantly on his social media platform X that DOGE will shut down payments to organizations.

Musk has made fun of the criticism of DOGE on X while saying it is saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

DOGE officials sought access to the Treasury payment system to stop money from flowing into the U.S. Agency for International Development, according to two people familiar with the matter. That effort undermines assurances the department has given that it only sought to review the integrity of the payments and had "read-only access" to the system as part of an audit process.

The two people familiar with the matter spoke Thursday to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation.

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ACROSS

- 1 Food safety concern
- 6 Calif. airport with yoga rooms
- 9 Hypes (up)
- 13 Like a dance marathon
- 15 Sticky stuff
- 16 Wraparound dress
- 17 Menu icon that resembles a patty in a bun
- 20 Golden yrs. fund
- 21 Iowa State city
- 22 Strainer
- 23 Red-and-white pattern
- 27 Apple core?
- 28 Dawn goddess
- 29 "30 for 30" airer
- 31 On the wrong side (of)
- 34 Verify, in a way
- 37 Beat handily
- 40 Textured features that help soundproof spaces
- 43 Tennis great Sampras
- 44 "Hold __ your hat!"
- 45 Luxury watch
- 46 Rae of "Barbie"
- 48 Style manual org.
- 49 Latin I verb
- 51 Intricate inversion on some roller coasters
- 58 "Divine Comedy" poet
- 60 Feels sorry for
- 61 Badminton team, e.g.
- 62 Compromise, or what solvers do when filling in the first words of 17-, 23-, 40-, and 51-Across?
- 66 Cold drink brand
- 67 Inquire
- 68 Bring about
- 69 Playroom pile
- 70 ACLU focus
- 71 Chuckled, slangily

DOWN

- 1 Moral tenet
- 2 "1, 2 Step" singer
- 3 "Women & Money" podcast host Suze

A crossword puzzle grid with numbered entries. The grid is 12 columns wide and 12 rows high. Blacked-out areas are present in the following locations: a 2x2 square in the top-left, a 3x3 square in the top-right, a 2x2 square in the middle-right, a 3x3 square in the middle-right, a 2x2 square in the bottom-right, and a 2x2 square in the bottom-left. The numbered entries are: Row 1: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, (blacked out), 6, 7, 8, (blacked out), 9, 10, 11, 12. Row 2: 13, (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), 14, (blacked out), 15, (blacked out), (blacked out), 16. Row 3: 17, (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), 18, (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), 19. Row 4: 20, (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), 21, (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), 22. Row 5: 23, (blacked out), (blacked out), 24, 25, (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), 26, (blacked out), 27. Row 6: (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), 28, (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), 29, (blacked out), 30, (blacked out). Row 7: 31, 32, 33, (blacked out), (blacked out), 34, 35, 36, (blacked out), 37, (blacked out), 38, 39. Row 8: 40, (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), 41, (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), 42. Row 9: 43, (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), 44, (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), 45. Row 10: (blacked out), (blacked out), 46, (blacked out), 47, (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), 48, (blacked out). Row 11: 49, 50, (blacked out), (blacked out), 51, (blacked out), 52, 53, 54, (blacked out), (blacked out), 55, 56, 57. Row 12: 58, (blacked out), (blacked out), 59, (blacked out), (blacked out), 60, (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), 61. Row 13: 62, (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), 63, (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), 64, 65. Row 14: 66, (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), 67, (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), 68, (blacked out). Row 15: 69, (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), 70, (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), (blacked out), 71, (blacked out).

4 Ad-__ **Wednes**

olved

B E D M E L B A H

RAVEN WEREON ACH
FLATOOUTWRONG BEE
ODESSAONOSITE
UNICEF CRIBNOTES
RENT LEAOOHAAH
NYG AAMAP TOTS
DIGSUPDIRT
STEM ESTATE STP
SPICED TSA SIRE
PADKEEMA LEANER
IDES TOO FIANCE
RAP FOURQUARTER S
AYO AUSTEN SARAH
LSD BREAD SETH
41 Bellow, 54 Calzone center2

41 Below
42 Lounge around
34 Calzone center!
55 Big name in near

2 1, 2 Step Singer
3 "Women &
Money" podcast
host Suze

38 Sonny chse
brand
39 Wand-waving
org.

47 Architect's detail, briefly	beer
48 Soccer superstar Lionel	56 Cup part
49 Own up to	57 Not candid
50 Collision repair franchise	59 Simple tops
52 Accounting giant ____ & Young	63 Crew blade
53 Stashes, as a football	64 Lorne Michaels's show, familiarly
	65 Response to "Who wants to go to Disneyland?"

A partially solved 9x9 Sudoku grid. The visible numbers are:

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

The first two columns of the first two rows are blacked out, indicating they are part of the solution but not yet filled in.

Solution to Wednesday's puzzle

2/20/23

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

*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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WHAT THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION MEANS FOR TRANSGENDER HEALTHCARE

by **Maleena Muzio**
SHE/HER/HERS
STAFF WRITER
maleena.muzio@uconn.edu

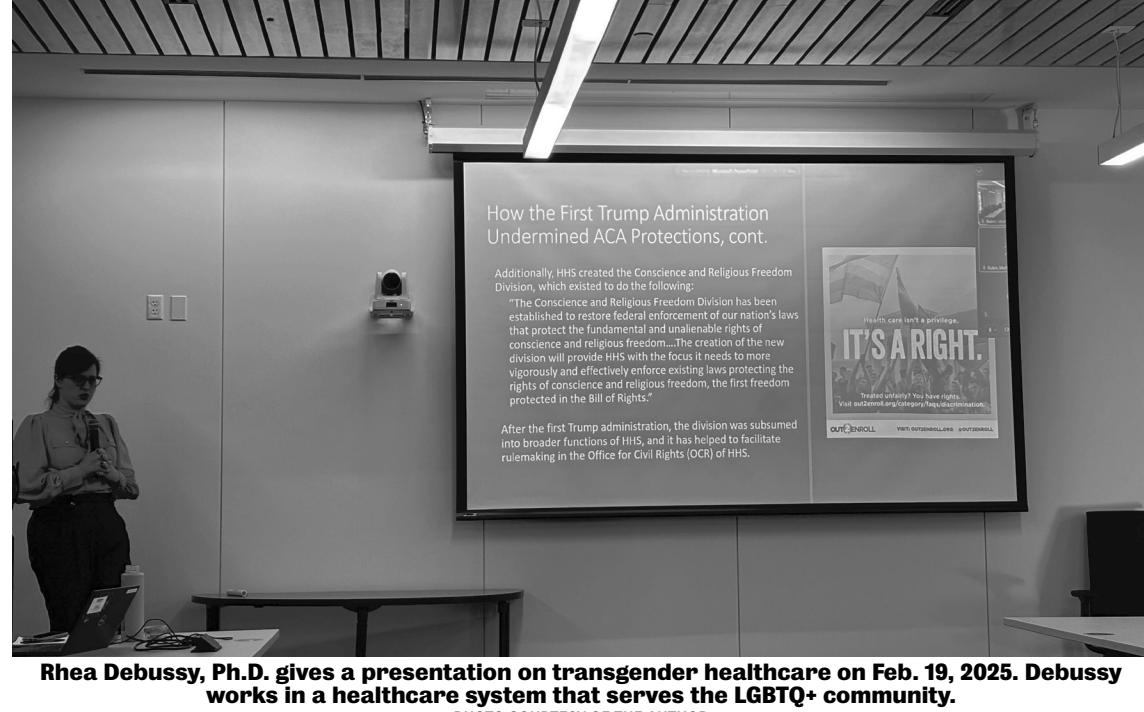
Transgender rights have recently been attacked by new policies introduced by President Donald Trump's administration.

From transgender athletes getting banned from women's sports to enforcing an updated legal definition of the term "sex," there have been notable changes in policies impacting the LGBTQ+ community in the last few weeks. But what are the implications for healthcare?

Rhea Debussy, former Ph.D. student at the University of Connecticut and current director of external affairs at Equitas Health Ohio, a non-profit healthcare system that serves the LGBTQ+ community, spoke with students and faculty at UConn on Wednesday, Feb. 19 to discuss this issue.

"The Trump administration is very erratic in how it moves," said Debussy, who added that this can make predictions about the future difficult.

To provide background to her presentation, Debussy explained the premise of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as "Obamacare." The ACA was created to help middle and lower-class people get healthcare. It is also the only piece of federal legislation that



Rhea Debussy, Ph.D., gives a presentation on transgender healthcare on Feb. 19, 2025. Debussy works in a healthcare system that serves the LGBTQ+ community.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

provides protections to transgender related healthcare and insurance access, according to Debussy, who specialized in LGBTQ+ policy.

During the Obama administration, significant progress was made for transgender rights. This includes the ACA and the renewed conditions of Title IX of the 14th Amendment, which prohibits sex discrimination, to also prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. This ensures equal protection under the law despite having different identities.

However, the Trump administration has already redefined the term "sex" to strictly reference male and female body parts at birth. This definition may impact Title IX, according to Debussy.

The new definition "does have an implication because it lets us know how the Trump administration is going to be arguing these cases," said Debussy.

Debussy also explained how Trump sent out an executive order prohibiting federal funds from helping people under the age of 19 receive gender affirming care, which

is typically prescriptions and hormones, not surgeries.

In his first administration, Trump had only begun to act on transgender-related topics well into his term in office, with the first of healthcare-related regulations coming out about a year and a half into his presidency, Debussy said. However, in his second term, Trump took action on his very first day as the president.

"I definitely learned a lot more about the legal side of everything with healthcare as somebody who wants to go into healthcare," said Maddie Westover, a second-semester

allied health science major. "The topic definitely impacts my life as lot as somebody who does identify as a trans individual, but even as somebody who lives a life surrounded by a bunch of people who identify as queer. It is a very scary world and learning about all of this stuff has really impacted my life."

Debussy made several predictions of what else the Trump administration may try to do to regulate the lives of queer people.

Based on evidence and the past, Debussy's best prediction is that a new federal rule regarding transgender care either specifically in the ACA or in general will be produced. She saw the trajectory of how workplace definitions of sex discrimination had been changed through the administrations of Obama, Trump and Biden, and thinks that healthcare laws will follow a similar trajectory.

"These thoughts have always been in the back of my mind," said a student who attended the event. "What if I cannot transition? What if I cannot live the life that I want? What if access to things like hormone therapy and gender affirming care surgeries are limited? These things are fears that have lived in the back of my mind but now they are being dredged to the forefront. They're being dragged out and it is terrifying. It is scary."

Dungeons and Dragons: Honor Among Thieves

by **Isaac Grad**
HE/HIM/HIS
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
isaac.grad@uconn.edu

Welcome back to another issue of Your Movie Mage, where I discuss underrated movies across genres. Last week, we discussed the underrated film, "My Blind Brother," and this week we'll be talking about the action-packed movie, "Dungeons and Dragons: Honor Among Thieves."

"Dungeons and Dragons" manages to balance all aspects of an action-comedy well. In the past few years, we have seen attempts to create a movie which successfully balances compelling characters, exciting stories, comedic elements with serious moments and cool action, but many have disappointed viewers. This movie, however, does a great job, especially considering it isn't an established movie franchise.

We are introduced to unknown characters with complex backgrounds and motivations and see them brought together, face evil and defeat it—all in two hours. This is no easy feat, especially when paired with comedic scenes and scenes of pure action.

If you're a fan of Dungeons and Dragons, this movie is a great watch, as there are countless references to the game. It feels like there were experienced Dungeons and Dragons players on the team who were passionate about bringing the game to the big



CARTOON BY SAMANTHA HASSE, POSITION/THE DAILY CAMPUS

screen for others to appreciate.

The movie really felt like the game, with funny overcomplications in certain parts of the journey and seemingly simple solutions to those challenges.

The emotional moments weren't overtaken by a cheap attempt at comedy, as we often see in action movies like this. They frequently included comedy in the action-cen-

tered scenes, rather than in more serious moments.

Bradley Cooper also makes an appearance as a heartfelt and caring man, Marlamin, which is more than enough reason to watch this movie at least twice. While Cooper's character was introduced in a comedic way, Marlamin is used to elevate the emotional aspects of Holga. The inclusion of his character was not simply for comedic effect,

which we see throughout the film.

They also don't force romance between two of the main characters, Edgin and Holga. They managed to have two characters of opposite genders raise a daughter together as friends without any implication of something more, unlike typical movie tropes.

One strong aspect of this movie is the action. I'd argue

magic isn't the easiest thing to make look cool and realistic onscreen, but this movie makes it look realistic and makes me want to test my telekinesis abilities again. The incantations mixed with the visual effects create an awesome experience where you feel like you're a part of the scenes. There are various effects being used to depict many different powers. Even still, the use of practical effects was great and elevated the experience of the movie greatly.

The costume design is also great, with each character having a distinct look that matches them well. I enjoyed the inclusion of objects that were not directly explained, but rather little easter eggs for players of the game. For example, Simon's bag, which is a bag for holding, wasn't explicitly mentioned, but we frequently see Edgin hand things to Simon to hold onto.

It isn't easy to make a movie that balances comedy, heart and action, but "Dungeons and Dragons: Honor Among Thieves" does just that. It also feels enjoyable for both longtime fans of the game and those who have no experience with it. I'd give this movie an underratedness score of 2/5, as it was well-received by many and is appreciated for what it is: a fun movie.

Rating: 2/5

Embrace French cuisine with poulet au vinaigre

by **Oliver Power**
HE/HIM/HIS
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
oliver.power@uconn.edu

This week on I Made It So You Don't Have To, we are essentially making a French version of the Tuscan chicken from last semester, but with a twist. If you're looking for a more bitter yet smooth and delicious sauce to cook your chicken in, this recipe is for you.

This recipe is great because it basically ensures your chicken will be cooked perfectly. It also infuses the chicken with a refreshing acidity from the vinegar — or as the French call it, vinaigre. Launch a coup d'état on your traditional weeknight meals and make this amazing recipe. If my French jokes were not up to par, I can promise that this dish certainly will be. So, let's get to it.

This recipe is from the Tik-Tok chef @ChefAlexTrim and it is a great step-by-step tutorial. Set your deep sauté pan to medium-high heat and get it hot before adding anything.

Season your chicken thighs on both sides with generous pinches of salt and pepper. It is okay if the thighs are bone-in, as the meat will slide off very easily regardless.

Take your skin-on chicken thighs and place them in the pan with a splash of olive oil. Make sure to place them skin-side down for four to five minutes. The skin gets super crispy and protects the chicken from burning and be-

coming dry inside. Flip them once golden brown and then brown on the other side for about three to four minutes. Remove all the chicken and turn the heat down to medium-low.

While the chicken is cooking, dice half an onion, a shallot and a garlic clove. Add them in after the chicken is done. Cook until the onions are translucent and then add in your tomato paste. Let this toast for about one to two minutes on medium heat for the flavors to assimilate. To deglaze the pan, raise the heat to medium-high and add your red wine vinegar.

Let this reduce, turning the liquid to a syrupy consistency. This concentrates the flavor, which will give your sauce the acidity you want. Add white wine and let this reduce for about two minutes. Combine your stock, tarragon, thyme, and chicken, bringing this mixture to a simmer at medium heat. Cook for about 15-20 minutes with the lid on.

Then, remove the chicken and add in the heavy cream. Let this come to a simmer and cook for five more minutes so the sauce thickens up. Salt and pepper the sauce, tasting it frequently. Add the chicken back in and reheat it for one minute to let the sauce back in. Serve this with rice, bread or both!

This is a great weeknight dish that is filling and loaded with flavor, with restaurant-quality tenderness of the chicken. The sauce gives the

rice a smoothness like risotto. The only criticism I have is the acidity. I would dial back maybe 50mL of the red wine vinegar so that it is not too overpowering.

The tarragon and thyme offer a refreshing aromaticity that certainly complements the chicken. This dish comfortably serves four people, so it is great for single meal prep or a family meal for the roommates. It takes about 45 minutes to make but it is certainly worth the wait.

INGREDIENTS:

Six chicken thighs – Skin on (bone-in or boneless)

One half white onion

One shallot, diced

One garlic clove

Two tbsp tarragon, chopped

One tbsp thyme

200 mL of red wine vinegar

400 mL of white, burgundy wine

400 mL of chicken stock

400 mL of heavy cream

Salt and pepper



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUTHOR

RATING: 4/5
PRICE: \$28.19



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

UCONN THRIFT DEN BRINGS SUSTAINABLE THRIFTING TO STORRS

by **Dan Stark** | HE/HIM/HIS | STAFF WRITER | daniel.stark@uconn.edu

food pantry, but for clothes," as the shop features a variety of different clothes and styles, contrasting it from other pop-up thrift stores on campus.

"There's a lot of clothing on campus that's more professional wear, which is great," said Minor. "But something that we really take pride in is we also have a different variety of clothing. We have a lot of casual wear, but also formal gowns and stuff like that."

All the items featured in the shop are donated, and Ngo and Minor emphasized that they check all the donations to ensure that the shop features the highest-quality items.

"We try to use the idea that thrifting can be glamorous and giving secondhand clothes is a great opportunity to express yourself while reusing and recycling," said Ngo. "So, our clothes don't have anything with stains,

rips or any malfunctions."

One aspect of the store that makes it different than other fashion efforts on campus is that they're the only store with a permanent space, as others set up in various locations on campus.

Shoppers are only allowed to take one item per week from the store. Minor said that this rule is in place for inventory control, as well as to dissuade overconsumption.

The shop first opened its doors on Thursday, Jan. 30 and, since then, Ngo estimated that 300 to 400 students have visited the store so far, with around 250 of those students walking away with items in hand. The first day stood out to them, with turnout being higher than anticipated.

"The first day that we opened, we expected around 10 to 15 people to come in," said Minor. "But there were so many people, maybe like 50 to 60 that came in, which was absolutely amazing."

Now that they're open, Ngo said that one of the goals she has for the shop is to add collection bins in locations around campus, such as the Student Union and residence halls, so students can donate clothes. She added that "a bunch of college students come with more than they can ever wear." She also brought up the idea of recruiting volunteers to assist the seven-member board that runs the shop.

The UConn Thrift Den is currently open on Thursdays and Fridays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit @uconnthriftden on Instagram.



Clara Minor and Tina Ngo, the co-founders of the UConn Thrift Den. The store is located in the Family Studies Building. PHOTO COURTESY OF AUTHOR



Life

@dailycampuslife

THE MUSIC NEVER STOPS: AVA ROBERTSON

by Dan Stark | HE/HIM/HIS | STAFF WRITER | daniel.stark@uconn.edu

Many view punk as a male-dominated genre, but many women have made names for themselves in the field. Trailblazers like Patti Smith, Chrissie Hynde and Siouxsie Sioux broke down the gates of punk, inspiring a generation of women to embrace the genre.

Among those following in their large footsteps is Ava Robertson. She is a singer-songwriter based in New Haven, Conn. who is the frontwoman of Psycho Brat, a four-piece punk band that has been on the rise in the local music scene with their hardcore-influenced sound and Robertson's vibrant stage energy.

Robertson first started singing when she was 10 years old and took classical voice lessons until she was 17. From there, she decided to teach herself how to do punk and metal-style vocals, a big change from what she was doing before. She credits her parents for introducing her to punk and other hard-edge styles of music.

"I grew up in a very alternative household," she said. "My mom was an original punk from the '70s, and my dad's always been into metal and other harder genres as well. I grew up being surrounded by punk, metal and hard rock, and I decided that's what I wanted to do because it's what resonated with me the most."

Punk stood out to Robertson as a vehicle of self-expression and emotion. She also added that "punk is more relevant now than it has been in a very long time," due to the current political climate in the country.

Robertson first started writing songs at 14 years old, when she would sit down with a ukulele, find words that rhymed and put some chords underneath it. It started as a way for her to deal with what was going on in her life and hasn't looked back since.

Robertson brought her songs to the world for the first time in January 2024 with the extended play "Crying Over Spilled Milk." The four-song release was recorded in a single 12-hour marathon session, similar to how The Beatles recorded "Please Please Me" in 1963.

The record was a solo project, though she did recruit her friend, Holden Newton, to play guitar and help round out the arrangements. She noted that the project is "something that I'm proud of that came out of a very dark time in my life," and the songs were a way for her to work through everything.

"I was going through a lot at that time and I needed to deal with it and cope with it," she explained. "And the only way I knew how to was through music and writing."

After the EP came out, Robertson got the desire to perform live, and she put together a lineup to bring her



Ava Robertson of Psycho Brat performing at Cafe Nine. PHOTO BY @AUDRYKXX ON INSTAGRAM

songs to life on stage. She brought in Newton, along with bassist Al Rebeiro and drummer Brady Gingell, all of whom she had known for years at the University of New Haven.

With the lineup set, the group made their live debut at South Whitney Pizza in Hartford in October 2024. She recalled being quite nervous leading up to the show, noting that "I get a lot of nerves performing sometimes, especially when it comes to being a girl in an alternative scene, especially punk and metal-adjacent genres."

Robertson explained that women in punk scenes often face more scrutiny than their male counterparts. She spoke about how, after one of her earlier bands performed on UNH's campus, she saw multiple negative comments posted about her on social media.

"When we performed on UNH's quad, a bunch of people started talking horribly about me on YikYak, and that set me back a lot mentally with my confidence about being a performer," she said.

Though shaken by this, she used it as a source of motivation to keep going as a punk singer, taking inspiration from female punk heroes who came before her.

"I talked myself through it by remembering that women in metal and punk are at a huge disadvantage because nobody wants to see us there, but we have to be there," she said with resolve.

Since their debut show, Robertson and the band have made their way to DIY venues across Connecticut, including Best Video in Hamden and Cafe Nine in New Haven. She spoke glowingly of her experience playing shows in the scene, emphasizing how it's helped her grow.

"I'm having an absolute blast with it; it's been so much fun meeting so many people performing," she said. "It's been a huge confidence booster; I've learned a lot about myself as a performer, as well as a person."

She referred to the punk scene as "kind of like a big family where everyone's willing to meet everyone" and has had an overall positive experience as someone playing and frequenting punk shows.

While she was nervous to get into the scene at first, Robertson encouraged other women with musical ambitions to do the same, saying that "it's scary but you just have to start." She also shared a piece of advice from a professor that she's adopted as a motto.

"One of my professors told me 'Make shit happen' and that really stuck with me," she said. "I think that's a good piece of advice for anyone, but especially for women in music and harder genres because you just have to go out there and make it happen for yourself."

'Flood'

by Henry St. Pierre,

HE/HIM/HIS

CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT,

henry.st_pierre@uconn.edu

and James Fitzpatrick,

HE/HIM/HIS

ASSOCIATE LIFE EDITOR

james.fitzpatrick@dailycampus.com

Welcome back to another epic showdown in music tastes between Henry and James in Split Record Review. This week, "Flood" by college-favorites They Might Be Giants is in the crosshairs. Will its wit and lyrical mystique pull Henry and James in? Or will it pull their scores farther apart? That's enough vigilant filibustering, let's dive into the sound waves of "Flood."

Henry's Review:

Gene Ween once described They Might Be Giants (TMBG) as "smart ass college kid music." Though harsh, it's not far from the truth. The duo of Johns, named after a line from "Don Quixote," makes album after album of intelligent and witty songs. The duo started off as college radio darlings with their self-titled debut, quickly reaching a wider audience after a feature on MTV. Their brand of nerdy alternative rock attracted many young adults who wanted music stranger than R.E.M but not as goofy as Weird Al.

This niche was cemented with their third album, and the subject of this week's column, 1990's "Flood." Their first release on Elektra Records was a hit, reaching number three on the Billboard charts. With the lead single, "Istanbul (Not Constantinople)" being used for "Tiny Toons Adventures," TMBG established itself as a band enjoyed by people of all ages.

After a short orchestral intro, the record kicks off with "Birdhouse in Your Soul," its dense lyrics and bubbly instru-

mental setting up the rest of the album as an exercise in north-eastern charm. For the album's standards, this track is one of the more straightforward rock tunes.

Things veer closer to bluegrass with "Lucky Ball and Chain," chock-full of mandolins and accordions over a drum machine and layered synthesizers. Though the lyrics describe a breakup, it's hard not to groove along with the whimsically happy sound the track brings. While certainly not the biggest hit, it's certainly a highlight of the album for me. However, this track is somewhat overshadowed by what follows.

Now, for the big fish. "Istanbul (Not Constantinople)" is the centerpiece of the record and by far the most popular TMBG song. The fiddle and accordion, while both European instruments, give the track its iconic "exotic" flare. The duo uses these sounds while steering clear of anything stereotypical, favoring their up-tempo over-before-you-know-it style.

"Your Racist Friend" can only be described as on the nose. Both the lyrics and instrumental sound angry, describing vitriol towards someone letting their bigoted friend continue their behavior without consequence. Guitars stab and the bass pounds, with interludes of accordion and trumpets playing a Latin rhythm.

From here, the record keeps bouncing back and forth between folk and straightforward rock or new wave. The biggest mainstay across all songs is the Johns' wry humor. "We Want a Rock" wouldn't sound out of place on a '90s R.E.M release, save for the nasal vocals. While some might find them grating, John Linnell's comical nasality lends to their nerdy charm. By contrast, "Someone Keeps Moving My Chair" drops Bill Monroe in favor of Devo, a new wave pop track that—while perhaps five years too late—is one of the catchiest songs on the record.

"Hearing Aid" is a strange song, even by this album's standards. Taking heavy reggae influences, it might be the least TMBG song on this TMBG album. Following this is a short interlude track, "Minimum Wage," which can only be described as a lost track from a '60s Bond film. While only 50 seconds, it's one of the most unique cuts on the record, capturing the spirit of cheesy '60s surf rock in their own style.

"Whistling in the Dark" confused me when I first heard it, as it starts as a waltz but in 4/4 time. The whole track is solidly rooted in 4/4 time, but it has the waltz vibe and rhythmic pattern, giving it a classical oom-pah feel. Linnell sings in a lower register than normal here, further adding to the classic sailor-ish vibe going on.

While "Someone Keeps Moving My Chair" sounds late for its time, "Sapphire Bullets of Love" sounds ahead of its time, feeling almost like a cut from the "Super Mario Sunshine" soundtrack. Synth marimbas spiral, drenched in reverb over melodramatic synthesizers and a drum machine. Save for the vocals, this song could've been slapped into a Nintendo 64 or GameCube game and be perfectly in place.

At the back of the album is the song "They Might Be Giants," a wonderfully absurd exercise in self-deprecating humor. Instruments sound wonderfully deranged, and vocals wail on and on, singing the title and hurling insults at themselves. Self-referential and incredibly unhinged, "They Might Be Giants" is one of my personal favorites on the record.

TMBG's intelligence as songwriters lends it to their ability to craft whimsical and absurd pieces of pop that are both accessible to all ages but intricate in their sound to keep fans coming back. There's so much to analyze in all these songs that it just cannot be put into the confines of an article. While not my favorite goofy '90s musical duo, They Might Be Giants cer-

Rating: 4.5/5

James' Review:

I will second the praise on the first full track, "Birdhouse in Your Soul." The duo comprised of John Linnell and John Flansburgh immediately establish themselves as wordsmiths on the chorus with "Not to put too fine a point on it, say I'm the only bee in your bonnet," with the double use of "to" and "too" rivaling the late MF DOOM.

The Johns are also multi-instrumentalists who move mountains here, making this a top-tier TMBG song.

"Dead" is more lyrically focused than anything else, as the actual song structure meanders, especially with the nasally yet expressive vocals. The anguish of becoming a bag of groceries that stays on the shelf too long is a heartbreak tale, while "I will never say the word 'procrastinate' again" could be a good method to nip the pervasive habit in the bud. The stretch of lines preceded by "and" reach a climax when the Johns harmonize "And I'll be up there on the wall at the store" before returning as groceries. Try reading that out of context.

"Particle Man" may be cliché, repeating the song's title succeeded by "Doing the things a particle can," yet the accordion and handclaps by the Skyline Staff bring a certain vibe to the

table that will put a smile on your face. "Twisting" defines the pre-21st-century sound of "Flood," featuring the happy-happy-joy-joy of surf rock and further call-and-response vocals by the Johns.

The sonic studio tricks and frantic vocals spat on "Letterbox" give urgency to the crazy commentary of "Run around in the rain with a hole in the brain 'til tomorrow." Go to the hospital, John. Wait, which John? "Hot Cha" could've fit on Ween's "GodWeenSatan," released at the tail end of 1990 with its short runtime and the song's premise revolving around a character that only this duo could understand.

"Women & Men" and its nursery rhyme rhythm may have inspired husband and wife duo, The Handsome Family, along with the imagery of ships and water bolstered throughout the track. I'll also shout out the song sharing a name with TMBG as sharing dynamic with The Halo Benders, a group with two members of the equally commended Built to Spill. This duo may not be my cup of tea but their music, specifically "Flood," is an art piece in the same way as "The Commerical Album" by The Residents. These albums are meant to be analyzed and appreciated above all.

Rating: 3.25/5



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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'MARVEL' IS BACK (FINALLY)

by Amber Greene

CONTRIBUTOR
SHE/HER/HERS
amg23053@uconn.edu

It is news to no one that the past few years of Marvel content have been overwhelming in quantity but underwhelming in quality. But I can surely say that "Captain America: A Brave New World" has confirmed that the slump is finally over.

After the "Infinity War" saga, Marvel promised a slew of impressive-sounding projects that had a lot of hype surrounding them because of the box-office success that "Infinity War" and "Endgame" had. These movies also marked the end of an era since a significant number of the original Avengers would not be returning for future movies.

The first two projects proceeding "Endgame" were promising, with "Spider-Man: Far From Home" continuing the widely loved trilogy starring Tom Holland. Then, during the pandemic, many Marvel movies were pushed back and they switched to releasing shows on Disney+. This started the decline.

While one of the first series they released on Disney+, "WandaVision" had me tuned in weekly, a lot of their other series felt lackluster. With many of their bigger projects delayed, it felt like Marvel was pushing shows just to have content to give. For example, the show "What If..." has the premise of changing some of their popular movies with how things could have ended. There are currently three seasons of the show, and I have yet to finish the first one with

how disappointing it was. If anything, the series proves why their most popular movies ended in the ways they did, and alternative endings did not need to be addressed.

Following this era of shows, the "sacred timeline" saga continued. Projects like "Loki" and "Spider-Man: No Way Home" ventured into alternative universes where there are multiple versions of the same person. At first, this was exciting to see, but the majority of Phase 5 movies and shows solely focused on this, and it started to feel overdone. Every time I opened Disney+, I would see a new series related to the multiverse. Even highly anticipated movies like "Ant-Man: Quantamania" fell short because of their reliance on the sacred timeline storyline.

I quickly grew tired of this overplayed conflict, and the multiple versions of people started to get confusing. It was a lazy way to introduce new variants that could fight each other or make a fan-favorite character immortal. This oversaturation is often called "superhero fatigue," and people lost hope that Marvel would return back to its former quality. Projects outside of this have reaffirmed my

trust in the fact that Marvel is slowly but surely making a comeback.

While the first season of "Loki" was dependent on the sacred timeline, it was the second season that made a real impact. It became less confusing with fewer versions of Loki and was more focused on the characters. It was back to what Marvel is known for—thrilling action. Then, in 2024, after a significant decline in the number of projects released in the previous year, "Deadpool & Wolverine" was released.

The "Deadpool" series is one of the most beloved of the franchise. As a new watcher of the series, I was pleasantly surprised with how much I enjoyed "Deadpool & Wolverine." The movie made over one billion dollars worldwide, which was the first Marvel movie to surpass this milestone since "Spider-Man: No Way Home" in 2021. The movie appealed to both comic book fans and average moviegoers because of its action and Deadpool's iconic fourth wall breaks. It may even enter my top 5 favorite Marvel movies.

Following that movie, "Agatha All Along"—a spinoff of "WandaVision"—attracted many Marvel

fans again. I have been increasingly skeptical of the Disney+ series; however, this was an exception.

Once again, it focused on emotion and the development of characters, rather than just connecting to the sacred timeline. The back and forth between Kathryn Hahn and Aubrey Plaza's characters built tension that kept me entertained. It also explored a new idea of a witch hunt which was original.

The quality of content continued with "Captain America: A Brave New World." After watching the movie, I found that the storyline was easy to follow yet complex and layered. It had surprises that stuck with old Marvel fans and will mark a new era of Marvel with the Falcon also known as Sam Wilson, as the new Captain America. It was good in the context of a Marvel movie and also included problems that are very relevant to the current world including international relations. I can say I am excited to see future projects, starting with "Thunderbolts," which will use familiar characters in new ways that are reminiscent of the quality that Marvel has been known for. I, for one, am ready for Marvel's long overdue comeback.

Patrick's Politics: Why Kennedy's confirmation is terrible for your health and the nation's

by Patrick Minnery

WEEKLY COLUMNIST
HE/HIM/HIS
patrick.minnery@uconn.edu

A few months ago, I wrote in this column about President Trump's Cabinet nominees, and I singled out Robert F. Kennedy Jr as one of the worst. At the time, I hoped that his nomination would be shot down, but those wishes were unfounded. The scion of the famous and influential Kennedy family was confirmed last week as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in a 52-48 nearly party-line vote.

Why is Kennedy's confirmation such a problem? The largest issue is his long history of anti-vaccine comments. He has often espoused the idea that vaccines cause autism, citing a debunked 1998 study from a medical journal known as *The Lancet*. The study was later retracted, but that didn't stop Kennedy from spreading misinformation.

During a podcast interview in 2023, he claimed that "no vaccine is safe and effective," despite overwhelming evidence that vaccines have been extraordinarily helpful in preventing disease. He also took over the nonprofit Children's Health Defense (CHD), which advocates for anti-vaccine policies.

During his Senate confirmation hearing, Kennedy was confronted with images of baby onesies sold by CHD that read, "Unvaxed, unafraid" and "no vax, no problem".

Keep in mind that Kennedy is far from a lowly conspiracy theorist, even if his beliefs make him seem as such. He now oversees the health of America, despite having no qualifications to do so. An environmental lawyer by trade, his only experience with health has been trying to endanger it. Kennedy has the power to enact the policies of his MAHA agenda—"Make America Healthy Again."

This movement, backed by influencers and with Kennedy at its head, might endanger the widespread use of vaccines. Vaccines often depend on herd immunity to be most

effective; if people are swayed by Kennedy's anti-vaccination crusade and decide not to get their shots, infectious diseases such as measles, meningitis and polio could spread more easily. The only Republican senator to vote against Kennedy's confirmation, Mitch McConnell, emphasized his personal battle with surviving childhood polio as his reasoning. We are already seeing the effects of vaccine skepticism within the government; Kennedy recently announced that the childhood vaccine schedule would be reexamined and potentially changed. With Kennedy in charge, the diseases we thought were under control and left in past centuries are in danger of returning in full force, headed for the most vulnerable of our population.

Besides attacking vaccines, Kennedy has several other avenues to change the health policies of America. As secretary of the department, he has ultimate control over several government agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institute of Health (NIH) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

For the CDC, an agency which often puts out guidelines related to public health, Kennedy has advocated for focusing more on chronic diseases. This might seem like a good idea in theory, but it would mean de-emphasizing research on infectious disease, just four years after COVID-19 ravaged the U.S. and the rest of the world.

Especially with the H5N1 bird flu, which has recently spread from animals to humans, presenting a danger to American public health, this is not the time for turning a blind eye to infectious diseases.

The NIH might be similarly affected by Kennedy turning away from biomedical research, as well as widespread budget cuts put in place by the Trump administration. Before Kennedy was

confirmed, funding for indirect costs of research, which is provided by the government to academic institutions to help offset expenses, was slashed. The action was blocked by a court order, but heavy-handed attempts at cost-cutting are still moving apace. In the past few days, hundreds of federal workers at the NIH, as well as the CDC and FDA, have been fired as the agencies undergo significant downsizing. All of this entails a chilling effect on medical research which would normally further advance our understanding of health. Despite Kennedy's promises to improve the health of Americans, the cuts to funding and staff threaten the opposite.

The FDA is also threatened as Kennedy looks to change and shake up many long-standing policies. One such policy is the ban on raw milk, which the FDA deems one of the most dangerous foods people can consume due to the high risk of contamination. Instead of following that science, Kennedy has proposed eliminating restrictions on the sale of raw milk. Kennedy has also said that his FDA would recommend removing fluoride, a mineral often found in toothpaste that improves oral health, from drinking water.

Despite a lack of evidence, Kennedy has claimed that fluoride is an "industrial waste" connected to several diseases. Once again, science has been subverted by fact-free assertions.

The researchers and scientists who are left after the purge of these three major agencies may continue to do important work and research. Scientific breakthroughs may still happen. But under Kennedy, the umbrella of the HHS will be at the mercy of a conspiracy theorist who would like nothing better than to undermine the health of Americans, from casting doubt on vaccines to ignoring the study of infectious diseases. The virus of MAHA will spread from the US government, infecting and affecting the nation.

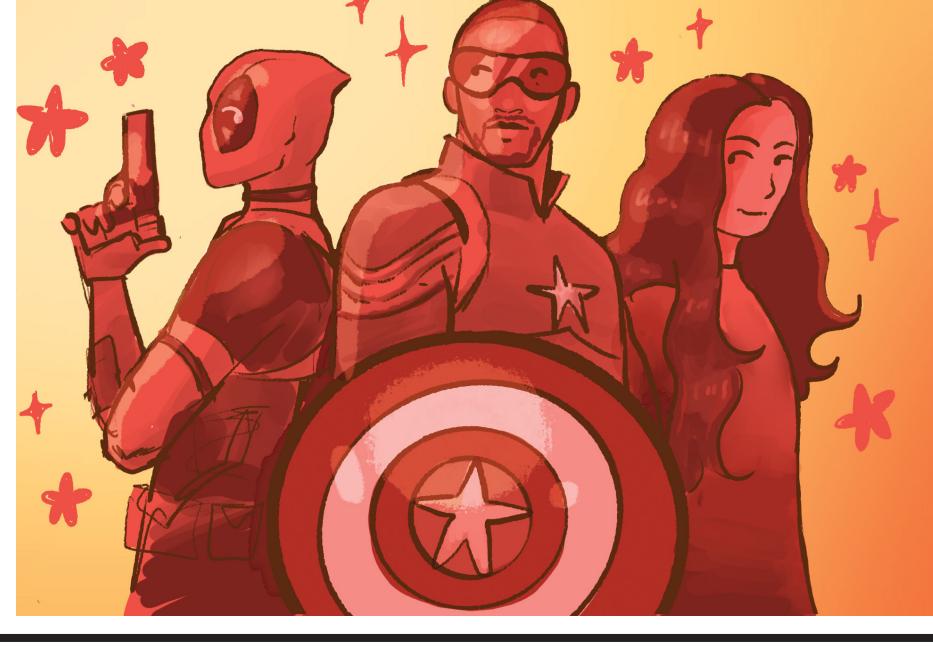


ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

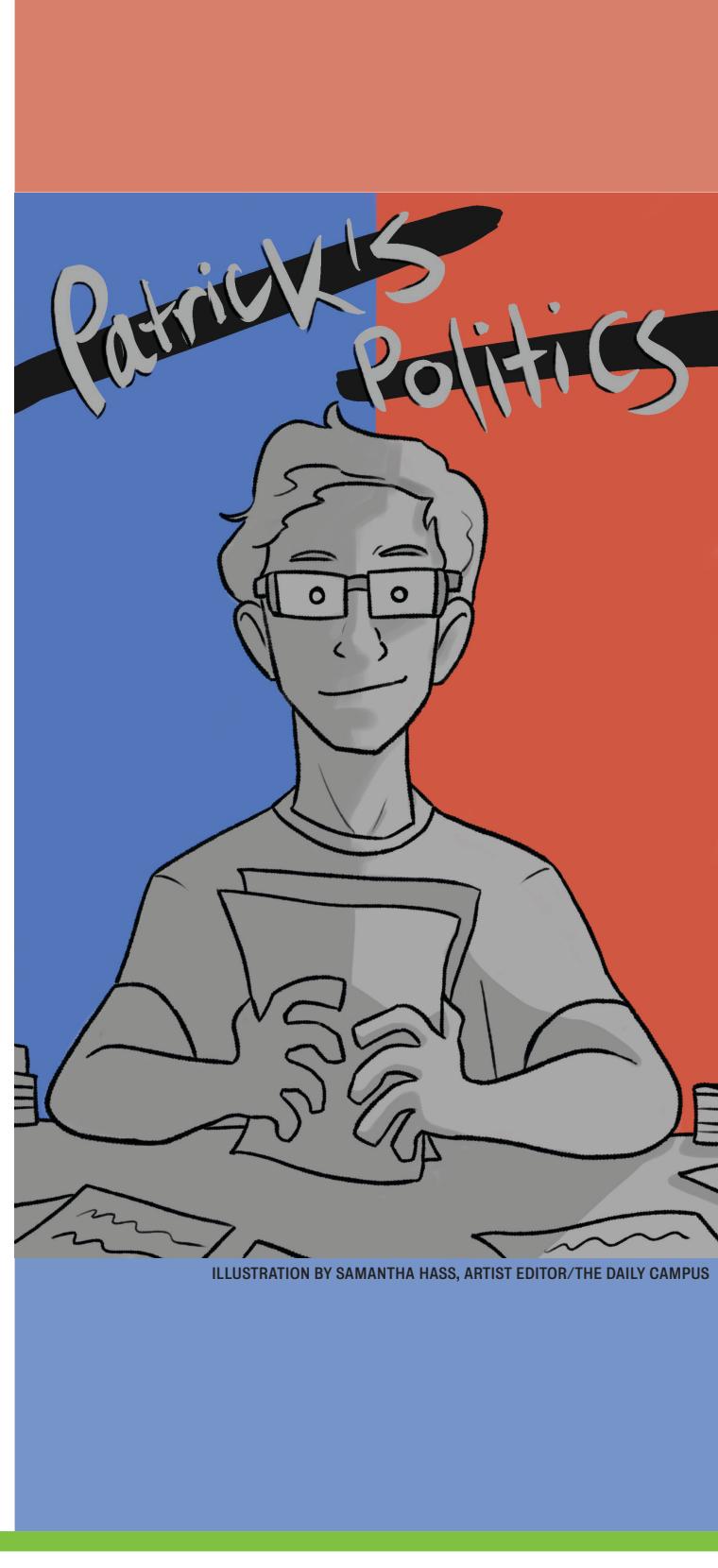


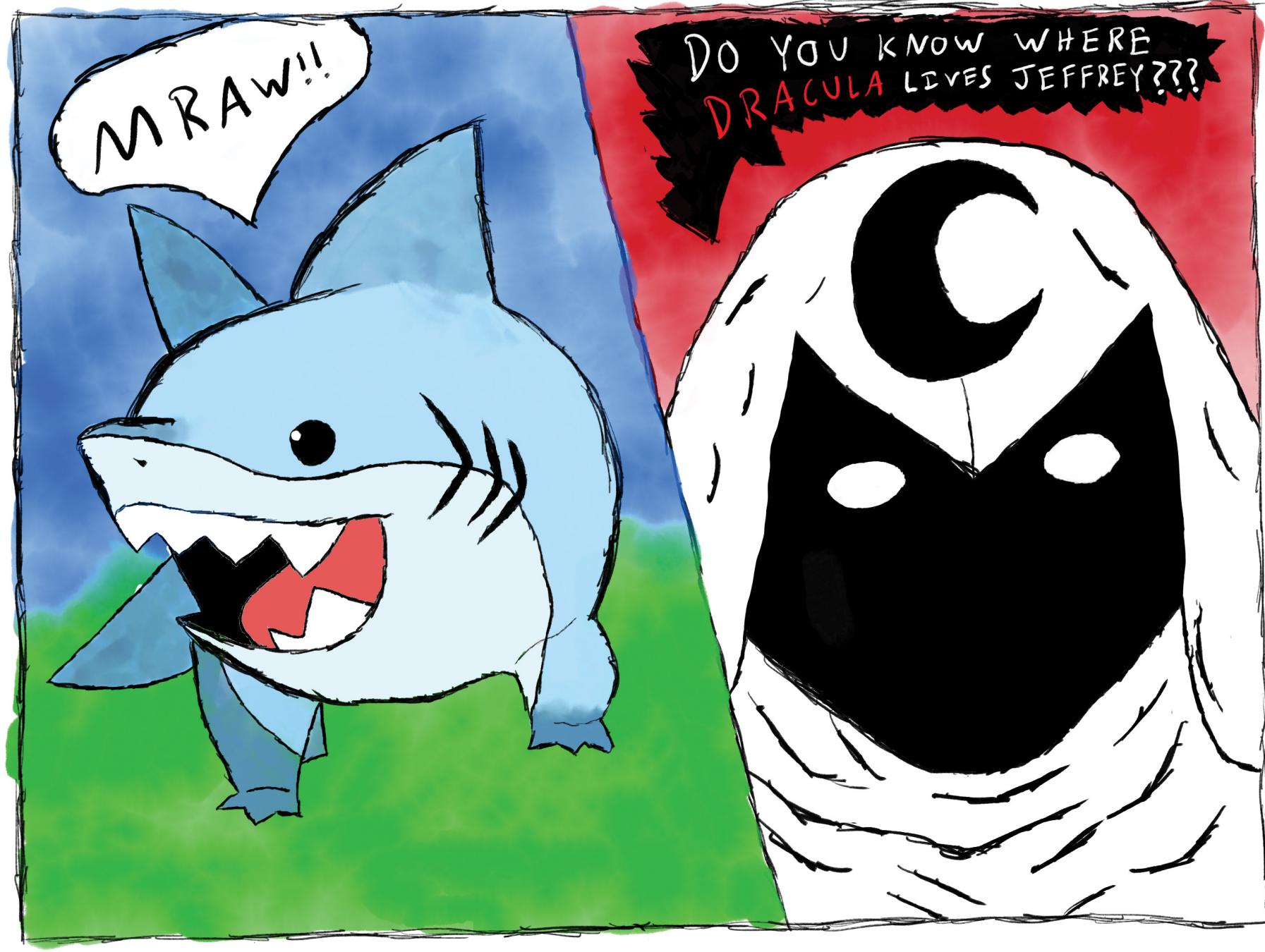
ILLUSTRATION BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Photo of the Day | Rare sighting of ice-free sidewalk on campus



UConn student walks from Connecticut Dining Hall in Storrs, Conn. on Feb. 18, 2025. The cold couldn't stop her. PHOTO BY JACK ZUSSMAN, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

— COMIC OF — THE DAY —



**BY CONNOR LAFFERTY
MANAGING EDITOR**



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

THE PUCK DROP: USA HOCKEY IS DO OR DIE

by Avery Becker
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR
SHE/HER/HERS
avery.becker@uconn.edu

After their 3-1 win against Canada in their second game of the Four Nations Face-off, "Dream On" by Aerosmith was blasting through the United States hockey locker room. An ode to the end credit's song in the movie, "Miracle," this USA win was very similar to their win against the Soviet Union in the 1980 Winter Olympics that "Miracle" was based off of.

However, USA has an even bigger task at hand, as they will face Canada in the championship game on Thursday night.

Saturday's game between these two squads was nowhere near a regular NHL game. It was physical and fast, with three fights breaking out in the opening nine seconds of the game.

Hockey fans across the world know the USA and Canada hockey rivalries run deep, which means the championship game will feel like game seven of the Stanley Cup finals.

"It's for everything. You're going to see desperate hockey. You're going to see everything you saw in the first game and



The Four Nations Face-Off Final is Thursday, Feb. 20 at 8 p.m. ET. Canada and the United States will play for the championship at TD Garden in Boston, Mass. COURTESY OF @NHL ON INSTAGRAM

more, I imagine. It'll be great," said Jack Eichel, a forward for USA, to NHL.com.

Eichel, a player for the Vegas Golden Knights, is no stranger to the pressure of the Stanley Cup playoffs, after winning the coveted trophy in 2023. The 28-year-old elaborated in the article from NHL.com that

this championship game could take the cake for the most important game he's played in his professional career.

If this isn't any indication of how passionate hockey players are about playing for the country, fans should look back to the World Juniors Championship in January when Ryan

Leonard and his squad won in back-to-back years. USA Hockey posted videos of Leonard singing the victory chant, "oh mama, don't you cry," to his teammates in the locker room.

Despite not having their annual All-Star game, it appears as if the Four Nations Face-off

is bringing more reception from fans in unseen ways.

"I think you're going to see two really evenly matched teams go at it," said Canada's head coach, Jon Cooper, to NHL.com. "The city of Boston will be treated to something special, I think, on Thursday."

The USA is currently standing at the top for this international tournament and is expected to win Thursday's game, despite injuries to integral players like Matthew Tkachuk and Charlie McAvoy.

However, even with injury, Tkachuk is still planning to take the ice.

"There's been a lot of chatter and talk from individuals, but we care about one thing in this room," said Tkachuk to NHL.com. "We have millions of people that are watching us and supporting us around this country and we're very prideful in playing for them and the guys in the room. So, it's an opportunity of a lifetime for us."

Puck drop between these two rivals is scheduled for 8 p.m., Feb 20 at TD Garden in Boston, Mass. Fans can tune in on ESPN to see these two nations go head-to-head.

DON'T BITE THE HAND THAT LEADS YOU: SPORTS CAPTAINS SHOULD NEVER BE TRADED

by Raegan Skelly
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
rcs23008@uconn.edu

Winning is the only thing that matters in the world of professional sports. The key to bringing home a championship? Good leadership. Obviously, good leadership alone, amongst a lackluster roster, can't single-handedly guarantee a win, but it can be the deciding factor on who leaves with the title. All the big-four sports leagues (the MLB, NBA, NFL and NHL) are eligible to elect captains, though the title holds more weight in some leagues than others. Regardless, a sports team should never trade their captain.

Captaincy is not a common practice in the MLB, with only three teams naming captains as of the 2024 season. According to the NBA rulebook, a team may have a captain and a co-captain, but not every team chooses to select the positions. In the NFL, most teams sport six captains, with some even going beyond that. Lastly, in the NHL, a team can appoint a captain and two alternate captains, who don the

letter "A" instead of a "C." If an NHL captain is injured, or just unnamed, the team can designate a third alternate captain.

The title of captain holds a lot more importance in hockey than in the other major sports, since it is a harder title to secure, with there only being one named per team. The NHL also takes its captaincy seriously, as every team currently has a captain except for the New York Rangers, who traded captain Jacob Trouba in December 2024. One benefit of wearing the "C" in the NHL comes with winning the Stanley Cup. It's tradition that when the team is presented with the cup, the captain is the first to receive it and typically hoists it up and does a victory lap around the ice. Captains are very crucial to NHL success,

and trading them can negatively impact a team's playoff run. Only two teams have won without a captain since 1917—the 1970 and 1972 Boston Bruins—so removing the position lessens their odds of winning and creates confusion on who would hoist the cup first.

With that being said, I think the last thing a team should do is trade their captain. I am speaking largely in reference to the NHL here, since it is unreasonable for an NFL team to consider six-plus players untouchable. While this title is rarely used in the MLB and NBA, they still shouldn't trade their captain.

Trading a captain, especially mid-season, can also cause disharmony in the locker room. Management tells its players to follow their captain's lead, listen

to their locker room speeches and replicate their play or behavior. Then, suddenly, your leader is gone and now everyone is scrambling. This leadership change could cause even bigger issues, especially if the team selected the captain not only for leadership skills, but for production as well. Now you're missing someone who was looked up to, and your top talent. The energy is off, and so is your level of playing.

Lastly, it's just a bad look. You clearly value this player's contributions enough to give them a title role. If you continually trade your captains, it shows that you don't care about the face of your franchise. The second you sew a letter on to a player's jersey, they become the default representation of your team; their jersey

will be the first one available at your team's pro-shops and their number is the one most seen around your arena. Why would any player want to play for your franchise when you don't respect their leader? What player would dream of becoming captain for a team that will trade them away on a whim? When appointing a captain, you want not only a good leader, player and representative of your team, but someone who wants to be there.

With all the recent blockbuster trades happening right now, it's important to highlight who teams should deem untouchable. The point of trading players is to improve a team's skill level, but it's important to recognize the other contributions a player can have. Make the trade to improve production but remember you must fill the leadership role a captain leaves behind for players and fans. You want players to want to play for you and want fans to actively engage with you. If you trade away the key to your team, the captain, you also trade away the key of engaging your fans.

HUSKIES IN THE PROS: BREAKING DOWN THE HUSKIES' PERFORMANCES IN THE UNRIVALED

by Tyler Pruneau
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
tyler.pruneau@uconn.edu

The Huskies have taken control of the WNBA over the years and now, the same story is told in the Unrivaled League. Unrivaled is a three-on-three basketball game, created by former UConn players Napheesa Collier and Breanna Stewart. The league started in 2023 and continues to improve as viewership has grown over the last couple of years. With that said, between the six teams, seven former Huskies play in Unrivaled. Let's see how they're performing.

Napheesa Collier:

On the court, Collier proves why she is the leader and captain of the Lunar Owls. The former Husky dropped 20 plus points in nearly every matchup, except for one where she ended with 19 buckets against the Vinyls. In addition, the 28-year-old ranks No. 1 out of 38 other players as she leads the league with a little more than 29 points a game. Moreover, Collier takes the cake with nearly two steals per contest, per Unrivaled. The two-way player also rebounds 11-and-a-half balls a match. The forward does all of this within 17-and-a-half minutes of playing time. However, the champ breaks even with Angel Reese for most personal fouls, as they both average nearly four a game. In more recent news, Unrivaled finished their one-on-one tour-

ament with the Owls captain taking home the trophy. With that said, the founder looks like she will continue to crush her league.

Breanna Stewart:

Breanna Stewart sees less time on the court compared to Collier, with nearly 15 minutes per game. However, the captain for the Mist still puts on a dominating performance. The former Husky sits at No. 7 in the rankings as she contributes 18.4 points per matchup, according to Unrivaled. To add on, Stewart comes in third with nearly 11-and-a-half rebounds in the league. To add on, the 30-year-old nearly tops the league in defensive rebounds, with about 10-and-a-half snatches. However, "Stewie" splits the crown with Collier. In addition, the New York native participated in the one-on-one competition but got knocked out in the first round by Aaliyah Edwards.

Aaliyah Edwards:

Aaliyah Edwards joined forces with Stewart on the Mist and stands at No. 26 in the rankings, per Unrivaled. The forward only sees a little more than eight minutes of action. Despite that, Edwards has participated in every game so far and knocks in 9.3 points per contest. In addition, the 22-year-old snags four-and-a-half off the rim. However, the former Husky struggles with assisting, stealing and blocking, as she averages under one per matchup in every cate-

gory. Turning to the one-on-one tournament, Edwards came in as the No. 8 seed and made a run to the finals. However, the Canadian native fell to Collier and took home second place.

Tiffany Hayes:

Tiffany Hayes sits in front of Stewart at No. 6 in the rankings, who is the third player in the top 10 to represent the Laces, according to Unrivaled. Within 13 minutes of playing time, the 35-year-old knocks down 18-and-a-half points per match. However, on the other side of the court, the veteran only averages a little less than six rebounds a game. To add on, the guard fails at swatting away any balls but gets at least one takeaway per contest. Despite the defensive struggles, Hayes' contribution helped get the Laces to second in the league.

Stefanie Dolson:

Stefanie Dolson occupies No. 24 in the rankings as she struggles to hit double-digit point totals consistently. The center takes the court for nearly 15 minutes but only drops a little less than 10 dimes per clash. Despite her offensive struggles, Dolson assists defensively with a little more than five rebounds per match. In addition, the 33-year-old nearly blocks one ball per game. Dolson is the sixth-best player on the Laces roster and helps in the fights to victory.

Azurá Stevens:

Azurá Stevens sits in the middle of the pack at No. 19 in

the rankings and is a key factor in the Rose's three-game winning streak. Stevens averages nearly 10 minutes and puts in a little more than 12-and-a-half points per clash. Furthermore, amongst the Rose's roster, the former Husky sits behind Angel Reese in rebounds, per Unrivaled. Reese leads the team with a little more than 10 boards, while Stevens secures nearly seven and a half balls a night. In the tournament, the center came close to punching her ticket to the finals against Aaliyah Edwards, but fell to Collier in the

semi-finals.

Katie Lou Samuelson:

Katie Lou Samuelson ranks the lowest amongst the Huskies at No. 33 for team Phantom, per Unrivaled. Despite participating in every game, Samuelson averages about six-and-a-half points within nine-and-a-half minutes. Moreover, the 27-year-old barely snags two-and-a-half balls from off the glass. Turning to the one-on-one contest, the forward got knocked out in the first round by Collier. With that said, Samuelson continues to fight to make a name for herself.



Azurá Stevens goes for a basket defended by Napheesa Collier in their Unrivaled 1-on-1 basketball semifinal, Friday, Feb. 14, 2025, in Medley, Fla. AP PHOTO/REBECCA BLACKWELL

Photo of the Day | UConn v Providence



UConn women's hockey faces off against Providence at the Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn. on Feb. 14, 2025. The Huskies led the game 1-0 with a goal from Jada Habisch in the second period but lost to Providence's three goals in the third period, with a final score of 1-3. PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

TYLER'S TAKE: BREAKING DOWN TOP NFL DEFENSIVE FREE AGENTS IN 2025



TYLER'S
TAKES
LOGO BY LILLIAN LAFEMINA,
ASSOCIATE ARTIST/EDITOR,
THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Tyler Pruneau

CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

HE/HIM/HIS

tyler.pruneau@uconn.edu

With the 2024-2025 NFL season officially over, free agency draws near as teams prepare to fill in the gaps for the 2025-2026 campaign. This column goes over everything you need to know about the top defensive players in the 2025 free agency.

Josh Sweat:

Josh Sweat heads into free agency, coming off one of his best seasonal performances. Looking at the regular season, the linebacker totaled 41 tackles, eight sacks and seven stuffs. In the playoffs, Sweat wrapped up 10 players and forced three tackles for a loss. To add on, the 27-year-old helped the Philadelphia Eagles play lights-out defense against the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl LIX. The former Florida State player earned every postseason sack in the big game, as he took down Patrick Mahomes two-and-a-half times. Sweat nearly achieved half of the team's total

sacks that night. Now, the talented linebacker searches for a new home and a big contract.

A potential landing spot for the Virginia native is the Arizona Cardinals, which would reunite him with the former Eagles' defensive coordinator, Jonathan Gannon. Despite finding success with the Eagles, Gannon failed at transferring his defensive knowledge to his new team. In the 2024-2025 season, the Cardinals ended their campaign at No. 21 in total defensive rankings, per Fox Sports. With that said, the Cardinals hold the fourth-highest budget in 2025, according to PFF. This significantly increases the chances of Sweat moving to the NFC West.

Zack Baun:

Zack Baun signed a one-year deal with the Eagles during the 2024 free agency period and put on an excellent regular season. The linebacker recorded 151

tackles and tied for third in the league with 93 solo takedowns per ESPN. Furthermore, with five forced fumbles, Baun deadlocked with the Indianapolis Colts linebacker Zaire Franklin for second in the league, according to Fox Sports. However, the 28-year-old only got to the quarterback three-and-a-half times and intercepted one ball. Despite that, the former Wisconsin Badgers' dominance carried over into the playoffs. Baun tackled 33 players, stripped the ball, recovered two rocks and caught two interceptions. With the success Baun had, seeing him chase a bag should come as no surprise.

The Las Vegas Raiders could put their name in the hat for the linebacker market with players like Robert Spillane leaving. Like the Cardinals, the Raiders have a little more than \$92 million in cap space,

per PFF. Tom Brady, the newest member of the Raiders' ownership, spoke very highly of Baun, calling him defensive player of the year, per Fansided. Moreover, the linebacker could go from one dominating defense to the next under new head coach Pete Carroll, who put together the Legion of Boom with the Seattle Seahawks.

Jevon Holland:

Jevon Holland goes into the free agency market, coming off of a down year. The cornerback totaled 62 tackles, one sack and forced a change in possession in the 2024-2025 campaign. In 2023, Holland knocked down 74 players, forced three fumbles, recovered a ball and scored a 99-yard pick-six. However, one downside to Holland is that he's injury prone. The last time the cornerback participated in all 17 games was in 2022, per ESPN.

From past shows, the 26-year-old is an underrated pickup who could impact a team heavily.

The Minnesota Vikings and Los Angeles Chargers may show interest in free agents. The Vikings lost Josh Metellus, who played a role in defensive coordinator Brian Flores' schemes, with 103 total tackles in 17 matches. Currently, the franchise holds the seventh-most cap space in 2025, with a little over \$58 million, per PFF. The Chargers need to replace Derwin James, who dropped 93 players, sacked five and a half quarterbacks and snatched a ball in 2024. With that said, both teams could get a steal on Holland for a lower price than most corners due to injury issues and lack of performance.

Franchises can officially sign new players beginning March 12, 2025. In the meantime, everything can change as franchise tagging started on February 18. In addition, some players will sign new contracts with their current teams before free agency.

BRAYDEN'S BREAKDOWN: BUBBLE WATCH - NBA PLAYOFFS EDITION



BRAYDEN'S
BREAKDOWN
LOGO BY SAMANTHA
HASL, ARTIST
EDITOR/THE DAILY
CAMPUS

by Brayden Gorski

CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

HE/HIM

brayden.gorski@uconn.edu

This year's NBA playoff race is shaping up to be a photo finish, with teams we have not seen in the playoffs for a while. For some teams, this is a make-or-break season, where failure to make a deep playoff run could send the team into rebuilding mode. In this edition of Brayden's Breakdown, I'll do a deep dive into two teams currently in the playoffs and two teams on the outside looking in.

In: Detroit Pistons

In the Pistons' first year under head coach J.B. Bickerstaff, Detroit has gone from owning the longest losing streak in NBA history to holding the sixth seed in the Eastern Conference. Cade Cunningham is finally healthy and playing like he was advertised coming out of Oklahoma State. Cunningham earned his first all-star appearance and currently averages over 25 points per game. Holding a two and a half game lead over the Magic for the sixth seed, the Pistons rode a four-game winning streak into the all-star break. In addition, Detroit has the 18th hardest schedule remaining, according to Tankathon. With two big games against the Thunder and matchups against the Cavaliers and Celtics left on their

schedule, it is time for the Pistons to show what they are capable of. If they can go 2-2 against those powerhouse teams and win the games they are supposed to, Bickerstaff could take his team from worst in the East to as high as fourth in the span of one calendar year.

Out: Philadelphia 76ers

Another injury-filled year might officially kill the decade-long process. Philadelphia is 14 games under .500, and they currently sit a game and a half back of the Bulls for the final play-in spot in the East. Tyrese Maxey has been the light at the end of the tunnel for Philly ever since Jared McCain's stellar rookie campaign was cut short by injury. Maxey averages the fourth-most points per game in the entire association and dishes out six assists per game. His counterpart, Joel Embiid, has struggled to stay on the court, only playing in 17 games this season. The big man missed almost all of January, a month when the Sixers went on a seven-game losing streak. Their big free agent addition Paul George has seen his numbers dwindle as he reaches age 35. George has missed almost 20 games already this season and is averaging his fewest points per game in over a decade. Luckily for Nick Nurse's team, the Sixers have the fourth-easiest schedule remaining. If

Embiid and Maxey stay healthy and George gets back on track, the play-in is easily in reach, and anything can happen once the postseason begins.

In: Houston Rockets

Ime Udoka's team has taken a major leap in his second year at the helm of the Rockets. Houston is only seven wins away from matching their win total of 41 from last season. They are currently the fourth seed in the Western Conference, but they lost seven of their last ten games before the all-star break. Led by first time all-star Alperen Sengun, the young Rockets are a top ten defense according to almost every defensive metric. With wings like Amen Thompson and Dillon Brooks, and big men like Steven Adams and Tari Eason, Houston has been a force in the West. The Rockets have a few big games left against the No. 1 seeded Thunder, No. 3 seeded Nuggets, and the team trailing them in fifth place, the Lakers. Houston must put on big-time performances in these games to get prepared for play-off action.

Out: Phoenix Suns

In a stacked Western Conference, someone's got to miss out on the play-in. After 54 games, it is the Suns that are on the bubble of the West. This era of Suns basketball has not gone according to plan since the acquisition

NBA STANDINGS EASTERN CONFERENCE THROUGH FEB. 13 GAMES

PLAYOFFS		PLAY-IN TOURNAMENT		
1	DET	44-10	27-29	11
2	ATL	39-16	26-29	12
3	MIL	36-18	25-28	13
4	CHI	30-23	22-33	14
5	IND	29-24		15
6	DET	29-26		
7	MIA			
8	ATL			
9	PHL			
10	PHL			
11	DET	20-34		
12	ATL	20-34		
13	MIL	17-38		
14	CHI	13-39		
15	IND	9-45		

X - CLINCHED PLAYOFF BERTH | pi - CLINCHED PLAY-IN
o - ELIMINATED FROM PLAYOFFS CONTENTION

NBA STANDINGS
EASTERN CONFERENCE
THROUGH FEB. 13 GAMES

Current Eastern Conference NBA playoff standings. The playoffs are set to begin on April 20, 2025. PHOTO COURTESY OF @NBA ON INSTAGRAM

of Kevin Durant at the 2023 trade deadline. Bradley Beal was injured for the majority of last season and has been moved to the bench for the first time in nine years. Phoenix had a rather stagnant deadline, trading Jusuf Nurkic for Nick Richards, Cody Martin and others. They were rumored to be in the Jimmy Butler sweepstakes, but whatever trade package they had did not work. The toughest schedule remaining does not help Phoenix's chances of a playoff or play-in berth, meaning the next 28 games will determine the future of the Suns.

FIVE MLB HITTERS READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP IN 2025

by Ryan Lombardi
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
ryan.lombardi@uconn.edu

With today marking the start of spring training, baseball is officially back, with new faces showing up to camp trying to make their names known. It's always difficult to predict what teams will look like before the season, with previously unknown players bursting onto the scene. Whether they're recovering from injuries, former prospects or just looking to get playing time, every season sees a few players like this shake up their organizations. These candidates have all the tools to establish themselves in the majors this season.

James Wood, Washington Nationals

A key piece in the blockbuster trade that sent Juan Soto to San Diego, Wood had high expectations as the 3rd ranked MLB prospect going into 2024. After putting up respectable numbers in 79 games, the 6-foot-7 slugger should continue to improve in a bigger role with the Nationals. He's already projected to lead the team offensively, with the Szymborski Projection System predicting him to finish with 127 OPS+ and 20 home runs. It's easy to see why, as he possesses top tier exit velocity and has showed immediate improvement in his last 58 games. He has also drastically improved his strikeout, walk and ground ball rate, posting a .862 OPS in that span. At only 22 years old, Wood already looks prepared to turn into a top-power hitter in the National League.

Tyler Soderstrom, Athletics

The Athletics don't have much going for them this season. They have been forced to play in a minor league stadium in Sacramento, are projected to once again be among the worst teams in baseball and even lost



James Wood, MLB's No. 3 overall prospect was called up to the major league by the Washington Nationals on July 1, 2024. COURTESY OF @NATIONALS ON INSTAGRAM

'Oakland' from their name, going by just the Athletics for now. Given all this, a breakout player would be a welcome sight for the franchise. Expected to be their Opening Day first basemen, 23-year-old Tyler Soderstrom is a converted catcher and former first-round pick. In limited appearances over the past two seasons, Soderstrom has seen mixed results. He struggled mightily in 2023 but looked ready to turn it around in 2024.

After a slow start in May, he showed off his power throughout June, slugging 6 home runs with a .826 OPS. However, he was sidelined in early July with a wrist injury, unable to return until the last few weeks. His 2024 campaign looked promising, with a jump in exit velocity

and barrel percentage, and he looked more comfortable at the major league level. Now, with a chance to get consistent playing time, Soderstrom could prove to be a solid power bat in an otherwise lackluster Athletics lineup.

Colt Keith, Detroit Tigers

Detroit made it clear they saw Keith as part of their future core when they signed him, the 22nd overall prospect at the time, to a 6-year extension before even touching the major league field. His first season in 2024 was interesting, with him looking completely lost at the plate at the start before settling in during May, hitting .342 with an .881 OPS. He then came crashing back down the next month before going off in July with a staggering 1.048 OPS with 7

home runs. He finished the season with relatively average stats going forward and struggled in the postseason. Keith displayed his excellent hit tool in his better months, and a few minor adjustments could result in more consistent results. If he's able to lift the ball more often, take more walks and see more of his power potential as he settles into the league, Keith may live up to the hype from just a couple years ago.

Spencer Horwitz, Pittsburgh Pirates

The Pirates had long been looking for a solution at third base, and they brought in 27-year-old Spencer Horwitz this offseason in a trade with the Guardians. Horwitz played 97 games in Toronto last sea-

son and was quietly one of the team's better hitters in an otherwise disappointing lineup. He posted a wRC+ of 127 in the majors and 160 in the minors. His righty/lefty splits reveal his biggest weakness, with just a 53 wRC+ against lefties, compared to 147 versus righties. If this continues, perhaps he will platoon with a righty to avoid lefties altogether. While his best asset is his contact skills, Horwitz would also benefit from improving upon a relatively low average exit velocity, ranking in the bottom third of the league. He still managed 12 home runs last season, so his power isn't nonexistent. With a high floor, some clear upside, and a larger role in Pittsburgh, some minor improvements could make Horwitz an on-base machine and a leader for a Pirates offense that struggled mightily last year.

Cedanne Rafaela, Boston Red Sox

Rafaela split time in the outfield and at shortstop for Boston last season and is expected to spend most of his time in centerfield to start the year for the Red Sox. His stats show that center is clearly his natural position, posting a +12 defensive runs saved compared to negative value at short. Offensively, Rafaela has produced average to below-average numbers—a .246 average and 15 home runs in 2024—good for a .664 OPS. His biggest issue was plate discipline, striking out over 150 times and constantly falling into 0-2 counts. In fact, he was only ahead in the count in 20 out of 544 bats all year. He has shown his power potential but couldn't get himself into hitter-friendly counts to capitalize on. If Rafaela can improve on his approach, he could give Boston a plus defender with 20+ home runs in an already competitive outfield situation when Masataka Yoshida returns and top prospect Roman Anthony gets called up.

THE 4 PERSPECTIVES AROUND THE FREE-FOR-ALL OF THE NBA ALL-STAR GAME

by Seth Wallen
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
savannah.wallen@uconn.edu

The NBA All-Star Game, once a highly anticipated event for basketball enthusiasts, has faced significant criticism in recent years. Held in San Francisco, the latest edition introduced a new format: a four-team tournament. However, instead of rejuvenating the excitement, it seems to have worsened existing issues. From corporate greed and lackluster player effort to insufferable media coverage, the NBA All-Star Game has become a point of contention among fans and players alike.

The Player[s]

This All-Star Sunday, Draymond Green voiced his frustrations on the TNT broadcast.

"These young guys, if they're on the rising stars team, they don't deserve the privilege of playing on Sunday," said Green. "I had to work so hard to play on Sunday nights of All-Star Weekend, and because ratings are down and the game is bad, we are bringing in rising stars. That's not a fix."

"Dalton Knecht doesn't even have a team right now and he's playing in the ASG," lamented Green, even after the Rising Stars team lost to Shaq's OGs. Despite Green's frustrations, Knecht has a team. Green refers to a failed trade between the Lakers and Hornets. Due to a failed physical, the trade was rescinded, and Knecht stayed with the Lakers.

Though many people agree with Green's take, many NBA fans did not. Everyone works hard to be an All-Star, and as a veteran of the game, Green knows that. It does not help his case by dragging down younger players. Charles Barkley, Kenny Williams and Oscar Robertson have all criticized Green for this viewpoint.

The earlier generation of stars did not take the weekend seriously, so the new generation must pay in lieu of the effort that should have been there.

The Product

With this new format, if your favorite player was on Kenny's team, you would only see them for a good five to eight minutes.

The failure of the ASG is not entirely due to the players' lack of effort, as I believe the product has done damage to both the NBA and the fan base.

The main issue with this year's ASG discourse is the product and the media surrounding it—more on that later. The TNT crew's negativity, coupled with only 42 minutes of actual basketball, angered many.

Negative PR from broadcasters, Kevin Hart's antics towards

players like Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Karl-Anthony Towns and Mr. Beast's segment make it seem like a sponsorship sponge, reeking of corporate greed.

Fans primarily want to see their favorite players compete against top league talent.

However, the advertisements might have been the worst part of the ASG, and it is not just in the ASG. The 2024 NBA Playoffs were hard to watch, and it wasn't due to the on-court product. There were ads during

timeouts and free throws, and all the ads were about something that either took away from the game or sports gambling.

I do not gamble, and if you do, I urge you to do so responsibly. However, I do think it is a problem to advertise gambling to a young fanbase, potentially from areas where it is not legal, and then have the nerve to stick the addiction line at the end of it.

That is the core issue: The Association wants to make more money but doesn't realize that their current approach is counterproductive. When this realization sinks in, fans who watched basketball prior to this advertisement apocalypse question what happened to the game they love.

The Fans

Fans are finding it increasingly expensive to attend NBA games if they are fans of a team with a large market or a contender. The most realistic

chance in seeing favorite team is if they are playing the bottom third of the league—and even then, travel expenses can kill those dreams quickly.

In the Northeast, the Knicks and Celtics games might drag your balance into the negatives, and even traveling to see games in Philadelphia or the Barclays Center can take a toll on your paycheck. Fans aren't getting the bang for the buck, and I don't blame them for being upset.

When fans discuss how to fix the ASG, they may just devolve into negativity, especially online. Some people have suggested playoff stakes, like moving the NBA cup closer to when the All-Stars are revealed, so it can be more primetime action.

Other people have suggested bringing back the East and West home court advantage in the finals. As of writing this article, 4 teams (the Nuggets, Rockets, Lakers and Clippers) are record-wise, worse than the Knicks (3rd in the East) but better than the Pacers (4th in the East).

For most of the younger fans' lifetimes, the East has been the weaker conference. Such stakes can introduce storylines, as to prove the East is not as weak as they seem, or that the West can truly dominate over their eastern All-Star counterparts.

Fans who spend money to fly to San Francisco for the weekend to hear Hart, see their favorite player for eight minutes and listen to celebrities will feel cheated out of an experience. The hype around the celebrity game is more than that of the All-Star Game, and the fact that the dunk contest has been three-peated before any team in the NFL by a G leaguer should be a referendum on the state of the ASG.

I can only imagine how infuriating it is for fans to see Ja Morant tweet that the dunk over the KIA Mac McClung made him want to take part, with Giannis echoing the statement. Why now? Why couldn't



People are losing faith in Adam Silver after 'worst All-Star Weekend ever'

Adam Silver has come into people's crosshairs after a lackluster NBA all-star weekend. COURTESY OF @NYPOSTSPORTS ON INSTAGRAM

they give us that for years? Morant was drafted six years ago!

The Media

The fan attitude can also be blamed on ESPN and the National Media prioritizing the postseason over the regular season, especially during the Cavs vs. Warriors era of the 2010s. This mindset has led NBA fans to undervalue players' achievements unless they win a ring. This logic is used to justify the Luka Doncic trade, to undermine the Knicks' success this year and to discount players like Morant and Anthony Edwards because they have not won a championship.

In comparison, the NFL and the MLB do not have as much of an issue. You can still argue that Josh Allen is a great NFL player even though he has not won a Super Bowl. When Aaron Judge retires, he will be a Hall of Fame player, regardless of whether he wins a World Series. However, every

ball player's legend case is dependent on one thing: Will you win the NBA Finals? The Celtics main duo, especially Jaylen Brown and his supermax contract, faced criticism prior to the 2023-24 season, with media pundits saying they will never get it done. They went ahead to finish the job, and as much as one may not like Jayson Tatum, he is an NBA champion on one of the two dominant teams in the Eastern Conference.

In Conclusion

Why should the fans care, when the league does not? Why should players care if the league goes behind them and gets celebrities to talk trash all night? How do you get people to care if you hurt the product and insult the average fan's intelligence in doing so?

These are answers that the NBA must figure out if they would like to keep viewership—not only for the ASG, but for the near future.

Daily

Sports

WOMEN'S TENNIS: HUSKIES PREPARE FOR HOME COURT MATCH AGAINST SHU

by Colette Doyle
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
crd23003@uconn.edu

The UConn women's tennis team will have their seventh meet of the regular season on Thursday against Sacred Heart University (SHU). The match will take place on the Huskies' home court, at the Magic Lincer Tennis Club in Manchester, Conn.

The Huskies have had a dominant start to the regular season with a 5-1 record and an undefeated, 2-0 record in the Big East Conference. The program's last matchup was against Georgetown University, where they had their first victory over the Hoyas since rejoining the Big East. Senior Olivia Wright and senior Maria Constantinou have proven to be a formidable duo, continuing their undefeated doubles streak with a 6-3 match win. Senior Isabel Petri Bere and sophomore Victoria Matos were also a powerful duo in the matchup, winning 6-2. These two duos will be key players

for the Huskies in this week's matchup.

Wright, Constantinou and Bere are also dominant singles players. They each showed their strength in their matchups against Seton Hall University, contributing to the 4-0 win.

Constantinou played in No. 2 singles and won in straight sets (6-2, 6-3). Bere played in No. 3 singles and also won in straight sets (6-3, 6-3). Wright played in No. 1 singles and fought to the end to win in the last set. These players will provide immense

competition for the Pioneers.

The Pioneers have had a shaky start to the season with a 1-2 record. The team's 4-3 win over Stonehill College displayed their strength and key players. Freshman Ola Irla Bartyzel secured the win for the Pio-

neers in a tight three-set singles match (6-2, 4-6, 6-4). Bartyzel is also dominant in doubles with partner senior Aina Garriga, achieving a 7-5 victory against Seton Hall University. Freshman Kiah James and freshman Olivia Zuba are also a dominant duo. They secured a 6-1 win in doubles against Seton Hall University. These duos will provide a challenge for the Huskies.

The Huskies and the Pioneers last matched up last season, where the Huskies came out with a 5-2 win. The team stumbled in the doubles but were able to bounce back in the singles with five straight set singles wins. The team will hope to bring dominance in both the singles and the doubles for this season's matchup. The players matched up earlier in the season for preseason dual play; however, no team scores were recorded.

The match will take place at 1:00 p.m. and is a must watch due to the impressive performances put on by both teams in their matchups this season.



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

PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: PAIGE BUECKERS SCORING PROPELS HUSKIES TO 91-49 WIN OVER SETON HALL

by Avery Becker
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR
SHE/HER/HERS
avery.becker@uconn.edu

Graduate guard Paige Bueckers surpassed Diana Taurasi for ninth place on UConn women's basketball's all-time scoring list in the program's 91-49 win over the Seton Hall Pirates on Wednesday night.

In total, the Minnesota native notched a total of 23 points, nine rebounds and two steals on the night, despite a shaky start to the first half from her squad.

Last Sunday, the No. 5-ranked squad broke the No. 6-ranked South Carolina Gamecocks' 71-game home winning streak, beating them by 29 points. Husky fans hoped that the momentum would carry the program into the matchup against the Pirates. However, this was not the case for the Huskies as soon as both squads tipped off.

With Seton Hall scoring the first two baskets of the game, the Huskies did not have the lead in the game until three minutes into the first quarter.

However, sophomore guard Ashlynn Shade was the spark the Huskies needed. When the Indiana native checked into the game for Jana El Alfy, the Huskies went on a minute-and-a-half scoring spurt.

Shade, despite racking up three personal fouls, finished the night with 15 points.

With the end of the first quarter being 22-15, Bueckers led her squad by five points and the



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

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

Huskies started to pull away with the score leaning in their favor.

At the start of the second frame, the Huskies struggled to gain momentum again, with both squads trading baskets back and forth. Even with a quarter-and-a-half under their belt, the Huskies had notched seven turnovers, despite the 10 they had notched the entire game versus the Gamecocks.

"No momentum carried over into this game. No momentum at all," head coach of the program Geno Auriemma said to Chelsea

Sherrod of SNY postgame. "We go down there and get a great win, and they think that win is going to make these guys roll over... This is nonsense."

Coming out of the locker room, the Huskies regrouped and would not go down without a fight, with every player from the roster contributing.

During the third frame, the Huskies went on a 20-3 run, outscoring the Pirates 30-13.

Faith Masonius, the Pirates' leading scorer, notched a total of five points in the third frame, but the second half was all Hus-

ties, as history from the first time these squads faced one another in January repeated itself.

In the fourth quarter, the squad fully regrouped and every player contributed. In the last half of the fourth quarter, the Huskies managed to outscore the Pirates 50-23.

In addition to Bueckers' heroics, Auriemma utilized his small ball lineup with Aubrey Griffin by the boards.

Griffin, who has fought her way back into the swing of things after injury, notched 15 points in 18 minutes played,

scoring 5-5 from the field, tying Shade for the second spot in points scored for the Huskies.

The funny thing? The last time Griffin played at the Walsh Gymnasium notched her first career double-double with 25 points and 12 assists in December of 2019.

"She [Aubrey] loves playing here. I think this is her favorite place to play," Auriemma said to SNY postgame.

The New York native has been feisty and consistent for the Huskies at the five, with Ice Brady out with injury. The 6-foot-1 forward will be integral for the Huskies as the season winds down.

With just three games left in the regular season for the Huskies, this comeback was imperative for the squad to maintain their confidence heading into the end of the season and eventually March.

"We got a little bit better. We look a little better connected in the second half," Auriemma said to SNY postgame. "We just got sloppy today with our ball-handling, some decision-making, but I thought the second half we did a much better job than the first half."

Next up, the Huskies will travel to Indianapolis, Ind. to take on the Butler Bulldogs on Saturday. Tip-off is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. and Husky fans can tune into the matchup on SNY and listen in on the UConn Sports Network from Learfield.