

# Whitney Road traffic restricted next week due to steam project



**by Patrick Boots**  
HE/HIM/HIS  
STAFF WRITER  
patrick.boots@uconn.edu

Whitney Road, a thoroughfare on the University of Connecticut’s main campus, is set to partially close this week starting Monday, Feb. 24. Facilities crews will be replacing part of the steam infrastructure that runs underneath the road, says the University Planning, Design and Construction office.

Whitney Road begins at an intersection with Mansfield Road, in between Arjona and Monteith halls across the street from Mirror Lake, and runs for approximately a quarter of a mile, feeding into a special employee parking lot behind the Student Recreation Center. Whitney Road Extension then continues, running one-way alongside the West Campus Residence Halls until an intersection with Gilbert Road. UConn Facilities staff announced that the closure would span from the intersection with Mansfield Road to an area adjacent to the Bousfield Psychology Building. They said the closure will not allow any “thru traffic”, but most parking spaces along the road and in an employee parking lot behind Arjona Hall will remain accessible. Whitney Road Extension

sion will be converted to allow two-way traffic in order to allow people to enter from the western side of the road. The announcement also said that temporary sidewalk detours would be installed as needed to make sure egress doors from buildings could stay open. Pedestrian traffic onto the Babbidge Path, which goes from Whitney Road past the entrances to Bousfield and the Dodd Center courtyard toward Babbidge Road, will be minimally impacted. The closure comes as part of the Whitney Road Steam Improvements Project, an effort to replace steam lines and infrastructure that are unrepairable. The bidding process for the project began in November, with a final budget of \$8,500,000 approved by the Board of Trustees in December. The document written by Executive Vice President for Finance, Jeffrey Geoghegan, explains that the new steam line to be installed will service multiple campus facilities, including the South Campus, Buckley, Shippee and Connecticut residence and dining halls, the Fine Arts complex and the School of Nursing buildings under construction near S Lot. The on-campus

steam infrastructure contributes to building heat and hot water systems, including those used in showers, laboratory supply lines and kitchen facilities. This isn’t the first time UConn’s steam infrastructure has been replaced or refurbished. Mid-semester closures in the South Campus area occurred in 2023 due to steam equipment replacement, and other necessary facility improvements are conducted annually. Previous steam projects at UConn have been carried out by BOND Civil and Utility, a northeast-based civil infrastructure contractor, under agreements with the Con Edison energy development company and State of Connecticut. BOND replaced steam vaults, underground piping and installed replacement sidewalks and brickwork alongside Hillside Road as part of a campus steam project in 2017, but it is not yet known if the same firm will work on the upcoming Whitney Road project. Steam “co-generation” facilities were also installed at UConn’s utility

plants in 2023. In addition to replacing aging infrastructure, UConn’s steam projects work toward satisfying environmental goals. According to the university’s Office of Sustainability, primary energy and building goals include commitments to renewable and clean power sources and efficient on-campus energy usage. “The goal: Design, construct and renovate greener buildings on campus that operate more efficiently, use less energy and water, and reduce impacts on the environment,” reads the vision document of Campus Sustainability and Climate Leadership from 2020. The steam improvements are also a component of UConn’s newest sustainability

plan, which is planned to be effective by 2030. UConn energy projects include renovations to numerous buildings, lighting system changes and solar canopies in parking lots in addition to steam infrastructure improvements, according to UConn Today. For more information about South Campus Infrastructure Improvement Projects, visit the University Planning, Design and Construction webpage at updc.uconn.edu/sci.

Monteith stands at the intersection of Whitney and Mansfield Roads. Construction is due to begin here next Monday, Feb. 24. PHOTO BY UCONN TODAY



# UConn removes cesium source irradiators, X-ray replacements to come in months



The sun sets behind the Science 1 Research Center at the University of Connecticut’s Storrs Campus. The building is home to research labs and classrooms for students pursuing STEM.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN MATERIAL SCIENCE WEBSITE

**by Joey Gottlieb**  
THEY/THEM/THEIRS  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
jvg18001@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut’s Storrs campus and UConn Health recently removed a total of four cesium source irradiators from campuses through the Cesium Irradiator Replacement Project (CIRP), an initiative of the U.S. Department of Energy, according to Radiation Safety Manager Amy B. Courchesne.

Three of the irradiators were removed from UConn Health facilities, along with the only irradiator at the Storrs campus. The irradiators are scheduled to be

replaced by newer X-ray models in the coming months.

Irradiators are historically used to expose substances to controlled amounts of gamma radiation for research and medical purposes, ranging from blood irradiations and pathobiology to physics and plant sciences.

“Past research at UConn with the cesium source irradiator includes cell research, geological samples, plants, seeds and pollinations” said Courchesne in an email interview. Departments who have had authorized users of the cesium source irradiator include Allied Health, Molecular & Cellular Biology, Nutritional

Science, Pathobiology, Pharmaceutical Science, Physiology and Neurobiology (PNB), Physics and Plant Science according to Courchesne.

Cesium irradiators have been the target of replacement across the country due to safety and security risks they pose, containing a sealed source isotope of cesium (cesium-137), which have a half-life of roughly 30 years.

Following 9/11, additional security orders were put in effect by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, according to Courchesne.

“We weren’t able to publicly disclose that we had this equipment on campus,” said Courchesne.

“Anyone interested in research using the irradiator would need to seek it out and were required to take a safety exam with me before use. X-ray irradiators would no longer require these restrictions.”

However, both the removal of the old irradiators and installation of the new ones pose great logistical challenges. Irradiators were disassembled, their shielded containers housing the radioactive material exposed and removed via crane at a loading dock, according to UConn Today , each container weighed several thousand pounds.

When asked how long researchers will have to wait until

the replacements are installed Courchesne said new irradiators should be installed within “the next couple of months.” Installation of new X-ray irradiators also requires further modifications to the room in which it will be housed on the Storrs campus. These modifications are ongoing, according to Courchesne. Researchers will also need to be trained in how to properly use new equipment, further delaying new research at Storrs. UConn Health’s new research irradiator was installed prior to the removal of the old cesium source irradiators, according to UConn Today.

Considering the time sensitive nature of radiation-based research, a working group of researchers at the Storrs campus was convened by Courchesne and Jeremy Balsbaugh, director of UConn’s Center of Open Research Resources (COR2E), according to Courchesne.

“We worked closely with researchers to ensure that this was a project worth pursuing,” Courchesne said. “Any researchers actively involved in using the old irradiator were given notice months in advance to ensure their data collection would not be interrupted.”

The total \$2.622 million cost of removing the four irradiators was covered through CIRP, in addition to another \$450,000 to \$500,000 in reimbursements for the new X-ray replacements, covering roughly half the cost of each new irradiator, according to a UConn Today article. CIRP is also providing \$16,000 in funds for modifications to the room which will house the new irradiator.

“We’re very excited about the new equipment because we can talk about it now, we can publicly list that we have access to these devices,” said Courchesne. “This opens a wide range of opportunities for possible researchers.”

## UConn’s Waterbury campus announces expansion

**by Liliana French**  
STAFF WRITER  
SHE/HER/HERS  
liliana.french@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut’s Waterbury campus is expanding and adding a new building.

According to UConn Today, the building will be six stories tall and UConn is leasing about 26,300 square feet of the building.

Waterbury Campus Dean Fumiko Hoeft spoke with The Daily Campus about the expansion.

“The background is that the city had this old building, it’s historically very famous,” Hoeft said. “The prior mayor,

Neil O’Leary, [...] bought it for UConn and he really saved it, sort of, for UConn, because he thought — its right across the street for UConn and it would make a good expansion plan.”

Hoeft said that the building went through UConn presidents since around when Susan Herbst was UConn’s president. According to UConn Today, the building had been vacant for 15 years.

“When [UConn President Radenka Maric] came on board, she was very interested and she wanted to support Waterbury,” Hoeft said. “So, it moved fairly quickly.”

According to UConn Today, the city of Waterbury received

a \$10 million grant for redeveloping the building and Green Hub Development planned to contribute \$5 million for the project.

Hoeft discussed the planned uses of the building and said that it was for multiple purposes.

“It’s more for STEM and in particular, health sciences,” Hoeft said. “So allied health faculty members, all four of them, they’re going to have their research labs there for tenure track faculty. Nursing has their training facilities because we never had one at Waterbury— we were borrowing from Naugatuck Valley Community College.”

Hoeft said that nursing used the space for their accelerated nursing program and that there was a floor for STEM research.

“Then we have research space for humanities and social sciences,” Hoeft said. “And that was one of the things that the humanities and social sciences faculty members really wanted, because it’s pretty rare that they get more than an office space as faculty members.”

Waterbury Associated Student Government President Bendy Al Zaatini discussed the new building.

“It is right next to our main building, and it is ideally opening next semester,” Al Zaatini said. “It is open for mainly al-

lied health students, but also for research labs.”

Al Zaatini, an allied health major, is applying to the nursing program and said that the Certificate Entry into Nursing (CEIN) program is becoming more competitive with the expansion.

“I think it has already impacted UConn Waterbury,” Al Zaatini said. “I’ve already heard that there are more students applying to the CEIN program compared to last semester. I’ve heard students from different campuses, from different regionals, who are interested in coming to Waterbury for the CEIN program.”

# The Daily Campus

Printing since 1896, The Daily Campus is the oldest and largest independent student publication at the University of Connecticut. The Daily Campus circulates 1,500 newspapers daily and strives to serve the student body by delivering accurate, relevant and timely news and content, both in print and online at DailyCampus.com. Our staff is comprised entirely of students, with roughly 200 undergraduates gaining professional development while contributing to the daily production of the paper, with positions including writers, photographers, copy editors, page layout designers, graphic designers, advertisement representatives, receptionists, delivery drivers and digital producers. Thanks for reading.

**Want to advertise in print or online?**  
businessmanager@dailycampus.com

**Corrections and Clarifications:**  
Send Corrections to EIC@DailyCampus.com

**Thursday, February 20, 2025**  
Copy Editors: Max Pagano, Dan Stark, Meadow Turmel, and Peyton Wasileski  
News Designer: Isabellla Kulawik  
Life Designer: Camille Kang  
Sports Designer: Joshua Cummings  
Opinion Designer: Colbi Loranger  
Photo Producer: Michael Franovic

**Sara Bedigian**, Editor-in-Chief  
**Connor Lafferty**, Managing Editor  
**Naiiya Patel**, Business Manager  
**Ky’Lynn Monts**, Digital Editor  
**Karla Perez**, Associate Managing Editor  
**Colbi Loranger**, Associate Managing Editor  
**Justine Pearlman**, Associate Digital Editor

<b>Aiza Shaikh</b> News Editor <b>Jenna Outcalt</b> Associate News Editor <b>Connor Sargeant</b> Sports Editor <b>Avery Becker</b> Associate Sports Editor <b>Connor Sharp</b> Photo Editor <b>Emma Meidinger</b> Associate Photo Editor <b>Benjamin Lassy</b> Life Editor <b>James Fitzpatrick</b> Associate Life Editor	<b>Tomas Hinckley</b> Opinion Editor <b>Evelyn Pazan</b> Associate Opinion Editor <b>Samantha Hass</b> Artist Editor <b>Lillian LaFemina</b> Associate Artist Editor <b>Noa Climor</b> Outreach/Social Media Coordinator <b>Kayden Lynch</b> Associate SMOC <b>Yianni Constantinou</b> Circulation Manager <b>Valley Publishing Company</b> Derby, Conn.
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

For more information about getting involved as an editorial, business or digital employee:  
Editorial · managingeditor@dailycampus.com  
Business · businessmanager@dailycampus.com  
Digital · digital@dailycampus.com

**Prefer to read our content online?**  
Check out our newly redesigned website at [dailycampus.com](http://dailycampus.com) and follow us on social media.  
Instagram · The\_DailyCampus  
Facebook · The Daily Campus  
Twitter · The\_DailyCampus

**Want to write, photograph or draw for The Daily Campus ?**

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

**Opinion (Meetings at 5 p.m.)**  
[opinion@dailycampus.com](mailto:opinion@dailycampus.com)  
**News (Meetings at 6 p.m.)**  
[news@dailycampus.com](mailto:news@dailycampus.com)  
**Life (Meetings at 7 p.m.)**  
[life@dailycampus.com](mailto:life@dailycampus.com)  
**Sports (Meetings at 8 p.m.)**  
[sports@dailycampus.com](mailto:sports@dailycampus.com)  
**Photo (Meetings at 10 p.m.)**  
[photo@dailycampus.com](mailto:photo@dailycampus.com)  
**Artists (Meetings at 10 p.m.)**  
[artists@dailycampus.com](mailto:artists@dailycampus.com)

# The Daily Campus

S  
U  
D  
O  
K  
U

- ACROSS
- 1

Big production
- 5

Half an island in French Polynesia
- 9

Mediocre grade
- 14

Fish tacos fish, on menus
- 15

Bus alternative
- 16

Window treatment
- 17

D.C. VIP
- 18

Kunis of “Family Guy”
- 19

\_\_ knife
- 20

Say, “Everyone put your key in the ignition and turn,” e.g.?
- 23

Ump’s cry
- 24

Early late-night host
- 25

Rite Aid rival
- 28

Brief reminder before a Disney musical featuring Belle?
- 31

Cut with a beam
- 35

Bull’s-\_\_
- 36

Lyric poem
- 37

Tablet option
- 39

Bar sing-along
- 41

Actress Kemper
- 42

Elevator part
- 43

Bed support
- 44

Sidewalk stand earnings arranged in tidy stacks of cash?
- 48

Dejected
- 49

VMI program
- 50

Opening word?
- 55

One overseeing a reform program for kleptomaniacs?
- 58

The least bit
- 60

After-lunch sandwich
- 61

Some watch displays
- 62

Faithful
- 63

Bound
- 64

Empire State canal
- 65

“R u kidding me?”
- 66

Seals’ meals
- 67

Chips-in-a-can brand

DOWN

1

Without value

2

French city, in song

3

“A little birdie tells me ...”

4

Networking giant

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20					21					22				
23							24					25	26	27
					28		29				30			
31	32	33	34		35					36				
37					38			39	40					
41							42				43			
44					45	46				47				
48					49					50		51	52	53
					55	56				57				
58	59									60			61	
62										63			64	
65										66			67	

By Jeff Stillman 2/21/25

- 5 Lousy piece of advice
- 6 Account of life after death?
- 7 Turn for the worse
- 8 Turkey’s highest peak
- 9 Data recording device
- 10 Play thing
- 11 “The Paper Chase” setting
- 12 Letters in the news
- 13 “Get it?”
- 21 Busy airport
- 22 \_\_ chi
- 26 Salty dog option
- 27 Saccharine
- 29 “Big Mouth” writer/voice actress Edebiri
- 30 Luxury home features
- 31 Credit report entries
- 32 Cop \_\_: bargain in court
- 33 Times of youthful innocence
- 34 Perfect copy
- 38 Pregame event
- 39 Ryssdal who hosts NPR’s “Marketplace”

Thursday’s Puzzle Solved

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

©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC 2/21/25

40 Places to pick up paint

42 Like most aerosol cans, now

45 Former Mets pitcher Darling

46 “Smallville” actress Annette

47 Cinque e uno

51 Monica who won three consecutive French Opens

52 Head off

53 Radio and such

54 County in the Greater Boston area

56 Airline to Israel

57 Blue-green

58 Weather anchor Roker and actor Pacino

59 Only Canadian MLB city, for short

Level 1 2 3 4

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

Solution to Thursday’s puzzle 2/21/25

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

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

C  
R  
W  
O  
R  
D  
S  
S  
S

## CLASSIFIEDS

**Policy:** Classifieds are non-refundable. Credit will be given if an error materially affects the meaning of the ad and only for the first incorrect insertion. Ads will only be printed if they are accompanied by both first and last name as well as telephone number. Names and numbers may be subject to verification. All advertising is subject to acceptance by The Daily Campus, which reserves the right to reject any ad copy at its sole discretion. The Daily Campus does not knowingly accept ads of a fraudulent nature.



# STUDYING YOUTUBE IN AN ACADEMIC CONTEXT

**by Ayyan Tamjeed**  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
HE/HIM/HIS  
art24001@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut's Humanities Institute held a faculty talk at Homer Babbidge Library on Feb. 19. Bhoomi Thakore was the faculty member scheduled to speak at the event. As an assistant professor in the sociology department, her research focuses on media sociology, inequality and the scholarship of teaching and learning.

Her talk was about YouTube, and the fun one can find as a content creator on the site. She states that she is researching "the sociology of YouTube" and of the users, consumers and content creators that populate the site.

In her presentation, Thakore outlined that she would be talking about how content creators get inspired or motivated to create content, by asking small content creators whether that motivation is extrinsic or intrinsic. She also discusses the roles of play versus fun, claiming "it should be play and fun but play versus fun rolls off the tongue better."

After outlining the structure of her presentation, she first talked about the background of YouTube. YouTube is the second most popular website, trailing only its parent site, Google. She reported that 83% of adults and 93% of young adults use YouTube, either for entertainment, learning or keeping up on current events.

I am certain that many of you reading this are moderate to avid users of YouTube, myself included. She discussed that while YouTube can promote active consumption and community-building around content creators, it also can promote

extremist views. Monetization on YouTube also makes the site top-heavy, disadvantaging smaller creators.

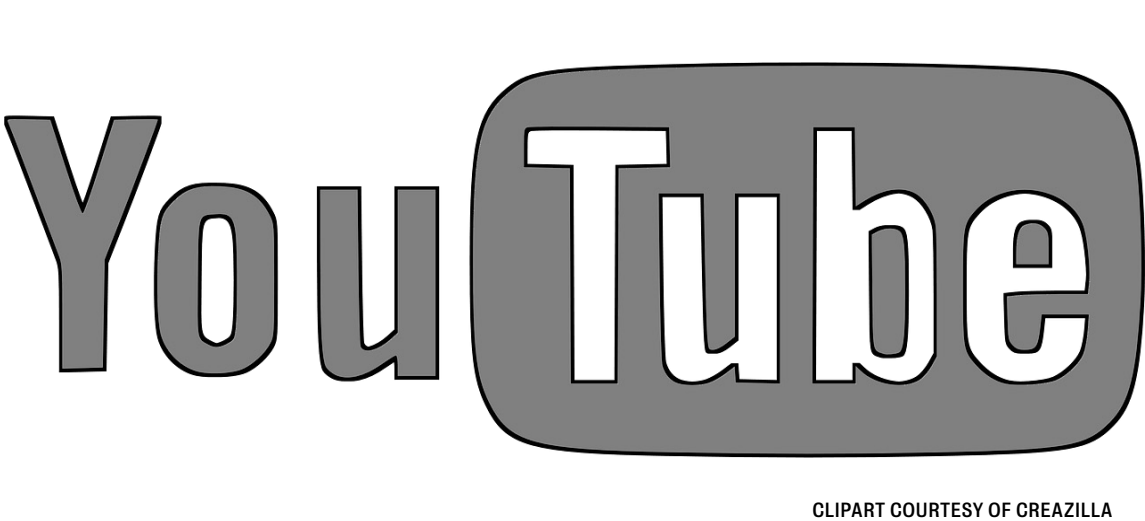
Thakore then talked about play and flow. She states that play is important for a child's development, as it benefits their motor and social skills. Thakore also says that play is intrinsically motivated through what she calls flow. She argues that even adults could go back to playing like kids by establishing this flow.

Next up was the sociology of fun, which is what play serves as an end to. Thakore describes fun as a social phenomenon, where people have fun with others and build social connections through shared experiences. Thakore also shared how back in the 17th century, fun was used to describe those of low wit. In the 19th century, the word described working-class people from those in high society.

After describing what she was looking for in her research, she spoke about her methodology. From June 2024 onwards, she interviewed 28 content creators through Discord and Reddit posts, who ranged from 18-69 years old, come from five continents and have nine to 7,000 subscribers.

Initially, she had trouble recruiting people to interview, because they thought Thakore was a bot or wanted to dox them. When she did find content creators to interview, she analyzed their interviews using NVivo software. She focused on asking questions about how these content creators get motivated, whether it was for play, fun, fame or profit.

On the topic of flow and intrinsic motivation, Thakore shared the responses of two creators. There was Franco,



CLIPART COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

who had his channel for three months at the time of interview and mostly covers his family life and philosophical content. He also films self-growth content. For Franco, he describes YouTube as "just an outlet," calling it an extension of himself, as he mainly uses his channel to document his activities.

There was also Chris, who had his channel for a year and does gaming commentary, mostly on Nintendo products. When asked why he started this channel, Chris talked about how he struggles with self-confidence, and how he views YouTube as an avenue to use and improve his creative skills, which he is unable to do at his day job.

With extrinsic motivation and fun, Thakore shared responses from Jesse and Miranda. First was Jesse, Thakore's first respondent and someone who does "Let's Play" videos. Thakore asked Jesse how comments motivate him. Jesse says he felt motivated by positive comments, as it inspired him to continue making videos and made him feel like he has potential to become bigger.

Miranda, a content creator from the Northwest who makes videos about nature and fishing, also says the same thing. Talking about how whenever she feels overwhelmed by the process of creating a video, posting it and seeing positive reactions from comments and a high view count gives her the motivation to march forward. For Miranda, the time commitment feels worth it once she sees this positive reinforcement.

In terms of making videos for profit, Thakore shared a response from Garreth, a content creator who lives in Europe and makes do-it-yourself videos, mostly about cars. Garreth also has the significance of being one of the few content creators Thakore interviewed who was monetized.

When asked about how being monetized affects his creativity, Garreth said it makes him go through spurts of content creation, as he remembers that his channel is monetized, proliferates some videos on YouTube and gradually stops.

Finally, when creating to get famous, Thakore shared a re-

sponse from Brandon, a school principal who makes reaction videos. He makes videos as an escape from his day job and has been doing it long enough that he got monetized as well. According to Thakore, after Brandon got monetized, he has wavered in motivation to film videos these days, as he is on a schedule thanks to his newfound fame.

Brandon still thinks making videos is fun, but less so after gaining a small community and the expectations that come from it. Thakore states that these expectations could affect his creativity, as he tries to maintain profitability and reach a larger fanbase. This eventually leads to burnout and fatigue, a story not too uncommon among content creators.

To conclude, Thakore called YouTube an opportunity for someone to be creative and to create shared and fun experiences. Content creators can also create a symbiotic relationship between their content and fans and Thakore argues that fun and play found on YouTube are balanced out by the monetization system.

# MORAL COURAGE IN ACTION: AN INTERACTIVE GAME FOR STUDENTS

**by Anna Heqimi**  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
SHE/HER/HERS  
anna.heqimi@uconn.edu

Community members of the University of Connecticut are invited to an interactive group workshop on Tuesday, Feb. 25, featuring Professor Irshad Manji at the Student Union Ballroom.

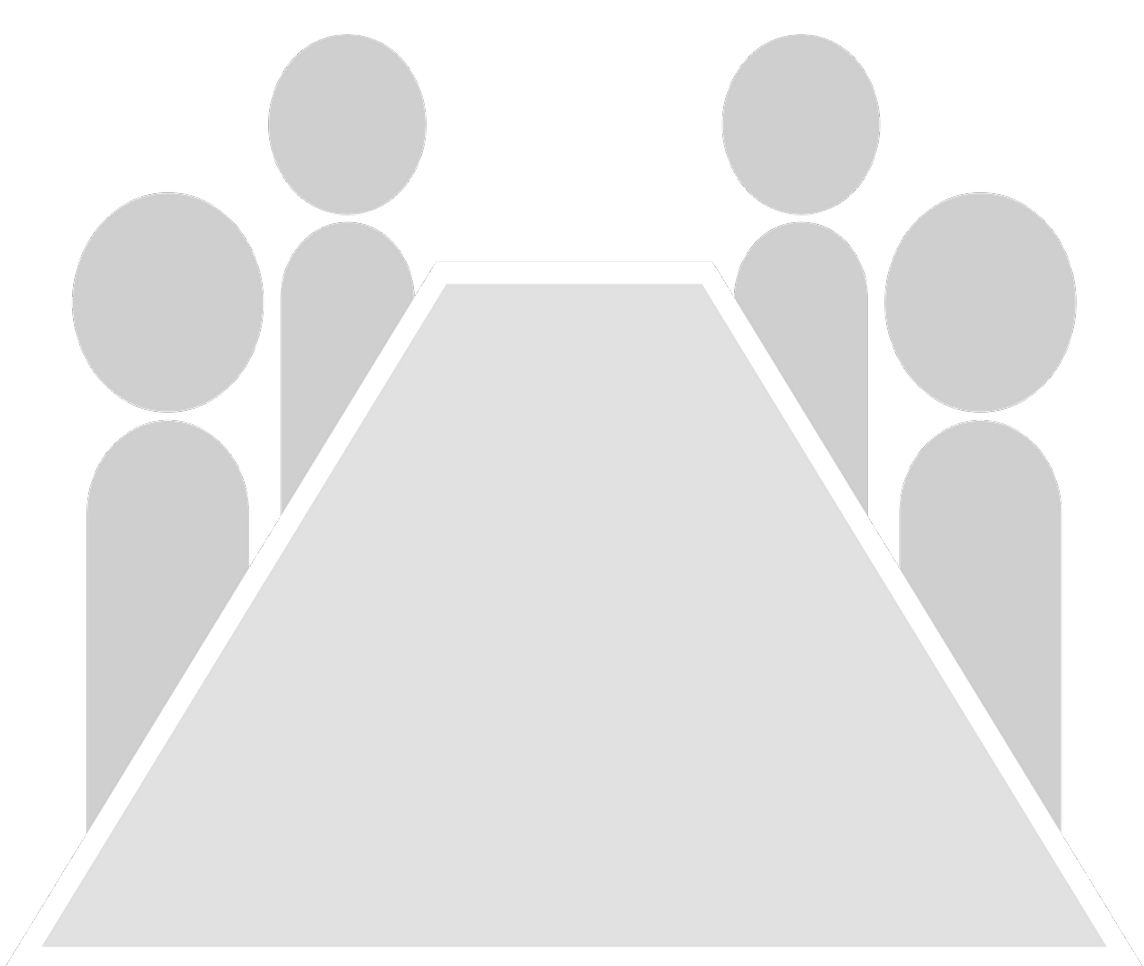
As this year's Metanoia theme is "Pathways to Productive Civil Discourse" Manji held a keynote presentation on Feb. 9 at the Student Union theatre informing students on what Moral Courage means.

After a discussion with the speaker, students can practice the skills of Moral Courage during the upcoming workshop.

The workshop will feature the screening of Manji's documentary "Mississippi Turning" and an interactive discussion. Following the viewing, students will have the opportunity to participate in "Change the Game," an interactive session where "teams vie to score the most points by demonstrating as many Moral Courage skills as possible during a conversation that begins contentiously," according to an email from UConn Metanoia.

In a text interview, Manji shared that it is a "team-based game that motivates us to practice, in a hilarious way, the skills of moral courage."

After she leaves campus, participants of "Change the Game" will be asked if they would like to become Varsity



CLIPART COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

Moral Courage Mentors.

According to the Moral Courage Project's website, "as a certified Mentor, you'll teach people how to achieve diversity without division by practicing the Moral Courage Method of communicating across divides." In a Zoom interview with Manji, she added that mentors will teach their peers Moral Courage skills.

Manji explained that UConn

leadership wants to develop Moral Courage mentors.

Choosing to become a Moral Courage mentor has many mental health benefits. Manji shared that the stress and anxiety that students feel disappear because "you are lifting the burden off your shoulders of always having to be right." However, the benefits expand further. Manji added that by being a Moral Courage

mentor, students will be able to "think critically and bring people together."

Lastly, a certified mentor can put their skills on their resume. Manji said these skills "are exactly what employers are wanting today," because "this is what AI cannot do." She emphasized in her keynote presentation and during the interview that AI cannot build trust nor develop teams

that trust each other.

In an email interview with Dr. Jennifer Lease Butts, the associate vice provost for enrichment programs, she shared how UConn's interest in offering opportunities for students to become Moral Courage mentors was born.

"As we began planning and having conversations with University Senate members, members of the Provost's office, and the Metanoia Committee members, we talked about a shared goal that this Metanoia would be more than just a single program," she said. "We hoped that through engaging in a series of programs, we would be able to create more learning opportunities for the entire UConn community."

According to Manji, this opportunity will be available to current first-year students, sophomores and juniors. Those that sign up will receive training sometime later this year. Lease Butts added that UConn will be able to train four participants free of cost.

"Through our partnership with the Moral Courage Network, we will have the opportunity to meet the active learning goals and will also be able to ensure that additional conversations and learning on this topic can continue via our campus mentors," Lease Butts added.

There will be two workshop sessions: one from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., and a second from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



# SUB-RADIO'S SU(PER)B SUN-RISE CITY SOMERVILLE SHOW

by **Gabrielle Wincherhern**  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
SHE/HER/HERS; THEY/THEM/THEIRS  
gabrielle.wincherhern@uconn.edu

Last Saturday, Feb. 15, indie pop band Sub-Radio performed at the Crystal Ballroom in Somerville, Mass. on their Sunrise City tour.

Sub-Radio has been my favorite band since I first discovered them in 2023 via the Spotify algorithm. I wish I had a better backstory for it, but it is what it is. Them doing funny parodies on YouTube (“Stacy’s Dad,” “I Don’t Wanna Dance With Nobody,” “Bi Bi Bi” and “Mr. Darkside”) only furthered my interest. Also, there’s a special kind of bond that forms from discovering a good break-up song while trying to get over one.

I’ve only been to three live concerts before, but Sub-Radio’s was by far my favorite. For starters, I was just a fan of the venue overall. The Somerville concert was in the Crystal Ballroom, which was smaller than anywhere else I’d ever been, but that wasn’t a bad thing — it just meant that the band was closer.

True to its name, there were a pair of crystal chandeliers hanging from the ceiling. There was also a disco ball, which they made good use of (except during the song “Disco,” when they didn’t use the disco ball at all). But it was also just the funniest and most heartfelt concert I’ve been to yet.

Indie pop duo DOUBLECAMP opened for the concert. They initially struck me as generic, and I wasn’t particularly impressed, but they grew on me quickly. Maybe the occasional emo singer over acoustic guitar can be kind of good, I don’t know. Whatever it was, they had me jumping along by the end of their second song.

It didn’t hurt that they were also funny. While introducing a song, they claimed one of their members had written a song when he was six that had won a Grammy, and so of course, they just had to play it, before launching into a cover of Chappell Roan’s “HOT TO GO!”

Sub-Radio themselves were a treat. They opened their portion of the show with one of their newest singles “Pink Lemonade,” a very danceable summer song. Soon after, lead singer Adam Bradley informed the audience that he was still shaking off a virus, and so they might need to cut the show short. But Bradley’s sickness didn’t show throughout the entire show, nor did it stop Sub-Radio from keeping up the high energy with “Better Than That” and “Room For You,” two of their older songs about missing and rekindling a romance that has already peaked.

For a lot of Sub-Radio songs, I think it’s really easy to get lost in the catchiness of the music and just dance without listening too hard. But so many of Sub-Radio’s lyrics are about growing up and missing people and reconnecting, and that strikes a chord with me.

My sister once told me that my music taste is just sad songs that sound happy, and I’d say that describes Sub-Radio too. Even in the midst of groovy guitar and singing about summer sunshine, the lyrics are still drenched in so much sadness and nostalgia. Take “Everything I Had,” an upbeat punk rock-type track. Despite the high energy and the rhythmic guitar, it’s got lyrics like, “Anyways I’m a mess if you can’t tell / Getting older, ain’t it real swell”, and the chorus, which is sung like a battle cry: “Everything I had / I want it, I want it, I want it back.”

The band leaned into that

sadness with “Clark Kent” and “Cool.” The lights dimmed, painting the ballroom blue (blue and red for “Clark Kent”), and during the bridge, the disco ball spun slowly. These songs were quieter and slower. And the lyrics, which Bradley sang angelically, matched the more somber mood. “I couldn’t touch you if I tried / I couldn’t touch you if I wanted to” and “I hope the world will hold you the way that I tried to” will be bouncing around in my head for a long time.

About 30 minutes into the concert, Bradley, who is openly bisexual, started talking about his sexuality. He started off his speech lighthearted, announcing, “I’d like to welcome you Boston, officially, to the gay part of the show,” before launching into “King of My Heart,” which is arguably their gayest song. Even after the song, though, Bradley wasn’t done talking about sexuality. He took a moment to address the current political climate and its impact on the LGBTQ+ community. He proclaimed to the audience that if they wanted to take action to support the LGBTQ+ community, they could donate to transgender-supporting charities but also asked everyone to do something much more unexpected and simpler: be mean.

“Boston, I invite you to be rude to bigots,” he announced, encouraging the audience to call out people in their lives who would say homophobic or other similarly bigoted things.

The invitation to be mean to meaner people was met with a chorus of cheers. Sub-Radio then plunged into a cover of Weezer’s “Buddy Holly,” while Bradley put on a rainbow feather boa.

Sub-Radio also played a few songs that will be coming out on their album later this year. I don’t want to give too much

away, but Bradley prefaced the last two songs with a beautiful introduction.

For the first one, he spoke about his mental health, “I am someone who has struggled with my mental health for a lot of my life, and a lot of that has boiled down to a feeling of being a burden on other people ... and something you have to realize is that, that is so untrue,” saying that it was the message he wanted to share.

For the second song, he declared it was “the thesis statement of Sub-Radio,” before once again coming back to nostalgia: “We spend a lot of the song thinking about the past, wallowing in nostalgia ... God, it would be so great if I could just get back to then, if I could just get back to when things were easier, or better, or simpler ... and then in the last minute of

the song, we come to this realization that in fact, no, heaven is not — heaven was not in the past, it’s right now ... Heaven is here, right now.” And for the next few minutes, it really was.

Aside from the music, the band members were also extremely entertaining. Bradley had serious charisma, but the band itself was fun to watch too. They’ve been friends since middle school and it’s very easy to see that with them constantly pointing and smiling at each other throughout the show.

Each band member played a part in engaging the audience too — the drummer, Michael Pereira, would stand up and clap whenever he wanted the audience to do the same, at one point getting so caught up in riling up the audience that he had to run back to his seat to play the drums in time.



# 'Yellowjackets': The buzz is real

by **Noa Climor**  
SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH COORDINATOR  
SHE/HER/HERS  
noa.climor\_mizrahi@uconn.edu

Welcome back to Show Down, the column where I break down a new show or season and discuss whether it’s worth watching or likely to get cancelled. This week, we’ll be talking about all things “Yellowjackets”, the show that will (figuratively speaking) “eat your heart out”.

I have been trying to come up with criteria to go through that helps me determine if a show will get canceled or not, and I have yet to settle on a specific one; but for this issue, let’s focus on the basics: premise, cast, promotion and fan response.

By looking at the things I listed above, especially the fan reactions and how the show was promoted, I can gauge if a show will get renewed. The thing is that extreme promos and love from fans aren’t always a guarantee we’ll see more of the show.

A show like “Heartstopper,” which has been a fan favorite since its release and has received countless promotion, high ratings and praise by critics still does not have a fourth season in the bag. The truth is, a show is never promised another season, but hopefully with some analysis we can guesstimate. Let’s begin!

What’s the premise of “Yellowjackets,” exactly? A high school girl’s soccer team flies out to the national championships, but their trip gets cut short when the plane crashes into the wilderness.

A part of the charm of the show is the dual timeline: The plot jumps between the team’s time in the wilderness and their lives as adults years after they are res-



ILLUSTRATION BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

cued, where we see who survived and what they’re currently going through.

From the first moment of episode one, we explode into a show that hooks you with the unknown: a girl running barefoot in the snow. Bloody footprints, a

trap and even cannibalism and violence. Who is pit girl? What is the deal with the wilderness? How on earth did they survive 19 months and, if you made it to the end of season one: Who the hell is Lottie Matthews?

I’m assuming you did make

it, since you’re reading an article about this show’s potential cancellation (or renewal!); but still, I won’t spoil much.

Having watched all seasons of the show and the first two episodes of season three, I’m curious as to how far the plot can be stretched. They spend a long time in the wilderness, but we also spend a lot of time with the adult timeline. Personally, I am a little more interested in the wilderness and the character’s experience there.

In terms of premise, I think they have what it takes. This is a refreshing show that doesn’t shy away from violence and gore but does not overuse it either. Everything that occurs feels fitting, and I can’t wait to see how far they’re willing to go.

Now let’s talk cast, since this one is stacked. Ella Purnell as Jackie Taylor, captain of the soccer team and a true snack — they eat her. Melanie Lynskey as adult Shauna Shipman and Sophie Nélisse as teen Shipman. Tawny Cypress, Jasmin Savoy Brown, Lauren Ambrose and Liv Hewson also star.

With many more great actors unmentioned here, the full cast is impeccable. I don’t know what sacrifices the casting team made and who they made them to, but the accuracy of the teen and adult cast? Beautifully done.

The way the adult cast members (thinking specifically of Ambrose as Van) are able to pick up on the mannerisms of the younger cast and implement those into their portrayal is masterful. Genuinely, if not for the premise, watch for a premiere acting masterclass from everyone involved.

And now, promotion time. I

have personally seen many ads throughout the years that the show has been running. There are cast interviews, quizzes, posts from cast members, influencer events and more that convinces me money is being poured into this show. This season, the promotion has been focused on the fact that season 3 premiered on Feb. 14, Valentine’s Day.

There was a feast of the wild event hosted for the cast, with beautiful food and wilderness decor. the official Instagram account of the show shared themed Valentine’s Day cards with puns centered around the show. They also had a gorgeous season three premiere, an MTV interview, an appearance with InStyle magazine of the cast reading fan mail and so much more. It seems like they went all out with their promotion, and fans are, no pun intended, eating it up.

“Single for Valentine’s Day but at least yellowjackets season 3 is coming out,” shared one X, formerly known as Twitter, user. Their posts are gathering thousands of likes, and they still provide more for fans to engage with. I forgot to mention the “behind the buzz” video on the official ‘YellowJackets’ YouTube channel where they share a behind the scenes look in to the season.

Now that we went through the basics, I have to say that I am confident in this show’s ability to be renewed for another season and not become a show down. I genuinely hope, in my heart of hearts, that we get even one more season. Not only because I enjoy the show, but because it’s clear it has an established and loyal fan base, a talented cast and a skilled promotional team.



# WHAT'S GOING ON WITH MARSHMALLOWS?

**The Life Section**

February is a gloomy month for most students at the University of Connecticut. We endure the long walks between classes — which is practically ice-skating — and we come back to our dorms needing something dependably tasty. For many, the best treat this time of year is marshmallows. Roasted over a campfire in the summer or dunked in hot cocoa in the winter, let's see if marshmallows impact UConn students.

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

Hot chocolate with marshmallows is touted as a rite of passage to the beginning of winter, though I would remove the marshmallows. The smooth texture of the liquid is disrupted by an odd chewiness, and that's if they aren't stale. The taste is fine, but who's still eating fluff purely for the taste after high school? Considering the fluffernutter's prevalence in New England, probably many people reading this feel that way, yet that's beside the point.

In contrast, for anyone thinking I'm a bona fide marshmallow hater, s'mores are a different story. A hot take is I would rather my marshmallow burnt to a crisp on a s'more rather than out of the bag, though my rule of thumb is 10 seconds in the microwave or cooked until golden brown. As a s'mores connoisseur, the delicacy is an insult with no marshmallow, so for that reason, overall, I'm a marshmallow lover.

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

I hate marshmallows, and I will never understand people who do (sorry Sam). If you eat marshmallows on their own, they're bland and chalky, and personally I think the texture is gross. If you eat them in s'mores, I still think the texture is gross, but they taste slightly less bad. Unless you burn them, which is incredibly easy to do. They're also messy when you cook them, and I hate the sticky feeling on my hands after making s'mores. The only redeeming quality of them is that you can make cool marshmallow and spaghetti towers in school. Other than that, 0/10.



ILLUSTRATION BY COLBI LORANGER, ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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

They used to call me marshmallow boy in high school. Well not really, but me and marshmallows have a good thing going.

I can fondly recall the early days of assembling marshmallow snowmen crafts with my mom. I even remember enduring the pain of my midlife-marshmallow-crisis upon learning about the ingredients in gelatin. Now, for the past three weeks, I have been experiencing eye-opening marshmallow nirvana.

I don't think marshmallows can go stale despite what others may say. I left a bag in my car for a few months and they seemed to be no different than day one. This may have been my greatest science experiment to date. Now I can dunk them in some hot cocoa and resuscitate them (they are a little crunchy) — and in doing so, I resuscitate myself this gloomy February.

**by Noa Climor**  
SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH COORDINATOR  
SHE/HER/HERS

Ah, the marshmallow. A soft, pillowy slice of heaven; for the clouds are too far, the skies too wide, that we mustn't attempt our flight to the sun.

I bite into a mallow and am transported back to simpler times with sticky sweet smore's covered in partially melted chocolate, sweltering heat, flies buzzing around, my parents telling me "No Noa, you can't hide the bag of marshmallows." They follow up with "Please, please bring it back" and "wait, how can you even steal that many? Noa?" You know, simpler times.

The marshmallow is a beautiful creation, and I do sincerely enjoy it. I think there's something wonderful about it, and if I may: it is the true embodiment of summer.

I personally quite like them, especially the mini ones — you can eat so many at once! And they are wonderful in hot chocolate. When I think of marshmallows and summer, I think of camping with my friends, finding sticks to use for smore's and trying to keep the fire lit. We would eat graham crackers when we weren't supposed to and steal more than one piece of chocolate.

I, like my fellow marshmallow enjoyer Life section friends, am supportive of the marshmallow truth. Even a stale marshmallow can be good.

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

Marshmallows, marshmallows, my good friend with a soft outside and a nice, chewy inside. I put them in my hot chocolate, on my peanut butter fluff sandwiches, and, if I'm having a good day, in my coffee. But when they go stale, they're not good. They're just not. Why do people eat marshmallows when they're stale? I honestly don't know anymore. But either way, marshmallows are my go-to treat, even if it's not winter. How I'd love to go back in time to when I was a kid and have another Swiss Miss Hot Chocolate.

**by Samantha Brody**  
STAFF WRITER  
SHE/HER/HERS

I love marshmallows, and I will never understand people who don't (sorry, everyone). They're delightful — with the round shape, they're shaped like a friend. Not to mention the taste and the fact that they get gooey when they melt. They are available in many different sizes (exciting!) and can be used in multiple ways (fantastic!). From the hot chocolate, s'mores and spaghetti-and-marshmallow towers that I made in grade school... oh marshmallows, how I miss you.



CLIPART COURTESY OF CREAZILLA



Daily

Opinion

The Daily Campus

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Sara Bedigian.....EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Tomas Hinckley.....OPINION EDITOR

Evelyn Pazan.....ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

Patrick Minnerly.....WEEKLY COLUMNIST

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed by individual writers in the opinion section do not reflect the views and opinions of The Daily Campus or other staff members. Only articles labeled "Editorial" are the official opinions of The Daily Campus.

# Don't lament the death of USAID

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

In one of the most unexpected moves of President Donald Trump's new term, his administration and Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) have gone after the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), targeting it as part of their plan to shrink the federal government. USAID, according to their now shut-down website, "is the United States' government agency that leads international development and humanitarian assistance efforts to partner countries." Musk and Trump want to shut down the agency for its alleged "waste and abuse," costing the government too much money on foreign aid, furthering diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) projects and other radical, Marxist ideas. Meanwhile, Democrats have come out in arms against this, defending USAID as a great tool for helping the masses worldwide in their struggles. What is lost in this conversation right now is any amount of truth over what USAID does, and the reality is that none of it is good. Although Musk and DOGE have their own disingenuous reasons why they're taking action, ultimately the end of USAID is an end to one of the most sinister political tools of American imperialism.

To give some more context, USAID was first created in 1961 as a method of countering the Soviet Union during the cold war, following up on the legacy of the Marshall Plan. It is a shining example of what is known as "soft power," which means methods of control or influence which don't involve guns or economic sanctions. Former US-

AID staffer and current U.S. Senator Andy Kim put it very clearly in a recent tweet where he said, "It's a foreign policy tool with bipartisan origins that is critical in this dangerous global environment." So, it's important to not misunderstand USAID as a charitable organization with selfless intentions. This is plain business through and through. When the US has an economic, militaristic or political goal in an area and needs help carrying it through, that's where this organization goes to work laying out the red carpet.

In practice, this involves the subtle coercion and destabilization of countries around the world. For example, in 2010, USAID was exposed as having funded a project to create a new social media site in Cuba with the hopes of toppling the government there, according to the Associated Press. It went on to admit to this shady tactic after it had failed, defending it as a necessary measure. Just three years later the same office within USAID that carried out this plan was also found to have directly funded opposition groups in Venezuela as part of a larger strategy to undermine and eventually overthrow President Hugo Chavez. These are drastic examples, but not at all a misrepresentation of the full extent of this organization's history. In fact, it only lends more credence to countries such as Mexico, Bolivia and Kenya, whose leaders have called out the organization, or altogether banned it from within their borders, for allegedly attempting to disrupt their domestic politics. Overall, this seems more like activity from the CIA, FBI or some other espionage agency, but

instead they come from a group which puts forward a public image of being benevolent and generous. This is plainly and grossly misleading, and all the more dangerous because of that.

As a journalist, it's also impossible to talk about this subject without mentioning the use and control of media in USAID's political machinations. In the weeks since the organization's doors were shuttered, media organizations all across the



globe have fallen into chaos because they just lost one of their biggest donors. Since about the 1980s, USAID has been heavily funding news venues across the world, and in the most recent year, they have direct cash flow into 30 countries. However, they have also become the primary backer, to the tune of almost \$500 million since 2008, to Internews, the world's foremost NGO in the area. It's also worth noting that the current CEO of Internews literally worked for USAID for five years. So, directly and indirectly they are holding up journalistic organizations across the globe. Yet, it's really the scale which

is the scary part. In Ukraine, for example, 90% of the media organizations across the entire country survive almost entirely due to grants from Internews, with some having 80% of their yearly funding coming from the organization. According to one independent journalist in Ukraine, Tanya Lukyanova, this has led to radio silence on stories which the US government would prefer not to be published. Now, this is not just an issue in Ukraine, but a worldwide problem that is not being addressed. All these efforts are claimed to be in the name of raising up "independent journalism," but it's incredibly hard to see how companies who cannot survive without the U.S. would be unbiased in reporting on information relevant to international politics. If any other country had this much influence, the American government would promptly deem them state media and ignore their reporting as propaganda. The disingenuous double standard is apparent and, again, dangerous.

Now, it's important to also address the actual aid that USAID does put out, because it's not as though all their money just goes to covert operations. Yet, it's in this area that, unsurprisingly, USAID is quite bad at its job. As of a 2019 self-evaluation, they found over 40% of their projects achieved only half of expectations. This organization is so poorly run that even over half of the reports on project impacts weren't of enough quality to be able to base conclusions off of, further preventing them from improving the benefit of their money. It'd be easy if this was an accident, but evidence suggests otherwise. Simply, aid is not meant to last

or impact. The money poured into countries only ends up in the hands of local people and organizations about 6% of the time, instead overwhelmingly going to American contractors and groups that get brought in to do the work. This creates the effect of a simple drug addiction, wherein the impact only lasts so long as USAID allows it to and causes drastic withdrawals the moment grants are taken away from a place. Locals are not empowered to make changes in their own community, but instead at the whim of foreigners. This is further supported by a Harvard study from 2006 looking at the correlation of aid given and United Nations Security Council seating from 1946-2001. In this study the amount of aid was overwhelming and closely tied to the time in which a target country spent on the UN security council and dropped off once they lost their spot. Thus, leading to the conclusion that the aid was meant to coerce these countries into obedience when they incidentally had power that the U.S. wanted to control.

The point is that while politicians on a national scale are debating and playing with the future of this organization, ultimately neither can exactly be trusted with what they say. USAID is not a Marxist group seeking to implant DEI across the globe as some would say, but it is also not the kind benefactor of the impoverished and needy as others would put it. The reasons that Musk and Trump have to shut down this organization ought to be investigated, and surely are part of a dangerous game themselves, but it's not right to blindly defend this organization which has caused so much harm across the globe for 80 years.

# Please don't call me a girlboss

by **Athena Brown** | SHE/HER/HERS | CONTRIBUTOR | athena.brown@uconn.edu

I hate the term "girlboss," and yet can't seem to escape it. It is plastered all over t-shirts, notebooks, mugs, fanny-packs, bright pink tracksuits and hashtags. Being a boss, and existing as a person in the professional or academic world needs to be removed from gender. There is something specifically demeaning about girlboss in particular. There is a history of women's power being undermined by not only over-sexualization but also infantilization. When turning a woman into a sex object fails, turning her into a child is another way to strip her of competency.

The term was coined around 2014 to describe Sheryl Sandberg's (Facebook's COO) "lean in" approach. It encouraged championing entry into the perceived male world using "hustle" and "moxie." It popped up on children's apparel, outlined by pink sequins, encouraging young girls to be individualistic, rugged and take charge. While this messaging initially seemed empowering, by 2019, feminists and the wider public had changed their minds. Girlboss became an insult, used to belittle a particular brand of women for being well-manicured, selfish and power-hungry, often at the sake of

family life. Female CEOs who engaged in unethical behavior, such as Elizabeth Holmes of Theranos or Belle Gibson of The Whole Pantry, were used as examples unfairly to generalize and undermine all women striving for leadership roles in the workplace.

The initial backlash against girlbosses and the wider "lean in" movement had some merit. Feminists correctly observed that a few women climbing the ranks doesn't solve the systematic problems of patriarchy or social class, but this general observation turned into something more sinister. Successful or ambitious women themselves became the objects of hate. Girlboss became an oft-repeated insult that could be hurled at any women of a particular "privileged" aesthetic - pantsuit, heels, makeup - who pursued success in the corporate world.

Girlboss took on a familiar ridiculing tone implying women did not have as much power as they thought or projected, but rather were lucky products of "benevolent sexism." A "girlboss" became a contradiction - conniving and cold, willing to crush anyone in her path with an impossibly high heel, yet simultaneously too

stupid and naive to understand real power. Just another foolish girl, head inflated with dreams of climbing the ranks.

When I accomplish something, "yasss mama" or "work it babe" are not the professional compliments they may seem. Saying this to a male counterpart would be perceived as a joke, so why is it considered an acceptable acknowledgment of success for women? Newsflash: it's not. These words and labels are made to belittle and condescend, subtly undermining power. No one ever mocks an ambitious man as a "boyboss." The ego and misconduct of individual men are rarely used to critique men as a whole. And when they are, such generalizations are swiftly met with the phrase "not all men." A particular man is never cited as a reason to question the legitimacy of male ambition in the workplace.

History has seen the impact words like "girlboss" make on politics. Hillary Clinton in 2014, and most recently Kamala Harris, both lost their respective presidential races. Both women were referred to as girlbosses, along with similar sentiments, which doesn't strike reassurance in many voters' hearts as confident strong political leaders

of the free world. While it was in no way a reflection of their true merit nor by any means the sole reason they lost, in politics perception is everything. Girlboss is a symptom of the parasitic nature of sexism that drains every woman.

As Susan Faludi, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, wrote in her book "Backlash: The Undeclared War Against American Women," "The anti-feminist backlash has been set off not by women's achievement of full equality but by the increased possibility that they might win it. It is a preemptive strike that stops women long before they reach the finish line."

A movement that started out as feminist observation circled itself into reliable classic misogyny. The fall of the girlboss is a poetic example of how society loves to twist a win for feminism against women in any way it can. Surely, even one woman's success should be recognized as a small yet meaningful feminist victory-and yet it so rarely is.

So, congratulate me for writing this article, for speaking my mind with eloquence and arguing over a word. Or counter me on it as an equal. But please, don't call me a "girlboss."





# Superconductive quantum computing is the future

## Part 1

**by Rosie Megyola**  
SHE/HER/HERS  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
grz24001@uconn.edu

“Quantum computing is the next big thing.” That’s what everyone has been saying. Huge names such as Google, Microsoft, NVIDIA, IBM and Intel are pouring money into superconductive quantum computing firms. According to PitchBook, quantum computing companies’ hardware and software have earned almost \$1.02 billion from venture capitalists, just this year. So, let’s explore quantum computing, why you should care and why superconductive quantum computing is the most popular kind right now.

Imagine you have a classic computer. This is like having a really well-trained librarian who can only look at one book at a time to find an answer. It flips through the pages really fast, but it still has to go one by one.

Now, imagine you have a magical librarian. That’s your quantum computer. Instead of looking at books one at a time, this magical librarian can look at every book at once, like a giant, spooky library where all the books are open simultaneously.

In a classical computer, a bit is the basic unit of information and can only be in one of two states: 0 (off) or 1 (on) like a light switch. However, when it comes to quantum computers, the basic unit of information is called a qubit. A qubit can be in a state of superposition, meaning that the qubit can represent both 0 and 1 at the same time, different to our classic bits. This ability to be in multiple states allows quantum computers to explore multiple possibilities at once.

Entanglement is another state in which qubits are connected to one another, even over vast distances such as entire lightyears apart. Measuring entangled qubits can tell you information about the qubit it is connected to.

Since quantum computers can make multiple decisions instantaneously, they are far faster than classical computers. This makes qubits useful for gigantic computing problems and it leaves classic computing useful for everyday tasks like web surfing. With quantum computers, we could crack complicated codes or run molecular simulations to create lifesaving medicines. Sounds useful, right? Wait until you hear about the rest.

There are six main types of quantum computing: superconductive, trapped ions, photonic, neutral atom, topological and quantum dots. The most common and promising type of quantum computing is superconductive quantum computing. That’s the

one you need to know about.

So, why superconductive quantum computing?

This type of quantum computer is made from small superconducting electrical circuits, which are materials that, when ultra-cold (colder than outer space), have no electrical resistance. This is crucial because electrical resistance can cause energy loss, making it difficult to maintain the quantum effects that are central to quantum computing. Then, after we have no electrical resistance, quantum effects are stable, and the computer can successfully multitask.

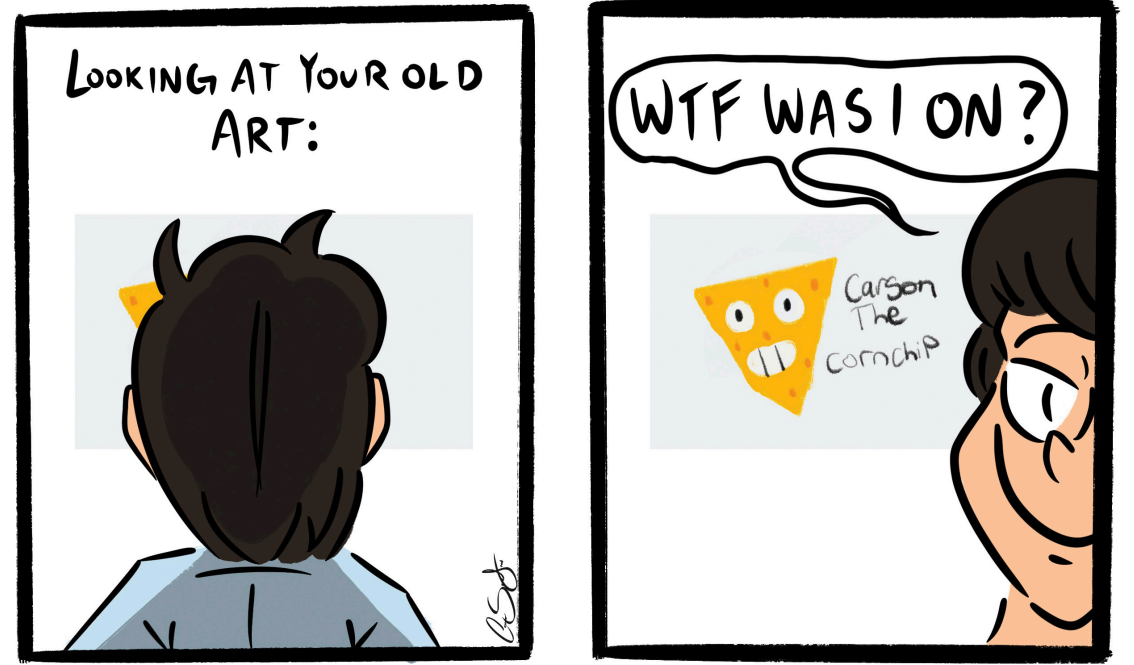
Having stable quantum effects is incredibly important because they are what give the computer the ability to perform multiple calculations at once. Quantum effects such as superposition and entanglement are very fragile and can be easily broken down if there isn’t enough stability. That is why superconductive materials are so successful; it gets rid of disturbances such as heat or noise that would prevent quantum states lasting a long time.

The superconducting qubits that make up these computers are made from tiny loops of this ultra-cold superconducting material, which often use a Josephson junction, a tiny bridge for electricity that drives the real power of a superconductive quantum computer. On this bridge, paired electrons tunnel through a thin insulator—kind of like ghosts passing through walls.

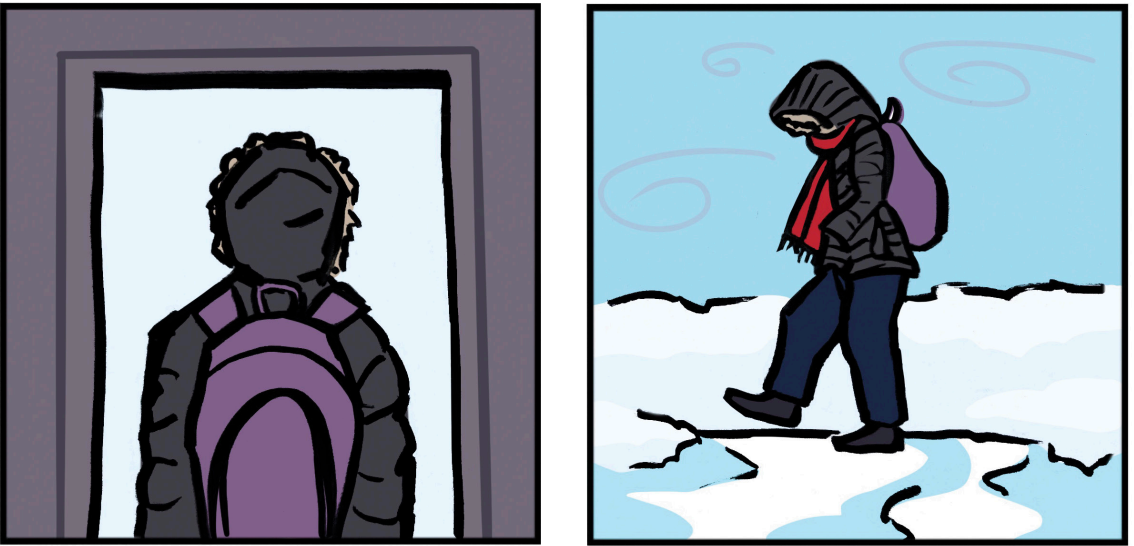
Many companies are adding more qubits connected by Josephson junctions, making the computers more powerful than ever. And thanks to microwaves, we can control them. Think of a pendulum on a clock. A regular pendulum swings back and forth, like a classical computer going to 0 or 1. A Josephson junction is a pendulum in which—if we push it just right—it can be in two places at once. The microwaves are this push, pushing the pendulum to 0, 1 or both at once.

This is why superconductive quantum computers are the most popular, they are significantly quicker and can access this in-between state that classical computers cannot. In 2019, a quantum chip that Google made solved a problem faster than a supercomputer, proving how promising this field is. Still, quantum qubits are very fragile and can lose information easily, but that doesn’t take away from the fact that quantum computing is the future. With more research and work, quantum computers have the power to change technology forever. They already have. But that’s for next week, so please stay tuned for my article introducing the technological applications for superconductive quantum computing and what it can do for us.

# the daily campus comics



by Connor Szrejna  
Staff Artist



by Klea Omeri  
Contributing Artist



# SAM'S SECTION: UNDER-THE-RADAR PLAYERS HEADING INTO MARCH

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

Saturday marks a week before the 2025 calendar turns the page to March, the best month in college basketball. But February is still the prime month for college basketball during the regular season.

While the SEC and Big 12 have a blockbuster game almost every day it seems, you are missing out on the mid-major players that can help a team make an unexpected run in the NCAA Tournament.

In this edition of Sam's Section, we will look at some of my favorite players who have flown under the radar but could help a team bust brackets.

**Donovan Dent, G, New Mexico** (19.6 ppg, 6.5 apg, 2.6 rpg, 1.6 spg, 49 FG%, 36.7 3P%, 77.9 FT%)

Dent is one of my favorite players in college basketball. He is having a massive year after leading New Mexico to the Mountain West Championship, where they became a popular Cinderella pick before the 2024 NCAA Tournament. Even though he is playing for an unranked New Mexico team, he can help lead the Lobos to a deep tournament run in March. He has not failed to score in double figures this season. He ranks in the 97th percentile in points per 40 minutes, averaging 22.8.

Dent is lethal on the fast break and inside the arc, but he does refrain from shooting from the perimeter. He is one of the best

passers in the country, ranking 10th in assists per game. He is not the only clutch player on the team, but he can turn it up scoring-wise when needed. He scored a career-high 40 points in a big non-conference win over VCU. He is a defensive force, ranking in the 92nd percentile in Hakeem percentage (steals + blocks) at 5.2%. Not only does Dent lead the Mountain West in scoring, but also in field goals made per game.

New Mexico ranks in the top 75 in both offensive and defensive efficiency. Much like St. John's head coach Rick Pitino, his brother Richard has the Lobos with a top 30 defense including a top 15 shot-block-

ing team. New Mexico plays a speedy tempo, ranking fourth in the nation. You know you are having a strong season when KenPom compares you to former Colorado guard KJ Simpson, who made the All-Pac-12 First Team last season.

**John Poulakidas, G, Yale** (19.4 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 1.4 apg, 45.7 FG%, 42.8 3P%, 89.7 FT%)

Thank me later. Poulakidas was a consistent double-figure scorer even though Yale was led by Danny Wolf, now one of Michigan's premier centers. He has broken out this season, leading the Ivy League in scoring, field goals made per game and free throw percentage. Only once has Poulakidas failed

to score 10 points or more in a game. In an eight-point loss at Purdue, Poulakidas kept Yale's hopes alive, scoring 23 points with five 3-pointers made. He ranks in the 99th percentile in points per 40 minutes, averaging 24.7. He is in the same percentile for turnover percentage at 4.3%, which means he handles the ball well.

Unlike Dent, Poulakidas is not known to be a threat on the fast break but makes up for it with his perimeter shooting. He was a key reason the Bulldogs upset Auburn in the NCAA Tournament last season, scoring 28 points and knocking down six 3-pointers. Thanks to him, Yale is one of the best



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

3-point shooting teams in the country (39.3%) and is riding on a 10-game winning streak.

**Ian Martinez, G, Utah State** (17.3 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 2.9 apg, 45.4 FG%, 38.1 3P%, 87.9 FT%)

Martinez began his career in Salt Lake City with the Utah Utes before transferring to Maryland, where he spent the next two seasons of his college career. Since the 2023-24 season, Martinez has been back in the Beehive State. But this time, he is in Logan with Utah State. He has thrived with the Aggies, averaging 15.3 points per game in the past two seasons.

Utah State is underrated this season; They are ranked in the top 50 on KenPom and boast a top 15 offense in terms of efficiency. The strongest parts of the Aggies' offense include a fringe top 10 effective field goal percentage (56.8%) and 2-point percentage (58.9%). Like Dent and Poulakidas, Martinez boasts one of the best points per 40-minute averages at 23.1. Unlike Dent, Martinez is not afraid to let the 3-pointers fly. Despite making 38.1% of his shots from downtown, he ranks third in the Mountain West in 3-pointers made per game (2.4). In Utah State's first-round win over TCU last season, Martinez was a major factor, scoring 21 points and handing out four assists.

While Utah State does not boast a strong schedule, Martinez has not failed to score 10 points or more and has scored as high as 32 points this season. KenPom compares Martinez to former UConn guard Christian Vital during the 2019-20 campaign.

# WOMEN'S LACROSSE: HUSKIES PREPARE FOR CLASH AGAINST MANHATTAN

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

The UConn women's lacrosse team is set to return to Storrs to take on Manhattan at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22. The Huskies head into this match ranked at No. 24, according to Inside Lacrosse. However, the team occupies the No. 22 spot in the rankings, per IWLCA, after taking their first loss to James Madison.

Both teams hardly know each other, as they only faced off once back in 2022, with Connecticut taking an impressive 16-6 win. The Huskies' top scorer, Sydney Watson, put up three goals, but the senior graduated following the 2022 season. To add on, the team took advantage of 21 groundballs. On the other hand, the Jaspers struggled defensively, allowing UConn to take 27 shots on goal with 33 attempts. If the same story is told on Saturday, the Huskies have a solid shot at coming up with the victory.

Looking at Connecticut's roster, getting the ball to Rayea Davis is a must, as she leads the team with 11 goals within three matchups. To add on, the red-shirt junior consistently pressures the opponent's keeper with accurate snipes. The attacker targeted the net 27 times, with 25 on the money. Besides Davis, Ava Plata, Eliza Bowman and Eve McGrogan, are all integral towards their teams'



UConn women's lacrosse takes on Fairfield University at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium in Storrs, Conn. on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025. The Huskies took a massive 18-5 win over the Stags, with #6 Rayea Davis scoring a career-high six goals. PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

offense and score at least once a game. Against James Madison, Plata stepped up and punched two of her own in. Seeing her momentum continue into Saturday could happen.

Defensively, Riley Daly and Abby Beran dominate the backfield for UConn. The defensive duo combined for a total of 34 controlled draws and snatched 17 ground balls so far. However, the Jaspers caused 41 turnovers against their opponents, while the Huskies disrupted 25 plays this season. Despite allowing 11 balls to go past her, Tori Cini saved nine attempts. If the Huskies can force more turnovers, then an easy victory for the program is on the horizon.

Turning the page, if the Jaspers want to take a dub, more attackers need to step up. Restricting Olivia Cruthers is a must for UConn, as she leads the team with eight netters and 23 attempts. In addition, the senior is the only player with double-digit targets. With that being said, problems can arise quickly for Manhattan if their star performer gets less possession time. To add on, the team struggles with holding onto the rock, as they botched 60 plays. Defensively, the program finds difficulty defending the net, as Danielle Serbinski allowed 30 balls to get by her.

The Huskies look to get back on track after falling to James Madison, while the Jaspers want to get back to a .500 record. Husky fans can tune into this matchup on UConn+.





# Sports

# WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY: HUSKIES READY FOR PIVOTAL SERIES AGAINST BOSTON UNIVERSITY

**by Patrick Minnerly**  
HE/HIM/HIS  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
patrick.minnerly@uconn.edu

The UConn women's ice hockey team is set to face off against the Boston University Terriers in a two-game series over the weekend that will decide the Hockey East standings. If the Huskies (19-11-2, 17-6-2) win twice, they will take first place from current frontrunners BU (21-9-2, 18-5-2) and secure the No. 1 seed in the upcoming Hockey East

tournament, which will begin on Feb. 26. Since UConn is locked into the top six seeds, their tournament play will start either Feb. 28 or March 1. Connecticut is coming off a pair of losses to the Providence Friars last weekend. They will look to reset for this all-important and final regular-season matchup against the Terriers, and they have good reason to believe first place is within reach. The Huskies last played the Terriers on Feb. 7 and came away with a resounding 3-1 win, scoring a goal in every period. Freshman forward

Claire Murdoch was central to those efforts, doubling UConn's 1-0 lead in the second period with an important goal; that score would prove to be the deciding factor in Connecticut's win. Murdoch, as the team's leading point-scorer with 13 goals and 13 assists each on the season, will look to make a similar impact in the upcoming series.

The play of goaltender Tia Chan might also be crucial. In their Feb. 7 game against the Terriers, Chan made 33 saves and held BU to just one goal. Overall, she has 11 games

where the opponent has scored one goal or less and four shut-outs. Chan has started the past five games and will look to bounce back from the games against Providence, in which the Friars scored seven goals in two games.

On the other side of the rink, the Terriers have some stellar goaltending of their own. Sophomore Mari Pietersen and senior Callie Shanahan have combined for 21 wins and 694 saves for the season, and both have a save percentage of .920 or better. In the offensive zone, junior forward

Sydney Healey is the Terriers' runaway points leader with 21, scoring 13 goals and adding eight assists. Boston also boasts excellent facilitators in Julia Shaunessy and Christina Vote, who have both notched 15 assists each.

Puck drop for the first game will be at 3 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 21 at the Toscano Family Ice Forum on the Storrs campus; the game will also appear on ESPN+. The second match, which will close out UConn's regular season, starts at 4 p.m. on Saturday in Boston and will be broadcast on ESPN+.

# SOFTBALL: HUSKIES JOURNEY TO GEORGIA FOR MUSB INVITATIONAL

**by Patrick Minnerly**  
HE/HIM/HIS  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
patrick.minnerly@uconn.edu

The UConn softball team will play a flurry of five games in Macon, Ga. over the weekend as part of the MUSB Invitational hosted by Mercer University. The invitational will run from Feb. 21-23 and feature four other teams, including Jacksonville, Middle Tennessee, Alabama State and the hosts, Mercer.

Connecticut was originally supposed to play in the Rawl-

ings Classic hosted by the University of Virginia, but a scheduling change made on Feb. 18 confirmed their involvement in the MUSB Invitational instead. The Huskies will arrive in Georgia with two weekends of spring play under their belts. In that time, they have gone 4-4 with all their games played away from home in warmer climates than the cold of the Northeast. Their previous invitational, the JU/UNF Invitational in Florida, did result in some progress, including three wins by a one-run margin. Two of those victories were against Middle Tennessee, who UCo-

nn will match up with in the MUSB.

The Connecticut offense has been powerful so far to open the campaign, led by the hitting duo of Lexi Hastings and Grace Jenkins. Hastings, a senior outfielder, leads the team with a .448 batting average from 13 hits in 29 at-bats. The power hitter Jenkins, a junior catcher, adds some pop to the lineup. In 25 at-bats, she has 11 hits and four home runs, resulting in 11 RBIs and an excellent slugging percentage of 1.040. Overall, the team has a batting average of .228 and have recorded 41 RBIs.

The pitchers' roster is bolstered in the circle by redshirt sophomore Sydnee Koosh and junior Hope Jenkins, who have put together 41.2 innings pitched this season. Koosh has a 3-3 record with a 6.30 earned run average from three starts in six appearances in total. Hope Jenkins, the sister of Grace Jenkins, has a 5.82 ERA with a 1-1 record, from three starts in five appearances. Payton Kinney has also been an important presence, making two starts in three appearances. She has not allowed a run so far through six innings pitched, resulting in a sparkling 0.00 ERA.

UConn's schedule for the MUSB Invitational begins with a matchup against the Jacksonville Dolphins on Friday, Feb. 21 at 1:30 p.m. The Huskies will hope to avenge a loss to Jacksonville in their previous game, a lopsided 1-7 contest. That same day, Connecticut will play Middle Tennessee at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 22 will feature only one game for the Huskies, which will be played versus Alabama State at 5:30 p.m. Finally, UConn will wrap up its part in the invitational with another Alabama State matchup at 9 a.m., followed by a quick turnaround to face Mercer at 11:30 a.m.

# MEN'S ICE HOCKEY: MULDOWNNEY, HUSKIES LOOK TO STUN No. 4 BLACKBEARS

**by Tyler Lato**  
HE/HIM/HIS  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
tyler.lato@uconn.edu

Riding a two-game winning streak, the No.11 UConn Huskies men's ice hockey team (16-10-3) looks to continue their winning ways in a Hockey East dual this Friday against the team up north, the fourth-ranked Maine Blackbears (19-5-5). This will be the third time the two have matched against each other this season. While

the Huskies won the first of the two games by a 4-2 margin, the second resulted in a 2-2 tie. Both games took place on Maine's home rink, which could only mean one thing: the Blackbears must travel to the hallowed grounds of the Toscano Forum in Storrs.

Sophomore forward Joey Muldowney has continued to make his case as one of the best young talents in the conference, leading the team in goals scored with 19. To further his impressive stat line, Muldowney has also recorded

14 blocked shots and 13 assists, showcasing his ability to contribute on both sides of the ice. Muldowney has been instrumental to the Huskies' success this season, which he'll have to continue to produce to pull off a ginormous home victory.

British Columbia native Hudson Schandor has also put on a show for the Huskies this season, solidifying his case as a potential candidate for the Hobey Baker Award, the award given to the best NCAA men's hockey player. The forward leads the team in

total points, coming from his 7 goals and 17 assists. Like Muldowney, Schandor has been a crucial playmaker and will need to utilize his extreme mental toughness and high-hockey IQ to give the Huskies an edge over the Blackbears.

Looking at the opposing team, Maine is no joke. The highlight of this talented Blackbears squad is senior forward Harrison Scott, who was just recently named a semi-finalist for the Walter Brown award, given to the best American-born college hockey

player in New England. Scott has amassed a whopping 31 points this season, comprised of 16 goals and 15 assists. To keep Scott at bay, displaying toughness and tenacity on the defensive end is critical for a much-needed Huskies victory.

Puck drop is scheduled for Friday night at 7:30 p.m. at Toscano Ice Forum. Not to mention, it'll also be two-dollar beer night at Toscano, yet another challenging factor that Maine will have to face when taking on this young, yet talented UConn Huskies team.

## Photo of the Day | Men's basketball



**Liam McNeeley shooting a fadeaway shot against Villanova. UConn won the game 66-59.**

PHOTOGRAPH BY ZACH MOLLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# THE BUCKET LIST: POWERHOUSES, CEILINGS AND FLOORS - MAILBAG SPECIAL

by **Jake McCreven**  
HE/HIM/HIS  
STAFF WRITER  
jpm23012@uconn.edu

When I posted on my Instagram story asking for my viewers' college basketball questions, I truthfully didn't know what to expect in response. Would I be responding to actual college basketball inquires, or to a collection of questions pertaining to nothing sports related from my unserious, and sometimes humorous, followers?

My responses (perhaps surprisingly) did cultivate a real sense of college basketball inquisitiveness, and I thank each of those who submitted a question.

I took the juiciest, most plump questions from my forum and answered them down below – tying analytics to each in some way, shape or form.

Who's a team you are FOR SURE taking to the Sweet 16 this year?

There are two possible routes I can take to answer this question. The obvious answer? Auburn. Duke. Houston. I won't say Alabama... just yet. But see, these are all safe and relatively likely picks. Let's get unsafe – and unlikely.

Let me bring your attention to one team currently seeded on the No. 4 line that I believe is a surefire Sweet 16 team this March.

As of today (Feb. 20), the Michigan Wolverines are slotted as a No. 4 seed on Bracket

Matrix, with the metrics to climb as high as a No. 2 seed if Dusty May's group were to hoist the Big Ten Tournament trophy three weeks from now.

The Wolverines' end of game closing ability should serve them well come March, especially against higher-seeded foes. Michigan has won each of its last six games by less than five points, including two-and-three-point victories over Purdue and Ohio State, respectively.

The size of May's starting lineup (which includes two seven-footers and two six-foot-five wings) poses an extreme threat to any team attempting to run-and-gun against the Wolverines with a small ball unit.

With such an overbearing size on the court at all times, one may assert it would be a challenge to push the tempo and play fast. Wrong. May's offense operates at the 53rd fastest tempo in college basketball, per KenPom, and it's worked up to this point. Michigan is 20th nationally in adjusted offensive efficiency (119.9), 10th in effective field goal percentage (56.9) and fifth in two-point percentage (59.1).

So, in summary: the Wolverines are one of the tallest teams in the country that can shoot inordinately efficiently from inside the arc while running an up-tempo offense and have a knack for winning in close games against high-tier opponents.

If this doesn't have Sweet 16 scribbled all over it in red sharp-

ie, I don't know what does.

Thoughts on a High Point upset in March? Love their speed on offense, if they can get a good match-up I can see them going to the Sweet 16.

I would like to preface this by saying that the person who submitted this question was all over Alabama as a Final Four team last February when nobody held the Tide in high regard.

I believe that the most burdensome challenge for the Panthers will be making it out of the Big South conference alive – not winning a game in March.

The Panthers have won just three conference tournament games the past five seasons, including a No. 1 seed 2023-24 campaign that ended in a second-round tumble at the hands of eventual champion Longwood.

For the sake of this article, assume that High Point won the Big South and snagged an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament as a No. 13 seed (where they're currently slated per Bracket Matrix).

Alan Huss mellowed down his offense in 2024-25, dipping from college basketball's 109th fastest tempo in 2023-24 to 218th this season. What has that unlocked for the Panthers? Almost everything.

High Point pilots college basketball's 28th best offense per KenPom (up from 36th last season) and is shooting more efficiently both from the floor and from deep (15th in EFG%). In fact, High Point's 36.8% 3PT

mark is up drastically from last season (222nd to 44th), which plays in the Panthers' favor when bidding for an upset come March.

Yet the most radical change has been seen on the defensive end of the floor. High Point's three-point defense has amended from 228th last season to 129th this year, with sound improvement coming from inside the arc as well (128th to 102nd).

Combining a more fine-tuned offense with a vastly improved defense will lead to more opportunities in March. As of today, the Panthers are slated to match-up with St. John's in the first round and the winner of Missouri-George Mason in the Round of 32.

The blueprint becomes very apparent for the Panthers in this scenario: shoot the three and limit turnovers offensively. Both St. John's and George Mason rank in the bottom half of offensive efficiencies nationally and prefer to run slow sets to grind down the shot clock, allowing for its defenses to win games by forcing turnovers.

There is a certain type of team that High Point is capable of beating come March, with St. John's being the mold.

How important will seeding end up being for the Big East Tournament?

Considering the Big East's 11-team tournament format, the penultimate goal should be to finish in the top five in regular season conference play and secure a first-round bye at Madison Square Garden.

Looking at the current Big East standings, the top four teams appear to be in a tier of their own, while numbers five through eight continue to battle to claim the last free spot in the quarterfinals.

St. John's (14-2), Marquette (11-4), Creighton (11-4) and Connecticut (10-5) have all – relatively – punched their tickets to the quarterfinals, while Xavier (9-7), Villanova (8-8), Georgetown (7-8) and Providence (6-10) all continue to vie for the fifth overall seed.

Butler (5-10), Seton Hall (2-13) and DePaul (2-14) round out the conference at the bottom.

If you're into superstitions and analytics (a bit of an odd mix), you'd want your favorite squad to earn a top three seed. In nine of the last 10 Big East Tournaments, a top three seed has made the final, winning the tournament seven of those nine times.

Some interesting matchups to watch if the current seeding held for the rest of the season: No. 6 Villanova and No. 3 Creighton would meet in the quarterfinal round, which would pit one of the nation's most talented scorers in Eric Dixon against one of the best defenders in the country in Ryan Kalkbrenner. No. 4 Connecticut would also meet No. 5 Xavier, who stole one from the Huskies earlier this season.

This format would also allow St. John's to avoid both Marquette and Creighton until the final round, both of whom gave the Johnnies trouble in spurts this season.

# BASEBALL: HOOK C LOOKS TO BOUNCE BACK AT FLORIDA ATLANTIC AFTER 0-3 START

by **Sam Calhoun**  
HE/HIM/HIS  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
samuel.calhoun@uconn.edu

After making an improbable run to the Tallahassee Super Regional in early June, the UConn baseball team (0-3) started the 2025 season poorly, losing to Stetson, Missouri and Penn State during the Puerto Rico Challenge.

Now the Huskies aim to turn their luck around with a weekend trip to Boca Raton, Fla. to face Florida Atlantic (4-0). The Owls started the season hot, dominating Delaware for the first three games of the season before taking down Miami (Fla.) on Tuesday.

UConn will have trouble on their hands with first baseman Jake Millan, the reigning American Athletic Conference (AAC) Player of the Week. The senior from Springbrook, Pa. was dominant in the three-game series with Delaware, going 7-for-12 with seven runs scored, four doubles, one home run and seven runs batted in.

He is not the only threat the Huskies will have to worry about. Sophomore pitcher Trey Beard made the AAC Honor Roll after opening the season on the mound with 10 strikeouts while allowing two runs on Friday.

Even though no Husky made the Big East's first round of weekly honors, the Preseason All-Big East is loaded with Huskies. First baseman Maddix Dalena is not off to a hot start, but the preseason Big East Player of the Year can help lead a loaded infield after the team's slow start.

It did not help that Ian Cooke, the preseason Big East Pitcher of the Year, began his season with an 8.31 earned run average. While he did strike out six batters, he gave up four runs in his season debut. Opponents are



UConn baseball defeats LIU at home on Oct. 6 with a final score of 9-6 over a 12 inning game.  
PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

batting .368 against him.

Despite a loss Sunday against Penn State, UConn looked like they started clicking late. They scored three runs in the ninth inning, cutting the deficit to one run off an RBI double by Dalena down the right-field line.

The bullpen has been solid, including freshman left-hander Cayden Suchy, who slowed down the Nittany Lions' offense after the Huskies gave up five runs in the first two innings. After Suchy's career-high four innings, right-hander Jude Abbadessa helped Hook C strand runners at second and third with a strikeout and a ground-

out in the seventh inning.

Out of the members of the Preseason All-Big East Team, outfielder Caleb Shpur has the best numbers so far. The graduate student out of East Canaan, Conn. bats .286 and has driven in two runs so far. Shortstop Bryan Padilla, another member of the preseason team, is tied for the team lead in RBIs with four.

UConn was picked to finish first in the Big East, while expectations were lower for Florida Atlantic. No one on FAU's roster made the Preseason All-AAC Team and they were projected to finish sixth out of 10 teams.

According to Massey Ratings, Florida Atlantic is ahead of UConn. While their offense is outside the top 100, their defense is not, ranking No. 76 in the country. It is early, but Connecticut has plummeted to No. 195 in the country. The good news for the Huskies is that, unlike Florida Atlantic, Hook C's offense and defense each rank in the top 100.

Historically, UConn has a slight edge over Florida Atlantic. They have a 5-4 advantage and swept the Owls in a three-game series in March 2023. Every game in the series, dating back to 2006, was played at the

FAU Baseball Stadium.

This weekend's three-game series begins Friday at 6:30 p.m. The next game will be at 4 p.m. on Saturday. The final game of the series will be at noon on Sunday.

Following a trip to the Sunshine State, Connecticut will head west to play a three-game series in the Dodger Classic. This is the first of two trips UConn will make to Florida, traveling to Coral Gables to face Miami (Fla.) in March.

Each of the three games against the Owls will be available to watch on FAUSports.com.





# Sports

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: HUSKIES CONTINUE BIG EAST ROAD TRIP TO FACE BUTLER SATURDAY



UConn women's basketball takes on St John's at Gampel pavilion on February 12, 2025. The Huskies secured a 78-40 win.  
PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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

After beating Seton Hall 91-49 on the road Wednesday evening, the UConn women's basketball team (25-3, 15-0 Big East) will continue their Big East road trip to face the Butler Bulldogs (15-14, 5-11 Big East) in Indianapolis on Saturday, Feb. 22.

The last time these two Big East foes faced one another was on Feb. 2 at the XL Center in Hartford, where the Huskies took the dub 101-59. The

42-point win was by way of graduate guard Paige Bueckers and freshman forward Sarah Strong.

Bueckers was the sharpshooter for the Huskies, racking up 18 points and three steals, where Strong was the catalyst on the defensive side of things with four blocks and five rebounds.

"I think, not just starting five, but everyone on the team is so good at so many things," graduate guard Azzi Fudd said to the media postgame on Feb. 2 when asked about the versatility of her team, specifically Strong. "And so, learning what every-

one's specialty is, what their go to moves are, where they like the ball, has been a lot of fun."

A player on Butler's squad the Huskies will have to look out for is 6-foot guard Kilyn McGuff. In her senior campaign with the Bulldogs, she has notched an average of 12 points per game. In addition, the Ohio native is ranked third in the Big East for rebounds per game with an average of 8.07 per game.

In her last matchup against the Huskies, McGuff notched 17 points and five rebounds. To keep an adequate lead, it'll be up to the Huskies to shut McGuff down and prevent her from

giving her teammates any good looks around the boards.

With the tougher matchups for the Huskies behind them, Connecticut has just three Big East games left in the regular season. To prepare themselves fully, these matchups will be integral to gain reps, as well as confidence.

With players like Ice Brady and Morgan Cheli still out with injury, that leaves Jana El Alf, Sarah Strong and Aubrey Griffin as the main options to play at the five.

However, Husky fans should not fret, as the Huskies' small ball lineup has been feisty as of

late, racking up points for the program.

This has been by way of Griffin and Ashlynn Shade. Against Seton Hall, Griffin was the fuel to the fire the Huskies needed, totaling 15 points, a season-high for the graduate forward.

With Griffin and Shade and more players at the helm of the Huskies roster, they should have no trouble taking care of business against the Kilyn McGuff and the Bulldogs.

Tip-off is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. from Hinkle Fieldhouse. Husky fans can tune into the matchup on SNY or listen in on the UConn Sports Network.

## AVA'S ANGLE: NIKE SHINES WITH STAR-STUDDED SUPER BOWL COMMERCIAL ON WOMENS' SPORTS

by Ava Inesta  
SHE/HER/HERS  
STAFF WRITER  
ava.inesta@uconn.edu

Following the Super Bowl and all of the commercials that were shown throughout the game, there were many ads worth remembering, but Nike's stuck out.

Nike is not usually a brand that is known to create Super Bowl commercials, as their last one was "Swoosh This" in 1998, however that changed this year with an ad centered around women's sports. The company's choice to not unveil its commercial ahead of time sparked a large amount of online buzz due to its unexpected debut.

Nike's Super Bowl ad took many by surprise, but it drove the most social media engagement among all the advertisements in Sunday's big game. The brand generated 188,000 engagement actions, which in-

cludes all of the social media likes or comments on the post. That statistic is 40,000 more than the next-most engagement advertisement which was Jeep. Nike also had the second-highest online reach among advertisers in this year's Super Bowl behind Dunkin'.

In Nike's first Super Bowl commercial in 27 years, rapper and singer DoeChii narrates the ad, which challenges everything that women are told that

they cannot do in sports, sending out a very powerful message to all viewers. DoeChii's recent Grammy Awards acceptance viral speech highlighted defying stereotypes which perfectly secludes to this advertisement. In the ad, DoeChii addresses the fact that female athletes are usually told how they can't behave or how they can't do certain things in life, then it continues to showcase their dreams and the relentless

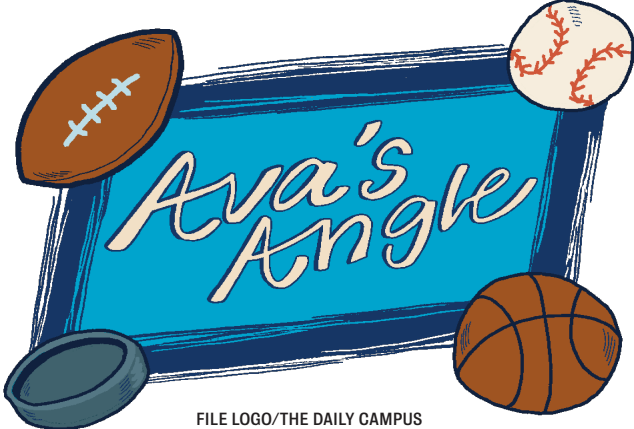
pursuit of winning.

The star-studded commercial featured female athletes across many sports like WNBA star Caitlin Clark, who signed a deal with Nike last year, WNBA champion A'ja Wilson who just released her signature Nike shoe this month, Olympic sprinter Sha'Carri Richardson, Olympic gold medalist Jordan Chiles, U.S soccer star Sophia Smith Wilson and WNBA star Sabrina Ionescu. The black-

and-white commercial was directed by Kim Gehrig and the soundtrack features Led Zepelin's "Whole Lotta Love."

The ad focuses on female athletes and the women's sports experience for their record-breaking growth in attention, support and investment. This year, women's sports estimated 20% of all sports coverage across broadcasts, streaming, social media content and digital media in the United States. According to research from Wasserman's The Collective and RBC, this is an increase from 6% in 2019.

The commercial concludes with "You can't win, so win." "So Win" is a celebration of athletes who do just that by unapologetically championing victory and greatness, but this time the attitude is portrayed from the female perspective which is even more powerful for this day and age. It's safe to say that Nike won with this Super Bowl commercial.



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS