



## Students and activists adapt to increasingly hostile environments following presidential inauguration

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Editor's Note: Nell Srinath is a former editor of The Daily Campus.

Since his inauguration as 47th president of the United States, Donald Trump has signed more executive orders than that of any recent president's first 100 days in office. Community organizers have been scrambling to respond to sweeping actions across the nation, specifically involving immigrant protection and human rights violations, since President Trump took office.

"It feels like the people who were concerned about the rights of undocumented peoples are caught unprepared, as though we have not spent the last couple years — the last administration — preparing for this" said Nell Srinath, the Connecticut field reporter for Inkstink Media. "We're seeing across the country already that the Trump administration is making good on these promises to deport people en masse \ in ways that are surprising and frankly quite cruel."

According to Srinath, resistance must first come from within communities.

"The kind of organizing that we must do now is rapid response. Taking stock of what the power structure in your community is: Where is your regional ICE office? What are the demographics of your town like? How amicable is your lo-

cal government to harsh enforcement or sanctuary city laws? And building a coalition of people to protect people in your community, based off that knowledge," Srinath said.

Colin Rosadino, a sixth-semester law student at UConn Law, echoed Srinath's sentiment.

"Personally, I feel like I've been spinning my wheels with on campus protest, engaging in these symbolically meaningful battles. But at the end of the day, we all care about bigger issues and the bigger issues now are happening all around us," Rosadino said.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids have been reported in municipalities near UConn campuses such as Willimantic and Hartford, according to Rosadino.

"There were a couple ICE raids in Willimantic. There've been a bunch in Hartford a bunch in New Haven and getting engaged more directly with what's happening have always been the aim of on campus organizing" said Rosadino. "It's the perfect moment to engage with the activists in our communities that have been doing really good work for years and maybe didn't have that base of students to support them."

Srinath expressed a similar sentiment.

"I think there are some issues that activists are better suited to face than others because they're happening in our towns and in our cities," she said.

But the government threat included in one of the executive orders to "vigorously, using all available and appropriate legal tools, to prosecute, remove, or otherwise hold to account" any person found in violation of the order still loom over activists.

"We are seeing the authorization of a force of military and police in a way that has not happened in this country in a very long time," said Rosadino. "But I think students are ready to encounter that head on."

College campuses are no longer hot spots for political discussion and debate, according to Rosadino. In fact, he said universities are actively working against their students.

"Campuses in general, and this is not isolated to UConn, are becoming a difficult place for protests, considering the size of the administrative state at these schools. You think about the number of administrators we have now compared to what we had even 10 to 20 years ago — the presence of police on these campuses. It's a new ballgame and it makes it very difficult to do forms of protest that used to be commonplace on campuses," Rosadino said.

Rosadino believes there is a clear reason why.

"I think students are looking for a way to engage off campus and do things that feel more meaningful without the threat of stiff academic penalties. There's bunch of students who were arrested at the [UConn] encampment who are facing

\$2,000 fines after those arrests, and we're told that if they were to return to campus and do more activism or create noise on campus outside of the newly allotted time frames, that they would be suspended, that police would be called. If you wanted to suppress protests on campus that's the way to do it. And they've done it," he said.

That is not to say that activism is not ongoing, according to Srinath.

"It is going be a lot of the same. Although the rhetoric has changed significantly, the things that the United States is allowing, specifically regarding Israel, Gaza and the West Bank are functionally similar in the terms of the magnitude of human suffering, the denial of self-determination, human rights, so on and so forth," Srinath said.

But while some goals may remain the same, tactics must change, according to Srinath.

"Things weren't working during the Biden administration and they're certainly not going to work under the Trump Administration, so we have to keep being scientific about what exactly is going to pressure our leaders to make good on their purported commitments to human rights," they said.

The bottom line is that activists and students are worried, said Rosadino.

"People have either run out of energy or are scared or all of the above. People have lost the means to do a lot of the traditional activism that we're used

to doing," he said.

UConn President Radenka Maric released a statement on Jan. 28 responding to the executive orders. Rosadino had a response of his own.

"UConn put out a statement saying they would protect students on campus. I wish I had more faith in the admin at our school. I don't trust that anyone's going to be fully protected. That's just based on their track record of not listening to students when they were concerned about safety in the past. I don't have full faith in them doing anything other than what they think they need to do to save face from angry parents and donors. There's no way the admin is responding to students or doing anything preemptively in that regard," Rosadino said.

He said if the administration was going to take steps to protect students, they would have done so already.

"If they really cared about protecting students, they'd be showing it," said Rosadino.

Just like Srinath, Rosadino argued that the answer to all this anxiety lies nearby in the community.

"We need to build our own community in the lack of that sense of safety. We have to protect us. We have to create a community that is robust, bring people together and have the students be the barrier so we know that if ICE comes on campus and the University isn't going to stop it, we're going to stop it," Rosadino said.

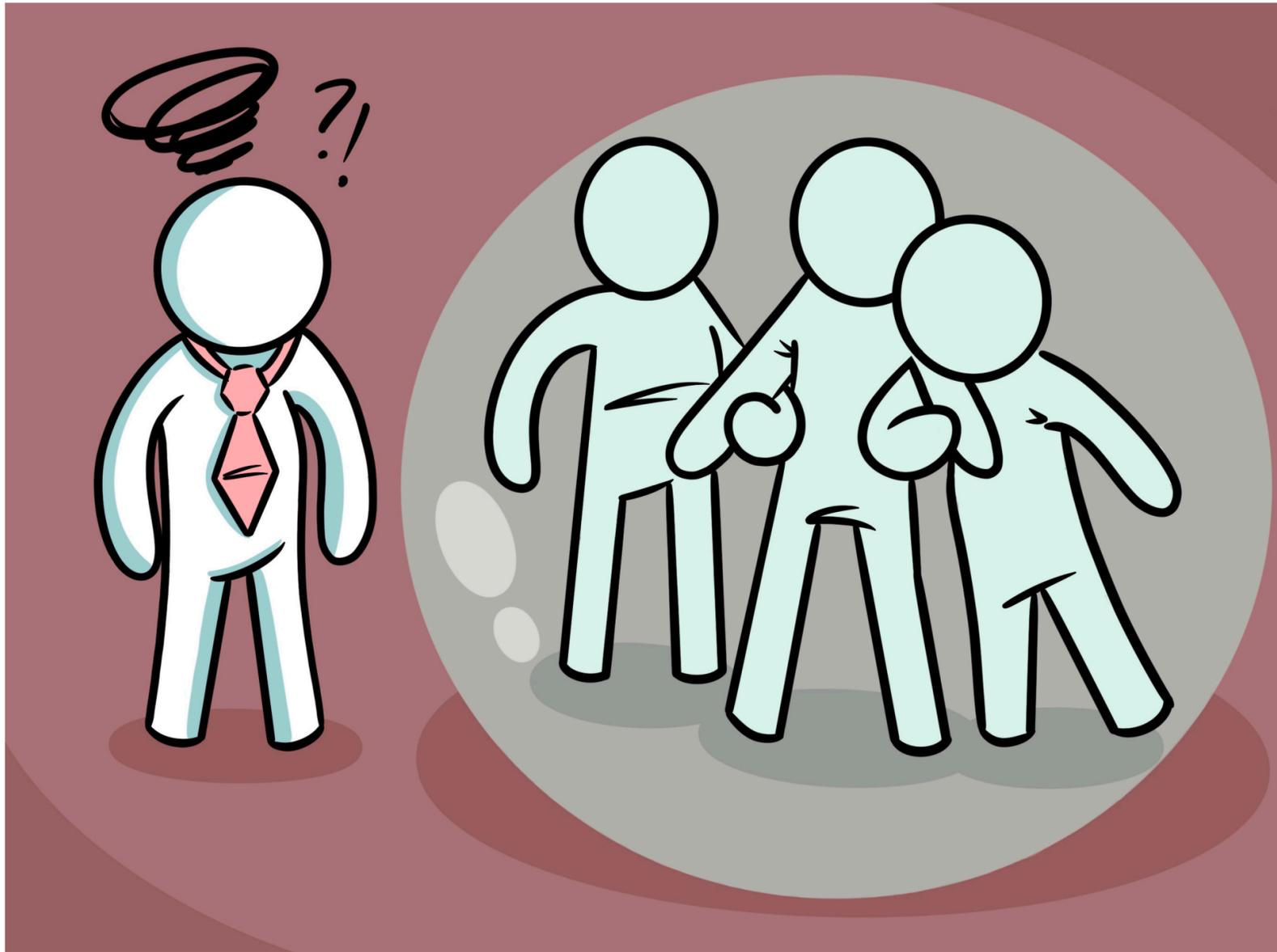


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## News

## A Guide to Observing Ramadan on Campus

by Amanda Noe

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As students across the University of Connecticut observe the holy month of Ramadan from Friday, Feb. 28 to Saturday, March 29, many clubs and organizations around campus will provide accom-

modations and services for students observing.

UConn Dining Services is offering extended hours for the Halal stations in Gelfenbien and South Dining Halls throughout the month, according to their website. With sunset occurring later throughout the month, the stations will remain open until 10 p.m. dai-

ly to give students time to pick up food after prayer.

Students will have access to a hot dinner buffet and breakfast items available for pick-up during dinner, according to the UConn Dining website. Additionally, Northwest Dining Hall will have vegetarian and fish options available upon request during regular

Late Night dining hours. Dining Services will also provide to-go containers for students who wish to visit during regular dining hours and save their meals for after sundown.

Notably, from March 15 to March 22, meals will only be available at South Dining Hall due to Spring Break, according to Dining Services. Flex passes can also be used for those who are observing Ramadan and do not have a meal plan. Students planning on taking advantage of the Ramadan meals should sign up on the UConn Dining Services website.

A prayer space is available in Room 197 of McMahon Residence Hall. According to UConn Faith, it is “open to all UConn students and staff for quiet reflection, meditation, and prayer” from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays and from 3 to 9 p.m. on weekends. Additionally, there is a Wellness and Meditation Space on Level B of Homer Babbidge Library. The Islamic Center at UConn also holds Jummah prayer weekly and Taraweeh prayer nightly during Ramadan, according to the Asian American Cultural Center website.

As for academic accommo-

dations, UConn Salaam highlighted on their website that if necessary, students can request extensions, reschedule an exam or get excused from class for prayer or to break fast by reaching out to dos@uconn.edu.

The UConn Muslim Student Association (MSA) also will hold some events during Ramadan. Firstly, they are launching a “Ramadan Challenge” in which members are encouraged to sign up to give a recurring payment of as little as one dollar per day during Ramadan, according to a UConn MSA Instagram post.

If 100 people sign up for the challenge, MSA can earn an extra \$10,000 for the club as well as support “relief efforts in struggling Muslim communities,” as outlined in the Instagram post. The deadline to sign up is Wednesday, Feb. 26. Those interested can sign up via @uconnmsa on Instagram.

Additionally, on Monday, Feb. 24, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom, the UConn MSA is putting on a “Fasting & Faith Banquet,” which will feature trivia, a speaker and dinner to prepare for Ramadan together.

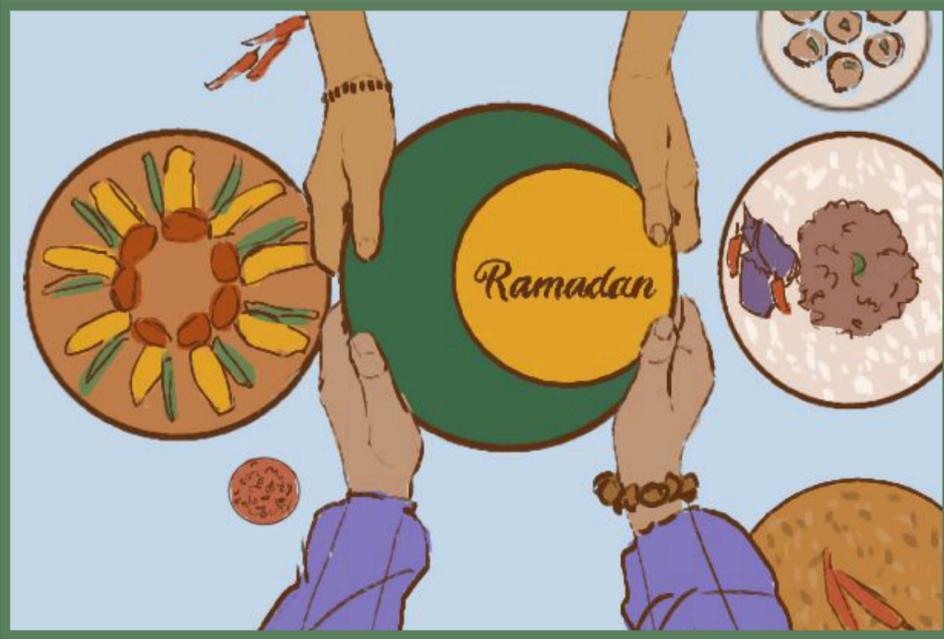


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## ANTI-FOSSIL FUEL ORGANIZATION WORKS TO STOP GAS PIPELINE FROM BEING BUILT

by Gianni Salisbury

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In 2023, Enbridge, a pipeline and energy company, announced their goal to supply clean and natural gas to New England by expanding a gas pipeline that runs through New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

The expansion, known as “Project Maple,” will consist of taking the old pipeline out and then replacing it with a “larger diameter” pipe, according to the proposal. However, no concrete actions have been taken yet to go forward with this plan as Enbridge has not filed any projects under the title “Project Maple” with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, according to the Stop Project Maple website, which was created by several climate organizations around New England coming together to fight Enbridge’s plan in an effort known as Stop Project Maple.

According to Sydney Collins, a member of Stop Project Maple, the group is working to stop the expansion of the pipeline due to

the negative impacts it will have on the environment and surrounding communities.

The group is concerned that work on the pipeline will release large amounts of methane that could be harmful, according to Collins.

“There’s so many ways in which this pipeline will expose communities to more methane, such as in the construction process, in the natural leaks of pipeline infrastructure, and through the compression and regulation stations. A part of the process sometimes to regulate methane is to release methane into the air as a way to release pressure. So that has a lot of exposure to methane for communities,” Collins said.

Collins explained that research has proven that this release of methane hurts the local health of communities and the environment.

The group is also concerned that the expansion of these pipelines will hurt Connecticut’s greenhouse gas reduction act, also known as the Global Warming Solutions Act, according to Collins. The act was passed in 2008 and then updated in 2018

which created a mandatory emissions reduction target of 45% below 2001 levels by 2030, according to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

“If we expand fossil fuel infrastructure, that goes against our state reduction goals. It’s completely ridiculous that we’re still looking towards fossil fuel expansion projects to support our utility customers. Connecticut does not need more fossil fuel expansion for so many reasons,” Collins said.

Collins represents Sunrise New Haven, a group that fights for climate change. She got involved with Stop Project Maple after hearing that the pipeline runs through Coventry, Conn., which is where her family lives.

“This is super personal, the involvement for me, as I’m trying to defend where my family lives,” Collins said.

The pipeline also runs through Mansfield, Conn., according to Collins, and has the potential to affect the University of Connecticut community.

Collins encourages the UConn and Mansfield community to take action and pay attention to

what is happening.

“I would just say people should take big calls to action like follow our Instagram, stay updated with the status of Project Maple. What are opportunities to get involved? See who’s having a protest or writ-

ing an article or just talk to your families. Go as far as talking to your legislators,” Collins said.

Stop Project Maple holds bi-weekly meetings on Tuesdays at 4 p.m. and more information can be found on the Stop Project Maple website.



ILLUSTRATION BY GONNOR SZRENJA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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FOR RELEASE FEBRUARY 24, 2025

News

**Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle**

Edited by Patti Varol

**ACROSS**

- 1 \_\_\_ Tuck: pal of Robin Hood
- 6 One of the four classical elements
- 9 Assistant
- 13 Sharp-eyed bird
- 14 Part of a recipe
- 16 Sparkling wine choice
- 17 \*Song that's been modified to have an intimate sound
- 20 Time in office
- 21 On solid ground
- 22 U.S. ID issuer
- 23 Midday snooze
- 25 Midday meal
- 27 \*Song that's been modified to be family-friendly
- 32 Yosemite rock formation, familiarly
- 35 "I'm \_\_\_ roll!"
- 36 Squad
- 37 Like a filling stew
- 38 Play opener
- 40 Perón of Argentina
- 42 Have on
- 43 Like a spot under a beach umbrella
- 45 Ruffles rival
- 47 "\_\_\_ we there yet?"
- 48 Maguire who played Spider-Man
- 49 \*Song that's been modified to have a dance beat
- 51 Yogurt condiment
- 53 Objective
- 54 Unreturned serve
- 56 Regular
- 59 Milky birthstone
- 63 Adopted a new attitude, or what music producers did to create the answers to the starred clues?
- 66 Squeaky critters
- 67 Posted
- 68 Invaders such as 58-Down and 66-Across
- 69 Repeat
- 70 Uno y uno
- 71 Bonfire residue

**DOWN**

- 1 Accomplishment
- 2 Tortoise-and-hare affair
- 3 Inventor Sikorsky
- 4 Many university donors

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By Malaika Handa & Stephen Lurie

2/24/25

**Saturday's Puzzle Solved**

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2/24/25

- 37 Small agricultural organization?
- 39 Thought
- 41 Greek letter that resembles a "T"
- 44 Looking at
- 46 \_\_\_ Lanka
- 49 Asked for identification
- 50 Gushes on stage
- 52 "Just keeping you on your \_\_\_"
- 54 High point
- 55 Fashionable
- 57 Single-channel
- 58 Colony insects
- 60 Shove
- 61 Penny-\_\_\_
- 62 "Tastes great, \_\_\_ filling": Miller Lite slogan
- 64 Opposite of paleo-
- 65 Place for a hot stone massage

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*Sudoku*

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

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# NO SKIPS: DON'T PLAY THIS NEXT TO YOUR TEACUP

by James Fitzpatrick  
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There is an incredible number of February birthdays, so what about works of art? This is No Skips, where we go through records deserving of their high praise and conclude whether they have any skipable tracks or not. I bring up the point about February birthdays not only because it's the month of love, but since this album by Japanese singer Ringo Sheena — or Sheena Ringo depending on who you ask — breathes so much life and is clearly a labor of love.

Sheena has contributed to roughly a dozen groups of musicians throughout her career, yet she has been most prolific under her solo moniker. “Kalk Samen Kuri no Hana,” or “Kalk Samen Chestnut Flower,” is an incredible piece of work that, as of writing, debuted exactly 22 years ago. The scary thing is that it's aged so eerily well that it could've been released today and still wow listeners.

The cover portrays an unassuming teacup that provides not a single inkling of what's in store. The 44-minute and 44-second album begins with “Religion,” which I'm sure alludes to religion in some ways, but this review will omit any lyrical analysis due to the language barrier. There is plenty to unpack sonically, however.

The song's introduction begins with the insanity of a symphony before we get to hear Sheena. The vocal manipulations on here sound like what Rick Rubin and rock band The Mars Volta would do on “De-Loused in the Comatorium” later in 2003, as if she's underwater or in a cave. Then,

the blown-out drums and electric guitars give the sound of J-rock, only for angelic violins to soar along with Sheena's vocals. This is all in the first minute. This formula repeats until the final minute and a half when things de-escalate, yet this perfection somehow is matched by the next song.

My Spotify shuffle shoved “Doppelganger” down my throat so much in 2023 that it became one of my most played tracks, and while I'm often opposed to the not-so-randomness of the shuffle feature, I wasn't complaining in this case. The Mellotron and vocals from Sheena — interspersed with other sounds — are the basis of the first minute until the song's high-octane chorus is hinted at. The buildup toward vocal clarity heightens expectations, resulting in a weird blend between World's End Girlfriend and Sweet Trip's “Velocity : Design : Comfort,” also from 2003.

A strange jam session greets the listener on “Camouflage,” with crazy basslines and Sheena's most confident vocals yet. The violin player is off doing their own thing to match her energy, possibly because many instrumental tracks were recorded separately to eventually culminate into the final mix. These instruments compete in volume after two-and-a-half minutes before the composition fizzles out again. I enjoy how complete each track feels from start to finish, though on a full listen, the energy doesn't need to stop.

“Please Take Care,” surprisingly not the outro track, features harmonizing complemented by electric guitars, serving as the equivalent to the ending of Ye's “Runaway”

off “My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy.” Apart from the first minute of vacuum cleaning, “Rush Job” is a certified banger right out of Nintendo's sound palette for the “Super Mario” series, complete with whistling, organ and brass.

“Stem,” the sole single off the album, features a foreboding beginning with what sounds like marching before strings clear the mood up. The entire song structure calls back to the intro track, offering a symphony in four minutes, complete with the classic tone shift on many J-pop songs.

“Needless Worry” implements beatboxing like Björk would do on “Medúlla” in 2004, yet Sheena herself uses a dozen instruments, including her voice, to give the short tune a reason to stand out on the loaded tracklist.

“As You Wish” is the album's longest song at nearly six minutes. The chorus has pure vibes before a lady's voice is filtered like a flight attendant, and while her accent is Japanese, she provides some of the only English vocals on the record. The song follows both structure and technique from “Stem,” as the key of the whole composition changes in the final two minutes; I'd argue it's worth the wait.

Something I didn't notice until now is the breathing machine and the alien sound environment in the first minute of “Consciousness,” aligning with the song's title. At this point, the cycle of commenting about how these songs start and stop could be a knock toward Sheena or the album, but it proves how regimented and premeditated each moment on “Kalk Samen Kuri no Hana” is. The flute is the star of the show



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

along with Sheena, who sings less aggressively than the J-rock instrumentation, lending an interesting dichotomy of tone.

“Poltergeist” uses some sort of metronome to keep listeners on their toes, as well as swelling and contracting strings, mimicking the innocence of shibuya-kei group Serani Poji without the electronic influences. “Funeral” may reference what playing the song at a high volume will do to your ears. It starts off weirdly, but it's about what you'd expect from Sheena at this point, until the distorted rock instruments bastardize the desert-like aes-

thetic of the prior part. Organ and harmonized vocals coagulate with the song's rock basis to nearly transform into a wall of sound, increasing in volume until the final moments of the album where the music cuts out.

Describing “Kalk Samen Kuri no Hana” in words is quite the undertaking, and that was without touching the lyrics. If you're reluctant to try music outside of your native language, this may not be the most accessible first venture, but find something from Ringo Sheena and work your way up to this record. You'll be happy you did.

# Maruja perfects their jazz-rock flow state on ‘Tir na nÓg’

by Elijah Polance  
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Maruja is one of the many emerging U.K. artists from the “Windmill” music scene. While the post-punk act formed in 2014, they started gaining popularity with ferocious singles in the early 2020s. Their 2023 EP “Knocknarea” and 2024 EP “Connla's Well” solidified them as a band to look out for.

On Feb. 21, the band released “Tir na nÓg,” the final installment of their EP trilogy. Unlike their other releases, this project is fully improvised. The performance was recorded live on Sept. 19, 2024, and is viewable on YouTube. It's divided into four movements, titled with the words for one to four in Irish, and takes up 22 minutes.

According to the band's website, their songs start from improvised sessions, and the members wanted to capture that raw, free-flowing energy. Their website explains the Irish title, which translates

to a fabled magical place, reflecting the ascended state the band reaches with their creative spontaneity.

There are no lyrics, so lead singer Harry Wilkinson's vocals comprise of structureless bellowing. It puts Joe Carroll's saxophone usage — the cornerstone of Maruja's sound — on full display, acting as the main “voice” for the album. The loose structure and instrumental emphasis highlight Maruja's jazz-rock and post-rock elements.

The introductory movement is “Aon,” taking up the first seven minutes of the performance. You can feel the band getting into form as they start off with droning guitar and saxophone passages, easing into their improvised flow. After a few minutes of relative calm, the drums and saxophone intensify as Wilkinson begins yelling in anguish.

Once the track enters the second half, things only get more frenetic, reaching a hurricane-like cacophony. The rapid drumming reverberates like peals of thunder, the

vocals lash out like gale-force winds and the saxophone rises above everything, the erratic centerpiece orchestrating it all. When it seems like the tension can't get any greater, the band slowly starts reeling it in, a satisfying end to the most dramatic moment of the performance.

The beginning of “Dó,” the following movement, sees Maruja reprising similar instrumental patterns, but less aggressively. The instruments are isolated instead of vying with each other for the spotlight, establishing a heavy atmosphere. It's an effective de-escalation, like an apex predator breathing heavily and proudly after a successful hunt.

But Maruja doesn't stay in this grace period for long. A skyfall of drums smashes through the clarity, bringing in a new phase of spontaneous commotion. It's more structured than the prior track, but still a dense jazzy onslaught to behold.

At three and a half minutes, “Trí” is the shortest move-

ment of the performance. It's also the calmest, starting off with descending saxophone tones and spaced-out drums. They fade into an industrial noise drone from a guitar, resembling something Godspeed You! Black Emperor might use to transition between tracks.

The performance concludes with “Ceathair,” another hectic moment. Maruja switches up the instrumental roles, with Carroll playing saxophone to match the drum patterns, establishing a clear rhythm. A guitar solo takes over the more turbulent role, though it hangs quieter in the mix. It's a textured post-rock experience, again reminiscent of GY!BE, this time of their embellished finales.

As engaging as the guitar solo is, the restrained saxophone takes away some of the band's flair. Where the moving parts on the rest of the album hit like an ocean storm, instrumental waves slamming into you at different speeds and intensities, “Ceathair” is a wave pool, more contained and expected than what came before. The change in dynamic can be a benefit or detriment depending on the listener.

The EP trails off with a fade, a bit of an anticlimactic end, as you can still hear the members playing at full throttle. Regardless, “Tir na nÓg” is an emphatic release that measures up to Maruja's prior work.

Now that Maruja has delivered yet another quality EP, fans are increasingly hopeful for an album in the near future. With the final of the three EPs completed, an album is probably next on the band's to-do list. Considering how consistent and assertive the band's work has been thus far, there's no doubt their first full-length album will be worth the wait.

Rating: 4/5



Releasing in May of 1971, Tir Na Nog dropped their first album named after their band. The album contains 44 minutes of folk music. PHOTO COURTESY OF @TIR\_NA\_NOG ON INSTAGRAM

CLIPART COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

# 'Love in Full Color': Jorgensen hosts annual drag show

by **Bonnibel Rampertab**

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On Feb. 22, 2025, in collaboration with the African American Cultural Center (AACC) and the Black Queer Student Association (BQSA), the Rainbow Center had its annual drag show at the Jorgensen Center of the Performing Arts featuring drag artists of color. The show was free for UConn students.

Ian Shick, the assistant director of the Rainbow Center and Alicia McKenzie, the director of the AACC, welcomed the audience, and Shick recited a land acknowledgement. They then thanked the Jorgensen, AACC and Rainbow Center staff, BQSA and the audience for attending and making this event come to fruition. "You can see how filled this room is," McKenzie remarked.

"We encourage two things: rambunctious applause and tipping," Shick said. In reference to the drag artists, Shick said "We want them to know UConn cares about the drag community."

The show began with "RuPaul's Drag Race" contestant and host of the night Lana Ja'Rae strutting on stage with high heels and a tight short dress. She walked off-stage and into the audience to collect tips, then returned and threw the money on stage gracefully. After her performance, Ja'Rae picked up a microphone and talked with the audience.

An audience member asked Ja'Rae "What is going on between Corey and Lydia?" Both Corey and Lydia competed in the 17th season of "RuPaul's Drag Race" which Ja'Rae was a part of. Ja'Rae confirmed that they were dating. Another audience member asked, "What was your first time doing drag?" Ja'Rae recounted being rejected from the University of Oklahoma's dance program but attended a college event and won the competition.

Ja'Rae then introduced Onixx Aura. She wore a red latex-like skirt and an elaborate dress. She did the splits in the audience area and even did a flip. Aura ended her performance with another split. Audience members ran up to the front of the stage to gift her money.

Gen Derfuq was the next to perform. The performance was misleading at first, with Derfuq in a reaper costume and a skull painted on their face while a bell tolled that sounded like the WWE wrestler The Undertaker's theme. However, "HOT TO GO!" by Chappell Roan started playing and the crowd did the hand movements with them.

Derfuq got the audience to stand up and participate in a conga line. The line was massive, wrapping around the central group of seats in the front of the audience area. They took off their hair tie, to the audience's elation.

Kelsey O'Neil, the director of the Rainbow Center, took a mo-



ILLUSTRATION BY SETH WALLEN, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

ment after the performance to educate the audience about queer and trans experiences. O'Neil said that the American Association for the Advancement of Science gave a grant to collect data for sexual orientation and gender identity statistics. They also made the audience aware of the Gender Lab on March 31, which supplies free haircuts and consultations for medical and legal gender transitioning.

O'Neil then recounted how their passport had the incorrect and inaccurate gender marker on it due to the current presidential administration's transphobic policies and executive orders, which the audience booed to O'Neil's agreement. Despite this, O'Neil said, "We are in celebration of queer joy, queer joy is an act of resistance."

Encore Dance Team performed next. Their perfor-

mance began with a trance-like trip-hop song with choreography that was a testament to athletic endurance. The performance featured a scene where a pregnant-presenting person "gave birth" to a dancer dressed as a baby. It's apparent that the team had fun with the creative process.

Ray DeCorazón was next. Their cowboy aesthetic was handsome. There was a non-obnoxious country-like song and then "Too Sweet" by Hozier played. They eventually used a chair as a prop, performing on it, backwards, somersaulting onto the chair to applause.

Cara Ho followed DeCorazón and had the shortest performance, but she collected a lot of money.

Xiomarie Labeija lip-synced on a microphone. The audience applauded when

she sang "You tease me, you please me." Labeija held an audience member's hand, held her fist in the air and had the audience make hearts with their hands after doing the gesture herself.

Shick returned to the stage and introduced the team leads of the Rainbow Center that helped to make this event happen. The audience booed when they said that there was only one performance left.

Ja'Rae was the last performer, wearing a different outfit. She fell on the floor purposefully, to the audience's intense enjoyment. She blew a kiss to the audience.

Ja'Rae thanked the audience, saying "You were an easy crowd to work with, so kind, so loving." There was a meet and greet after the event where audience members could interact with Ja'Rae.

# Mike Posner's 'The Beginning' falls flat without impact

by **Samantha Brody**

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Mike Posner, of "I Took a Pill in Ibiza" and "Cooler Than Me" fame, has returned to the world of music to release his brand-new album, "The Beginning." Released on Feb. 21, the album is a short 13 tracks — one of which isn't a song, but we'll get to that — for a total of 46 minutes. I think of myself as someone who can enjoy many kinds of music, yet Mike Posner has failed me in this respect.

For those unfamiliar with Posner's work, the aforementioned single "I Took a Pill in Ibiza" gave him a short yet powerful stint in the spotlight. Although Posner has been making music since then, he was never able to achieve the same level of stardom again. Despite this, some of the songs he's written and given to other artists have still become massive successes, such as Justin Bieber's "Boyfriend."

"The Beginning" opens with a track titled "February 9, 2025," which consists solely of Posner's voice. He asks the listener to experience the album without any distractions and shares some details on what the album means to him. We'll come back to this. He's also way too close to the microphone for it. Like, way too close. You can hear his mouth. It's uncomfortable.

The album ultimately is about healing and personal retrospection. He touches on feeling lost, struggling with romance and some spiritual themes.

Let's start with some positives. Posner leans into an EDM, house-like sound throughout the album. It's all lowkey, meaning it isn't overkill. It can get a little boring, but it's not necessarily bad on its own.

Some of the songs are also

decent. I don't love "Veil of Maya," but the general feel of the song is solid in some sections.

Posner does make a few odd production choices that don't gel with me personally. "Back Around" is especially off-putting, as Posner's voice has a robotic voice filter on it. "High Forever" has the same issue, except that it has the added non-bonus of Posner's attempt at rapping — if you can call it that.

The biggest failure of "The Beginning" is easily the lyricism. The first real song, "Beautiful Day," begins with the lyrics: "It's a beautiful day to be alive / February in New York, such a vibe." They're simple, often repetitive lyrics, with a lack of subtlety behind them. This repetition could be forgiven, but the lyrics aren't catchy enough to make up for it. There's nothing to hook the listener.

In terms of repetitiveness, "Kaleidoscope of Emotion" isn't that bad for the first half of the song. It's pleasant, with some calming guitar, but he also ends the song by saying — you guessed it — the words "kaleidoscope of emotion" seven times. Posner does this sort of thing a lot in this album.

Ultimately, "The Beginning" lacks complexity. Posner is trying to share a message of healing, self-love and growth, but it doesn't land because it feels like he's just saying it to you. He's preaching, not singing.

The instrumentals are mostly fine. They don't feel particularly creative, but they aren't egregious. The lyrics are where the songs fail for me.

It's also hard to really connect with the album when it starts with such failures. The second to last song, "Time to Make a Change" featuring MonoNeon, is sort of catchy. Unfortunately, the opening

song "Beautiful Day" is a miss, and the songs that follow it aren't good either.

"February 9, 2025" encapsulates what is wrong with the album very quickly. Pos-

ner tells you what his songs are about. He doesn't add any complex emotional core. And just like the rest of "The Beginning," he fails to draw the listener in.

**Rating: 2/5**



Releasing on Feb. 21st, Mike Posner's "The Beginning," is a 13 track album about his personal progression in life. The album has songs including "Is It Just Me?," "Beautiful Day," and "I'm Not Dead Yet." COURTESY OF @MIKE\_POSNER ON INSTAGRAM



# Life

@dailycampuslife

## UConn's Picnic Club holds its first ever meeting

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab**

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The University of Connecticut's Picnic Club had its first ever meeting open to the public on Feb. 20. The theme of the meeting was writing love letters.

Upon entering the room, one would see dried rose petals scattered on the table with tea sets, stationery (including printer paper and ripped pages from an old-fashioned leather-bound journal), assorted stickers and writing utensils. Music by bossa nova artist Laufey was playing in the background as part of a playlist made specifically for Picnic Club. There was also a copy of the book "How to Write Love Letters" by Michelle Lovric available for attendees to read and get inspiration from, as well as a sign-up sheet to get added to the club's mailing list.

Alexa Pappas, a sixth-semester fine arts major with a concentration in illustration and design serves as president of Picnic Club. She joyfully greeted those who attended the meeting.

Ah Reum Kindness, a sixth-semester fine arts major with a concentration in illustration and animation serves as vice president of Picnic Club. Pappas and Kindness were also in attendance with Amber Gulyban, a sixth-semester fine arts major with a concentration in graphic design. She is the secretary and treasurer of Picnic Club.

Gulyban and Pappas had conversations where they elaborated on what Picnic Club is all about. "We're a club dedicated to the art of picnicking. A big part of Picnic Club is being surrounded

by nature," Pappas said. "Our vision for it is to have a good little activity and surrounding it with the arts and nature. We all love going on picnics, so wouldn't it be nice to have it for the bigger community?" she added.

The other goal of Picnic Club is to "take a break from academic stress," according to Kindness. "It's been good to set up this community," she said.

The idea for Picnic Club came the summer before the e-board's fifth semester and is finally being realized. The e-board would have had the meeting outside, but due to the low temperatures and snow, they opted to have an indoor meeting instead.

The picnics are intended to occur monthly between the days of Thursday to Sunday, according to Pappas. Gulyban revealed that all of the supplies were things they all previously obtained, except for the Hallmark envelopes which were bought from CVS.

As people continued to trickle in, the e-board nurtured a welcoming environment for all. The attendees were mostly art students, as word of the club spread by word of mouth and all three e-board members were also art students themselves.

Pappas introduced the e-board and then spoke for a bit about the topic of the first meeting with the help of a slideshow presentation. The club's mission as stated in the slideshow is "to foster a community you feel safe, comfortable and loved in."

Pappas continued, "To celebrate the month of love, we are indulging in the art of letter

writing!" She noted that the letters could be addressed to anyone, including yourself, and that the letters don't have to be sent anywhere. "Writing can be very healing and a way to express love in a new way," Pappas added.

The e-board listed several prompt ideas in a list: "A letter to your past self or future self, a favorite memory of you and your best friends, something you want to remember, where

do you want to be, who do you want to be, things you've left unsaid, someone you forgive/want to forgive, a future soulmate, thank yourself for something you did or are proud of or [a letter] to someone you miss."

The last slide was a vision board with ideas to inspire the attendees. However, the possibilities of what people can write about are endless. Gulyban acknowledged the power of

journaling and how essential it is for processing emotions.

Picnic Club is a super welcoming community of open-minded individuals who just want to spread positivity and their love for picnicking, art and the outdoors. Seeing the flyer for this event in the Art Building was the perfect way to unwind after a stressful exam. I look forward to seeing how this club grows.



Students enjoying the afternoon outside of the Benton on Sept. 16, 2024. This was a bright sunny day. PHOTO BY MIKAYLA MURPHY, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Slapping the Italians in the face for the second time

by **Benjamin Lassy**

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Three columns of fresh infantry marched through narrowing mountain passages; they would approach Adwa by 9 a.m. This Week in History, thousands of men and women take up arms in a desperate struggle to decide the independence of Africa's second-to-last uncolonized country: Ethiopia.

Ever since 1895, the Italian Empire sprawled out over what crumbs of Africa remained out of the British and French spheres. They could not touch Algeria, for the French had already cemented themselves there, nor could they venture to far across the Mediterranean, as the Ottoman holdouts were constantly under British pressure. The slim-pickings left few slices of the African pie for Italy, one of the later European powers to emerge as a united nation.

In fact, the Italians faced so much market competition that in 1881, after the French refused a plan to split Tunisia between the two powers, the Italians took it as a slap in the face, referring to it literally as "The Slap of Tunis."

All this taken to account, Ethiopia remained a substantial prize. Despite French forces occupying Djibouti and powerful British interests in Somaliland and Eritrea, the Ethiopian heartland remained untouched. And pressure was mounting to make a move.

That heartland was ruled by a vibrant, though shaken, court headed by Emperor Menelik II and his wife Empress Tatyu Betul, both coronated in 1889. With colonial interests pressing all sides of the country and even stripping away access to the coastline, Ethiopian political decisions were foremost guided by a desire to maintain independence, though views differed on how best to do so.

Conservatives sought at all costs to preserve the Ethiopian

way of life alongside independence, while progressives pressured the monarchy to embrace western industrialization to modernize the country. As both sides grumbled throughout the crises and minor defeats dealt by the Italians in the Ethiopian frontier throughout 1895, no political debate could fix the situation on the ground.

The Italians marched on the early morning of March 1, 1896. The army was divided into three columns of soldiers, many of whom had never seen or experienced the African countryside they were about to plunge into.

The decision to set off was made in haste late the night prior by several generals led by Governor of Eritrea Oreste Baratieri. The governor was in his final few days of office, and despite dealing blows to the Ethiopians and curbing an uprising during his tenure, perhaps Baratieri felt that he lacked a crowning achievement or defining battle.

Yet, the Italian Empire was not overflowing with resources through its conquests. Despite expanding its territorial possessions on a map, their coffers were drained by the mounting expenses of guarding a population that detested Italian rule.

Baratieri's soldiers had taken advanced positions in the months prior and were poised to strike deep into Ethiopia and defeat the Ethiopians in a pivotal engagement. At least, that's how many of Baratieri's officers saw it. They clamored to prove themselves capable of defeating an inferior Ethiopian force that was seemingly the only obstacle in the way of a true occupation of Ethiopia proper. Why wait? Why wither away while allowing the Ethiopians to reorganize? Rumor had it that King Menelik II's soldiers would run out of supplies in days.

The governor caved; the Italians marched. These soldiers, however, were not a glorious bunch. The government in Rome had given the colonial administrations whatever scraps

could be spared from Italy, and those scraps were scattered to soldiers positioned in garrisons all over the colonies. Whatever crumbs were left from those scraps went to the force probing Adwa.

Old cartridges and rifles, freshly conscripted units, five days of supplies and an unclear survey of the mountain passes were just the surface level issues facing the Italians. They became lost and separated as they advanced into the unknown.

The rumors were correct, however. Menelik's army would run out of supplies, and it was not a matter of days, but a single day. Menelik planned to disband or fall back on March 2.

Through several spy reports, Menelik knew of the Italian advance, and by his side were the armies of his loyal nobles, and even the help of 5,000 soldiers and thousands of women under the command of Empress Tatyu.

Fighting began over several advanced positions held by the

Ethiopians on the hillsides outside Adwa. Unlike the unequal warfare of previous colonization attempts, the Ethiopians had equipped themselves with Hotchkiss guns, early machine guns that could easily repel an Italian advance. Soon, Ethiopian pressure broke several Italian units, while the Italian conscripted Ascaris' faced determined though diminishing resistance at the hands of several Ethiopian armies.

After some time, the outnumbered and arguably less-equipped Italians realized the blunder in their offensive. But before they could act on their failure, thousands upon thousands of fresh reserves crashed into their lines. Menelik had sent in his greatest units of Shewa soldiers, decisively crushing the Italians.

A desperate attempt to assemble units to block the Italian retreat was swiftly torn apart, and with it, countless Italian officers and even Italian General Arimondi.

The Ethiopians had won the day. Though they outnumbered the Italians by some 5-1, the defeat was undoubtedly a sign that the initial stages of colonization were over. The hubris and confidence of the Italian imperialists were shattered.

Menelik II knew that this victory was not a total defeat of the Italians. He simply had some treaties revised to secure the independence of Ethiopia and curb Italian influence. There was no grand reconquest of the coast, or establishment of an Ethiopian empire. Instead, until 1935, Ethiopia remained one of the last holdouts against colonization.

Years later Ethiopia would face defeat at the hands of an embittered Italian Empire now led by the fascists, but that's for another week in history. Thank you for reading, and for more information I highly recommend watching World War Two on YouTube, a channel that has covered World War II week-by-week for the war's duration.



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# Opinion

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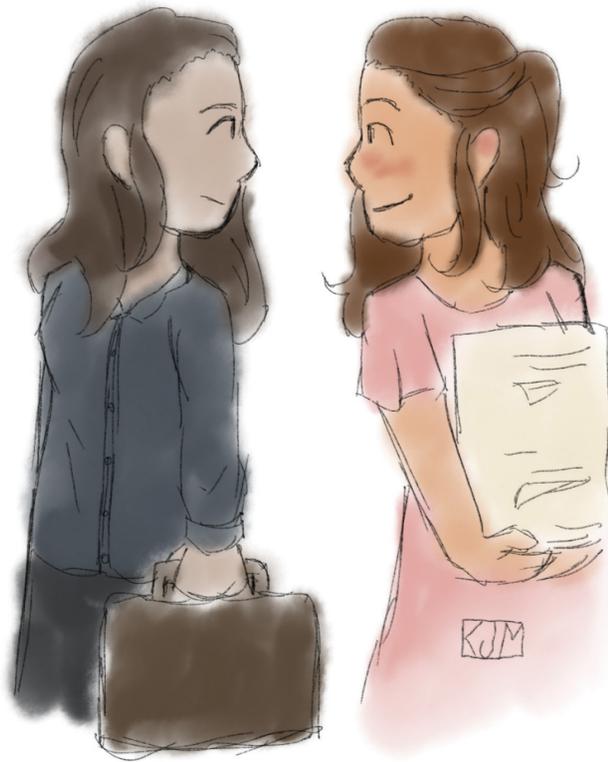


ILLUSTRATION BY KIERA MACDONALD, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# BEING THE COOL GIRL ISN'T THAT COOL

by Grace Donahue

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"Cool Girls never get angry; they only smile in a chagrined, loving manner and let their men do whatever they want." This quote from "Gone Girl" describes exactly what is seen throughout the media. The cool girl is chill and is easy to control. Due to its popularity, this trope has become increasingly desirable in society. Furthermore, this constant exposure to such gendered media messages has shaped the expectations that college students have for romantic expectations, aligning with gender socialization theories. Yet being the cool girl is not as cool as the name implies. It's detrimental to your success in life.

In college, our brains undergo significant development because the prefrontal cortex, which is responsible for self-regulation and complex decision making, matures significantly during these years. This period of intense neurodevelopment is why college is such a crucial time for self-discovery as well as identity formation. Thus, in attempting to mold this stereotype, the harm goes beyond just the current times. Long-term impacts are seen on one's wellbeing as well as one's career outcomes. How do you avoid this damage? Feminism.

Psychology enables us to understand why we function as we

do. In understanding the impact of gender norms, gender socialization theories act as our way to understanding this impact. Social role theory, social learning theory and gender schema theory all integrate with one another to explain the observational learning part of these gender norms. The norms that a culture has shape gender expectations. With repeated exposure and reinforcement, individuals internalize these roles. As children observe and receive rewards for conforming to gender norms, they start to internalize these norms. Over time, this repeated reinforcement creates a series of mental frameworks that guide their behavior to maintain predictability which elaborates as their gender identity and understanding of gender role develops. This ensures that gendered patterns remain persistent throughout life.

One such learned gender schema is from the trope of the "cool girl," termed in the critically satirical novel and film "Gone Girl" by Gillian Flynn. The cool girl is a girl who is effortlessly attractive, accommodating, low maintenance and never demands more than what a man is willing to give. This type of girl is seen throughout various popular media such as Mila Kunis' character in "Friends with Benefits," a girl who is casual and laid back and shows effortless independence, or Cameron Diaz in "There's Something About Mary," a girl who is effortlessly attractive

and approachable, who is nonchalant about romance and doesn't act needy or dramatic. The popularity of this trope, which in turn has commonly established gender schemas for society, has caused women to feel more pressured to adopt behaviors that align with this archetype.

Some of the behaviors from which this established gender schema results in includes women feeling pressured to suppress their authentic selves to prioritize the comfort of their boyfriend over their own needs. For the male in the relationship, he develops unrealistic expectations of emotional labor and self-sacrifice in relationships. The mental strain that the female experiences in trying to suppress her true feelings results in cognitive dissonance. She is more likely to experience an increase in the risk of anxiety, depression and low self-esteem due to the need to be perfect and effortlessly cool, which results in burnout in relationships.

By experiencing this in such a crucial point of development, a female college student that acts as the cool girl will see self-defeating long term professional consequences. She will face a struggle in advocating for promotions, raises and leadership roles. She will act with a need to be agreeable rather than assertive in the workplace due to having learned this in dating. In simply accepting this gender schema, women are more likely to lead

a less successful life in terms of career. Yes, the cool girl may appear cool now, but she won't be when trying to establish her career.

The way to avoid this is by exercising feminism within romantic relationships. While feminism is often seen as a political movement, it is also an interpersonal practice. It looks like the female fighting against a potential gender schema by disrupting self-sacrificing behaviors that comes with it and replacing them with self-advocacy, boundary setting and mutuality. Instead of self-silencing, she communicates her needs, leading to healthier relationships, mutual respect and better emotional well-being. Instead of carrying the relationship's mentality, she asks for emotional reciprocity, preventing emotional burnout in relationships as well as in the workplace.

Exercising feminism also impacts a female's career success. Due to having practice communicating her needs and expectations, she will have more confidence in salary negotiation, leadership roles and boundary setting. By rejecting perfectionism and people-pleasing, she will be able to have a better work-life balance and maintain emotional sustainability. In knowing how to set boundaries in relationships, she will be better equipped to do so in professional settings. Overall, feminism is a measure of preventive

care. Exercising it now is a way to future proof your self-worth. If you know how to set boundaries with a boyfriend, you will be able to do so with a boss. You will then know how to ask for more in your career by knowing how to ask for more in love.

While it is to be acknowledged that not all women internalize the gender norms seen in the media in the same way, other women may find aspects of being the "cool girl" empowering. Feminism is about giving women the ability to define themselves instead of simply conforming to male driven expectations due to what is seen in the media. Feminism is a way to reject perfectionism, demand reciprocity and set firm boundaries in our personal and professional lives. By doing this, we are not only changing our lives, but we are also changing the narrative that defines what it means to be a woman in today's world.

To my women at UConn: I implore you to reject the cool girl facade in not only your personal liberation, but to reshape our workplaces and what it means to be successful on our own terms. Embrace feminism as a shield and sword. Set firm boundaries, advocate for your needs and claim your space in each and every aspect of life. What's truly cool isn't maintaining a facade of effortless perfection. What's cool is using your own strength in being authentically you and forging a path that honors your worth.

## Trump and Hitler: Drawing the Parallels

by Holly Thompson

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A fascist is defined as a "follower of a political philosophy characterized by authoritarian views and a strong central government - and no tolerance for opposing opinions." Recently, after Donald Trump called himself a king, a new photograph of him was posted by the White House titled "Trump: Long Hail the King." Trump poses a large threat to democracy and exhibits clear fascist traits, similarly to a man who took control over a country many decades ago: Adolf Hitler.

Trump and Hitler arose to power using similar tactics. For example, both of them promised that they would fix the economy.

Before Hitler took control over Germany, the economy was struggling. Issues such as unemployment, hunger, poverty and homelessness were common. The country was also extremely politically divided. Hitler utilized the economic and political crises to his advantage to gain power and control. He promised to fix the economy and "return Germany to the status of a Great European power."

That sounds awfully familiar to me. After all, Trump's infamous slogan is "Make America Great Again." To do this, Trump has promised the American people to end the inflation crisis, provide tax relief and cut prices. However, Trump's economic plan is not designed to help the middle class. The Americans for Tax Fairness estimate that in 2026, Trump's proposed tax and tariff policies will benefit only the top 5% income households who make over \$360,000 per year while the other families will lose between \$600 and \$1,800.

Additionally, both Hitler and Trump place a large focus on purifying the blood of their countries. The Nazis regarded anyone who had "non-Aryan" blood as "inferior and a threat to the purity of the race." They also considered Jewish people, especially black Jews, to be less than fully human. Many were deported and packed into concentration camps with horrific conditions.

Trump's new plan for deporting illegal immigrants is to open deportation camps, one being Guantánamo Bay. Suspects of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001 were held at this Naval Base. Trump wants to cram up to 30,000 detained migrants into this base with terrible conditions, the extent of which are still unknown. This detention center has been called "a symbol of torture, rendition and indefinite detention." Trump claims illegal immigrants are "poisoning the blood of our country."

Scapegoating minorities is another similarity Hitler and Trump share. Illegal immigrants are one example of a group that is scapegoated in the United States, but there are several others. Hitler and Trump also spread propaganda about minority groups to sway citizens in their favor.

Following World War I, the Nazis blamed Jewish people for Germany's loss. There was a very small population of Jews in Germany, and many helped to fight and even lost their lives in the war. The Nazis targeted other groups, such as gay people, black people, people with disabilities and people who opposed Hitler's political ideologies.

For more of the story visit [DAILYCAMPUS.COM](https://dailycampus.com)

## The Cold Shoulder: The U.S. turns its back on transatlantic diplomacy in the face of the Russia-Ukraine conflict

by James Watson

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The U.S. has begun talks with Russia this week to bring an end to the ongoing conflict with Ukraine. After years of unwaveringly backing Ukraine, President Donald Trump's administration has decided to take a completely different path towards peace between the two nations by bringing Putin directly into the conversation.

The goal of concluding the Russia-Ukraine conflict is more than about how the United States is exerting its authority around the globe. It is about how Trump is trying to interrupt a longstanding positive diplomatic relationship between the United States and Europe. Trump's courting of Russian President Vladimir Putin is a clear indication of his affection for a more imperialist style of leadership. The decision that the U.S. has taken to remove Europe from the negotiating table shows that the transatlantic relationship between these nations has become weak.

At the start of the week, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Vice President JD Vance were in conversations with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to begin talks around ending the conflict. Rubio later flew out with Special Envoy Steve Witkoff to Saudi Arabia to speak with Russian officials. These moves from the Trump administration marks the decisive end of four years of Russian isolation from the rest of the world. It is the strongest signal that the days of the U.S. protecting Europe are over. After just 30 days, Trump's administration has become prone to sweeping, maximalist changes in foreign policy that have done little more than upset or annoy American allies.

The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Kier Starmer, has said that he would like the United Kingdom to be a central force in peace negotiations. He believes

that the country could be instrumental in bridging the gap between Europe and the United States and has pledged to increase defense spending from 2.3% to 2.5% of GDP, which is a significant rise. He had also said that he would like to invest in troops on the ground to ensure a lasting peace. In doing so, the U.K. is trying to leverage a 'special relationship' with the U.S. that has also been collapsing into the 21st century. The preferences of the Prime Minister is not a high priority for Trump or his officials at the moment.

European leaders met in Paris on Monday, hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron. He warned against the dangers of capitulating to Russia's desires and stood in solidarity with the rest of Europe behind their plan to continue to protect Ukraine. Europe has often lauded the slogan "No talks about Ukraine without Ukraine." Trump's big ideas have dramatically hushed Europe's megaphone, however. They are trying to dig themselves out of a hole that has been created by a lack of backing from the U.S. on their approach to the crisis.

In former President Joe Biden's four years in office, there were a total of five Presidential Drawdown Authority (PDA) packages sent to Ukraine, each worth roughly \$500 million. There was a concerted effort to strengthen the transatlantic relationship and protect a sworn ally. Now, the United States has made it publicly apparent that they don't align with the views of Europe on a resolution for the conflict. Trump's foreign policy instead aligns with a definitive 'America first' stance that he has been pushing for since his campaign for the presidency.

For more of the story visit [DAILYCAMPUS.COM](https://dailycampus.com)

# Opinion

Photo of the Day | The sun finally came to say 'hello!'



UConn's Husky Village on a quiet Sunday. The peaceful atmosphere invites a sense of calm, as students enjoy a serene, sunny day on campus. PHOTO BY LUISA MASSASSO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEXA PAPPAS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

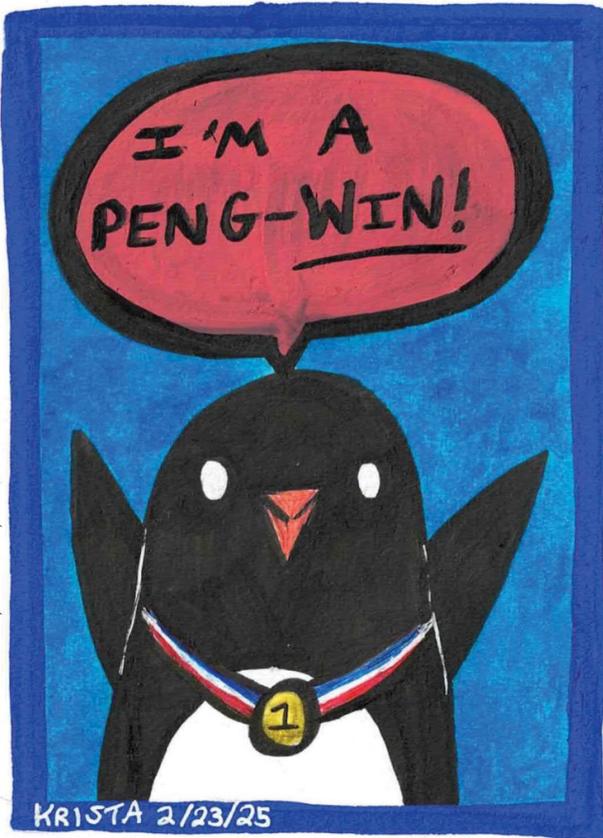


ILLUSTRATION BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTIAN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# The Daily Campus Comics

# MENS HOCKEY: JAKE RICHARD SCORES TWO GOALS AS NO. 11 UCONN UPSET NO. 4 MAINE IN OVERTIME THRILLER



by Ava Inesta

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In front of a packed Toscano Family Ice Forum, the No. 11 UConn men's hockey team upset No. 4 Maine in a Hockey East battle. Sophomore Jake Richard scored the game winner in overtime on Friday night. Freshman goaltender Calum Tung made 32 saves in the win.

The Huskies got the wheels moving at the start of the first period as freshman Kaden Shahan was in the right place at the right time to knock in a rebound off a shot from John Spetz to give UConn the early 1-0 lead. The Huskies' lead was short lived when Maine went on the power play and tied the game midway through the period. Maine goaltender Albin Boija finished off the first period with 11 saves while Tung for the Huskies finished the period with nine saves on goal.

In the second period, UConn grabbed the lead again off another rebound as Richard was left alone in front of the net for the tip-in to give the Huskies the 2-1 lead. Similar to the first period, the Black Bears went on the power play once again following a penalty on the Huskies. During the power play, Tung stood his ground and made multiple saves to keep Maine from finding the equalizer goal.

At one point during the power play, a scrum occurred in the front of the net with the puck loose. After chaos broke out between UConn and Maine players, the referee blew the whistle, calling the play dead; however, Maine pushed the puck past the goal line after the whistle, which led to the play being put through a challenge. Following the review, the goal was disallowed to the play being called dead before the black crossed the line. But shortly after the disallowed goal, Maine's Owen Fowler found the equalizer goal as he fired the puck through defenseman traffic and past Tung for the second goal. Both teams entered the second period break in a 2-2 tie.

In the third period, Maine and UConn were both able to generate chances to score; however, neither team was able to find the game winner in regulation. The two teams entered a sudden death, three vs. three overtime period. Early in OT, Maine dominated the puck and remained in their offensive zone for the first couple of minutes. The Huskies were able to bounce back and following a penalty on the Black Bears with 2:05 remaining in the overtime period, UConn was awarded a four vs. three-man advantage.

As the Huskies were on the power play, they were denied multiple chances at the net by Boija. Hudson Schandor, Joey Muldowney and Richard remained on the ice for the

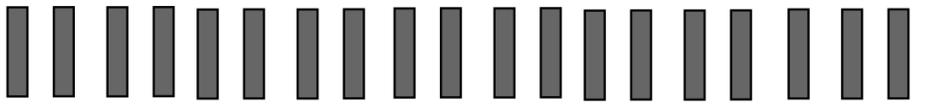
majority of the sudden death period. With 40 seconds left in the game, Richard scored his second goal of the night, the game winning goal to lead UConn to upset No. 4 Maine in overtime.

"I thought five-on-five, that might've been one of our best games we've played all year long," said head coach Mike Cavanaugh. "I thought we had a lot of multiple shot shifts, I thought we were really good in our defensive zone. I was proud of the team, that was a really good 64 minute and 20 second game we played, that was a pretty good game."

The Huskies record improved to 17-10-3 overall and 9-8-3 in conference play. The Ice Bus now ranks tied for No. 4 in the Hockey East league as they have 30 total points. UConn is now tied with Providence as they both have 30 points; however, their difference is that the Huskies have nine conference wins and the Friars have eight in 20 games played. In the Hockey East conference, The Huskies sit behind No. 3 Boston University (38 points), No. 2 Maine (42 points) and No. 1 Boston College (47 points).

UConn had the rest of the weekend to recover before continuing their Hockey East schedule and returning to the ice to welcome No. 9 Boston University to the Toscano Family Ice Forum on Tuesday, Feb. 24. Puck drop is scheduled for 7 p.m. in Storrs, Conn. and will be available to be streamed live on ESPN+.

UConn men's hockey plays the University of Alaska Anchorage in Storrs, Conn. on Feb. 12, 2025. The Huskies scored three of their points in the first half.  
PHOTOGRAPH BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# WOMENS HOCKEY: HUSKIES NOTCH HOCKEY EAST REGULAR SEASON CHAMPION TITLE FOR CONSECUTIVE YEAR

by Jake Loomis

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The UConn women's hockey team finished off their regular season this weekend with two contests against Hockey East rival Boston University. The Huskies notched two wins in this home-and-away series, etching themselves as the Hockey East regular season champions for a second year.

The Terriers came into the weekend ranked No. 12 in the nation while the Huskies just missed out on the poll. In the team's previous meeting this year, the Huskies beat the Terriers by a score of 3-1 to secure a victory on the road.

In the first game of the series, which was senior day for UConn, the Huskies came to play. Sadie Hotles opened the scoring for the program, as she put one through the net just seven minutes into the game. Their lead would remain at one, as the two teams would head into the first intermission with the Huskies on top.

UConn got hot in the second period, as they started to wreak havoc on the offensive end. Hotles scored again with her second of the game to make it a two-goal lead for the home squad. Sophomore Martha Mobarak netted her second goal of the season, as the Huskies added another to their score total. Two goals in the period were not enough, however, as the Huskies' sharpshooter Jada Habisch notched her 13th goal of the year to give UConn a four-goal lead. The shot totals in this game were even with the Huskies holding a slight advantage, although the looks the Huskies

got were significantly better. In the third, the Terriers put one down to make the deficit three, but that's all they were able to muster. In addition, Megan Warrenner was imperative in this one for the Huskies only letting up one goal with 24 saves.

Following the win on Friday, the Huskies shipped up to Boston, as they looked to sweep the Terriers in the regular season. UConn would have a chance to secure the Hockey East regular season title with a win. Time and time again the Huskies started their matchups strong, and in this game, history repeated itself. Ava Rinker netted one in the first to provide the lone goal in the first frame, giving the visitors the advantage. The Terriers came out strong in the first period, as they put pressure on the UConn defense. They would net one before the end of the second period, tying the game up at one. In the third, the Huskies' offense gained momentum again, as Rinker netted her second of the game putting UConn ahead. The lead would stay the same as goaltender Tia Chan made 33 saves to propel the Huskies towards victory. Habisch also netted one empty netter to put the game away at 3-1 with less than three minutes left into the game.

The team will now shift their focus to Hockey East tournament play, as they will look to win the tournament again and make a push towards a national title. Their next game will be Saturday, March 1; however, they will have to wait eight days as they await their next opponent. Puck drop for that game is scheduled for 4 p.m.



UConn women's hockey faces off against Providence at Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn. on Valentine's Day. The Huskies led the game 1-0 with a goal from Jada Habisch in the second period but lost to Providence's three goals in the third period, with a final score of 1-3.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ZACH MOLLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Sports

Photo of the Day | Victory for the Huskies!



The Huskies fought hard to secure a win over No. 4 Maine on Friday, Feb. 21, at Toscano Family Ice Forum. The game was won in overtime.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MADISON HENDRICKS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## MCCREVEN'S MASHUP: A PRE-COMBINE LOOK AT THE TOP QUARTERBACK PROSPECTS IN THIS YEAR'S CLASS

by Jake McCreven

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A handful of teams enter each April in search of their next franchise centerpiece that will command an offense sure to win Super Bowls and restore glory to a downturned franchise.

Over the last ten NFL Drafts, an average of 3.5 quarterbacks have been selected in the first round, with that number ticking up to 3.8 since 2020. Teams desperate for offensive rejuvenation select their hopeful franchise janitor to clean up the mess left by the previous regime, with notable players such as Patrick Mahomes, Josh Allen, Lamar Jackson, Joe Burrow and Justin Herbert all being selected in the past eight Drafts.

But what happens when a quarterback class inordinately isn't as star-studded? Look at the 2022 class, which saw just one quarterback (Kenny Pickett) selected in the first round for the first time since 2013 (EJ Manuel) and fourth time this century.

Sure, there are the trendy prospects skyrocketing to the top of each Draft expert's board, confident to give great value in the middle rounds – look no further than Mississippi's Jaxson Dart or Ohio State's Will Howard – but what about the top signal callers? Who are they, and are they truly first round prospects? Are they worth the hype of a first round draft selection?

I broke down the consensus top three prospects by the numbers and gave a short scouting profile on each of them.

**Cam Ward, Miami (SR. 6-2, 220lbs)**

Ward's ascension from be-

ing a little-known starter at Incarnate Word to Heisman runner-up at Miami in the matter of three seasons deserves an emphatic, standing applause. The transition from Pullman in 2023 (3,736 yards, 25/7 TD/INT) to Coral Gables in 2024 (4,313 yards, 39/7) provided Ward with both more national coverage and more talent to throw to, which the nation's leader in touchdown passes took advantage of this past fall.

Ward's snappy release and raw arm talent are palpable from watching the tape, as the fifth-year senior racked up 4,517 yards from scrimmage and 43 total touchdowns in his swan song campaign as a Hurricane.

Perhaps the best – and most intriguing – part of Ward's game is his play out of structure. Ward's 31 big time throws (a statistic quantified by Pro Football Focus) and 18 turnover worthy plays (TWP) are reminiscent of the classic gunslingers of the NFL's past (think Brett Favre).

I am by no means comparing Ward to Favre as a player, I more so want you to think about the archetype of player

Favre was.

Yet like Favre, the Miami-product struggles with ball security. Of those 18 TWPs, seven of them were intercepted, meaning just under half of the time Ward attempts to fit in a dangerous throw, it turned over.

Still, Ward's bright spots are undeniable. The experienced fifth-year senior sported an adjusted completion percentage of 76.5 and an offensive passing grade of 92.9 on the season, per PFF, which was second in the country.

**Shedeur Sanders, Colorado (SR. 6-2, 215lbs)**

Oftentimes the subject of criticism by way of his father's actions during his tenure in Boulder, the ever-so consistent Sanders brought the Buffaloes within one game of a Big-12 title game appearance in his final collegiate season.

I view Sanders as the higher floor, lower ceiling prospect when comparing him to Ward. Sanders has displayed an innate ability to throw the

LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST  
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ball with touch and has great anticipation over the middle of the field. He is accurate, collected and decisive in his reads – and uber-consistent.

Sanders' game log says it best. In eight of Colorado's 13 games in 2024, Sanders sported a completion percentage above 70, throwing for a combined 27 touchdowns and five interceptions in those games. The FCS-born product also donned an adjusted completion percentage of 81.8 – among the nation's best.

Yet Sanders' precise placement and knowledge of the game can only bring him so far at the next level. The former Buffalo lacks the top-end arm strength needed to make downfield throws in the NFL – the type threaded between two safeties converging from a cover three in the seam – and can, at times, hold onto the ball too long looking for one of his first three reads to come open.

There's also the off-field baggage that comes with Sanders, oftentimes held in a negative connotation.

**Jalen Milroe, Alabama (SR. 6-2, 225lbs)**

Milroe is far and away the hardest prospect to breakdown on this list. What is he at

the next level? A true quarterback who can operate an NFL offense in its complexities, or a situational runner thrown in on fourth down and short?

I believe its somewhere in between.

Milroe is a fantastic athlete – the best in this quarterback group and arguably the best in the entire class – that can open up a game with his legs and quickly become a headache for an opposing defense. The fourth-year senior ran for 726 yards and 20 touchdowns in 2024, piling onto his career total of 33 scores on the ground.

But how is he as a drop back passer? I'll turn to the PFF database to assess.

Milroe was on the field for 778 snaps in 2024. He dropped back 371 times (47.7%) and attempted 324 passes (meaning he scrambled or was sacked the 47 other times).

Of those 324 attempts, Milroe completed 205 of them (63.3%) for 2,834 yards, 16 touchdowns and 11 interceptions – not the most sterling stat line as a quarterback vying to be a first round draft pick.

In fact, Milroe's PFF passing grade decreases as you get closer to the line of scrimmage. On 115 attempts between zero and nine yards, Milroe sported a passing grade of 60.3, per PFF, completing just 75.7% of his passes for four touchdowns and five interceptions.

Still, Milroe succeeded as a downfield passer, completing 16 BTTs attempted 20-plus yards downfield for 10 touchdowns and sporting a deep passing grade of 93.1.

Getting a read on Milroe as a thrower of the football is difficult and will require its own feature piece at a later date, but his talent as a runner is undeniable and will surely attract interest from teams at the next level.

## Sports

# MENS BASKETBALL: UCONN SWEEP BY NO. 10 ST. JOHNS IN BLOWOUT FASHION, 89-75

by Sam Calhoun

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UConn men's basketball (18-9, 10-6 Big East) has a lot of memorable moments at Madison Square Garden and came into the World's Most Famous Arena with an eight game winning streak dating back to the Huskies' road win over St. John's last year.

However, the Johnnies (24-4, 15-2 Big East), ranked 10th in the AP Poll, have flipped the script. Not only have they swept Connecticut, but they also beat the Huskies at The Garden for the first time since Feb. 6, 2013. It is their first sweep over UConn since the 1999-2000 season.

Samson Johnson won the tip, and the Huskies scored first with Hassan Diarra picking Deivon Smith's pocket, leading to a breakaway dunk by Liam Mc-Neeley. Connecticut scored the game's first six points.

RJ Luis Jr., who came into the game questionable due to a groin injury that left him out of the Johnnies' win at DePaul, got the scoring going for St. John's with a three pointer from the right corner. He finished the game with 14 points.

As Rick Pitino-coached teams tend to do, St. John's forced seven UConn turnovers in the first 9:15 of the game, which was alarming considering the Huskies turned the ball over 22 times in the rivalry's first meeting of the season.

"We made up for outrebounding them by turning the ball over 18 times," Hurley said, citing that they outrebounded St. John's because the Red Storm exceeded expectations shooting-wise.

With 4:22 remaining in the first half, the Johnnies already had reached their team average of three pointers made (6.1), with Smith and Luis accounting for four of their six made three-



The UConn Huskies go up against Villanova on Feb. 18. The Huskies beat them 66-59 in a nail-biting finale.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ZACH MOLLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

pointers.

Johnson's second foul was upgraded to a flagrant foul, which led to a rare eight-point possession for St. John's.

It felt like UConn could not put a beach ball in the ocean for most of the first half, finishing the half shooting 39% and missing six straight baskets to end the first 20 minutes, only cashing in one three-pointer. It was a key reason why the Huskies trailed by 18 points at halftime.

St. John's scored 50 first-half

points, the most all season. Not only did Smith have 10 points, but he led all players at the half with five assists.

"Once Deivon [Smith] got healthy again, I think our offense picked up," Pitino said. "He got everybody great shots in that first half, and that's why we had 50 points."

The Red Storm came out of the locker room swinging, forcing two UConn turnovers and scoring four fast break points, causing Hurley to call timeout 92 seconds into the

second half.

UConn gave St. John's a taste of their own medicine, forcing four turnovers early in the second half.

"Our quality is way off from where it's been," Hurley said. "But there was an opportunity there."

The three-pointers finally started to fall for Connecticut, cutting what was once a 22-point deficit to nine behind a crucial 11 points from Alex Karaban, who made three from downtown and forced Pi-

tino to use a timeout.

"Obviously, I've been struggling for a while now," Karaban said. "So, to get some threes in, it was nice. But the mistakes I made defensively and the mistakes toughness-wise that I made had a greater impact than those threes."

That timeout was well-used as St. John's continued their trend of stifling the Huskies' offense. At the under-eight media timeout, that nine-point lead grew back to 16 for the Red Storm. The Red Storm ran away with the game, maintaining a lead since the 10:15 mark of the first half.

St. John's had a historic performance. All five starters recorded at least 12 points, a steal and a block. It is the first time in the last 15 years that any Division I team has accomplished that.

Zuby Ejiofor, the frontrunner for Big East Most Improved Player, led the Red Storm with 18 points, nine rebounds and six assists. Hurley called Ejiofor a "beast" in the paint.

Karaban seemed to shake off his slump for a part of the game, scoring 15 of his 17 points in the second half. It was the first time Karaban made at least three three-pointers since the Huskies' win at Georgetown in mid-January.

"I know [Karaban's] struggling right now, but he's going to figure it out," Tarris Reed Jr. said. "He's got championship DNA, so expect nothing but great things from him."

Solo Ball and Liam Mc-Neeley were quiet in the first half but scored 10 each in the second half to have 15 and 17 points respectively.

UConn will return to Connecticut in search of a sweep of their own, with Georgetown coming to the XL Center on Wednesday night.

# WOMENS BASKETBALL: SHADE CELEBRATES HOMECOMING IN UCONN'S 86-47 ROMP OF BUTLER

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

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

by Jake McCreven

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The fifth-ranked UConn women's basketball team (26-3, 16-0) continued its offensive onslaught on the Big East on Saturday by rolling over Butler 86-47.

Paige Bueckers led all scorers with 23 points, notching 10 assists and hitting on 10/16 field goal attempts in the near-30-point win over the Bulldogs.

Sophomore guard Ashlynn Shade was serenaded as she substituted in as the first player off the bench for the Huskies, as the Noblesville, IN native was welcomed home by the Hinkle Fieldhouse crowd.

Saturday's game was the first time in the Fieldhouse's 95-year history that tickets were sold out to watch women's basketball, as Bueckers, Aubrey Griffin and Kaitlyn Chen all played in their final away game as UConn Huskies.

Caroline Ducharme made her long-awaited return to the court late in the fourth quarter,

checking in for the first time since Nov. 2023 to play the final minutes of regulation.

Ducharme registered one rebound in just over two minutes of gametime, playing alongside Qadence Samuels, Allie Ziebell, KK Arnold and Jana El Alf.

"It brings you to tears because of everything she's been through and everything's she's overcome and how much work she's put into it," Bueckers told SNY post-game.

Saturday's game also marked the end of a 13-year partnership between SNY and the UConn women's team - the Huskies' final two regular season games will be broadcasted on CBS Sports Network and Fox Sports 1, respectively.

Due to the Big East's new television deal, UConn games will be broadcasted exclusively on TNT Sports and NBC for the 2025-2026 season, per the New York Times.

"It's kind of a bittersweet situation," Geno Auriemma told Chelsea Sherrod post-game.

SNY has broadcasted four

national championship seasons and 11 Final Four appearances, broadcasting a UConn loss just three times in 13 years.

In its swan song broadcast, SNY captured another 20-plus point win for the Huskies over its Big East competition for, the 14th time this season out of 16 possible games.

Connecticut led for 36:06 in the 29-point victory, crushing the Bulldogs from the field winning the points-off-turnovers battle by 26 points (31-5).

UConn continues to overwhelm the Big East on the offensive end, as Saturday's win marked the 12th time the Huskies scored above 75 points in conference play and 20th time this season.

Five Huskies reached double digits, including Bueckers (23), Sarah Strong (16), Shade (14), Chen (10) and Azzi Fudd (10), as the Huskies piled on 21 points or more in all four quarters.

Strong scored the Huskies' first points of the afternoon on the team's second possession, avenging her miss from

the right block on the first possession with a floater from the same spot.

Strong finished one rebound shy of a double-double, posting nine rebounds in 31 minutes to pair with her 16 points on 7/13 shooting.

Despite Strong's slight dip in scoring the past month, the freshman forward still ranks among the nation's top underclassmen and has drawn comparisons to the likes of UConn's all-time leading scorer, Maya Moore.

Strong has averaged - to this point - more rebounds, assists and steals per game than Moore in her freshman season, and has shot the ball more efficiently from the field when comparing percentages.

Strong's seven first quarter points trailed only Bueckers' nine, as the fifth-year senior was on an offensive mission early in Saturday's game. Hitting on triple early in the second period, Bueckers became sixth all-time on the UConn scoring list (2,180 career points passes Kerry Bascom, Kaleena

Mosqueda-Lewis and Nykesha Sales) and is now just 153 points behind Katie Lou Samuelson in fifth place.

The Huskies used a swift 8-0 scoring run over the final two minutes of the first half (part of a larger 13-2 run over the final 3:55) to pull away from the Bulldogs permanently, ending the half up 42-17 and allowing the Butler to hit on just seven field goals.

The Huskies held the Bulldogs under 10 points in three out of four quarters, allowing 25 out of 47 points in the third period. Geno Auriemma was quoted as "fuming" in the team's huddle after the third quarter ended, with Butler outscoring UConn 25-22 in the period.

Connecticut promptly outscored Butler 22-5 in the fourth, reaching the game's final score of 86-47.

The Huskies will next be in action on Thursday, hosting No. 23 Creighton at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn. for the Big East regular season championship.



Paige Bueckers shooting her shot. The photo was taken on Feb. 12.

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



# Sports

## NASCAR TRUCKS AND XFINITY AT ATLANTA MOTOR SPEEDWAY

by Alex Klancko

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Week two in NASCAR started off with a bang with the Truck and Xfinity series taking on the 1.5-mile Atlanta Motor Speedway.

The weekend started with the trucks on Friday with No. 81 Connor Mosack and No. 9 Grant Enfinger qualifying for the front row for Saturday's race. Other drivers to note from qualifying are No. 71 Rajah Caruth, who is one of three black NASCAR drivers to win a race, placed fourth this weekend; two-time NASCAR Truck Series champion No. 99 Ben Rhodes placed 10th; female racing phenom, No. 5 Toni Breidinger, finished in 18th; NASCAR wonderkid No. 11 Corey Heim; former Malcolm In The Middle star No. 33 Frankie Muniz in 21st; and running the double, two-time Cup Series champion No. 7 Kyle Busch starting in ninth place.

The race started out relatively tame, as No. 91 Jack Wood won stage one, giving him 10 points and a playoff point. Following

Wood was No. 34 Layne Riggs, Enfinger, Mosack, Busch, Heim, No. 52 Stewart Friesen, No. 18 Tyler Ankrum, No. 19 Daniel Hemric and Caruth, with no wrecks happening in stage one.

On lap 34, Riggs lost power to his car and was able to continue after being pushed to pit lane. On lap 59, Heim ran out of fuel with two laps to go in stage two, but got back to pit lane. Stage two was won by Busch, followed by No. 98 Ty Majeski, Enfinger, No. 07 Michael McDowell, No. 45 Kaden Honeycutt, Wood, Mosack, Friesen, No. 38 Chandler Smith and Hemric.

After pitting for the final stage, Caruth led the field but spun out on lap 74 due to the track being a little bit too oily. Caruth gathered a couple of other drivers and had No. 1 William Sawalich spinning as well; Caruth did not continue after the wreck.

With 30 laps to go, Muniz and Mosack hit the wall as Muniz did not realize that Mosack pinched in on him, leaving him no room to run up the side.

The final five laps had some amazing racing from Ankrum and Busch. Ankrum was in the lead for almost the entire last lap

but ended up getting passed at the last second by Busch for his 67th truck series win and his 236th win across all NASCAR Series.

Out of the drivers I mentioned to look out for, Caruth and Muniz did not finish, Rhodes finished seventh, Breidinger 24th and Heim finished in 23rd.

Onto the Xfinity Series race where the 2025 Daytona 500 winner, No. 2 Jessie Love and teammate Austin Hill made up the front row for the race. Other drivers to follow are the 2018 Xfinity regular season champion No. 7 Justin Allgaier in fourth, NASCAR phenom No. 88 Connor Zilisch in 10th and former Cup Series driver No. 25 Harrison Burton.

On lap five, the first caution came out with No. 26 Dean Thompson's tire bursting, leaving him to make his way to pit lane for a tire change. Along with Thompson's issue, No. 39 Ryan Sieg lost the back end of his car, causing him to swerve off the bottom racing line and lose a lot of positions.

Stage one ended with Hill in first, receiving 10 points, followed by Love, No. 41 Sam Mayer, No. 54 Taylor Gray, No. 1 Car-

nan Kvpil, Allgaier, Zilisch, No. 16 Christian Eckes, Burton and lastly No. 00 Sheldon Creed getting the final stage point.

In stage two there were no wrecks, with Hill still in first receiving 10 points, followed by Mayer, Creed, Allgaier, Love, No. 19 Aric Almirola, No. 8 Sammy Smith, Zilisch, No. 27 Burton and Eckes getting the last stage point.

With 46 laps to go, the second caution came out when No. 51 Jeremy Clements lost control of his car taking out Gray, who did not continue after the crash. With 38 laps to go, the third caution came out with No. 20 Brandon Jones spinning off the track after losing control of his car. Thankfully nobody else was collected in the spin.

With 22 laps to go in the race, the fourth racing caution came out with Mayers losing control of his car and taking himself, along with the No. 42 Anthony Alfredo, out of the race after both drivers had too much damage to the hood of their cars.

On the final lap of the race, Hill took the win but a massive pile-up happened with Zilisch, Eckes, No. 44 Bren-

nan Poole and Sieg all being taken out on the final lap.

Following Hill in the top 10 was Allgaier, Almirola, Smith, No. 48 Nick Sanchez, J. Burton, No. 10 Daniel Dye, No. 70 Leland Honeyman Jr., No. 18 Sawalich (same as the #1 from the Trucks earlier in the day) and H. Burton taking up number 10.

The drivers to look out for from earlier were Hill who finished first, Love in 16th, Allgaier in second, Burton in 10th and Zilisch, who did not finish the race.

The drivers who gained the most positions during the race were Honeyman Jr. with 21 places gained, No. 99 Matt DiBenedetto with 18, No. 35 Joey Gase with 17 and Poole with 14 placed gained. The drivers with the most positions lost during the race were Love and Kvpil with 15 places lost, Thompson with 13 and Williams with 12 places lost.

The next time the Truck Series race is March 15 at the Las Vegas Speedway while the next time the Xfinity Series races is March 1 at the Circuit of the Americas.

## WOMENS LACROSSE: HUSKIES HIT SEASON-HIGH 19 GOALS TO DEFEAT MANHATTAN

by Sam Calhoun

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The UConn women's lacrosse team dominated on home turf Saturday afternoon, bouncing back from their previous loss to James Madison University, with a 19-2 win over Manhattan.

UConn took control of the game early in the first quarter where they scored a total of eight goals. With just 23 seconds into the game, attacker graduate student Eliza Bowman scored the first goal of the game off a pass from teammate junior Rayea Davis. Shortly after, graduate student Jenna Giardina doubled the Huskies' score with an unassisted goal past Manhattan's goalie, junior Danielle Serbinski.

Manhattan had a few scoring attempts shortly after the Hus-

kies took a 2-0 lead, but UConn's goalie, graduate student Tori Cini, kept the Jaspers off the board.

However, UConn did not stop there. They went on to score another five goals in the first quarter, with Bowman earning herself a first quarter hat trick when she added another two goals to the scoreboard for the Huskies.

Davis had yet another assist on the third goal for the Huskies, as junior Karsyn Burnash netted it past Serbinski. She also went on to net two of her own goals for the Huskies.

The Huskies entered the second quarter with a commanding lead and left Manhattan desperately trying to catch up. Davis had a standout game, scoring three rapid goals almost instantaneously once the quarter began. It should come as no

surprise to fans that Davis is constantly at the net. The New York native entered this game leading the Huskies in goals (11) out of their three-game season so far.

It was a memorable game for junior Barlow Clark-Schoeb, as she got the first goal of her Husky career in the second quarter on a free position shot. She went on to net another goal before the end of the quarter as did freshman Anna Magennis. Manhattan eventually got on the scoreboard before the second quarter ended as sophomore Moira Marozzi netted one past Cini.

Down 14-1 entering the third quarter, Manhattan switched their goalie in hopes of turning things around. However, sophomore attacker Eve McGrogan could not be stopped as she scored the

15th goal of the game for the Huskies.

In addition, UConn made a goalie switch, where sophomore Sofia Oximana made crucial saves to keep the Jaspers with just one goal on the board. The offense was on fire for the Huskies as red-shirt sophomore Ava Plata continued to dominate on the field and scored the 16th goal for the Huskies.

It was an understatement to say that the Huskies were in a pretty safe place entering the fourth quarter, yet they still proved they could do more.

Senior Anna Zimmerman scored her first goal of the season quickly into the fourth quarter and right behind her was Clark-Schoeb who earned herself a hat trick for the afternoon. To wrap up an extremely successful game

for the Huskies, sophomore Tori Tomalia stole a Jaspers pass and went the other way down the field to score the 19th and final goal of the game.

This game is certainly up for debate as to being one of the best in the Huskies program history. A season high 19 goals, not one, but two hat-tricks and only allowing two goals from the opposing team.

Looking ahead, the Huskies will use momentum from this game to face off against Harvard in Cambridge, Mass. The matchup is set for Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. This is a must-watch game to see if the Huskies can keep their opponents away from the net, while also keeping pressure on the offense to score goals of their own.

## SOFTBALL: HUSKIES DOMINATE AT MUSB INVITATIONAL

by Colette Doyle

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The UConn softball team came away from the Mercer University Invitational held in Macon, Ga. with a 4-1 record, adding to their overall record of 8-5.

The team came off an impressive performance at the JU/UNF Invitational, where they finished with a 3-1 record. The invitational consisted of impressive performances by key players. Junior Grace Jenkins had home runs in back-to-back games for the second time this season, displaying her as an essential asset to the team. Senior Rosie Garcia also dominated the competition with her third multi-hit game of the season in

the invitational. They carried this momentum into the game this weekend, continuing to perform at a dominant level.

The invitational started off with a game against Jacksonville University on Friday, Feb. 21. This contest consisted of an impressive performance by graduate student pitcher Payton Kinney. Kinney started the Huskies off strong by tossing 3.1 scoreless innings and only giving up one hit. In the fourth inning, junior pitcher Hope Jenkins came in for Kinney adding to the team's strength by going 3.2 innings, only surrendering two hits. In the fifth inning, sophomore outfielder Kaitlyn Breslin secured the win for the Huskies by hitting her first career home run with a three-run shot bringing the team to 7-0.

The Huskies continued their momentum into the second game of the day against Middle Tennessee State University. Middle Tennessee started the game off strong scoring at the top of the first inning. However, the UConn offense dominated at the bottom of the first inning, putting up three runs. In the second inning the Huskies extended their lead, thanks to Garcia coming up to bat and knocking Lexi Hasting in to score with a single. The Huskies extended their lead in the fourth inning with a ground out from G. Jenkins scoring Hastings. The Huskies took the win with one final run driven by freshman Cat Petteys.

On Saturday, the Huskies played two games against Alabama State University. The team

dominated in the first game, defeating Alabama State, 8-0 in six innings. Hastings made history in the game as she became just the 10th player in program history to reach 200 career hits. H. Jenkins and G. Jenkins were a powerful duo in the game, extending the Huskies lead to 7-0 after four innings with H. Jenkins notching her ninth run of the season on a ground out, scoring G. Jenkins. The team's win was secured by Haley Coupal with a single, scoring Petteys to make it 8-0. The team had their first loss of the weekend in their second game against Alabama State. However, the program fought hard to keep the score close but eventually fell short with a 10-8 final score. This game gave Alabama State their first win of the season. The

Hornets trailed heading into the sixth inning with an 8-3 deficit in favor of the Huskies but were able to rally to gain a 10-8 lead in the sixth inning. Junior JaNiyah Boykin largely led this comeback. G. Jenkins largely led the Huskies offense. The Hornets held onto their newfound lead to secure the win.

The Huskies finished off the weekend with a 2-1 win against Mercer University. Hastings, G. Jenkins, Garcia and junior Kaitlyn Kibling were key contributors to the win. Hastings and Kibling scored the two runs of the game.

Overall, Connecticut showed encouraging strength in both offense and defense. They will look to bring the same strength to the Chanticleer Showdown next weekend.



The UConn softball team photographed on Sept. 28, 2024. This photo was taken during a team practice.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SOFIA DIGRANDE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS