

## HUSKYTHON BREAKS RECORD, RAISES OVER \$2.1 MILLION



HuskyTHON is an annual 18-hour dance marathon dedicated to raising money for Connecticut Children's. This year, participants raised over \$2.1 million. PHOTO COURTESY OF MILTON LEVIN/ HUSKYTHON

by Sara Bedigian  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
SHE/HER/HERS  
sara.bedigian@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut held the 26th annual HuskyTHON dance marathon on Saturday, March 8, raising a record-breaking \$2,102,853.03 for the patients and families at Connecticut Children's.

In HuskyTHON's 26-year history, this is the first time fundraising efforts have surpassed \$2 million.

In addition to breaking fundraising records, HuskyTHON surpassed its record of over 4,700 participants, continuing to serve as the largest student-run organization at UConn and Miracle Network Dance Marathon in the country by participation, according to Izzy Casais, vice president of communications for HuskyTHON.

HuskyTHON is a year-long fundraising effort that culminates in an 18-hour dance marathon in the Hugh S. Greer Field House from 6 a.m. to midnight. Students create teams with their organizations to fundraise and host a Connecticut Children's patient at the event.

Patients and families from Connecticut Children's were welcomed by the UConn community as they got to spend the day sharing their stories and celebrating the efforts of fundraising.

Brian, a patient of Connecticut Children's, is an eight-year-old who has a cleft lip and cleft palate. His first surgery was at 10 weeks old, and since then he has had eight procedures done.

"It is a nice way for Brian to connect the hospital with hap-

py memories instead of connecting the hospital with the big scary stuff, the needles, the surgeries and all the pain and discomfort," Brian's mom said.

Brian's team was fraternity Delta Tau Delta, and he got to play and run around with them throughout the day.

"They are really kind and genuine and really just trying to make a connection... and not just us but Collete, his sister, too," his mom said.

She added that it is not only the joy of participating that benefits them, but also fundraising and support given to the hospital.

Like Brian, there were 28 other patients with their families that attended to share their miracle stories and celebrate the efforts, which Casais said is her favorite part about HuskyTHON.

"We put in the work so that they can have fun and have some time outside hospital walls," Casais said. "It just means everything to us for them to be here today."

Casais, who was previously a dancer, morale captain and creative director, is the vice president of communications this year, which is a management team position. The management team is a group of 32 undergraduate students who work closely to organize fundraising and lead the event.

The management team leads the morale dance each hour, where all students gather to participate in the 10-minute choreographed dance.

In addition to the management team, students can participate through a variety of levels, whether it be a dancer

representative, captain, morale leader, rising leader, dancer or volunteer, which all have unique responsibilities and fundraising minimums.

Isabella Blasi, a senior dancer representative and stewardship captain, said she is proud that HuskyTHON has taught her to choose strength.

"I'm genuinely so glad I could be involved in such a beautiful movement," Blasi said. "My siblings have undergone medical adversity throughout their lives, so it's incredibly touching to see students like myself putting everything they can into this."

First-year students have found their passion for the fundraising efforts too. Victoria Mlynarski, a first year HuskyTHON rising leader and JonaTHON's captain, raised over \$1,600 this year and is looking forward to applying to a leadership role next year.

"Finding a community here that really appreciates it and wants to be a part of something even bigger in the future is just so valuable and so monumental, and it just makes it even more magical," Mlynarski said.

The 2025 campaign theme was "Change the Tide," where students worked to 'change' kids' health and 'change' the future by providing vital support for the patient families, according to a March 9 press release.

To "Change the Tide," students raise money through a variety of ways, such as reaching out to friends and family or canning outside stores. Alyssa Soriano, a senior volunteer, said she worked to raise money outside of Gampel Pavilion before a basketball game.



ILLUSTRATION BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

As a volunteer, she works different roles throughout the day such as checking participants in and working at the merchandise store.

In addition to fundraising and dancing, other activities throughout the day to keep participants engaged included sunrise yoga, Zumba and minute to win it games. A performance by Wavy McGrady kept participants dancing and some decided to cut and donate their hair with Hair for Hope. Other student acapella and dance organizations performed in UConn's Got Talent, where participants watched and the children gave them scores.

At the end of the night, everyone prepared for the Circle of Hope,

where participants stand in a large circle around the field house and cut off their hospital bands, symbolizing the difference they made.

"It is so rewarding, and it just makes me feel so good and so proud of our community, of our team, of everyone that supports us, and especially the kids and families that we do this for," Casais said.

Over the past 26 years, HuskyTHON has raised more than \$15 million, making it the largest third-party fundraiser for Connecticut Children's, according to the press release. Connecticut Children's is the only health system in Connecticut that is 100% dedicated to kids.

For more...

[dailycampus.com](http://dailycampus.com)

[@The\\_DailyCampus](https://www.instagram.com/The_DailyCampus)

[The\\_DailyCampus](https://www.facebook.com/The_DailyCampus)

[The Daily Campus](https://www.youtube.com/The_DailyCampus)

Subscribe to...

**Daily** ASIAN NITE | PAGE 6  
Displaying Pan-Asian culture

**Daily** RED 40 | PAGE 7  
Overinflated health risks

**Daily** BUCKET LIST | PAGE 10  
Suspects of the 2025  
Conference Tournaments

**THE DAILY CAMPUS**  
8 AM  
BLAST  
NEWSLETTER

## News

# UConn mathematics department to restructure degrees

by **Pierce Colfer**  
STAFF WRITER  
HE/THEY  
pierce.colfer@uconn.edu

The Department of Mathematics at the University of Connecticut is set to restructure several mathematics majors starting in the fall of 2025. This process will consolidate multiple majors into one mathematics major with different concentrations, according to Damir Dzhafarov, an associate mathematics professor and the mathematics director of undergraduate studies.

Currently, the Department of Mathematics covers six different majors: mathematics, applied mathematics, actuarial science, actuarial science-finance, mathematics-physics and mathematics-statistics.

Dzhafarov said that under the new structure, mathematics and applied mathematics would be consolidated into one mathematics major with the option to concentrate in either, in addition to a new track called “mathematics teaching.” This change would also move the mathematics-physics major to the Department of Physics.

Dzhafarov talked about the reasoning for the change.

“For many years... [the Department of Mathematics has] had our undergraduate program organized into separate majors... and this is a bit unusual in that many of our peer institutions... organize their majors a little differently. They put them under one major with separate concentrations,” Dzhafarov said. “I think there’s a good philosophical argument

for that which is that... these [majors] are all a part of mathematics, and we are all mathematicians, and we want all of our students to be math majors at the end of the day.”

According to Dzhafarov, the new mathematics major would have a set of “foundational courses” that all math majors would be required to take and then sets of courses that differ between the three concentrations. These foundational courses would include multivariable calculus, linear algebra, differential equations and a proofs-based course.

“[The foundational courses] give the students a good solid first introduction to each of these areas and we think... any math major should have seen these topics,” Dzhafarov said.

Dzhafarov talked specifically

about why the proofs-based class, Transition to Advanced Mathematics, is included as a foundational class.

“This is a course that current applied math majors don’t have to take, but we felt it was important for everyone to see this course because, in some sense, if this course is anything it’s an introduction to logical reasoning,” Dzhafarov said. “That’s a skill that’s relevant no matter what you do, whether you become a marine biologist or a journalist, every average everyday citizen needs to use [logical reasoning] in their day-to-day life.”

The new mathematics major will be introduced at the beginning of the next academic year, according to Dzhafarov. Students currently enrolled in any affected majors will have the opportunity to change to the new

major but can remain in their current plan of study. The current mathematics and applied mathematics majors will not be offered to students after the fall 2025 semester.

The Department of Mathematics has been working on restructuring the major since 2022 and is currently working with the registrar to finalize the changes.

Dzhafarov clarified that these changes are unrelated to the Provost’s office looking to eliminate low-completion programs.

The actuarial science, actuarial science-finance and math-statistics majors will be unaffected by the restructure. Dzhafarov mentioned that the Department of Mathematics hopes to eventually restructure the math-statistics major similarly to the new mathematics major.

# UConn Health executive is named new vice president of facility services and university planning

by **Samantha Brody**  
STAFF WRITER  
SHE/HER/HERS  
sab23059@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut announced a change in leadership in Facilities Operations on Feb. 24. Eric Kruger has been named as the new vice president of facility services and university planning.

Kruger has been the vice president of facilities development and operations at UConn Health since March 2022, according to an article by UConn Today. The position is currently held by Stanley L. Nolan, until

Kruger assumes his new position on March 21.

The Facilities Operations department is in control of campus functions such as utilities, cleaning and landscaping, transportation, parking and more, according to their website.

Before working at UConn, Kruger was a Senior Chief Petty Officer in the United States Navy, according to his LinkedIn. He later moved to EverSource where he worked as a manager.

“I want to make sure we continue to provide excellent stew-

ardship of our campuses and support the needs of the UConn Community for years to come,” Kruger said in an email.

Kruger also placed an emphasis on updating the way the Facilities Operations department is running.

“The University’s Master Plan was initially created in 2015 and much has changed since then,” Kruger wrote. “It’s time to conduct a formal update of the plan to incorporate many of the new challenges and opportunities we will face over the next ten years so we can continue to

meet the needs of future Huskies.”

Kruger oversaw operations at the Hartford, Stamford, Avery Point and Waterbury campuses, as well as the School of Law, according to a UConn Today article by University Spokesperson Stephanie Reitz. The article emphasized his commitment to “responsiveness, transparency, and communications.”

“I plan to meet with many of the key leaders of the UConn community to get an idea of their needs and concerns relating to facilities maintenance, use of space, and their future

growth expectations,” he said in his email.

UConn’s Executive Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer, Jeffrey Geoghegan, expressed his support for Kruger in the article.

“Eric’s extensive knowledge of the University and its myriad operations will enable him to quickly and smoothly transition into his new role, which will greatly benefit our campus communities,” Geoghegan said. “We are fortunate to have someone in this position with Eric’s expertise, vision and proven track record of dedication to UConn.”

## The Daily Campus

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

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

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

**Sunday, March 9, 2025**

*Copy Editors:* Jordan Candelario, Gabrielle Winch-her, Justine Pearlman and Ayyan Tamjeed

*News Designer:* Ashley Lynch

*Life Designer:* Karla Perez

*Sports Designer:* Bruno Walker

*Opinion Designer:* Connor Lafferty

*Photo Producer:* Marco Lopez Rodriguez

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

**Aiza Shaikh**  
News Editor  
**Jenna Outcalt**  
Associate News Editor  
**Connor Sargeant**  
Sports Editor  
**Avery Becker**  
Associate Sports Editor  
**Connor Sharp**  
Photo Editor  
**Emma Meidinger**  
Associate Photo Editor  
**Benjamin Lassy**  
Life Editor  
**James Fitzpatrick**  
Associate Life Editor

**Tomas Hinckley**  
Opinion Editor  
**Evelyn Pazan**  
Associate Opinion Editor  
**Samantha Hass**  
Artist Editor  
**Lillian LaFemina**  
Associate Artist Editor  
**Noa Climor**  
Outreach/Social Media Coordinator  
**Kayden Lynch**  
Associate SMOC  
**Yianni Constantinou**  
Circulation Manager  
**Valley Publishing Company**  
Derby, Conn.

For more information about getting involved as an editorial, business or digital employee:

Editorial · managingeditor@dailycampus.com  
Business · businessmanager@dailycampus.com  
Digital · digital@dailycampus.com

### Prefer to read our content online?

Check out our newly redesigned website at [dailycampus.com](http://dailycampus.com) and follow us on social media.

Instagram · [The\\_DailyCampus](https://www.instagram.com/The_DailyCampus)  
Facebook · [The Daily Campus](https://www.facebook.com/The_Daily_Campus)  
Twitter · [The\\_DailyCampus](https://twitter.com/The_DailyCampus)

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

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

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

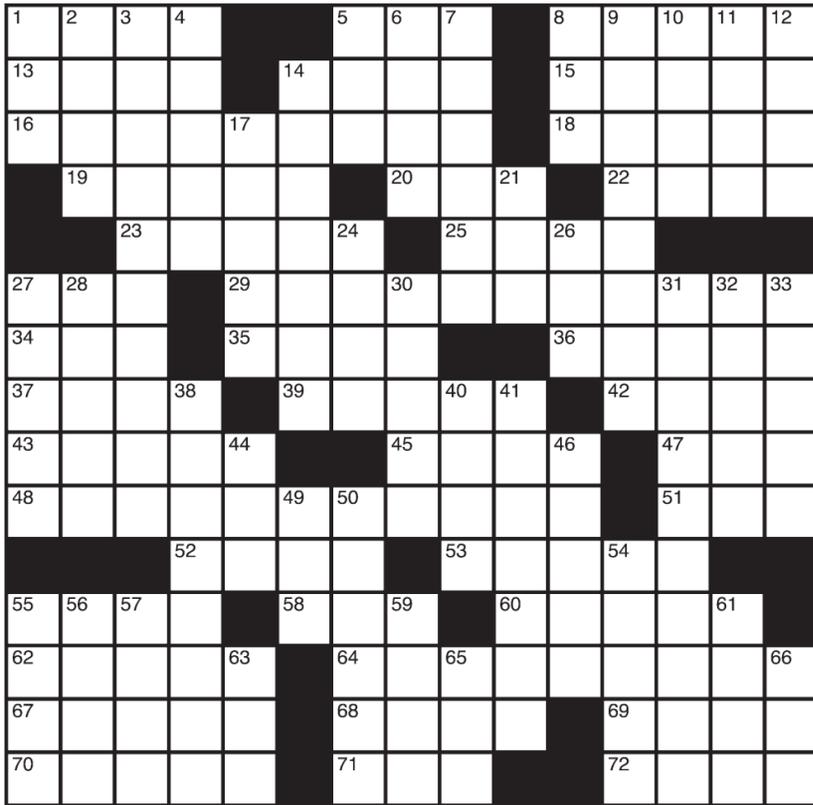
FOR RELEASE MARCH 10, 2025

News

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

- ACROSS**
- 1 NFL team that shares SoFi Stadium with the Chargers
  - 5 "We \_\_\_ to please"
  - 8 Photograph holder
  - 13 Snare
  - 14 Black-and-white ocean predator
  - 15 Blood drive participant
  - 16 Collection of personal clippings
  - 18 Person on a role?
  - 19 Walk confidently
  - 20 "The Matrix" protagonist
  - 22 Smooch
  - 23 Puerto Rico y Cuba
  - 25 Cat's noise
  - 27 Actor Aykroyd
  - 29 Puppies born together
  - 34 Yale alum
  - 35 Winter forecast, often
  - 36 Crow "In your face!," say
  - 37 Short hairstyles
  - 39 Body part that's a metaphor for courage
  - 42 Misplace
  - 43 Self-mover's van
  - 45 Didn't float
  - 47 Mauna \_\_\_: only Hawaiian volcano taller than Mauna Loa
  - 48 Last minutes of a blowout game
  - 51 "\_\_\_ away": "I have nothing to hide"
  - 52 Preworn, say
  - 53 Subway tracks
  - 55 Permanent mark
  - 58 Pen point
  - 60 Census figures
  - 62 Excuse
  - 64 Taunts between teams, or an apt description of 16-, 29-, and 48-Across?
  - 67 Walkie-talkie, e.g.
  - 68 Roof overhang
  - 69 Leg bender
  - 70 Brain waves
  - 71 Genetic material
  - 72 Small whirlpool



By Jess Shulman & Amie Walker

3/10/25

- 2 Eyebrow shapes
- 3 Spot where cocktails may be shaken or stirred
- 4 Practices in the boxing ring
- 5 Preferring platonic relationships, informally
- 6 Desktop image
- 7 Stubborn reply to a direct order
- 8 Govt. org. that regulates vaccines
- 9 Gym feature for indoor climbers
- 10 Pro's opposite
- 11 Cattle sounds
- 12 Is off the mark
- 14 Gets
- 17 Yanks
- 21 Poetic "above"
- 24 Put an end to
- 26 "Srsly!?"
- 27 Fix, as computer code
- 28 Hawaiian hello
- 30 Surprise in a plot
- 31 Defended one's point of view
- 32 Makes less difficult
- 33 Cut of beef, tuna, or cauliflower

Saturday's Puzzle Solved



©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

3/10/25

- 38 Collection of bedroom communities
- 40 Hair removal brand
- 41 All together
- 44 \_\_\_ Vegas
- 46 Country singer Urban
- 49 Intro to Xer, Yer, and Zer
- 50 Revised
- 54 Potato pancake
- 55 Diwali dress
- 56 Dressed (in)
- 57 Assistant
- 59 Dietary fiber source
- 61 Winter conveyance
- 63 Apple platform
- 65 Hannah Einbinder's "Hacks" role
- 66 \_\_\_ lime pie

- DOWN**
- 1 Some QB protectors

CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

## Life

# 'Ruby': JENNIE's unpolished gem

## Rating: 3.4/5

by Benjamin Lassy | LIFE EDITOR | HE/HIM/HIS | benjamin.lassy@uconn.edu



JENNIE's new album "Ruby" is available for streaming. The album was released on Friday, March 7, 2025.

IMAGE COURTESY OF @JENNIERUBYJANE ON INSTAGRAM

The start of 2025 has seen some big releases from K-pop all-stars, particularly the solo members of BLACKPINK.

LISA released "Alter Ego" in late February, and on March 7, JENNIE released "Ruby." JENNIE's debut album is an eclectic mix that hits hard but sometimes punches into the air.

"Ruby" is JENNIE's first music drop after she launched a solo career independent of BLACKPINK's production company, YG Entertainment. On her own label ODD ATELIER (OA), JENNIE is diving into herself on this record, and that's not a bad thing.

It is made up of some new album cuts but isn't as single-laden as LISA's album. It includes singles from late 2024, and February's "ExtraL (feat. DoeChii)." JENNIE takes a step back with the album opener and introduces "Ruby" with a meditative cut featuring French producer and multi-instrumentalist FKJ.

This little lo-fi number, "Intro: JANE with FKJ" is nothing short of a hymn to start the album. A lovingly lopsided baseline carries the head-bopping song through its YouTube-outré-esque structure.

But no, we've been led astray. The intro really kicks off with track two, "like JENNIE." Singing her own name 50 times, this is a mad dash into who JENNIE is and you won't be disappointed.

Before you assume it's an artist being unrelatable, introspective and borderline egotistical, JENNIE singing about herself carries a lot of weight. According to Apple Music, the album's title is a reference to JENNIE's

identity, which was created when she moved to New Zealand to learn English by herself. That's a big undertaking, and it's also unabashedly JENNIE.

Track three, "start a war," is exceptional. An infectious verse breaks into a swell of vocal harmonies that cement JENNIE as a vocalist capable of keeping your ears locked in. Still, there's some wobbliness in the production done by the team of Jonas Jeberg, Sam Homae, Rasmus Söegren and Jelli Dorman.

"Handlebars (feat. Dua Lipa)" comes next and keeps everything chugging along. At 36 seconds in, a layered baseline flows into the mix, providing a melodic dissonance that pushes this groove forward. However, I find myself latching onto the backing more than the vocals here.

Maybe it's the lyrics about the drunk-love trope, "I trip and fall in love / Just like a Tuesday drunk," but this song is lacking the hook that other tracks have had so far.

Are we back in the flow by track five? Not quite.

"with the IE (way up)" has all the ingredients for a killer beat. The drum sample is crispy and instantly groovy, but the synths are repetitive and start to sound like the percussion found on the bridges of "Low Rider" by War.

What's going on here? Producer Dem Jointz throws in some man yelling now and then into the mix. This has potential but is a skip in its current stage unless it's background music.

After two iffy tracks, can "ExtraL (feat. DoeChii)" bring us back from the brink? Well, kind of.

"Do my ladies run this" is a strong lyric and sample to propel the track, and fitting given that it's currently International Women's History Month.

As we fall off into the brink, "Mantra" pulls up by the bootstraps. This song is everything that JENNIE has to offer. It's got a solid vocal performance, and a baseline that is almost reminiscent of Billie Eilish's "bad guy." The lyrics aren't half bad either. JENNIE doesn't hold back:

"This that pretty-girl mantra, this that flaunt ya / just touched down in L.A."

By this point in the album, we are so back. Following the excellent single, "Love Hangover (feat. Dominic Fike)" that requires a full review in its own right, "ZEN" shows that the new album tracks do, in fact, bring something to the table.

"No, nobody gon' touch my soul, gon' / match my glow, like, I dare you (hey)."

These are more substantial lyrics than singing about a new car or shouting your name 50 times. This complexity suits JENNIE's vocal performance and the production doesn't hinder anything unlike earlier tracks, which is a step in the right direction.

If you're looking for a single track to embody this album, "ZEN" is the one.

By this point, it's banger after banger. "Damn Right (feat. Childish Gambino & Kali Uchis)" is a true musical gem. Both features are staggering, and JENNIE pulls her weight, always popping in when the timing is right.

If you ever feel down and need someone to force-feed you compliments that actually get you feeling good, just listen to the repetitions of: "Damn, right, I did that (yeah, I did)."

If a song can fill you up with confidence, then damn right, it's a good one. Give this a listen! It's a hit for sure and shows just how polished JENNIE's "Ruby" can be.

"F.T.S." welcomes in a new style for JENNIE, incorporating a piano, choir-esque vocals and even synth strings. Meaning "Fuck That Shit" or "Flip the Script" depending on your outlook, JENNIE flows seamlessly here, though I'm not sure I like this production direction.

It almost feels like a whole different artist between the first few songs on "Ruby" and the final few tracks where we are now. Considering nearly every track has a different production team, that inconsistency adds up.

Nevertheless, JENNIE's gemstone shines with "Filter." She gives a dynamic vocal performance, and the unintrusive production helps give it center stage. Plus, the choruses introduce a wonderfully syncopated electronic beat.

On top of the mix, lyrics about discovering yourself, "I know I love me more / With no filter," are strong.

And the good music keeps on coming. "Seoul City" depicts Seoul with ornate lyrics that almost crumble with the link to "Seoul" sounding similar to "Soul." Thankfully, the vocal delivery keeps the pace up and moves us past that easy lyrical pull.

"Seoul City" is one of the less powerful album cuts, but brings a softer and more abstract tone to the album.

Noticeably absent from this album is Korean lyrics. JENNIE sings in English for every cut except the opening of the penultimate track, "Starlight."

This song is good, but with a pretty dull chorus, this almost feels like the obligatory emotional track before the encore of the album. It does have some great sentimental lyrics: "I just wanna make my mama prouder."

Finally, the album comes to a close with the acoustic guitar imbued "twin," a track that would have been fine without "Starlight" leading the way.

"twin" is unique in that JENNIE is listed among the writing credits, but I can't help but feel like a producer gave her a tip on how to write a song lyric, saying, "It's just like writing a letter, JENNIE!" So, she took that cue and ran with it, singing on the choruses "It's like I'm writing a letter, but I'm writing a song."

It's a great sentimental ending to an album that gets the ball rolling for JENNIE's solo career. And I'm hopeful, as this song has several powerful twists and turns that indicate the potential future JENNIE could have as a solo artist and songwriter. I hope she continues to write.

And with that, the curtains close on "Ruby." This album is a nice package, but its weak points are certainly noticeable. Still, it's mostly due to the chaotic production. The true gem here is JENNIE herself. With some polish, her solo potential is undeniable.

# 'The Hurtless': Harto Falión and evilgiane synergize once again

by Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab | STAFF WRITER | SHE/HER/HERS | lilith.rampertab@uconn.edu

**Content warning for drug addiction, depressive and suicidal lyrics.**

In 2022, the sample drill movement took the Internet by storm. At the center of the genre was New York-based Gen Z rapper-producer collective SURF GANG, which evolved into a producer powerhouse and record label that frequently collaborated with underground rappers such as John Glacier, 454, Matt OX and even MIKE.

Harto Falión is a rapper, singer and alum of the old SURF GANG collective. He also produces under the name Trip Dixon. evilgiane is a prolific and talented producer who started as strictly sample drill before expanding his palette. He made beats for Earl Sweatshirt, xaviersobased, Nettpend, Kendrick Lamar and Baby Keem among many, many others.

Together, Falión and giane make a dynamic rapper-producer duo with a lot under their belts, most notably 2023's cloud rap masterpiece "im\_my\_best\_friend" among other projects. Their new album, "The Hurtless," released on March 7, and is yet another home run for these two as they continue to develop their style in all sorts of different ways.

The album begins with "Dreams turned Nightmares," a rather mellow way to kick things off with a quiet synth and percussion that, while abrasive, are mixed down. Lines such as the inspirational first opener, "Live a life that somebody else dreams of" and "If I crash this time, I know it's my fault" show some emotional maturity from Falión.

"Don't believe 'em" takes a note from west coast hip-hop, featuring a heavy bass synth. The lyrics deal with emotional manipulation from a lover with lyrics like "Turn the horrors in my head into a musical" and the extremely blunt chorus that consists of "Quit playing with my heart, it's fucking up my head."

"Un Love Able" has a melancholy yet infectious beat with a synth that's soft on the ears. "Love is just a drug, and we hide and abuse it" shows a lyrical self-awareness, while also highlighting how any addiction can change somebody's life for the worse. One of my favorite lines — if not the favorite — from this project is "We know the world is fabricated / But that's why my threads is all authentic." It both analyzes the digital age and delves into materialism.

"Keep! Out!" sounds like it came from a mysterious Flash

game with the lo-fi string-like synth and icy percussion. evilgiane outdid himself with this mesmerizing beat.

"pH," which stands for "power of hydrogen" — a way to test a fluid's acidic or alkaline nature — sounds like evilgiane's own spin on EDM or maybe even digicore.

"An Innermission Conducted by Eli & Giane" doesn't feature many lyrics but instead features harmonized vocals from Falión and an ambient-feeling spacey synth layer with a heavily textured percussion courtesy of giane.

"i Really don't give a fuhck" marks a shift in the project's atmosphere and mood. Falión was already rapping and singing about depressing topics, but it has intensified with this song's blatant apathy. Lyrics such as "I watch my friends die slowly" show this. The production has an industrial-sounding snare and a retro-sounding synth bassline that makes the beat feel robotic.

"Like Lain," a reference to the cult classic anime "Serial Experiments Lain" and the Internet-addicted protagonist Lain Iwakura, has a modern and skeletal drum and bass percussion, though it also uses 808s. The highlight of the song is the nerdy lyric "Anda 'Devil May Cry; I ain't playing no games."

The vocals could have been mixed higher. Curation-wise, this song's vibe would have worked better for the first half of the album.

"Life is Corny" is a mixture of depression, introspection and nerdiness. It's like a microcosm of Falión's lyrical tendencies.

Lyrics like the slightly sad pun "Frankly, I just needed space, tonight I'm sleeping on the Moon," the introspective and depressing "I hate looking at the news, it feels like nothing's ever new," the geeky "You better level up, you know my team is OP" and the slightly hedonistic "I don't do no Percocet, man, that shit boring," encapsulate Falión's subject material pretty well.

The piano mixed with the synths on "Different places still feel familiar" feels familiar yet unique. It feels like a modern beat that somebody like cloud rapper Black Kray would have rapped on for one of his more vulnerable and emotional songs.

The lyrics "Wondering how it feels to blow my brains out" and "This world is so cold, I chose the rockiest road," highlight Falión's struggles with suicidality and perseverance in life. However, the song ends optimistically, which could be a metaphor for getting his life back together and continuing to move forward despite

negative pushback from others.

The last song, "Long story short," has a grating clarinet-like melody. This song could have been cut from the project or could have been a throwaway single, but it's still an alright song; just the weakest link. The inspirational monologue at the end about being proactive in changing your life for the better was appreciated and something more people need to hear, though.

Harto Falión and evilgiane have both come a long way. They're pioneers in their field and I'm so glad they're getting more recognition. This is my way of giving back to a music collective that was formative for me in high school and showed me that it's okay to be authentic and not fit in. I am looking forward to their influence on Internet culture and beyond.

Rating:  
4/5

# Meet the world's first female parliamentarians

by Benjamin Lassy | LIFE EDITOR | HE/HIM/HIS | benjamin.lassy@uconn.edu

How many thousands of years does it take for a woman to have power in government?

That's an unfortunate question to have to ask and it's only recently been answered. In this installment of This Week in History, we'll be venturing to the not-so-Scandinavian country of Finland for a groundbreaking advancement of women's rights.

To preface: I'm ecstatic that of all the history unfolding every week, women are the focus for this iteration of the column. The next time you look through history records, take note of how women are usually silent. It's not that they didn't have a voice; it's that it was taken away for any number of reasons.

As a consequence, it can often be an uphill battle to give women a voice when they're so blatantly rejected. But, this week, it is of course Women's History Month. Let's change that shameful pattern.

Like most moments of change, our story begins in the quiet rumblings of dissidents holding out underground.

Looming over Finland for much of its history was the mighty and indomitable Russian Empire. Sprawling from Vladivostok — on the precipice of China — to the urban expanse of St. Petersburg in the Baltic Sea, the Finns were counted

among the constituents of an Empire they never asked for.

The rumblings of socialists, conservatives and liberals alike began in earnest in 1905. The Russian Tsar Nicholas II had long lost the plot. He began to see Russians as the sole proprietor of this vast empire, and who were the Finns to have their own culture, to deserve their own voice?

But as 1905 rolled into 1906, the pressure from Moscow finally began to splinter. Voices for reform were usually put down by the Tsar's rifles, but what if the men holding those rifles were the most vocal reformists?

Soon, a revolution broke out in the streets as moderates protested the Russian aristocracy for the freedom to assemble and hold a representative government. The result was a compromise: the creation of the Russian Duma, the first representative body in the Russian Empire.

In Finland, the situation was a little less cut and dry. While undercurrents for reform were mounting in the capital, Helsinki, what was it really the capital of? And what good is reform for a region within an empire? The Finns had nothing of their own to reform.

In the meantime, the assassinations started piling up. In

1904, Governor-General Nikolai Bobrikov was the first to be taken down by the Finns. Soon after, Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, a relative of Tsar Alexander II of Russia, was shot in Moscow.

The Russians had no choice but to ease off the pressure, and as a result, two important manifestos were propagated throughout Finland. The first was a socialist decree to establish a governing body of Finns, the second was a conservative reconstruction set to replace the ailing Senate of Finland, and the third was a class system, effectively granting Finland a modern legislative assembly.

By 1906, the Grand Duchy of Finland was gearing up for its first parliamentary election with its newfound legislative body, the Parliament of Finland.

The reform movement had been led by several parties and leaders, many of whom were gearing up for their own political campaigns. A major force in this new political landscape was the Finnish party.

This party was a collective of Finnish nationalists, but it fragmented early on. By 1907, the Young Finnish party emerged as a reform centered movement, while the Finnish Party remained a conservative, Finnish-language-centered sect.



Regardless, battling both these parties at the polls was Edvard Valpas-Hänninen's Social Democratic Party. This left-leaning party had been at the heart of the reform movement that captivated the Finns as Russia's influence waned.

This week in history, these three factions battled at the ballot on March 15 and 16 of 1907.

Stop right there. That isn't our headline. Among the many revolutionary actions taken by Finns to secure their nation and culture's future, the decision to uphold universal suffrage for all Finns, women included, was the greatest.

The reasons this came about are many, including the outspoken advocacy of Hedwig Gerhard, among other members of parliament (MP) that arose post-election. However, chief among them was the realization that politics and elections aren't to be taken lightly.

A fair election can very much mean the survival of a culture and people, and for the Finnish leaders, excluding women from that process meant excluding an inherent part of Finland itself behind.

"Sisters," begins Gerhard's address leading up to the election, "The time for the elections is drawing near."

"The Finnish woman is the first in Europe to whom suffrage has been granted. Let us perform with honour the duty that this entails," Gerhard declared.

The actual political views of women at the time were mixed on issues, but many turned out to the election fighting for the State Church of Finland, improving the moral decency of the Finnish population, advancing prohibition and improving the status of women.

The election conducted this upcoming weekend in history was monumental for the improvement of women's status in world politics. Although countries like New Zealand and Australia had granted women the right to vote before Finland, both had restrictions on women running for parliament.

For the first time in recorded history, a parliament openly allowed female candidates to run for office. The result? A respectable turnout was followed by an influx of women on the political scene.

62 female candidates campaigned in the election, and of those, 19 won seats. The majority of those elected sided with the Social Democratic Party.

These are the women that made history by being elected: Evelina Ala-Kulju, Hedvig Gebhard, Alexandra Gripenberg, Lucina Hagman, Anni Huotari, Mimmi Kanervo, Liisa Kivioja, Hilda Käkikoski, Maria Laine, Sandra (Alexandra) Lehtinen, Alli Nissinen, Dagmar Neovius, Jenny Nuotio (later Upari), Maria Paaso-Laine, Hilja Pärssinen, Maria Raunio, Hilma Räsänen, Miina Sillanpää and Iida Vemmelpuu.

I encourage you to Google some of them; see if they have a Wikipedia article, at the very least. If not, why do you think that's the case?

This parliament would carry out some ambitious reforms while in power, including increased support for women's groups and Finnish workers, in addition to work hour adjustments and the prohibition of alcohol (although that wouldn't be enforced for another decade).

Today, women make up a little over 45% of the Finnish parliament. Their impact on the country has certainly been felt, but their work is just beginning. This history is only a few generations old; given back the years of power that were stripped away from them, women will finally start to see the tremendous value they bring to this world materialize.

Let Gerhard's statement reverberate today:

"Sisters! Let us ensure that not one of us is absent when the composition of Finland's first truly democratic Parliament is being determined. A heavy burden of responsibility will lie on the shoulders of the woman who stays away from the election without due cause."



## No Skips: A tumultuous time with Mel Tormé

by James Fitzpatrick  
ASSOCIATE LIFE EDITOR  
HE/HIM/HIS  
james.fitzpatrick@uconn.edu

Hello, wonderful readers! To continue and hopefully conclude this melancholic March, let's look at "It's a Blue World" by Mel Tormé, an album by a semi-popular and underrated vocalist from the mid-to-late 20th century.

Though his name may not ring a bell, you've at least heard one song he wrote with Robert Wells, titled "The Christmas Song." Popularized by the Nat King Cole Trio, much of Tormé's legacy is based on this song from when he was 20 years old, yet he has plenty to be proud of apart from it.

"It's a Blue World" is one of Tormé's first albums, recorded a decade after he and Wells penned "The Christmas Song." I emphasize his role as a songwriter because this album, and most of his other ones, see him covering already-written songs by famous musicians like Duke Ellington. This was the standard for singers of the day, as it was rare for an artist to take on both roles of songwriter and singer in tandem.

Now that we've covered our bases, "It's a Blue World" begins with "I Got It Bad (and That Ain't Good)." A 20-second

orchestral introduction leads into Tormé's soothing vocals, as the sad strings spotlight the song's title on the first quatrain.

In the developed verse later in the song, the woodwinds are in their own world while Tormé drags out the word "crying" and rushes "Make her love me," giving urgency to the request. The orchestra comes to a resolution a little over two minutes in with cymbals, bringing a final minute of calm before strings close the track.

The whimsical "Till the Clouds Roll By" is more stable mood-wise than the previous song, but Tormé trills the phrase "Helter skelter" in such a way that it had to have telepathically communicated with Paul McCartney to one day write the Beatles' 1968 hit. On a more serious note, "Isn't It Romantic?" finds Tormé in tune with the orchestra once again, my favorite part being when it stops before he sings "romance" instead of "romantic," highlighting the change in tone by the speaker.

"All This and Heaven" earns its spot on the record for its men-



tions of "the moon in the blue" and "Sweet to my ear is the song every bluebird sings." I appreciate the song structure when Tormé sings "by the dew;" he starts the phrase off high and the strings respond by reaching high notes. And I generally don't mind "It's a Blue World" featuring no original lyrics, but I'm sure Tormé could've conjured up something better than "I know how Columbus felt / Finding another world" on "How Long Has This Been Going On?"

The best usage of the harp on the record is in "Polka Dots and Moonbeams." A triangle and woodwind burst onto the scene when the speaker first sees the polka dots and moonbeams, stylistically reminiscent of many moments from Gustav Holst's "The Planets" by underscoring some epiphany. I love the collaborative work of composer Tommy Dorsey and Frank Sinatra, yet their version of the song pales in comparison to Tormé's heartfelt rendition.

"You Leave Me Breathless" contains potent lyricism that Tormé delivers with such nuance, "That little grin of yours, that funny chin of yours / Means so much to my heart." Details like these are easy to overlook in a person but culminate in this effect of leaving one breathless when they're recognized.

"Million Dollar Baby," not to be confused with Tommy Richman's hit, is the most impassioned cut on "It's a Blue World." The barebones yet intimate acoustic balladry at the two-minute mark makes one wonder how Tormé would be perceived today if he went the singer-songwriter route.

Tormé matches the energy of the tragic title track's lyrics, singing longingly, "My days and nights that once were filled with heaven / With you away, how empty they have grown." Songs from an earlier era in the same lyrical vein often have contrasting attitudes when the vocalist is lamenting and the orchestra is going crazy style, so I bond with this track's consistent low spirits.

As with last week's record, "Pink Moon" by Nick Drake, the outro track is more uplifting than everything that preceded it. "Stay as Sweet as You Are" echoes the sentiment of "Never change" as Tormé throws in some humming and "da-da-da-dum" for good measure. With 12 tracks totaling 42-and-a-half minutes, "It's a Blue World" accomplishes what it needs to, and quickly.

Tormé doesn't have the resumé of his peers. Nevertheless, he's a damn good singer, maintaining quite the ear for his own pitch and the orchestral accompaniments alongside him. He passed at the turn of the 21st century, so even if most people only know him for roasting chestnuts on an open fire, it's a miracle that modern listeners can still enjoy the labor of love that is Mel Tormé's music career.



# Life

@dailycampuslife

## Pan-Asian culture flourishes at Asian Nite 2025

by **Elijah Polance** | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/THEY/THEM | elijah.polance@uconn.edu

At Asian Nite, various Asian organizations dazzled with culturally rich performances encapsulating music, dancing and martial arts from all over Asia. Asian Nite, an annual event at the University of Connecticut, was held on Saturday, March 8 at the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. The Asian American Cultural Center (AsACC) sponsored the event, and it was presented by the Pan Asian Council (PAC).

Asian Nite began with a humorous video introducing the two emcees, Caitlin Ith and Tanya Sinha.

The skit showed them frantically and jokingly putting together the show, interacting with upcoming performers along the way. The comedic intro foreshadowed the duo's approach for the rest of the night, where they joked and bantered to engage the audience and flow transition between performances.

Husky Bhangra, an Indian dance team at UConn, kicked off the event. According to Britannica, bhangra is a style of Indian folk dancing, originating from the Punjab region in India and Pakistan. The performers set a strong precedent for the night with their enthusiasm, spinning and leaping across the stage. Students incorporated sapps in their performance, a wooden Indian instrument that expands and contracts to make a clapping sound.

Next up was Husky Hungama, a South Asian fusion a cappella group. Their performance wove English and South Asian lan-

guages together seamlessly as vocalists shifted in and out of the main spotlight. Their beautiful four-part harmonies made for a melodic act that worked well with the accompanying beatboxing.

The Filipino American Student Association (FASA) followed, showcasing their blend of Filipino and American identities through dance. The performers began with a waltz, with members wearing either Filipino or American attire. Then the students transitioned to traditional Filipino dancing, with the music becoming percussion-heavy rather than classical. Their show culminated with everyone coming together to dance along to "September" by Earth, Wind & Fire.

The Nepali Student Organization kept things energetic with their dance performance. They highlighted traditional and modern Nepali dances to Nepali music. The performers frequently switched positions, spun around stage and impressed with complex hand movements. They flourished yellow handkerchiefs in sync with the music, adding some flair to their already impressive exhibition.

Afterwards, Sanskriti Shakti delivered yet another captivating dance spectacle that showcased Indian styles. Their performance was narrative, reflecting the events of "Avatar: The Last Airbender." Different dance segments introduced the four elements before divulging into the central conflict. The dancers

showcased a variety of movements as the music eased between dramatic military marches and peaceful, carefree ambience. The ankle bells worn by performers elevated the presentation as the dancers formed and dissolved arrangements at a moment's notice and in perfect sync.

After Asian Nite, Shreya Nagri, an eighth-semester dancer for Sanskriti Shakti majoring in biomedical engineering, explained the dance's story and how the group decided on it. She said they wanted something that would "be entertaining and keep us interested in working on for the whole year," and the Avatar theme was a perfect fit.

The Japanese Student Association went next with another culturally rich dance routine. It began with members in kimonos brandishing hand clappers in coordination with the music. As the dance progressed, the students brought in Japanese fans and umbrellas, with the music switching between dramatic and tranquil moments. Towards the end, members in school attire came out for more modern dancing to Japanese hip-hop.

The final performance of the first act was from T-Huskies Taekwondo. The group blended the South Korean martial art with modern K-pop music. It began with a poomsae routine in sync with the music, before smaller groups nailed weapon routines with swords, bo staffs and nun chucks. An impressive

breaking routine with plenty of acrobatic kicks followed, which blended into a choreographed fight routine between members. They finished with another form routine where the fighting techniques became more of a dance.

Sean Daly, eighth-semester computer science major and president of T-Huskies, explained some of the challenges of having such a multifaceted performance after Asian Nite.

"The most challenging part is time. We have so much we want to put into the show, but only so many minutes to fit it in. But that helps us create a high energy performance that we hope the audience will love," Daly said.

After a brief intermission, Sanskriti Sadhana reignited the show with a musical performance. The emcees described their show as Indian songs about love and devotion. Most performers were singers, but there were also two drummers and three violinists. The songs were lush and enchanting, with the different parts creating a hypnotic rhythm.

The following performance was a musical solo from Roshni Yousuf, who sang and played acoustic guitar. She fused popular Hindi and English songs together, working in "ceilings" by Lizzy McAlpine and "That's So True" by Gracie Abrams. She switched between songs and languages fluidly and confidently. With jaw-dropping high notes and vocal runs, it was impressive to behold.

G!F Studio came next, which focused on Chinese dance styles from minority groups. The dancers started by wearing red bamboo hats, which created dramatic silhouettes.

After the show, Isabella Liu, a second-semester dancer for G!F Studios majoring in data science and engineering, described the dance in more detail. She said it was the "Wutu dance, which translates to five poisons and performed by one of the lesser-known ethnic groups in China."

KCONN was the penultimate performance, where members danced to "LUNA" by ONEUS. It was an exciting demonstration, with plenty of unique dancing formations. Different fans were added in with slow, dramatic movements, making it more elegant. Towards the end, the lights dimmed for a dramatic break-dance segment in the shadows.

UConn Udaan closed off the show with a Bollywood story dance. It had two groups, one wearing blue and the other red, with contrasting dance routines. There was tension when the groups danced together at the end with their mirrored and call-and-response movements, but they eventually intermingled and danced as one, a signal that everyone can unite despite their differences.

Asian Nite concluded by commemorating the people that helped make the event possible, including graduate assistant staff members and the emcees.

## The UConn Abrahamic Programs discuss Jerusalem's art

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab** | STAFF WRITER | SHE/HER/HERS | lilith.rampertab@uconn.edu

Professor of art history Kathryn Moore organized a virtual conference on Webex about the sacred art and spaces of Jerusalem featuring scholars and art historians Heba Mostafa, Megan Boomer and Nisa Ari. They were each allotted an hour to present on their topics during the conference on March 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mostafa's talk was titled "Visions of an Otherworld: Reimagined Sanctities in Early Islamic Jerusalem," which focused on architecture such as the Dome of the Rock, an important religious structure for the Abrahamic faiths. It houses a significant stone that the Old Testament's Adam and Abraham are associated with.

Boomer's talk was titled "Constructing the Past in a Crusading Present" and focused on the Latin occupation of Jerusalem after the First Crusade, where the Dome of the Rock was repurposed as a Christian church and was renamed the Templum Domini after many of the people taking care of the building were massacred. The talk also focused on the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

This article will focus on Ari's talk, which was titled "'Parasitic' to Picturesque: Re-Envisioning Jerusalem During the British Mandate."

The talk began with the context of the end of World War I and the British Army's occupation of Palestine in December of 1917, after ousting the Ottomans. Three years of rations were

deemed "primal necessities" along with rebuilding the city of Jerusalem, which had litter and refuse all around the area.

The term "wasteland" was used to describe the post-war conditions of Palestine. Ari noted the term's Christian origins and explained that a wasteland, while devastated, is "possible to redeem" in British eyes. The British government viewed itself as the savior of the land. It's interesting to note that the British government wanted stone vault cities, but instead, materials such as iron and stucco were used to build structures.

The land of Jerusalem was described as "picturesque but filthy," which seems contradictory. Furthermore, Ari said that Jerusalem's aesthetic was spoiled by industrialization. She noted that the surface-level problem of refuse around Jerusalem has deeper parasitic implications.

The Pro-Jerusalem Society was founded in 1918 and wanted a tabula rasa, or a clean slate, for Jerusalem. The architect Charles Robert Ashbee made a document called the "Jerusalem Notebooks," which held his plans for the city. Contents included a drawing of the Jaffa Road "to construct a new future for Palestine" and a courtyard-like area with an olive tree. A chandelier made by Ashbee and glass blowers were also shown. Ashbee's goal according to Ari was "spiritual synthesis."

The architect Arthur Loomis Harmon built Jerusalem's

YMCA, or Young Men's Christian Association. A picture of how detailed the insides of the building were shown along with the interiors of the Palace and King David Hotels.

"It strikes me as ironic," Ari said, how much of Ashbee's work was under "a veneer of interreligious unity." It led to a new form of parasitism that Euro-American capitalism enables. When referring to the "Jerusalem Notebooks," Ari said, "The images he chose were bad," citing how overexposed some of the photos were.

"It is as though he is writing a new narrative for Jerusalem," ignoring the suffering and poverty in Jerusalem. In the notebook, Ashbee described people in rags and then showed a picture of a woman in an elaborate wedding dress. "He's not just getting rid of modern centuries of accumulation, he's getting rid of a certain part of Jerusalem's history."

There was a short Q&A roundtable with all of the speakers and Moore after Ari's talk. Mostafa described how exciting visiting Jerusalem as a scholar to document and preserve history instead of a tourist or devotee. Boomer talked about respecting the custodians of these religious and artistic sites. She noted that there are places in Jerusalem where scholars wouldn't go because it feels intrusive.

The talks were recorded and uploaded to YouTube days after the conference.

Daily

## Opinion

## The Daily Campus

## EDITORIAL BOARD:

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

Tomas Hinckley..... OPINION EDITOR

Evelyn Pazan..... ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

Patrick Minnerly..... WEEKLY COLUMNIST

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

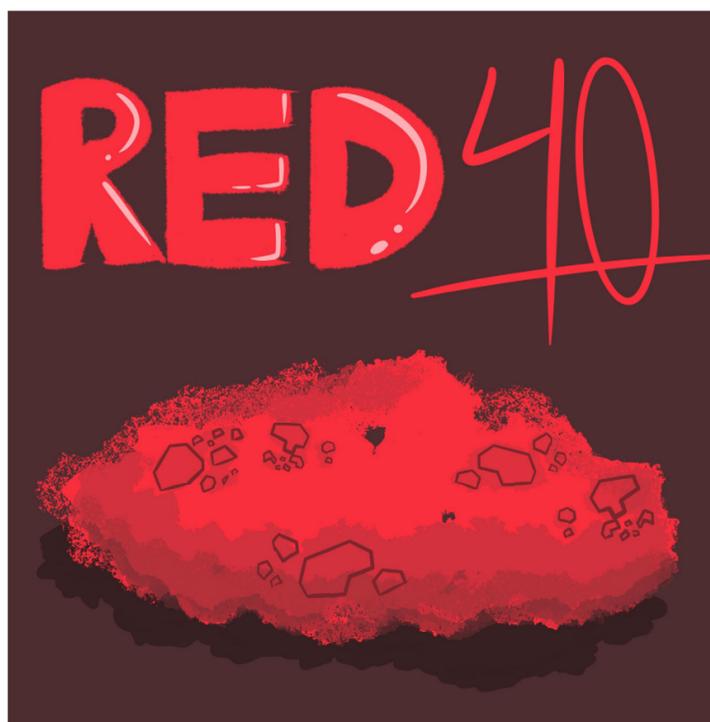


ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR SZREJNA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# I'm For Red Dye 40:

## Why some health risk fears are overinflated

by Amber Greene

CONTRIBUTOR  
SHE/HER/HERS  
amg23053@uconn.edu

Cancer. DNA damage. Tumors. These are all very scary things to think about. Not only can they be genetic, but it seems like just about anything can give it to you. If you look at the ingredient label of your favorite junk food, I'm sure you can find a toxic dye, nitrate or nitrite which is linked to dangers like the ones previously mentioned. This is not exclusive to food; lotions, perfumes and hair products contain these chemicals as well, making them all the more present in our daily lives. As our awareness grows regarding the effects of these chemicals, we are increasingly faced with the decision to try to avoid every single carcinogen or to live our lives.

Carefully reading every ingredient label or chemical warning may seem like a proactive step. One may think that because a food claims to be free of arti-

ficial dyes, it will decrease the chance of developing illness. Subsequently, they choose this "healthier" alternative on the basis of being chemical-free alone. I believe this preventive step should be skipped more often.

I am not one to say to completely neglect your health. You can make informed decisions about what you put into and on your body by educating yourself on what is healthy and what is not. However, there is a fine line to walk between monitoring this and obsessively avoiding anything that can cause cancer. Some of the most widely known foods and products have unnatural colorants.

Red dye 40 is probably one of the more well-known examples of this. From Jello to cereal to Gatorade, Red 40 and its seven other names can be found. In the early 1990s, Red 3 was the chemical everyone heard about. Parents told their kids to stay away from it, and it was feared so much that it was ultimately banned. Red

40 then appeared as a healthier alternative but ultimately poses the same threats. Eating enough of these dyed junk foods causes heart disease and obesity. The real thing worth investigating is how much of this can actually kill you.

We have all heard that everything is "okay in moderation." Red 40 has an acceptable daily intake of three milligrams per pound of body weight. To put that into perspective, one pack of Skittles has 33 mg of Red 40. This means it would take eating around 14 packs of Skittles before you need to start worrying about your health. But Red 40 is only one of multiple concerning dyes and carcinogens.

A study done in late February of this year tested 10 of the most popular brands of synthetic braiding hair commonly used by black women. Carcinogens were found in 100% of the hair they tested, and lead was found in nine out of ten of the samples. Not only were these chemicals

present, they also exceeded the allowed dosage by 600%. Two of the most popular brands, Sensationnel and Magic Fingers, contain benzene, which is known to cause leukemia according to the American Cancer Society.

This was not the first study done on products marketed toward black women, as the Environmental Working Group (EWG) tested more than 4,000 of these products to find that most of them were moderately to highly hazardous to human health.

Companies have been known to show a lack of care in the ingredients used to create predominantly black hair care products. As a black woman, it is extremely frustrating to try and find a brand that is compatible with our different hair textures, only to realize later on, after finding the perfect one, that it is known to cause cancer. I used to pay extremely close attention to the brands that are known to have these types of carcinogens in them. But this meant having to

find a new favorite brand every month after a new study came out.

In other cases, it meant paying up to \$40 more for non-toxic products that may be better for you but are overall not worth it. The brand "Yum Earth" creates non-toxic and naturally colored alternatives to popular candies. But this brand is up to three times the cost of normal candy and may make you regret not buying the name brand in the first place.

Most brands may not even have alternatives that work as well. In the case of braiding hair, there are already few brands to choose from. Does the fact that all of the most popular ones tested positive for carcinogens mean braids are a thing of the past? Not for me they aren't. Finding joy in things as simple as candy should not be taken away because of the threat of Red 40, and living life in fear of ingredients and chemicals is no way to enjoy life. I'd rather have my Skittles.

# The Industry is Not Glamorous:

## Stop normalizing sex work on social media

by Holly Thompson

CONTRIBUTOR  
SHE/HER/HERS  
hat23015@uconn.edu

A societal problem that deserves greater focus is the glorification of the adult entertainment industry. Adult entertainment refers to "any film, motion picture or videotape that primarily focuses on specified sexual activities" and "the sale, rental, or exhibition of material such as books, videos, or live performances" that feature sexual content.

OnlyFans is a platform in which anyone age 18 or older can post sexual videos, photos and livestreams, and earn money from people who subscribe and pay monthly fees to see this content. OnlyFans is not nearly as well-known as pornography because OnlyFans did not become popular until the COVID-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, the number of OnlyFans users escalated from 7.5 million in November 2020 to 85 million in December of the same year! Since OnlyFans is a relatively recent form of adult entertainment, many parents are not aware of its existence and are therefore less likely to have conversations with their children about the dangers of the platform.

A shift that I've noticed recently is the increased comfort OnlyFans creators have in promoting their content on social media. For example, there is one content house called the Bop

House. It is an account created by several young women with the intent of using TikTok, as well as other platforms, to promote their OnlyFans accounts. While the women are of legal age to use OnlyFans, underage TikTok users can still see their TikToks made with the intention of drawing attention towards their inappropriate content. As of Jan. 4, 2025, "the age demographics of TikTok are dominated by 10-19 year olds at 25%.

So, what are the consequences of this? There are many, but one that particularly stands out to me is how normalized and glorified sex work is becoming to teenage girls. As an 18-year-old myself, I am unsure of what career path I want to follow. Life is uncertain, which can be quite scary. Eighteen is a vulnerable age where your brain is not fully developed, making it easier to be influenced.

Seeing millionaire OnlyFans creators on social media creates the fantasy that by selling your body online, you can live a glamorous and easy life. Their page is filled with videos of fancy cars, incredibly nice houses, private jets and vacations, from beaches to trips to the Super Bowl. The women are also very vocal about how much money they make. Sophie Rain, one of the founders of the Bop House, is particularly rich. She recently posted her earning statistics, claiming that she is "Halfway to \$100m" on Feb. 25.

By seeing this as a young adult, it is easy to believe you too can become a millionaire and access the same luxuries as the women in the Bop House. However, it is actually quite difficult to make money through OnlyFans. As of Dec. 15, 2024, OnlyFans has over 350 million users across the globe. Only the top 1% make over \$100,000 annually, and the average creator has only 21 subscribers.

By flaunting an unrealistic lifestyle in front of millions of underage children, the Bop House and other creators are instilling an idea in growing minds that it's possible to achieve the amount of success Rain has, likely leading them to feel jealous and insecure; two emotions already prominent in teen minds. Realistically, the only thing that will accompany the start of most OnlyFans accounts will be some potential money and the loss of career opportunities in the future. One woman shared that due to her participation in the adult entertainment industry, she "had a minor panic attack when I applied for my weekly benefits, watching the numbers dwindle to practically nothing. By March of 2014, I had no money -- none."

Joining the industry can ruin your life. Many people who've been a part of the industry recommend doing your research thoroughly before even considering it, including a woman named Lana Rhoades. The former sex worker explained

that "if you're considering this career, please talk to someone who's left it first."

Additionally, while OnlyFans may appear more private and less dangerous, that is untrue. It's easy for subscribers to screenshot photos and videos after paying and send them to whoever they like, potentially reselling them to make even more money off a body that is not their own. The creepy men that take to this app can also be physically dangerous. A man named Mauricio Damien Guerrero stalked and broke into the home of a girl he met on OnlyFans. He was "charged with hiding in the woman's attic for two days, sneaking down to her room and taking videos of her and stalking her prior to that."

There are some terrible people out there, and by posting on this app at a young age creators are much more likely to be taken advantage of. Take Piper Rockelle, an influencer on social media. Piper's mother, Tiffany Smith, has used Rockelle to make money from a young age and in October 2024, "agreed to pay \$1.85 million in a settlement with 11 teen content creators who accused her of abuse and exploitation." She has a similar setup on OnlyFans that includes photos that subscribers must pay to access. Due to the sexualization she's faced throughout her entire childhood, weird people on the internet expect Rockelle to create an OnlyFans account when she turns 18.

Currently, Rockelle is 17, but still made TikToks on the Bop House page, which displays her to an audience of men who likely only follow the account for one reason. This exploitation of Piper is inappropriate, disgusting and should not be normalized to young TikTok users.

Overall, I think that if someone wants to make OnlyFans content, or any content pertaining to the adult entertainment industry, that is ultimately their choice. However, seeing a filtered, carefully constructed, and honestly, fake version of the supposed wonders creating OnlyFans content can bring you at age 18 is dangerous. You are still so young and have plenty of life ahead of you, and once you start posting, you can never go back. I encourage young women to explore the other possibilities life has to offer them before turning to this path.

# Opinion

Photo of the Day | Shoppin'



The UConn Bookstore is full of Husky fans in Storrs, Conn. on March 8, 2025. Fans geared up for the last UConn men's basketball home game vs. Seton Hall.

PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

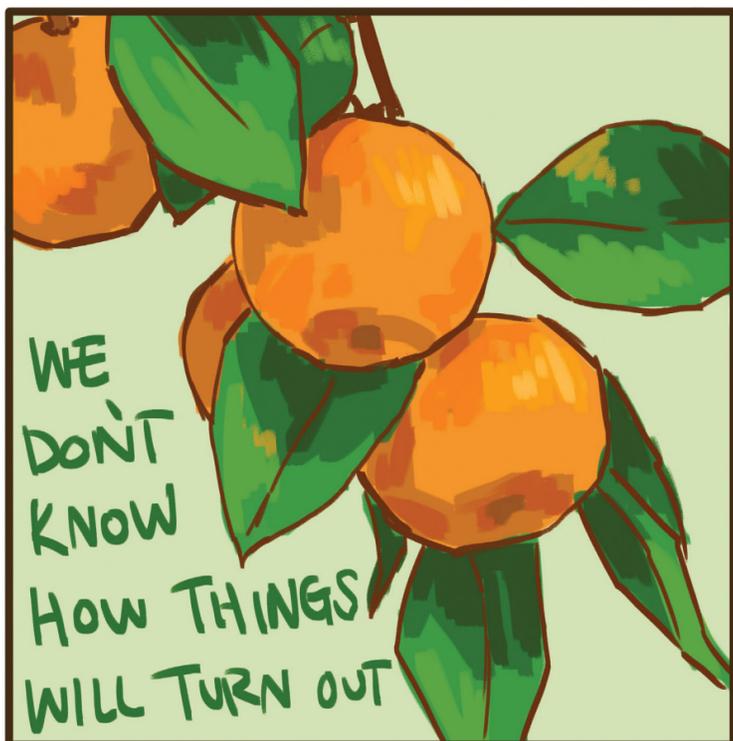


COMIC BY KRISTA MITCHELL  
STAFF ARTIST



COMIC BY ALEXA PAPPAS  
CONTRIBUTING ARTIST

# DAILY CAMPUS COMICS



COMIC BY AH REUM KINDNESS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST

# SOFTBALL: UCONN TAKES SERIES AGAINST VILLANOVA

by Patrick Minnerly  
HE/HIM/HIS  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
PATRICK.MINNERLY@UCONN.EDU

The UConn softball team kicked off Big East conference play by winning two out of three games against Villanova over the weekend. After an uneven start to the season for the Huskies, the series win marked a strong beginning for the Big East slate as they improved to 13-8 overall.

In the first game against Villanova, which was played on Friday, March 7, graduate student Payton Kinney started for UConn in the circle. Kinney has been excellent for the Huskies, posting a 0.51 ERA in 27.2 innings before Friday's game, but Villanova's offense came out swinging early. In the second inning, Villanova's Madison Ostrowski doubled to right center field, bringing in two runners for a 2-0 lead. The Wildcats extended their lead in the third inning against UConn's Hope Jenkins, who came on in relief for Kinney

and pitched a little over three innings with two earned runs and four strikeouts. Maranda Runco hit a solo shot to center field, making the score 3-0.

UConn answered with a home run from catcher Grace Jenkins in the top of the fourth inning off Villanova pitcher Kat Gallant, which put the Huskies on the board.

Villanova built their lead back up in the next few innings. In the bottom of the fourth, Runco doubled down the right field line, scoring Ostrowski. An inning later, Wagner doubled to left center to bring in two more runs, fully breaking the game open and putting the Wildcats up 6-1.

In the top of the sixth inning, UConn clawed a run back with a sacrifice fly from Kaiea Higa, cutting the lead to 6-2. However, that was the last time Gallant allowed a run, as UConn never got another opportunity to score. Villanova added on four more runs in the bottom of the

sixth to trigger a run-rule and close the game out 10-2.

The Huskies fared better in Saturday's contest. Sydnee Koosh, a redshirt sophomore, started for the seventh time this season in the circle for UConn, going five and two-thirds innings with three strikeouts.

Neither offense got going until the fourth inning, when UConn's Rosie Garcia homered to left center, opening up a 2-0 lead. Freshman infielder Cat Petteys also hit a home run soon after, extending the lead to 3-0. Kaitlyn Breslin capped the offensive explosion off with a back-to-back blast to left center, her fourth home run of the season, making it four runs scored in the inning.

Villanova threatened a comeback with three runs in two innings, cutting UConn's lead to just one run by the sixth inning. But Connecticut put the game away with a two-run single to left center in the seventh inning by Higa, making the final score 6-3.

The final game, played on Sunday afternoon, was a close-fought affair that would decide the series. UConn opened the scoring in the top of the second, with Savannah Ring singling to drive in Petteys for a one-run lead. G. Jenkins added on two runs with a single to right field.

Villanova responded in the bottom of the second with a dominant inning, scoring several runs. The Wildcats' efforts began with a solo home run from Grace Reed and continued as they loaded up the bases. Ava Mahnken grounded out, recording an RBI in the process, and on a wild pitch another run came home. At this point, H. Jenkins came on in relief for Koosh, but she didn't fare any better against the Villanova offense in the inning. With the bases loaded again, Ostrowski drove a pitch past the wall in left field for a grand slam, putting Villanova up 7-3.

UConn was down, but they were not out. Slowly, the Hus-

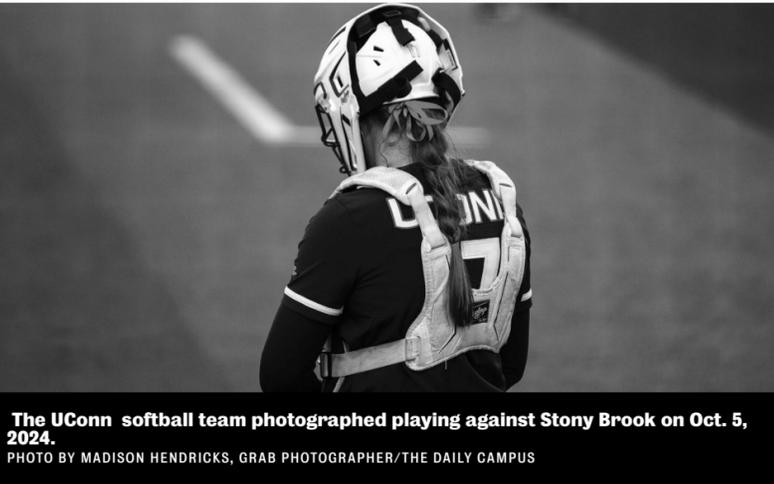
kies made their way back into the game, starting with a single from Katie Breslin in the top of the third that drove in a run. Two innings later, Breslin singled again to make the score 7-5.

In the top of the sixth, G. Jenkins doubled to center field, bringing in two runs and tying the game at 7-7. Having brought the score level, UConn went further as H. Jenkins hit a double of her own, scoring her twin sister from second. Breslin had her third hit of the day in the inning to drive in another run, extending the Huskies lead to 9-7.

Villanova made it a one-run game in the bottom of the sixth inning with a bases-loaded walk-off Kinney, who was UConn's third and final pitcher of the day. However, the Huskies held on in the seventh inning to secure the close victory and the series win.

Next up, Connecticut will play a road series against Tennessee from March 14-16.

The UConn baseball team photographed playing the University of Miami. The Huskies won 7-2.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN ATHLETICS.



The UConn softball team photographed playing against Stony Brook on Oct. 5, 2024.  
PHOTO BY MADISON HENDRICKS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# BASEBALL: HOOK C TAKES FIRST TWO BEFORE FALLING IN SERIES FINALE AT MIAMI

by Sam Calhoun  
HE/HIM/HIS  
STAFF WRITER  
SAMUEL.CALHOUN@UCONN.EDU

The UConn baseball (4-8) team saw its three-game winning streak snapped after falling to the Miami Hurricanes (12-5) in Coral Gables, Fla. this weekend. They won the first two games of the three-game series but could not complete the sweep.

The third inning of the series opener set the tone for the series, with the Huskies scoring six runs with two outs.

Sophomore Tyler Minick brought in the first run with a base hit to center field, and junior Ryan Daniels followed with a missile RBI double to right field to give the Huskies a two-run cushion. Minick, a Reading, Pa. native, has 14 runs batted in this season, 12 of which came with two outs.

Graduate student Sam Biller hit a grand slam off the parking deck in right-center field to make it 6-0 after Miami gave up walks to junior Grant MacArthur and graduate student Bryan Padilla. It was the team's second grand slam of the season, the other coming from Minick.

Left-handed pitcher Oliver Pudvar had run support and earned his first win of the year. The redshirt sophomore from Shelburne, Vt. recorded a career-high 5.0 innings pitched. He allowed just one run while retiring five batters on strikes.

"We're trying to build him up slowly, and he's coming off Tommy John [surgery]," UConn head coach Jim Penders said, in a postgame interview on X. "But I love watching him work."

Insurance came in the seventh inning as freshman catcher Connor Lane drove in junior utility man Aidan Dougherty, who stole second base with two outs and advanced to third on a wild pitch.

Left-handed pitcher JT Caruso, who used to play for the Hurricanes, pitched a scoreless eighth inning in his homecoming. Closer Brady Afthim closed a 7-2 victory for Connecticut.

On Saturday night, the Huskies clinched their first series victory of the season.

Junior second baseman Ryan Daniels set the tone for the series-clincher. The Meriden, Conn. native hit a double to right field that scored two runs. Later in the inning, Daniels stole third and scored on

a throwing error that ended with the ball in left field.

A three-run lead became a two-run lead with Miami scoring on an RBI single in the first inning, but senior right-handed pitcher Ian Cooke stayed calm with a 1-2-3 frame an inning later.

Miami would jump out in front in the third inning with a monster three-run shot to center field and would double its lead to two runs in the fourth inning with a solo shot to left center field.

UConn responded three outs later, with a rally that began with a Daniels single to right field. Minick had advanced to third base, but both runners took off after a fielding error in right field that allowed Minick to cross home plate.

"Tyler Minick gave us great at-bats today," Penders said following Saturday night's win on X.

With Daniels on, MacArthur came through with a double to left center field to tie the game at five runs. The inning ended with Padilla's single to center field that drove MacArthur in to score, giving UConn a 6-5 lead.

One inning later, redshirt freshman Rob Rispoli grounded out to third base, but that al-

lowed Dougherty to score and give UConn a two-run lead.

Connecticut broke out in the eighth inning with a rally that began with Minick's RBI infield single with the bases loaded and two outs.

The rally continued with Daniels walking to score senior catcher Matt Garbowski. MacArthur singled to center field and drove Minick and Rispoli to give the Huskies an 11-5 advantage.

The inning ended with a fielder's choice in which MacArthur was thrown out at first base of a pick-off attempt, but to the Hurricanes' dismay, Daniels crossed home plate.

While Miami scored the game's last two runs, it was not enough as the Huskies won 12-8.

The series finale was inarguably the highest-scoring game of the series, with Miami winning 15-11.

Like the night before, UConn found themselves on the board first, with MacArthur hitting a two-run home run to left field with two outs left in the inning.

That would be the last time the Huskies scored until the top of the fifth inning, as the Hurricanes scored the next eight runs without an answer from UConn.

In the top of the fifth inning, Minick stayed hot with a two-run shot to left field that cut into the Huskies' deficit. Later in the inning, Biller hit a sacrifice fly to left field that allowed Dougherty to score to cut into the deficit too.

Miami answered with a crucial fifth inning where they scored three runs to inflate their cushion.

Minick continued to produce, this time with a two-RBI double in the sixth inning that would be answered by a two-run Miami home run.

UConn had one last push with a four-run eighth inning. Dougherty hit a sacrifice fly to right field that allowed graduate student Caleb Shpur to score. Rispoli scored from third base on a wild pitch and Minick crossed home plate thanks to a two-run shot by MacArthur.

However, Connecticut gave up two runs in the bottom of the eighth inning and a 1-2-3 ninth inning ended the Huskies' hopes of a sweep.

UConn will return home and open the home schedule at Elliot Ballpark with Long Island University on Tuesday afternoon.

## Sports

Photo of the Day | Another win for the Huskies!



UConn forward Alex Karaban and fans celebrate after his final plays against Marquette seal the win for UConn on Wednesday, Mar 5, 2025 in Gampel Pavilion, Storrs Conn. PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# THE BUCKET LIST: BID-STEALING SUSPECTS OF THE 2025 CONFERENCE TOURNAMENTS

by Jake McCreven

HE/HIM/HIS  
STAFF WRITER  
JPM25012@UCONN.EDU

As defined by the NCAA website, a bid stealer is “a team that would not receive an at-large selection to the NCAA tournament but wins its conference tournament to earn an automatic bid.”

The consequences brought on by a bid stealer could drastically alter seeding in the Field of 68, in addition to cluttering the bubble teams on the border of at-large contention.

Below are five teams I believe could cause chaos on the bubble by poaching an automatic bid as an underdog and leaving the over-qualified league leaders to fend for themselves on the at-large front.

This is by no means a predictor's guide to this season's NC State (who stole a bid in the ACC last season and made a run to the Final Four) — I don't think there will be another team like Kevin Keatts' 2024 Wolfpack.

**University of Alabama Birmingham (UAB) (20-10, 13-4 AAC)**

The Blazers have lost just three games since New Year's Day, collecting all 13 conference victories during that span and recording signature wins over North Texas and Wichita State.

UAB's frontcourt-centered offense has been playing at a top -25 rate nationally since

the calendar year began, grabbing offensive rebounds at the seventh highest clip in America (38.4%). Double-double machine has anchored Blazers the past two seasons, leading UAB to the NCAA Tournament last season out of the AAC.

UAB's resume would not put them on the at-large bubble as of now (3-5 record in quads one and two), but a potential run in AAC Tournament (as in, taking down Memphis to win the conference) would pop a spot on the bubble for a team vying for an at-large bid, with Memphis then being relegated to the bubble as a top 20 team.

**Saint Joseph's University (SJU) (20-10, 11-6 A10)**

After recording a signature November victory over now-top 10 Texas Tech, Billy Lange's Hawks took a tumble, losing three of five before starting 6-6 in Atlantic 10 play.

Saint Joseph's has since rattled off five in a row to end the regular season, reaching 20-plus wins for the second consecutive season. The Hawks scored 75-plus in all five wins, reaching 90 points twice (Fordham and Rhode Island).

Looking at the current standings (as of Friday, March 7), Virginia CU and George Mason continue to brawl for the conference's top seed and prospective hopes at an at-large cushion. Saint Joseph's can secure the conference's

No. 3 seed with a victory over La Salle on Saturday, setting up a top four of VCU, George Mason, SJU and Dayton.

If the powder keg scoring duo of Erik Reynolds II and Xzayvier Brown can continue to thrive in the Atlantic 10 Tournament, Saint Joseph's can very well find itself playing in two weeks.

Not to mention the emergence of forward Rasheer Fleming, who has scored in double-digits in all but five games down low for the Hawks.

If Saint Joseph's wins the Atlantic 10, does VCU still get in as an at-large? That's for the bubble minister to decide.

**Northwestern (16-14, 7-12 B10)**

I couldn't resist not putting any high-major teams on this list.

Despite the season-ending injury to prolific wing scorer Brooks Barnhizer, Northwestern continues to stay chippy in a blanketed Big 10, signaled by the emphatic 21-point victory over Ohio State — in Columbus — two weeks ago.

If there were to be any team to replicate NC State's magic from last season, my money would be on the Wildcats (I'm not suggesting you place currency on this, it's a metaphor).

Let's compare analytical profiles of each team and you

will see why.

2024 NC State ranked 11th nationally in turnover rate (13.8%), 38th in adjusted defensive efficiency (98.4), 114th in EFG% allowed (49.5) and 136th in 2P% (49).

2025 Northwestern's ranks in the same categories: 19, 45, 138 and 136. Bonus — Northwestern forces turnovers at a blistering rate (55th nationally).

The cohesion between Nick Martinelli and Ty Berry could very well saddle Northwestern into the Bid Stealing Hall of Fame if the Wildcats are able to cut down on fouls.

**Cal State Northridge (21-9, 13-6 BW)**

I may come off as “unique” for even mentioning another team to win the Big West Tournament not named UC Irvine or UC San Diego, but the Matadors currently sit three games behind the Ant-eaters for third place in the conference standings and have sandwiched wins over Irvine and Santa Barbara between a six-point loss to UCSD in the last two weeks.

CSUN presents an incredibly challenging lineup to defend due to its overall length (no starters below 6-foot-4) and balance on both ends of the floor. The Matadors are top 120 in both adjusted offensive and defensive efficiency, shoot the ball effectively from the field (51.7%

EFG) and rebound on the offensive glass at a top-30 rate nationally (35.7%).

If CSUN is able to upend either of the two conference front runners and steal an automatic bid, UC San Diego's tournament hopes — or an unlucky bubble team such as Ohio State or Nebraska — would be crushed.

**Colorado State (21-9, 15-4 MWC)**

The Rams have won six in a row since dropping games to New Mexico and Utah State in early February, pushing and shoving up to the conference's No. 2 seed with one game remaining.

Colorado State's slide in non-conference play (losses to Washington, Colorado, Riverside — all Q2 or lower) rattled its tournament stock back in November, but the Rams have rebounded with 15 conference wins in the Mountain West.

Niko Medved's team currently sits in the “next four out” category on Bracket Matrix, which would check all required boxes to be considered a bid stealer.

Oh, and the Rams have notched wins over Boise State, San Diego State, Nevada, UNLV and Utah State — that's the Mountain West's three, four, five, six and seven seeds.

# MEN'S BASKETBALL:

## HUSKIES MAKE PIRATES WALK THE PLANK 81-50 TO END BIG EAST REGULAR SEASON

by Connor Sargeant

HE/HIM/HIS  
SPORTS EDITOR  
CONNOR.SARGEANT@UCONN.EDU

Coming off a massive 72-66 win at home over the Marquette Golden Eagles, the UConn men's basketball team returned to Gampel Pavilion to host the Seton Hall Pirates. Looking to avenge their Feb. 15 overtime loss, Connecticut got the job done, winning 81-50.

In other Big East basketball news, St. John's emerged victorious over Marquette 86-84 in overtime, meaning regardless of whether UConn won or lost to the Pirates, they were locked in as the No. 3 seed in the Big East.

Saturday afternoon also marked Senior Day for Samson Johnson, Hassan Diarra and Alex Karaban. Head coach Dan Hurley made it known on Saturday that getting to coach players and develop a long-lasting bond with them is one of the greatest feelings in the world. The ability to play an integral part in these college athletes' lives is a significant reason why Hurley turned down the Lakers job last summer.

"It's just the greatest feeling in the world," the two-time national championship coach noted. "To get Samson Johnson in here as a young man at 17, 18 years old and like you're part of his maturation process of becoming a man."

"Just all the work you put in together. The successes, the failures, the hard work, the beautiful moments, the devastating moments. When you experience all of these things together, you have a connection for life that is a bond of a true family, love and admiration for each other that just grows."

Despite there being no Big East seeding implications of Saturday's contest, Connecticut still put on a dominant display of basketball, and it started with the senior trio. Johnson, Diarra and Karaban all opened the scoring for Connecticut, which was infectious. Despite Pirates' head coach Shaheen Holloway burning an early timeout, it could not slow down the Huskies who started on an excellent 18-3 scoring run. Johnson was the culprit early on.

The Togo native put up eight points in 10 minutes of work, though he was getting these buckets in unorthodox ways for the program. Johnson was either slipping his man, finessing his way down low or poking a pass to take coast to coast. This is the second game in a row in which the UConn big man has demonstrated a high ability to disrupt passing lanes and create offense. However, it wasn't just his defense that put Saturday's contest out of reach.

Johnson was also a disruptive presence defensively, blocking three shots, playing solid defense and clogging passing lanes. Hurley noted postgame that Johnson's, along with Diarra's defensive tone, helped energize the program. This stout defense from the senior pair limited the damage the Pirates could manage and helped set up the UConn offense for success.

Whether it was knocking down a triple, finding a teammate for a wide-open bucket or grabbing a rebound, Karaban was doing it all Saturday afternoon. The redshirt junior played nearly all 20 minutes (18), and in that time, he finished the half with eight points on 3-4 shooting, 2-3 from beyond

the arc. The two-time national champion also finished the half with 6 rebounds and a trio of assists.

While Seton Hall guard Garvey Dual put on an excellent 10-point, 3-3 performance from three, and the Huskies turned the ball over 10 times, the Pirates struggled to find other contributors. Seton Hall finished the first half with only 22 points. Conversely, it seemed like whoever had the ball for Connecticut was finding the bottom of the net. Solo Ball continued rolling with an excellent nine point first half, and nearly everyone who checked in scored. The program finished up 43-22 at the end of the first half thanks to offensive performances like this.

The second half was more of the same story, as Connecticut scorers were still getting it done from the field, and this was primarily thanks to Diarra's efforts. Despite not recording any points in the final 20 minutes of Saturday's contest, the Queen's native was active in setting up scoring for the program, and was a significant reason why most of the second half was "garbage time." Diarra finished with five second half assists, which also included a highlight reel lob off the backboard into the hands of Johnson who slammed the rock home to complete the alley-oop. Diarra and Johnson, elaborated on the play in question postgame.

"We didn't practice that," Diarra said of the lob. "[Johnson] was pressuring the ball, and they threw a pass to my man, and he mishandled it. I stole the ball, looked back and saw I had an open layup. But then I saw [Johnson] running as fast as he could and he said something,

what did you say Sam?"

"Throw it off the glass," Johnson smirked in response.

"I heard it, and I was like 'why not?'" Diarra noted. "So, I just gave it a chance, and thank god he caught it, because that would've been bad."

While Ball and Karaban's excellent scoring ability rolled over into the second half, a performance that should be on the radars of UConn fans came from Aidan Mahaney. The St. Mary's transfer added onto his four-point first half with a six-point second half flurry on a perfect 2-2 slash from downtown. The reason this performance is so critical is because the program lacks consistent backup point guard play. It doesn't appear that Ahmad Nowell is quite ready to step in as the everyday backup one, but one thing is certain: UConn needs someone to fill this role if they wish to go deep, and Hurley has mentioned this on numerous occasions.

"We need that," Hurley told the media postgame. "We need that from [Mahaney]. We need another guard off the bench to help the team. This is a guy who had an incredible resume. The year's been tough on him. But the kid has shown up every day and works hard. He's as disappointed as anyone with the year he's had. He's our best chance to have someone help us off the bench in March."

After a lot more scoring, getting nearly the entire roster out on the floor and even dual technical fouls, the contest finally ended, with UConn coming out on top 81-50. This was not before Johnson, Diarra and Karaban (potentially) checked out of the game for the final time at Gampel Pavilion and got their,

much-deserved, roses from the home crowd. It is befitting that this trio got a Hollywood ending in front of the UConn crowd after all they have done for Connecticut basketball. Hurley emphasized what this win meant to him and where he and the program presently see themselves.

"We're going to go into New York feeling the best we've felt since when Liam [McNeeley] hurt his ankle," Hurley said. "We were feeling good then. Then we had some struggles when Liam was out. We haven't been able to put together a win streak. It's probably the best we've felt all year and it's March, and UConn's got a great history in March. That's part of our confidence."

March has officially come. The regular season is over for the Huskies, and championship weekend is here. The Huskies are officially the No. 3 seed for the Big East Tournament and will return to action this Thursday to face either Seton Hall or Villanova in defense of their Big East title. Making some noise here is crucial, since most bracketologists have them floating as an eight or nine seed, meaning they would face a No. 1 seed in the second round. If UConn could avoid this for now, they would have even more time to mesh and build up even more momentum, which is crucial considering that McNeeley is amid an offensive funk. Then, when the time comes to play a program like Auburn or Duke, UConn can put their best foot forward and give them the best fight possible.

# WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:

## HUSKIES SET UP REMATCH IN BIG EAST CHAMPIONSHIP GAME AFTER DOMINANT THIRD PERIOD AGAINST VILLANOVA.

by Jake McCreven

HE/HIM/HIS  
STAFF WRITER  
JPM23012@UCONN.EDU

The third-ranked UConn women's basketball team (30-3) allowed 17 second half points en route to a 28-point win over Villanova on Sunday afternoon.

The Huskies secured one of two spots in the Big East championship game on Monday night, the other clinched by No. 23 Creighton, who defeated Seton Hall in the second semifinal game.

The Wildcats were able to stick around with the Huskies offensively for the better part of two quarters, taking the lead on four separate occasions throughout the first half and hitting on over 43% of their shots from the field.

Paige Bueckers led all scorers with 23 points, hitting on 10 field goals (two three-pointers) and dishing six assists in the win.

"When the game got close, when they took the lead, I think that — more than anything — was the turning point for her," said Geno Auriemma postgame. "At that point she just started playing and taking it upon herself."

And the 40-year veteran wasn't wrong. When Villanova was within three possessions or had the lead in the first half, Bueckers hit on six of her 10 field goals, including a momentum swinging and-one with just over two minutes remaining in the second period.

Bueckers finished the first half with 21 points on 9/13 shooting while no other player had more than 11 (Webber). The fifth-year senior shot just four times in the second half, however, as the Huskies saw most of their scoring come from freshman Sarah Strong in the low post.

Strong's 20-point, 16-rebound, four-assist stat line warranted high praise from Villa-

nova head coach Denise Dillon post-game, who said that the freshman's growth has been "visible" this season, especially on the glass and on the defensive end.

Strong's 16 rebounds set a career high, breaking the mark of 14 she collected against St. John's on Saturday and against Georgetown in the Big East opener.

"I try not to overthink it, I just look at it like any other game and keep my same mentality for every game," Strong said postgame when asked about the difference between a tournament style environment and the regular season.

The freshmen forward and All-Big East First Team selection played 28 minutes of game-time, splitting time in the frontcourt with redshirt sophomore Ice Brady and redshirt freshman Jana El Alfy.

The three-man rotation accounted for 30 points and 26 rebounds down low, nearly out-rebounding the Wildcats alone (32).

There were times when Auriemma utilized only Strong in the frontcourt (a decent chunk of the first and third periods), yet there were also times when the Hall of Fame coach threw both Brady and El Alfy together or Strong and El Alfy together, giving Connecticut the clear edge on the glass.

That's what the Huskies needed after giving up five offensive rebounds (and 12 overall) in the first quarter to a Villanova team traditionally viewed as undersized down low.

Auriemma's use of two bigs yielded the results he was looking for. Connecticut won the battle on the glass by two in the second period and claimed first half advantages in points in the paint (26) and defensive rebounds (13).

UConn stood stout defensively in the third period after allowing 37 first half points. The Wildcats did not hit on a single field goal in the third period (0/11) seeing all six points come from the charity stripe.

Bueckers spoke on the half-time adjustments post-game.

"Limiting paint touches, limiting wide open threes, getting a hand up to contest and trying to make things more difficult," the redshirt senior said.

UConn turned a 10-point halftime lead into a 21-point lead by the end of the third period, holding Villanova to one offensive rebound and zero paint points in the penultimate quarter.

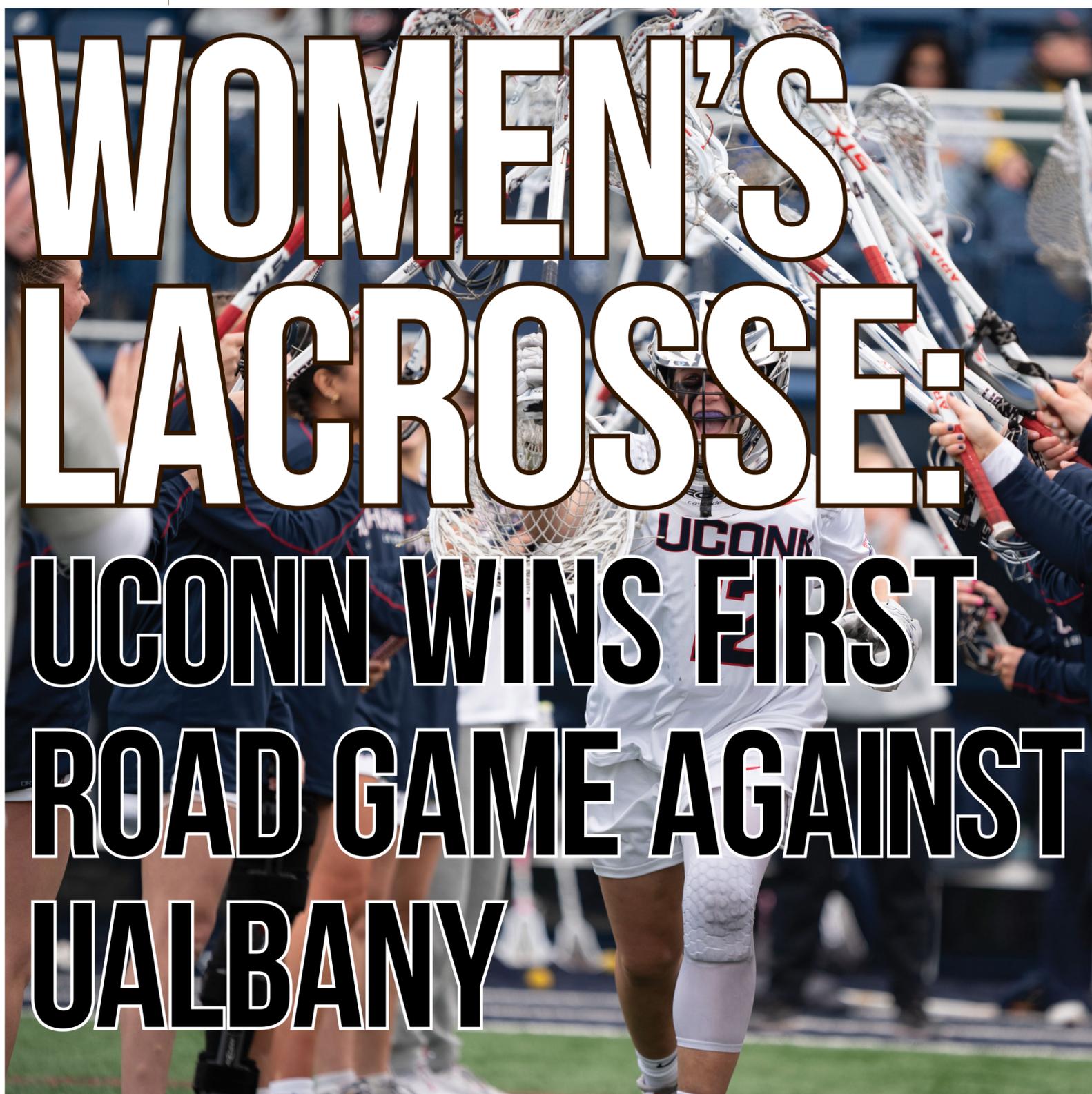
UConn extends its record to 30-1 when leading at the half (Tennessee) and 8-2 all-time versus Villanova in the Big East Tournament.

The Huskies will aim for a 13th consecutive post-season title against Creighton tonight at the Mohegan Sun Arena. The Blue Jays defeated Georgetown 72-70 on Saturday and Seton Hall 73-44 yesterday evening.

The game will tip-off at 7 p.m. on FS1, being the final of five high-major conference tournaments to end.



# Sports



by Julia Sasso  
SHE/HER/HERS  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
JULIA.SASSO@UConn.EDU

The No. 25 UConn women's lacrosse team picked up their first road win of the season this weekend in a dominant 15-4 victory over UAlbany in New York.

Connecticut started off strong with freshman midfielder Anna Magennis and graduate attacker Eliza Bowman scoring the first two goals of the match within the first two minutes. The Great Danes, however, put up a fight and scored back-to-back goals tying the game 2-2 early in the first quarter. The Huskies retook the lead after a goal by sophomore attacker Emma Dacey, assisted by graduate attacker Jenna Giardina.

Despite struggling with penalties and having two players receive yellow cards, UConn still extended their lead and finished the quarter strong. Redshirt junior Rayea Davis kept Connecticut's attack alive during the second half of the quarter, scoring consecutive unassisted goals extending the Huskies' lead to 5-2. Giardina closed off the quarter with a final Connecticut goal in the final 32 seconds, putting UConn up four goals above the Great Danes.

The second quarter started off slow, with neither team scoring for almost six minutes. However, the Huskies ended the drought with three goals in just under two minutes. Davis continued to extend the Connecticut lead, scoring her fourth goal of the half, putting UConn up 9-2 and forcing UAlbany into a timeout.

The Great Danes' momentum did not change after the timeout as senior attacker Anna Zimmermann scored another one for the Huskies. With just over a minute left in the half, sophomore Rile Daly made a play on a ground ball passing it to Bowman who scored her second goal of the match, putting UConn up 11-2 to end the first half.

The Huskies kept their momentum from the first half going

as they opened the scoring with a goal from junior Midfielder Karsyn Burnash. This brought Connecticut's lead into the double digits. A penalty from the Huskies gave UAlbany a chance to score, bringing the line to 12-3 halfway through the third quarter.

Connecticut brought the lead back into the double digits with a goal by Davis in the final minute of the quarter. This was Davis' fifth goal of the match, making this the third time this season she scored five goals in a game.

The only goal for the Huskies going into the final quarter was to finish strong, which is exactly what they did. Giardina was the first to score with an unassisted goal, converting on a free position shot bringing UConn to 14-3.

The Great Danes once again took advantage of a Connecticut foul called on freshman Ashlyn Roberts. UAlbany capitalized on their one player advantage to score their fourth goal of the match.

Despite their lead, the Huskies continued to pressure UAlbany. Freshman attacker Lucia Smigiel scored her first career goal with the Huskies in the final minute of the match, sealing the Huskies' dominant 15-4 win.

Graduate defender Meghan Lane recorded her 250th career draw control in the first half of the match. However, she wasn't the only one with an impressive stat line. Graduate Goalkeeper Tori Cini made eight saves during the match, her second-highest total this season.

With this win the Huskies extended their winning streak over the Great Danes to seven consecutive games over the last seven years. UConn also moves their overall record to 5-2, with a two-game winning streak.

Next up the Huskies will host the No. 9 Yale Bulldogs on Wednesday, Mar. 12. Faceoff is set for 1 p.m. at the Joseph J. Morrene Stadium at Rizza Performance Center in Storrs, Conn. The match will be streamed on UConn+.

UConn women's lacrosse takes on the University of Massachusetts for a back and forth battle in Storrs, Conn. on March 1, 2025. The Huskies showed fans the kind of energy the team will bring this season

PHOTOGRAPH BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

