



UConn Rec Center evacuated due to bomb threat on Sunday

by **Samantha Brody**
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A note threatening the presence of an explosive was left inside the University of Connecticut Recreation Center on Sunday, March 9, resulting in a full evacuation. The building was fully evacuated and searched, but no danger was found inside.

The evacuation occurred during Surf N' Send, an annual bouldering competition hosted by UConn Rec. The event began around 10 a.m. and planned to go until 2:30 p.m. The competition was cut short at around 2:15 p.m. when an announcement came through on the intercom directing everyone inside the building to evacuate immediately and to leave their belongings behind.

An anonymous member of the UConn Climbing Team noted that the staff seemed "worked up" for around 10 to 15 minutes before the evacuation was announced.

"UConn Police were notified Sunday afternoon that a note had been found in the Student Recreation Center indicating an explosive was in the building," UConn spokesperson Stephanie Reitz said when contacted via email. "The center was evacuated and fully searched by specialized crews, who found no such item or other indicators of danger."

Although the Rec Center was closed for the rest of the day, it reopened the next day at 6 a.m.

"The building was cleared to resume normal operations, and the police investigation continues into the note's origins," Reitz said.

Alejandro Danburg, a second-semester student majoring in actuarial finance, was participating in the Surf N' Send competition at the time of the evacuation.

"When I was told to evacuate the climbing center, I initially mistook it for a fire alarm," he said in an email. "I had heard about the bomb threat from others while the police kept us waiting outside. Another student informed me that there was a sticky note with a written bomb threat on one of the climbing walls."

The anonymous student added that, from what they had heard, the note had specifically been left on a slab wall, a type of non-vertical climbing wall. They had also heard that the note included the phrase "Don't be a hero."

"The evacuation was a lot of confused people being rushed out," the student said in a text conversation with the Daily Campus. "We didn't know why and we were all

frustrated as the competition had 15 minutes left and finals were in an hour."

Danburg noted that the Rec Center staff were instructed to leave through a different exit than the rest of the people in the building.

"Overall, the evacuation felt swift and orderly. The staff and officers maintained a calm demeanor and demonstrated an effective approach to safely evacuating a large crowd from the UConn Recreation building," Danburg said.

Danburg noted that some of the evacuees attempted to ask the Rec Center staff questions as they were leaving but were not given answers.

"We had waited outside the Rec for several minutes without any information from anyone, the Rec staff, or the police," Danburg said. He noted that many of the people waiting, including Danburg himself, were without shoes.

"When they finally arrived, they only gave us information about when we would retrieve our belongings that were left behind during the evacuation, which they said would happen later that day or sometime in the following days," Danburg added.

Danburg said he was able to get his belongings back the next day, at around 12:15 p.m.

"All I got out was my phone," an anonymous student said. "I was barefoot in a tank top and had to get back to my dorm that way. I was without my belongings (wallet and keys and whatnot) until noon today [Monday], as the rec was closed until today."

The student was also left without their Husky One Card, relying on others to let them into their dorm and swipe them into dining halls.

"I did not have [it] the worst by far; people were stranded on campus with their car keys locked inside," they said. "A few of my friends had their laptops locked inside their cars and are now behind on work and studying. The most egregious case was I have a friend that came down from Boston for the [competition] and didn't even have her phone."

The student also expressed frustration with how the Rec Center had handled that crisis, citing a manager who had "smugly smiled" when the student said their belongings were inside the building.

"But all of the climbing center employees handled [the crisis] really well and were very levelheaded," the student added.

The Daily Campus reached out to the UConn Recreation Center for comment, who directed the Daily Campus to Reitz.



ILLUSTRATION BY ESHITHA RAO, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Honors DEIJ summit to host workshops and presentations

by **Pierce Colfer**
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The Honors DEIJ Reflections & Connections Summit will be hosted from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Rome Ballroom today. This summit "will feature an interactive event by Honors DEI, Honors for Diversity, Honors Council, and Honors Student Leadership Board-Stamford," according to a University of Connecticut Daily Digest post about the event.

The summit will start at 2 p.m. with a welcome from Dr. Jennifer Lease Butts, the associate vice provost for enrichment programs and director of the honors program.

The first workshop will be held from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and will be about "DEI 101," according to the Daily Digest post. This workshop will be led by two honors DEI student specialists, Rebecca Drouillard and Daniel Heumann.

After this workshop, a presentation will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. that covers racial microaggressions at UConn. This pre-

sentation will be given by Dr. Micah Heumann, the director of the office of undergraduate research.

A description is given for the presentation on the UConn Events Calendar: "During the Spring of 2019 through the Winter of 2020, our team collected 1,229 from BIPOC identifying graduate and undergraduate students to give voice to these students, identify trends, patterns and recurrent issues that need institutional attention and assess the impact of racial microaggressions on student success, wellbeing and campus climate."

The last workshop of the summit is called "The Seventh Generation Process: Exploring the Future through Our Interconnectedness in the Present," and will be hosted from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. by Timothy Beaucage, the honors program advisor and STEM scholar coordinator.

The UConn Events Calendar describes the workshop as a way to, "cultivate radical hope and reinvigorate your commitment to engage in complex global issues with a sacred 'deep time' practice session inspired by the work

of activist and Buddhist scholar Joanna Macy."

The rest of the summit will be an "International Night celebration with student performances and buffet," according to the Daily Digest post.

The UConn Events Calendar goes more into what will be happening at the international night.

"In an effort to celebrate our cultural differences and similarities, the Honors Community will be hosting a night full of food, interactive performances and games from around the world," the Events Calendar says. "The ultimate goal of this event is to highlight the diversity of this campus and foster connections between groups in the honors community, the UConn community and beyond!"

According to the Daily Digest post, "students, faculty and staff from ALL campuses are encouraged to attend. This event is hosted by Honors, but open to all!"

For more information about the Honors DEIJ Reflections & Connections Summit, you can contact the Honors Council at uconnhc@gmail.com.

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NEWSLETTER

News

UConn students testify on controversial campus safety bill

by **Liliana French**

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Students at the University of Connecticut testified on the controversial campus safety bill SBo0980 on Friday, March 7.

The bill would create a Title VI coordinator on campus to address racial discrimination. It would also create partnerships between campus police and local and state police to “coordinate security for campus groups that are at a heightened risk, as determined by the president of such institution, of being the target of a terrorist attack, hate crime or violent act.”

CT for Palestine asked people via Instagram to testify in opposition to the bill, stating that it would harm pro-Palestine activists. Students from UConn’s chapters of Hillel and Jewish on Campus spoke in support of the bill.

According to State Senator Derek Slap, there were 201 people signed up to testify at the hearing, which included speakers testifying on other bills in the Joint Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee meeting. CT for Palestine said on Instagram that over 120 people testified in opposition to the bill.

UConn human rights graduate student Sara Trueax was involved in organizing people to testify against the bill. She stated that she thought that the bill would lead to more arrests.

“This bill specifically would clear the way to criminalize any students who are forcing support for peaceful end to the genocide in Gaza and the West Bank and all of Palestine. And really, that’s what, that’s what we want to be able to do, is protest,” Trueax said. “We want to be able to show that we are against this. We are against the killing of innocents.”

Bill co-sponsor State Senator

Matt Lesser offered testimony in support of the bill. He stated that federal law requires universities to have a Title IX coordinator on campus to ensure universities follow federal sex discrimination law. Lesser said that the bill would add a Title VI coordinator to ensure universities follow racial discrimination law. It would not make any hate incidents illegal beyond what already exists, according to Lesser.

“The problem is how we investigate and resolve claims of hate incidents or discrimination,” Lesser said. “Without a Title VI coordinator, there is not always a consistent, designated point person on campus. Nor is there always a clear procedure for a school to review and adjudicate claims. Nor is there a clear standard in place for them to involve or not involve law enforcement when discrimination or harassment rise to a certain level.”

Lesser suggested removing language on policing from the bill.

State Senator Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox said that most schools already have policies to deal with discrimination.

“My other concern, when it comes to campus speech, is this partnership with the police force,” she said. “Because this is an important constitutional right is also to be able to display dissent. Not to make others feel threatened, of course, but to be able to not feel like that’s going to be shut down with increased policing on campus.”

UConn graduate student Benjamin Stumpf spoke out against the bill.

“This bill is a hardly concealed attempt to silence those who are speaking the truth about Israel’s genocide of Palestinians,” Stumpf said. “As a Jewish graduate student, the weaponization of claims to my safety to trample free speech, suppress protest and target the student movement against

genocide is an obscenity. The equation of antisemitism with criticism of the state of Israel’s genocide of Palestinians is an obscenity.”

Stumpf disagreed with the idea that this bill would enhance campus safety. He said that there was no Jewish safety without free speech.

“The underlying logic of this bill is a perverse inversion that says that silence about genocide will keep people safe. Surveillance and repression keeps no one safe,” Stumpf said. “The threat to safety on campus comes from the police, the Republican attack on higher education and the Democrats who play junior partner to fascist oppression.”

UConn sophomore Eva Dannison spoke in support of the bill. She is the co-president of UConn’s chapter of Jewish on Campus.

“Collectively, life as a Jewish college student in a post-October seventh world has been anything but normal,” Dannison said.

She shared her experiences of antisemitism on campus since Oct. 7.

“I was singled out by a professor in the middle of class who asked me if I was Jewish and when I reluctantly nodded, pushed me to share my opinions on the Middle Eastern conflict even after I refused,” Dannison said. “‘Free Palestine’ has been written on multiple occasions on the whiteboards of Jewish students’ dormitories, targeting their living spaces for no other reason than their Jewish identity, which was not even openly displayed.”

University Spokesperson Stephanie Reitz said in an email that UConn offers a course “Why the Jews? Confronting Antisemitism” to educate students on antisemitism which 3,500 students have completed over the past three years.

“UConn also has a Campus Climate Committee composed of administrators from across the University working to maintain a safe, inclusive, and supportive campus environment for students, faculty, and staff,” Reitz said.

Jenna Rabah testified in opposition to Senate Bill 980. She is a UConn alumnus and was the president of UConn’s chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine last year.

“As the daughter of two Palestinian refugees from Gaza who came to this country in search of a better life, my family witnessed unimaginable loss,” Rabah said. “Over the past two years, my family in Gaza has been devastated by Israeli airstrikes. I have lost two uncles and three cousins and those who remain have lost their homes and now live in tents, displaced and struggling to survive.”

Rabah spoke about death threats she received as president of UConn SJP.

“Last year, and simply for holding that position, I received two death threats and was wrongfully reported to the university office of community standards,” Rabah said.

“If this bill had been in place when I was a student, I have no doubt that I would have been subjected to surveillance by both local and state police, targeted not for any wrongdoing, but for simply speaking out against the atrocities I have witnessed happening to my own family.”

Rabah is one of the 26 people arrested at the encampment last year. She said that while Connecticut leaders claim stand against the Trump administration, the bill echoes the principles of Project 2025. Rabah said that the proposed measures had the ability to destroy the lives of student advocates.

“Policing and surveillance have never been the answer. They have done nothing but

further alienate vulnerable individuals and create marginalized communities,” Rabah said. “I stand here today for every student down the line who dare speak against tyranny, fascism or genocide. This is a very dangerous bill. Simply put, it’s anti-democratic and anti-education.”

Sophia Hendizadeh is a freshman at UConn and the communications director of Jewish on Campus.

“Stepping onto campus was a culture shock. Since coming to UConn Storrs campus, I have seen hate in forms I have never seen before,” she said. “Last semester, I took a human rights course. I soon discovered that the TA in the class had extreme antisemitic views and tried to promote them in class.”

Hendizadeh said that this made her uncomfortable being in the class. She said that she was assigned articles on the Israel-Palestine conflict which did not mention Hamas’ terrorist attack on Oct. 7, or the Israeli civilians killed.

“I soon found myself tucking in my Star of David necklace under my shirt every day before walking into the classroom. I did this because I felt almost certain that my views and my Jewish identity would impact my grade in the class.”

She said that she reported this to the Dean of Students, but there was no follow up or disciplinary action that took place.

Reitz said that UConn condemns bigotry.

“UConn condemns all forms of bias and bigotry and works to ensure all students feel safe and welcome on its campuses,” Reitz said. “This includes a robust bias reporting system that helps the University identify individuals or groups in need of support and includes UConn Police to investigate actions that may involve a law enforcement response.”

The Daily Campus

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Monday, March 10, 2025

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The Daily Campus CROSSWORD and Sudoku

- ACROSS**
- 1 Unemotional
 - 6 "Buzz off!"
 - 10 Football penalty indicator
 - 14 Concert setting
 - 15 Animal's den
 - 16 Daughter of Darth Vader
 - 17 In the ___ of
 - 18 Foam darts, for a Nerf Blaster
 - 19 Quaint quarters
 - 20 Angler's supply
 - 21 *Tennis racket's optimal impact point
 - 23 Lama's cousin
 - 25 Stop holding on
 - 26 Mom's brother
 - 28 Apple Music predecessor
 - 32 Sense of style
 - 34 "___ Yankees"
 - 37 Clock display
 - 38 Mo. with the signs Aries and Taurus
 - 39 Military IDs on chains, and what can be found at the ends of the answers to the starred clues?
 - 42 Cereal with Honey and Berry Berry varieties
 - 43 Applications
 - 45 Turn off course
 - 46 "___ Rose Has Its Thorn": Poison hit
 - 48 "You have my cell number"
 - 50 Salami type
 - 52 Dos + tres
 - 55 Forms a line?
 - 58 *Explorer on the red planet
 - 61 Canadian First Nations people
 - 62 Literary detective Wolfe
 - 63 Scored 100% on
 - 64 World-renowned
 - 65 Sleeveless top, for short
 - 66 Feature of a landline
 - 67 Ludicrous
 - 68 Black gem
 - 69 "Swish Swish" singer Perry
 - 70 Athlete in a weight class

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68						69					70			

By Doug Peterson

3/11/25

- DOWN**
- 1 Brazilian dance
 - 2 "Law & Order" proceeding
 - 3 *Sophocles tragedy
 - 4 ___ coffee
 - 5 Friskies muncher
 - 6 Shredded side dish
 - 7 Caravan animal
 - 8 "Lucifer" actress Garcia
 - 9 Moving briskly
 - 10 Fly off the handle
 - 11 Television Hall of Famer Jay
 - 12 Informal contraction
 - 13 Furnace fuel
 - 21 ESPN football reporter Paolantonio
 - 22 USMC rank
 - 24 Looped in via email
 - 27 Outer rim
 - 29 *Athletic shoe introduced in 1987
 - 30 Dubai dignitary
 - 31 Alluring
 - 32 Pulled tight
 - 33 Chapel recess
 - 35 Devoured

Monday's Puzzle Solved

R	A	M	S			A	I	M			F	R	A	M	E
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- 36 Actress Helgenberger
- 40 Cookie sheet holder
- 41 Place in the outgoing mail
- 44 Largest of the U.S. Virgin Islands
- 47 Mount St. Helens, for one
- 49 Scale notes after res
- 51 Organ with a drum
- 53 Tiramisu topper
- 54 Plain to see
- 56 Geoffrey of fashion
- 57 Ceremonial Passover meal
- 58 Lean and ___
- 59 Group of troops
- 60 Swirling current
- 62 22-Down, e.g.: Abbr.
- 64 Minor untruth

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Life

How political advertisements shape elections

by **Elijah Polance**
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Guest speaker J. Toscano addressed University of Connecticut students at Susan V. Herbst Hall about how political media influences elections on Monday, March 10.

Paul Herrnson, a political science professor at UConn, kicked off the event by introducing Toscano. Toscano is the founder and CEO of Backstory Strategies, a political consulting firm. He has helped develop strategies and media advertisements for political candidates for over 20 years. His efforts have helped elect various members of Congress across the United States.

Toscano began by explaining the many political careers one can have during and after the campaign process. After studying political science and communications at Central Connecticut State University, he got some professional experience that led to his career in media consulting.

"I had been working at this consulting firm when I first came out of government ... so I had a pretty good sense of political strategy," Toscano said. "I also have kind of a more creative side, and being a media consultant kind of combines those things."

Toscano then went into some of the steps required before helping with a political campaign.

First, the race must be assessed, analyzing whether the candidate can win, the political climate and voting trends in the region. Then you establish a strategy, identifying the focus demographics and issues for victory.

Toscano explained that when he entered the industry, it was standard practice to create 30 second television ads for the last six weeks of political cam-

paigns. But the industry has changed and grown because of the many ways you can reach voters.

"Now we're taking an idea, a concept, and figuring out how [it works] for advertising on a social platform versus streaming, because you as a viewer will engage with that differently," Toscano said.

Toscano has found that different platforms engage better with certain audiences. The length and structure of an advertisement often changes depending on the platform used.

Next, Toscano went into the process of putting advertisements together. He said having a storyline will resonate better with viewers than scripts. Things like music and effects have a drastic impact on the tone and reception. The process of recording the advertisement is Toscano's favorite part of the process.

"For me, I get a lot out of that because so much of what we're doing the rest of the time is looking at strategy and numbers," Toscano said. "When you're out with real people and you hear how this actually does affect real lives, it gives you a feeling of satisfaction in the choice that you made in terms of creating."

Toscano then went into some of the different types of political advertisements you may encounter. He said that positive and bio ads establish who a candidate is, their drive for running and their positioning on major issues. He said they also establish the agenda and tone for the candidate's campaign.

He explained that value ads declare a candidate's core beliefs they are running on. Issues ads are similar, working by identifying a problem and presenting the candidate as the solution to help the viewer.

Toscano said modeling ads serve a different purpose, giving voters permission to "do the

right thing," like voting for a candidate even though they are not from their preferred party. Negative ads are also unique by undermining opponents without directly involving the candidate you are supporting. However, Toscano said reception to these advertisements can be unfavorable and they must be thoroughly backed up with evidence, making them hard to pull off.

Toscano finished by explaining response ads. He said that generally, it is best to not respond to attacks against a candidate, but it can sometimes be helpful. If done, he said it is important to undermine the credibility of the attack without mentioning the claims directly, using it as a chance to reaffirm the candidate's values.

Toscano showed a handful of political advertisements he worked on during the presentation as examples. His work with U.S. Rep. Kim Schrier, who was a pediatrician before getting elected with Toscano's advertisement help, were recurring examples. He showed a bio ad that established her commitment to healthcare issues, an issues ad where she addressed gun control and a response ad where she addressed false rumors attached to her.

After Toscano's presentation, students were given a few minutes to ask questions. A few students spoke up, asking about the value of microtargeting advertisements and Toscano's experience in the marketing and business field.

Toscano's talk drew an audience of a few dozen students, some of whom with an interest in political advertising. His detailed description of the industry and his own experience gave a thorough overview of political media consulting. Toscano's work and successes can be seen on the Backstory Strategies website.



Political media consultant, J. Toscano discusses types of media in politics and the different careers that come with them. The lecture was organized by UConn's Political Science department on March 10.

PHOTO BY MADISON HENDRICKS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab**
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The University of Connecticut's Creative Writing Program had another installation of their Visiting Authors Series starring the author of "Hijab Butch Blues," Lamya H., and a featuring creative non-fiction writer, Miranda Argyros, on March 6. Both writers read excerpts of their literature for the online audience with American Sign Language interpreters.

Associate Professor in Residence of the English department and Director of the Creative Writing Program Sean Frederick Forbes began the talk by thanking the audience for attending.

Forbes talked about a creative nonfiction contest that Argyros won. Argyros is a graduate student in the English department and an instructor in the first-year writing program. Forbes let Argyros read an excerpt from her nonfiction piece named "Untitled (Red)."

In a gorgeous amount of detail, Argyros detailed her experiences talking to a potential love interest who she may be ambivalent about. Her love interest likes red, so Argyros focused on that color in her piece.

It was easy to get lost in the world Argyros created, where it could feel black and white with red accents. Striking lines include "As though an artist's work is to calcify" and "As though art is a memoir" for how artists preserve history, emotions and thought in their work. Forbes described the work as "sensual."

After thanking Argyros for reading her excerpt, Forbes introduced H. to the audience. Her book about growing up and living as a queer and non-binary Brown Muslim person, "Hijab Butch Blues," won the Stonewall Israel Fishman Non-fiction Award and Brooklyn Public

Library Book Prize and was a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award and the Publishing Triangle Award. H. wishes for her book to affirm "A dignity of life for everyone."

The first excerpt recounted the story of H. in a class about the Quran, and specifically focused on the story of Maryam (also known as the Virgin Mary), and the impact it had on H.

"I'm filled with an existential need to disappear," H. said.

H. didn't liken it to depression necessarily, but the feeling was still there. She remembered how Maryam tells God she wanted to die, which was shocking but also liberating to H. Maryam also said, "How can I have a baby when a man never touched me?" to which H. responded in class: "Because she didn't like men?"

The class laughed and H. played it off as being the class clown, but she was genuine with her question. "Are there other women who don't like men?" H. wondered. "Maryam is a dyke," she boldly claimed.

"There are other women who are like me in the Quran," H. realized.

After the first excerpt, H. took a moment to add some political commentary on top of the readings since she wanted her work to be both personal and political. "It feels very important right now to celebrate queer and trans joy," H. said. She noted the current American administration, but also didn't forget the past administrations' enabling of genocide, Islamophobia and anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric and legislation among other topics as well.

The second excerpt was about a queer Muslim space that H. felt at home at. She saw a prayer without segregation by sex, which, like Maryam's story, offered her a new perspective on her intersectional identity.

Someone in a plaid shirt, curly hair on the top of their

head and buzzcut sides went into the space, to which H. silently noted to herself that they had "So much butch swagger." The person who came in was super welcoming to H. and became her queer Muslim mentor. "I feel like I've always been looking for a place like this," she said.

There was then a Q&A section with H.

"You chose to write this memoir anonymously," said Forbes, he then asked why.

"The NYPD has been spying on Muslim students," H. said. She added how important it was for her identity to be anonymous despite missed opportunities in publishing due to it. She doesn't allow any pictures of her or personal addresses to be publicly available. Humorously, H. had a friend recommend her own book to her.

H. acknowledged that Leslie Feinberg's "Stone Butch Blues" inspired her own memoir in both title and contents. "I read every queer writer I could," H. said.

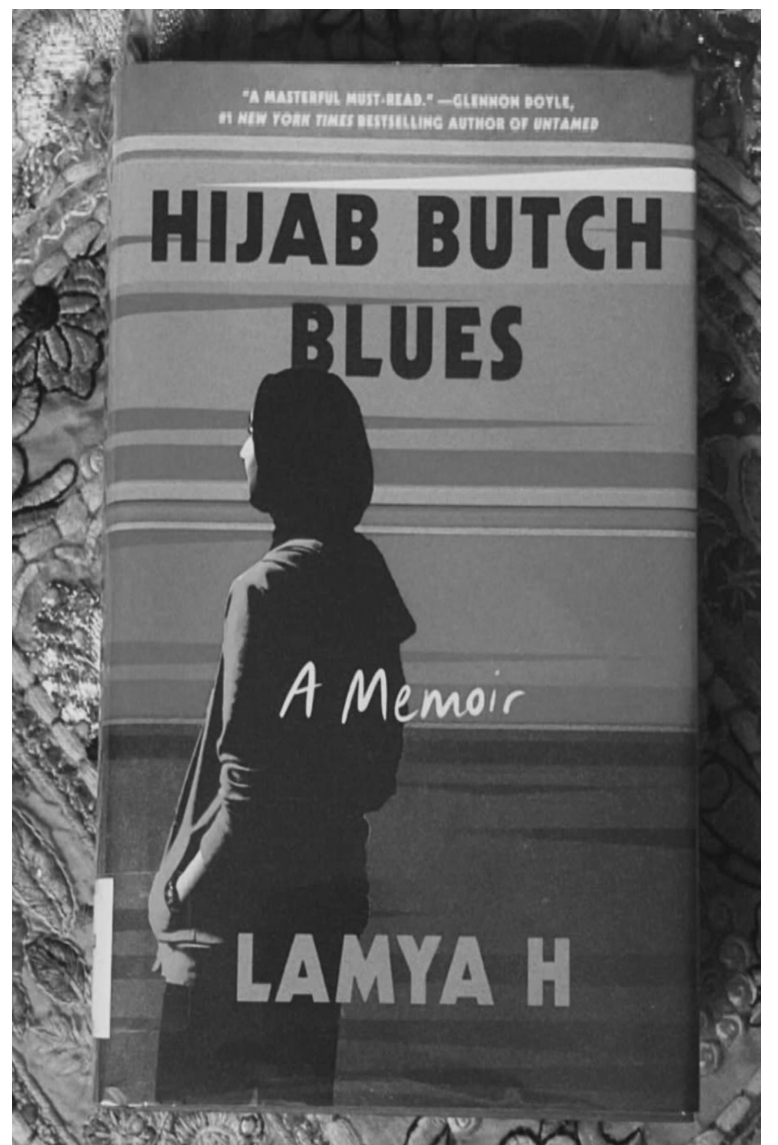
She cited Black feminist, activist and writer Audre Lorde, Dorothy Allison, the author of "Bastard Out of Carolina," and Canadian writer and poet laureate Dionne Brand as influences.

H. said that queerness and Islam aren't oppositional to each other. Her queerness is influenced by Islam and her Islam is inspired by queerness.

When asked how young writers who are finding their voices improve, H. said she got her start writing in her early 20s out of rage. She noted how popular online-published essays were in the 2010s, saying she contributed to that movement herself.

"Read everything you can get your hands on," H. said. She added that "People need to be asked hard questions." When talking about communities not wanting criticism because they can't exist comfortably as a social group with it, H. said, "Not airing dirty laundry doesn't make it clean."

Lamya H. and Miranda Argyros read excerpts of their award-winning writings



Pictured is "Hijab Butch Blues," a book about about growing up as a queer and non-binary Brown Muslim. The author Lamya H. shared their literature during the Visiting Authors Series on March 6.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @LAMYAISANGRY ON INSTAGRAM

College of Engineering hosts poster competition

by **Ayyan Tamjeed**
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UConn's College of Engineering held their 11th annual poster competition in the Student Union Ballroom last Friday. Graduate students from all types of engineering disciplines showed up and showcased their research, ranging from sleep and parking to a robot nautilus.

Students had three minutes to present their research to the judges, and an additional two minutes to answer follow-up questions. There were two rounds of judging, the first one decided a winner from each department who received a \$50 cash prize.

The second round has each department winner compete against each other for the top three overall, and a cash prize of \$1000 for the overall winner. People could also scan a QR code to nominate a poster as the "people's choice."

One of the grad students presenting a poster was Alexander White, a graduate student in the School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Manufacturing Engineering (SoMAM).

White helped create a robot nautilus to explore underwater jet propulsion. According to White, the idea for this project came from wanting to explore new environments where they can collect motion data using actuators-machines that can convert energy into physical motion.

While actuators couldn't be used in water, White's research team instead used a soft actuator. In particular, they used a dielectric elastomer actuator, where an elastomer layer is sandwiched between two layers of compliant electrodes.

When a voltage is run through the electrodes, the elastomer undergoes "axial depression" according to White, where the layer flattens and spreads out.

White's team wanted to use this device to measure siphon jet propulsion underwater, as there wasn't a lot of research on the topic. To achieve this, White helped design a system consisting of a siphon, nozzle and actuator, along with untethered electronics, cased in a nautilus-inspired body. He looks forward to further building on this platform and said there is space for improvement with this robot.

Prakash Ranjan is studying for his PhD in Transport Engineering. Ranjan's project looked into a driver's decision-making process when finding parking.

First his team sought to find out what factors influenced where one wants to park. Is it based on socioeconomic reasons? Or is it location-based?

To find out, they created a traffic simulation where agents would try to find parking. Ranjan concluded that "garage fees and space available were the two key attributes in a driver's decision-making process."

Using this information, Ranjan and his peers created new scenarios where the garage fees and space available were altered. These two attributes would also change throughout the day during simulations, so the garage fee could hike during peak hours and fall during off hours.

Ranjan also plotted the average garage occupancy over a day to see how the space available in a parking lot changes over time. He concluded that parking garages are mostly 50%-70% filled throughout the day and that fee variations during peak hours don't influence

drivers too much, as they probably care more about parking close to their destination than finding cheap parking.

Camila Jiménez-Wong, a PhD student in the Biomedical Engineering department, had done a pilot study on sleep quality — "which is a big issue in the U.S. now, or at least since forever."

Jiménez-Wong went over many factors that could affect sleep, like work, location and mental health. Her pilot study consisted of one night of monitoring, where patients' brain waves were monitored via Electroencephalography (EEG) channels. Patients would also answer a quick questionnaire afterwards.

Jiménez-Wong monitored only one night of sleep to remove any subjectivity and personal judgement that arises from studies that monitor sleep quality for months at a time. Once she received her data from the EEG channels, she fed them into machine learning algorithms who helped her find over 100 features that could affect sleep quality, based on brain waves. Of the 100 features recorded, she found that only two of them were linked with good sleep quality, both coming from the same EEG channel.

Students, professors and judges mingled, looking at each other's posters for two hours, after which the judges left to deliberate the first round of winners.

The judges came out and named their departmental winners, who got pictures with their certificates and Dean of Engineering JC Zhao. Congratulations to Nidhi Sharma, the Biomedical Engineering department winner, Deniz Ipekci for Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, John Toribio for Material Science & Engineering, Sajan Shakya for Civil



Graduate students present their posters at the 11th annual poster competition on Friday, March 7. Students had three minutes to present their projects to judges.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @UCONNENGRAD ON INSTAGRAM

Engineering, Israt Jahan for Environmental Engineering, Aayushi Verma for the School of Computing, Soroush Vahedi for Electrical & Computer Engineering and Sahib Sandhu for the School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Manufacturing Engineering. Electrical & Computer Engineering student

Alaa Selim also garnered an honorable mention.

Soon afterwards, the judges named their overall top three of the event. Congratulations to Toribio, Sandhu and Ipekci, who finished in the top three respectively. If you want to learn more about the event, head to @uconnengrgrad on Instagram.

The Backlog: Survive a horror movie in 'At Dead of Night'

by **Desirae Sin**
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Hello and welcome back to The Backlog, the weekly column where I review video games based on a certain genre each month. For March, we're looking at video games I consider as works of art. Last week we reviewed "Venba," but today we're going to shift gears and look at a horror game. For today's work of art, we're looking at "At Dead of Night."

"At Dead of Night" is a horror game developed and published by Baggy Cat Limited. It was initially released in November 2020 and is available through Steam for Microsoft Windows. But what separates "At Dead of Night" from other horror games is that it can also be considered a horror film at the same time. Baggy Cat Limited made the ingenious and creative decision to use real actors within the game.

It doesn't use actors in the way "Call of Duty" or "Until Dawn" does. Various scenes are filmed with real actors, and these scenes can be activated through certain actions. It immerses players and turns the game into a real experience.

The story of "At Dead of Night" starts off with our character, Maya (played by Chloé Booyens). She arrives at the Sea View Hotel where her and her friends are staying for a music festival taking place nearby. She's greeted by Jimmy Hall (Huld Martha), the owner and sole employee at the hotel. After an unsettling first impression Maya heads to her room for the night, meanwhile Jimmy begins talking to his mysterious alter ego and goes on to capture and tie up Maya's friends within their rooms.

Maya must traverse the hotel, find evidence and eventually

discover the truth about Jimmy and an ominous character who he calls the Great Hugo.

It becomes clear to players that there's more to Jimmy and the hotel than meets the eye. There are various ghosts throughout the hotel and players can communicate with them using the Ghost and Spirit Receiver. By finding certain items in each hotel room, Maya can interrogate ghosts to find out more about them and progress their story to find out how they became ghosts.

Players can also use a compass to help direct them to areas or rooms where ghosts dwell, since it is very easy to get turned around in the hotel. In case you've forgotten what you were working on or are lost, players can use the scrying mirror to gain a hint. But beware, because Jimmy is constantly on the hunt for Maya. Players can find various bolt locks for rooms, allowing you to prevent Jimmy from entering your room and keeping you safe. If you don't have a bolt lock, you can also hide in the bathroom or wardrobe within each room. But there is always the risk of Jimmy finding you, knocking you out and placing you in a random room. After these instances players must travel back to the ground floor to collect their items.

Spoilers for the story of "At Dead of Night" beyond this point!

Each of the ghosts Maya speaks with sheds light on Jimmy's character and the story of the Sea View Hotel. The first ghost we encounter is Amy Bell, a little girl we see after visiting the Lower Ground floor and stepping back onto the elevator. Small scares like these are spread throughout the game, so those with sensitive hearts should be wary. This 10-year-

old girl reveals to us that Jimmy was a disturbed child, one who stole things from her, burnt her stuffed toy and eventually caused her demise. Amy's story ends after it's revealed that Jimmy coerced her into drinking whiskey, which resulted in Amy jumping off the third-floor banister.

Through other characters like Doctor Bose, Harvey and Jimmy's mother, Rose Hall, players can piece together the fact that there had been a death at the hotel before Jimmy's reign. Completing Rose's story reveals that Jimmy's deceased father, Hugo Hall has possessed his son and pushes him to commit these acts of violence.

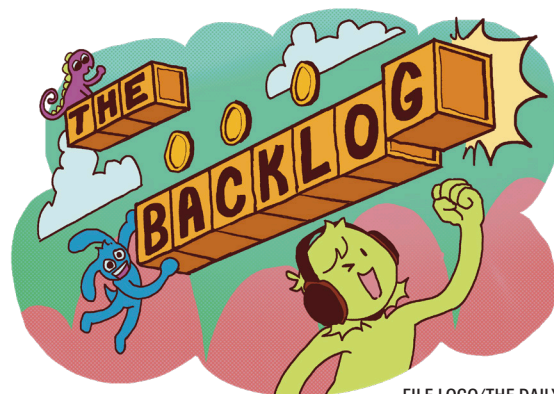
Hugo was an abusive husband and father, and Rose killed him and buried him underneath the hotel. I do want to mention that Baggy Cat Limited goes out of their way to let players know that this is a case of ghostly possession, not a case of dissociative identity disorder (DID) or schizophrenia.

Many forms of media villainize people who suffer from mental illnesses resulting in multiple personalities or erratic behavior, but the developers did not want to encourage this stereotype and let players know about this every time they boot up the game. I do want to applaud them for taking this step, as those suffering from mental illnesses are consistently turned into monsters by the media.

Getting back to the artistic aspect of "At Dead of Night," I immediately fell in love with their take on a simple point-and-click gameplay by turning it into an interactive movie. The only live action parts of the game were the actors and whatever props they were using. The rest of the environment was digitally designed, and ev-



CARTOON BY @ATDEADOFNIGHT ON X (FORMALLY KNOWN AS TWITTER)



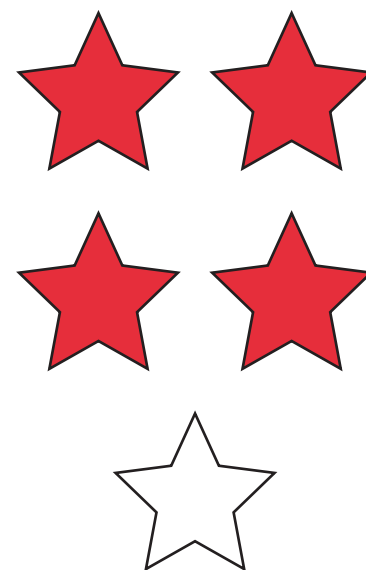
FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

ery movement resembles a real camera shifting from scene to scene.

Using the camera like this also leaves the players open to getting attacked by Jimmy, as the swift movements could easily have Maya run straight into Jimmy's bat.

I could go on much longer about the small details spread throughout "At Dead of Night," but, this type of game must be experienced, not told. I genuinely feel that horror movie buffs or detective movie lovers would enjoy "At Dead of Night." It is easy to get lost in the hotel, even though many hints are available to players it can be tiring traveling back and forth from room to room, trying to figure out what evidence connects to which ghost.

Rating:





Life

@dailycampuslife

Life Roundtable: The Wiggles' "Wiggle Up, Giddy Up!" review

The Wiggles, an Australian children's entertainment group, are often regarded as a novelty act, though their new country-influenced album, "Wiggle Up, Giddy Up!" is pretty legit. Including the prestigious Dolly Parton, the Wiggles mean business, but at the end of the day, they're still a children's group that doesn't always appeal to a more adult audience that used to watch or listen to them. Even with their uplifting documentary on Prime Video in 2023, the Wiggles are in their own lane, so what does the Life section think of this new record?

Noa Climor, Social Media Outreach Coordinator (she/her/hers):

Goodness me, what an exquisite concept. The Wiggles have done something genuinely fascinating, and too all the Wiggle haters in the crowd, have you no heart? Have you no spirit? I admit, country is not my favorite genre, but the Wiggles pose the interesting question: What if country was executed by The Wiggles and their friends? The opening track, "Wiggle Up, Giddy Up!" was filled with hype and an energetic country beat. I think "Friends" which featured Dolly Parton was the best song on the album, but mostly because it has the one and only Parton as a feature. "When times are hard, we can make it fun," thanks Dolly! I do think there was a mild lack of whimsy in some of the songs, but they made up for it with a unique collection of some of the most peculiar country music I have had the pleasure of listening to.
Rating: 2.5/5

Ayyan Tamjeed, Campus Correspondent (he/him/his):

I have no words. Aussie supergroup The Wiggles returned with their 63rd studio album, and their take on country music. They have a star-studded supporting cast featuring Dolly Parton, Orville Peck, Simon Wiggle's three-year-old son Asher and more. When with a country star, the Wiggles certainly enter the country-scape with their songs. A standout feature is probably "Say the Dance, Boots 'N All" featuring Kaylee Bell. She has a brilliant voice, and I love how she sings the chorus, making each repetition of the line "Can you do the [Dance]" sound distinctly different. Don't sleep on Dolly Parton's singing on "Friends." I'll admit that even though barely have much experience listening to country music, hearing "Friends" made me think "Yeah, this is country." But on the Wiggles-only songs, the album does lose steam for me. That preeminent guitar sound is there, but I feel like the Wiggles don't make any efforts to encompass the country sound fully. They still sing as if it is a regular kid's song, only with some country guitar attached. Or maybe I just don't know any other indicators of country music apart from that. They do encompass country imagery in their lyrics, one example being "Toot Toot, Chugga Chugga, Big Red Ute," a parody of another famous Wiggles song, replacing "car" with "ute." It's a lovely song. Overall, it's a decent country album that manages to mesh the Wiggles' brand with country imagery and it may or may not make me listen to more country music.
Rating: 2.5/5

Maleena Muzio, Staff Writer (she/her/hers):

To be honest, I was very intrigued by the idea of The Wiggles producing a country album. However, I am a little confused as to who the target audience of this album is. I know The Wiggles are aimed at kids, but I think with songs, such as "Counting 1 to 5," and a Dolly Parton feature, they may have been trying to reach middle-aged moms. The album is a painful 32 songs long and runs for an hour and 13 minutes, once again convincing me that this album was not aimed at today's short attention-spanned "iPad kids." I do think The Wiggles did somehow manage to capture country music's roots well and portray a more traditional sound. A majority of the album sounds like the old Canadian folk records my grandparents used to play. In all seriousness, "Love is Like a Butterfly" is kind of beautiful. Would I ever listen to it again? Probably not. But was it a cute song? Of course! It is definitely no Lana Del Rey's, "Happiness is a butterfly," though, so keep your expectations low.
Rating: 2/5 (I'm so sorry kids)

Sebastian Munera, Campus Correspondent (he/him/his):

The Wiggles' new release "Wiggle Up, Giddy Up - with Friends!" (not to be confused with "Wiggle Up, Giddy Up") marks their sixty-third studio album in 34 years! Now, to be honest, I haven't digested The Wiggles' catalogue deeply in 16 years since I saw them perform live. I'm also someone who is admittedly under exposed to country music for somebody who listens to music all day, so who better than The Wiggles to introduce the youth to country artists of the past and present? Dolly Parton plays the role of the anchor on the project being on both the opening and closing songs "Friends!" "We Will Always be Friends," both really well produced and sung songs about the value of companionship. The song "It's Tough Being Three Years Old" is a really touching and cool concept for a song. It's introduced by a spoken segment explaining that they tried to put into lyrics what toddlers mean when they say a bunch of random words and a chorus with backing vocals by the singer's children. The last song "Love Is Like a Butterfly" is a genuinely beautifully written song that is not even tuned down to make the lyrics more appealing to kids. It's built around metaphors for love and soft instrumentation.
Rating: 3/5



DRAWING BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Opinion



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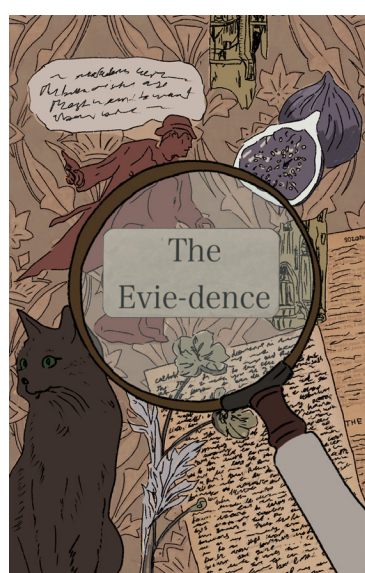
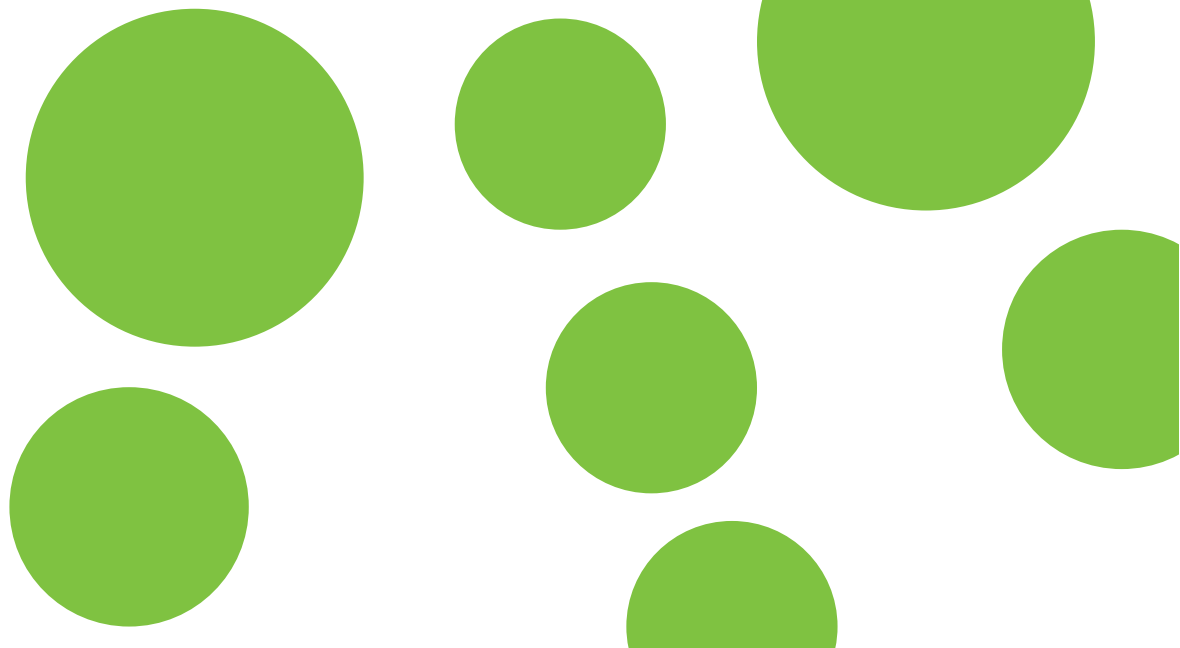
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LOGO BY LILLIAN LAFEMINA, ASSOCIATE ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The Evie-dence

FIVE YEARS POST-COVID, STOP SPECULATING AND PANIC PREDICTING

by Evelyn Pazan
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It has been exactly five years since the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic, spurring travel bans, school closures and major panic. This also means that it has been exactly four years and 364 days since the 11 year "bull" market ended in the U.S. due to concerns about coronavirus. This bull market started in 2009 after the Great Recession and is the longest bull market to date, marking March 12, 2020, as a historic moment in stock history when "bear" sentiment took over.

No one expects a bull market to last forever and without challenge. In fact, during bull markets, it is expected that there will be "corrections," smaller but normal downturns to balance the market. Despite knowing that their fortune would sooner or later come to an end, no one expected, nor could have estimated, the massive impact that the pandemic had on our economy. Investors pulled out of stocks in a frenzy, crushing the

market and losing potential profits that they would have otherwise had if they had held steady in their positions. This is a much-needed reminder for college-aged investors, both then and now, that you should never get too comfortable in the market, but you also shouldn't let your speculative predictions or panic from those around you dictate your investment decisions, especially not now.

Today's post-COVID market is incredibly volatile, reacting strongly to geopolitical developments and economic indicators. This can cause sharp downturns like we saw with the S&P 500 Index this February. It can also trigger major selloffs, like what happened with NVIDIA in late January and late February. Despite how tempting it might be to sell during these moments, it is important to distinguish between an impulsive and speculative market reaction and a true decline in the quality of the company, effectively establishing your tolerance as an investor.

One of the best examples of this comes from the Dotcom Bubble in 2000, specifically with everyone's

favorite shopping site, Amazon. During the bubble burst in 2000, many early Amazon investors sold their shares of the company, fearing that the company wouldn't survive the crash. Ultimately, over a two-year period, Amazon lost more than 90% of its value. Despite the negative sentiment and the panic selling, Amazon was actually a company with great potential and talented leadership at the time. The underlying value of the company was huge, but panic sellers didn't think about this. Had they held their shares, they would have been sitting on huge piles of cash today.

In addition to being impulsive, the market is often simply wrong in its predictions. Oftentimes, people will attempt to predict Federal Reserve interest rate changes. In fact, the Fed releases its own guidance and projections for interest rates. The market moves in relation to these predictions, favoring lower rates that make borrowing cheaper and spending increase. But the most notable aspect of interest rate predictions is that most of the time, they are dead wrong. While it is

tempting to see these predictions and assume that they will be accurate, it is incredibly risky to base your investment decisions off of speculation that is known to be inaccurate. Rather, it is more effective to look at the multiple factors that go into how the market fluctuates, such as other economic data, individual company news or political events. This way you can make a well-rounded and well-informed decision.

Long-term effective and profitable investment decisions don't happen because you heard your friends say that they think a company is going to take off. They don't happen when you only look at one economic trend and base an entire purchase on it. The best investment decisions happen when you wait patiently and research diligently, trying to understand the true underlying value of a company and the market it is in. So, the next time a major event happens, or you see the market start to crumble, don't succumb to the pressure. As Warren Buffett once said, "Be fearful when others are greedy. Be greedy when others are fearful."

A New Model of Society: Breaking the glass escalator

by Grace Donahue
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When something is broken, we fix it. When something no longer works, we replace it. Yet, for decades, leadership has remained built on outdated, male-coded structures that leave women at a disadvantage. The problem isn't that women are incapable of leading. It's that leadership is built on the wrong foundation. If leadership continues to fail half the population, then the solution isn't asking women to continue to adapt. It's time to change leadership itself. To reimagine it entirely rather than simply adding women to a broken system.

Right now, society operates under the Gender Roles Inhibiting Progress (GRIP) model. This model explains how social role theory and the theory of planned behavior work together to reinforce gender norms, shaping women's behavior through subjective expectations, self-efficacy and stereotypes. The GRIP model makes one thing clear: Women aren't failing at leadership. They have made undeniable progress through the four waves of feminism. Yet, this progress has all taken place within the constraints of the GRIP model. Instead of continuing to ask women to adjust — to mold themselves into leadership structures that were never designed for them, we need to ask a bigger question: What if leadership itself was redefined? How do we finally shatter the glass escalator?

The answer lies in what is called the Integrated Leadership Model

(ILM). Instead of prioritizing dominance and competition, ILM values collaboration, adaptability and ethical decision-making-leadership traits that have been historically overlooked. Instead of forcing women to conform to outdated leadership molds, ILM reshapes leadership itself, ensuring that all leadership styles are valued. The model is built on three core pillars: redefining leadership, overhauling institutions and shifting cultural leadership expectations. Let's explore how these pillars can create a system where leadership is not only more inclusive but truly reimagined.

Redefining leadership

The GRIP model reveals that leadership structures, especially those seen in the workplace and on college campuses, were never designed with women in mind. Historically, leadership has been defined by dominance, competition and assertiveness, traits that are traditionally associated with men. This creates a double standard: when women exhibit these traits, they are perceived as "too aggressive" or "unlikeable," yet when they act more collaboratively, they are seen as lacking authority.

Instead of asking women to adjust their leadership styles to fit outdated expectations we need to redefine leadership altogether. The ILM proposes a solution by valuing collaboration, adaptability and ethical decision-making with leadership just as much as confidence and assertiveness.

To put this into action, universities should introduce mentorship and networking reform where universities establish formal lead-

ership mentorship programs that connect women with faculty mentors, industry leaders and alumni who can help them develop leadership skills and secure high-level positions in student government, pre-professional societies and research opportunities. This ensures that women and underrepresented students aren't simply present but have equal access to executive leadership positions.

Institutional overhaul

Redefining leadership is essential but the structural barriers that remain preventing women from accessing high ranking leadership positions need to be addressed separately. Research shows that in every level in leadership structures, men are favored even when women are not just equally, but more qualified. On the college campus, this is a common trend seen in student government, where men dominate executive positions despite equal or greater female participation.

One commonly overlooked source of bias comes from faculty recommendations, career advisors and hiring pipelines. This bias causes guys to be more commonly described as "strategic" and "visionary," while women are labeled "hardworking" and "reliable." The gender schema established from this influences who is encouraged to apply for leadership roles, who receives the more competitive scholarships, and who is recommended for high impact research opportunities.

The ILM proposes mandatory faculty and career advisor bias training. Additionally, universities should require transparency

in the criteria for leadership selection for student government, pre-professional clubs and research assistantships. In tracking gender representation, a system of accountability will be established for institutions to prevent disparities.

Shifting cultural leadership expectations

The GRIP model doesn't simply shape leadership pipelines but also shapes how students perceive themselves as leaders. From childhood, girls are taught to behave in a way that is "helpful," "agreeable" and "collaborative," while boys are encouraged to take risks and assert authority. This doesn't just impact careers but also how individuals apply themselves for leadership positions in college.

A major cultural barrier is the likeability trap. This trap is the expectation of women acting competent and warm in leadership instead of acting in a way that will cause them to be labeled as "too aggressive" or "unapproachable." This is reinforced with stereotypes like the "cool girl" that pressure women to appear effortlessly laid back and accommodating. These stereotypes make women more hesitant to apply for leadership positions, less likely to negotiate their worth, and more likely to accept a behind-the-scenes role.

To counteract this, the ILM reshapes leadership culture on campus, ensuring that leadership development supports all students without forcing them to conform to outdated gendered expectations. One way that this would be seen is through normalizing women's leadership styles. If uni-

versities were to spotlight diverse leadership styles through campus panels, media coverage and leadership can normalize diverse ways of leading. This would ensure that confidence and authority start to be seen as not exclusively being "masculine" traits.

On a personal level

To transition from the GRIP model to the ILM is going to take time and the collaboration of institutions. This progress starts on a personal level with members within institutions calling out for this change. It's going to take your voice and your actions along with that of your friends' voices and actions. If you notice men dominating executive board positions while women are assisting in administrative or support roles, speak up. Advocate for co-leadership models as well as an evaluation of leadership selection criteria to ensure women also have access to high-ranking roles.

Support the women around you who are stepping into leadership roles by amplifying their ideas in meetings, sharing their work and advocating for their contributions to be recognized. Run for leadership positions yourself. You don't have to be the perfect applicant to apply or take up space. Leadership isn't about fitting into an outdated mold but reshaping the mold entirely.

Change won't come overnight, but each step taken makes the next one easier. Leadership structures that were built without women can be rebuilt. This time, with women. The system isn't just broken, but outdated. It's time to stop trying to fix it. It's time to rebuild.

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Bring me to spring break Mr. Karaban

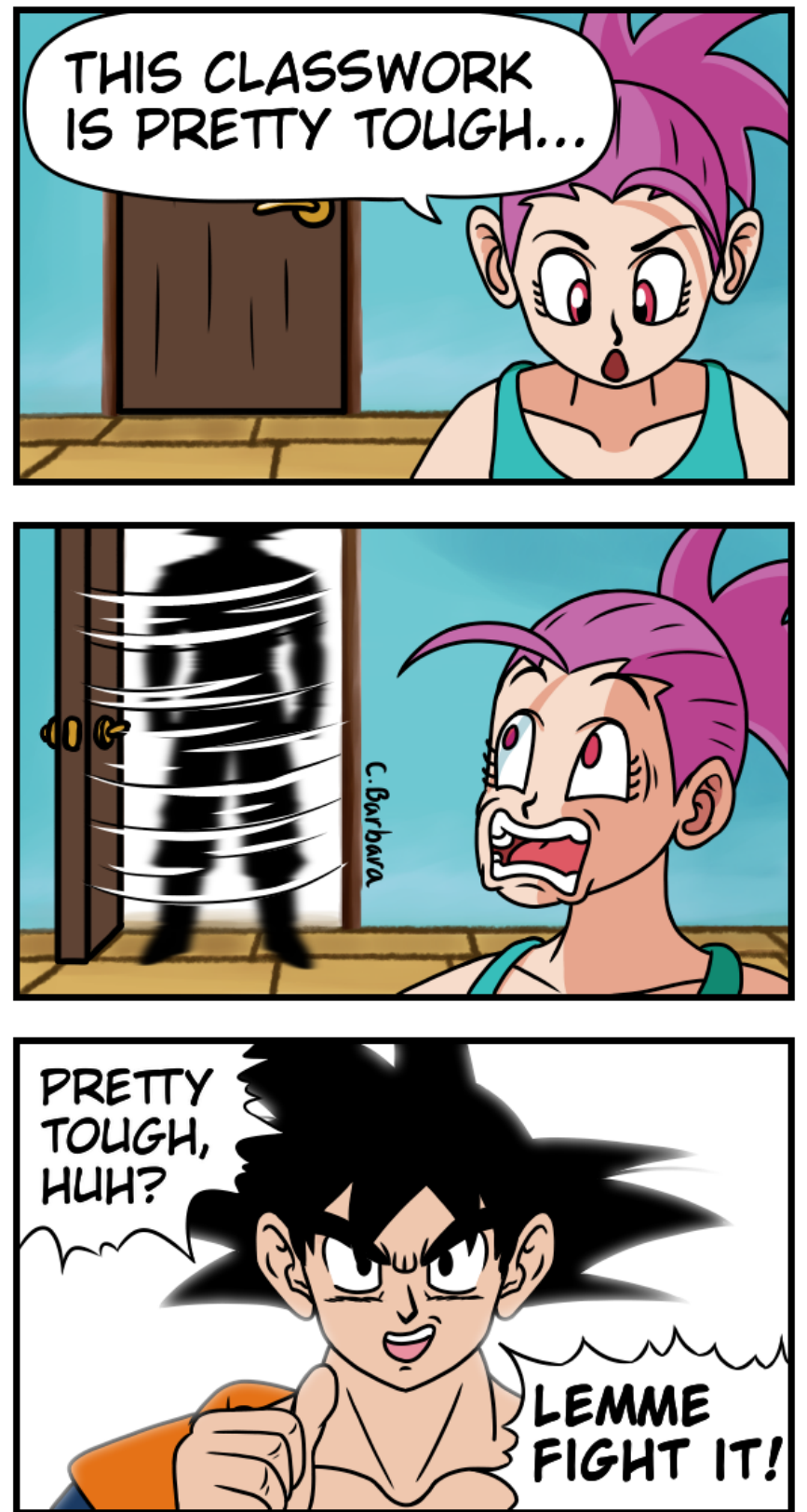


Alex Karaban hugging Dan Hurley before playing against Seton Hall. This was the team's senior night.

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

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COMIC BY
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Baseball: Hook C looks to regain momentum in home opener against LIU

by **Connor Sargeant**
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While the UConn baseball team may be disappointed with their 15-11 loss on Sunday against the Miami Hurricane, the program did win two out of the three games this past weekend. While the offense never dissipated, walks and hit batters ultimately led to Connecticut's demise, with 10 batters taking a base on balls and three hitters wearing a pitch. However, UConn has a chance to get back on track this Tuesday, at home, against the LIU Sharks.

The Sharks come into Tuesday's contest sporting a 5-11 record, where their pitching has sometimes gotten them into trouble. The program's pitching staff has struggled, owning an ERA over 8.5. A significant reason for this boils down to the fact that the Sharks walk nearly five batters a game. For UConn, a program that walks and hits as well as any program in the country, this could spell early trouble for LIU. However, the Sharks do have some hitters that the Huskies will want to look out for.

The UConn pitching staff will want to pay extra attention to the scouting report of senior catcher Jack Power. Power not only owns a solid .232/.348/.536 slash line but has been playing his best baseball as of late. The senior is coming off an excellent weekend against Central Connecticut State where he hit two home runs, including the walk-off blast this past Saturday. However, this is not an isolated University incident. This is Power's



UConn's baseball team playing ball in the 2025 season. The team's overall record was 35-26 in 2024. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @UCONNBSB ON INSTAGRAM

second multi-home run performance of the season, emphasizing the fact that when he gets hot. He's as dangerous as anyone in the country to do some damage to the dish.

Of course, if the Huskies wish to emerge victorious this weekend, they also need

to neutralize the bats of Benjamin Fierenzi and Joseph Durso, both of whom are hitting nearly .290 and are responsible for a majority of the Sharks' offense. In all of the Sharks' wins this season, either Fierenzi or Durso scored a run with their bat. How-

ever, in the program's losses, their bats have gone silent on some occasions, meaning that UConn's success on Tuesday will almost certainly be tied to how well their pitching staff can contain the duo. On the other hand, UConn will be hoping for a big day from

junior Ryan Daniels, who has been mashing the ball at a high level for the program.

Daniels comes into Tuesday slashing an excellent .405/.500/.690 from the dish. Not only this, but Daniels has tied his season high home runs total (3) in only 11 games. The Meriden native is also coming off an excellent offensive weekend against Miami, where he was a man on a mission, finding ways to get on base, whether it was with his bat or grinding out a deep count and walking. Look for Daniels to keep the momentum rolling on Tuesday as he will undoubtedly impact the outcome of this contest. Tyler Minick is another name that UConn fans will want to be on the lookout for this Tuesday.

The sophomore is amid an excellent 2025 campaign, slashing .406/.459/.844 in eight games played. Minick also leads the program in RBIs, despite missing three contests. Minick is also coming off a weekend at Miami where he played some of his best baseball all year, leaving "The Sunshine State" with three multi-hit contests and driving in six runners for that series. Considering how hot Minick has been at the dish for Hook C, don't be surprised to see his name all over the box score of this contest.

Tuesday is the first time all season long that the Huskies will compete at Elliot Park in Storrs, Connecticut. This contest is the only home game that Connecticut will participate in for nearly two weeks. Still, it will be crucial to see the type of start the program gets out to, considering Connecticut will face some difficult road tests in the coming weeks.

The Weekly Power Play: Trade deadline marks the end of an era for the Boston Bruins

by **Nicole Caruso**
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During the 2022-2023 season, the Boston Bruins were the team to beat. Breaking NHL records left and right, home and away winning streaks and players being honored at several award ceremonies, many thought they would be taking home the Stanley Cup. However, ever since their first round playoff exit that year, the team has been on a downward spiral.

Now, only six active Bruins remain from that historic team. The rest have retired or have been traded away for what some may argue, nothing in return.

In my opinion, the downfall started when former captain Patrice Bergeron hung up his skates at the end of the 2022-2023 season and his former teammate Brad Marchand took on the captaincy.

The next big blow to the team was at end of the 2023-2024 season when goaltender Linus Ullmark was traded to the Ottawa Senators. Ullmark and Jeremy Swayman were the ultimate duo with Ullmark averaging a .938% save percentage and Swayman with .920%. The Bruins were also at risk of losing Swayman during the same offseason as general manager Don Sweeney and Swayman failed to reach a contract agreement, until a few weeks into the start of the 2024-2025 season.

Since the end of the 2023 season, Bruins fans have lost other beloved members with honorable mentions includ-

ing Jake DeBrusk and Matt Grzelecyk, but the most shocking trade came just last week when the Bruins sent their captain Brad Marchand to the Florida Panthers. In return, Boston got a 2027 conditional second-round draft pick. To say fans were shocked was an understatement, with many of them taking to X to express their frustration.

Over 1,000 fans agreed with one fan's claim on X that the Bruins organization failed

Bergeron and David Pastrnak.

To make matters worse for Bruins fans, they also lost Massachusetts native Charlie Coyle to the Colorado Avalanche, 6-foot 5 defenseman Brandon Carlo to the Toronto Maple Leafs and forward Trent Frederic to the Edmonton Oilers.

Now, only six players remain from the monumental 2022-2023 season team; Pastrnak, Swayman, Charlie McAvoy, Hampus Lindholm, Pavel Zacha and re-

The Bruins have a history of giving up draft picks for short term players that only last a season or two. Dmitry Orlov and Garnet Hathaway were sent to Boston from the Washington Capitals where Boston sent over 2023 first-round pick and a 2024 third-round pick. Both Orlov and Hathaway were gone from Boston in the offseason.

This is a common thread from Boston's general manager who has faced his share of backlash in recent years.

were prepared if the things that we would like presented. Regardless, that's a difficult thing. But the message is clearly not about, we didn't burn it down."

While the Bruins franchise may not be "burned down," it certainly is not in a strong place, and it has not been for many years. It leaves the question as to the toll all of these trades have on current players.

McAvoy took to his Instagram story days after the trades were announced, posting individual pictures with Marchand, Coyle, Carlo and Frederic, clearly expressing his sadness surrounding the news. Pastrnak spoke to the media after the news broke stating, "It's been very tough, emotional, and sad. Personally, I lost three very close friends and it's a very tough pill to swallow. We not only lost big leaders on this team, but great human beings, guys with families that I was really close to and I've been here since Day 1 with them."

So, what now, you may ask? Marchand is currently out 3-4 weeks with an injury and is an unrestricted free agent at the end of this year. Will he try and make his return to Boston or has this move shown him that he might be better off somewhere else?

The city of Boston took a huge hit this past week and is left wondering what's to come. As of now, Boston currently does not hold a spot in the playoffs and if they missed it, it would be the first time since the 2015-2016 season. This offseason will be a key one for Boston, as they will be in search of long-term players and hopeful draft picks that can contribute to Boston's legacy.



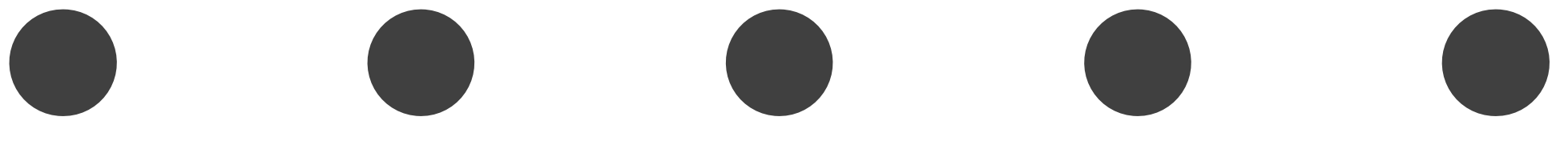
The Boston Bruins' goalie smiling for the camera in the net. The Bruins record in the 2024-2025 season is 29-28. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @NHLBRUINS ON X

their captain who essentially, has been with them since the start. Marchand played all 16 seasons of his career with the Bruins and was one of the most impactful lines in hockey, alongside fellow teammates

acquired Jakub Lauko.

How does a franchise that had a near perfect 2022-2023 season and 2019 Stanley Cup Finals performance essentially lose the people that got them there?

"It starts to take its toll," said Sweeney to NHL.com. "And you have to have a little bit of step-back approach at times. Did we come in this morning knowing we were making every one of these moves? No. But we



Sports

Photo of the Day | The Creation of Adam



Terrence Reed Jr. going for a ball in the Huskies game against Seton Hall. UConn won the game with a final score of 81-50. PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Big East Baller Update No. 12:

Kalkbrenner, Pitino headline Big East awards

by Sam Calhoun

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The Big East regular season wrapped up on Saturday, and all the focus is now on the Big East Tournament at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

Before games tip off on Wednesday evening, we must hand out awards to the players that have stood out all season. In the penultimate Big East Baller Update of the season, we will do exactly that.

Player and Defensive of the Year: Ryan Kalkbrenner, C, Creighton (19.4 ppg, 9 rpg, 1.6 apg, 2.7 bpg, 66.3 FG%, 34 3P%, 69 FT%)

Kalkbrenner has solidified himself as one of the greatest players in Creighton men's basketball history. On Monday, the Big East awarded him his fourth Defensive Player of the Year award. There is no doubt that he deserves it, with a Hakeem percentage of 8.6% (sum of block and steal percentage). That comes from his 7.5% block rate, which ranks in the 92nd percentile nationally. He has 80 total blocks this season, by far the most in the Big East. His 197 defensive rebounds rank atop the Big East. He has been by far the most valuable player in the Big East this season after Creighton lost Baylor Scheierman and Trey Alexander to the NBA.

Coach of the Year: Rick Pitino, St. John's St. John's was picked to finish fifth in the conference in October's preseason coaches poll and finished first in the Big East standings for the first time in 40 years. The Johnnies are one of the best defensive teams in the country. Jon Rothstein picked Pitino as his National Coach of the Year winner on his College Hoops Today blog. It is a crime that Pitino has not won Big East Coach of the Year while at Providence or Louisville. If he wins National Coach of the Year, it would be the first time since 1987 that he has won the honor.

Freshman of the Year: Liam McNeeley, F, UConn (14.7 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 2.5 apg, 39.5 FG%, 34.7 3P%, 86.4 FT%)

Despite missing nearly all of January, McNeeley has locked up the Big East Freshman of the Year award with Georgetown's Thomas Sorber sidelined for the remainder of the season. Since returning on

Feb. 7 vs. St. John's, McNeeley has averaged 16.3 points and 6.8 rebounds per game. His best game as a Husky came on Feb. 11 at Creighton, scoring 38 points and grabbing 10 rebounds on 54.5% shooting. He leads all Big East freshmen in points and assists per game.

Most Improved Player: Zuby Ejiofor, F, St. John's (14.1 ppg, 8.2 rpg, 1.5 apg, 1.5 bpg, 57.3 FG%, 25.7 3P%, 68.2 FT%)

Last season, Ejiofor averaged 4.3 points, 3.1 rebounds, 0.7 assists and 1.1 blocks per game on 48.9% shooting. Those numbers skyrocketed this year as he emerged as one of six players named to the All-Big East First Team. The former Kansas Jayhawk is one of the best offensive rebounders in the country, averaging 4.3 per game. That leads to a whopping five second-chance points per game. Ejiofor ranks 19th in the conference in scoring, 10th in true shooting (63.6%, 86th percentile nationally) and tied for sixth in total blocks (46).

Sixth Man Award: Tarris Reed Jr., C, UConn (10 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 1.1 rpg, 1.7 bpg, 66.8 FG%, 65.6 FT%)

With how Reed has been able to produce off the bench for the Huskies, you would think he should be starting. Nope, he has only started one game this season. That is what makes Reed most dangerous: he is producing like this off the bench. He is second only to Ejiofor in offensive rebounds and has been the reason UConn has gotten more second-chance opportunities lately, averaging 2.7 offensive boards per game. Reed ranks third in the Big East in blocks per game, trailing only Kalkbrenner and Sorber. His player efficiency rating trails only Kalkbrenner (31.1). He leads the Big East in defensive rebounding percentage at 27% (98th percentile), block percentage at 9.3% (96th percentile) and Hakeem percentage at 11.6%. Reed becomes the second-straight Husky to win the Sixth Man Award, with Hassan Diarra winning the award last season.

All-Big East First Team Kam Jones, G, Marquette, Kadary Richmond, G, St. John's, RJ Luis Jr., G/F, St. John's, Eric Dixon, F, Villanova, Ryan Kalkbrenner, C, Creighton.

All-Big East Second Team Steven Ashworth, G, Creighton, Micah Peavy, G, Georgetown, Liam McNeeley, F, UConn,

Zach Freemantle, F, Xavier, Zuby Ejiofor, F, St. John's All-Big East Third Team Solo Ball, G, UConn, Wooga Poplar, G, Villanova, Jah-

myl Telfort, F, Butler, Alex Karaban, F, UConn, Thomas Sorber, C, Georgetown, Big East All-Freshman Team Ryan Mela, F, Provi-

dence, Liam McNeeley, F, UConn, Oswin Erhunmwunse, F, Providence, Jackson McAndrew, F, Creighton, Thomas Sorber, C, Georgetown



The Huskies played against Seton Hall on Saturday, March 8, 2025. UConn won the game with a final score of 81-50. PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Point Counterpoint: Was the DK Metcalf trade worth it?

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This past Sunday, at around 8:02 p.m., it came out that DK Metcalf of the Seattle Seahawks was traded to the Pittsburgh Steelers for a second-round pick and sixth and seventh round pick swaps in this upcoming NFL draft. Shortly after the trade, Metcalf was also announced as signing a five-year contract for \$150 million with the Steelers. The trade came to no surprise of NFL fans as Metcalf requested a trade last week.

The trade was an absolute steal for the Steelers as over the past six years Metcalf has been a consistent top 15 wide receiver in the NFL averaging over 1,000 receiving yards and eight touchdowns a season. With Metcalf joining the Steelers, their offense is transformed by Metcalf and George Pickens as wide receivers, Jaylen Warren and Cordarrelle Patterson as running backs and Pat Freiermuth as tight end; their only ques-

tion currently is at quarterback.

Let's compare the Metcalf trade to the Deebo Samuel trade between the 49ers and Commanders. Samuel was traded to the Commanders for a fifth-round pick in this year's draft. Samuel has never played a full NFL season while Metcalf has played a full season in four out of his six seasons in the NFL. During his career, Samuel averaged under 800 receiving yards and seven total touchdowns per season, that is over 200 less receiving yards and one touchdown less than Metcalf in the same time span.

Metcalf is also extremely consistent, playing 97 out of a possible 100 regular season games. The accolades also speak in favor of Metcalf, with him being a two-time pro bowler in 2020 and 2023, and receiving second team all-pro in 2020. Along with the regular season stats and accolades, Metcalf turns it up in the playoffs. In four total playoff games, Metcalf averages over eight catches, 150 yards and al-

most two touchdowns a game.

Last year the Steelers were 29th in passing attempts, 28th in completions, 27th in passing yards and 24th in passing touchdowns. With Metcalf's 6-foot-4 frame combined with his incredible athleticism, he makes defenders prioritize him over other receivers on the field, giving his teammates better opportunities to get more catches and better field positioning for whatever team he is on. That alone is going to pay dividends with Metcalf himself easily giving the other receivers more space to flourish.

The Seahawks are going to regret letting Metcalf go for just a second-round pick, as to this point, the Steelers just committed the biggest highway robbery of the offseason.

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When it comes to signing or trading a player, it's more than likely one party wins over the

other. In this case, after getting a bag and starting fresh, DK Metcalf takes the crown. However, becoming a Super Bowl contending team has more structure to it than just acquiring a star receiver.

Despite the Pittsburgh Steelers needing help in the wide receiver room, the trade does not matter unless they get a good quarterback. With Russell Wilson and Justin Fields potentially going into free agency, the quarterback position sits in question for the team. However, Wilson noted that returning "[is] the plan." He added, "Obviously it didn't end the way we wanted it to, and I think there's a lot more to do," per ESPN.

Regardless of wanting to run it back, the odds look slim as resigning Fields sounds more likely. Nonetheless, selecting the former Ohio State Buckeye as the starting quarterback could cause problems quickly. As a Chicago Bear, struggling under pressure played a role in moving on from the 26-year-old. In three years, Fields

threw 30 interceptions and took 135 sacks, according to the NFL.

Turning to the Steelers, the offensive line took home No. 24 in the Pro Football Network's rankings, allowing a 38.6% pressure rating, with a 9.8% sack rating. Needless to say, stabilizing the offensive line is a must if moving forward with Fields happens. Nevertheless, with players like Trey Smith and Ronnie Stanley off the table, finding the missing pieces looks harder than it seems.

On the other hand, if the franchise turns down both Wilson and Fields, free agency may not work out, as several teams need a quarterback. Targeting Aaron Rodgers is the best option for the Steelers come Mar. 12. In addition, rumors of Rodgers staying in New York, but in a blue and red uniform continue to grow daily. With that said, even though gaining another offensive weapon is great, the Steelers need fixing in other areas first, as Metcalf can't make everything happen.



DeKaylin 'DK' Metcalf practicing for the Seahawks. He was recently traded to the Steelers in a controversial trade. PHOTO COURTESY OF @DK14 ON INSTAGRAM

Lockerroom: MLB spring training breakout players

by Jake Loomis
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Marcelo Mayer

Marcelo Mayer is one of the Red Sox's big three prospects and has been overlooked over the last year due to injuries. Mayer (23) will be a main part of Boston's future success as he and other top prospects, Kristian Campbell and Roman Anthony, are all ranked within the top 15 in baseball. Last season, Mayer dealt with his fair share of injuries as he was constrained during the season. Coming into this spring camp, however, there is new life for Mayer as he is fully healthy and ready to compete. So far this spring, Mayer has been on a tear as he has bounced back in a major way. He is hitting .350 and has six RBI's while providing solid defense for the club. His road to the MLB is murky right now as he sits behind veteran Trevor Story, however, in one to two years he will be a franchise cornerstone for the Sox.

Jasson Dominguez

Jasson Dominguez comes into 2025 looking to prove a lot of things. The heavily coveted prospect has been in the Yankees system for ages and has not truly cracked the big-league roster as a starter yet. Dominguez, who is still 22, played decently last season, however, he sat behind Alex Verdugo in the playoffs. However, this year Verdugo



Oswald Peraza (91) of the New York Yankees scores ahead of the throw to St. Louis Cardinals catcher Iván Herrera on an RBI single by Jasson Dominguez during the third inning of a spring training baseball game Wednesday, Feb. 26, in Tampa, Fla.

PHOTO BY CHRIS O'MEARA / AP NEWSROOM

is gone, and the young kid will have his chance to shine in one of the top outfielders in the league. He will play alongside all-stars Cody Bellinger and Aaron Judge. This spring, Dominguez has been decent as he has been hitting .241 from the plate with

three RBIs and two stolen bases. Dominguez is slated to play left field this season for the Yankees and will have a chance to have a monster breakout season.

Noah Schultz

Noah Schultz has made headlines this year as he headed into

his first big league camp with the worst team in baseball. The White Sox southpaw stands at 6-foot-9 and 220 pounds, immediately drawing attention from the media. In two games this spring, Schultz has been great as he has tossed three shut-

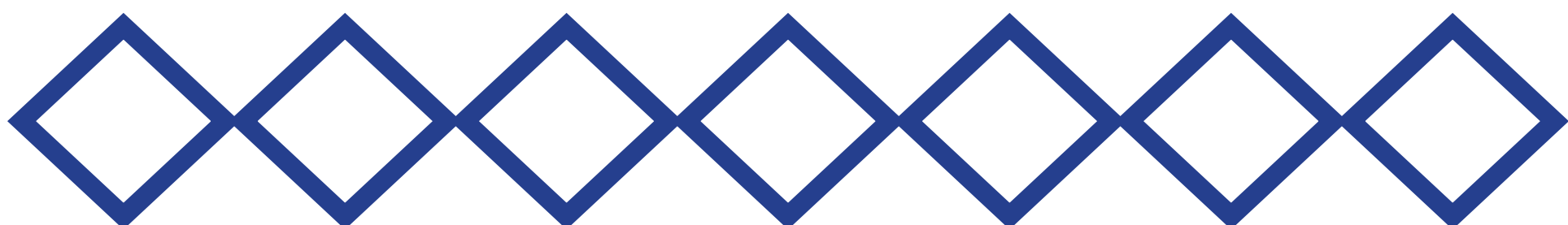
out innings with a 1.33 WHIP. Schultz, who is only 21, should have a great MLB career as his pitch style is along the lines of great Randy Johnson. He was the 26th pick in the 2023 draft.

Lazaro Montes

Currently, offense is plaguing the Seattle Mariners, and Lazaro Montes could be the immediate solution. During the offseason, the Mariners were the talk of many deals to add on bats, although nothing transpired. They might have just been holding off for the 20-year-old who is hitting .417 this spring. Montes also hit two home runs while adding five RBIs to his total. There is no doubt that this kid should be considered for a big-league roster spot as he looks to help the Mariners this year.

Roki Sasaki

Roki Sasaki came over from Japan this year to start his MLB career. The 23-year-old is one of the most highly touted international prospects behind Shohei Ohtani and he was a top-target in free agency this year. Ultimately, Sasaki opted to join the super team in the Dodgers, and he should be a mid-level to low-end rotation guy for them in year one. So far this spring, Sasaki has had one start where he tossed three perfect innings. In those innings, he struck out five batters while showcasing his nasty pitch combinations. Sasaki will look to help the Dodgers go back-to-back as he plays his first MLB season in LA.





Sports

LET THE MADNESS BEGIN.

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Women's Basketball: 12 is the lucky number in Connecticut's 12th consecutive conference title win

With a win over the No. 22 Creighton Bluejays on Monday night, the No. 3 UConn women's basketball team are conference champions for the twelfth time in a row.

With head coach Geno Auriemma becoming the winningest coach in division one college basketball history, Paige Bueckers notching 2,000 points on her career and many broken attendance records; this accolade is another addition to the many the Huskies have stored in the history book for this year's campaign.

Bueckers, a graduate guard, was the forefront of the Huskies offense again in this one getting good looks from both sides of the ball. In total, the Minnesota native racked up 24 points and 8 rebounds on the night. In addition, Bueckers was named the tournament's most valuable player for the third time in her collegiate career and was the first player in Big East history to ever do so.

During the trophy presentation ceremony when Bueckers was honored Auriemma described Bueckers as the main constant for the squad.

Last season, the conference tournament was a grind, after their roster was plagued with injuries, including Aaliyah Edwards who missed the championship due to a facial injury.

However, this year's conference tournament, the journey was teamwork and having everyone healthy to get the result they wanted.

"It's hard to do something that's never been done at UConn before, like everything's been accomplished," said Bueckers to the media postgame. "So, I'm grateful and blessed, but it's really a team award, a testament to the coaching staff, my teammates, so I'm able to go out there and perform along alongside of them, and I feel like we're heading in the right direction with our momentum heading into the tournament."

In addition to Bueckers, various players from up and down the bench contributed to their teammates from staying persistent in their shooting around the paint but staying dominant by the boards and guarding the ball.

Sarah Strong, who Auriemma compared to an evolved Kerry Bascom, put up a double-double in all three of their games in the tournament. In the championship game, the North Carolina native notched 13 points and 11 rebounds for the Huskies.

"It's great to win. I don't think about it much as a championship game." Said Strong to the media postgame.

This season, the matchup of Bueckers, Strong and Fudd have been lethal to their opponents. When playing with players with such vast experience like Bueckers and Fudd, Strong says that playing with confidence is what she's learned the most from both of them.

"Playing with them is incredibly fun and playing with people who just know how to play basketball, who can do just



UConn women's basketball team defeat Marquette on March 2, 2025. The final score was 92-57. PHOTOS BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

about everything on the court, and makes it so easy to play with because, I mean, any look I get, it's going to be a good one." said Fudd on what it's like to play with Bueckers and Strong.

Kicking things off in the first period, it was utter sovereignty from the Huskies, holding Creighton to zero points until the midway point of the first frame.

From there, Morgan Maly and Lauren Jensen started to find their way through UConn's defense and both squads traded scoring droughts back and forth. However, UConn would be the top dogs heading into intermission with almost double the lead of Creighton, up 40-22.

Throughout the tournament, the Huskies defense and ability to play their roster down the bench has been right on the money with how they want to play in the NCAA tournament. Bueckers described to the media that the programs depth in their roster is what sets them apart from previous team's she's been on at UConn.

"Our ability to play with different lineups." Bueckers elaborated. "Go big, go small. Have people available who are off the bench that can contribute and do great things for the team. So having different lineups, meshing together in practice, different groups, different lineups, is something that's been different."

Coming out of the lockerroom in the second half, the Huskies were not going down without a fight.

Despite Fudd not notching any points in the third quarter and the squad racking up 17 turnovers on the night, the program contributed tremendously on all aspects of the roster for them to keep a steady lead.

Players off the bench like KK Arnold, who notched five points, are the fuel to the Huskies fire that help aid them when others are struggling and keep them in the game.

With this win, Auriemma notched his 30th conference tournament championship, which he described to the media was a lot to take in.

"I think we have we have obviously, really good players, you know, I don't think anybody wins without really good players. And we've been fortunate to get, you know, terrific players for 30 years." said Auriemma to the media. "Otherwise, we wouldn't be talking about this subject. But at the same time, you know, I think we have a culture. We have a belief system in our program that this is the expectation."

What's next for the Huskies, you may ask? The moment all Husky fans have been waiting for; the next push for their search of their 12th national championship title.

"I haven't even really looked forward to next weekend, but I am super excited to see where we land." said Fudd. "And I mean, I believe in this team so much, so I think that wherever we go, not obviously, decided to find out, but I'm not worried about where we go

To see if No. 12 will be the lucky number, fans can tune into Selection Sunday on Sunday, March 16 at 8 p.m. on ESPN to see where the No. 3 Huskies will end up on the March Madness bracket.