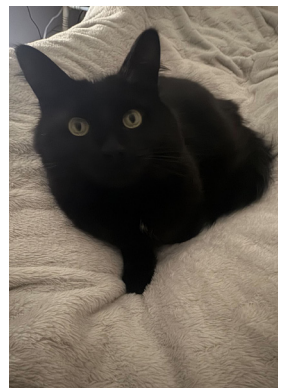


The Daily Campus



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Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Electrification faces pushback Before UConn debuts 'clean' buses



Four electric vehicles occupy every charger available at UConn Storrs' North Garage. The Trump administration is moving to stop funding national electrification efforts.

by Kevin Guinan
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Political turmoil around electric vehicles has complicated the transition away from internal combustion engines before the University of Connecticut Storrs campus plans to unveil its new electric buses this Earth Day.

Stanley Nolan, the interim associate vice president of facilities operations, confirmed in an interview last Friday that developing changes in electric vehicle (EV) programs won't affect the buses' release date.

"That [electric bus debut] is still as planned, but our current assessment of getting those vehicles from the manufacturer is running a couple weeks behind," Nolan said. Initially the plan to start running them was in late January, but that was pushed to April to finalize details like custom UConn branding.

The delay coincided well with an Earth Day release, but the timing is subject to change and based on ideal circumstances according to Nolan.

The buses were a joint venture between the Connecticut Department of Transportation and Windham Regional Transit District. The partnership was coordinated after UConn needed additional expertise to spend a \$1.3 million dollar grant for two electric buses and charging infrastructure in late 2018 according to UConn Today.

President Donald Trump's administration return to office after the five years it took to produce the zero emission buses is complicating things now. His second term has not restrained from targeting electrification. An inter-

nal email sent by the General Service Administration last month obtained by media outlets shows the efforts taken against electric vehicles.

"As GSA has worked to align with the current administration, we have received direction that all GSA-owned charging stations are not mission critical," said the email, the Colorado Public Radio first reported.

The grant to fund these buses and their chargers isn't immune to these policy changes, even if the debut goes smoothly. Governor Ned Lamont did not expand these grants yet according to Nolan, and the current political environment could make that prospect more unlikely.

"We'll get our two buses and infrastructure in place, but getting the next buses three, four and five will take additional funding," Nolan said.

The new administration has already moved to stop the funding of new EV infrastructure under the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program according to The Spokesman Review. The on-and-off funding of electrification efforts is parallel between UConn and the federal government.

The recent GSA email is what moves the current actions beyond restricting funds and into the dismantling of EV chargers. Once the current contracts that keep EV chargers operating end, service will be discontinued and "turned off at the beaker," according to The Verge.

Neither personal cars nor those owned by the government will be able to charge at GSA-owned charging ports after the contracts cease. As a result, the government will have to get rid of the EVs

bought under the Biden administration, but where those EVs go is still uncertain according to The Verge.

The impacts of clearing out the EV fleet won't affect many Connecticut vehicles. According to CT Mirror, only 43 EVs are a part of the state fleet. By contrast, the 2022 Senate Bill 4 proposed 1,200 state owned vehicles to be EVs by 2026.

GSA-owned electric chargers are similarly insubstantial in the state. The now defunct interactive map of federally owned chargers shows that only eight ports in Connecticut are at risk of shutting down after GSA's email. Those are found in Hartford's William R. Cotter Federal Building.

Even though those numbers don't reflect well on EV adoption, Nolan said that electrifying UConn's fleet came with some difficulties the state of Connecticut might be experiencing.

"It's the unintended consequences you have to clear," he said, referring to unique problems of EVs like the impact of heavier cars on the roadways. "Sometimes it can feel slow to adopt tech, but it's being conscious to look at those studies [regarding efficiency and practicality of EVs] and see if it helps."

Nolan's view over these investments reflected EVs' positive impact on air quality. "Sometimes you have to pay a little more to do the right thing," he said.

The GSA's label of EVs as "not mission critical" mimics the argument that EVs aren't productive enough for governmental use. For UConn's electric buses, the planning required for the project detracts from an early implementation that might seem

more productive according to Nolan.

Comparing UConn's electrification experience to the state of Connecticut depicts where the current pitfalls of EV implementation lie and how contrasting federal di-

rections influence the transportation sector. In the future, more UConn students will be exposed to how these efforts are going because the electric bus plans to run on routes with the highest ridership, according to Nolan.



A sign directs electric vehicle drivers to chargers at UConn Storrs' North Garage. There are four chargers available in this garage.

PHOTOGRAPH BY KEVIN GUINAN, CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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NEWSLETTER

News

Sen. Chris Murphy speaks out against Trump's 'constitutional crisis'

by **Toriana Grooms**

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Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., spoke out on Feb. 4 against President Donald Trump's actions that reflect "illegal seizures of power," pushing America into "constitutional crisis."

Trump and the majority of Republican Congress are pushing to expand the power of presidency. Trump and Elon Musk have enacted major changes in the White House recently. Musk said on X that as the leading member of the Department of Government Efficiency, he is in the process of shutting down the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) with Trump's support.

Murphy spoke out on NPR Morning Edition that Trump and Musk aim to "seize control of [the] federal government" and use this power to uplift his own political supporters and dissolve members of dissenting parties.

Murphy also emphasized that "the president of the United States does not have the power unilaterally to suspend all federal programs." He explained this form of power can quickly lead to corruption and the directing of funds solely to Republican states or friends of the president. Murphy claimed the court has requested Trump to spur government spending, but Trump instead pushed to shutter the USAID, laying off many government workers and further cutting 90% of the US-

AID's foreign aid contracts.

The Democrat lawmaker interpreted that the Republican-majority Supreme Court will be used to shutter several agencies, a tactic he states will "destroy democracy." He said he felt these claims should not be understated, as Musk and Trump's allegations of USAID being what Musk claims is a "criminal organization" can skew the beliefs of American people.

The Connecticut legislator further stated that he is avoiding voting for any Trump nominees, as he believes a collaboration with Republicans is jeopardizing public mobilization against the Trump administration. Murphy said he worries that if Democrats and Republicans work together on legislation and selecting nominees, it will undermine the push for policy change and the added pressure on Republicans. There already seems to be a strong call for change, with approximately 500 people attending the press conference outside of USAID hosted by Sen. Murphy, Sen. Jeanne Shaheen and other members of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Murphy stated that currently, his focus is "making sure that democracy survives this assault on the Constitution." As of now, Republicans have not sided with Democrats about the "illegal seizures of power;" however, Murphy said he hopes that with enough public outrage, many Republicans could join the movement.



Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., speaks during a hearing on Capitol Hill, Feb. 8, 2024, in Washington D.C. Connecticut Democrats have unanimously endorsed Murphy for a third term. (AP PHOTO/JACQUELYN MARTIN, FILE)

Changes come to WRTD bus lines

by **Jenna Outcalt**

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The Windham Region Transit District (WTRD) implemented changes to their regional route on March 9, according to an email from Philip Johnson, who works with the University of Connecticut and WRTD.

There are new timetables for the 674, 675, 676 and 991 routes, according to the WRTD website.

According to the email from Johnson, due to the changes in the routes, the following WRTD stops closed: Big Y, Four Corners, Jensen's, South Frontage Road at Commuter Lot and Valley at High/Noble Hall.

The email explains the 674 A route now has increased hours on Saturday and runs

on Sundays. It no longer has stops at the Four Corners/Holiday Mall and Big Y and will now stop curbside at the East Brook mall instead of pulling into the mall.

The email also says 674 A and C will now have more trips between Windham and Mansfield. The 674 C route will now only stop at the Nash Zimmer Transportation Center on the outbound trip, not the return trip.

The 674 B line has returned with 1 a.m. run and 1 p.m. run, according to Johnson.

The 675 route now uses 195 and no longer uses Discovery Drive. Due to a realignment, riders who need to get to the Four Corners/Holiday Mall stop will now need to transfer from the 674 to 675 at the Rosebrooks House, said Johnson's email.

Johnson also said the 675

route will run year-round, while the new 676 route will be "running a limited schedule during Summer, Christmas and Thanksgiving Breaks."

The 991 route will always stop at Norwich Business Park, but is reducing its runs through Willimantic, according to Johnson.

"671 A/B, 674 A B C, 991 and 993 are to all meet at the Windham Intermodal Garage for a coordinated 'pulse' every 70/140 minutes, meaning there is a seamless transfer between all routes (991 and 993 will continue to have the same amount of trips they currently have, with new 991 timepoints)," Johnson wrote in the email.

Johnson said that while the stops for Discovery Drive, Chemistry west bound and UConn North Campus east

bound will no longer be serviced by WRTD, they will continue to be serviced by HuskyGo buses.

"You can find more information on the WRTD website by going to the individual route pages and see the 'Coming soon' timepoints," Johnson said in the email.

"All routes will also be in Passio soon. Maps will also be posted soon to the WRTD website."

All service hours can be found on the WRTD website as well, along with QR codes that show specifics about each route.



The Red Line HuskyGo bus at a stop sign. WRTD is changing their regional routes, but HuskyGo routes remain the same. PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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HEARING DOUBLE

THE ETERNAL PURSUIT OF THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

by Justine Pearlman | SHE/HER/HERS | ASSOCIATE DIGITAL EDITOR | justine.pearlman@uconn.edu

Welcome to Hearing Double, where I compare and contrast two unrelated songs of the same name and decide which one does the song's title the most justice!

The 1980s music scene marked the transition from the old to the new. While classic rock was still enormously popular, new experimental music styles including new wave, goth rock and alt-rock began to emerge.

This new era of music certainly challenged the norms of mainstream rock, but the overall sentiments remained intact. As Billy Joel sang in 1980, "Everybody's Talkin' 'bout the new sound / Funny, but it's still rock and roll to me."

The traditional and modern music styles were not mutually exclusive, which makes the '80s a fascinating subject for the first installment of this column. In this decade, synthpop group Alphaville and pop-rock star Rod Stewart both released songs entitled "Forever Young," each in their own style and with their own spin on the title.

Alphaville, a German-based synthpop group released their song "Forever Young" in their 1984 album of the same title. While many have misinterpreted it as a celebration of youth or as an expression of nostalgia based on its dreamy nature, Alphaville's rendition is undeniably melancholic.

What a song reflects in history is an important indicator of its tone. "Forever Young" was produced in Germany during the Cold War, which saw the country divided between political and economic systems.

The anxieties surrounding the threat of nuclear war felt by those living in the heart of the conflict are immediately apparent in the first verse:

"We're only watching the skies / Hoping for the best but

expecting the worst / Are you gonna drop the bomb or not?"

There's a distinct and consistent theme of helplessness. The average citizen has no control of their own destiny — they either die young or live in fear. It's a lose-lose situation, which is best described by the chorus line:

"Do you really want to live forever?"

If anything, Alphaville's "Forever Young" is a song of mourning. It is, of course, political, but it feels more like a surrender than a call to action. The narrator accepts the impossibility of their situation.

Despite strong historical ties, the song is still relatable beyond the scope of '80s Germany. A more general interpretation could be that it merely represents a longing for youth, which slips so quickly through our fingers that before we can even truly appreciate it, it's already over. In this interpretation, the song still maintains its mourning sentiment; the cause is just different.

The sound is really where the beauty of the song lies for a lot of people. The slow synth creates an almost eerie but a quintessential '80s sound. The solemn yet dreamy melody resonates with the modern generation as an ode to the sacredness of youth.

Since a recent resurgence in popularity, Alphaville's "Forever Young" has become an anthem for living in the moment. Layered over a multitude of videos depicting youthful, unadulterated joy, it has come to encapsulate the "my life is a movie" aesthetic. It's the anthem for dancing in the rain, laughing with your friends until your stomach hurts, gazing at the stars, taking stupid risks and driving with no destination.

Alphaville's "Forever Young," with over 900 million

listens on Spotify, has been covered many times over since its release, but nothing comes close to the original. Laura Branigan's rendition, for example, is largely overstated with excessively emotional vocals and a swell of instruments and backing vocals towards the end.

On the other hand, Youth Group completely abandoned the instrumentation that makes this song so unique, opting for a sound more reminiscent of the early 2000s indie pop scene. No cover has been able to accurately express the ruminative and dreamlike nature of the original.

In 1988, Rod Stewart released his album "Out of Order," which included the track "Forever Young," inspired by Bob Dylan's 1974 song of the same name. Though the sound and lyrics are only loosely related, many of the ideas as well as the overall structure in the later hit are borrowed from the original.

Whereas Alphaville's "Forever Young" aligns closer with new wave, this song fits into a more traditional music style.

Whenever I hear this song, I'm reminded of my last class session of AP Psych in my senior year of high school. My teacher had played it for us as a sendoff into the world, urging us to listen closely and absorb the message that the lyrics are expressing.

This purpose is certainly fitting, as the song reads as the imparting of wisdom from an elder to a child. In fact, Stewart originally intended it as "a heartfelt song about [his] kids."

Literally, Stewart's "Forever Young" is full of hopes and advice he has for his children as they grow up. In the choruses, he explains that, while they will be making their own decisions and carving out their own paths, Stewart will

always see his children as his babies:

"Be courageous and be brave / And in my heart you'll always stay / Forever young"

It's the perfect representation of a parent's love. There comes a time when most parents need to let their children go out into the world and make it on their own. This doesn't mean that their love is any less or that they have become obsolete in their children's lives. It just means that they need to trust their children to make their own decisions.

All a parent can do at this point is hope that they've prepared their kids for what's to come and instill the proper values to blossom into kind, self-sufficient adults. This is made evident in the lyrics:

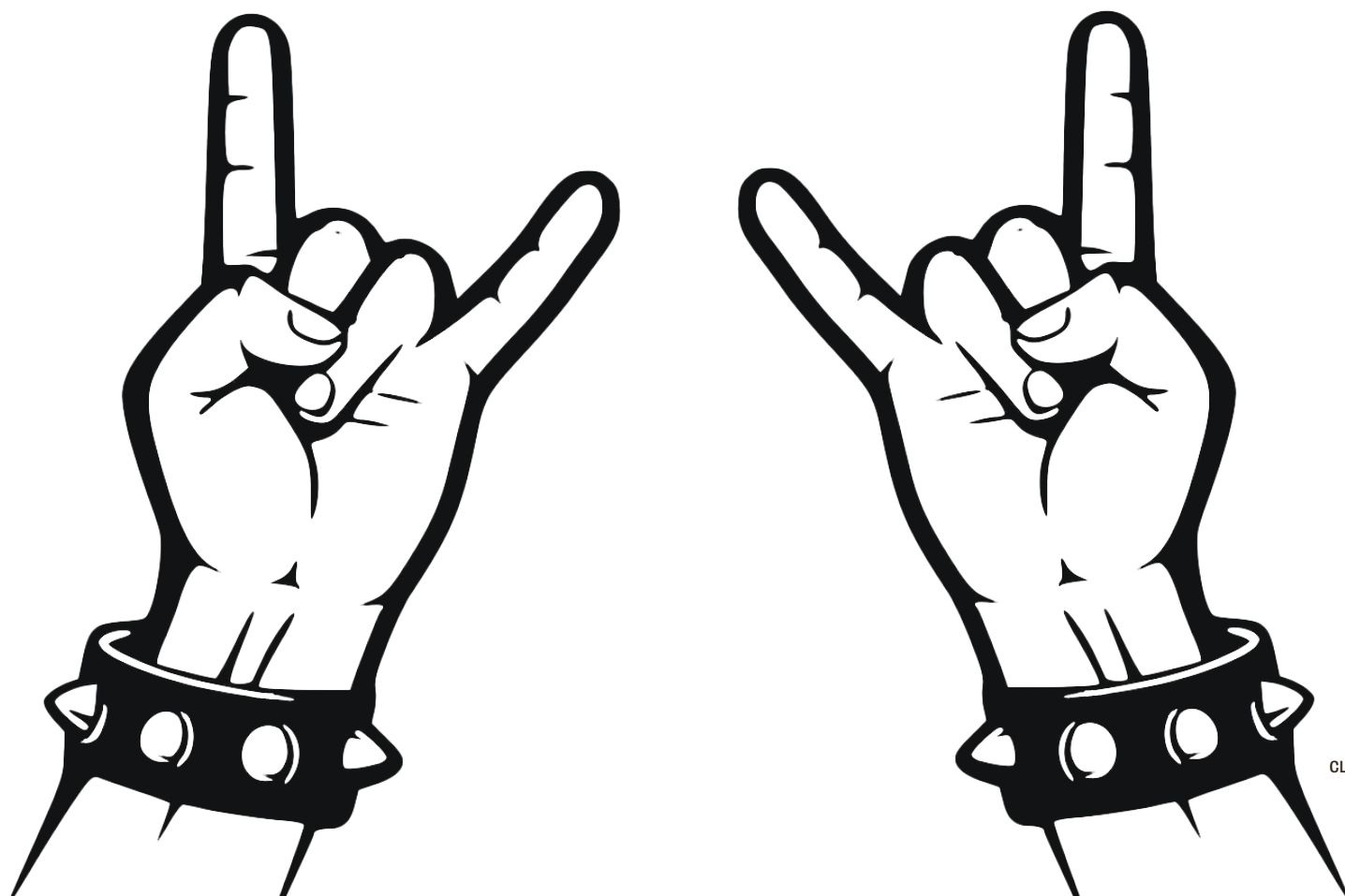
"And when you finally fly away / I'll be hoping that I served you well / For all the wisdom of a lifetime / No one can ever tell."

Though the idea of growing up can be depressing and scary, this song indicates something else entirely: hope. The melody alone is upbeat — a far cry from the melancholic Alphaville song. It's bitter-sweet, but not sad, which is what growing up should be.

Halfway through my final semester at UConn, the longing to be forever young resonates deeply with me, so the subject matter of this first article feels very relevant. These two songs both beautifully capture the meaning of their title, each tackling the subject from different positions and with different outlooks. It's amazing how different the two separate takes on the same idea can be.

While both songs are very close to my heart, Alphaville's "Forever Young" stands out. It's magical, both lyrically and sonically, and the historical complexity makes it all the more compelling.

Title winner: Alphaville



CLIPART COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL

THE MUSIC NEVER STOPS: Enrique 'Rekay' Myrick

by Dan Stark
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Nu metal may not be as big as it once was during its heyday in the late 1990s, but the spirit of the genre is still alive and well, especially for Enrique "Rekay" Myrick.

Myrick is a singer and drummer who is the frontman of Symposia, a dynamic band that combines nu metal and funk metal in one of the most unique sounds of any band in the Connecticut music scene. He's also the drummer of Blandest, a grunge and alternative rock group.

Myrick's journey began when he started learning drums at 12 years old. Like many drummers, he started out hitting pillows with sticks he found in his backyard before getting an actual kit a year later, joking that his room was filling up with bark. Inspired by bands like Foo Fighters, Incubus and Snot, he spent the next few years developing his chops and playing drums in different bands, including Beryllium.

But one of the pivotal moments in his musical career came when he had the opportunity to join the band Monoxide, a band that was re-launching after a year and a half-long hiatus. After two shows with the band, Myrick and his bandmates had the idea to do a funk metal-inspired project. They began developing their sound, which then shifted in a nu metal direction. Myrick said that "we didn't know that we were making a nu metal group, we were just putting a bunch of sounds together."

Symposia's music features sounds and instruments that can't be heard in any other band in Connecticut. One of the defining features of the group's sound is the use of turntables, incorporating it in similar ways that groups like Limp Bizkit do. There's also a variety of other unorthodox instrument choices that make the band stand out.

"We bring odd instruments, like a digeridoo and a djembe, which is the bongo that I play on stage," Myrick said. "Those really stand out because it wasn't supposed to work, but they did."

He noted that there's been a lot of trial and error in developing the group's sound, but many of them ended up working. "We're really glad that people want more of it because we thought this was only going

to be a one-year thing," Myrick added.

Myrick started as the group's drummer, but became their singer after they couldn't find one. As someone who spent his musical career sitting behind a drum kit, the transition from being at the back of the stage to the front was one that he called "very unnerving," but he has since embraced the role and continues to grow as a frontman.

"I'm still learning that process and learning to be a songwriter," he said. "I'm still very uncomfortable at it sometimes, but I have a lot of support through my band members and other bands in the scene, so I'm getting used to it."

Myrick takes a lead role in the group's songwriting process, as most of the band's songs are written by him and their guitarist Malcolm. The two will send riffs to each other as starting points, working together to figure out the song's structure and direction. From there, the two make demos to send to the rest of the band, which they use to develop their parts. It's a carefully planned approach, with Myrick saying that "we're not really much of a 'Hey, let's jam on this' band; we like to write it out before we show it to everybody."

The band has made a name for themselves with consistent performances across Connecticut, including at venues like Crunch House in West Haven, Howard's Bookstore in Torrington and South Whitney Pizza in Hartford. But finding shows hasn't been an easy task, as the band's multi-faceted sound has made it hard for them to fit into a certain subset of the music scene. Nevertheless, the group has still been well received.

"We don't know if we're in the hardcore scene, the indie scene or the punk scene," said Myrick. "But every time we play a show, they accept us and enjoy what we do, and that's what Symposia is all about."

Myrick also currently plays drums in Blandest, a grunge-inspired power trio. Being in this band is "a big weight off my shoulders" since he doesn't have a large songwriting role like in Symposia and can just sit back and play drums.

"It's more natural for me to be in Blandest because I've been drumming for so long," he said. "I don't really get as nervous because it feels at home for me."



Enrique "Rekay" Myrick performing with Symposia. Myrick also plays the drums in the grunge rock band Blandest.

PHOTOS COURTESY ENRIQUE MYRICK



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS





Life

@dailycampuslife

EAR 2 DA SKY: MAYFIELD MAKES CHANGES ON 'CURTIS'

by Hayden Cromer

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Welcome to Ear 2 Da Sky! Each week, I will be going over topics within music culture and reviewing albums and EPs across genres, eras and artists that are submitted by readers like you and listeners of my radio show, ear 2 da ground, which airs every Wednesday at 11 p.m. on WHUS 91.7 FM! For this week's submission, I listened to another oldie: Curtis Mayfield's "Curtis."

I've been going over a lot of debut albums, but I'm definitely not stopping here. After officially leaving the gospel, doo-wop, R&B and soul group The Impressions after 12 years, Mayfield had released his solo studio album debut in September 1970.

Being fully written and produced by Mayfield, "Curtis" explored a sound different from his previous group, subverting expectations and ultimately creating an anthemic album to the rise in pride of Black America.

"(Don't Worry) If There's a Hell Below, We're All Going to Go" is track one on the 40-minute album. It opens with a woman speaking about the Bible and the Book of Revelations. She calls on people to apply it to everyday life, in hopes that it may turn around those that need it.

Mayfield butts in calling on different groups of people, by their respective derogatory terms. He does this to catch the attention of the listener and it sure as hell caught mine. He assures each group, no matter color, gender or religion, "Don't worry / If there's hell below / We're all / Gonna go." Mayfield speaks on the state of society in America and its political strife throughout the entire album and track one sets a strong precedent for what's to come.

Track two opens with a grandiose, fairytale-esque sounding harp and crescendo in the percussion, which is then juxtaposed by the brass and strings, creating a hazy, sonic veil over the track. This opens up the flood gates for Mayfield, guiding the listener through the point of view of living in "The Other Side of Town," which is suggested to be the poorer side.

There is nothing good or right on this side of town. Crime and economic plight culminate in depression. Mayfield paints a picture of what family life looks like on this side:

"My little sister / She hungry for bread to eat / My brother's hand-me-down shoes / Is now showing his feet."

This may be my ignorance peaking but touching on topics like mental health and depression in the 1970s seems incredibly progressive, as it was much more taboo than it is today.

Track four is "We the People Who Are Darker Than Blue." This is another example of Mayfield contributing a backing track to Black American pride. He warns his community to stray away from negative self-fulfilling prophecies, "Are we gonna stand around this town / And let what others say come true?"

Mayfield plays around with colors through the song, weaving in and out of different meanings and contexts and tying together skin color, music and emotion. "High yellow gal, can't you tell / You're just the surface of our dark, deep well? / If your mind could really see / You'd know your color the same as me."

While I only touched on three songs off the album, side two is just as wonderful with a classic in "Move on Up" and the beautiful lover letter that is "Miss Black America." "Curtis" is an incredibly beautiful piece of history that has remained prevalent in society for over 50 years now. Mayfield uses all 40 minutes and some change to uplift his entire community in hopes of making a difference through his art. "Curtis" has made differences, withstood decades and still finds relevance.

If you want to submit something to my radio show, ask for advice, hear your music on the radio and possibly even see an album or EP you submit get reviewed in the paper, submit it here: <https://bit.ly/ear2dasky>

RATING: 5/5

LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Curtis Lee Mayfield was an American singer-songwriter, guitarist and record producer. He is considered to be one of the most influential musicians of soul and socially conscious African-American music.

IMAGE COURTESY OF @CURTISLMAYFIELD ON INSTAGRAM



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Surf, Send and Evacuate?

The bizarre bomb scare at UConn's climbing competition

by Rosie Megyola | SHE/HER/HERS | CONTRIBUTOR | grz24001@uconn.edu

Sunday is supposed to be a day of rest, right? Well, on Sunday, March 9, I couldn't have been more wrong. The University of Connecticut Climbing Center received a bomb threat, and the aftermath was messy.

9 AM - A Chilly Start

It's a cold, windy 30 degrees outside and I'm decked out in shorts and a T-shirt. Why? Because the Bouldering Competition's theme is "Surf n' Send," and I'm committed. At least I have the sense to throw on a hoodie before heading to South Dining Hall for breakfast.

11 AM - Warming Up

At the Rec Center, I stretch before heading into the Climbing Center. Flexibility is key, but you know what's even more important? Not having a bomb go off. We bask in the anticipation with friends, completely unaware of what's coming.

2:25 PM - The Countdown

"Everyone, you have FIVE MINUTES left to fill out your scorecard," the staff announces. Most of us are exhausted. I've given my all and my grip is shot. The only thing burning more than my muscles is the excitement of finishing my first competition.

Then—"FIRE. THERE IS A FIRE. EVERYONE EXIT."

Does anyone smell smoke? Nope. Any alarms blaring? Also nope. But hey, if UConn ever wants to test fire drill response times, apparently all they need to do is yell "FIRE!" at a bunch of adrenaline-fueled climbers. Still, we follow instructions. It's proven that people respond fastest to fire warnings, so good call on their part.

2:30 PM - Freezing Outside

Standing in our beach-themed outfits in the biting wind, we joke around to keep spirits high. Climbers are some of the best people—supportive, resilient and always problem-solving.

Then, we see three police officers escorting a student out of the Rec Center. What is going on?

Word spreads fast. A friend overheard the staff talking. Apparently, someone found a neon green sticky note on a climber's backpack, and it contained a bomb threat.

10 AM - Fueling Up

The day doesn't truly begin until there's food in my belly. I'm mentally preparing for the competition, already imagining the pride I'll feel handing in my scorecard. Except, I never got to hand it in.

12:45 PM - Competition Kicks Off

The staff announces the rules, and the competition begins! We hand in our scorecards and start climbing, chasing maximum points.

The Note's Bizarre Journey

From what we gather, the sticky note, which read "A bomb is going to go off in the Climbing Center," was first placed on a backpack. A bomb threat on a Post-it? If you're going to disrupt my Sunday, at least put in some effort.

Then, for some reason, a friend of the backpack's owner peeled it off and stuck it onto their friend's T-shirt—because nothing screams "joke" like a bomb threat? Imagine finding out you've been walking around with a bomb threat stuck to your back like some kind of terrible April Fools' joke, except it's March and also a felony. Then, while they were climbing, the note fell off. A staff member picked it up, immediately called the cops and the evacuation began.

The Aftermath

Now, the police and Rec Center officials inform us that they need to conduct a full bomb sweep. No one is allowed back in to retrieve their belongings until at least tonight, maybe even tomorrow morning. Two lines form: one for students who can't get into their dorms without their ID, and another for those who lost belongings. Most of us fall into both categories.

Cold and exhausted, people start heading to Bookworm's Café and the bookstore for warmth. Officials assure us they'll contact RAs to let students into their dorms. All I was hearing was, "Oh, you need your student ID to get into your dorm? Too bad kiddo! Hope you enjoy your new life as a vagabond in the bookstore!"

3:30 PM - A Communication Breakdown

We make it to Bookworm's, where we manage to buy food using our PeopleSoft numbers. Then, because climbing shoes aren't made for running, we sprint barefoot back to our dorms.

Except—surprise! No RAs are at Watson or Eddy Hall to let us in, despite promises that help would be there. So, there we are, barefoot and freezing, waiting for a kind stranger to let us in. UConn tells students not to let others into dorms for security reasons, but maybe—just maybe—they should ensure their own communication works first so students aren't stranded outside their own buildings. UConn says, "Don't let strangers into the dorms!" but also fails to let actual residents in. Love that for us!

Finally, Some Relief

Staff said that, hopefully, our items would be ready for pick-up Monday morning; I go to the Rec Center and, thankfully, grab my essentials. Items were ready for pickup at 6 a.m. on Monday, but the email only comes in super late in the afternoon. Finally, my life is back to normal—I can study, eat and have access into my dorm.

Lessons Learned

This whole fiasco highlighted one major flaw: UConn's emergency communication between the Rec Center and Residence Halls is seriously lacking. The Climbing Center staff handled the situation phenomenally, but the follow-through for students affected by the evacuation? Not so much. On the bright side, I was reminded just how great my climbing community is. Their humor and support got us through a ridiculous, stressful day. Who knew the biggest hazard at a climbing competition wouldn't be falling, but rather a neon sticky note. Next time, UConn, let's make sure students can actually get back into their dorms after an emergency, yeah?

Read about the bomb threat from the News Section at DailyCampus.com.

Connecticut shouldn't cut taxes

by Harry Cohen

HE/HIM/HIS
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On Feb. 5, Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont delivered his biennial budget address for the coming two years. The speech was filled with positive rhetoric about how amazing the proposed tax cuts are going to be for Connecticut residents and how the new budget allocation is going to help so many people. As a dual-degree student staring down the barrel of finding classes without College Scheduler, something seems to be missing. While appealing at face value, these tax cuts don't actually help working families as promised, but rather stretch state funds thin and result in a reduction of services that people need.

Of course, there are fundamen-

tal problems with the way taxes are handled in Connecticut which need to be addressed. When talking about taxes people often talk about tax burdens (the percent of a person's total income spent on taxes), but this is insufficient at painting the whole picture. For example, a flat tax rate may seem fair because everyone shares the same burden, until you consider that a 10% tax on someone who makes \$35,000 a year hurts far more than it does someone making \$666,827.18 a year.

For this reason, Connecticut uses a graduated tax rate, where your tax rates increase with your income. In Connecticut rates start at 3% for the first \$10,000 of taxable income and then increase up to nearly 7% for incomes greater than \$800,000. Despite this apparent system, Connecticut ranked sixth in the

nation for the highest tax burden in 2024, with the lowest 10% of incomes spending nearly half their budget in taxes.

So, what should we do about these high taxes? Well, the obvious thing which Lamont has chosen is to simply lower them, but there are obvious problems with that. It was rather telling during his speech when he arrived at the topic of higher education and suddenly got very vague with the numbers, attempting to hide a \$305-million budget cut to public and state funded universities.

Additionally, he chose to offset transit costs by increasing rider-ship fees, ignoring the fact that over 50% of public transit users earn under \$50,000 a year—a tax primarily levied on our state's most economically vulnerable. He would even add a \$10 fee to the

UPASS program, which currently allows university students to ride public transit for free. Once you actually take a look at it, this new fiscal budget with its tax cuts is nothing more than an exacerbation of Connecticut's already highly regressive tax policies.

Under the new administration we are entering a time of extreme economic uncertainty. Now, more than ever, we need a financial plan that will ensure the funding of healthcare and public education, and we need to make sure that the burden of paying it is not placed on those who can least afford it.

So, what are some options Connecticut could do if it wanted to improve its overall taxation crisis?

First, instead of tax cuts that will need to be offset elsewhere, we should look at implementing

tax reforms which redistribute how taxes are paid. Sales taxes should be removed and the deficit made up by a dramatic increase in the taxes of wealthier residents, perhaps as high as 73% on top earners. It sounds like a lot at first, but someone making \$666,827 would still be able to take home quite a comfortable living, and we could ease the burden on the many people in the state making minimum wage. We need a truly progressive tax policy if we aim to keep our programs funded and relieve people's financial burden. Finally, if we must decrease spending, we should not look at public services, but at overfunded agencies like the police. We should ask ourselves: Is UConn too expensive to run, or perhaps is it possible that \$666,827 is a bit high of a salary for UConn's president?

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Warm weather finally returns



Students enjoying the nice weather while it lasts on March 11, 2025. Despite the busy week, students have already getting ready for spring break by spending some time outdoors. PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Comic of the Day

by Connor Szrejna, Staff Artist



LATO'S LENS:

TYLER LATO'S TOP THREE MOST UNFORGETTABLE MARCH MADNESS MEMORIES OF THE LAST DECADE

by **Tyler Lato**
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'Tis the season. With conference tournaments in full swing and a few teams already having punched their ticket to the Big Dance, I can feel the aura of the NCAA Tournament creeping upon us. I am always extremely nostalgic and reminiscent around this time of the year as the tournament has provided viewers and college basketball junkies alike with countless fond memories season after season.

Though I've been watching the tournaments religiously since my adolescence, the last ten years stand out vividly in my memory. From the countless upsets to the inspiring Cinderella stories to the jaw-dropping buzzer-beaters, each tournament has delivered moments that practically define the month of March for me. That said, I think you all know the route Lato's Lens is taking this week.

Here are my top three most favorite and unforgettable moments of the NCAA Men's March Madness Tournament from the past decade in no particular order:

"FDU Believe It?"

The 2022-23 Purdue Boilermakers were one of the most heralded college basketball teams of the past decade. Led by 7-foot-4 big man and current Memphis Grizzlies center Zach Edey, the top-seeded Boilermakers were widely expected to make a deep tournament run.

Then there was Fairleigh

Dickinson University. A tiny mid-major school in New Jersey, FDU wasn't even supposed to be in the tournament. The Knights lost to Merrimack in the Northeast Conference championship game, which grants the winner an automatic bid. However, since Merrimack had recently transitioned from Division II to Division I, they were ineligible for the tournament. As a result, FDU was awarded a spot.

For these reasons, the first round of the 2023 tournament was a match of David versus Goliath as 16th-seeded FDU squared off against Edey and the No. 1 Boilermakers.

Surprisingly enough, FDU's lineup of smaller guards was able to hold Purdue at bay, just barely squeezing onto a 32-31 halftime lead. The Boilermakers, however, would fight back, taking a 47-41 lead halfway through the second half.

FDU never backed down. After hitting plenty of clutch three pointers and snatching several rebounds late in the second half, the Knights of FDU would go on to stun Purdue with a score of 63-58. This marked the second time in the history of the tournament that a 16-seed defeated a one-seed in the tournament. Although FDU would go on to lose in the following round, this stunning upset is regarded by many as the best upset in the history of March.

While Tuning in to this game while being home sick with the flu, I couldn't comprehend the magnitude of the upset that was taking place

before my eyes. For this reason, the 2023 FDU Knights were easy to put on my list.

Suggs' Half Court Heave vs. UCLA

What's March Madness without Gonzaga?

Under the helm of Head Coach Mark Few, the Zags have been a traditional household name in college basketball, producing several NBA talents each year while making deep runs in the tournament for as long as I can remember.

In 2021, the top-seeded Zags squared off against the eleventh-seeded UCLA Bruins in the Final Four. The Bruins were embarking on nothing short of a Cinderella run, upsetting No. 2 Alabama in the Sweet Sixteen and No. 1 Michigan in the Elite Eight, an impressive feat for an eleven seed. Meanwhile, the Zags were 30-0 and two games away from a perfect season.

The game proved to be a back-and-forth affair, highlighted by stellar guard play from UCLA's Johnny Juzang, as well as dominance in the paint from one of the best players in Gonzaga history, Drew Timme. At the end of the fourth quarter, the score remained deadlocked at 81, sending the game into overtime.

With three seconds left, Juzang drove to the basket, making a layup to tie the game. It looked as if the game would go into a second overtime.

Or so we all thought.

Gonzaga guard Corey Kispert inbounded the ball to current Orlando Magic

star Jalen Suggs. Suggs dribbled down the court, pulled up from near halfcourt and drilled the game-winning shot to give Gonzaga a thrilling 93-90 victory over the Bruins.

Although rooting for a UCLA victory, I'll admit that seeing such a bizarre buzzer beater like that of Suggs' is something that I'll never forget.

DJ Burns Mania

I vividly remember watching the 2024 ACC Championship while sitting on the couch at my aunt's house during St. Patrick's Day dinner. In NC State's upset win over top-seeded UNC, I witnessed something — something that was none other than NC State center DJ Burns. That's why I picked the eleventh-seeded Wolfpack to go all the way to the Final Four in my 2024 tournament bracket pool.

The Wolfpack, coincidentally, did just that.

In their Cinderella run to the Final Four, it was Burns who would capture the eyes of viewers all over America. Burns, the 6-foot-9 big man weighing in at 275 pounds, was perhaps one of the most likeable players in the tournament. I don't think I've ever seen the nation in such awe over a college basketball player in my whole life.

Highlighted by his charisma and contagious smile, Burns was an electric force in the paint throughout the month of March. change to "... his strength and gigantic frame, similar to that of an offensive lineman, to bully opposing defenders in the post

and finish with ease. The lefty also showcased a great touch around the rim, utilizing crafty post moves and hook shots to boost his point totals.

His most impressive performance of them all came from the Wolfpack's upset victory over Archnemesis and four-seed Duke in the Elite Eight. In the win, Burns recorded a whopping 29 points while holding opposing center and eventual second-round draft pick Kyle Filipowski to just 11. Burns' smile said it all after the win, skipping off the court and celebrating with his team after beating their rivals twice in a row. NC State would go on to lose at the mercy of No. 1 Purdue in the Final Four. However, Burns' heroics will surely be remembered.

Although my bracket ended up finishing in second place, predicting the success of Burns and eleventh-seeded NC State is something I brag about on a daily basis. Not to mention, I still won \$100 dollars.

Honorable Mentions

Kris Jenkins' three-point buzzer beater in the 2016 National Championship

Sister Jean and Loyola Chicago's Cinderella run to the Final Four (2018)

Jack Gohlke's 32-point performance in Oakland's upset win over Kentucky (2024)

St. Peter's 15-seed trip to the Elite Eight (2022)

The upcoming March Madness Tournament looks to be one for the record books. With games starting next week, be prepared to sit down, buckle-up and enjoy the ride.

SAM'S SECTION:

FLAGG, IZZO HEADLINE NATIONAL COLLEGE BASKETBALL AWARDS

by **Sam Calhoun**
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In my final Sam's Section before Spring Break, I will cover my picks for the national college basketball awards. From Player of the Year to Sixth Man of the Year, here are my picks.

Player, Freshman and Defensive Player of the Year: Cooper Flagg, F, Duke (19.4 ppg, 7.6 rpg, 4.2 apg, 1.5 spg, 1.3 bpg, 49.4 FG%, 37.7 3P%, 83 FT%)

In a two-man race between Flagg and Auburn's Johni Broome, I took Flagg in what could be one of the toughest races for National Player of the Year in recent memory. Duke is now the No. 1 team in the country according to Monday's AP Poll, thanks to Flagg's incredible freshman season. The projected No. 1 pick in the NBA Draft averages 25.1 points per 40 minutes and ranks in the 99th percentile nationally in assists per game at 4.2. He is a lethal defender, with his impact made on the glass and picking opponents' pockets.

Coach of the Year: Tom Izzo, Michigan State

Michigan State did not make the preseason AP Top 25 and is now in the position to potentially be on the No. 1 seed line for the NCAA Tournament. They were picked to finish fifth in the Big Ten and now are the top seed in

the Big Ten Tournament. No one on the Spartans was expected to be an All-Big Ten caliber player. Jaden Akins and Jase Richardson are on the All-Big Ten Third Team. Michigan State has its highest regular season win total since the 2017-18 season with 26 wins going into the Big Ten Tournament. Izzo passed former Indiana legendary head coach Bob Knight as the winningest Big Ten coach of all time on Feb. 15, 2025.

Most Improved Player: John Tonje, G, Wisconsin (18.9 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 1.7 apg, 46 FG%, 37.8 3P%, 91.6 FT%)

One season ago, Tonje had only played eight games and averaged 2.6 points at Missouri. Now, he looks like an All-American, potentially helping lead Wisconsin on a deep run in March. That increase in points per game was 16.3. The Big Ten had a new wave of breakout stars, from Tonje to

Purdue's Trey Kaufman-Renn to Northwestern's Nick Martinelli. Tonje averages 24.5 points per 40 minutes, which ranks in the 99th percentile nationally. His true shooting percentage ranks in the 97th percentile nationally at 64.9%. change last sentence to "If Wisconsin goes on a run in the NCAA Tournament and you're looking for the reason why, look no further than Tonje.

Transfer of the Year: PJ

Haggerty, G, Memphis (21.2 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 3.8 apg, 1.8 spg, 49.1 FG%, 41.8 3P%, 79.8 FT%)

Haggerty is at his third school for his third year in college. After starting his college career at TCU, he broke out with a 21.2 scoring average at Tulsa during the 2023-24 season. Haggerty is lethal on the fast break, averaging 4.7 points per game which ranks in the 99th percentile nationally. His 3-point percentage ranks in the 92nd percentile nationally. Leading Memphis to a top 20 finish in the AP Poll to end the regular season, Haggerty has emerged as one of the best guards in the country.

Sixth Man of the Year: Curtis Jones, G, Iowa State (17 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 2.3 apg, 1.2 spg, 42.1 FG%, 36.6 3P%, 83.7 FT%)

Iowa State is such a deep team in the backcourt that Jones, a player who would start for nearly every team in the country, comes off the bench. He leads the Cyclones in scoring and averages 22.2 points per 40 minutes. He is an elite defensive rebounder, averaging four per game (93rd percentile nationally). With his impact this season, I still find myself scratching my head at how Jones has only started eight games this season, but it seems to work. Iowa State is at the top 15 in the country.



Sports

Photo of the Day | Women's hockey



The UConn Huskies take on the Northeastern Huskies at Toscano on March 5, 2025. The Huskies face each other to move onto the Hockey East championship.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PATRIOT PLACE: 3-ROUND MOCK DRAFT, ROUNDS 2 AND 3

by **Graham Wilker**

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After an eventful first round of the NFL Draft, rounds two and three seem sure to impress. Top talents like cornerback Maxwell Hairston, the fastest man in the class, slipped out of the top 32. Meanwhile, quarterbacks Jaxson Dart and Jalen Milroe remain on the board, as well as Ohio State star running backs Quinshon Judkins and TreVeyon Henderson. Who will be the biggest steal from picks 33 to 101?

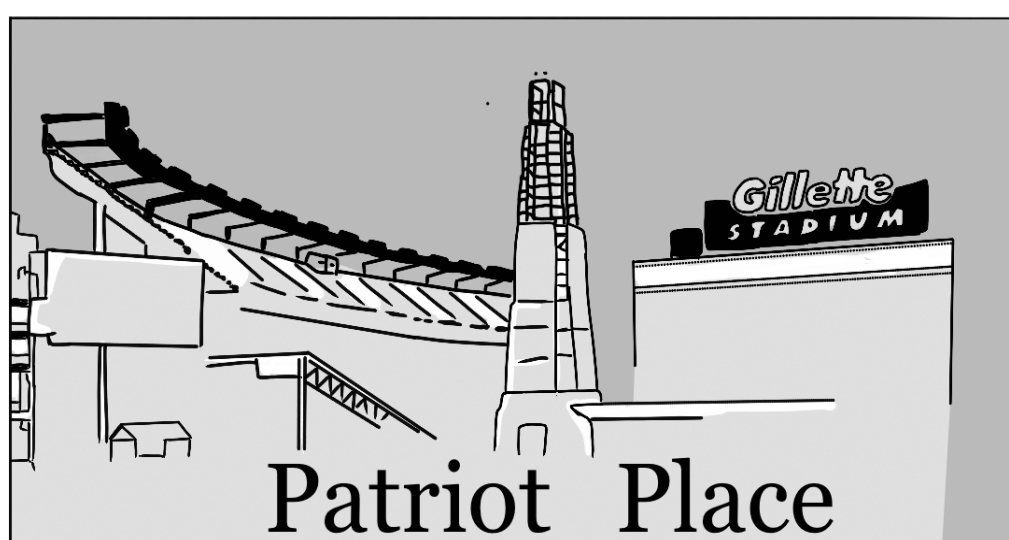
2.33 | Cleveland Browns: OT Aireontae Ersery, Minnesota
2.34 | New York Giants: OL Grey Zabel, North Dakota State
2.35 | Tennessee Titans: CB Maxwell Hairston, Kentucky
2.36 | Jacksonville Jaguars: CB Shavon Revel, East Carolina
2.37 | Las Vegas Raiders: QB Jaxson Dart, Ole Miss
2.38 | New England Patriots: DT Tyleik Williams, Ohio State
2.39 | Chicago Bears: ED Jack Sawyer, Ohio State
2.40 | New Orleans Saints: ED Donovan Ezeiruaku, Boston College
2.41 | Chicago Bears (via CAR): RB Kaleb Johnson, Iowa
2.42 | New York Jets: CB Darien Porter, Iowa State
2.43 | San Francisco 49ers: OL Josh Conerly Jr., Oregon
2.44 | Dallas Cowboys: RB Quinshon Judkins, Ohio State
2.45 | Indianapolis Colts: ED Princely Umanmielen, Ole Miss
2.46 | Atlanta Falcons: WR Elic

Ayomanor, Stanford
2.47 | Arizona Cardinals: CB Trey Amos, Ole Miss
2.48 | Miami Dolphins: DT Alfred Collins, Texas
2.49 | Cincinnati Bengals: LB Carson Schwesinger, UCLA
2.50 | Seattle Seahawks: OL Jonah Savaiinaea, Arizona
2.51 | Tampa Bay Buccaneers: WR Jayden Higgins, Iowa State
2.52 | Denver Broncos: LB Demetrius Knight Jr., South Carolina
2.53 | Pittsburgh Steelers: QB Jalen Milroe, Alabama
2.54 | Los Angeles Chargers: RB TreVeyon Henderson, Ohio State
2.55 | Green Bay Packers: WR Tre Harris, Ole Miss
2.56 | Buffalo Bills (via MIN): WR Jack Bech, TCU
2.57 | Houston Texans: WR Isaiah Bond, Texas
2.58 | Carolina Panthers (via

LAR): DT T.J. Sanders, South Carolina
2.59 | Baltimore Ravens: SAF Lathan Ransom, Ohio State
2.60 | Detroit Lions: ED J.T. Tuimoloau, Ohio State
2.61 | Washington Commanders: OT Cameron Williams, Texas
2.62 | Buffalo Bills: SAF Andrew Makumba, Texas
2.63 | Kansas City Chiefs: OT Wyatt Milum, West Virginia
2.64 | Philadelphia Eagles: ED Bradyn Swinson, LSU
3.65 | New York Giants: WR Xavier Restrepo, Miami
3.66 | Kansas City Chiefs (via TEN): SAF/LB Nick Emmanwori, South Carolina
3.67 | Cleveland Browns: RB Dylan Sampson, Tennessee
3.68 | Las Vegas Raiders: OT Marcus Mbow, Purdue
3.69 | New England Patriots:

WR Jalen Royals, Utah State
3.70 | Jacksonville Jaguars: SAF Xavier Watts, Notre Dame
3.71 | New Orleans Saints: TE Elijah Arroyo, Miami
3.72 | Chicago Bears: OL Jalen Rivers, Miami
3.73 | Las Vegas Raiders (via NYJ): ED Landon Jackson, Arkansas
3.74 | Carolina Panthers: CB Azareye'h Thomas, Florida State
3.75 | San Francisco 49ers: DL Shemar Turner, Texas A&M
3.76 | Dallas Cowboys: OT Ozzy Trapilo, Boston College
3.77 | New England Patriots (via ATL): OT Charles Grant, William & Mary
3.78 | Arizona Cardinals: DT Deone Walker, Kentucky
3.79 | Washington Commanders (via MIA): WR Tory Horton, Colorado State

3.80 | Indianapolis Colts: CB Zy Alexander, LSU
3.81 | Cincinnati Bengals: WR Jaylin Noel, Iowa State
3.82 | Seattle Seahawks: C Jared Wilson, Georgia
3.83 | Tampa Bay Buccaneers: ED Jared Ivey, Ole Miss
3.84 | Denver Broncos: TE Harold Fannin Jr., Bowling Green
3.85 | Pittsburgh Steelers: RB Cam Skattebo, Arizona State
3.86 | Los Angeles Chargers: DT J.J. Pegues, Ole Miss
3.87 | Green Bay Packers: DT Darius Alexander, Toledo
3.88 | Jacksonville Jaguars (via MIN): WR/RB Savion Williams, TCU
3.89 | Houston Texans: DT Omarr Norman-Lott, Tennessee
3.90 | Los Angeles Rams: TE Gunnar Helm, Texas
3.91 | Baltimore Ravens: OT Anthony Belton, NC State
3.92 | New York Jets (via DET): QB Quinn Ewers, Texas
3.93 | New Orleans Saints (via WAS): DL Jordan Burch, Oregon
3.94 | Cleveland Browns (via BUF): ED Kyle Kennard, South Carolina
3.95 | Kansas City Chiefs: G Tate Ratledge, Georgia
3.96 | Philadelphia Eagles: WR Tez Johnson, Oregon
3.97 | Minnesota Vikings: SAF/CB Sebastian Castro, Iowa
3.98 | Miami Dolphins: QB Dillon Gabriel, Oregon
3.99 | San Francisco 49ers: RB Jaydon Blue, Texas
3.100 | Los Angeles Rams: QB Kyle McCord, Syracuse
3.101 | Detroit Lions: CB Jacob Parrish, Kansas State



LOGO BY LILLIAN LA FEMINA, ASSOCIATE ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

BASEBALL: 10-RUN FIFTH INNING PUSH HUSKIES TO 11-1 WIN OVER LIU

by **Avery Becker**

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Ten trips around the diamond to home plate in the fifth inning pushed the UConn baseball team (4-8) to an 11-1 win over the Long Island Sharks on Tuesday afternoon for their 2,000th win in program history.

Both squads were tied 1-1, until Ryan Minick hit a 461-foot homer to left field, scoring a run for himself and redshirt freshman Rob Rispoli, who was at third base when Minick went up to bat.

Minick's bomb of a hit was the fuel to the fire for the Huskies, as the Huskies scored nine other consecutive runs in the rest of the inning from Ryan Daniels, Sam Biller, Connor Lane, Caleb Shpur, Rispoli, Daniels again and Bryan Padilla.

"I thought we looked a little tight offensively, early, couple quick outs, early but then Robby [Rispoli] leads us off and he does a great job leading us off. He's certainly solidifying himself in that spot," said Head Coach Jim Penders in an interview on the teams's X page when asked about the game.

Rispoli, who missed last

season due to injury, has been an integral part of the Husky roster, notching a batting average of .343 and taking lots of pressure off Minnick in the lead off position, according to Penders.

Despite this pivotal inning, it wasn't all Huskies from the start. Long Island lit the lamp in the first inning with catcher Joseph Durso hitting a single to the right field and Noah Sorensen scoring to put the Sharks on the board first.

However, at the bottom of the first inning, Padilla scored an RBI with two outs, bringing Grant MacArthur to third base and Daniels to

homeplate to score the run for the Huskies.

For the rest of the game, up until the fifth inning, both squads were tied neck and neck with the score at one.

This was by way of red shirt freshman, right-handed pitcher Thomas Galusha.

"[Galusha] waited a long time to get back on the mound and he wasn't very good in his debut in Puerto Rico, but he worked on some things and looks really good. [Galusha] got really good stuff, so that was fun to watch," said Penders in the teams' interview on X.

In total, Galusha didn't al-

low any runs and once he was replaced by Frank Spirito IV, who notched a 1-2-3 in his UConn collegiate debut in the top of the sixth inning.

After the fifth inning, neither team put runs up on the board again, until the game came to a close in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Next up, the Huskies will travel to Buies Creek, N.C. to take on Campbell University for a three-game series. The first pitch for Friday's game is scheduled for 6 p.m., for Saturday, 1 p.m. and the first pitch on Sunday is scheduled for 1 p.m. Husky fans can listen in to these games at MIXLR.

MEN'S GOLF:

HUSKIES FALL SHORT IN SURF CLUB INVITATIONAL AFTER ROUND TWO STRUGGLES

by **Ryan Lombardi**
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The UConn men's golf team traveled to North Myrtle Beach, S.C. for the Surf Club Invitational hosted by Appalachian State. The Huskies joined 16 other teams at the par-71 Surf Golf and Beach club for what was originally intended to be a 54-hole event before poor weather conditions forced it to be shortened to 36 holes. Last year, UConn claimed a dominating first place finish in the event and came in with hopes to defend its title.

Connecticut opened round one with strong performances across the board, finishing four under par as a unit for the day. Junior Connor Goode set the pace this round, shooting birdies on three of the first five holes, offsetting a bogey on hole three. From there he remained steady with another birdie and bogey cancelling each other out, putting him two below par at 69 for the round. Senior Ray Dennehy also opened on hole one and faced some early challenges, carding bogeys on holes two and three. He quickly recovered with consecutive birdies right after and continued to trade birdies and bogeys to hover around an even par. A timely birdie on hole 17 ultimately secured him a one-under finish with 70. Sophomore Alex Heard teed off on hole two and delivered a steady performance that contributed to UConn's strong

start. Sitting at even par going into his final hole, he shot a clutch birdie to close one under, carding another solid 70. Fellow sophomore Bradley Sawka maintained consistency through his front nine before bogeys on holes

10 and 11 set him back. However, he showed resilience and delivered birdies on his final two holes to end the round at an even-par-71. Day one finished with UConn leading the pack with a gross score of 280 (-4), closely fol-

lowed by Longwood (-2) and Appalachian State (E).

After an impressive first day, however, round two proved more challenging for the Huskies with three golfers settling for bogeys on hole three, allowing other teams to pass them

on the leaderboard. Dennehy led the way on Tuesday, sinking back-to-back birdies on holes four and five to put him back on track. He was unable to finish under par though, as it seemed every birdie was met with a bogey to cancel it out. Dennehy finished with an even-par for the round and finished tied for sixth individually in the event at -1. Heard started off the round steady, matching par for the front nine before bogeys on holes 10 and 13 kept him above par. He wrapped up his round over two, moving him to 13th individually at +1. Goode seemed to struggle more than the first day, despite a solid start. The back nine hurt his score badly, with four bogeys in six holes. His round ended three over and matched Heard at +1 overall. It was a similar story for Sawka, a bogey and double bogey on holes 12 and 13 being the difference maker, with another over three performance in round two, putting him in 21st at +3 overall. Longwood and Appalachian State leaped the Huskies in the standings after both posting impressive second rounds.

UConn fought hard, but the struggles on day two proved costly, forcing them to settle for third overall at +4. Despite coming up short, the Huskies showcased strong individual performances, especially on day one. With key players showing resilience under pressure, the team proved they can compete at a high level. Their next test comes next week at the ECU Intercollegiate, where they will aim for a more complete performance across all rounds.



CLIPART COURTESY OF WANNAPIK

ALEX'S WEEKLY MOTORSPORTS RECAP:

NASCAR AT PHOENIX RACEWAY

by **Alex Klancko**
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The Xfinity series race ended with much controversy as No. 19 Aric Almirola put No. 17 Alex Bowman into the wall to win in Phoenix. However, in the Cup Series, the No. 20 Christopher Bell cruised to his third win in a row for the first three-peat since Kyle Larson in 2021.

Let's start with the Xfinity series where No. 17 Bowman took pole position for the race while Xfinity phenoms No. 88 Connor Zilisch started in fourth and No. 2 Jessie Love started in fifth. Some other drivers who did well in qualifying were No. 00 Sheldon Creed in second and No. 8 Sammy Smith starting in third.

The race started out smoothly with the first 45 laps of the race having no crashes or accidents. Bowman won stage one followed by No. 19 Almirola, No. 7 Justin Allgaier, No. 88 Zilisch, No. 00 Creed, No. 8 Smith, No. 48 Nick Sanchez, No. 20 Brandon Jones, No. 2 Love and in 10th place No. 41 Sam Mayer.

On lap 62, No. 21 Austin

Hill clipped the inside wall causing him to fly into the middle of the track, collecting Creed and No. 26 Dean Thompson in the process, leaving all three drivers unable to finish the race.

With the second stage concluding on the 90th lap and no other accidents, Allgaier took the stage win followed by Almirola, Bowman, Jones, Smith, Mayer, Love, No. 54 Taylor Gray, No. 1 Carson Kvapil and No. 39 Ryan Sieg completing the 10 points finishers.

With 146 out of the 200 laps down, the third race caution came out after No. 74 Dawson Cram lost control of the car and hit the outside wall giving him a "Did Not Finish."

With four laps to go in the race No. 07 Nick Leitz lost the back end of his car and slammed into the outside wall. Leitz would be able to continue even after the big crash and finished in 30th out of the 34 drivers finishers.

The Leitz crash would bring out overtime for the third time in the first four races. In overtime, Bowman surged to the lead with two overtime laps to go. Almirola would end up being side by side with Bowman on the

final lap when Bowman was forced into the outer wall, slowing him down and gifting Almirola the win.

Bowman would criticize Almirola's "controversial" win by saying, "I'm not going to like it. I got drove straight into the fence on exit. But he won the race. I get you got to do what you ..got to do," according to journalist Bob Pockrass.

Onto the Cup Series, No. 24 William Byron took pole position with No. 22 Joey Logano, No. 77 Carson Hocevar, No. 21 Josh Berry and No. 43 Erik Jones following close behind.

On lap four, the first caution came out, as No. 78 Katherine Legge in her Cup Series debut spins at the back of the pack and nobody was collected in the spin.

The next caution did not take long as on lap 10, No. 41 Cole Custer hit No. 34 Todd Gilliland, who spun No. 47 Rickey Stenhouse. Gilliland was narrowly able to avoid a major collision with the spinning Stenhouse and Custer and all three drivers continued the race.

The remaining 50 laps of the first stage did not have

any more accidents, but Logano was given a pass-through penalty through pit lane for an improper restart on lap 20. Byron won stage one with the remaining points being scooped up by No. 45 Tyler Reddick, No. 60 Ryan Preece, No. 20 Christopher Bell, No. 24 Ryan Blaney, Berry, Hocevar, No. 11 Denny Hamlin, No. 9 Chase Elliott and No. 5 Larson.

On lap 92, No. 71 Michael McDowell's rear right tire fell flat which caused him to hit the wall and bring out the third caution of the race. McDowell was able to continue the race once he made it to the pits.

Just seven laps later, No. 54 Ty Gibbs ran up the track on No. 7 Justin Haley, No. 19 Chase Briscoe and Hocevar causing a three-way collision between Haley, Briscoe and Hocevar. The collision also caught No. 35 Riley Herbst, No. 88 Shane Van Ginsberg, No. 6 Brad Keselowski and Custer as well. Haley, Briscoe, Hocevar, Herbst, SVG, Keselowski and Herbst did not continue after the crash.

The remaining 81 laps of stage two did not have a collision or any more penalties as

Bell took the stage win with Logano, Byron, Blaney, Reddick, Hamlin, No. 2 Austin Cindric, No. 99 Daniel Suarez, Larson and Berry following behind.

On the 215th lap, Legge was running in 28th place when she drove too far below the yellow line and spun-out. Suarez was also collected in the Legge spin, but he would continue the race. Legge did not continue after the spin out.

With 46 laps to go in the race, No. 23 Bubba Wallace could not continue as his front right brake exploded. 23 laps later, another car had break issues as Blaney's back right brake exploded and he was not able to continue. On lap 304, Gibbs' front right break had issues, but he was able to continue and finished 25th.

With three laps to go, it was a fight to the finish as Bell and Hamlin were side by side for the remainder of the race. In the final corner Bell was able to inch ahead of Hamlin to win his third race in a row with Hamlin finishing second and Larson finished third to round out the top three.

The Cup Series' next race is at Las Vegas Motor Speedway on March 16 at 3:30 p.m.



Sports

WOMEN'S LACROSSE: HUSKIES RETURN HOME TO HOST YALE IN A TOP 25 CLASH

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The UConn women's lacrosse team returns to Storrs on Wednesday, March 12 to take on No. 9 ranked Yale: their toughest opponent this season. The Huskies come into this matchup ranked at No. 25, per Inside Lacrosse, while the IWLCA has the team sitting at No. 24.

Look at their history, the two teams faced off four times, dating back to 2019. Both programs have won two matches apiece, with

Yale most recently breaking the Huskies' two-game win streak in 2024. Dominant defense is what led to the Bulldogs' 17-6 victory, with 20 ground balls, eight turnovers, 10 caused turnovers and 18 draw controls. In addition, Connecticut struggled to contain players like Jenna Collignon, Karina Herrera and Fallon Vaughn, who combined for 12 goals. From 2024 to 2025, nothing changed as all three performers stayed with Yale. Despite the team's impressive showing, none of that matters as the 2024 season does not write this year's campaign.

Deep diving into UConn's roster, watching out for Rayea Davis is a must. Regardless of turning over 16 balls, the redshirt junior leads the Huskies with 24 goals on 53 attempts. To add on, after sniping in five against Albany over the weekend, momentum should carry into Wednesday's clash for the attacker. In addition, standing beside Davis, Eliza Bowman helps the offense enhance their leads. Bowman's participation increased as she scored 28 netters in 2024 and already knocked in 22 this year, the second highest for the program.

Turning to the defense, taking possession of the draw needs to happen quickly and Riley Daly knows how to do that. The two-time Defensive Player of the Week controlled 41 draws within seven contests. Beside Daly, Abby Beran seized 29 balls of her own. In addition, the defending duo combined for 40 caused turnovers. However, a challenging task is knocking the rock out, as Yale bobbles the ball a little more than four times per match. Furthermore, Connecticut needs to keep botched plays and fouling to a minimum as past opponents

like Harvard capitalized on those opportunities.

Flipping to the Bulldogs, taking Collignon, Vaughn and Sky Carrasquillo out of the equation will help the Huskies immensely. So far, the top three players combine for 48 netters out of 94. In addition, the two-way players controlled 67 out of 97 of the team's draws.

Connecticut looks to extend their two-game win streak while Yale wants to stay undefeated. Husky fans can watch this matchup on UConn+ or at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium Stadium at 1 p.m.



UConn women's lacrosse takes on UMass in 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

WHY SETON HALL VS. VILLANOVA IS A MATCHUP THAT UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL FANS WILL WANT TO KEEP TABS ON

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After a roller coaster campaign, ranked as high as No. 2 in the country to falling out of the AP Poll altogether, the UConn men's basketball team's story this regular season has been written. However, it is March, and, as Head Coach Dan Hurley has said so many times; UConn basketball is at a different level during this 31-day period, and the story for the 2024-2025 Huskies is far from over.

Despite suffering three devastating losses in the team's first true road test in the Maui Invitational, losing Liam McNeeley to injury for over a month and Alex Karaban going through an uncharacteristic cold spell, the Huskies have racked up some massive wins throughout the campaign. With a pair of wins over Marquette, beating Creighton and dominating the non-conference schedule (aside from the Maui Invitation), the Huskies finished

22-9 on the regular season. Despite suffering some tough conference losses that could have gone the Huskies' way, Connecticut heads into New York as the No. 3 seed for the Big East Tournament. As a result, they are entitled to a first-round bye and will face the winner of the 9 p.m. matchup on Wednesday between the Seton Hall Pirates (7-24, 2-18 Big East) and the Villanova Wildcats (18-13, 11-9 Big East). UConn beat both of these schools at home but lost on the road.

While Villanova comes into this contest as a 10.5-point favorite and is expected to cruise to victory in this matchup, there are facets of this contest that UConn fans will want to look out for. Of course, the biggest story heading into Tuesday and what will be the biggest determinant on who faces Connecticut in the second round surrounds Villanova forward Eric Dixon.

Dixon, who comes in as a senior, is the nation's leading scorer, averaging nearly

24 points a night this past regular season. The Pennsylvania native has also proved that he can get it done from nearly everywhere, hitting shots from downtown at a 43% rate. Dixon has been the Seton Hall killer this year. In Villanova's narrow 59-54 Feb. 26 road win, the forward played nearly the entire contest, scoring 32 points on 14-21 shooting, including 4-8 from downtown. The senior also added 10 rebounds and made 10 free throws to this day, again emphasizing his ability to affect the game in a multitude of ways. Performances like these are a significant reason why he is a member of this year's All-Big East First Team. For as well as Dixon has performed all season long, the Wildcats will want to make sure they are up to date on their film of Isaiah Coleman, who has been Seton Hall's best scorer all season long.

While Coleman didn't play as well as he would have liked to in his side's Feb. 26 road loss, the sophomore did have one of

his best performances in his team's initial matchup at Villanova on Dec. 17. The guard put up 22 points in that contest and grabbed nine boards in 36 minutes of work. Considering that Seton Hall's season is on the line and the odds are significantly stacked against them, it is almost guaranteed that Pirates Head Coach Shaheen Holloway will draw up an offensive gameplan to get the ball in Coleman's hands as much as possible. However, if the Villanova defensive attack neutralizes the sophomore guard, don't be surprised if Dylan Addae-Wusu has a big night for Seton Hall.

The senior guard matches up against Villanova better than most other programs in the Big East and the stats back it up. Addae-Wusu averages nearly 17 points a night on 39% shooting from the field. However, the Bronx native especially excels from beyond the arc, hitting shots at a 46% clip.

Of course, Seton Hall's defense has been questionable all season long and it has gotten

them into trouble more times than not. The Pirates' struggles start at the 3-point line, as they surrender more shots from beyond the arc than anyone in the Big East and it isn't particularly close. Wednesday night's contest could get out of hand quickly considering that the Wildcats are the country's second best 3-point shooting team, according to KenPom. Struggling to defend from downtown has also led to teams punishing the Pirates in the paint. Considering that Dixon is also a solid post scorer, it could be a long night altogether for Seton Hall if they don't control the 3-point line and Villanova shoots the roof off Madison Square Garden.

While Wednesday night is expected to be a Villanova victory, much crazier things have happened in March. Regardless of the outcome, this is a game that UConn fans will want to tune into, as Connecticut will face one of these teams in the 9:30 game on Thursday and because the Huskies have lost to both programs this season.