

Undergraduate student trustee election starts Tuesday

by Liliانا French | SHE/HER/HERS | STAFF WRITER | liliانا.french@uconn.edu

Elections for the University of Connecticut's undergraduate student trustee will kick off from noon on Tuesday to Thursday against incumbent Sean Dunn and challenger Jadon Segnatelli.

All undergraduate students in Storrs and at regional campuses will be able to vote via UConncontact for the undergraduate student trustee.

UConn's Board of Trustees consists of 21 voting members, including 12 appointees from Connecticut's governor and an elected graduate and undergraduate student trustee. The board meets about once a month and votes on key UConn issues. Segnatelli is a second-semester economics major. He hasn't been to previous board of trustees meetings or been involved with Waterbury's USG, but says his economics major qualifies him for the job.

"I think what primarily qualifies me for this position is my love for the University of Connecticut," Segnatelli said. "Second off, I think my major really fits the position really well. Economics is strongly defined by many economists as the study of choice and how one would allocate resources. I think I am qualified for this position because I believe that I will be able to efficiently allocate UConn's resources to maximize UConn's potential."

Sixth-semester biomedical engineering major Dunn is a member of the financial affairs, student life, academic affairs and research, entrepreneurship and innovation committees in his first year of the board.

"Throughout these past eight or nine months, I've really learned a lot about the different areas of the university. There's so much that goes into the operation of UConn," Dunn said. "When I came into this role, I had a lot of goals and I had a lot of goals that stem from previous involvement in USG and other areas on campus and I really wanted to do the best I could to realize those goals within my term."

Dunn discussed achievements in his first term as undergraduate student trustee, including a pause in tuition increases for the first time since 2000. He spoke about conversations he'd had to work to centralize care at UConn Student Health and Wellness from three buildings to one.

"The bottom line is that a year is a short amount of time to get at everything I wanted to do and while there was a lot of positive motion and we're on a trajectory that's on the path forward, it's always best to have more time," Dunn said.

Segnatelli's main issue was UConn's high tuition.

"I feel like the students' tuition is not- it's not a very equitable tuition," Segnatelli said. "A lot of students are leaving with a lot of student debt. It's at a point where it's really not worth it. So, I want to lower students' tuition to ensure that they get an equitable and efficient education."

Segnatelli spoke about how he planned to cut tuition.

"I will reallocate resources going to athletics and to education to make sure that both sections of the university are able to get a fair budget," Segnatelli said. "I haven't met anyone else on the board, but given how bad the tuition is, I'm very confident I'd be able to."

He did not raise other priorities.

"The University of Connecticut is already a really great school. I feel like the main issue is the tuition," Segnatelli said. "Our basketball team won the national championship twice in a row, so when you have that, there's not really too many issues, other than when you trace it back to the students."

Dunn spoke about communication with students, stating that he had office hours available online and met with students and spoke with student leaders on both sides of divisive issues, such as a recent USG divestment referendum.

Dunn spoke about housing for students, stating that there were efforts to open up on-campus housing at all regional campuses. Currently, Hartford and Avery Point students can apply to live at Storrs, according to UConn website, while Stamford has on-campus housing and Waterbury does not.

"I've expressed concern over over-enrollment. I think that we need to be smart about monitoring numbers and our growth," Dunn said. "Fortunately, with many off-campus developments on the horizon in coming years, this will be mitigated as in two to three years."

Dunn discussed conversations regarding the student housing.

"I know that there's been a lot of upset feelings about students not being guaranteed housing, even though, when they came four years ago for orientation housing was guaranteed," Dunn said. "I think that everyone in administration who I've talked to has understood concerns, and I think I just need to keep pushing for urgency to ensure that those are properly dealt with."

Information about fee referenda and other positions is available at <https://vote.uconn.edu>.

UConn professor arrested for misuse of funds

by Gianni Salisbury
STAFF WRITER
SHE/HER/HERS
gianni.Salisbury@uconn.edu

A University of Connecticut professor was arrested for the misuse of almost \$60,000 of the university's money for personal use.

Sherry Zane, an associate professor-in-residence at UConn and interim director of women's, gender and sexuality studies, was charged with larceny in the first degree on Feb. 13, according to UConn spokesperson Stephanie Reitz.

According to the warrant for Zane's arrest, Zane's misuse of funds was discovered after the UConn compliance office received an anonymous tip in mid-November that suspected Zane of making suspicious charges. The UConn compliance office investigated Zane's expenses and found that from June 2021 to December 2023, Zane used \$58,084 of university and grant funds "for personal travel and related personal expenses." This money was spent over the course of 19 trips and 187 travel days.

When initially making these expenses, Zane claimed them for reimbursement, and in turn was reimbursed by the university for her travels, stating that these expenses were for research for various projects. However, it was later found that the expenses were mainly for the personal use of herself and her family, as stated in Zane's arrest warrant.

Zane's misuse of money was in violation of UConn's travel policy, the Employee Code of Conduct, and the university's Guide to the State Code of Ethics, according to Reitz.

The university travel policy states "university funds cannot be used to reimburse employees for personal expenses. Travel expenses paid by the university must meet the definitions of what is allowable under university policy and IRS rules, in which all reimbursable expenditures must have a business purpose and must be supported by documentation."

After conducting its initial investigation, the compliance office notified the UConn Police Department (UCPD) of the situation and Zane was put on administrative leave, according to Reitz.

UCPD then launched its own investigation.

It was found that Zane's travel expenses included lodging, meals and other expenses. During the two-year period, Zane went on multiple trips on university money and then "planned or created work after the fact in an effort to justify the expenses," according to the report by the Compliance Office. These trips included trips to Disney World with her children, trips to Ireland to visit her daughter and trips to visit family members in Chicago. During this time, she referred to these trips as vacations to students and colleagues.

According to Reitz, on Feb. 13, the state's attorney's office "determined there was enough evidence to apply for a felony arrest warrant, which was authorized by a Connecticut Superior Court judge." Zane agreed to go to UCPD and was arrested.

Zane is still on administrative leave, waiting for the outcome of the university's disciplinary process, according to Reitz.

USG pop-up professional clothing closet opens Monday

by Aiza Shaikh
NEWS EDITOR
SHE/HER/HERS
aiza.shaikh@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut Undergraduate Student Government (USG) has partnered with Goodwill to organize a pop-up professional clothing closet on the second floor of the UConn Bookstore, from Monday through the rest of the month. Students will have the opportunity to take up to three pieces of clothing in total, according to USG director of external affairs Nick Lanza.

The closet's grand opening will last from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, March 3. After Monday, it will remain open from Monday through Wednesday each week until March 26, according to a USG Instagram post. The closet will close during the week of spring break, from March 16 to March 23.

According to Lanza, the closet serves as an opportunity for students who might not have access to professional attire needed for interviews and other professional events.

"We want to give students the opportunity, for students who are going out and interviewing now for jobs, especially at the end of the year, to be able to also look their best," said Lanza. "A lot of students on campus, we found, don't have access to professional clothing, and we see USG as a resource to possibly do that in partnership with Goodwill."

The closet will feature 800 pieces of clothing donated by Goodwill, according to Lanza and USG deputy director of

external affairs Olivia Eshoo. Students will also have access to changing rooms and mirrors to try on clothes.

"We have changing rooms available so students can try on different things in mirrors," said Eshoo. "There's always going to be staff there, at least one person on the USG end, if not multiple, that are happy to help."

The limit of three pieces of clothing per student is in place so that all students can benefit, according to Lanza and Eshoo. USG is hoping to continue something long term as well, though that is still in the planning stages.

"And so, we're working with Goodwill to do this pop-up clothing closet for the rest of the semester and we're also hoping to do something long term," explained Lanza. "We don't know what that's going to look like yet, but this is really to provide a service that students have been looking for, for years, and years and years."

The clothing is available to all undergraduate students at Storrs, according to Lanza. Students should remember to bring their student ID with them to verify their student status and track how many pieces of clothing they are eligible to take.

While the clothing is only open to Storrs undergraduate students, USG is accepting donations from anyone who would like to give clothing. Though only professional clothing will be featured at the closet, other types of clothing are still welcome as they will go to Goodwill, emphasized Eshoo.

"We're still actively accepting

donations. I've had a few professors reach out already, wanting to donate their professional clothing for the closet," said Eshoo. "The only donations that are going towards the clothing closet are specifically professional clothing because that just adds to what we can give to students. But then just regular clothing is going to go back to Goodwill."

Lanza added that the closet serves as an opportunity not only for students to get professional clothing but also for the university community to give back.

"So, not only is this an opportunity for us to provide for our students, it's an opportunity for us as a community to give back to other people," said Lanza. "Pro-

fessional staff, professors, people who work in various departments, if they have old clothing that they can donate, being able to organize that as a student government, and then donating those clothes to Goodwill, that expands our impact."

According to Lanza, a survey will also be provided for students to give feedback.

"We also have a survey for students to fill out to let us know what clothing is there that they like, what clothing isn't there that they would like, just giving an overall review, when they want it to be open, all that sort of stuff," said Lanza. "So based on those responses, that will really inform our conversations of what this is going to look like in the future."



The bookstore sits at the junction of Jim Calhoun Way and Hillside Road right next to Gampel Pavilion. Goodwill has partnered with USG to organize a clothing closet on the second floor on Monday, Mar. 3. FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

CORRECTION: The article about the board of trustees has been updated online to reflect that the consolidation within the math major continues to offer the same programs as concentrations within the larger umbrella of the mathematics major.

For more...

dailycampus.com

[The Daily Campus](#)

[The Daily Campus](#)

[The Daily Campus](#)

Subscribe to...

ART ENCOUNTERS | PAGE 6
The Benton hosts interactive workshop

FEMINISTS | PAGE 7
Reworking new goals

MENS HOCKEY | PAGE 12
Senior Spotlight

THE DAILY CAMPUS
NEWSLETTER
8 AM BLAST

News

Norman Finkelstein gives guest lecture at Student Union: “Israel has been committing a genocide in Gaza.”

by **Joey Gottlieb**

THEY/THEM/THEIRS
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
jvg18001@uconn.edu

Norman Finkelstein, a leading scholar on Israel and Palestine, gave a special guest lecture at the University of Connecticut Student Union Theater Thursday evening. The event was hosted by UConn Students for Justice in Palestine, UConn Muslim Student Association, UConn UNCHAIN, the CT Palestine Alliance and the NE CT Gaza Peace Group.

He began his lecture by investigating popular tactics within major media outlets and Western governments to erase the history of struggles against imperial colonialism as said colonialism unfolds.

“One can reasonably argue that Russia shouldn’t have launched an attack. But I don’t think it can be reasonably argued that there was a sequence of gross provocations that climaxed in the Russian attack. Or whether the sequence of events that climaxed on Oct. 7 justified what happened Oct. 7. In either case it’s simply completely dishonest, intellectually and politically dishonest, to efface, to wipe out the whole history proceeding Oct. 7 or Feb. 22,” said Finkelstein.

Following these remarks, Finkelstein continued with his investigation by deconstructing the choices made in characterizing the conflict in Gaza as a war.

“The purpose of the war is to inflict a military defeat on the other side,” he said. “You want to disable your enemy’s army. That’s a war. A genocide is very different. [...] You are trying to destroy a civilian population. It’s not as if killing civilians is collateral damages. It’s not as if killing civilians is an additional tactic — the terror assault — to achieve a military victory. So, it is very critical which description is being attached in any particular situation.”

Finkelstein elaborated, arguing that this decision in characterization was a conscious one made across political interests.

He argued, “Mainstream media persisted to this day in describing what is happening in Gaza as a war, even as the supreme judicial body in the world, the ICJ, reached the tentative conclusion that Israel was committing a genocide in Gaza. The entire, so-called civilized world, consciously, willfully, adopted that description of what’s happening in Gaza.”

He then began dissecting whether it could be argued that the conflict in Gaza is a war, centering his point on what he called “two uncontroversial facts.”

“On average between Oct.

8 and today, less than one Israeli soldier has been killed in Gaza each day. Then you have to ask yourself the question: If less than one Israeli soldier has been killed each day, does that, to your mind, sound like a war?” he began.

Finkelstein precluded the “uncontroversial fact” by saying it was a fact the audience knew all along “through omission.”

“Is there anyone in this room that can name one battle that occurred in Gaza?” asked Finkelstein. “One major engagement in which significant Israeli casualties resulted. There are no battles in Gaza. It’s not a fault or a disgrace to Hamas or the resistance in Gaza. There is no possibility for a battle.”

Finkelstein began the latter half of his lecture examining the South African government, which brought forward charges of genocide to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against Israel, looking analytically at the tactics that were used and appealing to a general sense of logics.

“When they were trying to document this genocide in Gaza, they used the World Health Organization, The United Nations Development Program, UNICEF, UNESCO, CARE, Save the Children, USAID, those were their references,” he said. “In order to dispute or deny the contention of South Africa—that Israel was plausibly committing genocide—you’d have to say that all those organizations were lying[...] And is that plausible?”

Finkelstein continued, examining the Israeli defense against the charges brought forward by South Africa.

“[...] There is an expression in law, it’s called evidence against interest,” he said. “If Hitler said there were gas chambers—that would be against his interest to make that admission, and so it is a standard in law to attach more evidence value to statements that are not in their interest.”

Finkelstein applied the concept of evidence against interest to the Israeli defense.

“[...] The Israeli government had an interest in denying that it was using starvation as a weapon of war,” he said. “Israel had an interest in denying it was targeting journalists. Israel had an interest in denying it was targeting medics. Israel had an interest in denying that hospitals were being targeted. But what interest did the World Health Organization have that Israel was targeting medics, Israel was targeting hospitals? They have no interest, those organizations.”

Finkelstein then transitioned to arguments defending this



ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR SZREJNA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

characterization of the conflict in Gaza.

“[...] To describe what is happening in Gaza as a genocide is not an act of propaganda. It is a factual question. Whether it is or isn’t. Whether it does or doesn’t constitute as a genocide,” he said.

He then shifted his arguments to the conditions in Gaza and the sheer extent of destruction.

“There are 50 million tons of rubble in Gaza,” said Finkelstein. “The estimate is if you allow 100 trucks a day to remove the rubble[...] it would take a minimum of 15 years just to clear out the rubble. We’re not talking about reconstruction; we’re just talking about clearing out the rubble, which is mixed in with all these unexploded ordinances and toxic substances.”

Finkelstein began to elaborate on reconstruction—specifically lessons that must be remembered by the global community.

“We have to always be careful about imposing our political agendas and dreams on other people,” he said. “They are the ones that have to face the consequences of the horror that was afflicted upon them. And we have to be very careful to allow them to make the choice of how they, not us, wish to go forward.”

Finkelstein closed his lecture addressing the repression of student voices across the nation before taking questions from the audience.

“What happened in the spring was the most brazen, outrageous assault on academic freedom, in our country’s history,” he said. “[...] Three Ivy League presidents [Harvard, UPenn and Columbia] were ousted from office over the attempt or the claim that those three presidents have been insufficiently repressive of the right of freedom of speech.”

Finkelstein articulated the unprecedented nature of the moment, recalling the landmark Supreme Court decision in Na-

tional Socialist Party of America v. Village of Skokie.

“In the 1980s, there was a group of the Nazi Party which wanted to march through a community of Holocaust survivors in a place called Skokie, Ill. So that’s pretty traumatic,” he recalled, “The case went to the courts, and they said under the Constitution, they have that right, and that was a landmark decision for our country. And now students chanting ‘From the River to the Sea’ were suddenly forbidden to say it because some Jewish students felt unwelcome, uncomfortable and unsafe. That was an unusual standard. You can imagine the Holocaust survivors in Skokie, Ill. felt unwelcome, uncomfortable and unsafe, but the other courts ruled that the Nazi party had the right.”

Finkelstein ended the event, punctuating the lecture by saying, “I would like to remind people that a very basic right was stolen in the spring of 2024. And guess what? We are taking it back.”

The Daily Campus

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

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

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

Sunday, March 2, 2025

Copy Editors: Jordan Candelario, Gabrielle Winchert, Justine Pearlman and Ayyan Tamjeed

News Designer: Asa Lallis

Life Designer: Filip Dukovski

Sports Designer: Jalah Cooper

Opinion Designer: Connor Lafferty

Photo Producer: Marco Lopez Rodriguez

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

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

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

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

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

Prefer to read our content online?

Check out our newly redesigned website at dailycampus.com and follow us on social media.

Instagram · The_DailyCampus

Facebook · The Daily Campus

Twitter · The_DailyCampus

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

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

Opinion (Meetings at 5 p.m.)

opinion@dailycampus.com

News (Meetings at 6 p.m.)

news@dailycampus.com

Life (Meetings at 7 p.m.)

life@dailycampus.com

Sports (Meetings at 8 p.m.)

sports@dailycampus.com

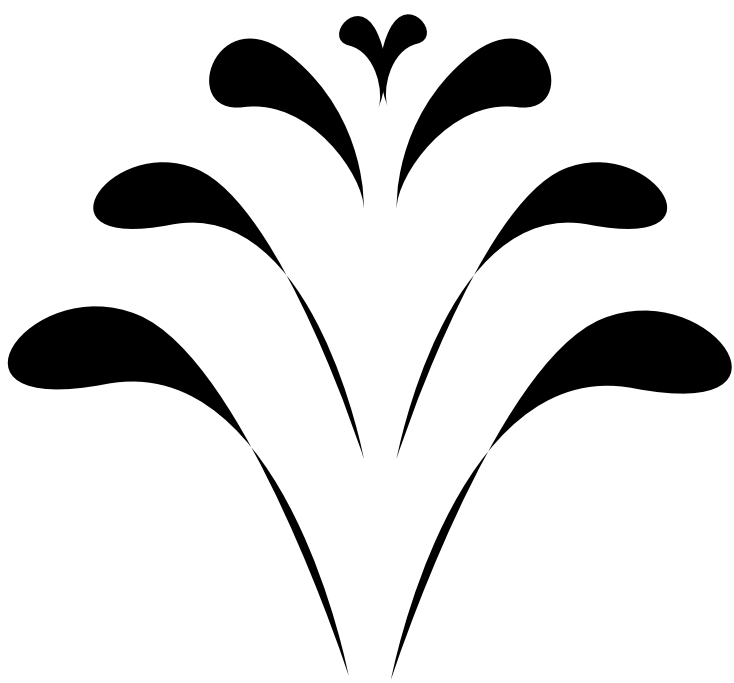
Photo (Meetings at 10 p.m.)

photo@dailycampus.com

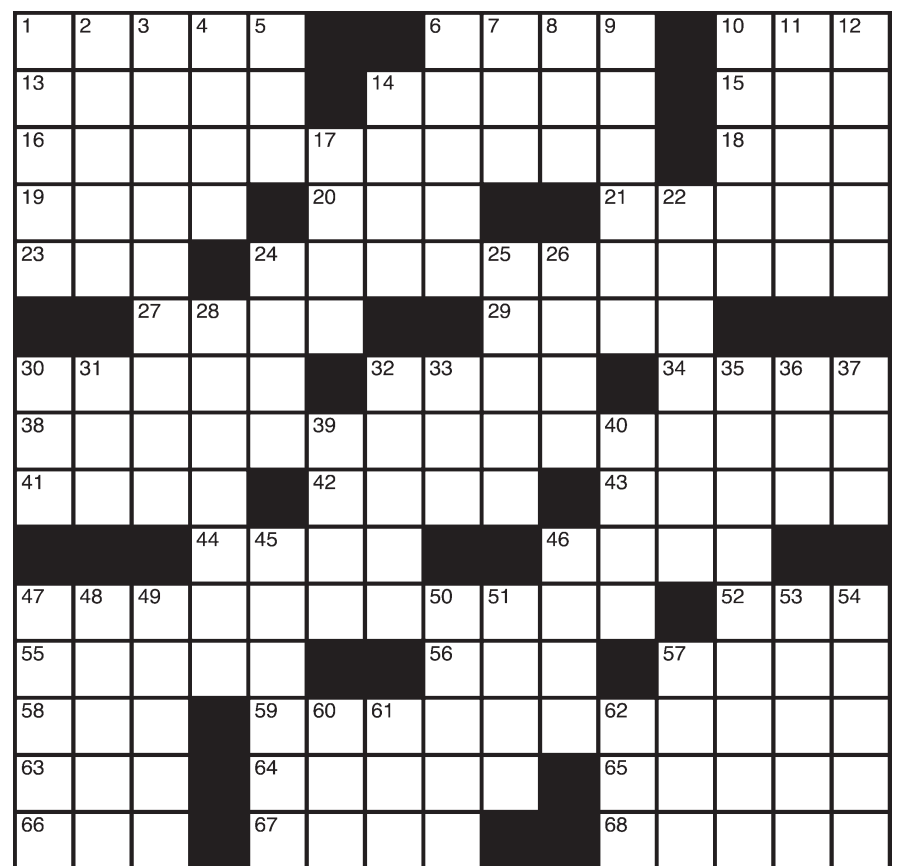
Artists (Meetings at 10 p.m.)

artists@dailycampus.com

The Daily Campus



- ACROSS**
- 1 "Why ___ I think of that?"
 - 6 Word after folk or fairy
 - 10 PD alert
 - 13 Frozen drinks with spoon-straws
 - 14 ___ boom
 - 15 Big bucks or the Bucks, for short
 - 16 Choose as a live-in romantic partner
 - 18 Logger's tool
 - 19 New Year's popper
 - 20 Fashion designer Anna
 - 21 Desert watering hole
 - 23 Hosp. areas
 - 24 Loose frocks with wide bottoms
 - 27 Med. condition treated by Ritalin
 - 29 Board game played on a map
 - 30 Sleep study subject
 - 32 Foamy lather
 - 34 Winter flakes
 - 38 Count in a marching command
 - 41 Letter-shaped beam
 - 42 Flower holder
 - 43 Dorothy nickname
 - 44 Share a border with
 - 46 Taj Mahal city
 - 47 With 59-Across, what one might say when entering the starts of 16-, 24-, and 38-Across?
 - 52 Fall over
 - 55 Simply must
 - 56 Sundial numeral
 - 57 Short skirt
 - 58 "Kings & Queens" singer Max
 - 59 See 47-Across
 - 63 Replayed tennis serve
 - 64 Great Plains Natives
 - 65 "Zip your lip!"
 - 66 Mag staff managers
- DOWN**
- 1 1970s music genre
 - 2 Blood of the Greek gods
 - 3 Start of a letter to the North Pole
 - 4 Head twister
 - 5 Scolding sound
 - 6 "Namely ..."
 - 7 Singer DiFranco
 - 8 Like an amazing party, slangily
 - 9 Canyon comebacks
 - 10 Accumulate
 - 11 Playful sprite
 - 12 "___ your heart"
 - 14 Like a spiderweb
 - 17 Like most donated clothing
 - 22 Requests
 - 24 Defrost
 - 25 Beats Electronics co-founder
 - 26 Get out of bed
 - 28 Take away (from)
 - 30 Tuna variety
 - 31 Alehouse
 - 32 Illinois or California
 - 33 Sounds of uncertainty
 - 35 Jottings in the margins
 - 36 No longer cool
 - 37 Dryly humorous
 - 39 Egg cell
 - 40 Jittery
 - 45 Sarcastic "So sad"
 - 46 Parisian friend
 - 47 Ocean giant
 - 48 Like a roof with an overhang
 - 49 Exams for future attys.
 - 50 Bhutan neighbor
 - 51 Spa supplies
 - 53 Bhutan neighbor
 - 54 Saintliness
 - 57 Degs. sometimes paid for by corps.
 - 60 Tony Award winner Hagen
 - 61 Mar. and Sept.
 - 62 Low card in gin rummy



By Janice Luttrell & Katie Hale

3/3/25

- 67 Brewer's oven
- 68 Book report, e.g.

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

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

©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

3/3/25

Level **1** **2** **3** **4**

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

Solution to Saturday's puzzle

3/3/25

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

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

CROSSWORD & sudoku

CLASSIFIEDS

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

Life

NO SKIPS: WHY (NICK) DRAKE IS THE GOAT

by James FitzPatrick

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

Hooray! We're going out of sequence with my master plan for No Skips, the weekly column where I judge an album per track to see if any are skip-able. This week, we're taking a glimpse at Nick Drake's "Pink Moon," the singer's final album before his passing at 26 years old. Although it harbors a tragic backstory and is also my favorite album of all time, I'll try to talk about this one with an objective lens, though this may not occur.

At less than half an hour in length and using the same acoustic style throughout, one may wonder how "Pink Moon" offers more to enjoy than any other album out there. The same critique can be made for Earl Sweatshirt's "Some Rap Songs," which also falls short in length and variety, yet it's my second favorite album. To settle any confusion, I will point to one attribute consistent across these records: emotional potency.

I've written about "Some Rap Songs" far too much over the years to review it on this column, but one more comparison I'll make with it and "Pink Moon" is that both artists severely suffered from depression, and it manifests in the music big time. In "Pink Moon," however, Drake sounds incredibly at peace considering that he overdosed on antidepressants three years after the album's recording. Without this knowledge, you would never guess this would be his demise based on the music alone.

The lyrically-sparse title track is a two-minute reflection on the ambiguous "pink moon" that defines the abstract album cover and, more loosely, the album itself. The song's first minute was thankfully picked up by Volkswagen in 1999 for a commercial that catapulted Drake's legacy and posthumous success,

but he was never terribly popular during his lifetime.

"Place to Be" waivers on both metaphorical and observational, as Drake sings "I never saw the truth hanging from the door" and "Now I'm weaker than the palest blue." To get a grasp of Drake's melancholy—at a height on this album without the usual band accompanying his vocals—you have to listen, as I cannot articulate what it makes listeners feel. Although, this song's split focus on his guitar work and singing is wonderful.

"Road" contains that defining twang of most folk songs, yet it exceeds expectations in every way. Drake's stream-of-consciousness delivery matches with his most existential feelings so far, like "You can take the road that takes you to the stars now / I can take a road that'll see me through." The theme of feeling like an outsider reaches boundless heights on the album's eighth track, "Parasite," which I believe the album climbs to throughout. Drake's up-close guitar picking is infectious and keeps the man alive despite his passing over half a century ago.

The direction of "Which Will" seems typical until Drake sings and maintains his voice at a newfound register for much of the song's verses. Listeners may notice he enunciates his words less here, possibly due to a variety of factors. The album was recorded across two nights in 1971 while Drake lived in London and was going through it—even if he wasn't announcing it to the world like the Drake we know today. Nevertheless, I'd argue here is where "Pink Moon" gets more emotional.

"Horn" illustrates this point as the first instrumental, though the expressiveness of each note mirrors Drake's vocals in some bizarre way. "Things Behind the Sun" devolves the listener into much sorrow across roughly four minutes of pensive thought. To make the obvious

comparison to another talented 26-year-old who died by overdose, Mac Miller, it's eerie how both artists seem aware within their music that their days were numbered.

As Miller had spoken about his unsustainable relationship with drugs, and even how they were going to kill him, Drake speaks with a wild level of insight in the chorus, "Take your time and you'll be fine / And say a prayer for people there."

"Know" features Drake's most harmonic vocals, even with the first half only seeing him hum. A simple quatrain goes a long way with how much he draws out every word, the final line of which is the haunting "You know I'm not there." "Parasite" is usually when I emotionally fracture on a listen of "Pink Moon," yet it's the only song I didn't cry to during my most recent sit-down.

My main appreciation here is

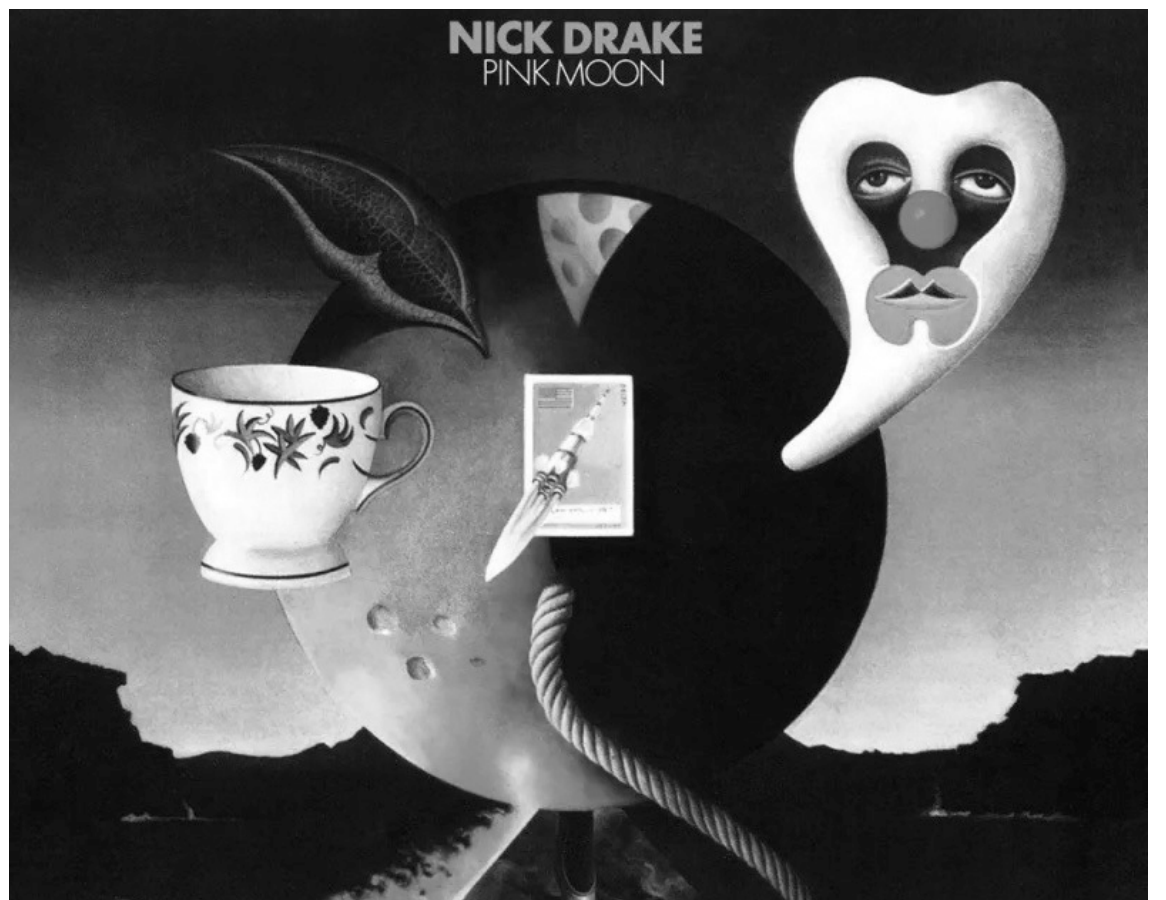
Drake's vulnerability. Considering how angelic he sounds, hearing him sing "When lifting the mask from a local clown / Feeling down like him" or "Take a look, you may see me in the dirt / For I am the parasite who hangs from your skirt" is heartbreaking and uplifting. You could gather any lesson from this juxtaposition, but I take from it that it's okay to not be okay.

"Free Ride" solidifies Drake as a legendary acoustic guitar player, synchronizing his words with technical playing that would inspire anyone to pick the instrument up and try it for themselves. "Harvest Breed" functions as a thematic finale, as Drake discusses the end times, closing the song with "And you're ready now / For the harvest breed."

For the actual finale, which may as well be an epilogue for how cheery it is compared to the

previous descent into sadness, "From the Morning" epitomizes what I love about "Pink Moon." Regardless of what Drake was dealing with at the time, he chose to complete this recording with a restored perspective, pointing out what he cherishes in the world. Highlighting the day itself and the air as "beautiful," along with valuing the "endless summer nights," it's gut-wrenching to know there was so much purity and optimism in the mind of this man, who was gone too soon.

Unlike Drake, I don't produce my best work at my emotional low. However, listening to "Pink Moon" is a yearly occasion or so, and I was not betting on being as upset as I found myself this weekend before the end of the semester. I'll find some other way to wrap my iteration of this column up, but above any other recommendation I give, listen to this album. You won't regret it.



Nick Drake is an English guitarist who has albums such as, "Five Leaves Left," "Bryter Layter," "Pink Moon." PHOTO COURTESY OF ROLLING STONE

Why don't we talk about the Space Race?

by Benjamin Lassy

HE/HIM/HIS
LIFE EDITOR
benjamin.lassy@uconn.edu

Hello, and welcome back to This Week in History! Every week, this column explores any aspect of history that happened to take place this current week, and it just so happens that the first week of March sees two empires marching ever closer to the cosmos.

I first want to raise this point: We don't talk about the Space Race enough. Outside of brief mentions as a political rivalry, the Space Race is generally mentioned alongside a list of other East-West events in history classes, nestling it between the Bay of Pigs Invasion, Cuban Missile Crisis or U-2 incident.

Why is the Space Race relegated to be a footnote? Out of all the ways a government can spend money in the international political theater, space travel honestly seems to be one of the less harmful. After all, the materials invested in a space station are one less tank produced. Even if minimal, at least the race to the stars wasn't all about destruction, but rather the creation of something that can weather the brutal emptiness of space.

That said, many don't realize just how competitive and long-lasting the Space Race was. While it kicked off in the late 1950s with a multitude of Soviet achievements (first satellite, first photos of the Moon's far side, first probe to impact the moon and first person in space—Yuri Gagarin), the rivalry really cemented in 1969 after the United States landed on the Moon with Apollo 11.

It's as if the Soviet Union baked a delicious layer cake of accomplishments, only for the U.S. to come along and place a

cherry on top and claim they baked the cake. Of course, there is far more nuance to this history than a simple cake analogy, and the U.S. and the European Space Agency did achieve their own slew of undeniable victories.

By the 1970s and 1980s missions became increasingly complex, and though the U.S. had won the race to the Moon, a race through space has no finish line. Let's explore some major late Space Race events that took place all on one day this week, March 5.

On March 5, 1978 Landsat 3 is launched in California. The satellite is the third in a series of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and United States Geological Survey (USGS) efforts to image the Earth.

Ever since the first Landsat satellite launched in 1972, scientists have been attempting to capture accurate and clear photos of the Earth's surface. If this is done successfully, think of the possibilities: Countries can finally see vast areas of unimagined land (areas like Greenland or Siberia that had few aerial images) and tap into unknown resources. Beyond that, it also enabled a more accurate account of agriculture, forest cover and even shoreline maps.

Landsat 3 looked nearly technologically identical to Landsat 2, which was largely the same as Landsat 1, and the goal between all three remained the same: imaging the Earth. A Multispectral Scanner payload was included on the satellite, allowing for images with a scene size of roughly 105 miles. The satellite also had a Return Beam Vidicon camera, allowing the device to capture a resolution of 40 meters per pixel.

Exactly one year later in 1979, the emptiness of space was stirred by a sudden burst of energy.

Lurking in orbit, the Soviet Venera 11 and Venera 12 probes detected a tremendous increase in energy, and at the same time a joint American and German satellite, Helios II, got hit by a similar burst.

The energy readings were off the charts, similar to earlier events where gamma rays burst onto all sorts of measurement devices. In 1967, scientists detected what would come to be known as a Gamma Ray Burst (GRB). Although no concrete theory exists to predict or categorize these bursts, they are a substantial area of research today.

On March 5, 1979, GRB

790305b was located to supernova remnant N49 in the dwarf galaxy called the Large Magellanic Cloud. While a staggering 200,000 light years away, the burst of energy still left a considerable impact on the instruments' humanity sends into space and has guided research on modern missions to attempt to measure and record similar bursts.

Our final event wraps up this space-themed week in history on a high note and perhaps is among the watershed moments of the Space Race. On March 5, 1982, the Soviet Union sent their Venera 14 spacecraft onto Venus.

The Venera 14 was in a long

line of similar crafts designed to reach Venus, and by this stage in the Space Race, Soviet technology was loaded with a variety of measurement devices that count and measure sunlight and various atmospheric conditions on the planet.

And so, March 5 closes out with a trifecta of impressive space events. It's a pity we don't talk more about space, and it's an even bigger pity that the former Soviet Union has shuttered nearly all of their past space projects, such as the Soviet spacecraft Buran, as shown in a video by the channel Bald and Bankrupt on YouTube.



Ichiko Aoba praises the beauty of nature with 'Luminescent Creatures'

by **Bonnibel Rampertab**

SHE/HER/HERS
STAFF WRITER
lilith.rampertab@uconn.edu

On Feb. 28, Japanese folk artist Ichiko Aoba released the highly anticipated "Luminescent Creatures." This effort comes after her lauded 2020 album "Windswept Adan" and the soundtrack to the film "Amiko" in 2022.

The album begins ethereally with soft vocals and an arpeggiating acoustic guitar on "COLORATURA." Although her lyrics are in Japanese, the language barrier does not hinder the sheer beauty of the composition and the album.

There is a lot to appreciate about Ichiko Aoba's work regardless of what language you speak, and this song is just one of many examples of that. It would still be nice to know what the lyrics mean for deeper appreciation, however.

"24° 3' 27.0" N, 123° 47' 7.5" E" are the coordinates to a location in Okinawa, Japan. More specifically, it seems to be a lighthouse. It is unknown why the coordinates are the name of this song, but it certainly is memorable—arguably more than the song itself due to how short it is.

"mazamun" has a pretty

chime-like piano sound to it. The second half has this interesting, warped sound before the main melody changes itself. If anything, this song feels like swimming underwater, which is probably what Ichiko Aoba was going for, judging from the cover and title of the album.

"tower" is easily one of the best compositions on the album. The rich piano mixed with Aoba's soft but resilient voice and the violin and bass plucking creates this incredibly beautiful texture. Oddly enough, the piano sounds reminiscent of rapper Kendrick Lamar's "Father Time" occasionally.

"aurora" is absolutely breathtaking. The acoustic guitar melody is so beautiful and lush. Aoba's voice is, as always, very relaxing to listen to.

"FLAG," one of the singles for "Luminescent Creatures," has this charming lo-fi quality to it at the beginning. It feels cozy yet somewhat icy when Aoba's vocals come in. The song is like something you would listen to while snuggling up in a blanket in the winter. It's certainly one of the best songs on the album, especially when the acoustic guitar playing comes in.

"Cochlea," named after the fluid-filled spiral-shaped mechanism in the ear that amplifies sound, is just an interlude. It's not much to write about.

"Luciférine," another single for the album, likely has the best melody on the entire al-

bum with the piano playing.

"pírsomnia," which doesn't seem to be an actual word in the dictionary, could have the beginning get sampled by a producer who could make it into an incredible beat. There's a bass that appears once that is reminiscent of the electronic artist Burial or producer Whitearmor, who worked extensively with the Swedish internet musical collective Drain Gang.

This is certainly the most electronic song on the album, and although it's subtle and not prevalent in the instrumentation, it proves that Aoba can successfully expand into other genres besides folk. This could make fans excited for more songs in this sort of electronic-inspired vein.

"SONAR," the final single for "Luminescent Creatures," plays like a piano ballad. It's well-executed, especially the ambience of the synths in the background.

"Wakusei no Namida" or "Tears of the Planet," is a contender for the best song on the album with the faint wind samples paired with the staple of the acoustic guitar. Aoba's voice is so enamoring and captivating on top of that.

There's a lot to love about the music of Aoba. This is another album to add to her rich catalogue of folk music. She makes folk music that is less dull and boring than other artists and bands with her beautiful, calming voice and lush instrumentation. This is great music to fall asleep or study to since it's so inoffensive to the ears. I wish I knew

Japanese so that I could add more commentary on the lyrics, but sonically, there's so much to praise already.

Rating:
4/5



ILLUSTRATION BY KRISTA MITHCEL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Does LISA's 'Alter Ego' disappoint? Yes and no.

by **Benjamin Lassy**

HE/HIM/HIS
LIFE EDITOR
benjamin.lassy@uconn.edu

K-pop artist and rapper LISA has broken countless records for both sales and chart positions in the U.S., and her debut solo album is looking to continue that success. Released on Feb. 28, her newest album, "Alter Ego," isn't perfect, but it is something special.

In the second half of 2024, the member of K-pop group BLACKPINK released the singles "Rockstar," "New Woman (feat. ROSALÍA)," "Moonlit Floor (Kiss Me)" and "Born Again (feat. Doja Cat & RAYE)." Each displayed LISA's diverse range of pop styles and her ability to collab with many artists.

"Alter Ego" assembles 2024's singles alongside a nice sprinkling of new songs. The result is an album with highs and lows, but a consistent flow that is worth a listen.

The opening track sets an incredibly high standard. "Born Again (feat. Doja Cat & RAYE)"—released as a single on Feb. 6—is superb and almost spiritual. LISA's vocals soar over an orchestration while a stellar slap base kicks off the album with an indelible groove. There are no gaps in the instrumentation to slow things down: synths, claps, drum pads and bongo samples are always blending into a standout mix.

How do you follow up a beautiful and vulnerable cut like "Born Again"? Well, LISA dives head-first into the shenanigans that any wealthy pop star gets up to in "Rockstar."

This single is not particularly inspiring, nor is it relatable—though it doesn't need to be. Instead, the solid lyricism and robust music of the opening single fades for an abrasive tour de force in pop egos. It's made clear in this song why the album is called "Alter Ego."

When you listen to lines in "Born Again" like, "I coulda made you pray to Jesus / Woulda showed you to the light," you get a compassionate image of LISA that

is demolished by track two. On "Rockstar," LISA sings, "I'm stealin' diamonds, make them chase me for the thrill."

But this change in lyrical substance is matched by an emotive vocal performance by LISA that really brings this single its unique flavor. "Lisa, can you teach me Japanese?" is sung so sarcastically—as if mocking a stan—that it captures the ego of the music industry and spins it on its head. This is well worth a listen, though isn't as solid as "Born Again."

Next, we've got a new album track, "Elastigirl." LISA is singing about Ms. Incredible from "The Incredibles"—whose power was stretching to impossible sizes—and it's clear after the opening tracks that her musical range is similarly incredibly flexible.

Synths and drum kits flow over a rhythm that teeters through the nearly three-minute run time, only slightly overstaying its welcome despite its short length. What's missing here is a bold chorus, or a punchy lyric. The closest we get comes when LISA sings, "I'm a, I'm a elastic girl, try it on me, I'm flexible / Wrap my body right 'round your world, la-la-la-la-la." Even after the "la-la-la's," everything about this track just feels flat. By now, the opening singles almost feel like clickbait. Is this what we get for the rest of the album?

"Thunder" attempts to bring back the literal thunder of this album, but its catchy-first production can only do so much. Here, LISA does sing like a rockstar with some abandon, but she also sings about "booms" like the Costco Guys. These lyrics are like sweet nothings: in one ear and out the other.

"Got that uh-huh, that uh-huh / Big, big uh-huh, uh-huh." Uh huh, LISA, I have no idea what you're talking about. Yet she sings as if riding a stallion with "Make way, make way, make way." I guess we're making way for a let-down chorus.

Even a solid rap in the middle doesn't really bring this song any

merit, and a slightly distorted vocal mix with chorus effects is not what LISA's vocals need. Honestly, she's more than capable of producing dazzling vocals without all these effects. Producers ILYA, Rob Knox and Abby Keen blundered here.

But fear not! Track five is a banger. Oh wait, "New Woman (feat. ROSALÍA)" is another single we've already been hearing since August 2024. I understand that an album is carried by its singles, but when three of the first five tracks are months-old singles, it feels like this album is a greatest hits compilation. Regardless, this song is worth a listen.

By this low point, however, the album finally kicks into gear with a spree of new tracks. "FXCK UP THE WORLD (feat. Future)" explodes with a trap-infused beat that wakes you up. A pounding base and outstanding vocal performance from LISA pushes this song further than most vocalists could take it.

Luckily, we are graced with solid lyricism, "(Yeah) Uh, uh, woke up in that mode again / (Yeah) Uh, uh, please don't call my phone again." The lead in "Yeah" reverberates while LISA sort of mopes her way through the line before returning with a vengeance in the impending chorus.

"Alter Ego" continues with "Rapunzel (feat. Megan Thee Stallion)," which contains a smorgasbord of styles. It's pop at its core, yet it's guided by a wobbly synth lead. Then, we get a catchy and odd bridge about "motherfuckin' money" before the real chorus begins with "Hair down, feeling like Rapunzel."

This is a solid track, and in general, the concept of Rapunzel being in "the hood" does provide a platform for lyrics to go over the poignant problem—or joy—of "Livin' lavish while we still young / Spendin' that shit 'til we go dumb."

Now we segue into another single, and in my estimation, one of LISA's defining songs: "Moonlit Floor (Kiss Me)." Crispy drums

enclose a tight production with the return of a punchy bass — although the theming around France is a letdown.

LISA singing "bonjour bébé" falls flat on its face once you learn that is a common phrase at baby showers, meaning "Hello baby." The choice to focus on France here has soiled this song for me personally, bébé, but LISA is a brand icon for Louis Vuitton, so maybe this is an homage.

The second half of the album has a few new songs tucked away, including "When I'm with You (feat. Tyla)," "BADGRRRL," "Lifestyle," "Chill" and "Dream." "When I'm With You" is a highlight lo-fi cut that has some solid moments, especially a warm chorus accompaniment as a fade out. To contrast, "BADGRRRL" feels like LISA dabbling with her BLACKPINK roots: It's aggressive, catchy and bass-heavy. This is the kind of song that gets you head bopping.

"Lifestyle" follows and feels like a less sarcastic "Rockstar" from earlier. Although, it still has a racing chorus that is well worth a listen, yet by no means is it a highlight.

Nearing the end of the album, the production team attempts to branch out. "Chill" opens with a

guitar and feels extremely unlike the rest of the album. Despite being a pun, lyrics like "Can't read my face, just call me Mona LISA" are reminiscent of carefree sing-along songs like mxmtoon's "mona lisa." It's fine and stands out in juxtaposition to everything on this album but ironically, it does not feel like Mona Lisa at her finest as an artist.

Finally, before ending with two alternate versions of previous tracks, "FXCK UP THE WORLD (Vixi Solo Version)" and "Rapunzel (Kiki Solo Version)," "Alter Ego" ends with a beautiful track, "Dream."

Lyrics like "If all that we were is all that we'll ever be / it's bittersweet" need to simmer a little, and that is exactly what the mix in "Dream" allows for. Breaks in the music give the song time to breathe and carefully beckon LISA's vocals to flow in with wonderful delivery.

Albums rarely end on a note as sublime as this, and the acoustic drums, strings and encore-deserving vocals leave you wanting more of LISA's debut solo album.

Rating: 4/5

ALTEREGO



LISA's album *Alter Ego*, released on Feb. 28th, 2025. It has guest appearances by Doja Cat, Megan Thee Stallion and Tyla.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA



Daily Life

@dailycampuslife

THE BENTON HOLDS AN INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP ON THE INTERPLAY OF PICTURES AND WORDS

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

On Feb. 28, the University of Connecticut's William Benton Museum of Art held a free and public interactive two-part workshop surrounding some works from Juan Sánchez and Jaune Quick-to-See Smith and their implementations of images and text. The event was run by curator and academic liaison, Amanda Douberley, and curator of education, Matthew Marshall.

The event began with a reflection on two of Sánchez's works. Douberley put a sheet of paper over the signs that gave extra context to what the works of art were about so that the observations would be purely based on the art itself. She encouraged attendees to "say what we see."

The top piece of art had a Christian prayer card and a picture of what seems to be a textile on the left hand said. The right-hand side had words written which said, "Chango y Oshun Obatala y Ogun Yemaya, Eleque y Oya con fuego y espiritita la lucha continua [with fire and spirit the fight continues] may we, the third world, first world brothers and sisters be delivered from democracy's prisons fuego y espíritu may our spirits ring true."

The bottom of the paragraph was obscured by barbed wires. Someone in the audience recognized the names at the beginning as gods from the religion of Santería, which is a syncretic religion that mixes Yoruba traditions, Catholicism

and Spiritism, most commonly practiced in Afro-Caribbean countries.

The bottom piece of art by Sánchez was even more personal, addressing the artist's love for his mother and her positive impact on him despite her struggles. There were three pictures on the top of the art: two pictures and one drawing that seems to be from the artist's childhood or otherwise drawn by a child. There was also a drawing of what seems to be a flower, similar to a hibiscus on the right-hand side of the art piece, a Christian prayer card of the Mother Mary and an infantile Jesus Christ on the bottom right.

Over a charcoal gray backing and a red heart drawn over it, the text on the art piece says "...mother was very frustrated... she couldn't get a job, she wanted to get off welfare. I never looked upon my mother as a woman; she was always my mother. I never looked upon her as a Black Puerto Rican woman who was oppressed—She was just mommy. She's fat...I remember snuggling between her neck and peace, you know it's peace, 'cause nobody can hurt you when you're with Mommy..."

An audience member related to Sánchez's Puerto Rican identity as someone who is Puerto Rican themselves and appreciated the representation and commentary. "It is personal; we bring our own experiences through these works of art," said Douberley.

Douberley and Marshall then led the audience to the center of the room, where Quick-to-See Smith's accor-

dion book was displayed in a glass case. Douberley gave some context to Quick-to-See Smith's background, saying that she was an Indigenous American activist who was still active until her passing in January 2025.

Quick-to-See Smith made the book to appreciate nature, drawing a golden bunny, a wolf, a humanoid deer-like figure and a human-like figure holding pieces of nature on the pages. The audience questioned why the text was typed in a certain font instead of written or drawn.

Someone noticed that the quote from singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell, which had the line "we are golden," was deliberately put inside of the golden bunny. The audience wondered why Joni Mitchell and artist Leonardo da Vinci were quoted. On top of that, the black and white and accented brown—or extremely light orange-yellow—coloring used throughout the art piece was also a deliberate choice, which made for an interesting design.

The second part of the interactive workshop was held in the education center. Marshall took the time to recommend the audience to check out the ceramicist Minnie Negoro's exhibit, as well as the digital media and design faculty exhibit, before entering the room.

Inside the education center, audience members sat down and used markers, colored pencils and magazine clippings in conjunction with Quick-to-See Smith's words printed on loose pieces of paper to create their

own art pieces, which shows the collaboration between image and word.

"With a cue from words, it could open up a new world," said Marshall.

The audience and the hosts both spent about 30 minutes in this relaxing and calm environment simply creating based on the prompt. A conversation about academic careers occurred.

"We do a lot of youth programming," said Marshall when explaining why all the scissors were so small.

On the creation of art, as at-

tendees were doing, Douberley said, "We go to museums and look at the labels, but there's a lot more to it."

On March 28, there will be an event held at The Benton called "Art Encounters: Standing in Solidarity" that will draw from the Minnie Negoro exhibit as well as Roger Shimomura's art about Japanese incarceration camps in the United States during World War II.

The interactive part will be making an origami crane to show support for Tsuru for Solidarity, "a non-violent, direct-action project of Japanese

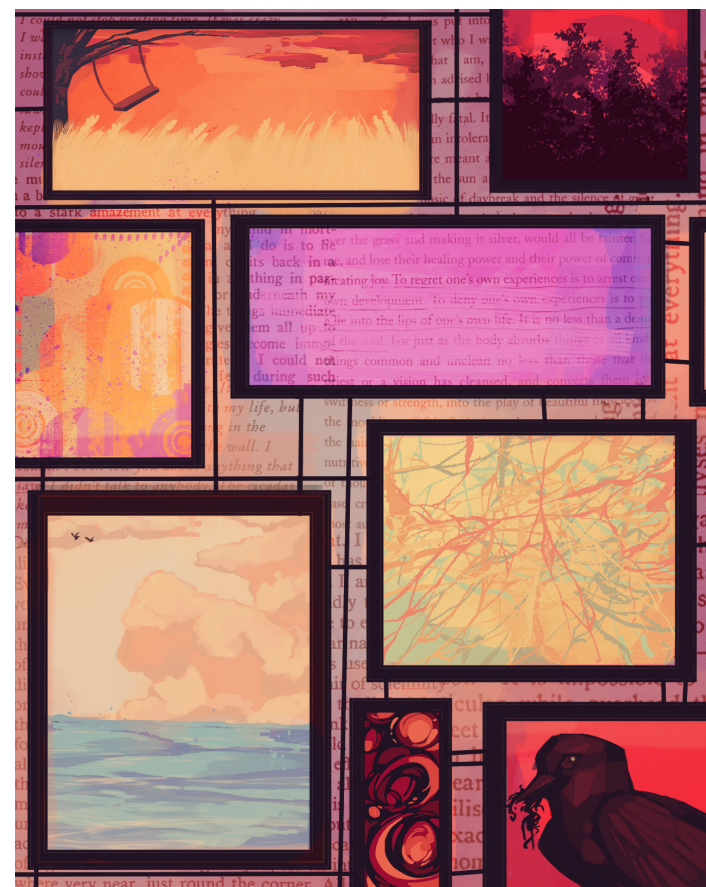


ILLUSTRATION BY ESHITHA RAO, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Jump the Creek Productions unveils two dramatic projects at the Nafe Katter Theatre

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

University of Connecticut student-led production company Jump the Creek Productions recently revealed two new plays: "I Am Going to the Lordy" and "I Am the Seagull." Opening on Feb. 28 at the Nafe Katter Theatre, the two plays were created and performed by UConn students.

"I Am Going to the Lordy" is a play written and directed by Evan Wolfgang, an eighth-semester student studying acting and a fellow of the UConn Humanities Institute. The play looks at the life of Charles Guiteau, the man who assassinated President James Garfield, through the eyes of his sister Frances.

"I Am the Seagull" is a play directed by eighth-semester student Aurora Courcy and adapted from Anton Chekhov's play "The Seagull" by eighth-semester student Kat Corrigan. While also utilizing human actors, the play

uses puppets as characters to tell the story of young lovers Nina and Treplev. Treplev drives Nina away and she falls in love with a man who does not value her, resulting in the despair of both characters.

Although both plays are separate works, there is a significant overlap of actors and stage crew between the two. The plays come from Jump the Creek Productions, founded by Wolfgang and Corrigan. They both ran from Feb. 28 to March 2.

"I Am Going to the Lordy" begins with Corrigan as Frances Guiteau. She immediately tells the audience a story that they've likely heard before; James Garfield was killed, and the man responsible for it was executed. The play that follows jumps between the lives of Garfield (played by Bryan Anderson) and Charles (Will Naraghi), depicting Garfield's slow rise to presidency and Charles' descent into madness.

Wolfgang provides supporting roles as Charles' father Luther

Guiteau and Garfield's secretary of state, James Gillespie Blaine. UConn student Evelyn Whitney plays a few different roles, but is most prominent as Charles' ex-wife, Annie Bunn. Siommarra Guadalupe-Hill, another UConn student, is Garfield's wife, Lucretia.

Although the play focuses greatly on Charles's development, Frances Guiteau still delivers some of the most gut-punching monologues in the play. While she does interact with other characters, Frances often has moments to herself, in which she breaks the fourth wall and speaks directly to the audience. Most of the characters have a costume change of sometime, but Frances is always in a black dress as her brother's only mourner.

Naraghi's depiction of Charles Guiteau is also incredible. As the villain of the story, Naraghi plays Charles as naive, insane, bloodthirsty, childlike and anything else the character needs to be in the moment.

Despite not being a core fig-

ure of the story, Guadalupe-Hill shines as Lucretia Garfield. Wolfgang's take on Garfield and Lucretia's relationship is one without deep romantic love, but the pair still rely on each other for support. Despite their differences, Lucretia stays by Garfield's side as the president dies, and Guadalupe-Hill delivers a masterful performance.

"I Am the Seagull" is a play up to much greater interpretation than "I Am Going to the Lordy." Nina (Corrigan) and Treplev (Wolfgang) are young lovers with a passion for art, as Nina is an actress and Treplev is a writer. The pair spend their time on the estate of the elderly Sorin (Anderson), Treplev's uncle.

Treplev's mother, Arkadina (Guadalupe-Hill), and her lover, Trigorin (Wolfgang), also spend their time at the estate. Arkadina is a famous actress and Trigorin a famous writer, and Nina falls for Trigorin, to the dismay of Treplev. The rest of the cast includes the wise doctor, Dorn (Chastity LaF-

rancois), the groundskeeper, Shamrayev (Alfie Free), his wife, Paulina (Lily Rose Mindenhall), his daughter, Masha (Sadie Aiken) and the schoolmaster, Medvedenko (Naraghi).

"I Am the Seagull" is unique in its use of puppetry. Treplev, Nina, Trigorin and Arkadina are the only characters portrayed entirely by humans — the rest are puppets made in various styles. This choice immediately singles out the four characters as the main forces of the play, while the usage of puppets adds an inherent comedy to the story. The production also uses shadow puppetry to enhance the setting and drama of certain scenes.

Although the play's story is ultimately a dark and depressing one, it still leaves room for comedy and excitement, while knowing when to back off the laughs. The complicated themes and dynamics of the play can be a bit tricky to follow at times, but it remains an enjoyable and captivating piece of art.



Kat Corrigan and Evan Wolfgang, the founders of Jump the Creek Productions in "I Am the Seagull" at the Nafe Katter Theatre. PHOTO BY AURORA COURCY, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Daily

Opinion

The Daily Campus

EDITORIAL BOARD:

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

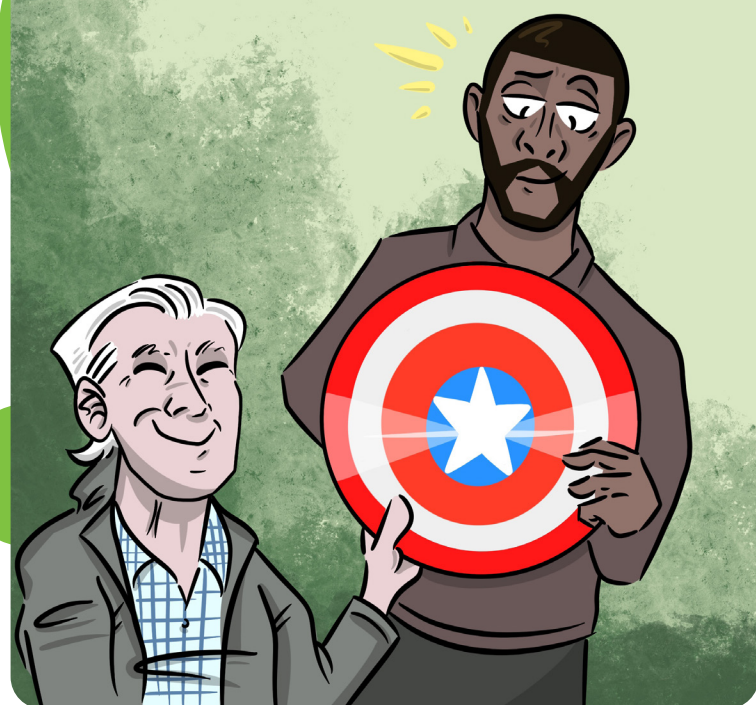
Tomas Hinckley..... OPINION EDITOR

Evelyn Pazan..... ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

Patrick Minnerly..... WEEKLY COLUMNIST

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

ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR SZREJNA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



'Captain America: Brave New World' is a step in the right direction

by Isaac Grad
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
isaac.grad@uconn.edu

The release of "Captain America: Brave New World" brought very mixed reviews. Some praised the film as a step back to the "old" Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), beloved by millions, while others claimed it was in line with the more recent, poorly received MCU films. While it is not comparable to my favorite pre-"Avengers: Endgame" movies, it's a step in the right direction.

This film didn't lean on cameos throughout the film like many recent MCU films have done. Instead, it continued the story of a well-known character who has been around in the franchise for years, and didn't introduce many new characters. The film was on a smaller scale compared to the other recent movies, which have tried to up the stakes since "Endgame"—which is pretty much impossible. The MCU has been too focused on the number of lives at

stake, as opposed to creating characters and storylines that we care about because of who and what is on the line. In this movie, we see more of this small-scale action.

The movie also didn't lean on creating overpowered characters to force a story to be more interesting. We have seen all the abilities we saw in this film before, which was a positive for me. The creators didn't lean on cool effects or new abilities, instead focusing on the story and characters. Whether they fully accomplished the creation of a solid story and development of interesting characters is a different story.

The creators also delved into an interesting aspect of Sam Wilson's story by exploring his complicated feelings as the new Captain America. Wilson feels he has an impossible standard to live up to and that he couldn't possibly take on the mantle of Steve Rogers. While I think they could've done a better job at approaching this interesting idea, I'm glad they addressed it, as opposed to ignor-

ing that very real feeling.

Something I appreciated about the earlier MCU films was the nuanced approach they took to various issues. This mostly included ideas about the military and government, but also more everyday feelings on responsibility, guilt and being a good person. This movie, while focused on war and the government, doesn't seem to take a nuanced approach. They opted to take both sides and make evil characters redeemable in cheap ways. For example, the president ultimately redeemed himself because he has a daughter.

Some of the effects weren't great, but I thought they looked better than in other more recent MCU movies. The character Red Hulk looked great, in my opinion.

I was hoping Sam would remove a glove and hold Harrison Ford's Hulk hand in his own, surprising everyone with his newfound ability to dehulkify as Natasha could, setting up the Hulk becoming a stepfather to Betty.

However, the MCU refuses to focus on the relationships all of us fans want to see.

Anthony Mackie did a great job, as he always does while playing Wilson. Mackie brought a lot, if not all, of the emotion and complex views on the conflicts. Wilson had to balance the weight of expectations people created for Rogers, as well as fighting for what he knew was right, despite not having a team behind him.

Many people have noticed how similar this movie is in premise to the film "Captain America: The Winter Soldier." That movie happens to be one of my all-time favorite MCU films, as it is for many other Marvel fans. It does become apparent very early on in "Brave New World" that they've borrowed a lot of the concepts from "The Winter Soldier" in an attempt to recreate the Marvel magic of its time. While the execution was nowhere near as amazing as "The Winter Soldier," I respect that they looked to a movie that was beloved by fans for inspira-

tion in trying to make this movie. It also establishes Wilson as more similar to Rogers than some may think, though whether or not that's good is up for interpretation.

The comic-relief side character, Joaquin (played by Danny Ramirez), was annoying. This, mixed with them using the same concepts explored in "The Winter Soldier," suggests attention was only paid to certain aspects of the film. They seemed to retry or copy a formula that worked before, rather than focus on balance. In "The Winter Soldier," everybody contributed to comedic scenes, but in this movie, it felt like they threw in this sidekick only to crack jokes—which weren't even funny.

This movie wasn't perfect, but I enjoyed it. It was a nice change of pace, seemingly stepping in the right direction for the future of the MCU. I'm glad we were able to explore Wilson further now that he's fully taken on the mantle of Captain America, and I'm excited to see more of him.

Society needs to give women a proper seat at the table

by Grace Donahue
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
grace.donahue@uconn.edu

Imagine this: a woman proposes a groundbreaking idea in a corporate meeting. It's exactly what the team has been searching for, and it has taken months to get to this point. Yet, silence. Moments later, a male colleague echos it. The room erupts with praise.

This dynamic isn't just limited to conference rooms. It was seen on the national stage during the 2024 presidential election. Former Vice President Kamala Harris faced relentless scrutiny over her likeability, tone and appearance. Meanwhile, President Donald Trump was largely evaluated by his policies. Her campaign was belittled and lacked proper evaluation by society, while he used racialized insults and personal attacks to reflect deep-seated gender and racial biases.

These double standards are not just relics of the past. Rather, they are from the Gender Roles Inhibiting (GRIP) model. This societal model pressures women into acting in supportive roles and punishes them for seeking leadership. Even when women do rise to power, they face a different set of rules designed to limit their reach.

While feminism has made undeniable progress, societal structures and cognitive biases continue to reinforce these constraints. To loosen the GRIP, we must examine the historical focus of the

first wave of feminism that built these barriers and how feminism has fought to dismantle them.

The earliest example of this stems from biological essentialism, which Charles Darwin and Sigmund Freud built off. Biological essentialism "depicts a process where biological influences precede cultural influences and set predetermined limits to the effects of culture." In his book *Descent of Man* (1871) Darwin built off this in the lens of gender essentialism, arguing that men evolved to be competitive and intelligent, while women have evolved to nurture. Freud furthered this with his psychoanalytic theory of penis envy, the idea that women's ambitions and behavior stems from a desire to compensate for what they lack anatomically.

Sociological theories further reinforced these roles. Around the year 1893, Emile Durkheim argued with his theory of social solidarity that to maintain social stability, there must be a division of labor where men act in the political and economic spheres, while women remain in their private ones in the home. Later in the 1930s, Talcott Parsons expanded this into structural functionalism. This theory asserts that men are instrumental leaders, while women are caregivers, and that these roles pass down through family modeling to sustain social order.

Despite this, women resisted. Following the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention, the first wave of

feminism took shape. This wave drew on tactics from movements like the French Revolution, where women led marches to the Palace of Versailles to argue for action on food shortages, and the Temperance Movement, where women campaigned against alcohol to protect families. These early feminists fought for suffrage, education and legal rights. Yet even their activism was framed as moral work, which fit neatly within the GRIP model's limits on women's leadership.

Even with these early victories, the GRIP never fully loosened. Women gained the right to vote and access education, but expectations about how they should lead remained stuck. Today, modern research shows these biases are still deeply wired into how we think about leadership, making the same barriers invisible but just as strong.

This is exemplified by modern day research on gender bias. Neuroscientist Jennifer Eberhardt wrote in her book "Biased" (2019) that our brains automatically process cues to make snap judgment about others, which can lead to prejudice and favoritism towards groups that affects all levels of society. This even shapes how we see capable leaders. Hidden biases continue to frame leadership as masculine, which makes women—especially women of color—work harder to prove their competence while battling stereotypes about warmth, likeability and authority. Studies like "Think Manager, Think Male"

further assert that leadership traits are coded as masculine, which makes it harder for women to advance due to being "too aggressive" or "unlikeable."

Sociological research further supports this. Acker's theory of gender organizations (1990) explains how workplaces are built around male leadership model. This is supported by the "glass escalator" effect (2013), which shows that, even in female-dominated fields, men are promoted faster.

Thus, the recurring theme highlighted by the GRIP has been seen with the course of history; despite feminist progress, women still face structural limitations. Loosening the GRIP requires more than just individual ambition to counteract restrictions built on science and sociology. It is going to demand cultural, institutional and cognitive change.

The GRIP model doesn't just explain why women have been held back. It also explains why our current solutions are no longer enough. Efforts to close the leadership gap have focused on helping women adapt to systems built without them. They are encouraged to be more assertive and to play by rules that were never designed for women. As long as leadership is defined by traditionally masculine traits like competition, dominance and control, women will continue to walk a tightrope of being strong but not threatening, confident but not arrogant and competent but still

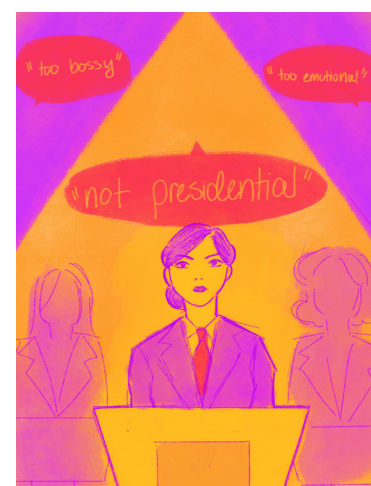


ILLUSTRATION BY ALEXA PAPPAS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

likeable.

If we want real change, we need to stop asking women to fit into outdated leadership models. Instead, leadership needs to be redefined altogether. What if leadership prioritized empathy over authority? Collaboration over competition? What if traits traditionally assigned to women were treated as fundamental to effective leadership rather than secondary?

The GRIP model reminds us that these barriers are not just individual. They are structural, cultural and built over centuries. Loosening that grip requires more than just adding women to the table. It requires the table itself to change. We must rethink what we value in leaders, how we structure institutions and how we measure success. Only then can a future be built where leadership is not just accessible to women, but truly transformed by them.

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Shiny :]



Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn., home to the Connecticut Huskies men's and women's basketball teams. It was a good weekend for both teams, the men's team with their win against Providence and the women's with their win on senior night against Marquette. PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHERS/THE DAILY CAMPUS

POLITICAL CARTOON



COMIC BY AH REUM KINDNESS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY ALEXA PAPPAS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

COMICS



COMIC BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

TRACK AND FIELD: UCONN DOMINATES THE FIELD IN BIG EAST CHAMPIONSHIP

by Alex Klancko
HE/HIM/HIS
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
ivb24001@uconn.edu

The UConn track and field team dominated the Indoor Track and Field Big East Championships this past weekend, with both the men's and women's teams winning. The wins for the men's and women's teams secured their fourth-consecutive Big East Track and Field Championship.

The men add a record 13th championship to their trophy case, breaking their own record of 12, which they achieved last year. The UConn women's team still has a bit to break the record for most titles, as Villanova has 17 championships compared to UConn's six.

The UConn men's team put up 236.5 points and four first-place finishes, while the women put up 189 points and five separate first place finishes in 18 events.

The remaining top five men's teams were Villanova with 113 points, DePaul with 90 points, Georgetown with 77 points and Providence with 56.5 points. The remaining top five women's teams were Georgetown with 112 points, St. Johns with 93 points, DePaul with 91 points and Villanova with 85 points.

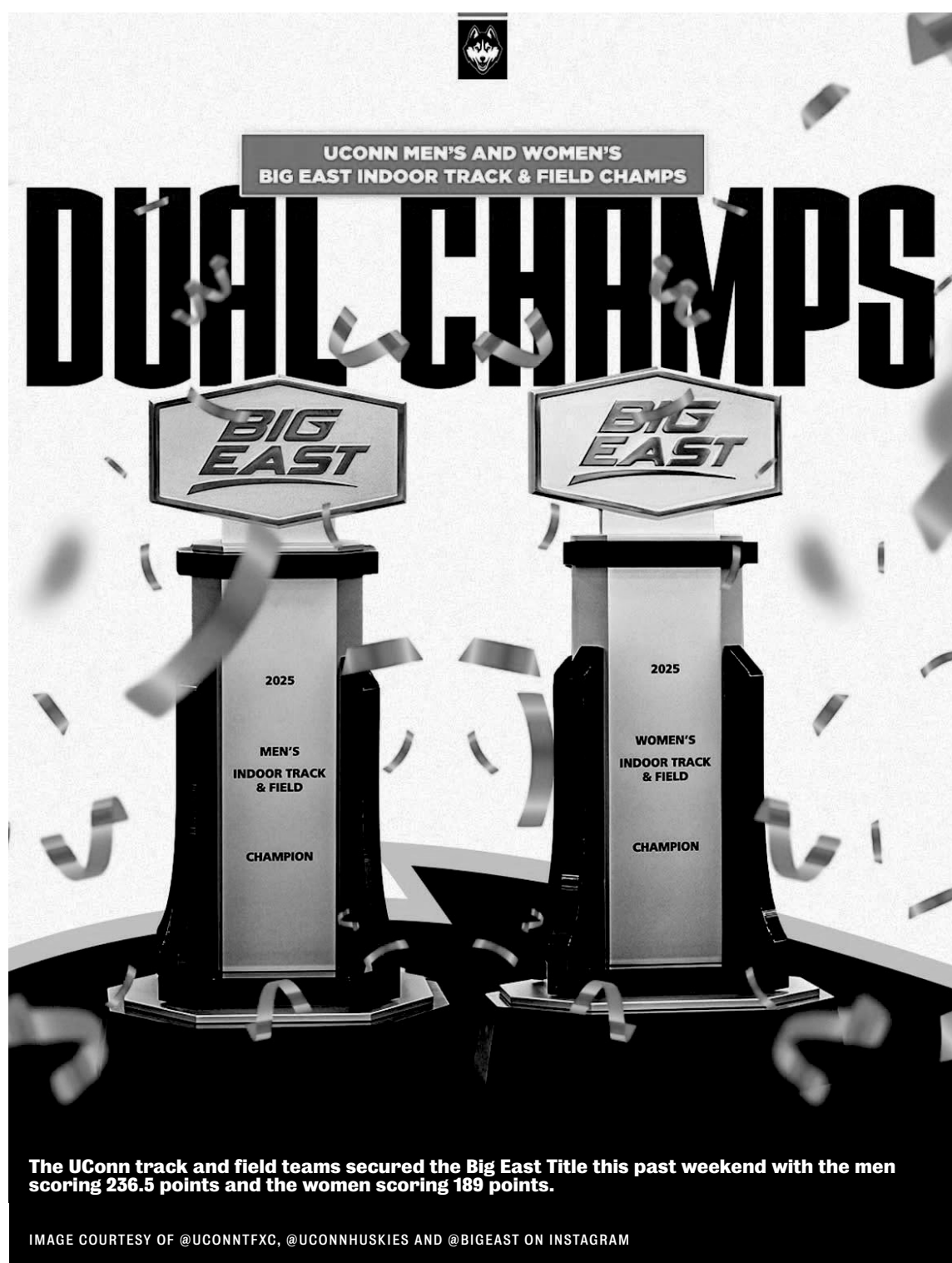
For the men, UConn junior Mekhi Stone won the 400-meter final by almost a whole second, running 47.23 seconds. In the high jump, sophomore Dar Jankovic and freshman Enaji Muhammad took home a one-two, while seniors Marc Morrison and Kasey Savage took a one-two in long jump.

The UConn men's team took the top three spots in the triple jump, as sophomore Kyle Johnson finished first, with Morrison and Savage behind him. UConn also finished one, two and three in the heptathlon, with junior Diarmuid O'Connor finishing first, sophomore Joshua Mooney finishing in second and junior Max Ringwall finishing third.

For the women's team, senior Jenna Zydanowicz won the women's 5000-meter, while freshman Faith Kiplimo finished second. In the women's pole vault, senior Mallory Malz took home first with freshman Piper Linn, junior Rachael Mason and sophomore Katie Floering finishing in second, third and fourth for UConn.

In long jump, senior A'lyah Thomas took home first with a jump of 6.12 meters, and senior Zayin Roe scored the top spot and 10 points in the women's triple jump. The women's team for UConn also took the top three spots of the pentathlon, with freshman Maresa Hence finishing in first with 4062 points. Sophomore Audrey Kozak finished in second with 3420 points, and freshman Mackenzie Braunstein finished in third with 3409 points.

There were also some awards handed out at the Big East Championships, as UConn's coaching staff won both the women's and men's Coaching Staff of the Year. UConn men's Savage and O'Connor also won the men's Most Outstanding Performers in Field Events Award and Savage won the men's High Point Performer of the Meet award.



The UConn track and field teams secured the Big East Title this past weekend with the men scoring 236.5 points and the women scoring 189 points.

IMAGE COURTESY OF @UCONNTFXC, @UCONNHUSKIES AND @BIGEAST ON INSTAGRAM

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY: UCONN VICTORIOUS IN WEEKEND BATTLE OF THE HUSKIES

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

In their late season surge, the No. 9 UConn men's ice hockey team supported their cause as one of the best teams in the nation, sweeping Hockey East rivals Northeastern (11-18-3) in a weekend two-game series. After UConn welcomed their rivals to Toscano Ice Forum on Friday, they trekked north the following day to the hallowed grounds of Matthews Arena in Boston, taking care of business.

In the first game of Huskies-on-Huskies action, UConn handled the opposing team by a score of 5-2.

Late in the first period, forward Joey Muldowney continued his stellar sophomore campaign by scoring his first and only goal of the game, giving UConn a solid one-point lead to start the game. Muldowney leads the Huskies in the greatest number of goals scored in a season in the Hockey East era.

Following Muldowney's goal, Hudson Schandor and Ryan Tattle took advantage of a powerplay and found an open Jake Richard, who found the back of the net to tack onto the Huskies' 2-0 lead in the middle of the second period. However, nearly 20 seconds later, Northeastern's Cam Lund cut the

deficit down to one point. UConn responded shortly after. Schandor, the star forward out of North Vancouver, added another point to his three total points in the game by lighting the lamp, giving UConn a 3-1 lead going into the final period of play.

Lund found the back of the net and cut down Northeastern's deficit once again. Nevertheless, this was short-lived as Tattle took matters into his own hands, scoring the Huskies' fourth goal of the game. With two seconds left, Tattle found the back of the net, giving UConn much-needed insurance and icing a 5-2 victory in front of a roaring Toscano crowd.

Much like the previous day, UConn handled Northeastern once again at the mercy of a 7-1 gong show victory. Northeastern is known for having a great fan base, but they were silenced by UConn in blowout fashion.

UConn's 6-foot-6 defenseman Viking Gustafsson Nyberg started things off with a bang, scoring a goal to give UConn a 1-0 in the first period. Seven minutes later, Ethan Whitcomb added to the Huskies' cause, ripping the puck into the goal for a two-point lead. However, Northeastern's Joaquim Lemay took advantage of a powerplay to score their only goal of the game.

Following Lemay's goal, defenseman John Spetz showcased his clutch-factor in front of the rowdy Boston crowd, scoring to give UConn a 3-1 lead.

It was all UConn from there on out. The second period was highlighted by a goal off the stick of Mahwah, N.J. native Nick Carabin, scoring his first of the weekend. Whitcomb added another goal himself, giving the Huskies a commanding 5-1 lead going into the third period.

UConn's Jake Richard and Kaden Shahan each scored a goal in the third period to add onto their already-commanding lead, contributing to their 7-1 victory. The Huskies' defense played phenomenally well the entire weekend, highlighted by stellar goaltending play from Tyler Muszelik. If the Huskies keep this up, they should have a legitimate chance to do something big in the postseason.

With the two victories, UConn's record improved to 19-10-4 on the season. The Huskies will now prepare for some Thursday night hockey action this week against Vermont (11-18-3) in their regular-season finale. The game will be played at 7:30 p.m. at Gutterson Fieldhouse in Burlington, Vt.



UConn men's hockey takes on Northeastern at Toscano Ice Forum on Feb. 28, 2025. The Huskies secured a 5-2 win. PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WOMEN'S HOCKEY: HUSKIES SKATE TO WIN IN QUARTERFINALS OF HOCKEY EAST TOURNAMENT

by Jake Loomis
HE/HIM/HIS
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
jloomis415@uconn.edu

The No. 12 UConn women's hockey team came into the Hockey East Tournament fresh off a sweep over Boston University last weekend where they dismantled the Terriers. In the two-game series, the Huskies outscored their opponent 7-2. This and many other victories secured Connecticut first-round bye in the Hockey East tournament and the overall number one seed. They drew Merrimack after they won their opening-round game versus New Hampshire by a score of 3-1. The Huskies would be the home team, facing the Warriors on Friday at the Toscano Family Ice Forum. In their previous three meetings this year the Huskies went a combined 3-0 versus Merrimack. UConn also outscored the Warriors 8-3 in all combined games. Anything can happen in tournament play. However, by the looks of the pre-game the Huskies were a heavy favorite.

In net tonight was Tia Chan, making her 23rd start of the season for those in blue and white, and she came in with a 14-7 overall record on the year. Chan finished the regular season with the best goals-against average on the team ahead of Meghan Warrenner. The Huskies got off to a lightning-like start in this one as defenseman Sophie Robinson netted her third goal of the year, putting the home side up 1-0. This was all the action in the first period as Merrimack held their defense strong for the rest of the period. However, the shots were 10-9 in favor of the Hus-

kies in the first. In the second frame, defense was the catalyst again, as at the end of the first as there were no goals to report. Both goalies held strong as Chan made 10 saves in the period. Merrimack goalie Marvaux Farve had 16 saves. Farve could only keep up her stellar play for so long though as, in the third, the Huskies' offense awakened. The program's offense went on a tear in the third as star Jada Habisch made her mark on this one putting the Huskies up 2-0. A few minutes later nobody other than Habisch struck again as she netted her second goal of the game, giving the Huskies a commanding three-goal lead. The scoring party was not over, as the Huskies added on another goal before this one was over via the stick of Livvy Dewar, making the lead a commanding 4-0.

The Huskies salted out the rest of the clock, as they skated to a huge 4-0 win in their tournament opener at home. The home side proved yet again in this one that they are the team to beat in the tournament and should be favored in every game. Habisch also proved yet again today that she is this team's star and most important player. The Huskies will go as far as Chan and Habisch take them as they look to get back to the NCAA tournament.

The Warriors end the season with a 9-23-4 overall record. The Huskies, however, move on to the next round of the tournament, as they draw Northeastern following their upset win versus number four seed Providence in round one of tournament play. Their Semi-final game versus Northeastern will be at 5p.m. on Wednesday at home as they will look to skate into the Hockey East tournament finals.

Sports

Photo of the Day | Cheering on the Huskies



The UConn Huskies defeat Marquette 92-57 at Gampel on March 2, 2025. Following the game, UConn honored the seniors on the team and inducted Paige Bueckers into the Huskies of Honor. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Basketball: UConn spoils Providence Senior Day behind Reed career performance, 75-63

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

The UConn men's basketball team (20-9, 12-6 Big East) started March off on the right note, ending their road schedule with a 75-63 win over the Providence Friars (12-17, 6-12 Big East), spoiling their Senior Day.

Providence won the tip and scored the game's first four points before Solo Ball drilled his first two three-point attempts to get the Huskies' offense going. Samson Johnson started the game but could not stay in after picking up two fouls and struggling on the glass less than a minute into the game.

Tarris Reed Jr. came into the game and was on a tear during the first half. At one point, he scored six straight points for the Huskies, forcing Providence head coach Kim English to call timeout. He finished the first half with 15 points, eight rebounds and three blocks. It seemed like the Friars had zero answers for the potential Big East Sixth Man of the Year.

"I got a transition dunk, and after that, I was like 'Okay, I'm hot,'" said Reed following the win. "I'm always ready on the bench, knowing that I have to be a crucial part of the team, going on the court with energy."

Hurley spoke about how Hassan Diarra was looking better during Friday's pregame media availability. That was true in the first half, with eight assists. That matches the most he has recorded in the first half. In a New Year's Day win at DePaul, Diarra had eight assists.

"I felt good," said Diarra, who finished the game with 10 assists. "I just got to maintain it, keep doing my rehab, keep doing my treatment, keep strengthening it. Get as much rest as possible."

UConn finished the first half strong, knocking down three straight baskets and six of their last eight. Alex Karaban looked strong in the final 8:43 of the first 20 minutes, finishing the opening half with nine points, including a big three-pointer with 1:12 left. He knocked down the half's final basket with one second left to put the Huskies up 41-33.

Connecticut came out swinging in the second half. Reed continued to produce and matched his career high of 22 points at the 14:38 mark, resulting in English calling a timeout.

"We're a much different team when we get that level of play from the center spot," said Hurley.

He finished the day with new career highs in numerous stat categories. Reed scored 24 points, grabbed 18 rebounds and blocked six shots on 10-13 shooting. According to Stathead, Reed joins Ha-

sheem Thabeet as the only UConn players since the 2004-05 season to have at least 24 points, 18 rebounds and six blocks while shooting at least 76% from the field in a single game. Thabeet had 25 points, 20 rebounds and nine blocks on 10-13 shooting in a win at Seton Hall on Feb. 14, 2009.

Karaban continued to make strides, scoring eight points, including another three-pointer in the second half to finish with 17 on the day. Hurley said the team goes nowhere unless Karaban plays the way he has played throughout his career at UConn.

"I completely agree with him," said Karaban. "I wasn't playing or being like Alex Karaban during my struggles. I wasn't leading as much as I should have been. I wasn't playing as well as I needed to. This team is really going to go as far as myself and the rest of the guys, and I got to lead the charge. I got to continue to be that piece for us, offensively and defensively."

For Providence, it was difficult to find premier scoring. Jayden Pierre was the only player to score 10 points or more for the Friars. With the loss, they now go into their final two games of the season with a three-game losing streak and after

losing seven of the last eight games.

While McNeeley was out on the court dropping Corey Floyd Jr. to the ground, Diarra was comically trying to put his shoe back on and played roughly a minute on one shoe.

"I asked the ref to stop the game, but he wouldn't do it," Diarra remarked. "I didn't have enough time to put my shoe back on. I was about to put it back on, but then I saw someone about to shoot it. I tried to throw it to one of the fans, then I tried to throw it to my bench. It was just a debacle."

In front of Boston Celtics guard Derrick White, Connecticut took care of business in a place Hurley knows all too well. Hurley ended his press conference with a "Go Rhody."

With two games to go, UConn had no way of clinching the Big East regular-season title, which was won by St. John's on Saturday. The highest seed they can get, while very unlikely, is the No. 2 seed. However, they will need a lot of help to clinch that.

With a win on Wednesday as they host No. 21 Marquette, they move into the driver's seat for a more realistic possibility, the No. 3 seed in the Big East Tournament.



Solo Ball celebrating after scoring a layup and drawing a foul. The Huskies came out with a win after their game vs. Georgetown at XL.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MADISON HENDRICKS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

BASEBALL: HOOK C GOES 1-2 IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CLASSIC, DEFEATING VANDERBILT, LOSING TO USC AND UCLA

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

The UConn baseball team (2-7) picked up its second win of the season after dropping the first two games of the Southern California Classic.

On Friday night, the Huskies faced the University of Southern California (USC) (8-1) at Great Park in Irvine, Calif.

Connecticut jumped out to an early lead in the second inning on a two-out double by freshman catcher Connor Lane. Later in the inning, the Huskies' lead doubled to 2-0 thanks to junior first baseman Maddix Dalena, who scored on a wild pitch.

Oliver Pudvar seized the opportunity of making his first career start, with a season-high five strikeouts in three innings.

USC pulled ahead of UConn and never looked back. The fourth inning included a massive rally for the Trojans, who scored three runs off left-handed pitcher Cayden Suchy. While Suchy gave up three runs in an inning, head coach Jim Penders trusted him to settle in, which he did. Suchy held USC scoreless for the next two innings and finished the night with five strikeouts.

Sophomore infielder Tyler Minick cut Connecticut's deficit to one run with a sacrifice fly to left field in the fifth inning, but USC scored five unanswered runs going into the ninth inning.

Redshirt freshman Rob Rispoli made the most of his pinch-hit opportunity, hitting an RBI single to drive in his first career run. Graduate student outfielder Caleb Shpur followed up with an RBI single to cut the Huskies' deficit to three runs. It was the East Canaan, Conn. native's third hit of the night.

With the potential tying run on deck, freshman utility player Anthony Belisario looked to continue the rally, as he pinch-hit for graduate student outfielder Sam Biller. However, he popped up to second base, ending UConn's hopes of starting their West Coast trip with a win.

The Huskies played the next two games at Jackie Robinson Stadium on the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) campus. UConn met up with the UCLA Bruins (8-3) for the second game of the weekend.

Like the night before, Connecticut scored first. Minick hit a solo home run for his

fourth homer of the season. The Reading, Pa. native put up three hits, driving in a run off a single in the seventh inning that cut the Huskies' deficit to two.

Senior starting pitcher Ian Cooke stood strong for 4.2 innings, the longest outing for a UConn starting pitcher. Graduate student Gabe Van Emon (1.2 innings, one unearned run), redshirt sophomore Jude Abbadessa (one scoreless inning) and sophomore JT Caruso (0.2 innings, one strikeout) lent their arms as well, with Caruso making his UConn debut after spending the 2024 season at the University of Miami.

Rispoli came up clutch, with a multi-hit game on Saturday. He hit his first career home run, a two-run shot, in the fifth inning that knotted the game at three runs apiece. Along with the Staten Island, N.Y. native, junior Gran MacArthur also recorded a multi-hit effort.

UCLA put the Huskies' hopes away in the fifth inning with a five-run frame, all of which came with two outs. It did not help that UConn misplayed some of the plays on the field.

Connecticut got on the board on Sunday afternoon as they faced the Vanderbilt Commodores (9-3) in Los Angeles.

Like the first two games, UConn scored first, with MacArthur hitting an RBI single in the top of the first inning.

Vanderbilt answered with an RBI single of their own in the bottom of the first inning and took a 2-1 lead off an RBI double in the bottom of the second inning.

That would end up being the final run the Commodores scored. Junior infielder Ryan Daniels hit a solo shot in the top of the fourth inning. Later in the inning, graduate student infielder Bryan Padilla hit a two-run home run that gave UConn a 4-2 cushion.

That cushion improved with Biller homering in the top of the fifth inning. In the top of the sixth inning, a wild pitch allowed Padilla to score for the second time of the afternoon.

Redshirt junior pitcher Thomas Ellison earned the win after pitching six innings and striking out five batters. Senior right-hander Brady Afthim helped out on the mound with two scoreless innings, striking out four batters.

Next weekend, UConn will head to Coral Gables, Fla. to play a three-game series against Miami — a homecoming trip for Caruso.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING: HUSKIES SHINE AT BIG EAST CHAMPIONSHIPS

by **Ryan Lombardi**
HE/HIM/HIS
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
ryan.lombardi@uconn.edu

The UConn swimming and diving team traveled to Geneva, Ohio for the four-day Big East Championships event. The program took on high-level opponents across the conference, including the powerhouse Villanova and reigning Big East Swimmer of the Year Allie Waggoner from Seton Hall. Despite the tough competition, UConn had many standout performances and secured a strong second-place finish.

The championships kicked off with a tightly-contested 800 freestyle relay, where Villanova's squad edged out Xavier for first and UConn rounded out the top three with a time of 7:21.56. The Huskies secured another podium finish in the 200-medley relay, where Xavier took a narrow first place over Georgetown and UConn finished just ahead of Villanova for third place. After a solid start to the championships, UConn ended the night in third overall with 108 points, trailing Villanova (116) and Xavier (120).

Day two opened with a dominating performance from Seton Hall's Waggoner (4:46.72) in the 500 freestyle preliminaries, with UConn junior Norah Rome behind her to secure a second-place finish in 4:50.18. The Huskies had a strong presence in the 200 IM preliminaries, advancing three swimmers—freshman Sydney Perkins (2:02.39), junior Lexi Martino (2:02.57) and freshman Nadine Amin (2:03.62)—to the final. In the 50 freestyle preliminaries, Xavier junior Olivia Oyster (22.31) claimed first, trailed by UConn freshman Jessica Sheng (22.79), while senior captain Maggie Donlevy (23.41) also advanced. The Huskies stole the show in the one-meter diving preliminaries, claiming the top five spots, with sophomore Kate Cooper (279.70), senior Julia Pioso (266.15) and junior Olivia Denery (262.95) making up the podium.

The top of the 500 freestyle finals finished the same as

the preliminaries, with Rome (4:49.96) taking second place for the event. Amin came within striking distance of the podium in the IM finals, ultimately settling for fourth. Sheng put up a good fight in the 50 freestyle, but Oyster proved tough to catch, earning an NCAA B-cut time in the event. The Huskies continued to dominate the diving events, sweeping the podium in the one-meter final, this time with Denery (290.45) in first, followed by Cooper (285.45) and junior Darah Ostrom (253.00). The night was wrapped up by the 200 freestyle relay, with Villanova (1:31.39) taking first and Xavier (1:31.74) sneaking just past UConn (1:31.77) for second. Competition remained tight at the end of night two, with Villanova moving to first with 563 points. However, UConn closed the gap with 556 points, followed by Xavier in third with 368.

The penultimate day of the event started with the 100 butterfly preliminaries, where sophomore Maggie Rhodes (55:00) and junior Ella Epes (55.24) qualified for the finals. Two Huskies qualified in the 400 IM preliminaries—Martino (4:21.89) and sophomore Olivia Herbert (4:24.73). Rome (1:49.99) qualified in the 200 freestyle preliminaries. Perkins delivered a standout performance in the 100 breaststroke, clocking in a time of 1:01.16 to secure second and an NCAA B-cut. The Huskies dominated the 100 backstroke preliminaries, sweeping the podium with Donlevy (53.99) in first, Sheng (54.47) in second and senior Kayla Mendonca (54.61) rounding out the top three.

Perkins continued her strong performance, placing second in the 100 breaststroke final with a NCAA B-cut qualifying time of 1:00.97. Connecticut continued its dominance in the 100 backstroke with Donlevy (53.45) taking first with a B-cut of her own, followed closely by Sheng (54.09). The night finished off with the 400 medley relay, where Xavier (3:38.46) took first and UConn (3:38.82) was not far behind in second.

The final day of the event started with the 200 back-

stroke preliminaries, which Mendonca (1:58.08) convincingly claimed first. Freshman Zoey Griffin (2:00.27) nearly finished on the podium as well, but had to settle for fourth. Perkins (2:15.26) secured another first place, this time in the 200 breaststroke preliminaries. Cooper also continued her strong diving performances, finishing first in the three-meter dive preliminaries with a score of 305.00.

In the last slate of finals events, Rome (16:46.25) started off with a third-place finish in the 1650 freestyle, behind a record-breaking swim from Waggoner that shaved seven seconds off the previous Big East best. Mendonca capped off her impressive meet by taking second in the 200 back with a time of 1:58.45. In the 100 free, Sheng claimed another second-place finish in 49.39. The Huskies had an impressive showing in the 200 breaststroke, with Perkins (2:12.52 B) securing first and junior Kier Liesinger (2:14.56) narrowly finishing in third. Cooper continued her excellent dives, taking first in the three-meter finals with a score of 327.35. In the final event of the night, the 400 freestyle relay, Connecticut claimed second place.

Villanova clinched its 12th consecutive championship with a score of 1588 points, with UConn in second with 1516 and Xavier in third with 1167. Waggoner repeated her Most Outstanding Swimmer title after record-shattering performances this past week. Cooper, after her continued success throughout the event, unanimously won Women's Most Outstanding Diver. The Women's Diving Coach of the Year also went to UConn's Katie Polk after the Huskies consistently dominated this season.

Despite ultimately coming up short, UConn put up a thrilling battle with a powerhouse like Villanova and had plenty of inspiring performances to be proud of. After showcasing its talented roster and plethora of young talent, UConn proved they could be a force to be reckoned with in the Big East for seasons to come.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: HUSKIES CELEBRATE SENIOR DAY WITH 92-57 WIN OVER MARQUETTE

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

The fifth-ranked UConn women's basketball team (28-3, 18-0) honored four seniors after completing its perfect 18-0 Big East campaign in front of the Gampel Pavilion crowd on Sunday afternoon.

Paige Bueckers led all scorers with 19 points on 7/11 shooting, with Sarah Strong (17) and Azzi Fudd (12) both reaching double-digits in the Huskies' 35-point win over the Golden Eagles.

"That's what you wanted to happen," said Geno Auriemma post-game. "You wanted to show the best version of yourself."

Aubrey Griffin got the starting nod over redshirt freshman Jana El Alfy in her final regular season game as a Husky, her name bouncing off the Gampel walls as she was announced as a starter for the first time this season.

"Having her really impacts the whole vibe of our defense," Auriemma said.

Griffin played arguably her best game of the season in the Huskies' romp of Marquette, notching 11 points and four rebounds on 5/6 shooting from the field while pestering Golden Eagle ball handlers on the other end of the floor.

"Aubrey was—just like the other night—instrumental in creating that tone," said Auriemma. "[It starts] the process of the other team feeling like they're constantly under pressure and every pass is going to be contested, and every dribble and every shot."

11 of the 12 available Huskies scored in the 35-point win, with only Carolina Ducharme (who played just north of seven minutes) failing to get on the board. The 92 points marks the sixth time this year UConn has eclipsed the 90-point threshold.

Redshirt sophomore Ice Brady made her long-awaited return to the court midway through the second quarter on Sunday afternoon after dealing with a left shoulder injury for the last handful of weeks.

Auriemma described to the media on Saturday morning Brady's "new sense of purpose" that was developed while in rehab, saying that Brady looks and feels different compared to herself before the injury.

That was evident while watching the third-year center on Sunday.

Brady devoured two offensive rebounds and scored six points in 15 minutes of game-time, drilling a three-pointer

from the top of the key as the first half expired.

"Ice thrives on confidence—success, I should say—success gives her confidence," said Auriemma. "When she does [have it], she blossoms right in front of your eyes."

The entire Husky lineup showcased its shooting confidence in Connecticut's 38/64 (59.3%) outing from the field. Strong (8/12) and Bueckers (7/11) led the way in field goals made, with Griffin leading the team in FG% (83.3).

Marquette drained two three-pointers to start the game, with Skylar Forbes and Lee Volker both hitting on open looks, as the Golden Eagles opened on a 6-2 run.

This would be the last of the Marquette lead. Not even a minute later, the game was tied after Strong laid it in from under the basket, with the Huskies taking the lead on the next possession by way of an Azzi Fudd layup.

UConn allowed just six points in the final 6:21 of the first quarter, taking a 31-15 lead into the break. Bueckers spearheaded the scoring charge with 11 in the first period.

Marquette found good looks—and hit on them—throughout most of the first half. The team shot 60% from three in the first two quarters and 48% from the field, recording 34 points on the nation's number one defense per 100 possessions.

Forbes, Volker, Olivia Porter and Kennedi Perkins all hit triples for the Golden Eagles, who were able to stick around the 15-to-17-point range with the Huskies most of the first half.

"I think you can get carried away when we're scoring a lot of points; so it doesn't matter how many they get," said Auriemma. "And that's a bad way to go into the post season."

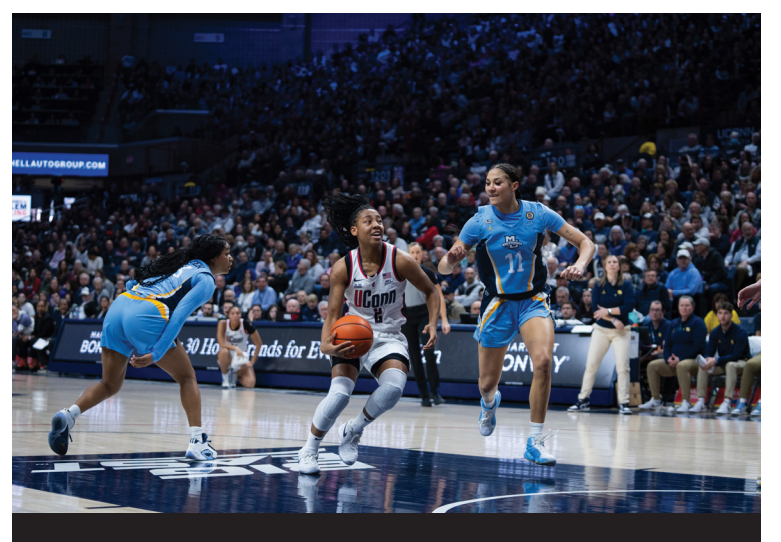
Connecticut buckled down in the third quarter, allowing just eight points on a 3/14 mark from the field (0/7 from three-point land). The Huskies ended the third period up 74-42, hitting on 7/13 field goal attempts—led by Strong's six points.

The Huskies will now wait to see how the Big East playing field sorts itself out to determine who will be its first matchup at Mohegan Sun Arena on Saturday, March 8. The Huskies will await the winner of the No. 9 and No. 8 overall seeds and will play again on March 8 at noon.



Olivia Denery, Kate Cooper, Darah Ostrom, Julia Pioso, Camille Gendron and Aniya Gonzalez place 1-7 in the 1 Meter Final!

IMAGE COURTESY OF @UCONNSWIMDIVE AND @UCONNDIVING ON INSTAGRAM



The UConn Huskies defeat Marquette 92-57 at Gampel on March 2, 2025. Following the game, UConn honored the seniors on the team and inducted Paige into the Huskies of Honor.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CONOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Sports

AVA'S ANGLE: UCONN MEN'S HOCKEY: SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

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

As the regular season comes to an end, the UConn men's hockey team celebrated senior night on Friday for their last regular season home game at Toscano Family Ice Forum. This year is an unusual case for the Huskies, as their team does not have any typical four-year seniors, but rather, four fifth-year players: Hudson Schandor, John Spetz, Nick Carabin and Hugh Larkin.

Schandor and Spetz spent their entire five-year careers with the Ice Bus, while Larkin (Western Michigan) and Carabin (Princeton) transferred to UConn this past summer for their final season of college hockey.

Hudson Schandor

Starting off with the three-time captain, Schandor has left his mark on UConn men's hockey and their record books. Schandor currently leads UConn's Hockey East era in points (116), assists (81) and single season assists (25). But something unique about Schandor is that even with all the record-breaking statistics, Schandor's personality and leadership exceeds all the ac-

complishments on the ice, and he will likely be remembered more for the ways in which he led the Ice Bus for three seasons as captain. He is known for his positivity, selflessness and being a leader of his teammates. Schandor helped to create "The Playbook," which is a guide for how UConn men's hockey players should act on and off the ice.

"I've been saying it continually — I've been blessed here with a lot of great captains when I look back, starting with Billy Latta, Derrick Pratt, Ryan Tyson, Wyatt Newpower...really awesome captains," said head coach Mike Cavanaugh. "It would be hard for me to say which one was the best, but if I had to have that conversation, Hudson Schandor's in that conversation for sure. Three-time captain, 3.4 student, three-time Hockey East All-Academic, probably going to be four-time Hockey East All-Academic. I think he embodies exactly what a student athlete should be and we are so lucky to have him."

"He impacts everybody he plays with — when Hudson's playing on your line, he steadies the ship," said Cavanaugh.

Seeing all the players that Schandor has played with, from Ryan Tverberg two seasons ago to

Joey Muldowney and Jake Richard now, it is no secret that Schandor makes the players around him better. That is simply the mark that Schandor will leave on the UConn men's hockey program.

John Spetz

Spetz has played alongside Schandor for the past five years and has also been a record breaker this season, as he has racked his way up to the program's leaderboards. Spetz has tallied 11 goals, 44 assists and 55 points in his career, which are all the most by a defenseman in UConn's Hockey East era. Spetz rarely misses a minute on the ice, and he has been a dynamic part of the Huskies' blue since the start of his career.

He has been described as one of the smartest players on the team and spends a lot of his free time around the sport, watching film from every practice and soaking in as much hockey information as he can. Coach Cavanaugh explained that Spetz played a lot of junior hockey, which made him well-prepared for entering college play years ago. Cavanaugh also said he wouldn't be shocked if Spetz goes into coaching after he finishes playing because he lives and breathes hockey, which has heavily impacted the team in the last five seasons.



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Nick Carabin

After spending three seasons at Princeton, Carabin transferred to UConn as a plug-and-play defenseman. After Andrew Lucas, Harrison Rees and Jake Flynn completed their eligibility last season, the Huskies were unsure of what their staple blue line would look like, especially since they did not know if Spetz would return for his fifth season. After adding Carabin through the transfer portal, UConn further solidified the blue line. Spetz decided to stay, and they signed the transfer Viking Gustafsson Nyberg. Carabin did his part as a Husky; three of his four points of the season have come since the second half of the schedule, which is perfect timing for the Huskies. Coach Cavanaugh described Carabin as a calming presence on the defensive side of the ice. Carabin was in the right place at the right time, as becoming a Husky worked out well for him and the team.

Hugh Larkin

Unlike other UConn players, Larkin has what no other player on UConn's roster does add NCAA Tournament experience. He is also the oldest player with the Huskies at the age of 25, so it is safe to say that Larkin has experience in college hockey. He transferred to

UConn from a Western Michigan team that made the 16-team national tournament in three of the seasons while he was with them. Larkin is set to go back to the NCAA Tournament following this season with the Huskies. Larkin has five points from this season and has been a leader for the young UConn squad. He has set the tone of games with big hits on the ice, been a proven leader on the bench and brought a lot of energy to the team, especially in game moments. Cavanaugh described Larkin as a large physical presence, which has really benefited the team this season.

With the bittersweetness of senior night and the regular season almost wrapped up, the Huskies still have a lot to look forward to with the Hockey East tournament and the NCAA tournament just around the corner. UConn looks to stay in the win column for their last game in the regular season until it is time for playoffs.

The Ice Bus will be back in action for the last game of their regular season schedule on Thursday, March 6 as they will travel up to Burlington, Vt. to face off against the Vermont Catamounts. Puck drop is set for 7:30 p.m. and will be available to stream live on ESPN+.

McCreven's Mashup: A temperature check on the five Power Conferences before tournament week



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Jake McCreven**

HE/HIM/HIS
STAFF WRITER
jpm23012@uconn.edu

I want to begin this column with a disclaimer; this will only cover teams firmly in the Field of 68 or on the bubble, and not the Power Conference teams whose seasons went belly-up in December — looking at you, Miami.

Conference tournaments for each of the Power Conferences begin within the next two weeks, with the Big 10 and SEC championship games tipping off just hours before the Selection Show on Sunday, March 16.

Which team is scorching hot heading into its conference tournament and can stake a claim in the Field with a handful of wins? Which highly-touted team will flame out and crash before the Selection Show?

Big East:

Warmest: Xavier Musketeers

The Musketeers have won five straight and 10 of its last 13, including victories over Connecticut, Marquette and Creighton, as Xavier has firmly planted itself as a top-five team in the Big East heading into the conference tournament.

The Musketeers have relied on their surly defense to spur

on this win streak, ranking 14th nationally in adjusted defensive efficiency since Feb. 12, per Bart Torvik. Xavier has also shored up on the defensive glass (21.8%), decreased its foul rate and increased forced turnovers per game.

Xavier has catapulted itself into the at-large conversation with a little under two weeks remaining in the Big East regular season. Can the Musketeers improve on its grisly 1-9 Q1 record before Selection Sunday? To be determined.

Cooldest: Creighton Blue Jays

This may come across as a bit harsh — Creighton has lost three of five, with all three losses coming from Q1 opponents — but the Blue Jays have lost some muster heading into Madison Square Garden, ranking 74th in Bart Torvik since Feb. 11 and falling flat offensively in losses to Xavier and St. John's.

Standout center Ryan Kalkbrenner is dealing with a lingering foot injury and veteran guard Steven Ashworth is just 14 out of 43 from three for the last five games. The Blue Jays have struggled to stay consistent late in games, with zero 80-plus points performances in February.

Creighton will need to right the ship with closing games at Seton Hall and versus Butler

to scrape together some momentum to survive in the Big East Tournament.

Big 10: Warmest: Michigan State Spartans

Tom Izzo's Spartans limped through the first 11 days of February, dropping games at USC and UCLA before a home loss to Indiana put Michigan State in danger of losing its high-pedigree seed come Selection Sunday.

Then Sparty rattled off wins in over Illinois (13), Purdue (9), Michigan (13) and Maryland (3) en route to taking the Big 10 lead and setting up a potential Big 10 championship showdown with bitter rival Michigan to end the regular season.

Michigan State has been salty on the defensive end since its winning streak began on Feb. 15, ranking third nationally in that span in adjusted defensive efficiency (87) and 17th in three-point defense (25.5%).

Spartan has embraced its identity as a mediocre shooting team that can beat almost anybody down with its size and physicality, as Izzo commands one of the nation's hardest teams into March.

Cooldest: Illinois Fighting Illini

There needs to be an asterisk next to the Illini considering the decimation of its lineup caused by injuries and the labyrinth of one of the country's toughest schedules over the course of the last two months.

Illinois is 5-7 since Jan. 19, with losses coming against Nebraska, Rutgers, Wisconsin and Duke. This has left Brad Underwood's team with a concerning record heading into March.

Luckily for the Illini, most of its key players are returning to full health, including Ben Humrichous and Will Riley, as Illinois looks to push to the six line come Selection Sunday.

Big 12:

Warmest: Houston Cougars

Kelvin Sampson's Cougars have lost once since November and have been playing historically good defense behind one of the nation's deepest and most experienced starting lineups. Their one loss was a one-point overtime defeat to now-top 10 Texas Tech.

The Coogs — traditionally known for high-level defensive pedigree — have unlocked an unseen element of their offense, the three-point shot, while being piloted by All-Transfer candidate Milos Uzan. Houston ranks third nationally in three-point percentage (39.8) and has scored above 75 points eight times during its 20-1 stretch.

Cooldest: Kansas Jayhawks

The nation's number one team at the start of the year has now lost six times since Jan. 25, including drops against Utah, Kansas State and Baylor, as Bill Self's Jayhawks find themselves unranked for just the second time in his 21-year tenure.

The Kansas offense has looked tangled and its defense confused during its 5-5 stretch since Jan. 25. The Jayhawks must do some soul searching after finding themselves on the seven line in Bracket Matrix's latest consensus rankings.

ACC:

Warmest: Clemson Tigers

Clemson has won 11 of 12 games — seven-straight on the road — as the Tigers creep up on Duke for the ACC lead with two games remaining in the regular season. Since Jan. 11, Clemson ranks ninth in the country on Bart Torvik, sporting an adjusted offensive efficiency of 123.8 (13th) and 3PT% of 39.4 (22nd).

The level of competition is not as sterling as the SEC, but stringing together a 14-2 record since Christmas is no easy task. What the Tigers have been able to do, including a win over Duke, cannot be

underappreciated considering the current temperature of upsets seen on a nightly basis.

Cooldest: Wake Forest Demon Deacons

The Demon Deacons' refusal to shoot three-pointers has hurt its NCAA Tournament stock, as Wake Forest has lost three of five games and has crashed on the wrong side of the bubble, with just two games remaining in its regular season.

With one of those two games including a trip to Cameron Indoor to take on Duke, it's safe to assume Wake Forest will end its regular season with at least 10 losses. With an early ACC Tournament exit, are the Demon Deacons still in?

I think not.

SEC:

Warmest: Auburn Tigers

Yes, this is the boring, safe answer. Yes, it is the only correct answer. As the SEC devours itself from the inside out, Auburn has stood the test of the nation's top-ranked strength of schedule and has notched wins over Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky during its tremendous 27-2 start.

While its two regular season games remaining are at Texas A&M and versus Alabama, the Tigers have complied the nation's top resume and look to secure the top overall seed on Selection Sunday with a handful of wins in the SEC Tournament.

Cooldest: Kentucky Wildcats

Jaxson Robinson is out for the year. Lamont Butler has delt with lingering injuries. The Wildcats are 8-8 in conference play and have dropped seven of 12 games heading into the SEC Tournament. What can Mark Pope do to steer the Wildcats out of this month-long tailspin?

I don't actually know. There isn't much the first-year coach can do when his roster has been plagued by injuries at its most vital positions.