



USG institutes new funding policies with tighter rules on travel funding

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The University of Connecticut's Undergraduate Student Government (USG) recently issued their funding policies for the 2025-2026 academic school year, which included a change in travel funding for Tier II organizations.

USG provides financial assistance to Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) that travel for club-based activities, which includes travel and lodging fees. USG's former funding policies stated that any hotels within a 50-mile radius of the UConn Storrs campus will not be covered by USG funds. This year, the radius has been extended to a 75-mile radius. A \$7,500 funding cap on all travel and lodging expenses was added as well, which is equal to half of an RSO's \$15,000 total funding cap.

The changes in funding policies were first presented to RSOs over the summer in a town hall meeting, where members of USG presented the proposed changes to RSO members. After all changes were decided on at the town hall, the USG Senate voted to approve them.

"We ran a report back in [the] spring, just kind of identifying some of the big funding categories that were taking up a large percentage of the Tier II funding budget," USG Comptroller Billy Lipinski said.

ski said. "What we found was that travel, coaching, those are two really big-ticket items that we fund."

USG's Office of the Comptroller is responsible for Tier II funding, as well as USG's inventory and budget. Lipinski is in his first term as USG's comptroller after his election in the spring and is a fifth-semester political science student.

"We want to make it a more equitable system and try to preserve that funding for everybody for as long as possible," Lipinski said. "You know, there are clubs that don't travel, but that do submit funding requests for things like equipment and whatnot. And it's frustrating for those organizations when the bulk of funding goes toward travel and coaching."

Lipinski also added that USG usually begins to run out of Tier II funding by January. The summer town hall acted as an opportunity for RSOs to give their opinion on various policies, and those who couldn't make the meeting were able to send their thoughts to USG before the senate made their final decision.

"The 50 miles to 75 miles, the conversation that we had had, actually was to go from 50 to 100," Lipinski said. "At the funding town hall, we had students voice their concerns, and we lowered it to 75. So, that was one that I was really happy about. We got some really good feedback, some information."

One of the groups that attended

the funding town hall and voiced their concerns was the Mock Trial Society. The organization's treasurer, Carson LaFemina, asked for the change in distance out of concern for his club's operations.

"We're an organization that tends to use close to the maximum amount that you're allowed to request for," LaFemina said. LaFemina is a seventh-semester student studying business management. "So, every dollar matters. Not being able to get funding for some of those crucial invitations we have in the spring [...] it's a big hit to our organization."

The Mock Trial Society sends out each team to at least two invitationals per year, with trips to regional competitions. Last year, this included Boston, Connecticut College in New London, Conn., Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Conn., and Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn., according to LaFemina. All of these locations are within USG's 75-mile funding block.

"We often have to fundraise and crowdfund, with things like GoFundMe," LaFemina said. "We also have to do fundraisers a lot just to keep our organization able to continue attending events like these. So, when things move like this and we don't get as much funding as we used to, it can be particularly difficult."

LaFemina had known going into the fundraising town hall that USG was planning to propose a



The Undergraduate Student Government candidate debate was held on Feb. 24. This debate gave students a chance to hear from candidates running for office in the USG elections. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

100-mile radius for hotel funding, where he spoke with USG about lowering it.

"On the one hand, I am happy that Billy [Lipinski] and the rest of USG listened to our concerns and took that into account when they made it 75 instead of 100," LaFemina said. "At the same time, you know, we're getting less funding every year [...] it is difficult for us. We do have to look into new ways to try to fund the things that we would like to do in this club, but I understand that, you know, USG has to work with the budget that we're given."

While discussing policy changes, Lipinski did note that, by extending the amount of time USG has access to their budget, RSO board members have more time to complete the SOLID trainings

required to guarantee them funding. According to Lipinski, many veteran board members of RSOs will do their trainings and funding requests immediately, which leaves less money for newer board members of different organizations.

"Another policy that we had changed as well was kind of placing an internal cap on funding," Lipinski said. "So, Tier II RSOs are eligible to fund up to \$15,000 on a first-come, first-serve basis. We've placed an internal cap on that \$15,000 to be \$7,500 for any travel-related funding requests."

Although RSOs were notified about the summer's town hall meeting, they were not notified about the new funding policies when the year began, which are displayed on the USG website.

Dining Services introduces slate of new on-campus 'flex meal' options

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Dining Services at the University of Connecticut recently announced three new "value meals" that students can purchase using flex passes from dining meal plans. The flex meals complement the points and Husky Bucks system students have access to.

SAMBAZON, the Coop and Mango will be providing new

The flex meal options at the five cafés and the Grab & Go's inside Gelfenbien and Putnam dining halls are still in place, plus the addition of a yogurt parfait choice in lieu of the established sandwich, bagel, salad and mac and cheese choices. However, this eligibility does not extend to the build-your-own yogurt option at Crossroads Café.

Café flex meals include one of the "entrée" choices, a bag of chips or fruit and a bottled

Usually, this bowl would cost \$8 as a "build-your-own" option — \$7 for the granola and banana bowl plus \$1 for the choice topping. SAMBAZON, which opened in the Student Union food court last spring, markets itself as an organic and fair-trade concept.

"The excitement from students has been incredible, and we're confident [SAMBAZON] will quickly become a campus favorite," said Scott Hauer, the assistant director of retail operations for Dining Services in February.

Before the acai stall opened, Hauer revealed to the Daily Campus that a flex pass option for the location had been in the works since the concept's arrival at UConn.

The Coop, specializing in chicken, occupies the former Dairy Bar Too space on the ground floor of the Student Union. The Coop is the newest eatery at UConn. For a flex pass, you get three chicken tenders, a side of French fries and either a fountain drink or bottled water. At a retail price between \$9.95 and \$10.25 (depending on drink choice), the Coop's flex meal has the most value.

The deal is a revival of a popular former flex meal offering at One Plate Two Plates, a "fast food made fresh" concept which lasted from 2014 to 2024 in the Student Union food court. Bear's Smokehouse currently occupies their space but does not participate in Dining Services' meal plan programs. However, the tenders were briefly offered in the Union Street Market as a limited-time option last year.

Students can now also purchase a single small smoothie

from Mango, located in the Recreation Center, for a flex pass. Mango offers seven smoothie choices, plus certain seasonal and special event-themed options. A small size smoothie, at 12 ounces, usually costs \$6.75.

Value meal options which continue to be offered also include one slice of pizza (cheese or pepperoni), plus a bag of chips or fruit and a bottled water or fountain drink from Union Street Market and three choices from Earth, Wok, and Fire, including the ever-popular General Tso Chicken and white rice combo.

Flex passes were originally designed to allow students to bring guests into dining halls. In fact, you can still use them for this purpose, at the cost of one flex pass per guest. Visitors and those without a meal plan would otherwise have to

pay between \$9.25 and \$18.40 depending on the service, with the Dining Services webpage noting that pricing may be adjusted for UConn Bound events. Later, the "value meals" were introduced and have since expanded.

As a component of students' meal plans, flex passes complement points, which each represent a dollar. Students can also convert points into flex passes at a rate of 7 points — but flex passes cannot be converted into points, Dining Services' webpage states. The system also works alongside Husky Bucks, a debit-type account students can load money into for use at on- and off-campus establishments.

For more information about flex passes and Dining Services policies and offerings, visit dining.uconn.edu/flex-pass-and-points.



ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR SZREJNA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

menu options, each for the first time, according to Dining Services' fall announcement. With these additions, "value meals" are now being offered at twelve on-campus eateries.

"All participating flex pass locations have information and signage that let you know their flex pass options," Dining Services said on Instagram.

beverage or small coffee.

SAMBAZON's new meal deal consists of a small acai bowl with granola, banana topping, and one additional topping. A variety of fruits, nuts and seeds are offered as toppings.

"You can choose not to have the granola or banana, but they cannot be substituted for additional toppings," Dining Services said.



Restaurants within the Student Union at the University of Connecticut on Jan. 30, 2024. The Union offers a variety of options for students to get food at other than the dining halls. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

CORRECTION: In the article published last Friday about the referendum committee, the voting date for the referendum is Sept. 17, not Sept. 10. Alongside this, the ASA was meant to refer to the Arab Students' Association, not the African Students' Association.

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WE ARE NOT THE DAILY DIGEST

BENTON MUSEUM OPENS THREE NEW EXHIBITIONS

THE WILLIAM BENTON MUSEUM OF ART HELD AN OPENING RECEPTION ON THURSDAY, SEPT. 4, TO MARK THE OPENINGS OF THREE NEW EXHIBITIONS: “FATE AND MAGIC: THE ART OF MAUREEN MCCABE,” “CLOUDS: A COMBINATION OF FLUID DYNAMICS” AND “ENCOUNTERS WITH THE COLLECTION: EXPLORING AMERICA.” THREE LIFE SECTION WRITERS TEAMED UP TO ATTEND THE EVENT.

Encounters with the Collection: Exploring America at 250

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Upon entering the display rooms featured at the William Benton Museum of Art, visitors are immediately immersed into a threshold of American ideals and history with the “Encounters with the Collection: Exploring America at 250” exhibit.

The exhibition is composed of a collection of pieces owned by the Benton, pieced together for the statewide (or nationwide) celebration of the quinquennial anniversary of independence in the United States, coming up in July 2026.

“We have definitely built our whole American identity off of independence and freedom,” said Ella McLaren, a 2025 biology graduate from the University of Connecticut. “It is always important to go back to that; how can we try to be a free nation when we say we are?”

Landscape paintings, portraits, photographs and statue artifacts can all be found within this exhibition.

The Curator of the Benton Museum and Academic Liaison, Amanda Douberley, explained that she and her colleagues wanted to present a wide range of mediums to capture each cen-



Newly featured exhibits in the Benton Museum. The opening reception for these exhibits was Thursday, Sept. 4. PHOTO COURTESY OF @BENTONMUSEUMUCONN ON INSTAGRAM

tury of America.

The goal of the exhibition was to represent America within the three aspects of “place, identity and ideals.” Each of these sub-categories spoke to audiences in different ways.

The landscape paintings, representing “place,” stuck out to third-semester political science and sociology student, Kayla DeLuca, in particular.

“I think [the landscapes] are

a refreshing perspective, especially living in New England — it’s very urban — I have never been to these areas of America before,” DeLuca said. “These are from the 1800s or so and it just seems like this was a more peaceful time in terms of the nature.”

Other students, like Alexandra Stevens, a third-semester nursing major, enjoyed more politically charged pieces, like

the painting, titled “The Political Arena” by Jack Levine. The piece is an oil painting from 1955.

“It was really interesting how they brought to life the saying (or metaphor) of the political arena,” Stevens said. “I thought the art style and the representation of the time period was very well done.”

Douberley also pointed out two pieces relating to identity

that she was drawn to. Both pieces were created by indigenous artists.

The first, “Louisiana” by Sarah Sense, uses basket weaving and photographs to represent her half-native, half-white identity, which she describes as being both the “Cowboy and the Indian Princess.”

The second piece Douberley recalled was, “I AM A RAINBOW TOO,” by Jeffrey Gibson. This work uses lyrics and poetry combined with geometrics and color to represent Gibson’s views of his queer and indigenous identities.

Both pieces are on display at the Benton Museum for the first time. Douberley explained that she was very excited to finally share them with the community.

“Encounters with the Collection: Exploring America at 250” revisits and depicts the history of the United States for better or for worse, leaving it up to audiences to reflect on the meaning of democracy today.

“[Democracy] is not just a type of government, but we are celebrating hopes and dreams for a better future when we stand by each other,” Vaibhavi Annu, a third-semester environmental engineering major, said.

Fate and Magic: the Art of Maureen McCabe

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Connecticut’s Maureen McCabe is hard to define beyond an enigma and a talented artist with esoteric interests. Over her six-decades-long career, she has proven that the life of the artist is to see beauty in what some people would find weird. McCabe normalizes this so-called weirdness in her artistic world and this is exemplified by The Benton Museum of Art’s curated exhibit, “Fate and Magic,” with some of her many works.

There are dozens of art pieces from McCabe, with a range

in mediums, such as a few paintings, lots of assemblages and found materials spanning as far back as from the 19th century and mixed media.

Many of the pieces had blurbs giving extra context about the history and lore behind the pieces. However, with an artist like McCabe who revels in mysteriousness and is reluctant to explain her work, the audience is allowed to make their own interpretations freely.

One of these blurbs starts with, “Fear of getting pregnant. The Vietnam War draft. A car crash. These potentially life-altering events are addressed in McCabe’s earliest assemblages, which pose

questions that are fundamental to the artist’s oeuvre: Do we have control over our fates or the power to shape our destinies? The choices here are stark, with life-or-death consequences.”

Some works included a tribute to esoteric religions, magic texts, Ancient Greek characters such as the enchantress Circe, tarot cards, astrological symbols, a bloodied stocking, pinball machines and proscenium stages with mixed media dancers on them.

Other artists who made works for her were also featured, such as photographer Tod Gangler, who made a portrait of McCabe surrounded by astrological symbols. She

loved the piece so much it became her official picture on the College Yearbook, despite others’ protests at how “unprofessional” it was. This shows McCabe’s authenticity and integrity outweighing professionalism.

Benton Curator and Academic Liaison Amanda Douberley said that McCabe approached the museum with a request to have a curated exhibit. “Her proposal was really great. Her work has a really wide appeal. We thought that it would be accessible to lots of audiences, especially students.” She continued, “Sometimes for different exhibits there’s so many different artists.” Having a central artist to

work with in a curation typically makes it easier to select art pieces with similar themes judging on the same mind working on them.

Douberley also said, “What’s interesting about a show like this is that you’re seeing the works that are most important to her,” referring to how McCabe was involved in the curation process along with supplying some of the art from her studio.

“One thing about Maureen’s work is that there are multiple layers of meaning and she still doesn’t explain everything,” she said. “It’s not about knowing.”

McCabe will be giving a talk at the Benton on Nov. 1.

Clouds: A Collaboration with Fluid Dynamics

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Nestled in-between exhibitions exploring America’s 250th anniversary and Maureen McCabe stood an exhibition of contemporary cloud photography titled “Clouds: A Collaboration with Fluid Dynamics.” This exhibition is in collaboration with UConn’s College of Engineering and Dr. George Matheou, who, according to Benton’s Executive Director, Nancy Stula, came to the Benton with the idea for this exhibition. It features a contribution from Matheou and pieces from other artists and photographers, including Michael Light, Sebastião Salgado, Helen Glazer, Kate Cordsen and more.

Matheou’s contribution to the Benton was a large eddy simulation of cumulus

clouds. According to the description given for the video, a large source of uncertainty in climate models is cloud modelling. A large eddy simulation is currently the best technique to produce reliable and accurate projections, improving climate forecasting and one’s understanding of fluid dynamics and atmospheric science.

Keston Sun, a third-semester molecular and cellular biology major, said his favorite part of the exhibit was this simulation. After looking at it for a bit, he “thought it was a real video, but it turns out it’s a computer simulation... it’s just incredible.”

There were also fans of other pieces of the Clouds exhibit. There was work by Michael Light, who worked with NASA to archive historical photos from early Apollo missions in the late 1990s. Showcased at the Ben-

ton were four photos from this project, one of which is of astronaut Edward Wolfe over the Gulf of Mexico.

Jada Vercosa, a graduate student in engineering education, enjoyed the interesting motion of the photo, saying that “When I look at it, I feel dizzy, and it’s an interesting static image that has an emotion to it.”

Next to the four light images of space stood four black-and-white images of the lush Amazonian rainforest, by Brazilian photographer Sebastião Salgado. One that caught people’s eye was a scene of an intense rain cloud over Serra do Divisor National Park.

Avery Nielsen-Webb, a graduate student studying Fine Art, first knew of Salgado’s politically charged images of diamond mines, but he liked this softer side of Salgado. He said, “There’s



Newly featured exhibits in the Benton Museum. The opening reception for these exhibits was Thursday, Sept. 4. PHOTO COURTESY OF @BENTONMUSEUMUCONN ON INSTAGRAM

a lot that’s different from his other politically-motivated work... but these are amazing images to see.”

However, according to another observer, Alex Carabetta, a recent graduate of UConn diagnostic sciences, still saw some political undertones with this image.

She thought the shape of the cloud made it “look like a bomb going off. It’s kind of crazy to think that this is real.”

As a final aside, I’ll share this remark from Vercosa: more people should “go to the Benton, it’s cool and there are a lot of things to look at.”

Joni Mitchell Sings an Ode to Jazz Music with New Musical Collection

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Joni Mitchell, Canadian-American icon of folk music and champion of the singer-songwriter genre, released “Joni’s Jazz,” a four-part collection of new and old music, on Friday, Sept. 5.

The 81-year-old singer curated 61 of her most jazz-influenced songs on the collection, which runs for just under five hours from start to end.

“Joni’s Jazz” is five hours of peace and beautiful thought. Though it may be slightly boring or repetitive to the unacclimated listener, the collection is a treat to fans.

Traditional jazz might not be what first comes to mind when the name “Joni Mitchell” is muttered, though the influence is present throughout her career with her use of the piano and brass instruments, like the saxophone.

The collection is officially dedicated to Wayne Shorter, Mitchell’s former saxophonist and composer to others, who passed away in 2023. Wayne was a Grammy Award-winning musician himself and a large influence on Mitchell’s work.

The four parts of the collection are separated by discs and can be played on four separate physical CDs.

The collection features some of Mitchell’s most famous songs (either remastered or left as is), as well as live and alternate versions of songs and previously unreleased demos.

Many of the live versions of songs are from more recent years, such as a cover of the famous song, “Summertime,” which she sang at her return to the Newport Folk Festival after a 53-year absence from the event.

Previously unreleased demos



Joni Mitchell poses for photos. Mitchell recently released a new musical collection which she describes as an ode to jazz.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

include earlier versions of songs “Moon at the Window,” “Be Cool” and “Two Grey Rooms.”

The best part of the collection is not the new material, but rather the grouping of old material. Disc one sticks out to me in particular and is the highlight of the collection. It opens with my personal favorite Mitchell song, “Blue.” The song was remastered for her collection, as it was originally recorded in 1971 as the title track of her third studio album. The song perfectly encapsulates the

somber but romantic music that Mitchell is famous for producing. “Blue” relies heavily on piano, unlike most of Mitchell’s early acoustic music, showing signs of jazz influence even in her earliest songs.

Immediately after, we are hit with “Trouble Man,” a more recent song, recorded in 1998 as a collaboration between Mitchell and Kyle Eastwood, popular bassist and another staple musician of jazz.

“Trouble Man” is much more of

a typically jazz song with percussion and brass, setting us up for the bulk of the collection which follows similar instrumental themes.

Mitchell, as an ode to the creators of jazz, also includes multiple songs touching on political and racial injustice. In the past, Mitchell controversially took on the persona of a black male to deliver some crucial messages in her songs. Despite this strange and offensive choice, Mitchell has spoken out about injustice

throughout her career.

Other standout songs in the collection are “Cherokee Louise” and “Sex Kills” which also have political messages critiquing the current culture and state of the world.

I can best see this collection being played fully on a long road trip or in the evening as dinner music. It is beautiful and rewarding, but very lengthy. However, it is hard for Mitchell’s music — new or old — to ever be a miss.

Rating: 4/5

Guided Pollinator Walk:

THE WHACKY WORLD OF WALKING WITH BEES

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Insect enthusiasts gathered outside the Torrey Life Science Building (TLS) on the morning of Saturday, Sept. 6 for a pollinator walk that shed light on local bee species.

The event, hosted by the University of Connecticut’s (UConn) Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, was led by Matthew Donahue, a third-year PhD student in the program. Donahue specializes in urban bees, the main feature of the walk.

The walk began at the purple sage plants outside the TLS Building. Donahue made use of a net and glass vial to capture bees. The participants, which included both students from UConn and members of the public, could observe the contained bees up close as Donahue explained the species.

Donahue began by explaining the difference between honeybees and bumblebees. He said it’s easy to distinguish the slender body of honeybees from the wide, fuzzy appearance of bumblebees. He also explained that bumblebees do not have barbed stingers like honeybees, making their stings less painful.

After some waiting, Donahue netted a male striped sweat bee that was flying around the flowers, most likely looking for a female. A metallic attention-grabbing green color on the head and thorax supplemented the traditional black-and-yellow pattern.

Audience members were able to pet the bee, as male bees lack stingers. Its body felt soft and hummed with energy, giving off a lot of vibration for such a small creature.

Donahue then led the group

to UConn’s Botanical Conservancy, where a plethora of flowering plants grew in the garden outside the greenhouses. He showed off some makeshift bee habitats in the area he had made with straws.

“If you want, you can just get a piece of PVC pipe, make it six or eight inches, and then fill it with straws that are about the same length,” he said. “And over a year or two, you’ll start to see bees coming in and building their nests.”

Donahue mentioned that you can research the preferred hole size for different bee species and provide straws suited for whichever species you want to house. He referred to the NC State website as a great resource for size preferences and other information to make these shelters.

Donahue said the habitats often attract solitary bees, who make their own nests instead of living in hives. In warmer months they lay eggs alongside pollen in sectioned-off cells. When the bee larvae emerge, they consume the pollen for energy to form pupae, which are similar to cocoons. They stay dormant in this state through winter until they are ready to emerge as adult bees in the spring.

Afterward, he explained how plants with pith, a kind of tissue in their stems, can also help bees nest. While the process happens naturally, he said people can also help out by cutting off the tops of dead pith plants, like milkweed, so bees can lay eggs in the stem in future seasons.

Donahue explained that such man-made bee habitats and assistance can be especially helpful in urban settings where bees struggle to find nesting places.

“Because they mulch [at

UConn], we don’t get a lot of ground nesting species,” he said. “That’s pretty common in urban areas, developed areas, pretty much all around the board ... which is a bummer because more than half of bees actually live in the ground.”

Keston Sun, a third-semester molecular and cell biology major, appreciated getting to learn more about bees and see how many different species lived around UConn.

“The most interesting part

was just learning about the basics, especially between honeybees and bumblebees,” Sun said. “I thought bees were bees, right?”

Vanessa Blair-Glantz, a graduate certificate student in UConn’s Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, came to the event as someone who loves bees because “they’re really cute and important.” She made use of the walk to grab some photos with her zoom lens, equipped

for capturing bees.

“It’s cool that they’re getting people outside and with activities,” Blair-Glantz said. “That’s what drew me to it, getting outside and meeting people.”

Donahue’s work with urban bees and information about future pollinator walks he hosts can be found on his project’s Instagram page, urban.beevolution.



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEXA PAPPAS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Life

This Week in History: HMM, IT'S A BIT SMALL, ISN'T IT?

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And by small, I'm talking about a particular ... statue.

This week in history, Sept. 8, 1504, the public had the fortune of viewing Michelangelo's newest masterpiece in the Piazza della Signoria — the Statue of David. Imagine what it would have been like: the newly finished artwork standing at 17 feet tall, overlooking the bustling streets of Florence just outside the Palazzo Vecchio, accompanied by a sharp thump, the sound of the first stone being thrown.

Hear ye, hear ye, welcome to This Week in History, The Daily Campus Column you can always count on to dig up the past and connect it to the present! My name is Isabella, and I am proud to carry on the torch of this column, passed down to me by fellow history fanatics and writers of Daily Campus past. Beginning in 2016, the column is soon due for its 10th anniversary, and I am so excited to be a part of it. As for my inaugural column, I want to discuss one of my favorite pieces of Renaissance Art. More than marble, Michelangelo's statue was a symbol, the story of an underdog, but to Florentines, it was the story of their republic. So, without further ado, let's get to it.

Michelangelo was 26, having just completed the Pietà in Rome (another amazing piece of Renaissance art), when the Opera del Duomo commissioned him to create the statue of David for the roof of the Cathedral of Florence. A significant reason for David's tall stature was that people would have needed to see him from forty

feet high.

He began in 1501, carving into a piece of white Carrara marble that had been discarded by another artist. At this time, humanist ideas of antiquity were making a comeback, and much of his work with the Statue of David had been inspired by that of the Ancient Greeks and Romans. Additionally, Donatello's and Verucchio's respective Statues of David paved the way for Michelangelo as well.

When his work was finally shown to the Cathedral Vestry Board, it was decided that it was too beautiful not to be placed

religious and political figure who pretty much tried to ban doing anything fun. That being said, he felt that humanist ideals and art (among other things) were incredibly sinful. Eventually, he was excommunicated and executed for his actions, but the display of Michelangelo's David was a significant step in bringing back art to Florence. And when looking past its vulgarity, Florentines saw that the statue symbolized them. The people, the underdogs, rose and took back Florence from the tyrannical Medicis and the theocratic regime of Savonarola.

Now, to finally address the elephant in the room: why is it so small? Some art historians actually believe that David's small penis was intentional as a way to desexualize the statue. Whether that worked or not, I can't be sure; but what I do know is that when I was visiting Italy, it was on a lot of tourist merchandise.

That being said, even over 500 years later, this masterpiece still sparks controversy. A few years ago, an art teacher in Florida was forced to resign after showing a photo of the statue to her sixth-grade class. The parent who complained had considered it pornography, and as someone who grew up in the Florida education system, I can't say I'm surprised that it happened.

I suppose that all this is to say that art is truly incredible; it's one of the few things that transcends time and allows us to understand what the past was like. After all these years, Michelangelo and other Renaissance artists remain relevant, which makes me wonder which artists of our generation will be remembered for years to come.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS



LOGO BY COLBI LORANGER, ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

in a more public place, which is where the statue's controversy starts. When it premiered to the public on this fateful day in 1504, the work, while admired for its beauty, was indeed stoned. Florentines were, quite frankly, "going through it" during that time. They had only just become a Republic again after escaping from the grasp of Friar Savonarola. After ousting the Medicis from Florence, Savonarola became a rising

HOLLOW KNIGHT: SILKSONG:

HERE AT LAST

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When Team Cherry, the small indie video game studio behind beloved bug game "Hollow Knight," shared an announcement trailer for its sequel, "Hollow Knight: Silksong," in February 2019, no one could have predicted the tumultuous release cycle that would follow. But soon enough, sporadic updates and unfulfilled release windows became synonymous with the title, becoming an internet joke from fans and onlookers alike.

But after six and a half years of waiting, "Hollow Knight: Silksong" was finally released on Thursday, Sept. 4, to all consoles. With just a \$20 price tag and a cult following amassed from its predecessor's success, hundreds of thousands of users quickly poured in, crashing various web stores.

Now, all that's left to ask is: "Was it worth the wait?"

"Silksong" has the player controlling Hornet, one of the main characters from "Hollow Knight." She has been taken from Hallownest, the setting of the previous game, and brought to the kingdom of Pharloom by unknown bugs. Upon escaping, you navigate through the kingdom, working towards a mysterious Citadel, trying to discover why she was abducted.

While the main objective is clear, there are infinite distractions to pull you away in classic Metroidvania fashion. Pharloom's map is expansive and features many areas with unique enemies, bosses, environmental hazards and platforming sections. Within the maze of challenges are collectible abilities to help you traverse and fight back, along with characters lending support through shops and various side quests.

"Silksong" draws from the same DNA as its predecessor, but it's clear from the start that it's a whole new experience. Whether it's the ability to climb up the edges of platform ledges, the revamped healing system that makes use of silk or adjusted trajectory of aerial attacks, there is a lot to learn as you scramble around the first few areas without many abilities.

As soon as you get used to the adjusted physics and basic mechanics, the game begins throwing in a tool system, which relies on using collectibles to craft deadly mechanisms. Soon after comes other ways to customize and revamp combat, giving the player plentiful ways to take on the hostile landscape. Where "Hollow Knight" begins as a simple game revolving around a few core mechanics and ends with that same focus, "Silksong" approaches combat and platforming with more complexity

from the start.

While the freedom provided by the game's combat is amazing, the experience sometimes falls short. To compensate for all the variety, the world is much less forgiving than its predecessor. Many enemies, including bosses and those in the regular world, deal double damage, often through heavy attacks or multi-hits that can hit you twice. Dodge to the wrong place or try healing too early and your health can evaporate in an instant.

This isn't anything new, especially for a game expected to be challenging. But having to be on edge at all times can be frustrating, especially with the relative rareness of Pharloom's currency, Rosaries. Losing a large amount amassed over a few hours of playing because the simplest enemies can hit like the hardest bosses can be frustrating for players just looking to relax and explore.

But there's plenty more to get immersed in besides combat. Team Cherry's worldbuilding, with cryptic lore and vibrant side characters remains top-notch, amplified by Hornet's inquisitive nature. The sound design is also stellar, with Christopher Larkin's score setting the scene and pace while bugs wail about with their whacky noises.

Not to mention, the game is beautiful, especially with the lush landscapes filled with layered foliage. On the other hand, the later parts of the game see Team Cherry pulling off one nightmarish environment after another, each more uninviting and macabre than the last.

The character and enemy designs also strike a comfortable balance between fearsome and cute. The sprites, numbering in the hundreds, incorporate elements of bells, wings, needles, worms and everything else in between to satisfy and unsettle



ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTIAN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



PHOTO COURTESY OF @DEARPLAYERS ON INSTAGRAM

you.

One of the most engaging additions to "Silksong" is the side quest system, which the game calls "Wishes." Throughout Pharloom, you can find NPC characters with eccentric needs or consult a board with Wishes listed in settlements.

The Wishes range from locating missing characters, finding collectibles and hunting unique enemies. While sometimes necessary for progression in the main story, they often reward you with new utility and combat items or Rosaries to spend at vendors scattered throughout Pharloom.

"Hollow Knight: Silksong" may have been an agonizing wait for loyal fans, but the sheer scale of the game more than justifies the wait. Pharloom is a world just as immersive and ambitious as that of Hallownest, if not more so, demanding the player sink countless hours into its exploration to uncover its many secrets. While its ruthless difficulty, especially in some of the earlier areas, can be discouraging, it becomes a more comfortable challenge as you unlock abilities and determine your playstyle, showing that Team Cherry knew what they were doing all along.

Rating: 4.75/5



Opinion

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COMIC BY COLBI LORANGER, ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



The Possible Illegalization of Gay Marriage: A HARSH BLOW TO QUEER SELF-PERCEPTION

by **Holly Thompson**
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This past summer in 2025, former Kentucky county clerk Kim Davis asked the United States Supreme Court to overturn Obergefell v. Hodges. Obergefell v. Hodges legalized gay marriage in 2015 and grants equal marriage rights to LGBTQ+ couples."

While most legal experts do not expect this request to go anywhere, the push to illegalize gay marriage is still a terrifying prospect. This is especially true considering the conservative majority in court and a president who said in a Fox News interview that he would strongly consider appointing justices to overrule the decision to legalize gay marriage. While this is from an older interview and beliefs can change, Trump has restated this belief in various interviews and created an "executive order terminating diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives , which is a setback for LGBTQ+ individuals and other minorities.

Regardless of what legal decisions are made, the discourse surrounding the LGBTQ+ community is cruel and inhumane. Reinforcement of heteronormativity, normalization of hatred and religious backlash often lead queer individuals to think less of themselves. This can increase internalized homophobia, fear of coming out and dread for the future within the LGBTQ+ community.

The recent removal of queer education and representation is a form of heteronormativity. Heteronormativity is the belief, conscious or unconscious, that being heterosexual is the only

natural or 'normal' sexual expression. Trump issued an order on Jan. 29, 2025, requiring schools to teach so-called "patriotic education," which whitewashes the chapters of U.S. history related to race, gender, sexism, [and] homophobia. Heteronormativity has a large impact on the mental well-being of queer people and how they view themselves and the implications of their sexuality. It can leave queer people feeling alienated and alone and enforces an "us vs. them" mentality that perpetuates homophobic mindsets.

Treating LGBTQ+ people as abnormal or different, whether intentional or not, is extremely harmful. It can lead queer people to internalize societal perceptions and ideas and look down upon themselves.

Hatred disguised as religious concern also causes drastic harm to queer people's self-perceptions. I see it on social media constantly. Every time a gay couple posts happily on Instagram, the comments are filled with homophobic telling them to repent or they'll go to hell. This contributes to internalized homophobia by normalizing cruelty. It also simultaneously gives religious people a terrible reputation, and overall benefits absolutely no one. Additionally, the normalization of the idea that discrimination is a difference in opinion encourages and empowers hateful people to continue careless and homophobic behavior.

The separation between religion and politics also continues to grow smaller. According to the second clause of the First Amendment, Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the exercise thereof. People should have the freedom to practice their religion, but dragging it into politics to justify the mistreatment of LGBTQ+ people is disrespectful. This hatred has caused

queer individuals to

feel ashamed, guilty and terrified for their future.

To members of the LGBTQ+ community, the unknown is the scariest of all. Questions constantly enter my mind about the future of the United States. Project 2025 is a far-right, 900+ page agenda with the goal of radically restructuring the executive branch. 47% of Project 2025 has already been completed. Project 2025 is also very evidently affiliated with Trump. In fact, it was written by at least 144 people who worked for the Trump administration or his campaign." One goal of Project 2025 is to gut LGBTQI+ workplace discrimination protections, under Title VII, as well as to reverse the 2024 Title IX rule, depriving LGBTQI+ students... of nondiscrimination protections in K-12 schools, colleges, and universities that get federal funding. Some maps even indicate the states where gay marriage could be banned. All of this generates intense terror, leading queer people to repress their identities in fear of the consequences of coming out. Even if some states do not push down the LGBTQ+ community, we will never be free to be ourselves until everyone is free.

Despite this fear, hate, anxiety and sadness, I do not believe hope is lost. Think of the rainbow crosswalk in Florida, a memorial for the people fatally shot at an LGBTQ+ nightclub in 2016. The crosswalk had been recently painted black and white, but hundreds of protestors visited the crosswalk to color it again using rainbow chalk.

No one can erase the LGBTQ+ community. Those who are trying to take away LGBTQ+ rights do not deserve that power. YOU have power, and you should never be ashamed of who you are and how you love. No one can erase you.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

Opinion

Photo of the Day |



A rainy Sunday in Storrs, Conn. on Sept. 7, 2025. Despite the dreary weather, students spent time all over campus.

PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

House MD: Why James Wilson is just as messed up as House

by Isaac Grad

STAFF WRITER

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If you're familiar with the series House M.D.: congratulations, you have amazing taste. Along with that, you're probably aware of the general viewer's opinion on House and Wilson, the main character and his love interest. Most will admit that House is a bit of an asshole — I refuse to admit as such, but that's just me. However, Wilson is rather messed up himself. The creators of the show intended to create a character who appears near-perfect and normal, but in reality, he's deeply flawed. This is touched on at various points throughout the series but somehow remains ignored by many viewers. Perhaps next to House, no matter what Wilson is struggling with, he'll always seem relatively normal.

I'll begin my explanation with the most messed-up things Wilson has done throughout the series. He slept with his dying patient, which sounds as bad as it is. Next up is the fact that he cheated on one of his wives, which brings up the other issue of his three divorces and chronic inability to make any relationship last (outside of House). Then we have the instance of him opting to give a patient his own liver, because he felt too guilty not to. There are smaller instances of him lying to House, manipulating House, buying the apartment Cuddy wanted simply because

he knew she wanted it (showing his love for House), leaving House after he overdosed and various other episodes.

Although Wilson has the ability to manipulate and lie, he usually avoids doing so, showing that he could be worse than he is, but chooses not to be. This is something we see in House too. The main difference between the two, however, is that Wilson doesn't make it everybody else's problem when he's struggling.

This is where Amber and House stand out. Both recognized that this is a tendency of Wilson's. House opts to take advantage of this tendency more so than Amber, but to be fair to him, he's much closer to Wilson and has been for much longer than her. Amber and House both actively fight against Wilson's instinct to please everybody but himself. They force him to get upset and retaliate (more so House with their pranks and such). Amber refuses to let Wilson buy the bed he knows she wants rather than the one he does, not wanting him to fall into the same patterns as with his other relationships.

Wilson feels a deep sense of guilt, having been raised with no friends, as implied multiple times throughout the series, and treated as responsible for his brother, who has schizophrenia. This comes to a head when Wilson is at medical school studying for an important final and his brother calls him, as he does every day, to complain. Wilson

doesn't have the time to call so he hangs up. His brother then runs off and Wilson blames himself. He made one slightly selfish decision, and it ended in the worst-case scenario. Ever since then he's trying to make up for this seemingly unforgivable sin, trying to be there all the time for everyone but himself.

We are made to believe that House is selfish and doesn't care for anybody but himself. We hear that House cares only about solving puzzles so many times we start to really believe it. House very intentionally builds a wall between him and everyone else, patients included. In doing so he prevents himself from forming meaningful connections, knowing that if he did form such connections, he would inevitably get hurt, whether by a friend leaving him, or a patient dying. Either way, he knows he wouldn't have the emotional bandwidth to continue with his work. We see this very clearly in the season finale of season six, in which he unintentionally forms a connection with a patient who ultimately dies, despite House doing everything right. We see that this death impacted him deeply, leading to a near-relapse after over a year of sobriety. House's emotional experiences are externalized in less-common ways. We see that his emotional turmoil translates to physical pain throughout the series. He builds walls intentionally, believes himself unworthy of love, while also trying to sacrifice happiness for

something greater. Wilson puts it best when he says that House doesn't like himself, but he does admire himself. House fears being normal and believes the only way for him to be a valuable doctor is to be miserable.

House is the perfect subject for Wilson's desire to please and be needed. House always needs someone, and Wilson gets to make up for not being there for his brother by always being there for House. House and Wilson are each other's missing puzzle piece. House refuses to allow Wilson to fall into his pattern of people pleasing and repressing his emotions. Wilson sees House's own deep and overpowering feelings.

So, we have a man who willingly presents himself as an awful person in order to create distance between himself and the world because he cares too much and feels too deeply. Then we have Wilson, who presents himself as perfect and put-together when in reality he's depressed and guilt-ridden. He does everything in his power to please everybody around him, with little to no care about his own well-being and desires. They are both deeply flawed and equally messed up, just in very different ways. Fortunately for the pair, they have each other. Most aren't lucky enough to find and spend their life with the person that complements their own faults as perfectly as House and Wilson do. They are toxic, they are codependent and they are messed up, but they are perfect together.



House M.D. characters, Gregory House and James Wilson stare in a contemplative pose. The show ran for eight seasons from 2004 to 2012 and featured complex medical cases accompanied by House's unique bedside manner.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @HOUSETV ON X

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY: MCCARTHY, HUSKIES FARE WELL IN SEASON OPENER

by Jake McCreven
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Allison McCarthy set a new course record in the 3K race on Saturday in UConn's 2025 season opener in Hartford, Conn.

The senior from Sandy Hook, Conn. broke her personal best time in the 3K (10 minutes and 55.7 seconds) by over 13 seconds, winning the event at a time of 10:44 at the University of Hartford Invitational at Keney Park.

All six of UConn's runners finished inside the top seven, interrupted only by Southern Connecticut State's (SCSU) Courtney Henchcliffe, who finished fifth with a time of 10:57.4.

McCarthy's first-place finish comes off the heels of her 18th place finish in the Big East Outdoor Track and Field Championships 1500 meters (4:37.68).

Sophomore Claire Paci ran just three times during her freshman season, notching a personal best of 21:52.4 (1600 overall) at the Lehigh Paul Short Run in early October. Her second-place finish of 10:47.4 came in her first attempt at the 3K race.

The next four runners all finished within five seconds of each other.

Senior Loghan Hughes set a personal best in the 3K, finishing third with a time of 10:55.7. Saturday's race was only the second time she competed in the 3K, beating her previous mark of 11:02 from the Suffolk Short Course Classic in Sept. 2023.

Megan Minicucci finished fourth, just 1.2 seconds behind Hughes, crossing the line at 10:56.9. Minicucci, a senior from Bolton, Conn., placed 12th in

the 10,000 meter at the Big East Outdoor Track and Field Championships in May. Saturday's race was her first attempt at the 3K race, having only competed previously in the 6K and 5K, respectively.

Henchcliffe finished fifth for SCSU. The Owls were the only other team to have multiple runners finish inside the top 10 (Peyton Dauphinais, eighth).

Calista Mayer took sixth place. The junior from Tolland, Conn. also set a 3K personal best at 10:59.1. Mayer was a member of the women's 4x800 meter team that finished fourth in the Big East Championships back in May.

Samanatha Moore finished seventh in her collegiate debut. Her time of 11:06.7 bridged the gap between the frontrunners and the second tier, with the next finisher crossing nearly 10 seconds after.

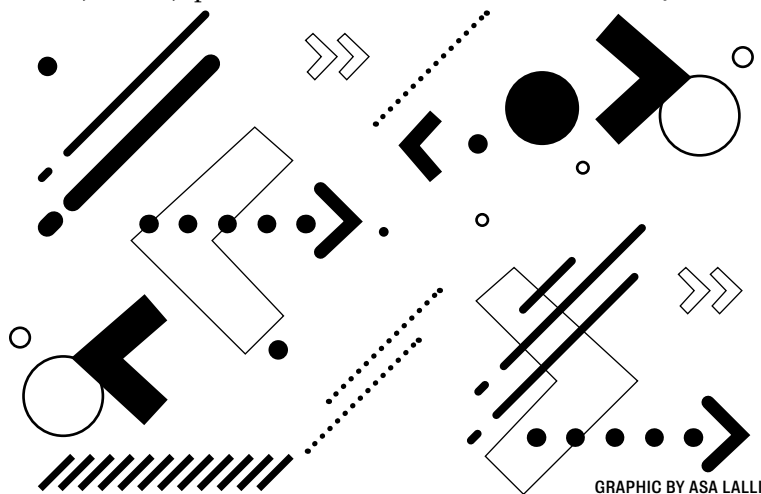
UMass Lowell and Bentley runners comprised the rest of the top 20. The race totaled 117 finishers, with 19 additional runners being listed but not competing.

"Despite the really tough conditions of heat and humidity, our women executed the race plan. They got out quickly and controlled the race from the start," Head Coach Beth Alford-Sullivan said via the University's official athletics website. "Excited for Ally [McCarthy] setting a course record to start her senior campaign. All six runners finishing in the top 10 is a great way to start the season."

The Huskies return to action in two weeks. They'll make the trip west to New Britain to compete in the Ted Owen Invitational hosted by Central Connecticut State University.



UConn women's cross country runners after competing in their first events of the season. The team recently competed at the UHart Cross Country Invitational. PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY



GRAPHIC BY ASA LALLIS



PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Sports

Photo of the Day | UConn v CCSU



The UConn football team defeats CCSU at Rentschler field on Aug. 30, 2025. The Huskies won their home opener in a 59-13 blowout against their Connecticut neighbor. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

HUSKIES DEFEAT RAIDERS AT HOME

by Jake Loomis
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The UConn men's soccer team hosted the Colgate Raiders on a rainy day in Storrs, Conn., as they looked to remain perfect on the year.

The Huskies and the Raiders started out with their defenses shining, as neither team was able to get much going to start. Both teams would also have multiple corners in the first moments of the game; however, neither was able to capitalize as goalies Eric Widrick for Colgate and Kyle Durham held strong. As the teams drew close to the half, there would be multiple fouls committed by both teams.

Following the first half, both teams were tied 0-0. Colgate would also make some notable substitutions at the break, putting in Alex St. John and Colin Hughes. As the half started, the Huskies wasted no time going on the attack as they quickly drew into Raider territory. The Huskies got a good shot and capitalized off it, as Austin Brummet scored a goal that was assisted by teammates Evan Pickering and Sabri Hanni. With a goal just 45 seconds into the half, the Huskies were feeling great as they looked to expand their lead and put the game out of reach.

Brummet and the Huskies

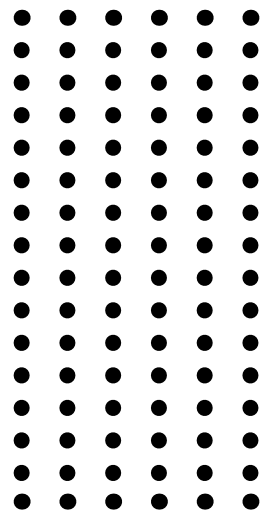
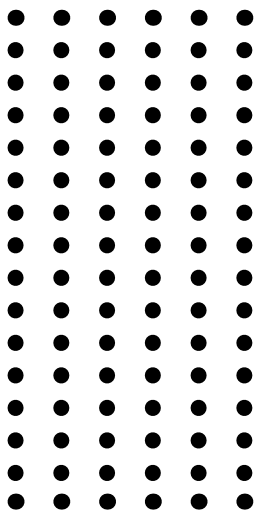


UConn men's soccer plays Central Connecticut State University in Storrs, Conn. on Sept. 4, 2025. The sun set over Marrone as the game started at 6 p.m. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

again got back into Raider territory, and the senior forward wasted no time as he netted his second goal of the game just three minutes after his first. Hanni again had an assist along with Elijah Hope. Following the goal, Colgate would commit three fouls in just over a minute, attempting to even out the score.

The Huskies would make their first subs of the game in the 63rd minute as they looked to add fresh legs for their final push. The Raiders would also make more substitutions as they looked to play cleaner. They would do so for a few minutes, although the whistle would strike again as they were called for the first and only yellow card of the game. The Huskies would tack on one more goal in the final minutes, as Alfonso Arredondo knocked one home with assists from Mateo DePinho and Johan Hamel.

From there, UConn closed the game out with a 3-0 win at home to move their record to 4-0-2. Durham performed well, saving all three Colgate shot attempts on the day. The Huskies controlled the shot total, with 14 to Colgate's 9; however, they did have four offsides on the day, which hurt them at times. The Huskies will now have a short break before returning to action on Wednesday against Brown at 7 p.m. in Providence, R. I.



FIELD HOCKEY: UCONN WINS HOME OPENER

by **Thaddeus Sawyer**
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On a rainy afternoon at the George J. Sherman Family Sports Complex, the UConn field hockey team was able to stave off a late push by Brown University to secure a 3-2 victory.

The Huskies, who sat 1-1 on

the season, entered their home opener on Sunday coming off a 2-1 loss in penalty strokes to the University of New Hampshire last weekend. This was the second game of the season for the Bears, who lost their first to UMass on Saturday.

Brown came out hot by scoring a goal within the first minute of the match, after a UConn penalty gave Brown a penalty

corner. Senior midfielder Lucy Adams took the penalty corner for Brown. UConn goalkeeper Natalie McKenna was able to stop the initial shot but allowed a rebound that Adams was able to clean up for the first goal of the game.

The lead was almost made 2-0, when Adams sent a deep shot from the 23-meter line into the UConn goal. Brown fresh-

man Grace Almeida was in front of the goal but wasn't able to deflect it, and the shot was ruled a no goal, since it came from outside the scoring circle.

UConn had multiple long possessions in the first quarter but did not convert any into goals until senior captain Julia Bressler took the ball herself from the 23-meter line and flipped it into the top right corner of the goal over the out-reached hand of Brown goalie Ellie Parker with 2 minutes and 39 seconds to go. The goal was the forward's second of the year.

UConn again found the back of the goal about halfway through the second quarter. Junior midfielder Olivia McKenna nearly went coast-to-coast before finding freshman Emma Laritt inside the scoring circle behind the Brown defense. Laritt, assisted by Olivia McKenna, tapped it in to give UConn the lead. That lead was extended when freshman Lene Bunjes deflected a shot from Bressler past Parker on a penalty corner play.

Neither team was able to generate much offense in the third quarter due to strong play from the two goalies. Both teams were aggressive in playing the ball on their offensive ends throughout the day, which forced multiple unsuccessful long passes for each side.

After the score sat at 3-1 for nearly 30 minutes of game time, Brown broke the goal drought after converting on another penalty corner attempt. Natalie McKenna deflected the initial shot from forward Lexi Pellegrino, but the resulting rebound was knocked in by junior Kate Siedem to pull Brown

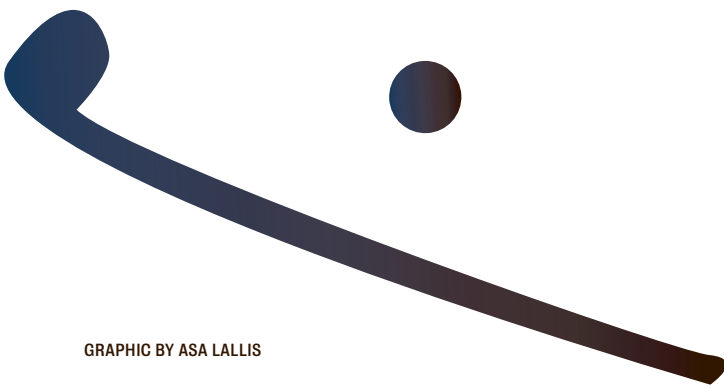
within one goal.

Brown would not go down without a fight, pulling the goalie to try and create an extra player opportunity. That advantage was exacerbated by a late penalty from UConn that would result in a yellow card and Brown having a two-player advantage. Brown was able to get an inside shot off, but Natalie McKenna made a close-range sliding save to seal a 3-2 victory. After the game, UConn head coach Paul Caddy discussed what it meant to have games at home.

"We have a tough schedule coming up," Caddy said. "I think that we are going to need the fans at the games. It definitely makes a big difference." This weekend, the Huskies had an accomplished group of supporters in the stands as they welcomed back members from all five of the program's national championship-winning teams for their National Championship Alumni weekend.

"What you see is that the actual DNA of a Husky is the same. When you graduate and you come back here in the future and you see people around here, they're pretty much the same as you are," said Caddy. "[The players] realize that they are very similar people [to the national champions]."

The Huskies will next return to the field in a home match against Rutgers University on Friday, Sept. 12 at 3 p.m.



GRAPHIC BY ASA LALLIS

UConn Women's Field Hockey secured a home opener win against Brown on Sept. 7, 2025. With a 3-2 score, the Huskies start the season with a 3-1 record.
 PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY ALEXA PAPPAS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST



Sports

FOOTBALL: UCONN FALLS TO SYRACUSE 27-20 IN OVERTIME THRILLER

by Tyler Pruneau
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For the first time in 13 years, overtime decided the UConn football team's 27-20 fall to Syracuse on Saturday at the JMA Wireless Dome.

The Huskies last won in triple overtime against Louisville in 2012, but this wasn't the case this time around.

On a fourth down with 23 seconds remaining in the game, Skyler Bell hauled in a 27-yard bomb from quarterback Joe Fagnano. On the Orange's 48-yard line, the duo reconnected for 16 yards, putting UConn on the 23-yard line. Chris Freeman exploited the field positioning, kicking a 41-yard field goal, tying the matchup 20-20 and forcing overtime for Connecticut.

Syracuse struck first as Steve Angeli found Justus Ross-Simmons for a 6-yard touchdown, giving them a 27-20 lead. The Huskies struggled to execute plays, moving the chains once after accepting a pass interference call. With extra downs, the program strived for the equalizer but could not cross the goal line.

For the Huskies, the biggest challenge came in the third and fourth quarters, as they punted away six consecutive drives. The Orange capitalized on this, as Yasin Willis rushed 3 yards for 6 points, while Ross-Simmons snagged a 53-yard touchdown and a 2-point conversion.

"We played hard, but we didn't make plays when we needed to make plays," said UConn Head Coach Jim Mora in his opening statement at the postgame press conference.

"I'm talking about everyone, not just the players. When I say make plays, I'm talking about staff, coaches," Mora added.

Throughout the clash, third downs stumped both teams. Connecticut advanced on four of 17 attempts, while Syracuse converted five of 15 tries.

The Huskies sparked the first end zone appearance on a trick play, with 14 minutes and 55 seconds left in the second half. Fagnano lateraled to wide receiver John Neider, who passed to wide-open tight end Alex Ho-



The UConn football team defeats CCSU at Rentschler field on 30 Aug, 2025. The Huskies won their home opener in a 59-13 blowout against their Connecticut neighbor.

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

nig for a 15-yard touchdown.

While Syracuse advanced to Connecticut's 10-yard line, the defense interrupted those plans. Tyrece Mills strip-sacked quarterback Angeli in the red zone.

Bryun Parham recovered the ball for UConn at their own 37-yard line, with 9:05 remaining in the half.

After a quick three-and-out, Zach Christinat mishandled a

snap to Connor Stutz. Syracuse tackled the punter, resulting in Tripp Woody drilling a 38-yard field goal. This put the Orange on the scoreboard for the first time with 3:37 remaining in the

second quarter.

Not long after, Mel Brown bolted down the sideline for a 45-yard touchdown, extending UConn's lead 14-3, with a minute before halftime.

As the clock ticked down, Darrell Gill Jr. successfully toe-tapped a 20-yard catch, advancing Syracuse to the Huskies' 14-yard line. The team eventually settled for a 32-yard field goal, closing the deficit to 14-6. This was the first time since Nov. 20, 2010, that the Orange trailed UConn at halftime.

Returning from the half, Fagnano threw a key 34-yard pass to running back Cam Edwards, positioning Freeman for a successful 35-yard field goal. This gave the Huskies a comfortable 17-6 lead with five minutes left in the third quarter.

Offensively, neither team performed perfectly, as Fagnano completed 24 of 43 (55.8%) throws for 259 yards. As for Angeli, the 21-year-old delivered 33 of 53 (62.3%) attempts for 417 yards, two passing touchdowns and one interception.

In the wide receiver room, Bell contributed a career-high of 11 receptions, totaling 105 yards. The senior hardly saw production in the first half, as eight catches came in the back end.

Reymello Murphy notched the second-most receiving yards, racking up 51 yards. One flaw Connecticut hurt itself with was communication. All game long, Fagnano misfired several times, hitting the wideout and nearly getting picked off.

When it came to the run game, the Huskies held their ground, as Edwards and Brown combined for 156 yards. For the ACC team, Willis and Will Nixon totaled 81 yards.

Defensively, UConn kept the Orange on their toes, sacking Angeli for a loss of 17 yards. Guarding the deep threats challenged Syracuse, as Dan Villari led with 105 yards, reeling in seven of eight targets. Additionally, Gill Jr. and Ross-Simmons gathered a total of 167 yards.

Next, the Huskies travel to Delaware (1-1), looking for a rebound win on Saturday. gathered a total of 167 yards.

Next, the Huskies travel to Delaware (1-1), looking for a rebound win on Saturday.



PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS