

UConn to focus on new research priorities amidst Trump administration



President Donald Trump visiting labs and meeting with scientists. The Trump administration has created new policies in relation to research that impact UConn. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF FLICKR

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The University of Connecticut said it will focus on new research priorities amidst President Donald Trump's administration.

Lindsay DiStefano, interim vice president for research, innovation and entrepreneurship at UConn, talked about how the university's research has been impacted by new policies. Any time a new administration comes in, there are new pri-

orities given to federal agencies that fund research. Investigators look to things to emphasize and projects to pursue that align with those priorities, according to DiStefano.

"We get to support research from all parts of the university that go into education and health and manufacturing ... you name it," DiStefano said. She said that the wide range of UConn's research is helpful when these new priorities emerge. "A lot of UConn's research infrastructure is built around priorities that matter

to every administration, being a public land grant, sea grant university," DiStefano said. In the past 10 years, UConn has put the public land grant mission first within research priorities, DiStefano said, along with having research investigators look at how their research projects can help improve society. DiStefano said with the Trump administration, there has been unusual research terminations across the country.

"I think by having such ... robust and diversified ... research projects, and by leaning into how our research impacts society, that made it more important than ever to make sure investigators are sharing the story," DiStefano said. A big focus for UConn has been recognizing that a lot of people outside of universities don't realize how incredible and impactful the university research is, she said.

"We're trying to get much better at helping investigators kind of share with the public how important our work is," DiStefano said.

DiStefano said she likes to focus on opportunities.

"We've seen over the past several months ... a lot of peo-

ple in our university coming together and saying, how can we make sure that the public understands the impact of our work, and how can we work together to create even more impactful research that can really make a difference," DiStefano said. Stephanie Reitz, UConn spokesperson, said the university always had a strong research enterprise.

"Federal priorities are consistently changing, but the university is always going to be moving forward with advancing whatever new knowledge is out there, in compliance with whatever regulations are," Reitz said.

A letter from UConn sent in the previous semester talked more about these changes. The letter listed fields that the new administration may concentrate on and will be more likely to receive federal support through funding: energy independence, AI and quantum technologies, defense (national security), manufacturing, healthy living, cancer, genetics/genomics, technology development, workforce development and community impact through broadening participation in higher education, research and

development, innovation and entrepreneurship.

In a Board of Trustees meeting held on June 25, UConn President Radenka Maric gave a presentation that anticipates there will be a decrease in funding for federal research in the upcoming years.

The presentation stated that \$3.7 million on previously cancelled grants have been restored at UConn. In Maric's presentation, it stated that 2,650 UConn faculty, staff and students are paid in whole or in part on grants. In another presentation on research grants that were presented to Connecticut legislators from UConn, there are more concerns about federal research funding.

"Federal research grants that will be or are terminated in funding can be expected to be negatively impacted by a loss of jobs in CT residents employed through research, fewer solutions to community problems and a loss of tax base to CT," the presentation stated. In the presentation, it stated that "UConn is remaining viable through aligning with federal priorities that are areas of strength for the university."



SHAW CHECK-IN SURVEY AIMS TO BETTER SUPPORT STUDENT WELLBEING

by Cecilia Bernstein
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The University of Connecticut's Student Health and Wellness (SHaW) introduced its Student Wellness Check-In Survey, designed to "better understand [the] experiences and needs [of students]," according to an email sent to students by SHaW. The questionnaire will be used to shape future health and wellness resources across campus.

SHaW began distributing its survey in waves during the 2024-25 academic year through Qualtrics, a web-based survey platform. This October, SHaW's executive director, Suzanne Onorato, emailed selected students asking them "for just 5-10 minutes of [their] time to complete the UConn Student Wellness Check-In Survey."

"The survey is sent via email with a personal invitation to participate, and reminders are sent throughout the survey period," Onorato said. "Last year's response rates exceeded our expectations. We believe keeping the survey short with the opportunity for students to share experiences and influence campus health and wellness resources has been beneficial to student participation rates."

According to Onorato, all students at the regional campuses, half of Storrs graduate students enrolled in in-person programs and 2,500 Storrs undergraduate students have already received the survey.

She noted that SHaW plans to continue contacting the rest of the students throughout the year.

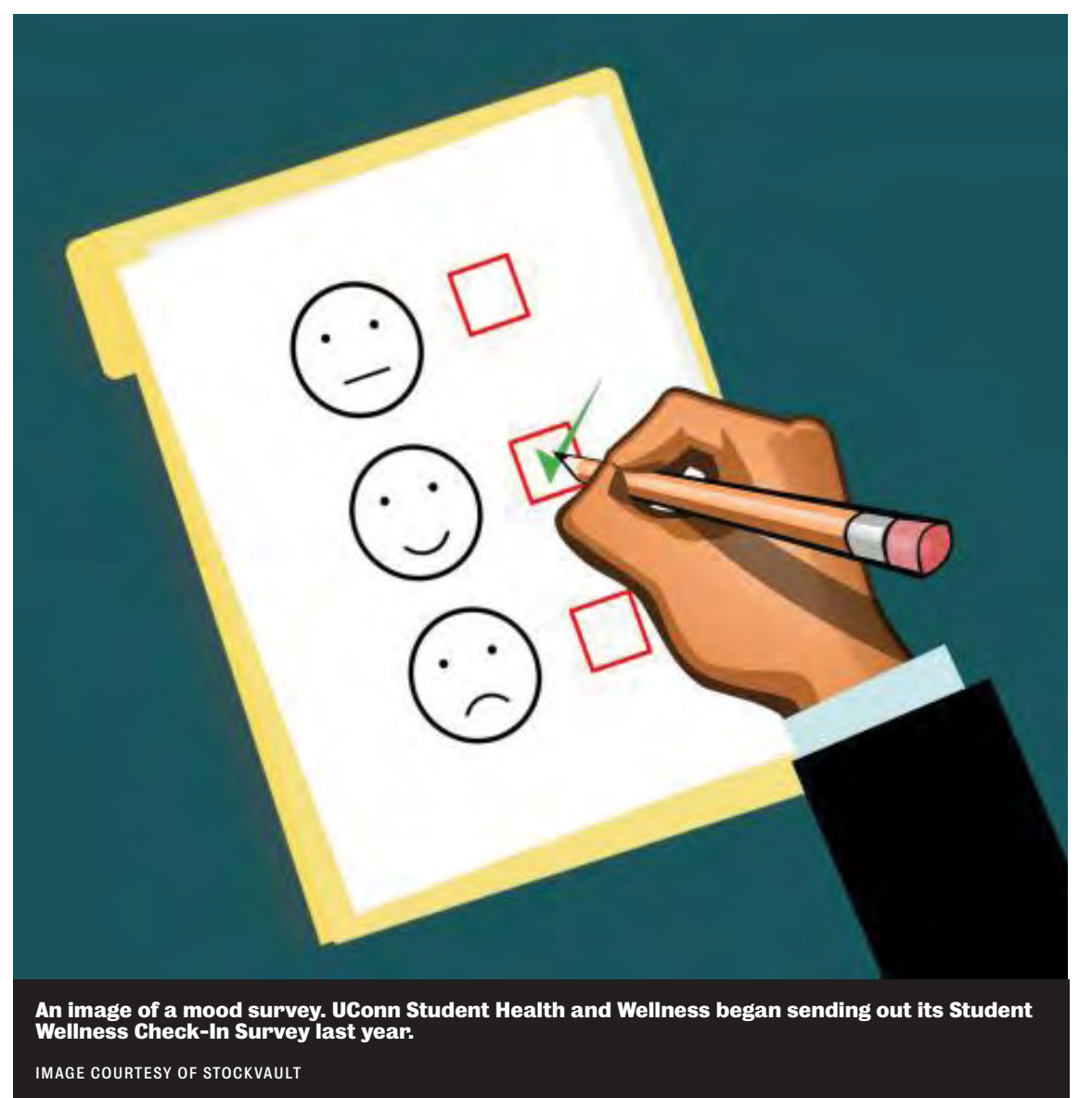
Students who have already received the survey were asked a multitude of questions about topics ranging from mental health to access of care. First-semester marketing major Sydney Matthews reflected on filling out the questionnaire.

"I received an email on the first day of October asking me to fill out a survey from SHaW, and while I was confused at first, I decided to fill it out," Matthews said. "It was honestly a good check-in on my stress, mental health and physical health, and I appreciated it."

To encourage questionnaire participation, responses to the survey remain completely anonymous, which allows organizers to best analyze the data.

During the 2024-25 academic year, the Student Wellness Check-in Survey highlighted a population of students struggling with their well-being. Due to this data, SHaW was able to collaborate with campus partners to make their data collection more effective and inclusive, according to Onorato.

"This [partnership] provides an opportunity for SHaW to enhance our patient-centered services, and allows for us to share aggregated, de-identified population data in collaboration with campus partners in order to advocate for proactive allocation of re-



An image of a mood survey. UConn Student Health and Wellness began sending out its Student Wellness Check-In Survey last year.

IMAGE COURTESY OF STOCKVAULT

sources to support student success," Onorato said.

The results of the survey will be essential for both SHaW and UConn programs and policies in the coming years. The data is intended to guide the university's decisions about health and well-

ness resources on campus.

"We are particularly interested in collecting actionable data that tells us how and where students choose to seek care and what barriers they experience," Onorato said. "Examples of barriers could include cost, lack

of transportation or simply not knowing where to go. We anticipate that barriers will differ between campuses and even among sub-populations on the same campus. We are prepared to respond to those needs as they become known to us.

News

19-YEAR-OLD RUNNING FOR MAYOR OF WINDHAM IN 2025 ELECTION

by **Katie Servas**
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While most 19-year-olds are figuring out their majors in college or applying for their first job, Hailey Desaulniers is following a different route by campaigning to become the next mayor of Windham. Desaulniers has been surrounded by politics her entire life. She grew up sitting in the back of political meetings her father was a member of until the age of 16, when she joined the Windham Republican Town Committee and started working at Windham polling locations during elections.

“I decided this was the year I was going to run for something; mayor wasn’t my original plan.”

MAYOR CANDIDATE HAILEY DESAULNIERS

Mike Desaulniers, Hailey’s father, has been a politician throughout her whole life. He serves as the Chair to the Windham Republican Town Committee and previously ran for mayor twice, as reported by WFSB.

Her mother is also involved in local politics and currently serves as the registrar of voters in the town of Windham.

Desaulniers is a 2024 E.O. Smith graduate who plans to pursue her Registered Nurse (RN) license at Three Rivers Community College this upcoming winter or spring.

Stepping onto this year’s election ballot, Desaulniers did not originally decide on running for the mayoral candidacy.

“I decided this was the year I was going to run for something; mayor wasn’t my original plan,” Desaulniers said. “In our meeting where we were putting names on the ballot, someone mentioned I would be a good fit. We talked about it and decided, you know, why not?”

Desaulniers said that Curtis Ehler, a Windham Town Council member, was the one who suggested she should be the party’s ballot pick.

Following Ehler’s comment, Desaulniers’s mother and the remainder of the committee supported the motion, according to Desaulniers. The only hesitation came from her father, Mike.

When starting her campaign, Desaulniers chose to

focus on hyperlocal issues that affect residents. These issues include the closed footbridge needing structural repairs, dirt bike complaints and improving accessibility in the town, according to WFSB.

Her campaign slogan is “What Bugs You?” It’s meant to promote her openness to listening to residents’ concerns about the town, regardless of where they stand politically.

“I want everyone to feel comfortable coming to a [town council] meeting and speaking at a meeting without fear of judgment, retaliation, anger,” Desaulniers said. “I feel that everyone in Windham and Willimantic should be able to speak up about the town that they live in.”

Although first-time candidates often face intense pressure, Desaulniers said her experience has been quite the opposite.

“As much as there’s pressure on political candidates, I don’t feel that there’s a lot of pressure on me from, like, anyone, anyone close to me, anyone like the party and my family and friends, just because I am very young [and] it is my first campaign,” she said.

As a young candidate navigating the current political climate, Desaulniers has found some challenges with her first campaign.

“...A lot of people see Republican and assume the worst, and that’s just, that’s not how I present myself,” Desaulniers said. “I’m not running on MAGA...it’s been really hard trying to talk to people and get them to understand that I have my own opinions. I’m not running off of the old school Republican ideology.”

Despite the challenges of being labeled by her party affiliation, Desaulniers said her beliefs fall somewhere in the middle, aligning with both parties at times.

“...Politics is a spectrum of your party and I feel like most people are somewhere in the middle, but don’t realize it,” Desaulniers said. “I’m somewhere in the middle. I’m a registered Republican. I like to say I’m fiscally on the right and socially on the left.”

To connect with young voters, Desaulniers has started planning an introductory politics program that would involve local politicians explaining how to get involved in politics, provide insight on various offices and educate anyone interested in gaining



Republican candidate for mayor of Windham, 19-year-old Hailey Desaulniers. Desaulniers is a 2024 E.O. Smith graduate who plans to pursue her Registered Nurse (RN) license at Three Rivers Community College.

ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR SZREJNA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

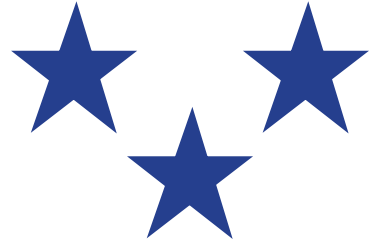
a stronger understanding of local government.

This idea was fostered by Desaulniers, who plans to pilot the program. There is no official date set as the program seeks approval from the Windham Town Council and Republican Town Committee. Desaulniers is running

against incumbent Democratic Mayor Tom DeVivo this November, as reported by WFSB.

The election will be on Nov. 4. Early voting opens today, Oct. 13, and will be available for residents until Nov. 2.

More information on Desaulniers’s campaign can be found on her Facebook page.



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ACROSS

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- 7 Quick and nimble
- 11 ___ Lock: PC key
- 14 Starting squads
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- 16 CBS forensic franchise
- 17 Hip-hop dance move
- 18 "Dream a Little Dream" singer
- 20 Home project initials
- 21 Thumb drive ports
- 23 Asian grocery chain
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- 28 ___ beer float
- 29 Pep talk target
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- 36 Part of a superhero costume
- 39 Soccer great Hamm
- 40 Daily paper in the Windy City
- 44 Nashville awards org.
- 45 Clock toggle
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- 50 Where to find "Campbell's Soup Cans" in NYC
- 52 Fast-casual Chinese restaurant chain
- 58 ICU hookup
- 61 Wet and squirmy
- 62 Genetic messenger molecule
- 63 One option at a fork in the road, and an apt description of 18-, 24-, 40-, and 52-Across
- 65 French cake
- 68 Sports doc's scan
- 69 ___-steven
- 70 Draw out
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- 73 Stinging weed

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- 1 Mary J. Blige's music genre

- 2 Etsy business
- 3 "Bye now"
- 4 Sun shade?
- 5 Actress Thurman
- 6 Bogus
- 7 Lively Afro-Brazilian dance
- 8 Suffix with proto-Turntable letters
- 10 "You'd think so, but ..."
- 11 Org. covered by ESPNU
- 12 Cold War initials
- 13 Fine spray
- 19 Nav. rank
- 22 "Friends" or "Girlfriends"
- 25 Lightweight clog
- 26 Hawaiian coffee district
- 27 Harbinger
- 30 Snowball pile, say
- 31 Stretched the truth
- 32 Soften
- 33 Emails discreetly
- 34 [Sigh]
- 35 "Glass Onion" director Johnson
- 37 Egyptian cobra
- 38 Beat with one's fists
- 41 Make a profit

- 42 Pack (down)
- 43 Vowel-shaped beam
- 48 Practice in the boxing ring
- 49 Young bird of prey
- 51 Gas with the symbol O
- 53 Put off
- 54 Health insurance giant
- 55 Put up
- 56 Mollusk that's a symbol of slowness
- 57 Pan fry
- 58 Some early PCs
- 59 "Up in the Air" Oscar nominee Farmiga
- 60 Fly, in fly-fishing
- 64 Actress Longoria
- 66 Blonde brew
- 67 ___ for tat

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

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10/13/25

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By Ginny Too

10/13/25

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Solution to Saturday's puzzle

10/13/25

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

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.

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Sunset Fest Returns to Student Union Terrace



Students gather for the yearly SUBOG Sunset Fest on the Student Union lawn on Friday, Oct. 11, 2024. Everyone came out to support the six-band line-up.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF MERCER FERGUSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Thaddeus Sawyer**

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Hundreds of students braved the cold to gather on the Student Union lawn on Thursday, Oct. 9, for the Student Union Board of Governors' (SUBOG) annual Sunset Fest concert.

Four indie artists from across the state took over the Student Union terrace between 6:30 and 9 p.m., giving a glimpse at the talent that can be found close to and on the UConn campus.

"I think people underestimate Connecticut bands, and I did too when I first went to my first show," said Evan Elmore, the vice chair of music relations for SUBOG. "I'm surprised almost every time I go to a show."

Sunset Fest began as a series of concerts held near Horse-

barn Hill in 2022, but switched to a single yearly event in 2024.

Lawn chairs and blankets provided by SUBOG were quickly used up by attendees as they prepared for the beginning of the show. SUBOG also handed out Sunset Fest branded merchandise. Dude's Donuts, a staple of UConn football games at Rentschler Field, was also set up near McHugh Hall, giving away free warm apple cider donuts to those who had checked in at the event.

Singer-songwriter Garrett Moore kicked off the night, blending distorted and acoustic sounds in a three-guitar attack. Though his studio releases mainly feature him solo with layered acoustic guitars, Moore benefitted from a three-piece backing band that drew out grunge influences to go along with country and indie rock.

One of the highlights from his performance was a 30-second rant from his drummer about the movie "Whiplash" during the intro to the final song, which got the crowd cheering.

Moore was followed by Marko Katra, the only solo performer of the night. Influenced by both indie rock and country, Katra played a mix of covers, including "Upside Down" by Jack Johnson and songs by country artists Zach Bryan and Noah Kahan, as well as originals from his first extended play.

"I'm so thankful that SUBOG actually takes the time and effort to plan events like this," said Katra. "I had a lot of fun."

A UConn student himself, the guitarist kept an audience, which featured many of his friends and supporters, engaged throughout his entire

set and drew a sizeable crowd to greet him after the show. The crowd sang along to the chorus of his song "Growing Dying" in his first ever live performance of the song. Katra, who is working on a second EP that he hopes to have out around Thanksgiving, also talked about how it feels to see the effort he puts into his music career begin to pay off.

"You know, as a musician, you work really hard, not only just to write songs but also to plan these sets to learn and practice," said Katra. "Just to see your hard work pay off, it feels really good."

The Vinteros, the first band of the night, played third. Characterized by reverb-tinted guitars and mid-song tempo changes, the four-piece crossed genres throughout each song. The indie rock group demon-

strated progressive, punk and even Britpop influences and expertly navigated through each style. Their heavy covers of "Supersonic" by Oasis and "Ain't No Rest for the Wicked" by Cage the Elephant contrasted nicely from earlier, softer originals like "Maria."

The night was closed by Ever So Slightly in their debut live performance. Lead singer Serreen Zei, a singer-songwriter, was originally advertised to be performing solo but was joined by her new band for their debut gig. Influenced by 90s alt rock, their performance encapsulated SUBOG's goals for the event.

"I think any good live music is always a blessing," said Elmore. "Because we have the resources, I think it's just our duty to support UConn artists and local artists at big stages in big events."



YELLOWCARD Returns After Nine Years with 'Better Days'

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab**
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Pop punk band Yellowcard is best known by their hit song and album “Ocean Avenue” from 2003, an anthem for many emo and alternative people in the 2000s and 2010s. Now, the music’s become nostalgic.

After releasing their self-titled and supposed final album in 2016, the band hinted at returning with an album of softer renditions of their songs produced by ambient project Hammock in 2024. Fans would have to wait one more year for some new material.

The result of this is “Better Days,” produced by Travis Barker of fellow pop punk band Blink-182, which was released on Friday, Oct. 10. Barker also played the drums for this album.

The title track could serve as both nostalgic and inspiring for those who grew up with pop punk and emo music, with lyrics about making an effort to live a better life even if you’re scared of change. In a sea of pessimism in emo music, a message like this is important. Sonically, the violins were a great addition and the drums at the end were so good it should have had an extended outro instead of ending prematurely.

“Take What You Want” is annoyingly repetitive and formulaic. The stadium “ohh” sounds at the beginning didn’t help either. It’s not that bad, but not



A black-and-white photo of pop punk band Yellowcard posing against a brick wall. The band created hit song and album “Ocean Avenue.”

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @YELLOWCARD ON INSTAGRAM

something to return to considering there’s better songs on this album.

“Love Letters Lost,” featuring Matt Skiba of punk rock band Alkaline Trio, is easily one of the best songs on the album. The guitar arpeggios are really fun and reminiscent of pop punk band Rise Against’s “Paper Wings” to a certain degree. The opening lyric of “Are you a vampire? / Or are you just a good liar? ‘Cause I don’t know

how you sleep at night” is scathing and surprisingly potent. The theme of the love letters from this past romantic interest being lost could be a symbol of moving on from a relationship and gaining independence; it’s a fun breakup song about lost love.

The violin makes a return on “honestly i” with upbeat and energetic drums and guitars to accompany it. There’s a slight amount of autotune on the vocals that is obvious in certain

places, making it hard to discern if it’s intentional or not. It’s another fun song all things considered, but a tad repetitive.

“You Broke Me Too” features pop rock superstar Avril Lavigne in a duet. This song is catchy but it’s even better with Lavigne’s harmonization. At this point in the album though, the fast-paced nature of these songs starts to make the listener exhausted.

“City of Angels” gives the au-

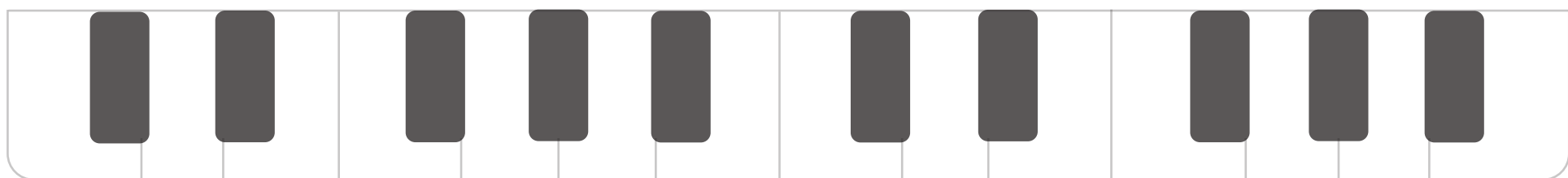
dience a well-needed breather from the back-to-back fast and energetic songs. This song is super pleasant with its more electronic-based production and vocals about the temporary nature of life and getting into different states of mind.

“Bedroom Posters” seems like an angsty song simply about ripping bedroom posters from your wall, but it’s also about letting go of the past and making something new from it as well as becoming confident in your identity. There’s something to say about the lyric “Don’t say those days are over / I’m restless lately / just medicate me,” likely showing signs of depression and anxiety. Still, the protagonist isn’t giving up but instead persevering. This song also has some of the best guitar work on the entire album and it’s so pleasant to listen to.

“Skin Scraped” is another contender for the best song on the album with “Love Letters Lost,” oddly serving as a sort of direct parallel to it with how vocalist Ryan Key sings “I’m never letting go of you again” like how the love letters were let go of. The bass finally gets its time to shine in the mix. Furthermore, the chorus is one of the catchiest hooks on the entire album.

“Better Days” is a grower admittedly, but you could listen a lot worse in the pop punk scene than this album by bands contemporary to Yellowcard’s original run. There’s room for improvement for this album, but Yellowcard still has the pop punk spirit.

Rating: 3.5/5



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

QUEEN JADWIGA, ACTUALLY, I THINK YOU MEAN KING

by **Isabella Kulawik**
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Dzien Dobry everyone! For This Week in History today, we’re going back to Poland for a less depressing tale and one of my favorite moments in history, the coronation of King Jadwiga. On Oct. 16, 1384, the Polish people welcomed nine-year-old Jadwiga to serve as their monarch after arduous deliberations of who would succeed to the throne. You’ll notice that I say king — Jadwiga was the first female to rule Poland as a monarch and was given the title of king to prevent power from being usurped by her future husband, #badass. Now buckle up, because we are about to get into the absolute headache of 14th-century Eastern European politics, and trust me, it’s a doozy.

Let’s start simple: King Louis I of Hungary had three daughters and quite a lot of countries. He ruled over Hungary and later Poland after his uncle, King Casimir III, died without

any successors. At the time, the Polish nobility never truly acknowledged his authority — I mean, who really would want some random Hungarian king ruling over them? — but they were receptive to one of his daughters reigning as monarch. The plan of inheritance was for each daughter to have a portion of the pie. Catherine, the eldest, was set to rule over Hungary, Mary planned on ruling Poland and Jadwiga, the youngest, was set to marry into the Holy Roman Empire for a fruitful alliance. This plan eventually went kaput, since Catherine passed at the age of seven, which is where things start getting interesting.

King Louis I ended up dying in 1382, which left a lot of thrones up for grabs. Mary set up shop in Hungary with her mother, Elizabeth, acting as regent to prevent power from reaching her husband, Sigismund of Luxembourg. Meanwhile, Jadwiga began her journey to Poland and, upon arriving, was welcomed despite the two years of infighting and squabbling that led to her coronation.

The beginning of her reign was controlled mostly by her advisors. While she was acclaimed for her intelligence and could read and write in multiple languages, that didn’t change the fact that she was placed in charge of a foreign country at the age of TEN. Additionally, another small complication arose: She was betrothed from infancy to William of Habsburg. Now, the noblemen of Poland did not like this, as they were concerned that William would try to take control of their country. Instead, they opted for the union of Jadwiga with Jogaila, the pagan Grand Duke of Lithuania. This was a difficult decision for Jadwiga



King Jadwiga of Poland, the first female monarch of Poland. Jadwiga was crowned on Oct. 16, 1384, at nine years old, and was given the “king” title to stop a future husband from taking her power.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PEXELS



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

as she had allegedly developed feelings for William, and the marriage to Jogaila would be for purely political motives. I would argue that she was a pre-teen and probably didn’t really develop strong feelings for anyone, but would have much rather married someone closer in age, like 14-year-old William, than someone 23 years her senior. Gross. Ultimately, after consulting with Jesus Christ, Jadwiga decided to marry Jogaila.

The marriage worked out to be rather advantageous, as it founded the centuries-long union between Poland and

Lithuania while also meeting Jadwiga’s goal of spreading Catholicism. The couple served as co-rulers, with Jogaila acting more as the prince consort to Jadwiga’s reign over Poland. As she matured, Jadwiga relied less and less on her advisors and was regarded as a great ruler. She was known as a “founder of churches, monasteries, a patroness of intellectuals, and protector of the poor, the weak, and the abandoned.” She is even considered a cofounder of Jagiellonian University for donating her personal wealth upon her passing. She died at the young age of 25 due to complications

in childbirth and her newborn daughter, Elizabeth Bonifacia, did not survive long either. I often wonder what she could have done with more time.

Over the centuries, she has served as an icon for the Polish people, with much of her story shrouded in the myth of the miracles she performed. In 1997, she was canonized as a saint by Pope John Paul II, and she is still praised for her short but impactful era of leadership. Today, you will find her portrait in the Royal Castle of Warsaw, the only woman to have been painted alongside the long line of Polish Kings.



Life

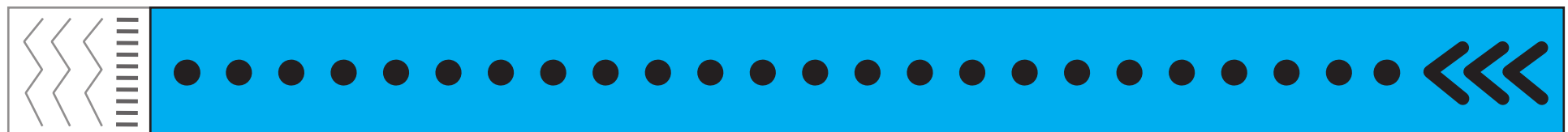
>>> “after the sun goes down”

KHALID RELEASES NEW 17-TRACK ALBUM



The cover of Khalid's new album, “after the sun goes down.” The album was released on Friday, Oct. 10.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @THEGR8KHALID ON INSTAGRAM



by Michelle Pawlos
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Khalid is back with a new album, which he describes as a parallel to his debut “American Teen,” his most famous release. “after the sun goes down” was released on Friday, Oct. 10, and is his first album as an openly gay man. This review will include a brief overview of each song and which ones I think will be most successful.

The album opens with “Medicine,” a catchy and upbeat song. With Khalid’s amazing vocals presented, this song is great to listen to when you want to get yourself into a better mood. It’s a track I can see becoming popular with fans.

“in plain sight” offers a similar vibe, as it’s also very upbeat. It is a shorter song and a bit fast, almost as if it’s sped up. The ending is very interesting, but it feels somewhat disconnected from the rest of the song and transitions a little awkwardly.

Continuing with “nah,” this one is another that I can see fans really enjoying. I really liked the electric guitar at the end and would love it if it were used more in the song, as it adds some variety. All of these songs so far have focused on a love interest.

With track four, “impulsive,” and track seven, “tank top,” I was a little more disappointed. Nothing interesting really stood out to me with these. I would’ve preferred to see him take more risks with some songs.

My favorite track is “out of body,” especially because of its standout intro, sampling “Outrageous” by Britney Spears and using more unique compositions. This one is for early 2000s pop music fans. I could see this one making it on the radio and being played regularly; it’s catchy, and I loved its musical elements.

“whenever you’re gone” is another song that deserves radio airtime. I found it more interesting and an enjoyable switch-up from the other songs on the album. I especially thought that the vocals in the second verse were a pleasant addition as it offered something new to the song

and showcased Khalid’s talent even further.

Moving on to “please don’t call (333),” this is one more very fast-paced song. Khalid has outstanding vocals, and I wish they were used more, which is not as easy in fast-paced songs. “dumbstruck,” on the other hand, showcases them very well. I can imagine people listening to this song while getting ready to go out somewhere.

“rendezvous” is one song that had a lot of potential. The pre-chorus was good, and I wish it had carried that feeling throughout the song. It’s still a good song, but it wasn’t one of the top tracks of the album for me.

As I mentioned before, Khalid compared this album to “American Teen,” and I can really see those similarities in the song “true.” It gives off the vibe of older Khalid songs that fans of the “American Teen” album would enjoy. It’s still upbeat, but not as fast-paced as so many of the other songs on “after the sun goes down.”

The following two tracks, “instant” and “momentary lovers,” are the album’s more forgettable songs. At this point, I was looking for something new to stand out, whether it was the lyrics, the vocals or the beat, but nothing did.

“yes no maybe” flows nicely and is another one that uses more vocal variety. This is another one I see many fans enjoying, but it doesn’t quite reach the level of success of other songs on the album.

“angel boy” is very simple but carries a lot of meaning. This is the first track on the album where Khalid uses male pronouns to describe a love interest. Given that he has been openly gay for less than a year, this song is more personal.

“hurt people” is the longest song on the album and is my second-favorite. It’s a slower song, which made it stand out more to me. I felt like the lyrics were more meaningful and personal, especially in places such as, “And like a wilted flower that loses life / I crawl into my shadow and then I hide.”

The album concludes with



R&B singer-songwriter Khalid posing with the vinyl record of his new album. The album contains 17 tracks.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @THEGR8KHALID ON INSTAGRAM

“nobody (make me feel),” which I found to be a strong and memorable ending to “after the sun goes down.” A lot of parts of the song reminded me of a song that would play in the club, which

was also a nice change from the rest of the album.

Khalid proved to be in his prime with this album, where his musical inspiration seemed at its peak. Some songs are too

similar, which brings down my final rating. However, coming up with a 17-song album is already difficult as it is, and fans will not be disappointed.

Rating: 3/5



Opinion

The Daily Campus

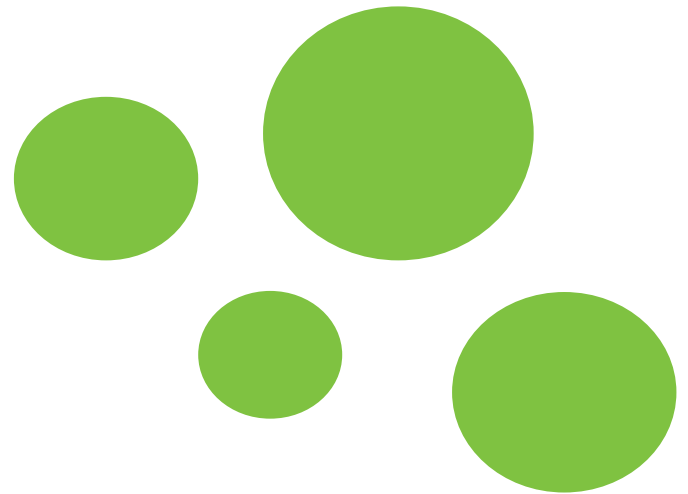
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The alt-right affinity to anime

by Robert Giering
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In the extremist right spheres of the internet on platforms such as 4chan and more recently X, you might expect propaganda to take a certain form. There are classically fascist themes such as glorifying masculinity, violence and war, scapegoating a nation's failures or perceived moral deterioration by a fabricated enemy within. While these are still prominent in alt-right media, there is a more contemporary anomaly in modern fascism. Ethno-nationalist myths, antisemitic conspiracies and fascist rhetoric are being juxtaposed by images of anime girls. This phenomenon is both widely documented by extremist watchdogs such as the Global Network on Extremism and Technology (GNET) and the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD). So, why do the alt-right and a seemingly unrelated cartoon style coincide on online spaces?

The roots of the alt-right affinity for anime partially derives from anime itself and its origins in Japan, which has a series of cultural norms that make it appealing to the alt-right. This includes normalized racial homogeneity, a government heavily invested in the population's health and a growing xenophobia towards outsiders. During the early 2000s in Japan, a wave of imported Korean culture reminiscent of the 1960s' "British Invasion" in the U.S. invoked a nationalistic response. The marginal Japanese alt-right attached themselves to contemporary Japanese entertainment, like anime, during a time of Korean cultural influence. There began the connection between the alt-right and anime in early Japanese anime chat boards, which became cesspools of nationalist sentiments.

The most notable example of this was a site named 2chan, which served as the first major intersection of platforms between the online anime community and the alt-right pipeline. 2chan's unmoderated algorithm rewarded users to post sensationalist or controversial statements, all the while protecting users from consequences by allowing anonymous posting. This essentially created a competition of who could farm

the most engagement from hateful rhetoric. 2chan's chat boards quickly devolved into an echo chamber of these deplorable posts from the alt-right. In the United States, an English chat board modeling itself off of 2chan, named 4chan, was soon created for the purpose of giving western fans the same type of space to discuss anime online. As they replicated the same anonymous model, this would carry the echo chamber effect with it, despite the best efforts of moderators. Those who came onto the website to discuss anime would be exposed to alt-right ideology, most notoriously the thread "/pol/" or "politically incorrect."

The intersection of platforms does not completely illustrate why anime has been appropriated by the alt-right. There is also a significant parallel in the demographics of both the alt-right and the online anime community — men disengaged from society. This demographic of chronically online men is preyed upon by socially reactionary movements which promise brotherhood, power or validation such as online spaces like the manosphere or in-person paramilitaries like the Proud Boys or Patriot Front.

Using anime to depict fringe ideologies has become both a method of social signaling for these "extremist weeb" (a real term used by the GNET). For the extremists on a popular alt-right forum like 4chan, X or Reddit, using anime in their aesthetics is a way to both spread their alt-right perspectives, as well as receive a sense of social gratification by using a niche form of expression in their online circles.

From the perspective of alt-right movements, there are multiple advantages to incorporating anime into their propaganda. Using anime can be used as a recruitment method; it both appeals to the demographic they aim to radicalize and desensitizes people to the message. There is no telling where somebody enters or exits the pipeline, and it's not guaranteed that certain social factors will force someone into the pipeline. Anime is not dangerous, but the medium in which

it is leveraged against isolated individuals to radicalize them is detrimental to society.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

UConn, we want our dog back.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

by Alexander Renzulli
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In 2011, the world witnessed one of the greatest March Madness runs, not just in UConn history, but of all time. Kemba Walker put the Huskies on his back and had such an iconic performance that the term "Cardiac Kemba" is still thrown around in my household when unbelievable things happen. When the final buzzer rang out and UConn successfully beat Butler 53-41 to win their third national title, the Husky logo appeared on everyone's screen: a big, white, fluffy dog with a silly red tongue sticking out to its chin. Three years later, both the men's and women's basketball teams would go on to win the NCAA tournament, but when the time hit zero on both games, a different logo was plastered on the championship hats and shirts. It was a more geometric, aggressive looking husky — still blue, white and red, but more intimidating and sleek. This is the logo UConn uses today, and seven-year-old Alex hated this pup. It was a deviation from the more charismatic-looking dog that UConn had been using since 1981; alongside many others, I didn't enjoy the "scary" new logo made solely for athletic marketing reasons.

Today, I don't mind the contemporary logo as much. In fact, I think it's a clean redesign that encapsulates a strong and sporty "UConn Nation." Still, however, ask anyone on campus what their "top dog" is, and I guarantee you a fair sum will answer with the nostalgic Jonathan husky that was present when the UConn basketball dynasty began. Some might even say they prefer the "sad husky" from 1959 for its "derpy" nature. Alumni, employees, Connecticut residents and even current students who may not have even known what UConn was yearn for the old dog, and UConn's general lack of branding it more often is simply tragic.

On campus, the only way to see the nostalgic logo is by either going into the bookstore and purchasing some over-

priced vintage-looking piece of cotton or strolling through the Werth Family UConn Basketball Champions Center, which is almost completely exclusive to basketball players. The only clothing and paraphernalia I own that has the fluffy white dog on it is either from the era, thrifted or from a third-party vendor not affiliated with UConn.

People don't just want the old logo because it looks better, but because it evokes the sense of community that the University of Connecticut has brought them. "UConn Nation" is more than just a slogan to put on a T-shirt; it's a way of life for so many people. For my father, the old logo represents a small school in Connecticut's middle of nowhere that, through hard work and dedication, was able to get on the basketball map. To thousands of students, it is a community that allows for education, spontaneous fun and opportunity. The logo makes the university feel more like a community, not some corporate entity, and at the end of the day the new logo is a product of corporatism. In 2013, the logo was switched at the request of Nike so the athletics program could look more like a powerhouse school.

Furthermore, the logo represents a simpler time — an era where things perhaps didn't need to feel so serious and so aggressive all the time. I look at the happy dog that isn't even modeled after a real husky and remember a day in which our biggest struggles didn't feel so full of doom, but simply if Maya Moore could hit a shot. It's a representation of the ethos of the time, or at least the ethos we have conjured up in our minds. Why UConn doesn't hark back to the old logo baffles me.

No one is saying to get rid of the new dog, simply do more with the old. Return to those older days of juvenilia that we miss. An emblem on the chest pocket of a shirt or the sleeve of a jacket goes a long way. It would be a reminder that UConn cares, that it remembers its past and lives with it today.

Opinion

Photo of the Day |



UConn students spend a rainy Sunday indoors on Oct. 12, 2025. Students spent time playing games and relaxing. PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

QUALITY OVER QUANTITY: WHY MEDIA SHOULD SLOW DOWN

by Victoria Hancock | CONTRIBUTOR | SHE/HER/HERS | vsh23002@uconn.edu

When discussing the greatest songwriters of our generation, Taylor Swift's name is always in the debate, and for good reason. Swift's musical popularity morphed her into a cultural phenomenon, practically worshipped wherever she walks. The release of her 12th studio album, "The Life of a Showgirl," was highly anticipated, with countless Swifties waiting until midnight on Oct. 3 to be the first to listen to the newest addition to Swift's repertoire. But many of her devoted fans were left highly disappointed. The lyricism severely lacked in comparison to what she previously delivered, which begs the question: What happened to Taylor Swift?

In recent years, society has been badgering creators for more content more often, resulting in artists placing quantity over quality, decreasing turnaround rates of new albums, movies and TV episodes. Swift usually comes out with new albums on a two-year cycle, with each album containing around 13 songs. However, the turnaround for her most recent albums, "The Tortured Poets Department" and

"The Life of a Showgirl," was only 18 months with a total of 43 songs between the two, almost double the number of songs typically produced in two albums. While Swift's albums "folklore" and "evermore" both released in 2020 with 17 tracks each, they were well received and regarded among her best work. However, this was still a potential sign of burnout from the fast-paced production turnaround.

It's not just Swift and the music industry beginning to prioritize quantity; film and television have also been shifting away from the typical format. Marvel Studios, which once produced the most anticipated films of the year, has been relegated to a disappointing franchise past its prime. After "Avengers: Endgame," Marvel pushed out movies left and right, using all their intellectual property to find their next blockbuster. None of these fast-produced movies stuck, condemning the studio that once served as the blueprint for success to being the butt of everyone's joke.

On the television front, showrunners left behind the weekly ep-

isode schedule for binge-culture, with entire seasons dropping all at once. Viewers now churn through entire seasons of shows in one night then have to wait for years for the next season. The art of the cliffhanger and anticipating the season finale essentially died for the instant gratification of having every episode all at once.

Even though all forms of media seem to be shifting to provide quantity over quality, people still aren't satisfied. Despite constantly begging for quicker releases, reactions to fast turnovers typically point out the flaws in production and how they dropped the ball. So, what do people want? Do they want a good quality production that takes the time it needs? Or do they want rushed, sloppy content thrown at them to ingest and spit out again? I believe that, deep down, we crave high-quality productions, but the current obsession with short-form content has convinced us otherwise. The rise of TikTok and other short video models such as Instagram Reels or YouTube Shorts brought about a deluge of fast-paced, fast-released

content. Younger generations "doomscroll" by burning through hours of brainless content, each video no more than a minute each, reflecting a trend of consuming media just to consume and not to learn or evolve.

Regardless of this shift, there is still hope for quality media. Some of the biggest recent celebrities have begun to ditch or call out the quantitative media dominating the scene. For example, pop icon Chappell Roan told Vogue in an interview that her much anticipated second studio album "doesn't exist yet." She stated, "It took me five years to write the first one, and it's probably going to take at least five to write the next." Roan is known for tackling societal structure, and her statement brings to light the problems with the current culture. The creative process takes time, and when given the proper breathing room, people create media that changes lives and becomes ingrained in a generation's culture. Roan putting her foot down and taking the time to make music she is proud of will hopefully spur other creators to follow in her foot-

steps, serving as a beacon of quality.

The return of weekly episodes in television is also a positive sign. The final season of "The Summer I Turned Pretty" was a cultural phenomenon that enveloped every inch of social media, reaching people that had never even seen an episode. A significant portion of this spread came from the weekly episode format, allowing viewers to discuss and anticipate what would happen. This furthered the show's impact and indicated the episodes were high in caliber, since the audience had to be — and was — retained each week.

Wherever media heads, it is important that content takes time to develop. Entertainment provides a gateway to cognitive development, teaching life lessons and how to grow as a person. If quantity continues to prevail, these messages will be lost, leaving only shallowness with no real purpose. Quality is necessary for us as a society to progress away from being monotone slates devoid of thought. So, take your time, artists. It's worth it.

Turn Down the Lights: WHY UCONN NEEDS CLEARER SKIES

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Look anywhere across campus and you'll see Horsebarn Hill — the grassy knoll rising over the University of Connecticut's skyline. It's one of UConn's gems, providing an almost completely unobstructed view of the night sky. A student can gaze up at the faint outline of the Milky Way, watch shooting stars or identify countless constellations. But Horsebarn Hill is an anomaly; enveloping the rest of UConn is a harsh fluorescence that blankets the campus. Beyond mere aesthetics, this artificial light demonstrates a much more serious issue: UConn's growing role in light pollution. This excessive glow harms the environment, student health and financial well-being — and must be taken care of.

Despite the omnipresent glow of UConn's light pollution, the campus has been slow to address it. Campus administration may point towards its installation of covered lights around Mirror Lake and a select few of the university's sports fields as proof of their effort to end light pollution. However, these mea-

sures have been largely ineffective, with the current model of covered lights still leaking light upwards. Worse, the majority of streetlights on campus are still completely uncovered, creating wide halos of light in the night air. Late-night stadium lights are another offender, slicing through the night and flooding the campus horizon. A single stadium light can produce over 160,000 lumens, and UConn has over 24 on their sports fields alone. When left on, they overpower the night sky itself.

Yet the problem doesn't end with wasted electricity or washed-out stars. The light pouring out from Storrs affects everything it touches. It is easy to think of light pollution as a harmless aesthetic issue. In truth, the campus's unnatural glow affects UConn's health, ecosystem and finances. For students, these consequences can hit close to home. Research from National Geographic has revealed that constant nighttime artificial light affects circadian rhythms and natural melatonin production, the hor-

mone that regulates sleep. The results are familiar to many on campus: poor rest, headaches and high anxiety rates. Worse, long-term exposure has been linked to obesity, mood disorders and even higher cancer rates. UConn continues to worsen the issue through their continued installation of LED lights, seen throughout their dining halls, classrooms and parking areas. These lights are notorious for emitting blue wavelengths, causing UConn's restless nights to be even worse.

Wildlife pays the price as well. Light pollution disorients birds' ability to navigate and orient themselves, causing millions of bird deaths every year. As a state that falls along a major avian migration route — over 1.2 million birds flew over Connecticut last week — we have an obligation to protect the safety of that route. Insects are also lured in by lights, dying nightly by the thousands. This robs the ecosystem of important pollinators and of a major food source. When UConn floods the sky with light, it detrimentally affects the health of entire ecosystems.

Connecticut has started to acknowledge the issue as a whole, though its response is far from

enough. The state's new "Lights Out" bill requires government buildings to dim nonessential lights past the hours of 11 p.m., a simple and long overdue measure meant to cut costs and protect migrating birds. State buildings, however, make up only a fraction of buildings in Connecticut, meaning this bill has little impact. UConn does follow this to a degree, shutting off some classroom lights at night, but many fixtures remain on, especially outdoors. Given its limited scope, the bill has done little to create real change.

UConn can go beyond what the state has done. It can start by replacing its light fixtures with fully-shielded, conical lights that concentrate light downward, preventing any from escaping above campus. These lights would cut both glare and energy waste. The university could also install motion sensors and timers to dim lights in low-traffic areas, preventing unneeded light from being wasted after hours. This tech-

nology is already installed in some residence halls, such as Werth. It would not be a stretch to move it outdoors. As for UConn's stadium lights problem, the university could update its policy to require temporary standing lights to be used during late night practices instead. These portable lights would provide the brightness needed to keep UConn's athletes safe while cutting down on unnecessary light usage. Alternatively, downward-facing LED stadium lights could be installed, a solution already being pioneered by the U.S. Open. The university could also pursue Dark Sky Campus certification, joining schools across the country committed to protecting night skies. This move would highlight UConn's belief that sustainability should extend beyond the classroom, cementing it as a leader in collegiate environmentalism.

UConn must move to treat light pollution as a vital part of its climate and health policy. For the sake of both the university's student health and surrounding environment, it is time to turn the lights down. The truth is simple: Campus shouldn't outshine the stars.

Women's Soccer:

UConn and Marquette end in a draw after a down-to-the-wire match

by James Badeau

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On Saturday evening, the UConn women's soccer team took on their fellow Big East foe in the Marquette Golden Eagles.

Both squads had fresh legs going into Saturday, this being their first contest in seven days. UConn (7-3-2) is coming off a 1-0 win over Creighton. The Golden Eagles (6-3-3) are coming off a dominant 4-1 victory over DePaul.

UConn looked to hand Marquette their first loss in Big East play, as the Wisconsin-based team looked to improve their five-game unbeaten streak.

The match went back and forth, starting with a goal in the 10th minute by Chioma Okafor. Although it was not on the score sheet, freshman Ines Nourani set up this goal with a phenomenal backfoot pass between two defenders to redshirt freshman Se-Hanna Mars. Mars dribbled to the end line and sent it across to an open Okafor to put the ball in

the back of the net.

Just 15 minutes later, Marquette was fouled inside the box, and after VAR, the foul was confirmed to be a penalty. Megan Murray, a sophomore for Marquette scored the penalty kick, evening up the match at 1-1.

UConn went into halftime tied with Marquette, although the Huskies dominated the shot count, 10-2.

At the 59th minute, Marquette cleared the ball to an attacking junior, Emily Fix. Fix dribbled into the box past two Huskies, finding the back of the net, giving Marquette a 2-1 lead.

Marquette completely flipped the script from the first half, as they took control of possession ever since the early goal from Okafor. Compared to their two shots in the first half, they added seven more shots in the second half.

Husky fans should give credit to the UConn defense for holding down the line, as only three of the nine Golden Eagle shots were on goal.

Marquette was clinging to their 2-1 lead until the 74th



UConn womens soccer plays Marquette during a Big East battle in Storrs, Conn. on Oct. 11, 2025. The Huskies fought to the end, which resulted in a tie against the Golden Eagles.

PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

minute when Mars sent a shot in from roughly 35 yards out, hitting the bottom half of the crossbar. When Mars fired the shot, Okafor raced into the box to catch a potential ricochet. The senior leaped for the ball and put it past Marquette's keeper, Hailey Wade.

The energy inside Morrone Stadium was electric as Okafor knotted the game at two apiece.

UConn finished the night with 16 shots, six of which were on goal. Wade was able to hold it down in front of the net, as the Huskies were knocking on the door in the late stages of the match but could not break through to win.

The final whistle blew, and the match ended in a 2-2 draw.

With this draw, UConn sits third in the Big East (3-1-2),

with Marquette right behind in fourth (2-0-3).

Looking ahead, UConn heads to Indianapolis for a match against Butler on Wednesday. The Huskies return to Morrone Stadium on Oct. 18 to take on Villanova.

With the Big East tournament looming, every match is crucial for the defending champion UConn Huskies.

Colette's Commentary:

Aces complete finals sweep to win the WNBA Championship

by Colette Doyle

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The Las Vegas Aces clinched their third WNBA Championship in the last four years on Friday, Oct. 10. The Aces dominated the finals, winning in four straight games against the Phoenix Mercury, despite the beginning of the season, where they did not look like the top team. The Aces kicked off their 2025 campaign with a 5-6 record and dealt with multiple injuries. They turned their season around mid-season with 16 consecutive wins, pushing them to a dominant playoff run.

The Aces began the seven-game series against the Mercury with a close 89-86 victory on Friday, Oct. 3. A'ja Wilson and Dana Evans led the Aces each with 21 points. Wilson also racked up 10 rebounds and 5 assists in the game. In addition, Evans also picked up 4 steals.

Wilson struggled in the first half of the game but bounced back in the second half with 12 points in the final 14 minutes. Her beginning struggles allowed the Mercury to gain an early 10-2 lead. The win of the first game was truly a team affair as the Aces had 41 of their points coming from the bench. For example, Jewell Loyd was dominant coming off the bench, scoring 18 points.

Kahleah Copper, Satou Sabally and Alyssa Thomas led Phoenix. Cooper finished the game with 21 points, leading the team. Sabally followed with 19 points, followed by Thomas with 15 points. Sabally had the chance to tie the game in the last two seconds but missed a long 3-pointer.

The Aces took the lead in the series on Sunday, Oct. 5 with a 91-78 victory. Jackie Young led the team with 32 total points with 21 of those points scored in the third quarter. Young tied the career playoff high in points; however, Young fell short of the league's postseason quarter point record, which stays at 22 points. Loyd recently reached the record in 2021 when playing for the Seattle Storm against the Mercury. Wilson continued to dominate in the second game with 28 points, starting the game

off strong with 20 points in the first half.

Cooper, Sabally and Thomas continued to be the leaders for the Mercury in the second game. Cooper led once again with 23 points. Sabally followed close behind with 22 points. Thomas had 10 points but suffered foul trouble in the game.

The Mercury started off strong with 27 points in the first quarter but were unable to keep the momentum having a combined 24 points in the following two quarters. Their struggle allowed the Aces to go on a run, going into the fourth quarter with a 25-point lead, which gave them momentum to clinch the win.

The Aces increased their lead in the final series with a close 90-88 win over the Mercury in game three on Wednesday, Oct. 8 in Phoenix. Wilson made history in the game, marking consecutive games with 25 points and 10 rebounds. Wilson finished the game with 34 points, 14 rebounds and 3 blocks.

The Aces gained a 17-point lead in the game but later blew the lead to tie the game due to being outscored 29-14 in the fourth quarter. Wilson grabbed the win with a game winning jump shot in the final 0.3 seconds. Loyd and Young helped Wilson clinch the win. Young finished with 21 points and 9 assists. Loyd added 4 three-pointers in the first quarter, which gave the Aces early momentum. She finished with 16 points and 7 rebounds. Despite Mercury's strong performance in the fourth quarter, Wilson was able to deliver the win to the Aces.

The Aces successfully completed their finals sweep of the Mercury on Friday, Oct. 10 with a 97-86 win. Despite their loss, the Mercury went on an impressive playoff run starting with a first-round win against the defending champion, the New York Liberty. In the semifinals they continued their dominance, knocking off the No. 1 seeded Minnesota Lynx.

Phoenix struggled in the fourth game without Sabally, who was diagnosed with a concussion after game three. The Mercury also continued to be challenged by Wilson, who fin-

ished with 31 points, 9 rebounds, 4 assists and 3 blocks. Her dominant Finals performance gave her the Finals MVP title. Her performance allowed the Aces to lead the whole game with a 16-point lead by halftime.

With Aces continuing to dominate, the Mercury faced another struggle in the third game, when head coach, Nate Tibbetts was ejected due to a double technical foul for arguing with the officials. They gained some confidence back in the fourth quarter, bringing the Ace's lead to only 6 points. This was not enough, though, to take over the Aces.

The Aces finals win establishes them as a growing dynasty in the WNBA as they have racked up three finals wins in the last four seasons. It also establishes the regular season and finals MVP A'ja Wilson as one of the greatest of all-time.



A player on the Aces holding the championship trophy for the WNBA. The aces closed the final game out 97-86. PHOTOS COURTESY OF @LVACES ON INSTAGRAM

Sports

Photo of the Day | Running into next week



UConn women's soccer plays Marquette during a Big East battle in Storrs, Conn. on Oct. 11, 2025. The Huskies fought to the end, which resulted in a tie against the Golden Eagles. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Field Hockey:

Huskies take one of two, improve Big East record

by **Thaddeus Sawyer**
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UConn field hockey (6-6, 3-1) came into this previous weekend looking to build on the momentum of a two-game winning streak. They found mixed results as they beat Big East opponent Temple University (10-3, 2-2) 1-0 on the road on Friday, Oct. 10, but fell to No. 17 Yale University (9-2) on Sunday by an identical score in a shootout. The loss in the second game drops their overall record back to .500, but the win against the Owls leaves them tied for second place in the Big East with Old Dominion University.

The Huskies began their weekend in Philadelphia taking on Temple. After scoring 2 goals against Providence on Oct. 3, senior captain Julia Bressler continued her recent hot streak by netting a second-quarter penalty stroke that would stand as the game's only goal for either team. It was the second straight weekend in which the forward planted a penalty stroke for a score.

Despite scoring the game's sole goal, the Huskies got two less

shots on net than the Owls. UConn suffered a lack of scoring on the weekend as whole, but that wasn't felt in full consequence until Sunday's home matchup against in-state opponent Yale. After playing to a 0-0 tie through four quarters, the two teams played an additional pair of 10-minute periods but were unable to break the scoreless bind. UConn would go on to lose in shootouts for the second time this season, having previously fallen to St. Joseph's University in the same manner in their second game of the season.

UConn got off 6 shots on goal over the 80 minutes played and did not find the back of the net. Bressler got three shots off, but only one was on net. They were outshot 8-2 in overtime. They also missed all four shots attempted in the shootout. Bressler, Sol Simone, Lene Bunjes and Abby Davidson were all given opportunities but couldn't break through. Yale scored on their first and fourth attempts on shots from Kaitlyn Chang and Hettie Whittington, respectively. Yale goalie Amelie Schwarzkopf stood strong all day, recording

6 saves while letting nothing through.

Junior goalkeeper Natalie McKenna had a dominant weekend of her own, recording 5 saves in her first shutout of the season against Temple and another eight against Yale, not allowing a goal on the weekend until the shootout. After hitting a mid-season rough patch, McKenna seems to be back on track based on her performance over the past two weekends. In four games over that time span, she has a 90% save percentage and has stopped 18 shots.

Including Sunday's game against Yale, UConn has now entered a stretch of four home games. That includes a pair of contests next weekend against Georgetown University and Duke University. The Huskies will face the Hoyas (3-10, 0-4) in a Big East matchup on Friday, Oct. 17, at 1 p.m. before taking on the Blue Devils (8-4) on Sunday, Oct. 19, at noon. Both games will take place at Nancy Stevens Field at the George J. Sherman Family Sports Complex. Husky fans can also tune into the Duke matchup on UConn+.



UConn women's field hockey plays against Yale on Oct. 12, 2025, ultimately losing 1-0 in a shootout. Their record falls to 5-6, with their next game on Oct. 17 against Georgetown. PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

MEN'S SOCCER: GEORGETOWN USES LATE-GAME RALLY TO STIFLE UCONN 4-1

by **Tyler Lato**
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The UConn men's soccer team (7-3-3, 2-2-0) fell to No. 14 Georgetown (7-3-3, 3-0-1) on Friday night by a score of 4-1 under the lights of Shaw Field (Washington, D.C.). Despite the Huskies' early lead, their defense could not hold on, allowing four unanswered goals to their fellow Big East Conference Rivals.

Only 14 minutes into the game, senior forward and Bucknell transfer Charlie Holmes put the Huskies in the scoring column, drilling the game's inaugural goal to give the Huskies a 1-0 lead. Assisting Holmes were midfielder Max Gummesson and defenseman Elijah Hope.

This 1-0 margin proved to be short-lived. 2024 First Team All-Big East midfielder Zach Zengue struck the ball just outside the reach of UConn goaltender Kyle Durham on a penalty kick, tying the game.

Following Zengue's successful penalty kick, both defenses kept each other's offenses in check for almost the entirety of the game, with both teams remaining scoreless until the 75-minute mark.

Finally, Georgetown's Loukas Maroutsis fed an open Zengue, who found the back of the net to give the Hoyas a 2-1 lead, their first of the game.

The Hoyas continued to fire and once again proved to be successful. On another shot by Zengue, the UConn defense accidentally deflected the ball into its own net to bring the score to 3-1.

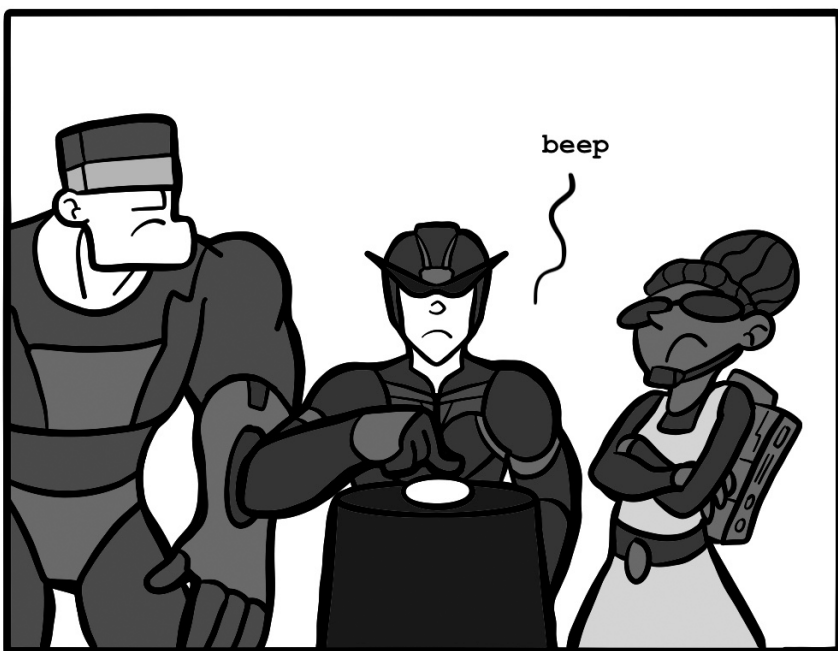
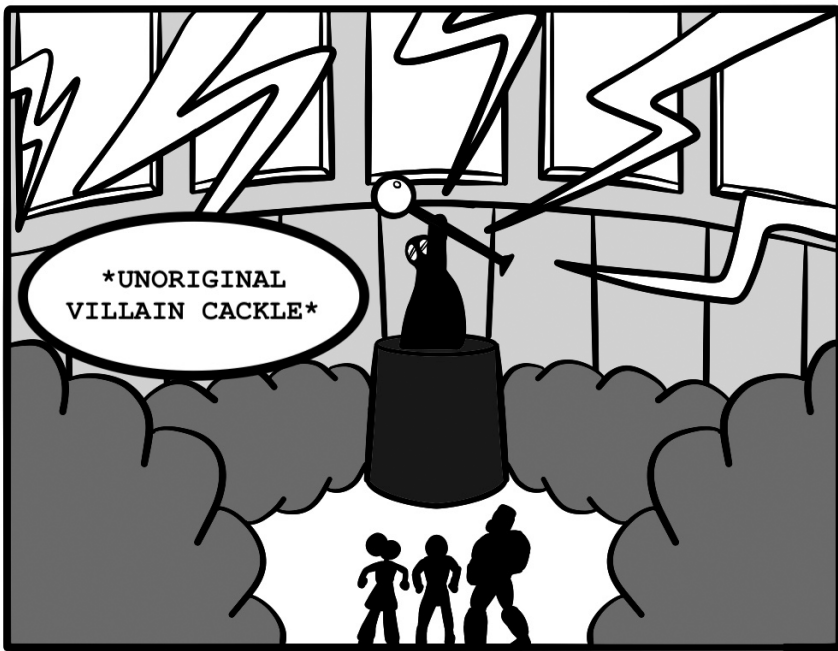
This mistake was costly. The Huskies were unable to recover, and another goal from Zengue put the game out of reach, sealing Georgetown's 4-1 decimation of the Huskies.

Georgetown goaltender Tenzing Manske was awarded the win in net, recording 3 saves from UConn's 10 total shots on goal. While UConn's Durham recorded nine respective saves himself, his effort was not enough to keep the Huskies in the game.

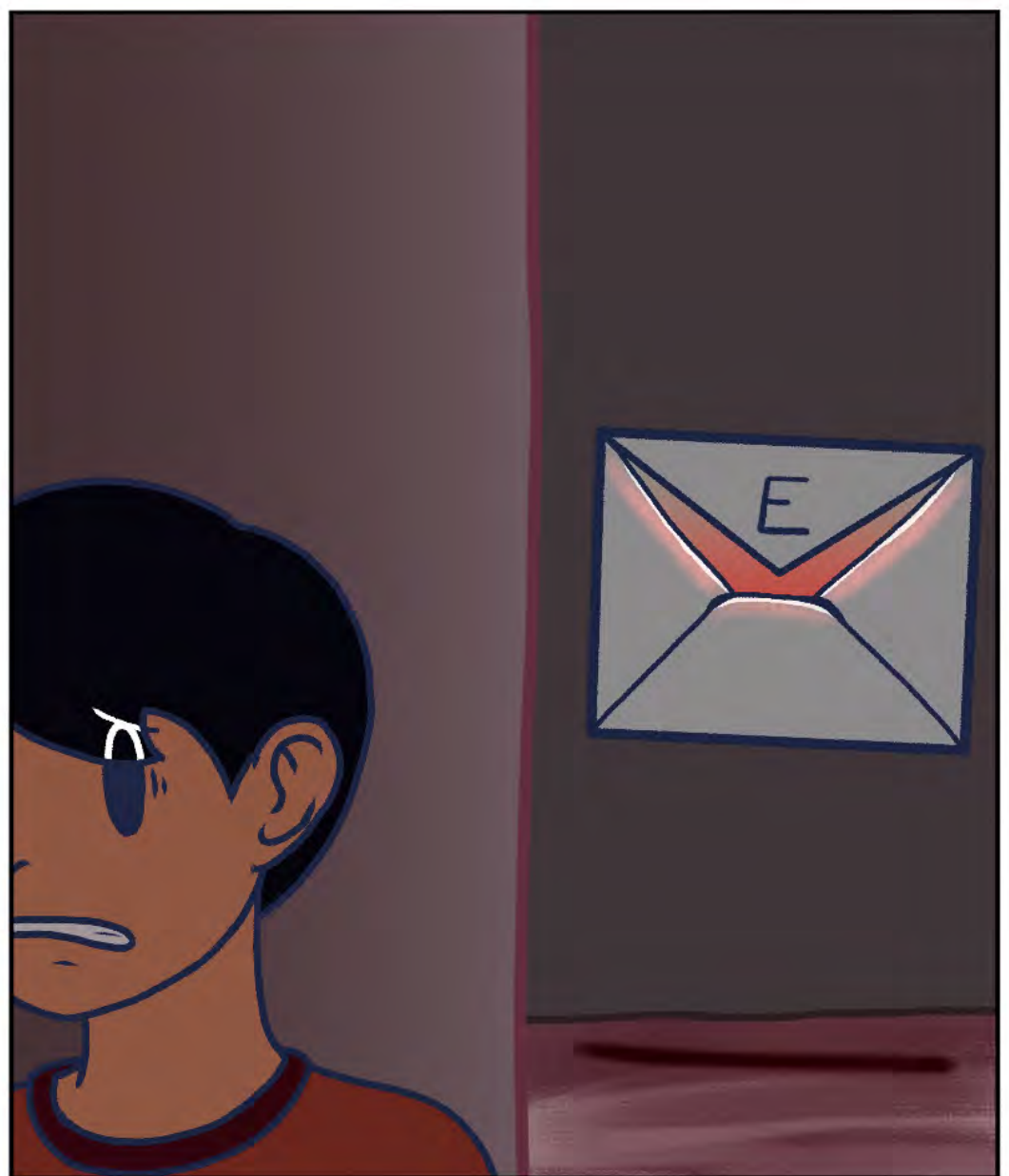
The loss places UConn as the fourth-ranked team in the conference's East Division, while the Hoyas retained their status as the division leader and one of the nation's best teams.

The Huskies look to rebound from their loss in a crucial Friday night homestand against Big East rival St. John's. Kickoff is slated for 7:30 p.m. at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium (Storrs, Conn.). A win will boost the Huskies upward in Big East standings, which is crucial as they vie for positioning in the upcoming conference tournament.

DAILY CAMPUS COMICS



COMIC BY ERIKA ECHEGOYEN, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY CHRISTIAN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY ALEXA PAPPAS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Sports

Women's Basketball: Storylines to watch during the Boston College scrimmage

by Jake McCreven

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Geno Auriemma was honest when asked if he had a plan for how he'll manage the rotation during Monday's scrimmage versus Boston College at Mohegan Sun Arena.

"Not yet, not yet," Auriemma said. "But we asked one of the players to write down how many minutes they thought all of the players should get."

Seems like something a 41-year veteran and 12-time national champion head coach would do as he constructs his first rotation of the season.

That player — who was not identified — went over the 200-minute limit in their allocation and subsequently turned the planning back over to Auriemma and the staff.

"No, we don't have a plan yet," Auriemma said as he grinned. "[We don't have a plan] to fit 260 minutes into 200 minutes, but we'll do our best."

An extra 60 minutes of rotational flexibility would be nice, especially considering it's the Huskies' first in-game action in 190 days and the roster is now Paige Bueckers-less, but 200 should suffice — it's still UConn basketball.

Below are some storylines to keep a tab on during Monday's scrimmage, which tips off at 2 p.m. on NBC Sports Boston and UConn+.

The starting five — who's the fifth?

Three starters return from last year's national championship team. Two of them, Azzi Fudd and Sarah Strong, are shoo-ins for maintaining those starting roles. Fudd is arguably the best pure shooter in the country and a future top draft choice while Strong is, well, Sarah Strong.

Jana El Alfy, who started 27 of the Huskies' 40 games last season, also returns, but is dealing with an injury (see below). She most likely won't start versus the Eagles but will be in conversations when she returns to full health.

Junior KK Arnold is in line to take the reins at point guard after coming off the bench for Kaitlyn Chen last year.

Sarah Williams ranked third in the Big 10 in scoring last year at Wisconsin (19.2) and is a decorated defender in the low post. She'll likely get the nod at the five.

That's four out of five. The fifth starter is Auriemma's joker.

Does he go with three bigs, playing Williams with El Alfy in the low post and Strong on the wing? Will he start Ashlynn Shade (who had been dealing with an injury) and Fudd together to bolster the three-point shooting? What about a mixture of the two; Williams and Strong down low and Shade and Fudd up top — that would be terrifying.

For Monday's sake (taking into account El Alfy's injury), it's safe to assume Arnold,

Fudd, Shade, Strong and Williams will comprise the starting lineup.

The point guard rotation

I referred to the point guard rotation as "paradoxically good" after watching the Huskies' first open practice of the season in Fairfield.

Arnold is a terrorizing on-ball defender. Kayleigh Heckel (USC) is a confident three-level shooter and distributor. Freshman Kelis Fisher can collapse a defense like a folding chair.

Yet they're all woven with two common threads: tempo and defense. All three can push the ball up the court and run in transition. All three can play sticky on-ball defense and create opportunities on the other end.

It'll be interesting to see how Auriemma rotates the three 5-foot-9 guards. Arnold is likely to start, but how long does she stay out there? Will Heckel be given the green light as a shooter right away? How does Fisher look in her first in-game action?

Sarah Strong's "whole 'nother level"

Auriemma said during the first media availability of the season that the biggest jump a player makes in college is from their freshman to sophomore season.

He doubled down on that Friday, telling the media that the former No. 1 overall recruit "just looks like a different person" who brought her game to a "whole 'nother level" this summer.

There is apparently a level above being an all-conference, all-tournament and all-America selection as a true freshman that plays alongside two of the country's best scorers in Bueckers and Fudd, and it'll be on display at 2 p.m. today.

Strong told the media that she spent the summer doing "guard things" to see the game from a guard's point of view.

Auriemma also praised Strong for her conditioning, her nutrition and her attempt at becoming a leader this summer.

Injuries

Three players were dealing with injuries during the Huskies' opening practice and first media availability.

Shade (hamstring) and El Alfy (calf) were both dressed but did not practice. Morgan Cheli (foot) was at an appointment but had not practiced fully all summer.

Auriemma seemed confident in Shade's availability for Monday and unsure — but optimistic — about El Alfy's. Cheli was ruled

out. "Jana [El Alfy] went a little bit today in practice, actually longer than I thought," Auriemma said. "So we'll see how she responds [Saturday]. But Ashlynn [Shade] for sure."



PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/ THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Basketball:

HUSKIES BEGIN THEIR OFFSEASON PREPARATION

WITH HALL OF FAME EXHIBITION

by Matt Dimech

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The University of Connecticut men's basketball team's preseason approach looks a little bit different this year.

After playing just one exhibition game a year ago, a charity

matchup against the University of Rhode Island, the Huskies are upping the intensity. They'll open their 2025-26 season at Mohegan Sun Arena on Monday night, renewing their former Big East rivalry with Boston College in the Hall of Fame Exhibition.

This is UConn's second year in a row participating in the event,

after cruising past Rhode Island 102-75 last October. This year, the focus is less on celebration and more about preparation, a lesson that head coach Dan Hurley and his staff learned the hard way last season.

"We're playing really hard exhibitions this year, which I think is going to have us more ready than we were last year for the beginning of the season," Hurley said. "We were not ready for Maui, and it showed with our performance there. Part of that was because we didn't schedule hard enough. Those types of games would have had us more ready for what we saw when we shared the floor with Memphis."

After dominating through an uncontested nonconference slate last year, the then-reigning national champions were stunned at the Maui Invitational. The Huskies went home after being dealt three straight losses, exposing glaring issues in last year's team.

The experience in Hawaii pushed Hurley to schedule a set of pre-season scrimmages against tougher opponents to expose any team weaknesses earlier on, rather than being surprised come November.

"Playing quality opponents tells you where you've got to get better," Hurley said. "And then we're going to get in front of two big atmospheres, which is going to help with the nerves come opening night."

Monday's game will be the first of UConn's two-game preseason slate; the team will also host Michigan State at PeoplesBank Arena on Oct. 28.

"Playing Boston College and Michigan State — I think those are two exciting teams, both teams that will do well in their respective conferences and great tests for us," fifth-year Alex Karaban said.

While the game won't count in the official record books, it will rekindle a historic New England rivalry that dates to their first meeting in 1918. UConn boasts the all-time advantage, with a head-to-head record of 55-35.

The Eagles were one of the original seven members of the Big East conference along with Connecticut, before leaving in 2005.

The two teams have only crossed swords once since their departure, when the Huskies picked up a 72-20 win in 2013. Now, over a decade later, they will once again meet on the hardwood.

Boston returns their leading scorer from last season, senior Donald Hand Jr. Last season the 6-foot-4 guard averaged over 15 points per game for the Eagles while shooting 37% from the three-point line, earning him the 2024-25 ACC Most Improved Player.

The Huskies will return 60% of their scoring from last year's team, with the likes of Karaban and juniors Solo Ball and Tarris Reed Jr. staying in the offseason.

This will be UConn fans' first opportunity to get a look at the team's new transfers like junior Silas Demary Jr. and fifth-year Malachi Smith, as well as their McDonald's All-American first-years Braylon Mullins and Eric Reibe.

"I think guarding the ball better starts at point guard with Silas, who's a taller point guard," Hurley said. "Malachi's got the ability to pressure the ball, and then obviously the guys that are returning. I think Braylon's got a chance to be a good defensive player because he's a serious guy and he's physically strong enough."

Perimeter defense was a major point of concern for last year's iteration of the team, which Hurley has impressed on both his returning players, who he chose to bring in during the offseason.

"I think we've got better individual defensive players," Hurley said. "We struggled mightily on the perimeter last year, literally at all three spots, with the exception of a healthy Hassan. We didn't get what we needed from anyone defensively on the perimeter, and that's including guys who were really productive on offense."

With the lessons of Maui still lingering, the Huskies will get an early start in their preparation as they look to return to the top of college basketball.

The tip-off is set for 7 p.m. and can be streamed on NBC Sports Boston and UConn+.



Alex Karaban shoots a 3-pointer against Georgetown. He shot is 200th 3-pointer at this game.

PHOTO BY MADISON HENDRICKS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS