

The Daily Campus



THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT SINCE 1896 • VOLUME CXXIX, NO. 24

Friday, October 3, 2025

Government shutdown, Rhode Island pushes back against 'Trump Grants'



The United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C. The building is currently closed due to a government shut down on Oct. 1, 2025. PHOTO COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

by **Mikayla Bunnell**
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Rhode Island lawmakers are pushing back against the Republican-led proposal to rename Workforce Pell Grants as "Trump Grants" as the government shut down on Wednesday, Oct. 1. The proposal was inside of a Republican-led Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriation bill, which has since been stalled in the Senate, leading in part to the government shutdown. On Oct. 1, in a press release on Sept. 1, the House appropriations committee said the renaming would "reflect [President Don-

ald Trump's] commitment to growing the American workforce and expanding opportunities for American workers." Workforce Pell Grants are a new addition to the Pell Grant program. They appeared as part of Trump's Big Beautiful Bill, signed into law on July 4, 2025. Starting July 1, 2026, students must meet the requirements of a federal Pell Grant and also be accepted to or enrolled in eligible career training programs in "high-skill, high-wage...in-demand industry sectors or occupations" to be eligible for a Workforce Pell Grant. Rhode Island congressmen Gabe Amo and Seth Magaziner released a letter on Sept. 23 opposing the name change, saying the grants should remain part

of the legacy of their namesake, Senator Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island. They claim the bill "attempts to rewrite and erase history" by renaming the grant. Pell was the longest-serving senator from the state, serving for 36 years. He was passionate about eliminating financial barriers to higher education, the letter said, which is why he championed the creation of the grants. "[Pell's] legacy lives on in the millions of students, many of them the first in their families to attend college, whose lives have been shaped by the opportunity that Pell Grants provide," the letter said. "Whenever Senator Pell was asked about his greatest achievement, he would always respond without hesitation: 'Pell Grants.'"

In 2024, 34% of undergraduate students in the U.S. received a Pell Grant according to the Education Data Initiative. 88% of Pell Grant funds go to public universities like the University of Connecticut. 77,065 Connecticut undergraduates received the grant, with an average of \$4,466 per recipient, according to the initiative. "Preserving Senator Pell's name on the program is not just about honoring the past, it is about protecting a future where every student, regardless of background, has the chance to dream big and achieve more," the letter said. As of now, the name change will not happen, as the bill has stalled in the Senate along with a number of other congressio-

nal spending bills. The government shut down at midnight on Wednesday because the Senate could not pass spending bills to keep federal agencies running. Appropriations bills must originate in the House according to Article I, Section 7 of the U.S. Constitution. When the bill is approved by the House, it makes its way to the Senate. Both houses can pass a bill with a simple majority — 51%. The bill must pass with the same exact language in both houses before it makes its way to the president's desk. The Senate adjourned Wednesday with no plan to reopen the government. Senators return on Friday to cast another vote on legislation to reopen the government for seven weeks.



Tick-borne illnesses rise across UConn campus

by **Cecelia Burnstein**
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Tick bites and tick-borne illnesses are rising at the University of Connecticut, and UConn Extension is seeking to reduce the risks associated with ticks and tick-borne diseases. With the expertise of Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (CVMDL), researchers are attempting to educate students on the fundamentals of ticks and how to protect themselves from the silent parasites. The "Protecting People and Animals from Tick-Borne Diseases" Fact Sheet provides "up-to-date, science-based guidance" for students and Connecticut residents to mitigate the risks from this rising threat. It was written by UConn Extension's new assistant extension educator for One Health, Sara Tomis, with the help of CVMDL staff Maureen Sims, Zeinab Helal and Holly McGinnis. "We live in a region where tick-borne illnesses are a considerable

concern for human health, including students," CVMDL told The Daily Campus. "We have observed that a considerable number of ticks tested by the lab in the last five years were carrying *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. Prevalence of Powassan virus, which is associated with impacts to the nervous and digestive systems, is also increasing in the state of Connecticut." Tick season is usually from early spring to late fall. However, ticks do not just disappear during dormant months. Driven by factors like climate change, the rise of tick bites has increased tick-borne diseases. As climate change worsens, some ticks are no longer going dormant during the winter, the CVMDL said. The symptoms of bites vary by species, and can include headaches, fevers, vomiting, neurological involvement and seizures. Ticks are most commonly found in tall blades of grass and provide an increased threat to those with animals, Tomis said.


"It is important to recognize that managing tick risk is something that requires a really integrated approach," Tomis said. "If students have pets, have a service animal or work with the horses or livestock within the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, they should be thinking about how they are working with those animals and working to reduce the risk of tick exposure to both those animals and themselves." CVMDL's process in tick research and testing starts with receiving the tick from clients and then identifying it, according to Sims. "If the client elects to, we can test the tick for pathogens that it's known to transmit. And then we report the results to our clients and then their veterinarians or doc-

tors, and they'll make the medical decisions based on our results," Sims said. "We just provide information and then other people make the decisions on what to do." 

A tick on a leaf. Tick-borne diseases have risen, which affects people and animals. PHOTO COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

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DC POSTER CONTEST
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News

HSO Pushes for Hindu Prayer Room at UConn

by Kaniz F. Sneha | CONTRIBUTOR | SHE/HER/HERS | mdz24004@uconn.edu

The Hindu Students Organization (HSO) at the University of Connecticut is leading the effort to have a separate Hindu prayer area in the Storrs campus, a process that has taken years to materialize. “Ever since HSO began, a long-term vision has been to

give Hindu students a prayer space,” HSO co-president Sreeja Terala said. “As the number of Hindu students increased, it became indeed something we started to push for, particularly since other religions have several spaces available in the campus where

students can practice in a safe and accepting environment.” Currently, UConn has multi-faith prayer rooms in places like McMahon Hall and Homer Babbidge Library. HSO, however, hopes to create a room particularly dedicated to Hindu practices and hopes

to construct a campus mandir (temple) in the long run. “We have on-campus churches, but Hindu students do not have that same permanent presence,” Terala explained. “It will not happen overnight, but we’re determined to make progress.” Terala said the work of HSO

this year has been experiencing good momentum due to its collaboration with the Undergraduate Student Government. USG President Andy Zhang and Vice President Haritha Subramanian have come out in support of the project, as well as Senator Tanya Sinha, who



The Hostel Prayer Hall at Sri Sarada College for Women in Salem, India. This an example of a typical prayer hall.

PHOTO COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

is also a member of the Indian Student Association. Other student organizations like Hindu Yuva, the Indian Student Association and cultural dance groups like ThundeRaas, Surya, Bhangra and Sanskriti have also supported the cause.

In the attempt to develop the support, the HSO and ISA distributed an interest form during their last mixer and distributed mango lassi refreshments to students. The form was not only responded to by Hindu students, but non-Hindu students also responded in support of it.

“The response has been spectacular,” Terala said. “The students of different faith and origin are on our side, which proves how well our community is built, and how significant the factor of inclusivity is.”

Terala also spoke about the financial challenge of the project. “Funding is one of the most important issues of making the prayer room work,” she said, “Past endeavors to purchase such a space have been unsuccessful due to lack of finances.”

HSO is presently joining forces with USG, local temples, alumni and community organizations across Connecticut in an effort to find enduring support.

“It is not only about getting the space, but it is about keeping it over time. It is a lifetime project and not a one-time event,” Terala said.

She added that the vision of the organization is also that the prayer room should be an inviting place that students can visit anytime, and especially during stressful times, exams, or personal occasions. The survey data gathered showed that more than 80% of the surveyed students were ready to volunteer to assist in the process of maintaining the space, which also demonstrates a high level of student engagement in the program.

For Terala, who grew up in Hyderabad, India, before moving to the United States, the initiative has a personal connection. “I was fortunate to find HSO as a family away from home,” she said. “The construction of

this prayer space is a matter of making a lasting impression at UConn — a place where Hindu students can exercise their faith, identify with their heritage and have a home.” HSO is already working

with the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, headed by Director Angela M. Eikenberry, and student leaders to get the project going. Although there has been no set deadline, the organizers are hopeful.

“It has been raised over the years but this time we are learning from the past and coming together as a community,” Terala said. “The support we’ve received gives us hope that we will make it happen.”

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DAILY CAMPUS CROSSWORD

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cold nuggets
 - 4 Fluffy accessory
 - 7 Bus. type
 - 10 "Last four digits" ID
 - 13 Some Argentine reds
 - 15 Lock insert
 - 16 GPS prediction that accounts for traffic
 - 17 Said, "Skipping school isn't a big deal," say?
 - 19 Iran neighbor: Abbr.
 - 20 Fails to mention
 - 21 Game cube
 - 22 Mother in a stable family?
 - 23 Philosopher Descartes
 - 24 Australian-themed amusement park?
 - 27 ___ table
 - 29 Online biz
 - 30 Berry touted as a superfood
 - 32 Crewmate of Sulu and Bones
 - 33 Unused vacation days, essentially?
 - 36 Learn backward and forward
 - 38 Laura Lippman genre
 - 39 Carrier renamed in 1997
 - 40 Says grace over, say
 - 45 Recession indicator?
 - 49 ___ Scotia
 - 50 Locale of the 2018, 2020, and 2022 Olympics
 - 51 Murmur
 - 52 Group of talking heads
 - 53 Word with school or party
 - 54 "I can't see through you!" and what's needed to complete 17-, 24-, 33-, and 45-Across?
 - 57 Not long. for this world?
 - 58 Airbnb alternative

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13			14				15			16		
17						18				19		
20						21			22			
23				24	25			26				
27				28				29				
			30			31		32				
		33	34				35					
36	37					38						
39							40		41	42	43	44
45				46	47	48			49			
50				51				52				
53				54			55	56				
57				58			59					
60				61			62			63		

By Alan Southworth

10/3/25

- 59 Whistle blower
- 60 High trains
- 61 Ed.'s pile
- 62 Having everything one needs
- 63 Go on to say

- DOWN**
- 1 Significance
 - 2 Less windy
 - 3 Paige known as the "First Lady of British Musical Theatre"
 - 4 Some drones
 - 5 Med. condition with repetitive behavior
 - 6 Fire proof?
 - 7 Sarge's superior
 - 8 Luka Doncic, for one
 - 9 Weep
 - 10 Not together
 - 11 Like a clear night
 - 12 With nothing to hide
 - 14 Data units
 - 18 Like half the numbers on a 21-Across
 - 22 The "Mo" of Motown
 - 24 Stomach woe
 - 25 Not on the rocks

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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

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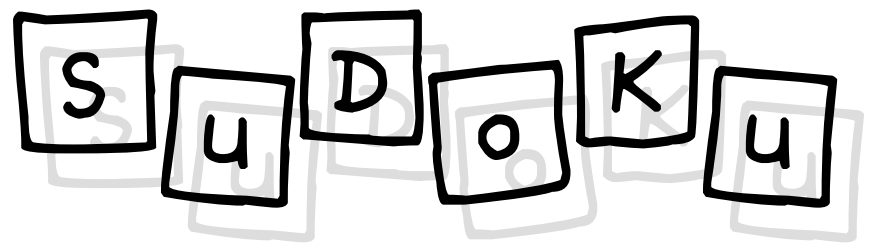
10/3/25

- 26 "You're important to us"
- 28 Big cat handlers
- 31 Cyclotron particle
- 32 "___ the tea!"
- 33 Romanov supporters
- 34 Turner memoir
- 35 Buckwheat noodle
- 36 Not set in stone
- 37 Just like always
- 41 Catch
- 42 Hermosillo's state
- 43 Leveled (out)
- 44 Like some peanuts and winter roads
- 46 Clicked images
- 47 Met Gala interview topics
- 48 Starter start
- 52 Scoffing sound
- 54 Not bright
- 55 E-file org.
- 56 Once named

Sudoku By The Mephram Group

Level 1 2 3 4

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



Solution to Thursday's puzzle

10/3/25

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

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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Life

A Guide to Staying Safe at College Parties

by Maanya Pande

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For many students, college parties are a rite of passage; they're opportunities to meet new people, de-stress and create lasting memories. But while they can be fun, there are always risks. Knowing how to protect yourself and your friends is essential before you go out in order to maintain your own safety. Here is my guide to staying safe at parties while still having a great time.

"A good rule of thumb is to leave with the same people you came with."

Go with a trusted group—and leave with them

A golden rule of college parties is to never go alone,

and for good reason. Arriving with a group of friends you trust ensures you'll have support if something goes wrong. Before heading out, make sure everyone is on the same page. Have a plan to stay together throughout the night and make sure everyone has a safe way home. A good rule of thumb is to leave with the same people you came with.

Keep your drink in sight
Unfortunately, drink tampering is a very real possibility at college parties. Always pour your own drink when possible and never accept an open cup from someone you don't know well. If you put your drink down, even for a minute, it's best to get a new one. These rules apply to all kinds of beverages, even if they're non-alcoholic. Staying alert and cautious keeps you in control.

Know your limits

If you choose to drink, pace yourself. Alternate between alcohol and water and avoid mixing different types of alcohol in one night. Eating before and during the party helps slow absorption. More importantly, listen to your body; if you start feeling off, don't push it. Remember: you don't need to drink to enjoy yourself at a party and saying "no" is

"More importantly, listen to your body; if you start feeling off, don't push it."

always an option.

Have an exit plan

Even really fun parties can sometimes take a turn. Maybe the crowd gets too rowdy, someone you don't trust shows up or you're just no longer in the mood. That's why it's essential

to have an exit strategy ahead of time. Whether it's arranging a rideshare, taking campus transportation or having a designated driver, knowing your way home before the night begins gives you peace of mind.

Use the buddy system

Parties often mean moving between crowded rooms or heading outside. If you need to leave to use the bathroom, grab food or get fresh air, bring a friend with you. The buddy system lowers the chances of getting lost in the crowd, winding up in unsafe situations, or being separated from your group.

Trust your instincts

Perhaps the most important rule of all: trust yourself. If something feels off, it probably is. Whether it's the vibe of the party, the way someone is acting toward you, or just a gut feeling, you don't owe anyone an explanation for step-

"Whether it's the vibe of the party, the way someone is acting toward you, or just a gut feeling, you don't owe anyone an explanation for stepping away or leaving."

ping away or leaving. Prioritizing your safety and comfort is never wrong.

College parties can be exciting and memorable, but the best memories are the ones made safely. By following these guidelines and surrounding yourself with people who also have your safety in mind, you can enjoy the social side of college while staying protected. Fun and safety do not need to be opposites, as long as you plan accordingly.



A group of people having a party. It's important to be aware of your surroundings and stay safe when attending college parties.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PEXELS

Dan Hurley Holds Book Talk at Student Union Theatre

by Thaddeus Sawyer

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UConn men's basketball head coach Dan Hurley appeared at the Student Union Theatre on Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 7 p.m. to promote his new book, "Never Stop: Life, Leadership, and What It Takes to Be Great." The book, which was released the day prior on Sept. 30, follows the story of his life and coaching career while dealing with severe mental health struggles and comparison to his father and brother. For Hurley, reliving the struggles of his college years was a difficult part of the writing process.

"It took me longer to read through it because I'd read a couple pages, I'd put it down, I'd go to my wife, I'd say this is hard to read," Hurley said. "But then, I think from a positive standpoint, it gives you a chance to give yourself some grace and appreciation for, you know, just how long the road's been to get here and the obstacles, the challenges."

The event, which was relocated to the Student Union from the Jorgensen Center early in the week, saw UConn students, faculty and basketball fans fill much of the lower level of seating. The UConn men's basketball team was in attendance, garnering a round of applause upon their arrival. Hurley's wife Andrea and son Andrew were also in the crowd. Andrew, who played for the Huskies from 2020-2024 and is now a graduate manager with the program, said that he was surprised when his father first told him his plans to write a book.

"I couldn't believe it just because, again, I've known him as the high school coach, you know, as the [University of] Rhode Island coach," Andrew Hurley said. "Just kind

of all these, you know, really strange things that been happening. Winning national championships, things you would never imagine happening, then obviously this. It's just really unbelievable honestly."

During the writing process, Hurley said that he took inspiration from not just the writing of other basketball coach-

es, but more so writing from "old school" football coaches that he relates himself to. Hurley mentioned football coaches Bill Walsh, Bill Parcells and Bear Bryant along with other coaches and athletes from other sports that inspired his writing.

"I read ["Open: An Autobiography" by tennis player Andre Agassi] while this project

was kind of going on, which, you know, made me, I think, in my mind, want to be more open about the book and not just ...do a book 'cause that's what you're supposed to do and then just mail it in and not give people a good story and deep down vulnerable stuff," Hurley said.

Along with the influence of other coaches, Hurley cred-

ited co-author Ian O'Connor for his work, calling the sports author a great writer and mentioning his other books about sports figures Bill Belichick, Mike Krzyzewski and Aaron Rodgers.

"I needed somebody to do it that had a feel for the whole Hurley thing...that knew the family, that had New Jersey, you know, North Jersey roots, and just could tell my story the most authentically," Hurley said.

The talk was moderated by UConn graduate and former ESPN host Molly Qerim. Both Hurley and Qerim made sure to keep members of the audience engaged throughout the hour-long discussion. Early in the event, Qerim called for audience members to give Hurley a standing ovation for his commitment to staying at UConn. Hurley called out to multiple members of the audience, including his wife, son and UConn players including Tarris Reed. The second half of the discussion saw Hurley answering questions that had been submitted by audience members prior to the beginning of the event and then fielding questions from the audience at large to close the evening.

Hurley stuck around after the event to meet fans and sign books, a copy of which was included with the purchase of a ticket to the event. Alex Vitiello, a third-semester finance major, was one of the many fans who decided to stay and wait in line for the chance to meet Hurley.

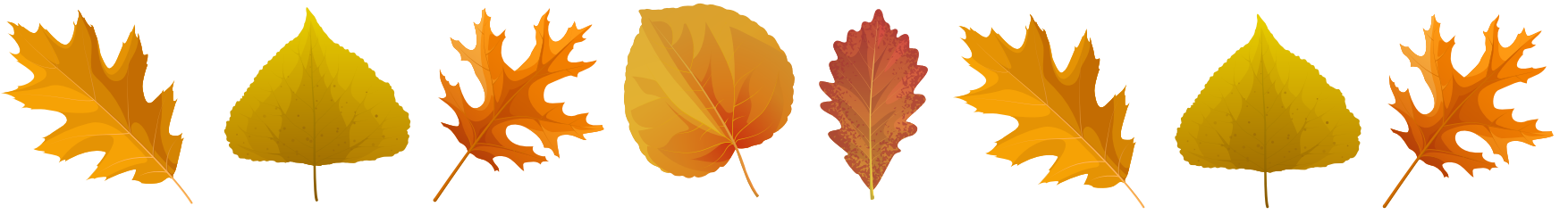
"The key takeaways that I got from Dan Hurley himself was to just keep pushing no matter how hard things can get," Vitiello said. "You always have people to rely on, whether you don't realize it or not, and I think that hard work is always going to get you to where you want to be."



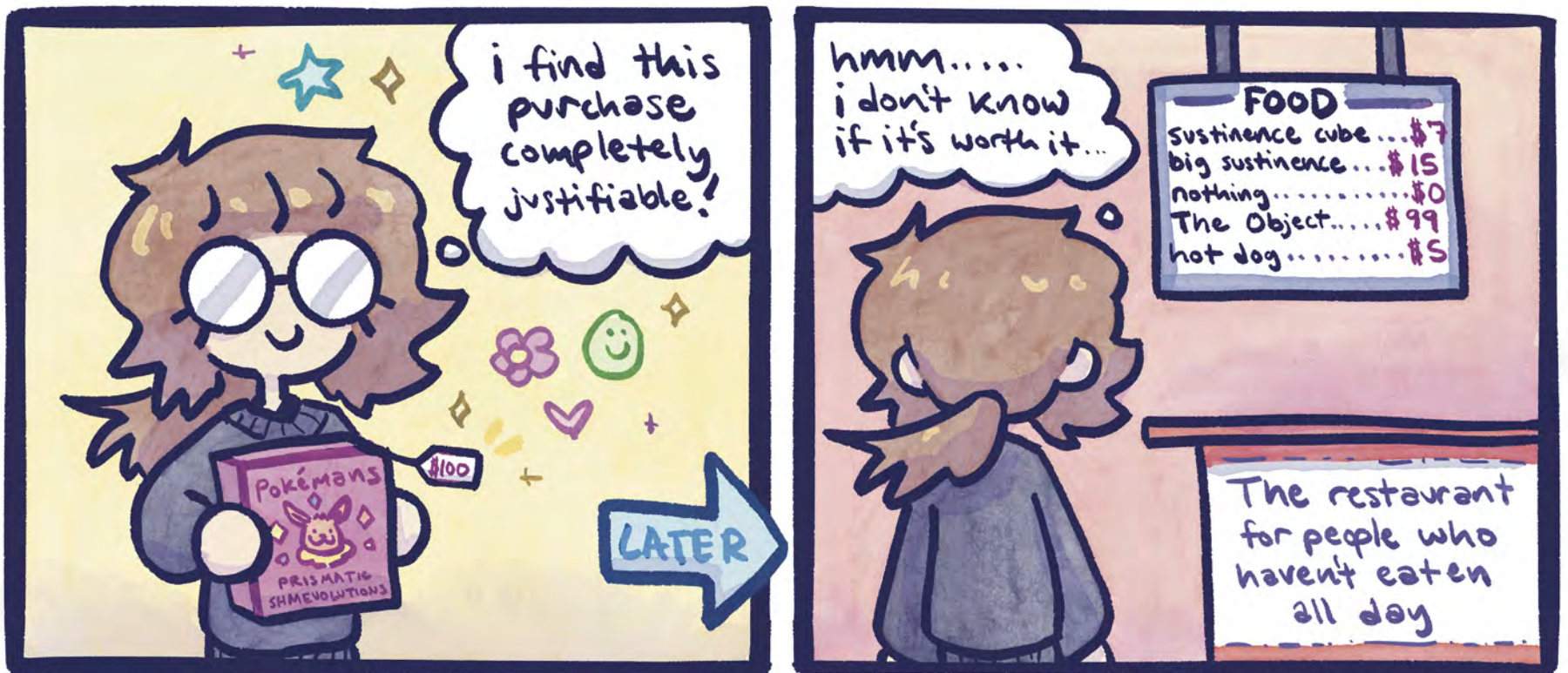
UConn forward Alex Karaban and Head Coach Dan Hurley celebrate after Karaban's final plays against Marquette seal the win for UConn on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 in Gampel Pavilion, Storrs, Conn.

PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The Daily Comics, Colors, & Communiqué



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MIDDLE SCHOOL CRUSH DODGEBALL



COMIC BY SETH WALLEN, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



POSTER GRAPHIC BY LILLIAN LAFEMINA, ASSOCIATE ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY ERIKA ECHEGOYEN, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Daily

Life

THE MODERN MONSTER: Zombies That put the Living in 'Living Dead'

As October rushes in, bringing with it colder air and brighter leaves, the scent of something a little more rotten hangs in the air. It's finally Halloween season, and as always, that means it's zombie season.

Welcome back to The Modern Monster, a biweekly column published on Freaky Fridays about everything you need to know to survive the next apocalypse — since we were all left behind by the rapture, that's probably soon, right?

Zombies are one of the most recognizable Halloween symbols by a mile. Jack-o'-lanterns may have first place on-lock, but our rotting, shuffling friends are likely one of the most famous creatures on the Halloween market.

Zombies themselves originate from Africa and Haiti. After African people were forcefully taken to Haiti as a part of the slave trade beginning in the 1500s, African speculations on life after death mixed with Christian and Haitian beliefs to create the religion of Vodou. From Vodou sprang the zombi, a revived corpse forced to do the bidding of its reviver.

When analyzing our modern-day zombie, it's important to take a look at these Vodou zombis first. Aside from the change in spelling, there's certainly a connection between zombis and the slave culture they were born from. In the Vodou religion, zombis are compelled to complete the work of their reviver, often forced to do grueling manual labor as an eerie parallel to slavery itself. Not even death is an escape for the zombis.

Over the years, as "zombis" become "zombies," American pop culture began to turn these sympathetic zombis into the man-eating zombies we know today. That's certainly a tragedy, the simple fact that a religious parallel to slavery has become nothing more than a campfire tale in the eyes of America.

All that being said, today's zombies are nothing like the zombis of the past. While it's important to keep this history in mind when examining zombies, the two entities have built up different kinds of cultural relevance.

However, an aspect of the American zombie that Haitian zombis do not have themselves is an infection.

Nowadays, every zombie is looking to consume a living body, which results in the spreading of a zombie infection.

One of the most well-known zombie movies, "28 Days Later," is often credited as popularizing the zombie's infectious nature, although it didn't invent the concept. The zombie virus of "28 Days Later" is notably passed more like a bodily infection than a bite. The integration of zombie bodily fluids, such as blood or saliva, into a human body is what causes the infection. A bite can do it, but in theory kissing a zombie with tongue would have the same effect.

We see a different sort of zombie virus in the "The Last of Us" games by developer Naughty Dog, as well as in HBO's television adaptation of the same name. Whatever your thoughts are on the adaptation or the controversial "The Last of Us II," it's obvious the series has one of the most inventive zombie sicknesses out there.

The zombies in this franchise are simply called the Infected, with different categories of infection known as Runners, Stalkers, Clickers and Bloaters, all corresponding to a different level of sickness. The infection in "The Last of Us" is fungal in nature, not viral.

A real-world parasitic fungus known as cordyceps is capable of essentially mind-controlling various insects. In "The Last of Us," cordyceps has mutated its way into humanity, and individuals infected with cordyceps have become, of course, the Infected.

"The Last of Us" uses a new brand of zombie horror in the form of this fungal fear. The fungus expands inside the human body to essentially puppet it around, which raises the question of whether the human brain is still awake enough to comprehend what's happening to it.

The goal of cordyceps is to spread, and that means finding more human hosts. Disgustingly, fungus pokes out of the mouths of the Infected to reach others, which has led to some particularly disgusting moments in "The Last of Us" television show when these fungus tendrils search the air for victims.

Despite these different approaches to zombie infections,

there are plenty of zombies that don't experience bloodthirsty rage and violence.

There's been a trend in more recent years where many of the spooky Halloween monsters of the past have become closer to stock archetypes and mascot-like figures. While we still see horrifying depictions of zombies, such as the recent "28 Years Later," we also see zombies that don't seem to mean much harm.

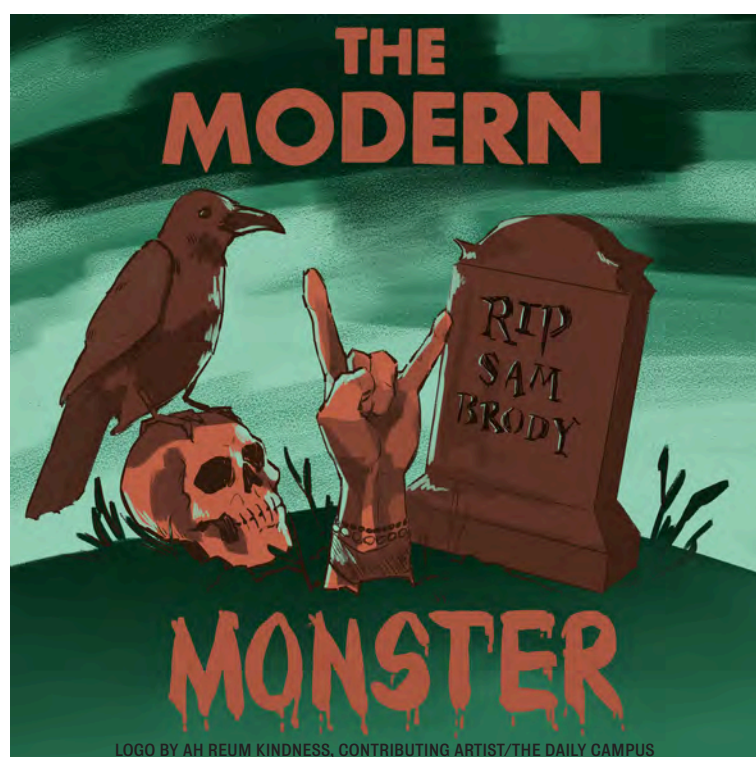
The 2013 movie "Warm Bodies" is a prime example of the modern zombie. While the zombies of the movie are dangerous, one zombie named R takes a liking to a living girl named Julie. After Julie finally decides to give him a chance, since R has no interest in eating her, they learn that love and affection for zombies is what brings them back to life. The natural conclusion of the movie is that the living humans begin to revive the zombies.

Another fun aspect of this movie is that while R and his zombie friends do eat brains, it's not necessarily out of bloodlust. R explains to the viewers that eating brains allows him to experience human memories and briefly feel what it means to be alive. It's out of a desire for life.

In our current day, zombies have also taken on a greater cultural meaning. Zombies in the media can often be used to represent aspects of life that people are blind to, or the idea that the regular human population is blindly following the arbitrary rules placed around them. They can represent lethargy or blind complacency in daily living.

There's an argument to be made that we could begin to see an evolution in the world of zombies. Apple TV's show "Severance" depicts a world where individuals are trapped within regular office life, and if we apply our modern cultural zombie to this show, it's clear that the "innie" office workers are a form of zombie themselves.

As human reliance on artificial intelligence grows and tensions grow between the general masses and corporate and political elites, it seems we may be needing the zombie more than ever. After all, the most important aspect of the zombie, dating back to its Haitian origin, is that no one wants to be one.



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



Concept art for the 2013 game "The Last of Us." The game has multiple sequels and has since been adapted into a show produced by HBO.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

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NIGHTMARES OF NATURE: A THRILLING TWIST ON THE NATURE DOCUMENTARY

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A promotional image for the Netflix documentary "Nightmares of Nature." The documentary, released on Tuesday, Sept. 30, mixes horror into the genre of nature documentaries.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @BLUMHOUSE ON INSTAGRAM

On first thought, a nature documentary may not be the first thing to put on for the Halloween season. Sure, nature can be horrifying, but it lacks the narrative of whichever October slasher reboot comes around this time of year.

But the new Netflix documentary series, "Nightmares of Nature," changes all of that. The show combines the grisly thrill of horror narratives

with the informative appeal of nature documentaries to show the natural world at its prettiest and ugliest.

The first season, titled "Cabin in the Woods," came out on Tuesday, Sept. 30, consisting of three episodes of approximately 45 minutes each. Every episode was directed by Nathan Small and narrated by Maya Hawke, an actress famous for her role in the Netflix series "Stranger Things." The

season follows the adventures of a pregnant mouse, a raccoon and a young American bullfrog as they try to survive in the same plot of woods.

"Nightmares of Nature" is not just a recount of these animals' behaviors as they happen naturally. Instead, they feel like characters involved in a dramatic plot, scurrying around for food while avoiding the many creatures willing to hunt them. It's a big, connected story, one that feels deliberately crafted by the makers.

The pregnant mouse must avoid hawks, snakes and other preying eyes, while also finding enough food and shelter to give birth. The bullfrog is forced into hiding, traumatized by aquatic terrors from life as a tadpole and fearing the cannibalistic impulses of larger bullfrogs. The raccoon has less to worry about when it comes to being hunted but must become a better hunter himself or risk starvation.

While each animal has their distinct narrative, there are also indirect interactions that occur between them, building up to a potential meeting later in the season. There's a scene of the raccoon declining to eat a hognose snake after it plays dead, and soon after, a hognose snake slithers around the bullfrog's hiding place. Later on, the raccoon ends up indirectly providing food for the mouse in a foreboding cabin.

It speaks to the interconnectedness of nature, though it can feel too staged at times.

The most stunning feature of the documentary is the visuals. There are unforgettable close-ups of the animal protagonists, stunning captures of creatures munching on each other from multiple angles and dramatic slow-motion clips of intense action. Netflix marks the documentary with a TV-PG rating, but the series isn't afraid to show the piercing, gouging, bleeding and swallowing realities of the outdoors.

Hawke's narration does a good job establishing the suspenseful tone. She speaks at a measured, spooky pace that carries the weight of these unforgiving scenes of nature. Sometimes, she can feel too present in the story, clashing with the visuals and making the scenes seem catered to humans at the expense of feeling natural.

The distracting narration is most apparent when Hawke makes snarky remarks about how gross something is or makes a surprised exclamation from the point of view of an animal. Considering the TV-PG rating, these interjections aren't unexpected, but they do stick out. On the contrary, she does a great job enhancing some of the nastiness when she breaks down exactly what's going on. The gruesomeness of what looked like

an ordinary scene of a hognose snake eating a bullfrog doubled when she described how the snake's fangs were "popping" the puffed-up frog.

The sound design has similar highs and lows, including moments where environmental noises and brief, unexpected swells of music are used to help amplify the tension tastefully. However, some scenes use an intrusive, suspenseful score that would better fit an action-movie.

As a whole, "Nightmares of Nature" succeeds in delivering a unique approach to nature documentaries, one that not only borrows dramatic elements, but also the narrative, from horror movies. Even with the emphasis on scariness and the interconnected story, there's a lot of insightful information delivered to the audience.

I can see this series really resonating with younger audiences who might be genuinely frightened by the presentation and see the animal protagonists as admirable friends. But I couldn't get as invested in the overly present narration and contrived story, which lacked the distance and authenticity of more traditional nature documentaries.

The second season of "Nightmares of Nature," called "Lost in the Jungle," was directed by Charlotte Lathane and will premiere on Oct. 28.

Rating: 3/5



Opinion

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FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

On the revolutionary hope of Assata Shakur

by Tomas Hinckley | OPINION EDITOR | HE/HIM/HIS | tomas.hinckley@uconn.edu

On Thursday, Sept. 25, political activist and Black revolutionary Assata Olugbala Shakur passed away peacefully at the age of 78. She died free in Havana, Cuba, where she had lived for 40 years as a political refugee due to "health conditions and advanced age," according to the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the aftermath, right-wing sources from Kash Patel to the New York Post Editorial Board have been quick to celebrate her passing and condemn any of those who would mourn her. They refer to her as a cop-killer, terrorist, extremist and coward, but anyone who truly knows her story understands that nothing could be further from the truth. The life and death of Assata Shakur is a story of hope in the face of a government that would go to any length to silence her. By setting the record straight and retelling Assata's true story of relentless struggle, we see the importance of hope and revolutionary optimism in combating the injustice of fascism now and forever.

To begin, it's worth re-establishing exactly who and what Shakur was. The most immediate thing that most media pundits and establishment politicians would reply to that question is that she was a convicted murderer, but this is hardly an accurate descriptor. Shakur Assata was a political activist who was the subject of an intense repressive campaign from the FBI through its Counter-Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO). This was a massive project undertaken by federal intelligence agencies throughout the country to "discredit, disrupt,

and destroy" any dissident activist organizations by any means necessary. This ranged everywhere from nonprofits like the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to specific targeting of prominent figures like Martin Luther King Jr, Malcolm X, Huey Newton and Shakur. Their tactics included extensive spying and infiltrating of groups, as well as encouraging and provoking groups to violence (the FBI once sent fake letters to the Black Panther Party warning them that another group was planning to attack them, hoping that violence would ensue and leaders could be arrested). They also urged local police to immediately arrest known activist leaders "on every possible charge" should they get the chance.

This is what happened to Shakur. She was indicted 10 times on trumped-up charges attempting to connect her to various violent crimes. The first nine times, the government could not prove her guilt, with several acquittals, hung juries and outright

case dismissals. These cases were full of shady tactics, like in one kidnapping charge where the alleged victim was actually a paid FBI informant who "couldn't talk about" if the FBI ordered him to frame Shakur, according to her autobiography.

Significant evidence casts doubt on this. There was no arsenic residue found on her body after the encounter, a hallmark sign that a person recently shot a gun. Medical experts also testified that she was shot in the back during the interaction, breaking her clavicle bone. This means that she was not facing them and shooting back, as prosecutors claimed, and a broken clavicle meant that she could not have physically raised her right arm to shoot back. There were also bullet wounds on her arm that experts testified could only have come from raised arms above the head, meaning that she was trying to surrender, further contradicting the prosecution's story. It should be no surprise that the jury which convicted her of this murder, despite this overwhelming evidence against it, was completely white.

As a result, she was sentenced to life in prison for a crime she did not commit. However, her story does not end here.

With assistance from other Black Liberation Army members, Shakur was able to escape from prison and the United States. She travelled to Cuba, where the gov-

ernment there gave her status and protection as a political refugee. Despite immense and long-term political pressure to give her up to American authorities, the Cuban government never swayed. Even when the FBI in 2013, under the Obama administration, elevated her to their Most Wanted List and placed a \$2 million bounty on her head, they held to their values. It is clear that her peaceful life and death would never have happened without the incredible international solidarity which the Cuban government demonstrated.

It is this ending which makes her story so beautiful and important to see. Although it is right to mourn the death of a truly revolutionary spirit, it is equally important recognize her story as one of hope. Through years of trials, incarceration, torture, beatings, uncertainty and repression, she never gave up. She struggled and fought until they could not keep her chained up any longer. And, in the end, against the full weight of the U.S. government and its corrupt criminal justice system, she won. She won and stole back 47 years of life as a free woman.

So, in her memory, it is important to remember that it is always still possible to win. No matter how scary the world is or how strong the forces of this government may seem, there is still hope for a better future. In her own words, the message is simple:

"I have been locked by the lawless. Handcuffed by the haters. Gagged by the greedy. And, if I know anything at all, it's that a wall is just a wall and nothing more at all. It can be broken down."



PHOTO COURTESY OF @ASHLEYLAVERNAJACKSON ON INSTAGRAM

Third Spaces: The key to building community

by Sawyer Brown
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You have certainly heard of third spaces. Though the term itself may be unfamiliar, there is no doubt that every person has some acquaintance with it in concept. At its core, a third space is a type of social environment, one separate from home or work. A third space is any other space where social interaction is encouraged, including cafes, gyms, bars, malls and libraries. In essence, its purpose is to serve as a community space that exists as an "escape" from the rigor of a workplace or from the dormancy of home. With this as the standard, there are almost limitless possibilities for what a third space could be. And yet, they are disappearing by the masses before our eyes. But why is that?

One of the main reasons for this is that the accessibility of these spaces is slipping away. Think of some popular gathering spaces: How many of these places that you think of cost nothing? Even in establishments that don't inherently

require you to spend money, there is often the silent expectation to spend to be "in" with the community. There may still be free third spaces, like libraries or parks, but how popular are these places? Usually, they aren't. Buying coffee from your favorite chain or having a shopping spree is trendy and immensely gratifying, not to mention more stimulating than sitting around at the library. But frequenting these spaces isn't sustainable. After all, it becomes increasingly difficult to get out and socialize frequently when each meeting requires a transaction.

Not only this, but the internet's exponential growth has significantly contributed to the disappearance of physical common spaces. Especially during the times of the pandemic, when online communities served as a lifeline for those living in isolation, people have gravitated away from these physical spaces even long after concerns of the illness faded.

Malls are perhaps the best representation of this, with the booming popularity of online vendors like Amazon leading to the closure of countless big brands of the past. It could be argued that the online world is far more convenient. Why spend hours in crowded shops when it's possible to browse from the comfort of home? Why chat with friends in the park or library when it is infinitely easier to shoot them a quick text? The world has been placed at our very fingertips, so why must we make the effort to explore it on our own? The critical loss that few consider is that in the process, we are severing ourselves from the very heart and foundation of our community: each other.

The art of socialization is dying — we are actively destroying it — and our collective inaction as the pillars of our community crumble around us is twisting the knife. Prime meeting spots, our escape from the monotony of home or work and spaces that have seen

countless interactions and formed connections, are unceremoniously disappearing. Yet few people seem to even notice or care.

Despite the dismal fate of these once-sacred spaces, there is still hope for third spaces. Surprisingly, we are actually in the prime position to save these critical social spots. College campuses are on the front lines of the fight for preserving common spaces. Few other locations have such a vibrant and buzzing population centralized around one unifying factor: our alma mater. With this privilege comes vast potential for building our community to be even stronger. Those little interactions that come with sharing a space are beyond necessary and worth fighting for. Without them, people are left in limbo between the toil of work and the solitude of home. We all need a place to simply be.

Thankfully, there are countless options in the form of events and physical spaces that serve as meet-

ing grounds for people of all walks of life on campus. Especially with free university-endorsed events such as Late Night, the landscape of a college campus is perfect for recultivating these lost relationships. And with the many available physical spaces that the campus provides, every person is capable of contributing themselves to a more interlinked society. Through attending and hosting events like club meetings and performances, we bring ourselves closer to each other. Even the less formal meetups like movie nights, game nights and study sessions serve to unite us.

The main criteria for a third space is that it brings people together. The location doesn't matter, really; neither does the activity. It is the community that supports the environment which truly establishes any ordinary place as a third space. In such a polarized and disconnected world, that sense of community is beyond worth protecting.



The Enfield Square Mall in Enfield, Conn. The declining mall has a small handful of stores and many vacant spaces. PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Midterms...



A student studying outside at the UConn Storrs campus. Students have been taking midterm exams as the weather cools down.

PHOTO BY SARAH TURNER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Mow Money, Mow Problems: Growing smarter at UConn

by Colin Hamilton

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Every day, University of Connecticut students journey across campus to make their way to classes, dining halls and dorms. Often, they are too absorbed in their own lives to notice the world around them. Yet at their feet is a vast green carpet of great ecological interest. Across campus, UConn's lawns present a picture of order and horticultural perfection. But beneath the surface, however, they are among the university's most resource-intensive and environmentally costly features. These lawns, composed almost entirely of Kentucky bluegrass, demand frequent mowing, fertilizer and pesticide application in order to remain viable in New England's climate. The result is high recurring costs for the university, significant greenhouse gas emissions, and nutrient runoff that pollutes local waterways. To address these problems, UConn must phase out its traditional turf grass in favor of "polylawns"—diverse, low-input lawns that conserve resources, enhance biodiversity, and better align with UConn's commitment to sustainability.

UConn's current lawn system is a monoculture, which is an ecosystem dominated by a single species, in this case Kentucky bluegrass. This results from the highly competitive nature of the plant; its dense subterranean rhizomes crowd out other species, creating a thick carpet that deters other growth. Ecologically, this has many implications. Monocultures are fragile ecosystems vulnerable to disease and climate stress. Kentucky bluegrass, for instance, is prone to fungal infections. If mildew

were to spread across campus, as is common for Connecticut during the fall, campus lawns could quickly collapse with no way to recover. Currently, UConn prevents this through pesticide and chemical application, but this use leads to other problems. The runoff of these pesticides, combined with nitrogen-rich fertilizer, leaks into the waterways of campus, creating a toxic mix that kills aquatic wildlife and promotes algae blooms. This nutrient overload, known as eutrophication, is a serious issue on our campus, visible at both Mirror and Swan Lakes.

UConn's current lawn care is also incredibly unsustainable. Not only is turf grass incredibly expensive to maintain, but it also requires a high water cost. Kentucky bluegrass needs upwards of one inch of water per week, amounting to over 27,000 gallons of water per acre. For reference, the UConn Storrs campus spans 4,000 acres. While not all of this is devoted to lawn grass, the water demand is still monumental. Finally, the carbon dioxide cost of monocultural lawns must not be discounted. The carbon emissions associated with residential lawn fertilizers average 195 pounds of greenhouse gas per acre, plus an additional 104 pounds per acre from pesticide application. This means for an average sized lawn, about 0.4 acres, the chemicals used account for 179 pounds of CO₂ annually. Scaled to UConn's campus, this represents a significant and unnecessary emission burden.

If Kentucky bluegrass is an outdated model of campus landscaping, then polyculture lawns, or "polylawns," offer a practical, sustainable alternative. Unlike monocultures, which rely on constant input in order to remain viable, polylawns are composed of diverse species. An ideal mix for UConn could include fine fescues, buffalo grass, Pennsylvania sedge, chamomile,

clover, moss and thyme. Together, these plants would form a resilient perennial ground cover that would require little irrigation or chemical fertilizer once established. Indeed, the mixed crop cover would actually promote soil health, improving it over time. These polylawns would preserve soil moisture, suppress weeds, prevent erosion and provide habitat for pollinators and beneficial soil organisms. Where turf grass demands maintenance, a UConn poly lawn would work with the environment to sustain itself.

UConn is already positioned to make this transition. Already, it has piloted alternative plantings in some garden beds, as well as the slopes near the George W. Sherman Sports Complex. Transitioning fully would be relatively simple: existing lawns would be mowed short, tilled lightly and overseeded with polyculture mixes. This process can also be phased in gradually, spreading the costs over several years while steadily reducing the need for chemical and labor costs.

The benefits of this shift would be wide-ranging. Environmentally, polylawns would reduce runoff into our lakes, curb greenhouse emissions from mowing and improve ecological diversity on campus. Financially, the university would spend less on irrigation, chemicals and labor, achieving long term savings that would outweigh upfront establishment costs. Aesthetically, polylawns would provide seasonal variety and visual interest, offering an attractive alternative to the current monotony. Most importantly, the change would demonstrate UConn's commitment to sustainability in a highly visible way, making the campus itself a symbol of environmental progress.

It's time for UConn to grow smarter, not harder. Only through the growth of polylawns can UConn's campus ecology manage to be substantially improved. They are a simple, proven solution that only requires the will to act. UConn already prides itself on sustainability in the classroom; it's time for the landscape to reflect that same commitment.



Facade and fountain of the United States Supreme Court Building on a clear day. The United States entered a government shutdown on Wednesday, Oct. 1. PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

To Defer or Not Defer: A question for the Constitution

by Azhaan Khalid

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The bedrock of American law — the Constitution — is a multifaceted ordeal. The First Amendment, for example, offers blanket protections of speech with few exceptions. This is a safeguard against censoring of political speech, foundational to our country's ideals, but also allows for harmful dialogue such as hate speech. Is it necessary or must it be delimited? Well, to explicate, let's turn to a recently overturned legal principle of blanket considerations: Chevron Deference.

The Chevron Deference story started, as many direct reviews of agency actions do, from a Congressional act in an appellate court. The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977 contained a provision requiring "New Source Review" permit programs "for the construction and operation of new or modified major stationary sources" in any nonattainment area (i.e. a location such as a factory or industrial facility that does not meet their respective pollutant's national air quality standard). The permit will only be granted if the permittee achieves the lowest achievable emission rate for the new construction, among other requirements. However, this can be a very costly thing to do, hence why nuance and clarity matter.

The main ambiguity among all the legalese here is this: what qualifies as a stationary source? Can it be each individual smokestack or polluting device? Or is it the factory as a whole? Under Jimmy Carter, the EPA interpreted it as the former, while Reagan's EPA felt the latter more appropriate.

The intuition and ideals behind these amendments are ones of environmental protections and, potentially, industrial growth as companies were

forced to look to and purchase equipment from firms with the greatest environmental efficiency. Carter's interpretation stems from a belief of robust regulatory frameworks, while Reagan's reflects his view of such regulations hampering economic growth and, as some allege, his disbelief in the climate crisis. The agency's interpretation of these laws in these instances was clearly susceptible to political drift.

Accordingly, this became an area of great debate. Should seminal legislation be volatile to the current of politics? Environmental advocacy groups such as the National Resource Defense Council found Reagan's novel interpretation to be too industrial and legally inconsistent. In 1982's *NRDC v. Gorsuch*, the court ruled in favor of the NRDC, reversing to the Carter standard. Chevron, a gigantic oil company whose proprietary interests were at stake, sought review. In *Chevron v. NRDC*, the Supreme Court established a two-pronged approach to agency interpretation of ambiguous statutes. Firstly, "If the intent of Congress is clear, that is the end of the matter." Secondly, if it is not and the respective agency's interpretation permissible/reasonable, you must defer to that.

In 2024, *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo* overturned *Chevron Deference* in regard to being more consistent with the Administrative Procedure Act and Article III of the Constitution, which establishes the judicial branch and is an interpretative basis for judicial review. Now, courts decide the meaning of ambiguous statutes. In this case, constitutional principles and legislative precedents overwhelmed legal precedent.

For more of the story visit [DAILYCAMPUS.COM](https://www.dailycampus.com)



ART BY ALEXA PAPPAS
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Women's Soccer: UConn looks to continue Big East momentum against Creighton

by Colette Doyle

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The UConn women's soccer team will host Creighton for a Big East showdown on Saturday, Oct. 4. The game will be a breast cancer awareness game.

This past Wednesday, Oct. 1, the team headed to Providence, R. I., for another Big East matchup against the Friars. UConn came out on top 1-0, adding a victory to their overall 6-3-2 record. The victory is the Huskies' third straight win against the Friars.

The victory captured the dominance of the team as many individuals put up impressive plays. On the offensive side, senior forward Chioma Okafor and redshirt freshman Se-Hanna Mars powered the attack. Okafor scored her fourth goal of the season and 29th goal of her career, scoring the game-winning goal in the 24th minute. Mars brought offensive pressure by generating multiple shots. She had her first shot blocked shortly before Okafor's goal and drove another ball to the goal in the 30th minute, which was knocked away by the Friars keeper. Nevertheless, Mars' attempts and fierceness brought momentum to the game. Freshman midfielder Maree-Ann Van Doesburg and junior defender Lydia LeBlanc also aided in the offense. The two also had goal attempts early in the game, which created a spark that allowed Okafor to deliver a successful goal.

Freshman goalkeeper Ava Yamas led on the defensive side. Yamas recorded four saves and her sixth shutout of the season. She endured significant pressure from the Friars but kept them off the scoreboard. The Huskies' backline also protected the goal to hold on to the lead.

The Bluejays are coming off a 2-1 loss at home to Xavier. On the offensive side, graduate student forward Ariana Mondiri, junior forward Mallory Connealy and sophomore forward Kendal Radke led the attack. Connealy scored her second goal of the season, assisted by Mondiri. Mondiri also assisted Radke in an attempt on goal, which nearly tied the game. However, the offense struggled in creating shots with only five total.

On the defensive side, senior goalkeeper Alyssa Zalac and the back line put up a sufficient effort. Zalac faced pressure throughout the game with 17 total shots but kept the team in the game. The back line played with immense physicality to prevent a breakaway lead for Xavier. They gained more momentum in the second half but struggled in the first, allowing 11 shots. The back line also struggled to reset after tying the game, leading to a goal by Xavier.

The Huskies last matched up against the Bluejays last season on Nov. 3, 2024. The game ended in a 2-0 win for the Huskies, giving them a spot in the Big East semifinals. Overall, the program has a 4-1 record against the Bluejays with a 2-0 home record and a 2-1 away record. The team must put on a dominant offensive and defensive performance for the win.

The Huskies will hope to have the same offensive and defensive dominance against Creighton this season. Saturday's game will begin at 6:30 p.m. Husky fans can tune in to watch the Big East contest on FloSports.



The UConn women's soccer team plays Xavier at Rizza sports complex on Sept. 24. The Huskies look to make a strong start in conference play. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Soccer: Battle of bigs in Big East Clash

by Jake Loomis

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The UConn men's soccer team is in the midst of a tough losing streak that it will look to snap as it faces Creighton on Friday, Oct. 3. After back-to-back losses to No. 14 Bryant and rival Villanova, the Huskies will need to regroup quickly to stay competitive in the Big East standings. The Huskies currently sit at 1-1-0 in conference play and have a near perfect record on the road; however, they have struggled at home.

Austin Brummett is the team's leader on offense as he has amassed 13 total points on the year.

Brummett has also had help from Balthazar Saunders and Charlie Holmes, as those two have combined for 19 points on the year to pace the UConn offense. However, the Huskies have scored just two goals in their last two games, so they will rely on those three to get the momentum going again. Kyle Durham has been great in net for the Huskies all year and he will look to keep it up on Friday. He allows a goal per game on average and maintains a .800 save percentage. Durham has played every minute for the

Huskies this year.

Creighton comes into the match hot as can be as they have rattled off five wins to bring their record on the year to 5-2-2. In conference play, they are ahead of the Huskies at 2-0-0. The Bluejays are led by Miguel Arilla, who has 11 points on the year so far. Arilla only has four goals; however, he has the most shots on the team by a good margin, so he will be a focal point for the UConn defense. Arilla is also notably 2-2 on penalty kicks this season, which could be an essential factor in the

contest. The Bluejay goalie, Matthew Hudson, is coming off his second freshman of the week award and allows just one goal per game on average. Compared to Durham, Arilla's save percentage is lower, at .727. By the numbers, the Bluejays are a slow-starting team as they have been outscored by opponents 7-4 in the first half this year. However, they tend to dominate the second half as they have outscored teams 9-2. It will be important for UConn to start out fast to control the pace of the game.

If the Huskies can slow the Bluejays down, they should have a good chance of coming out victorious.

The game will be played on Friday, Oct. 3, at 7 p.m. in Storrs.



UConn men's soccer plays Villanova on Sept. 28, 2025. Moronne was sold out with UConn fans and family. PHOTO BY DEVON CHRISTINI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women's cross country: Paul Short Run next on docket for Huskies

by Jake McCreven

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The UConn women's cross country team will compete for the third time this season when it travels to Bethlehem, Penn., for

the Paul Short Run on Friday, Oct. 3.

Friday's race on the campus of Lehigh University will be the 51st edition of the Paul Short Run, which the university named after the former Business Manager and Assistant Director of Athletics who served for 29 years.

Connecticut finished second overall as a team in last year's race, headlined by future All-American Chloe Thomas' record breaking performance of 19:23.8 and two other top 10 finishers.

"We had a great race here last season, led by a course record of then-senior Chloe Thomas," head coach Beth Alford-Sullivan said. "We are looking forward to a great race on Friday."

Over 40 teams (43 teams will flock to Lehigh's campus for the

two-day race (high school races were held on Thursday). Conference foes Georgetown and Villanova will represent the Big East alongside UConn while Quinnipiac, Fairfield and Yale join the Huskies from Connecticut.

Harvard, the only team to finish above UConn last season, will compete again this year along with five other Ivy League teams.

Today's run will serve as the Huskies' first look at Georgetown and Villanova this season. The Hoyas and Wildcats are tied for the most Paul Short Run titles all-time with six a piece.

Connecticut competed against Seton Hall last week in their first taste of Big East action at the Ted Owen Invitational, finishing first place as a team in the 5K race.

Freshman Brooke Strauss fin-

ished second overall in her collegiate debut with a time of 17:12.40 and was named the Big East Female Athlete of the Week for her performance.

The Paul Short Run, however, is an extra kilometer, and has been for all women's teams since the turn of the century.

Strauss will be among the names to watch after a red-hot start to her collegiate career. Look for junior Malin Rahm (who finished two seconds behind Strauss last week) and freshman Sascha Leticia to build off strong performances from the Ted Owen Invite.

A slew of Husky runners should also contend at the top of the race standings. Freshman Teanne Ewings, senior Allison McCarthy and sophomore Claire Paci all finished inside the top 10 last week and will be in search of a similar finish today.



A UConn women's cross country runner competing at an event. The team finished 2nd last year at the same event. PHOTO COURTESY @UCONNFTXC ON INSTAGRAM

Sports

Photo of the Day |



Doga Kutlu sets up Jordyn Hughes during a match against Marist on Sept. 20, 2025. The Huskies beat the Red Foxes 3-0.
PHOTO BY TOMAS HINCKLEY, ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Basketball: Huskies land top 30 prospect Junior County



by Matt Dimech

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UConn men's basketball has landed its first commitment from the class of 2026: Junior County is headed to Storrs.

County is a 6-foot-4 guard from Mount Pleasant, Utah, and will graduate from Wasatch Academy at the end of this academic year. The Huskies still have four open scholarship slots available for the 2026-27 season, following his commitment.

According to 247Sports, County is the No. 29 ranked player in his class and the second best at his position. The team offered him a spot on the roster on May 22, 2025. Two months later, he announced that UConn was in his top five on July 28. His official UConn visit was on Friday, Sept. 26.

He revealed his commitment to Rivals' Joe Tipton on Thursday, Oct. 2, choosing UConn over Purdue, Indiana, Maryland and Arizona.

"I chose UConn because I believe I'll be able to develop into the best version of myself and have a chance to win a National Championship," County said to Tipton.

247Sports' Director of Recruiting Adam Finkelstein said that County is "capable of creating his own shot from all three levels" and has all the "winning intangibles."

Junior County, UConn men's basketball newest recruit, playing highschool basketball. County is one of the top prospects in the country.

PHOTO COURTESY@STORRS CENTRAL ON INSTAGRAM

Finkelstein says that County has improved as a ball handler and can be a "legit big guard because of it."

According to Max Preps, County averaged 13.6 points, 3.4 assists and 4.8 rebounds per game in the Nike Elite Youth Basketball league this summer. His size and athleticism allow him to attack the basket with intensity.

When asked by Tipton about the kind of player he is, he called himself a "big versatile guard who plays both ends of the floor."

Sound familiar, Husky fans?

His big frame at the guard position makes him the kind of asset that has brought UConn success in the past. Last season, UConn was lacking the size on the perimeter that made past rosters for the program, headlined by the likes of Stephon Castle and Andre Jackson Jr., so dominant.

"If you look at what we're doing in recruiting, we are looking for bigger guards" said head Coach Dan Hurley. "The difference between how we were with those big guards [is] the ability to throw the lobs, spray it out to the three-point line, finish at the rim or get fouled."

UConn's offense under Hurley has thrived with constant off ball movement and actions through ball screens. County understands playing within "the flow" and that he can make quick cuts and good reads, according to Finkelstein. He

credits this to County's "unselfishness" and "high basketball IQ."

When on the recruiting trail, County commented in an interview with Hoop HQ's Krysten Peek that one of the most important aspects that would impact his decision was his "connection with the head coach."

"[Hurley]'s super honest with me and I really appreciate that," County said in another interview with Peek.

Hurley mentioned that along with big guards, the team is "looking for players that want to be coached." While County is one of the best high school players in the country, he still recognizes that he has a lot to improve on.

"Hopefully he can help me with my mistakes," said County. "I believe Hurley has the ability to get the best out of his players every day."

While County is a sound shooter, Finkelstein noted that he needs to "smooth out" his jump shot from beyond the arc in situations where "he is rushed or on the move."

UConn is a long way from home for County. According to On3, it was the furthest school that was in his top five, but that hasn't shaken his excitement to be a Husky.

"I'm ready to work my hardest and compete for a National Championship," County said to Tipton as a message for UConn fans.

Softball: Huskies face weekend homestand against Eastern Connecticut, Boston College

by Amita Akshinthala

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The UConn softball team will face back-to-back opponents at this weekend's homestand at Burrill Family Field. On Friday, Oct. 3, the Huskies will face off against Boston College at 6 p.m., followed by Eastern Connecticut State at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 5. This weekend will showcase the first matchup between the Eastern Connecticut Warriors and UConn Huskies in recent history. Friday's match against Boston College will set the tone as UConn aims to change the narrative after closing last season with a loss.

UConn comes into the weekend ranked No. 57 and looks to their powerful offense and cohesive defensive lineup as anchors. Sophomore infielder Cat Pettey comes in with a consistent batting average of .394 and season highs in the .400s. Pettey had a .775 slugging percentage and .487 on-base percentage, ending last season as Big East Freshman

of the Year. Coming off the recent game against Fairfield, Hope Jenkins led the Huskies pitching staff and earned her ninth win of the season. Jenkins has appeared in 36 games thus far and recorded 32 hits and 5 home runs with 22 RBIs last season. Having surpassed 200 career strikeouts, she will be a player to lean on in the challenges ahead.

Though Eastern Connecticut State and Boston College hail from different conferences, each team enters the matchup with its own set of strengths that will be on display. The Warriors look to sophomore utility Reagan Lalor. Lalor has received her second varsity letter, appearing in 37 games and starting in 33 last season. She holds a consistent batting average of .262, including 13 RBIs and 19 runs. Coming from a team named the Little East Conference All-Academic Team, Lalor and her teammates will be strong contenders in the matchup. The Boston Eagles hold ground with their dominating underclassmen team led by sophomore out-

field Tavye Borders, who appeared in 19 games and boasts a .400 slugging percentage. Notably, Borders notched her first career hit in last season's win over the Huskies.

Early in the fall ball period, the Huskies look to set the stage for the season ahead and shape their winning mindset. With sunny skies and temperatures soaring

into the 80s, this weekend's games will bring extra heat to homecoming, as matchups showcase a unique cross-over blending Division I and III talents.



UConn's softball team playing against Franklin Pierce University on Sept. 20. The team beat Franklin Pierce 7-6 when they played last year in 2024.
PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women's Ice Hockey: Huskies take on Clarkson for the first time in a decade

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The UConn women's ice hockey team (1-1) will face off against No. 9 Clarkson (1-1) this weekend in a two game road series. The opener will take place on Friday, Oct. 3 at 6 p.m., with game two being played Saturday, Oct. 4 at 2 p.m. Both matchups will be played at Cheel Arena in Potsdam, N.Y.

Since the first game between the two teams in 2009, the matchup has scarcely been played. Their last meeting came back in 2015, a 2-3 UConn loss. UConn has just one win in the six games played between the two, a 3-1 victory in 2010. That win came in Storrs, meaning that UConn has never beaten the Golden Knights on the road.

This weekend could be of potential importance to goalie Tia Chan. The graduate student comes into the weekend with 43 career wins. That total puts her four behind 2025 graduate Megan Warrenner for second all-time in program history. A pair of wins this weekend would allow her the possibility of tying the record at home the following weekend against Princeton.

The Golden Knights will not make it that easy for Chan, as Clarkson's offense has started the season off hot. They have scored nine goals through just two games, tied for fifth amongst teams who have played two or less games. Se-

nior forwards Lara Beecher and Rhea Hicks each have a goal and two assists, as does junior defender Andrea Trnková. Freshman forward Sara Manness leads the team with four assists, tied for the fourth most in the country. Clarkson's nine scores have each come from a different player.

Clarkson's defense is more of a question; they allowed Merrimack to score five times in the second game of their opening series. In the 2024-2025, the Golden Knights only allowed five or more goals in one game, a 6-5 loss to St. Lawrence. They are feeling the loss of both 2024-25 ECAC Defender of the Year Haley Winn and All-ECAC first team defender Nicole Gosling, both of whom graduated and turned professional after last season. Freshman Aneta Šenková, who was in goal for the loss, will look to gain experience while splitting time with graduate student Holly Gruber.

After netting only three as a team over their first two contests, UConn will be looking for 2025 Hockey East Rookie of the Year Claire Murdoch to jumpstart her season. The sophomore forward was second in the team in shots taken in the St. Cloud State series but came away from both contests empty-handed. After leading all Hockey East rookies in both goals and points a year ago, an improved performance from Murdoch could be a potential difference maker.



University of Connecticut women's ice hockey took on St. Cloud State at Toscano Family Ice Forum on Sept. 26. Despite a lead in the first period, the Huskies fell 2-1.
PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Hockey: No. 10 Ice Bus officially opens new season at Colorado College

by **Ava Inesta**
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The Ice Bus is officially back on the road for college hockey and their first stop of the 2025-26 will be out west to Colorado College. Turning the page to a new season with new opportunities, the UConn men's hockey team is opening up their season with a two-game set in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Last season was one to remember for the Huskies. UConn set a new school record for wins as they finished with a 23-12-4 overall record and even made the program's first NCAA Tournament appearance, posting their first ever tournament win against Quinnipiac.

"Everybody seems to think 'Wow, what a season. That came out of nowhere,'" said head coach Mike Cavanaugh. "Six of the last eight years we have finished in the top 5 Hockey East. Three of the last four we have had 20-in seasons and finished in the top four."

"To me [last season] wasn't a one-off," he said. "We have been building to get there for a long

time. That is what I envisioned for this program. I knew it wasn't going to happen overnight. Now I think the next step for us is to get in the top three. Let's get in the top one. Let's win a conference championship. Those are all things now we are aspiring to do."

UConn does not have much of a history book with Colorado College, as they have only faced off once prior to this weekend, where the Huskies fell 4-1 in the 2015 season. Heading into Friday's opener, the USCHO preseason rankings have the Huskies sitting at No. 10 in the nation. In conference play, the Hockey East league ranked UConn at No. 3 in the preseason rankings poll.

On offense, UConn is returning nine of their top 10 scorers from last season's team. Two including the Huskies dynamic duo, junior forwards Joey Muldowney and Jake Richard. Muldowney is coming off a historic season for the Huskies, setting program records for goals with 29, points with 47 and hat tricks with three in an All-American season. Richard finished the season with a simi-

lar offensive impact, having 15 goals and 28 assists for a total of 43 points.

"I mean I think there's always room for improvement," said Muldowney. "You know, 28 to 29 goals, that's a lot of goals in college hockey. I can't put too much pressure on myself, I try not to. I think I kind of look like 'this year let's try to be a good leader, try to be a good captain, let's try to maybe get more assists, try and make more plays, stuff like that. Just try to round out my game in all areas and kind of carry that into the pro level for the following years to come.'"

Last season's team leader in assists was none other than Hudson Schandor (31) who now plays in the AHL. Despite losing Schandor, the Huskies are returning six players who had 10 assists or more last year. This includes Ryan Tattle (18 goals, 14 assists), Tabor Heaslip (8 goals, 13 assist) and Jake Percival (9 goals, 10 assists). On defense, UConn is also returning senior goaltender Tyler Muszelik, who went 12-6-3 last season with a 2.28 goals against average and a 91.4 save percentage. On top of all

of the returners, the Huskies welcomed seven new freshmen players to their roster who will bring a fresh set of talent to the ice.

As for Colorado College, the Tigers were selected at No. 5 in the National Collegiate Hockey Conference (NCHC) preseason media poll. Colorado College returns 2024-24 second-team all-NCHC junior defenseman Max Burkholder, sophomore Owen Beckner and 2023-24 All-American senior goaltender Kaidan Mbereko. Mbereko has a career .915 save percentage and a 2.45 goals against average which puts him near the top of Colorado College's program statistics. Another player to watch out for on the Tigers is junior Drew Montgomery, who was tied for the team lead in goals last season with 10 and a career-high 18 points. Additionally, they welcomed 14 newcomers to their team with two transfers and 12 freshmen. The Tigers freshman class has been consistently ranked in the Top 10 nationally by various college hockey outlets.

Another element of this year's UConn team is their experienced

leadership, with Tattle, Heaslip and Muldowney being named captains of the Ice Bus. All three of them plan to carry on most of the characteristics that last year's captains, Schandor and John Spetz, brought to the ice with more confidence than ever before.

"We do have great leadership coming back," said Cavanaugh. "We have great goaltending back and we have some experience on defense. We have seven seniors and they have been through a lot of wars. They have seen good, down, good. They also understand that rankings and where people predict you to be are not an indicator of success."

The Huskies know what it takes to be successful and are carrying all the momentum from last season into the start of this year as they have unfinished business in the world of college hockey. The Ice Bus's season will officially commence against Colorado College on Friday, Oct. 3. Puck drop is set for 9 p.m. UConn will then wrap up the two-game series the following day on Saturday, Oct. 4, at 8 p.m.



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



Sports

Football: UConn looks to remain perfect against FIU in annual Crucial Catch game



by Sam Calhoun
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Following a nail-biter last week, the UConn football team (3-2) looks for smoother sailing at home against Florida International (2-2, 0-1 CUSA) on Saturday afternoon.

The Huskies escaped Buffalo, N.Y., with a win thanks to a game-winning field goal by kicker Chris Freeman. It was the first game-clinching field goal for Connecticut since Bobby Puyol put one through the uprights in a win over Maine during the 2016 season.

FIU is the second member of Conference USA that the Huskies will face this season. They are 0-1 against the league this season, with a heartbreaking overtime loss at Delaware on Sept. 13. That is one thing that both UConn and Florida International have in common: they both lost to Delaware.

Their last meeting did not go as planned. On Sept. 16, 2023, UConn was upset by the Panthers, 24-17, at Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field. It was the team's third consecutive loss in as many games to open the season.

FIU is coming off its bye week after a conference-open-

ing loss to Delaware, 38-16.

The Huskies' run defense will need to be sharp to contain the Panthers. Led by running back Kejon Owens (396 yards and four touchdowns on 60 carries), FIU averages 187 yards per game on the ground. Owens is not the only Panther who could become a threat in the run game. Running back Anthony Carrie has a pair of touchdowns to add to 143 yards on 29 carries. Quarterback Keyone Jenkins is tied with Owens for most rushing touchdowns with four.

Despite only two passing touchdowns and three interceptions, it is entirely possible that Owens can give Florida International scoring opportunities with his arm. The junior from Miami, Fla., has passed for 701 yards with a completion rate of 62.9%. So far, his passer rating ranks the lowest out of his three years at FIU.

Those numbers do not impress anyone, but the Huskies' defense has not been sharp overall. UConn allows 392.6 yards per game, good for 97th in the country. They have forced just three turnovers in five games. The fourth quarter and overtime have especially been weak for

the defense, getting outscored 52-30 according to CT Insider's Roger Cleaveland.

"We had them fourth-and-goal to win the game, and we let them get in," UConn head coach Jim Mora said on the final minutes of the Huskies' road win at Buffalo. "That was disappointing."

Connecticut's offense did not impress until the game-winning drive. Quarterback Joe Fagnano only passed for 155 yards; wide receiver Skyler Bell only had 54 receiving yards and running back Cam Edwards rushed for 57 yards. Overall, the offense finished with a season-low 320 total yards.

Edwards only having 57 yards can be blamed on a hip injury suffered in the first half. He returned to the game and scored his sixth touchdown of the season, a team high.

"He is a tough dude," Mora said about Edwards. "He cares about this team. He loves to compete. It is going to be tough to keep that dude down. He is going to play through things."

Edwards leads a running game that helps the Huskies become one of the top 25 in the country in total yards per game (459).

Fagnano, who has 1,201 passing yards to go with 65 rushing yards and eight total touchdowns (seven of which are passing), will look back at FIU's loss to Delaware, where the secondary was shredded by Delaware's passing offense. The former Maine Black Bear has zero interceptions this season, in addition to the offense turning the ball over zero times.

He led the Huskies in rushing yards with 64 yards last week, something that was praised by Edwards.

"That's RBI, man," Mora said on Tuesday. "I mean, Joe is Joe. You never know what you're really gonna get out of Joe...But that boy's got some wheels."

However, FIU lost to Delaware without the help of defensive back Brian Blades II, who, according to the Miami Herald, is their top defensive player. He is expected to return to the gridiron on Saturday, along with linebacker Percy Courtney Jr.

The Huskies will have their annual Crucial Catch game, where they have only lost once since starting the tradition in 2022. For Mora, the theme becomes personal year after year.

"My grandmother died of breast cancer," Mora said on

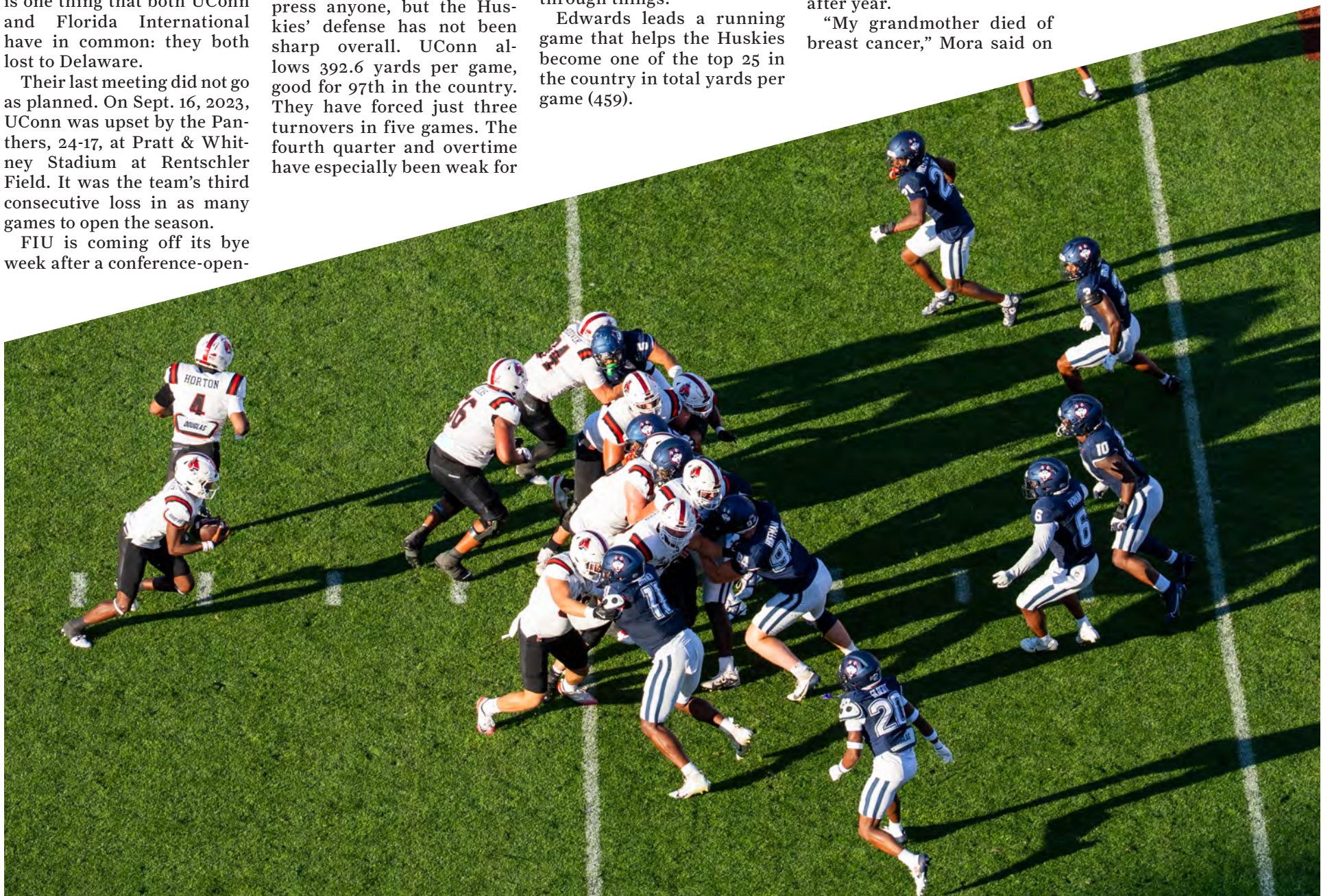
what the theme means to him. "My mom — a two-time breast cancer survivor. There's also people in my family that I've lost and suffered from cancer — cousin died of pancreatic cancer — so it's a lot of people. It means something, and it should mean something."

For the players, Saturday's game is more than just a game. They will sport ribbon decals on their helmets with different colors based on what kind of cancer they or their loved ones have been affected by.

"I don't think there is a player in our locker room or a person in our organization who has not been affected by cancer," Mora said. "You play this game certainly for yourself and for your teammates, but you also play for the respect of those who have supported you your whole life. The people who used to drive you to practice or who took two jobs so you could do what you loved as a kid."

UConn and FIU have each won a game, but Saturday will be a tie-breaking third game in the all-time series.

Kickoff from East Hartford, Conn., is set for 3:30 p.m. on Saturday and will be televised on CBS Sports Network.



The UConn football team defeats Ball State at Rentschler field on Sept. 20, 2025. The Huskies defend a late attack from the Cardinals with a final score of 31-25. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS