



HUSKY HOOPLA

RIGHT PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF
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LEFT PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCI-
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Womens

Big East Rankings

Sports

UConn

Creighton

Seton Hall

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A synopsis: The Huskies are 103-3 in Big East play since rejoining the conference ahead of the 2020-21 season — that's a .972 winning percentage. Connecticut hasn't lost in conference play since February of 2023 and has won each Big East game by an average of 28.9 points. Three starters return, including preseason All-America selections Sarah Strong and Azzi Fudd, and two highly coveted transfers join the fold (Serah Williams and Kayleigh Heckel) to form what should be one of the best scoring nuclei in the nation. Geno Auriemma will once again have the Huskies at the forefront of national championship contention as he chases a 13th title in 41 years.

by Tyler Pruneau
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After making a first-round appearance in the 2025 NCAA tournament, the Creighton Bluejays' women's basketball team could face problems. In the 2025 offseason, the program said goodbye to seven graduates, who exhausted their collegiate eligibility. Two of the Bluejays' biggest departures were guards Lauren Jensen and Morgan Maly. Jensen led the team with nearly 18 points per game, while Maly trailed with slightly over 17 points per clash. Now, head coach Jim Flanery will need to rely heavily on his freshmen, as six of the seven newcomers are first-year players. With only two veterans returning to the Bluejays, the program's starting lineup will drastically change. In the team's 117-66 win over the Missouri Western Griffons, the freshmen shined. By the end of the exhibition match, three of the five first-year players finished with double-digit points. Kendall McGee paved the way, topping the team with 18 points, seven rebounds and four steals. With that being said, the Bluejays should stay just as dominant.

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Seton Hall is entering this season coming off a 13-5 conference record last year, their third-best record after 43 years in the Big East. Despite missing the NCAA tournament and falling to Creighton in the Big East semifinals, the Pirates are coming off a successful season — one they'd like to build on. The team's leading scorer Faith Masonius won't be returning, but right behind her was freshman guard Jada Eads, who will likely take Seton Hall's offense in her sophomore year. Both were named to the Big East First Team last year. The Pirates also lost two key pieces in Tyanna Lops and Amari Wright, but with five incoming freshmen the future is bright. Head coach Anthony Bozzella looks to guide this new core and create a foundation for years to come.

Villanova

Marquette

Georgetown

by Meredith Lloyd
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The Villanova Wildcats closed out last season with a solid 11-7 conference record and their fourth Big East semifinal appearance in four years. They will face a difficult succession this winter following the loss of Maddie Webber, as the junior guard redirected her journey to the University of Illinois. Fortunately for the Wildcats, they hold onto their other key player, who is gearing up for her second season in the Villanova uniform: Jasmine Bascoe, the All-Big East First Team and All-Freshman honoree, contributed 17.2 points per game in conference matchups. Bascoe will lean on senior forward Denae Carter, who is a force on the defensive end and leads the pack in rebounds. Additionally, the Wildcats will have many fresh faces this season as they welcome five new recruits, but they will have their work cut out for them in a fight to top last season's conference successes.

by Avery Becker
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The Marquette women's basketball team is coming off a 21-11 season record with 12 wins and six losses coming from conference play. Despite falling to the Villanova Wildcats 66-73 in the quarterfinals of the Big East tournament last season, it's looking like with three integral players, the Golden Eagles will have a bit more success this season. These players include Lee Volker, Halle Vice and Skylar Forbes, who were all named to the preseason All-Big East Team this season, with Volker and Forbes both being selected unanimously. Last season, Forbes was the main focal point of the squad's offense, averaging 12.6 points per game and ranked fifth in the Big East conference with a field goal percentage of 47.2%. With the return of Forbes for another season, alongside Vice and Volker, they will all be forces to be reckoned with heading into their 2025-26 campaign.

by Sam Calhoun
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Georgetown is coming off a dismal 12-19 season with only four wins in Big East play, down from a 23-12 season during the 2023-24 campaign. It has been a while since the Hoyas have gone dancing, last making the NCAA Tournament in 2012. Georgetown, led by third-year head coach Darnell Haney, brings back senior Victoria Rivera (10.5 ppg) after leading the team in 3-pointers with 62. The top addition will be UCF transfer Laila Jewett, who averaged 8.3 points and 2.6 rebounds per game in 29 games last season. What will be important for Georgetown to improve is the defense, which ranked in the 17th percentile in college basketball. With their top two leading scorers, Kelsey Ransom (20.4 ppg) and Ariel Jenkins (11.4 ppg, 10 rpg) gone, the Hoyas need to make up for the lost production on both ends of the court.

DePaul

St. John's

Butler

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Year two of the Kim English era was an injury filled season that Friar fans would like to forget. A 12-20 campaign filled with lowlights such as losses to DePaul and former coach Ed Cooley's Georgetown squad led to the departure of star Bryce Hopkins to rival St. John's. However, English did not let last season deter him from landing some big recruits and using the transfer portal to his advantage. Highly touted prospects Jaylen Harrell and Jamier Jones will enter the rotation along with Vanderbilt transfer Jason Edwards and UCF transfer Jaylin Sellers. Edwards averaged 17 points per game for an NCAA tournament team last season while Sellers, who missed almost all of last season, averaged 15.9 in 2024. Returning players such as Corey Floyd Jr., Oswin Erhunmwunse and Ryan Mela will also be key providers for the Friars. Hopes are high in Friartown in a make-or-break year for English.

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After last year's 5-13 Big East record, the Red Storm falls to number 8 for this season's rankings. As he enters his 14th season as head coach for St. John's, Joe Tartamella will have to do so without 8 players from last year's squad. However, with the addition of 5-foot-1 forward Sa'Mya Wyatt and the return of guards Skye Owen and Kylie Lavelle, the team could still pose a threat. St. John's will look for a better start to the Big East season after going 1-8 last year tarnished any aspirations for an NCAA tournament bid. The last time the Red Storm found themselves playing during March Madness was in 2023, when a first-round exit was handed to them by North Carolina. Fans are hoping that something better is brewing for the Red Storm this season, but the forecast doesn't say likely.

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The Butler 2024-25 campaign was a difficult one with the Bulldogs ending their season with a 5-13 conference record. The program was eliminated from the Big East tournament in the first round after losing to No. 8 seed St. John's 66-50. Going into this season, the team lost two of their main players, guards Kilyn McGuff and Caroline Strande, both of whom graduated last year. However, the team will see the return of sophomore guard Lily Zeinstra. She averaged 26.2 minutes per game last season and was second in the team in 3-point field goals. The program will also welcome freshman Addison Baxter, who was a 2025 Indiana all-star when playing for Columbia City. Baxter came just one assist short of scoring a triple-double in Butler's exhibition game against Taylor University. She scored 13 points, 10 rebounds, and nine assists in the game. Overall, the Bulldogs come into the season with very low expectations and will just be hoping to show some improvement from their past seasons.

Providence

Awards

Xavier

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The Providence Friars are back after a 13-19 campaign, including a 6-12 mark in the Big East. Led by third-year head coach Erin Batth, the Friars feature a brand-new lineup after losing 10 seniors, some of whom played major roles on last year's squad. Teneisia Brown joins the Friars in 2025 after spending the past two seasons at Fairleigh Dickinson. The former two-time All-Northeast Conference First-Team forward and 2025 NEC Defensive Player of the Year averaged 15.1 points, 9.7 rebounds, 1.9 assists and 1.1 steals per game in her last season at FDU. Her 6-foot-2 frame was a major selling point for Batth, as she's a force to reckon with in the paint when grabbing rebounds. Joining Brown are transfers Sabou Gueye (Florida A&M) and Eseosa Imafidon (Louisville). The team's transfers will need to step up if the Friars hope to remain competitive in the Big East.

POTY – SARAH STRONG, UCONN

FOTY – KELIS FISHER, UCONN

COTY – GENO AURIEMMA, UCONN

ALL CONFERENCE

AZZI FUDD, UCONN

SERAH WILLIAMS, UCONN

KK ARNOLD, UCONN

JASMINE BASCOE, VILLANOVA

JADA EADS, SETON HALL

by Alex Klancko
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Xavier had a 7-24 record including a 1-17 Big East record last year with their only conference win being a 50-40 game against Butler on Jan. 18. Xaviers' head coach, Billi Chambers, is heading into her third season with the Musketeers with an 8-51 record. The Musketeers had eight players transfer into the program including Savannah White (Indiana State), Mya Moore (Cleveland State), Audia Young (Auburn) and Mariyah Noel (Ole Miss). They also added four freshmen to the team including Penda Dieng, Denise Neves, Payton Richards and Kodee Williams-Sefo. They also kept Meri Kanerva who was named to the All-Big East Freshman Team last year. All signs point to Xavier finishing near the bottom of the big east again, but with eight new additions to the team, this year could be different.

Mens

Sports

Big East Rankings

ST. JOHN’S

by Kaden Knapp
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After capturing the Big East title last season, Rick Pitino's St. John's squad enters the new year loaded with experience, depth and expectations of another conference title.

The Red Storm enters this season ranked No. 5 in the AP Poll and are picked to finish first in the Big East for the first time since 1991-92.

Senior forward Zuby Ejiofor is back for SJU after scoring 14.7 points and grabbing 8.1 rebounds per game last season and receiving All-Big East honors. St. John's also returns senior captain, Sadiku Ibine-Ayo.

The Red Storm reloaded through the transfer portal, landing North Carolina guard Ian Jackson, who's already on the Jerry West Shooting Guard of the Year preseason watch list. They also added Bryce Hopkins, now fully healthy and expected to make an immediate impact.

If Pitino can get this group to click early, St. John's could be poised to make a deep tournament run.

UConn

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Last season, the Huskies' three-peat hopes fell just short of a Sweet 16 trip to eventual national champion Florida in the Round of 32. The Huskies were projected to be the top team in the Big East, with Alex Karaban leading the way after a 50/40/90 season during the 2023-24 season. However, the 2024-25 season was a roller coaster, especially with Liam McNeeley being sidelined for a month and Karaban's confidence dropping after a crucial missed free throw at Villanova. The most important factor for UConn this season will be: How does the defense look? Last year, the Huskies were lucky to be a top 100 team defensively, especially with how many 3-pointers they gave up. With key additions like Silas Demary Jr. and Braylon Mullins, along with Karaban and Tarris Reed Jr., Connecticut should be back in the mix for a national championship.

Creighton

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After a Sweet 16 exit against Auburn, the Creighton Bluejays are hungry for a successful season. Last year, the Bluejays finished second in the regular season in the Big East behind St. John's. This season for Creighton will look a lot different. The Bluejays will be replacing three of their starters from last season: Steven Ashworth (graduate), Ryan Kalkbrenner (draft), and Jamiya Neal (NBA). The projected starting lineup will go as follows: senior guard Nik Graves, senior guard Josh Dix, junior forward Jasen Green, sophomore forward Jackson McAndrew and junior forward Owen Freeman.

CBS Sports projects Creighton finishing in third place in the Big East behind St. John's and UConn. This season will be an uphill battle for the Bluejays, but never count them out, as they have shown they are a sneaky team in March.

Marquette

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Marquette has some big shoes to fill after making the tournament last year. Last season, four players averaged more than ten points, but only one will return: senior guard Chase Ross.

Of course, Ross will be expected to lead the team in his senior year, but forward Royce Parham is also one to watch: he averaged 5.1 PPG in just 15 minutes last season. Six-foot-11 Ben Gold will return for his senior season after averaging 7.4 PPG and 4.3 RPG last year, too.

Four-star guard recruit Adrien Stevens, the No. 78 ranked recruit overall, was the team's top recruit. No. 86 ranked recruit Nigel James Jr. was the third ranked recruit in New York before committing to the Golden Eagles, and they also nabbed three more four-stars: forwards Michael Phillips II and Ian Miletic and center Sheek Pearson. Albeit a young group, Marquette seems to be building a strong future with their incoming crop of players.

Georgetown

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After getting back over .500 and going 18-16 in their second year under head coach Ed Cooley, the Hoyas will be looking to make a similar turnaround in Big East play. In Cooley's first two seasons at Georgetown, the team posted a combined 10-30 in-conference record.

Three of the team's top four scorers from 2024-25 have departed. Both Micah Peavy and Thomas Sorber left for the NBA, while Jayden Epps transferred to Mississippi State. The Hoyas' best returner is Malik Mack. The versatile guard averaged 19.9 points per game and led the team in assists. Mack was named to the All-Big East preseason third team. Incoming transfer KJ Lewis (Arizona) made the All-Big East preseason second team.

If Cooley can coach his team to a winning record in Big East play, he is an under the radar candidate for conference Coach of the Year.

Villanova

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The Wildcats are entering a new era under their new Head Coach Kevin Willard, a proven winner with NCAA Tournament experience from his successful tenures at Seton Hall and Maryland. The Villanova roster is almost completely revamped, with eight key transfers and three freshmen replacing the core of last year's squad.

The season hinges entirely on how quickly the group can gel, and the roster features several key players including Grand Canyon transfer Duke Brennan and, when he returns from injury, Long Island Beach transfer Devin Askew. To substitute for Askew at point guard is highly touted freshman guard Acaden Lewis, who is expected to make an immediate impact.

Navigating the Big East schedule will demand quick chemistry, with the ultimate goal of establishing a foundation to return to tournament-caliber basketball when March arrives.

Providence

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Year two of the Kim English era was an injury filled season that Friar fans would like to forget. A 12-20 campaign filled with lowlights such as losses to DePaul and former coach Ed Cooley's Georgetown squad led to the departure of star Bryce Hopkins to rival St. John's.

However, English did not let last season deter him from landing some big recruits and using the transfer portal to his advantage. Highly touted prospects Jaylen Harrell and Jamier Jones will enter the rotation along with Vanderbilt transfer Jason Edwards and UCF transfer Jaylin Sellers. Edwards averaged 17 points per game for an NCAA tournament team last season while Sellers, who missed almost all of last season, averaged 15.9 in 2024. Returning players such as Corey Floyd Jr., Oswin Erhunmwunse and Ryan Mela will also be key providers for the Friars.

Hopes are high in Friartown in a make-or-break year for English.

Xavier

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The Musketeers had a solid 2024-25 season, posting a 22-12 record and barely making the NCAA tournament. They beat Texas in the First Four before losing in the round of 64 against Illinois. However, things will look completely different for Xavier this season. After the departure of former head coach Sean Miller, the Musketeers will now be coached by Richard Pitino, son of St. John's head coach Rick Pitino. Xavier also saw the departure of nearly its entire roster from last year, as no returning player logged more than three minutes per game last season. Xavier's new roster consists of almost all transfers including Tre Carroll, who averaged 12.2 points per game last season with FAU, and Malik Messina-Moore, who averaged 12.6 points per game with Montana. It's hard to predict how this new team will fare, but it could be a season with some growing pains for Richard Pitino.

Butler

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The Bulldogs are coming off a top 40 ranked season offensively among the nation and look to carry their offensive workload again this year. With a stacked offensive unit, the Bulldogs should see similar output from Jalen Jackson, the Purdue Fort Wayne transfer, who averaged 19.2 points per game on his former team. Returning three-point ace Finley Bizjack will look to match his impressive 42.8% three-point shooting numbers and his 10.3 points per game average. For all their talent on offense, the Bulldogs will need to make improvements on the defensive side of the ball. Lackluster defense as well as an inability to see games through were key reasons for their 15-20 record last season. Gonzaga transfer Michael Ajayi will look to improve the Bulldog's defensive effort, with head coach Thad Matta looking for his first NCAA tournament bid with the Bulldogs in his 4-year tenure with the team.

DePaul

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The Blue Demons showed flashes of success in Chris Holtmann's first year as head coach and will be looking to improve even further this season. The Blue Demons will return two regulars from last year's 14-19 campaign: CJ Gunn and Layden Blocker. Gunn led the team in scoring last year with 12.9 points per game and was a key part of last year's success. DePaul also brought in a group of promising transfers including forward Kaleb Banks, who averaged 14.7 points and 6.7 assists with Tulane last season, and former Colorado guard RJ Smith, a high-upside option looking to get more opportunities with DePaul. Last year the Blue Demons began to establish an identity, something that couldn't be said about the program for years. They are no longer perpetually stuck at the bottom of the conference and are working to become a competitive force in the coming years. They may not be at that level right now, but after just three overall wins the season prior, there's plenty to be optimistic about for this up-and-coming DePaul squad.

Awards

POTY – ZUBY EJIOFOR, ST. JOHN’S

FOTY – BRAYLON MULLINS, UCONN

COTY – RICK PITINO, ST. JOHN’S

ALL CONFERENCE

SOLO BALL, UCONN

TARRIS REED JR., UCONN

BRYCE HOPKINS, ST. JOHN’S

JACKSON MCANDREW, CREIGHTON

ALEX KARABAN, UCONN

Seton Hall

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Many may think that Seton Hall will finish last in the Big East this year, but for Shaheen Holloway and his squad, they have other plans. The Pirates will roll into this year with a fresh roster after eight players transferred out following an abysmal 7-25 record. This year, Holloway has a new \$55 million practice facility to his advantage, along with a three-guard lineup that will look to revolutionize college basketball. They will also have potential freshman of the year Najai Hines, who stands at six-foot-11 and 265 pounds, to hold down the middle. Holloway and his staff will have a challenge to mold this team; however, they could be the shocker of the Big East this winter.

UConn women’s basketball projected starting lineup

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After winning the program’s 12th National Championship this past April, the UConn women’s basketball team is back, locked and loaded for the 2025-26 season. Associate sports editor Avery Becker and staff writer Jake McCreven, The Daily Campus women’s basketball beat writers, put their heads together on what the starting lineup will look like this season. Here is what they projected:

G – KK Arnold, Jr. (Avery)

When the UConn women’s basketball program was plagued with injuries in the 2023-24 season, point guard KK Arnold started 33 out of 39 games as only a freshman. Then, in her sophomore campaign, Arnold took on a new role, bringing the fire to the court off the bench. The Wisconsin native averaged 5.5 points per game in her sophomore season and attained 9 points with a 100% field

goal percentage in the National Championship game. Now, with the full court pressure Arnold brings, she will be an integral piece to the starting lineup as the Huskies begin their quest for No. 13.

G – Azzi Fudd, Gr. (Avery)

After receiving the Most Outstanding Player award when the program notched their 12th National Championship, shooting guard Azzi Fudd decided to return to Storrs for another season. In her 2024-25 campaign, the Virginia native averaged 13.6 points per game and led the squad with a three-point field goal percentage of 43.6%. Fudd flourished in the National Championship game, attaining her 1,000th career point by scoring 24 points in the contest. The 5-foot-11 guard’s shot looks effortless every time she steps out on the hardwood. Being the most seasoned veteran on this

year’s roster, it’s a no-brainer head coach Geno Auriemma will give her the nod for this year’s starting lineup.

G – Ashlynn Shade, Jr. (Avery)

Like her teammate Arnold, junior Ashlynn Shade found herself in the starting lineup for the majority of her freshman season, due to the program’s injuries. Shade made 12 starts in her sophomore campaign but spent most of the season coming off the bench, where she eventually earned the 2025 Big East Sixth Woman of the Year. Last season, the 5-foot-10 guard averaged 7.7 points per game. Any time Shade steps out on the court, she can change the tempo of the game immediately, making her a fundamental piece of this year’s starting lineup.

F – Sarah Strong, So. (Jake)

Strong will need to buy a second trophy case to store all of the hardware that she has quickly

accumulated in Storrs. The true sophomore returns as one of the best players in the nation, evidenced by an AP Preseason All-America selection, and what appears to be an expanded role as a team leader for the Huskies.

Strong proved to be an efficient, three-level scorer and multi-faceted defender as a freshman. Above all else, however, her consistency and maturity stood out on a team laden with superstars last year.

Strong will be surrounded by a supporting cast that will give her ample opportunity to score. An upgrade in points (16.4) and assists (3.6) seems likely.

An increased role as a vocal leader will serve as the last piece in what could end up being one of Geno Auriemma’s favorite puzzles ever – the Sarah Strong era.

F – Serah Williams, Sr. (Jake)

Williams ranked inside the

top six of the Big 10 in the following statistics at Wisconsin last year; points (6th, 577), rebounds (4th, 295), blocks (3rd, 69), field goal percentage (6th, .493), field goals (4th, 224) and usage percentage (1st, .335).

How does that translate to starting at Connecticut? Well, she can score — Williams finished in double-figures in 28 of the Badgers’ 30 games — and she can rebound — she had 14 double-doubles as a junior last year.

Yet the most noticeable thing this preseason about Williams isn’t quantifiable. She’s aggressive. The true senior isn’t afraid to create on her own. She’ll get the ball on the elbow, pivot towards the basket and go to work -- regardless of the matchup.

It’s an offensive factor the nearly invincible Huskies sorely missed last season; a big who can score in bunches.



UConn men’s basketball projected starting lineup

by Sam Calhoun | STAFF WRITER | HE/HIM/HIS | samuel.calhoun@uconn.edu and Matt Dimech | STAFF WRITER | HE/HIM/HIS | rrwq24001@uconn.edu

G – Silas Demary Jr. (Matt)

Silas Demary Jr. was the centerpiece of UConn’s offseason additions, transferring to Storrs from Georgia. He started in all 33 games for the Bulldogs last year, scoring 13.5 points per game and logging 1.7 steals per game. Demary was also the team’s best shooter from beyond the arc, leading the team in both makes and three-point percentage. At 6-foot-5, he provides the Huskies with size at the point guard position that has made teams of the past successful. Demary made his first appearance for the Huskies in Tuesday’s exhibition against Michigan State. Demary knocked down two 3’s in the game’s opening minutes to kickstart UConn’s momentum. The expectations for Demary are high coming into the season, as he was named to the Preseason Watch List for the Bob Cousy Award, given to the best point guard in the country.

G – Solo Ball, So. (Matt)

The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame also recognized Solo Ball for its positional awards, selecting him to the Preseason Watch List for the Jerry West Award. awarded to the nation’s best shooting guard. On top of that, he was named to the preseason All-Big East First Team. Last season was a breakout year for Ball. He averaged 14.4 points per game last season and was the best 3-point shooter in the Big East, shooting 41.4%. Ball made seven 3’s on his way to a 25-point game during a road win over Marquette in February. The key for Ball this season is to improve on the defensive end, an area in which he struggled last year. If he can do that, there is no reason he cannot be the best shooting guard in colleg basketball this year.

F – Jaylin Stewart (Sam)

With five-star freshman Braylon Mullins out, Stewart is in line to start for the next 4-5 weeks. The junior from Seattle is a streaky player, but when he catches fire, you see the potential for him to make a major leap from his first two seasons at UConn. Last season, Stewart posted averages of 5.4 points and 2.4 rebounds per game in 17.8 minutes per game with shooting percentages of 54.5% from the floor, 36.4% from 3-point range and 72% from the free throw line. Those numbers might not impress you, but he got into double figures scoring-wise seven times last season, including impressive efforts against tournament teams Memphis, Gonzaga and Creighton. In more advanced analytics, Stewart finished in the 90th percentile in true shooting percentage at 64.8%. Especially in transition, expect Stewart to break out with Mullins absent.

F – Alex Karaban (Sam)

Karaban is back for his final year and looks to shake off the inconsistency and decrease in confidence that occurred following the loss at Villanova last season. Even with that, Karaban’s numbers increased as his role saw him become a first option player. Karaban was named to the preseason All-Big East first team despite the roller coaster ride last year. What his critics cannot argue is that he was essential in every one of the 33 games he played last year. He made his teammates better, averaging 3.1 assists per 40 minutes (91st percentile nationally). His true shooting numbers were down from the 2024 national championship run, but expect the Southborough, Mass. native to find more consistency this year.

C – Tarris Reed Jr. (Sam)

Reed is likely to start on opening night against New Haven after missing both exhibition games with a hamstring injury. The former Michigan Wolverine comes into the 2025-26 campaign as the reigning Big East Sixth Man of the Year, averaging 9.6 points, 7.3 rebounds and 1.6 blocks per game on 19.9 minutes per game off the bench with an astounding 67% shooting percentage from the floor. The advanced analytics greatly favor him, including a true shooting percentage of 68.1% (96th percentile nationally). His ceiling showed at Providence last year, with a stat line of 24 points, 18 rebounds, six blocks and two steals on 10-13 shooting. While he did not average double figures in scoring, he averaged 19.3 points per 40 minutes (91st percentile nationally). Reed could emerge as the best player on the team in an Adama Sanogo-like role.





Mansfield Elections: Board of Education candidates

by Mikayla Bunnell

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Local elections are right around the corner. This year, Mansfield voters can vote for three Mansfield Board of Education candidates and two Region 19 candidates.

Mansfield BOE serves Mansfield Elementary School and Mansfield Middle School. There are nine board members.

Democrats Haley Gross de Jimenez and Kristin Dilaj and Republican Gregory Cecil are competing for two, full-term (six years) seats. Democrat John Fratiello Jr. is running unopposed to fill a vacancy for four years. Fratiello and Cecil are the only incumbents running for reelection.

Jimenez is running for her first term on the board because she thinks public education is extremely valuable.

“I believe public education is not just foundational, but critical to an open and free society,” Jimenez said in an email statement. “Public schools have challenging years ahead between the shifting federal landscape and rising student mental health crises, and I want to assist Mansfield students, teachers, administrators and parents navigate those challenges.”

As a mother herself, Jimenez said she came to Mansfield in part because of “the wonderful schools.” She was drawn to the district’s values: “kindness, respect, responsibility and dedication to developing the whole child and global citizens.”

If elected, Jimenez’s priority is to support those values and help the school adapt to an ever-changing society.

“We can’t predict what the world will look like in five years, let alone 20,” she said. “Students leaving Mansfield schools need to be ready to engage with whatever future they encounter — able to learn new things, think independently, and participate meaningfully in their communities.”

Dilaj is running for her first term on the board as well. Dilaj hopes to strengthen the schools and pave the way for student success if elected.

“[Dilaj] is running for the Board of Education to bring fresh perspective, community values, and a focus on preparing students for the future,” according to her biography on the Mansfield Democrats website.

Cecil, the Republican incumbent, did not respond to requests for comment.

Fratiello is the Democratic incumbent. He is a retired teacher and principal with a 40-year career in education, according to the Mansfield Democrats website. He previously served as a Republican and Independent on the board in the 2010s, according to the website, but is now back running again, “focused on the future of Mansfield education.”

Region 19 serves E.O. Smith, the regional high school. The Region 19 board has 12 members: four from Ashford, four



A school girl walking to her school entrance. The Mansfield BOE consists of nine board members and serves Mansfield Elementary and Mansfield Middle school. PHOTO COURTESY OF MANSFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS, CONNECTICUT ON FACEBOOK

from Willington and four from Mansfield. This year, half of Mansfield’s Region 19 members are up for reelection.

The Region 19 candidates are democrats Greg Miller and Kathleen Tonry. Both are running unopposed for their first term on the board.

Miller, father to a recent E.O. Smith graduate and a current MMS student, is running because he wants to give back to the schools that he said gave his family so much.

“I believe deeply in public education and its power to transform lives,” he said. “At a time when divisions can feel impossible to bridge, I believe that we can still unite around supporting our children and the educators who help them grow.”

Miller is an editorial and fine arts photographer who has worked for major publications like The New Yorker, Esquire, NPR and TIME. His work can also be found in major collections like the Museum of the City of New York. He had been an instructor at the International Center of Photography since 1999, where he taught people of all backgrounds and ages, “from high school students to octogenarians,” something he said has been a great privilege.

“[W]ith over 25 years in education, I’ve learned that students thrive in environments where they feel safe, respected and inspired,” he said in an email statement.

Miller’s plans in office include supporting educators, advancing equity, listening and fostering respectful dialogue and supporting continued success for students and the community.

“My approach centers on listening, collaboration and supporting what works,” he said. “I’m a proud supporter of our dedicated teachers and staff, who have had such a profound impact on our daughters’ lives and the lives of countless students in our community.”

Similarly, Tonry is the mother of a recent E.O. Smith graduate and two MMS stu-

dents. She is an associate professor at the University of Connecticut English Department. As a board member, Tonry hopes to rebuild and strengthen connections between E.O. Smith and UConn, as they are grappling with some of the same issues.

“I currently serve as a parent representative on the AI planning team [at the high school],” she said. “So, for high schools, there are these really big questions, like how much students use AI and what is AI literacy anyway? How does it shape us as learners? How do students today need to prepare for an AI driven world? And all those questions are also being asked literally right across the street at UConn, and so we can do some thinking together around that.”

She said both schools are grappling with equity, and how it can be addressed in the culture and curriculums at the schools, particularly in history, civics and fine arts classes. Tonry said that high schools are the place where students become citizens. She said that E.O. Smith is in the

midst of an important moment.

“I’m running for the BOE because this moment is crucial for E. O. Smith in terms of policy, teacher retention and the shape of student learning,” Tonry said. “I believe District 19 needs a strong advocate for teacher-centered governance; policies that are driven by classroom experiences and student needs; and leadership that is transparent and responsive to the concerns of our community.”

Tonry also emphasized the importance of UConn student involvement in the election. Even if students think they shouldn’t be involved because they aren’t from Mansfield, it is important to learn about local politics and elections.

“UConn students have this chance to learn about and be involved in politics... at the local level. And hopefully, when you graduate, you’ll stay in Connecticut, bring your kind of skills and smarts to contribute to your local communities. And this is a way to figure out how that works,” she said. “You’re all welcome to

come to local board meetings and zoning and planning commission meetings, all of that. So it’s a chance to walk out of a really academic environment right into local politics and see what’s happening and how it all works.”

Mansfield residents and UConn students not yet registered to vote can do so online at voterregistration.ct.gov.

Early voting locations are open from now until Nov. 2. There are two locations: Mansfield Town Hall at 4 S. Eagleville Road and the UConn Bookstore at 2075 Hillside Road. Locations are open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. On Oct. 30, they will be open for extended hours, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

To vote in-person on election day, voters can go to one of four voting locations: Mansfield Community Center at 10 S. Eagleville Road, Mansfield Middle School gymnasium at 205 Spring Hill Road, Mansfield Public Library Buchanan Auditorium at 54 Warrenville Road and Annie E. Vinton School at 306 Stafford Road. The polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Students working on group projects inside a classroom. Early voting locations are open from now until Nov. 2. PHOTO COURTESY OF MANSFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS, CONNECTICUT ON FACEBOOK

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WE ARE NOT THE
DAILY DIGEST

Homeless shelter opening in Willimantic promises a space for guests to focus on health and stability



Inside look into Project HOPE's newly renovated shelter for adults experiencing homelessness. Project HOPE's was founded in 2003 with a mission to help people get back on their feet with dignity and privacy. PHOTO COURTESY OF PROJECT HOPE WEBSITE

by Juliana Assis
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Project HOPE of Eastern Connecticut opened its shelter located at 433 Valley Street in Willimantic on Oct. 29.

According to a press release, the facility is designed to “meet the emotional and physical needs of adults experiencing homelessness so they can feel safe enough to focus on health, employment and personal growth.” The shelter is a 6,200 square foot modern space that welcomes all unhoused adults. The space features “10 semi-private micro-units, each with a private bathroom and storage area.” Additionally, the building is ADA-compliant and includes an elevator as well as two wheelchair-accessible units.

The shelter offers a wide variety of services for its guests: on-site health services in partnership with local providers, semi-private rooms with bathrooms, showers and personal storage, safe isolation spaces for sick guests to recover and prevent community spread, showers and laundry services for community members not entering the shelter and private meeting spaces for partner agencies.

Executive Director Avery Lenhart said the new facility represents a major improvement from the organization’s previous setup.

“We are so fortunate to be able to offer shelter in double-occupancy rooms, each with their own bathroom and shower,” Lenhart said. “Guests will

benefit from having privacy and dignity during their shelter stay. This is very different from our old model, which was basically one big room with beds everywhere.”

The building also includes a cold-weather drop-in center, allowing those without shelter to come inside on frigid nights for warmth, showers and a safe place to rest.

“Having this flexible space means we can provide services no matter what the need is,” Lenhart said.

Perhaps the most uniquely beneficial service is the Technology Resource Center where guests can apply for documents, conduct job searches and build digital skills — all of which are crucial for success and growth in our digital age. By teaching the importance of digital literacy and helping guests utilize digital resources, Project HOPE of Eastern Connecticut is providing their guests with critical tools to thrive.

Lenhart said the center reinforces Project HOPE’s philosophy of empowerment.

“We really push the idea of housing with our guests,” she said. “Upon their arrival, we explain that we are a program that works to help people end their homeless situations. Having resources like computers and help to use them will encourage them to move forward.”

The center will be staffed by volunteers from local colleges to help guests search for apartments, apply for jobs and access additional resources.

The shelter is located across

the street from Generations Family Health Center, adjacent to Windham Hospital and within walking distance of Windham Interfaith Ministry and Covenant Soup Kitchen. These partnerships play a key role in Project HOPE’s mission.

“In our new admin building, we will have an exam room that will be staffed by our healthcare partners — Generations and Hartford Healthcare,” Lenhart said. “It will be for people who may need COVID or flu testing or shots, diabetes care or other routine medical services.”

Additionally, the shelter is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all year round.

“We are committed to the idea of being compassionate while also empowering our

guests,” Lenhart said. “We recognize that everyone’s story is different and that, by really listening, we can help people in the way that works best for them.”

“In Connecticut, the largest group of people experiencing homelessness is currently adults without children, with some notable increases among older people. In the past year, homelessness among people ages 55 to 64 increased 20%, and among those 64 and older, the increase was 33%,” Lenhart said.

Looking ahead, Lenhart said Project HOPE’s goals go far beyond this new facility.

“Getting our new spaces up and running is huge for us and we are just now learning how to exist in our new building,” she said. “I would love

to create a transitional housing model where tenants learn all of the aspects of renting, such as how to work well with roommates and how to live within a budget. My staff and I have also talked about opening a business that would employ our guests to give them work experience. We have a lot of possibilities.”

Since 2003, Project HOPE of Eastern Connecticut has been dedicated to providing temporary refuge in times of crisis, aiming to “help individuals overcome homelessness, empowering them to reconnect to their communities and reclaim their lives,” according to their website. The organization focuses on providing a space where guests can “reclaim privacy, dignity and respect.”

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When Betting Hits the NBA Court

by **Harika Goteti**
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On Thursday, Oct. 23, “more than 30 people were indicted on Thursday in a case involving insider bets on basketball games and poker games rigged by Mafia families” as reported by The New York Times.

According to the AP News, Portland Trailblazers coach Chauncey Billups was charged with taking part in a conspiracy to rig high-stakes card games connected to the La Cosa Nostra crime family, which allegedly swindled unsuspecting gamblers out of more than \$7 million.

In a separate case, Miami Heat guard Terry Rozier was accused of using confidential player information to place and profit from bets on NBA games. The news channel further reports that “[t]he two indictments unsealed in New York create a massive cloud for the NBA — which opened its season this week — and show how certain types of wagers are vulnerable to massive fraud in the growing, multibillion-dollar legal sports-betting industry.”

“...[I]ndividuals such as Chauncey Bilips, Damon Jones and Terry Rosier were taken into custody today. Former and current NBA coaches,” FBI Director Kash Patel stated on Oct. 24.



Miami Heat player Terry Rozier answering questions from the press. Rozier has been arrested by the FBI for his role in an underground gambling ring. PHOTO COURTESY OF @ROZIER ON INSTAGRAM

Patel further stated that, “[W]hat you don’t know is that this is an illegal gambling operation and sports rigging operation that spanned the course of years. The FBI coordinated a takedown across 11 states to arrest over 30 individuals today responsible for this case, which is very much ongoing.”

According to Patel, the charges involve “wire fraud, money laundering, extortion, robbery, illegal gambling.”

“We take these allegations with the utmost seriousness, and the integrity of our game remains our top priority,” the NBA said in a statement with AP news.

According to a league memo obtained by ESPN, the NBA is reconsidering its measures on legal sports betting, its regulations, what types of bets should be allowed and the best ways to protect players from the “dire risks that gambling can impose upon their careers and livelihoods.”

The memo further stated that, “[W]ith sports betting now occupying such a significant part of the current sports landscape, every effort must be made to ensure that players, coaches and other NBA personnel are fully aware of the dire risks that gambling can impose upon their careers and livelihoods; that our injury disclosure rules are appropriate; and that players are protected from harassment from bettors.”

CT pumps up renewable energy with New England states amid federal setbacks

by **Patrick Boots**
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The State of Connecticut recently reinforced the use of renewable energy and a “cleaner” electrical grid in the middle of Trump administration policies designed to stop climate projects. The move is part of a 10+ year Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) initiative to assess the state’s growing electricity needs in cooperation with the other New England states.

“DEEP is required periodically to review the state’s energy and capacity resource assessment...[to] maximize consumer benefits consistent with the state’s environmental goals and standards,” their Integrated Resources Plan notice states.

The plan will guide the state’s procurement of energy resources, such as conventional and renewable generating facilities, distributed generation and “emerging energy technologies,” among others.

Although DEEP’s planning process started in February, Connecticut has had to navigate top-down blows to energy projects from Trump-approved policies, like a stop-work order for the offshore Revolution Wind farm, which is set to provide renewable energy to Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Connecticut, alongside other states, have ongoing legal proceedings to try and get Revolution Wind back online, suggesting that the stop-work order was baseless since it “did not identify any violation of law or imminent threat to safety [and] abstractly cites BOEM’s authority...so that the agency may address unidentified ‘concerns.’”



Solar cell panels lay on the grass, wind turbines spin in the sunset, and electricity pylons stand in the background. PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

On the same note, a new team-up between Connecticut and Maine hopes to beat a ticking clock by building renewable projects faster, in order to make use of federal tax programs before they expire. Trump’s new policy, part of the “One Big Beautiful Bill,” requires wind and solar farms to begin construction before July 2026 (and-or placed into service by the end of 2027) to qualify for the tax credits.

“By participating in Connecticut’s latest procurement effort, the state can consider

its options to deliver more cost-effective clean power within federal tax credit timelines,” Dan Burgess, acting commissioner of the Maine Department of Energy Resources, told Maine Public Radio.

The two states will “share notes” on energy proposals, independently evaluating and deciding whether proposals will benefit their infrastructure and citizens. It’s a natural pairing, since all six New England states share an electrical grid.

“Overall, New England’s

grid and Connecticut’s distribution system are in good shape,” a recent Regional Plan Association report states. “Over the last fifty years, New England utility companies and transmission owners have consistently upgraded their equipment, replacing old infrastructure with newer, more reliable infrastructure.”

Due to the infrastructure sharing, most electrical projects cross state lines; Renewable energy sources currently only account for 8% of the whole of New England’s en-

ergy resource mix, according to RPA, with the most coming from natural gas and nuclear production.

Connecticut has lofty goals, though, including generating 40% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030 and 100% by 2040 according to the state’s 2024 Clean and Renewable Energy Report. Maine has similar goals.

The timeline to renewable energy adoption was temporarily slowed by installation delays of a hydropower transmission line from Canada to feed into the New England grid in Maine, which is now expected to be complete within months, if the federal government doesn’t halt it.

DEEP’s Integrated Resources Plan process is ongoing, in an effort to determine a variety of results affecting stakeholders across the state.

“The [Integrated Resources Plan] will consider a range of potential energy supply policy cases to meet Connecticut’s anticipated electricity needs reliably over the next three, five, and ten years,” DEEP’s notice states. “Such cases will consider potential state and/or multistate-regional investments in new energy resources needed to address gaps in the ISO New England markets or otherwise ensure electric affordability and reliability and achievement of state policy targets and goals.”

DEEP also “requests written comments from the public regarding the scope of this next IRP as an initial part of its stakeholder engagement process,” with information available on its agency webpage at portal.ct.gov/deep/energy.



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Women’s Basketball Photo Gallery

BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



UConn women's basketball plays Southern Connecticut State University at PeoplesBank Arena in Hartford, Conn. on Oct. 26, 2025. The Huskies dominated, ending the game with a 105-39 win against the Owl's.

COMIC BY COLBI LORANGER

ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR



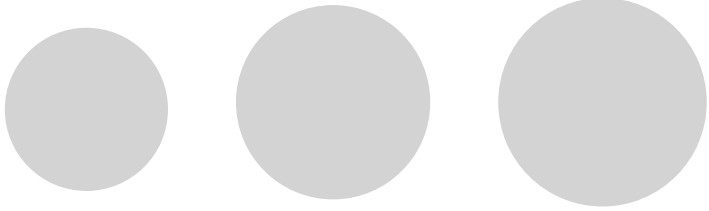
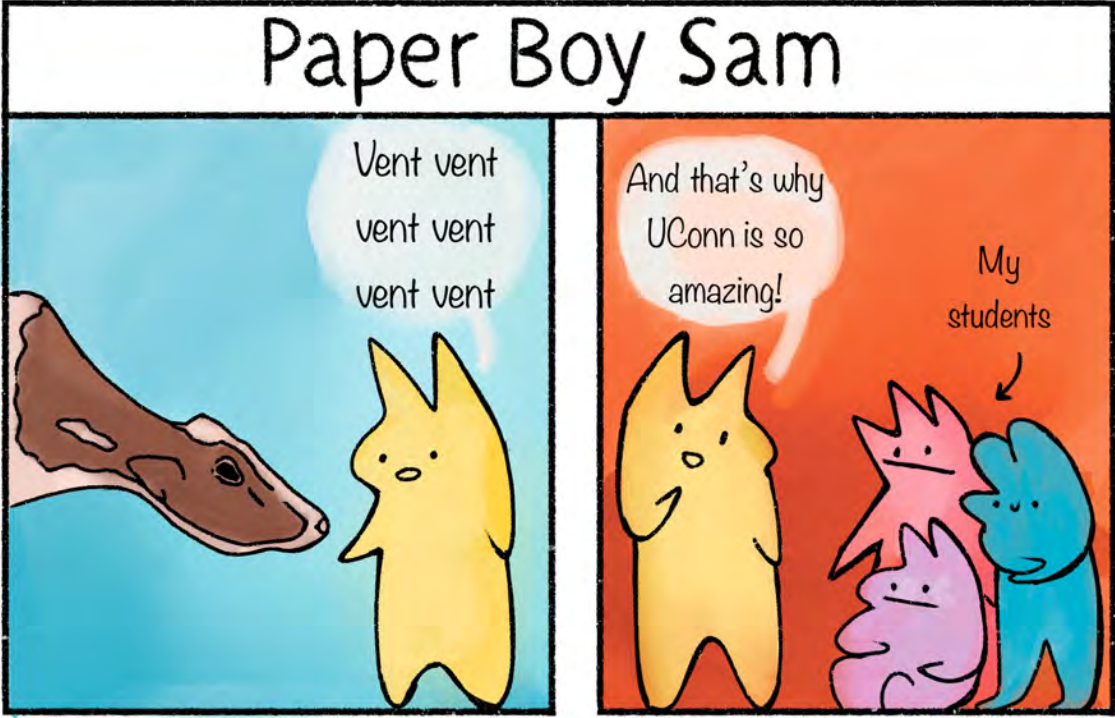
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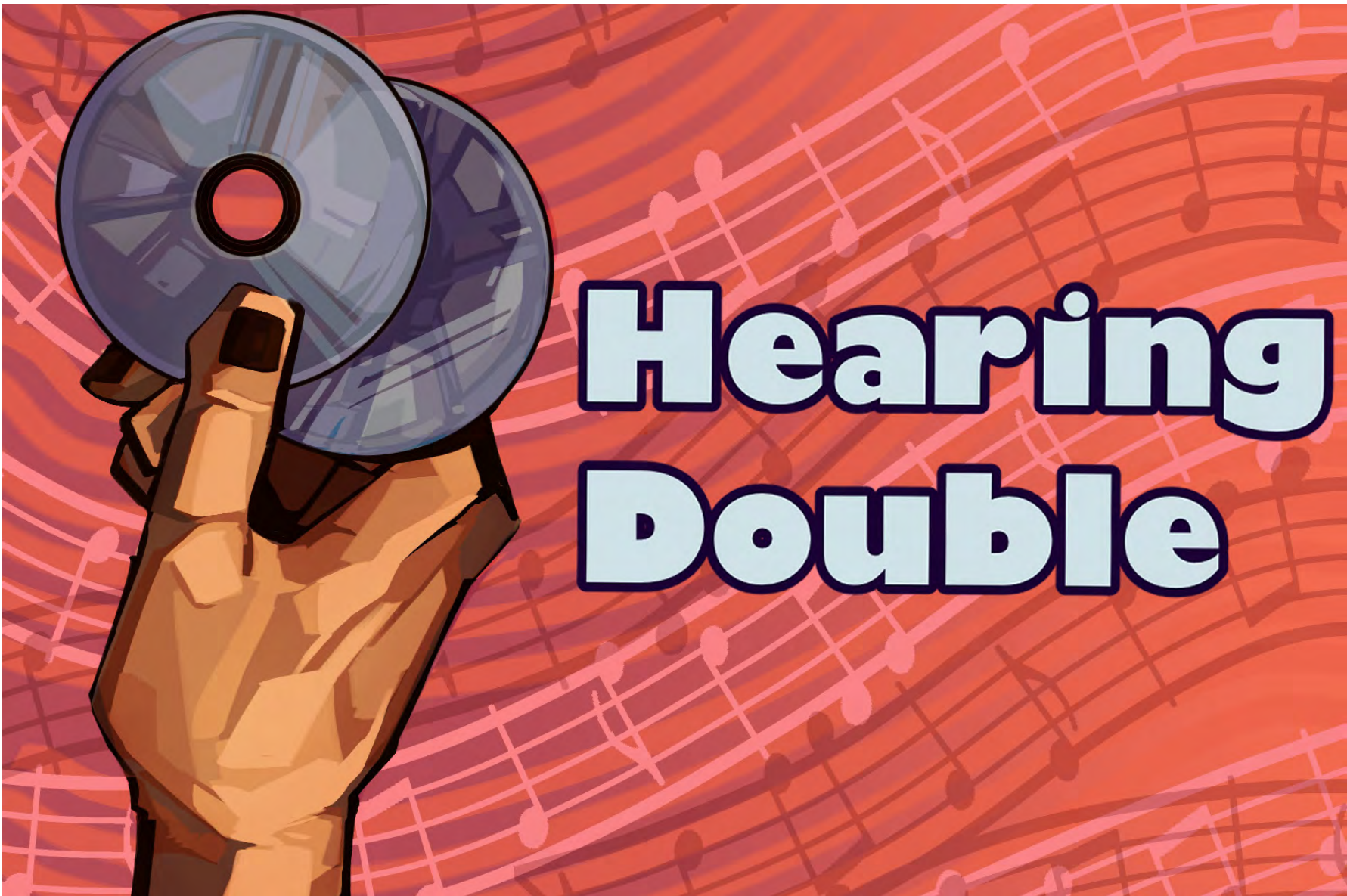


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Life

HEARING DOUBLE: GIVING THE CREEPS



LOGO BY ESHITHA RAO, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Jenna Outcalt
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Hello, and welcome to Hearing Double, where I compare and contrast two unrelated songs of the same title and decide which title does the most justice!

This week, there will be shivers up your spine as we take a look at “Creep” by TLC and Radiohead.

TLC’s “Creep” was their first number one hit and earned them a Grammy in 1996. The R&B song tells the story of a woman who knows her partner is cheating and decides to cheat on him for revenge.

My favorite fact about this song is that Lisa “Left Eye” Lopes, a member of the group, did not want the song to be released, considering it “bad advice” for those with cheating partners. Although I always like to take the meaning of the lyrics into account when I judge songs, I see this as a storytelling song, not advice. I won’t hold the moral questionability against the

song.

Inner conflict is a major theme in TLC’s “Creep.” Despite the speaker not feeling loved, she insists that she will “keep giving loving/’till the day he pushes me away.” Despite the repeated emphasis on her loneliness and guilt, the speaker seems determined to hold the status quo of this relationship where both partners are cheating.

One of the best parts of the song is the repeat of the second chorus. The words of the chorus, which describe the cheating, are intermingled with Tionne “T-Boz” Watkins explaining the decision to cheat with an almost appealing tone, directly addressing the partner instead of narrating to the audience. This is where she reiterates how much she loves her partner and tells him that if he won’t give her affection, she’ll have to get it from someone else. This sentiment is mixed in with the chorus to convey the conflict within someone who is cheating and simultaneously justifying their actions.

The music is undoubtedly

catchy. I always enjoy brass instruments in R&B songs, and the horn in “Creep” is a perfect example of why. The beat is easy to nod along to, and the different layers over the consistent horn give the song a satisfying uniformity that never slips into monotony.

In terms of the title, TLC notably uses the word “creep” as a verb. It’s the action she’s taking to balance out her partner’s cheating. However, the word’s murmured repetition in the chorus creates a perfect imagery of the deception and backhandedness on both sides of this relationship.

However, Radiohead tells a different story of a “creep.” Although the idea of inner conflict persists, this song uses the word as a noun, making it the singer’s entire identity instead of an action they take.

“Creep” was Radiohead’s debut single, released in 1992. The song remains their most popular to this day, but it’s not exactly beloved by the band. They rarely play it live

and even wrote a song about it called “My Iron Lung,” describing how “Creep” both kept the band afloat and simultaneously restricted their artistry.

However, “Creep” is popular for a reason. The isolation and self-deprecation of the speaker can resonate well with anyone experiencing loneliness or insecurity, which is almost everyone at some point in their lives.

The song introduces itself by presenting a woman who is “just like an angel” and “[floats] like a feather.” The speaker is enamored with her but believes he is not “special” enough to deserve her. He declares himself a “creep” and a “weirdo,” feeling like he doesn’t belong among people like that woman.

The speaker may be putting the woman on a bit of a pedestal in this song, especially considering there’s no indication he actually knows her well. However, that also seems like a good representation of what it’s like comparing yourself to people you admire. Sometimes the reason

we admire them is because we don’t know them well enough to just see them as humans. However, the way this thinking is portrayed in the song is (appropriately) a little creepy.

The music in Radiohead’s “Creep” is punctuated by short bursts of guitar leading into an almost wailing chorus. This song does an excellent job using the music itself to reflect the emotion in the lyrics.

It’s no small task to compare these songs. The music and instrumentation are starkly different, but both enjoyable and easy to listen to. The lyrics of both songs tell fascinating and emotional stories, but one focuses on a situation and the other focuses on how a man is seeing himself.

In the spirit of the column, I have to focus on which song better captures the title. When it comes to the emotional weight behind either “Creep,” I believe wrestling with feeling like an outcast overrides the creepiness of sneaking around behind a cheating partner’s back.



WINNER: RADIOHEAD

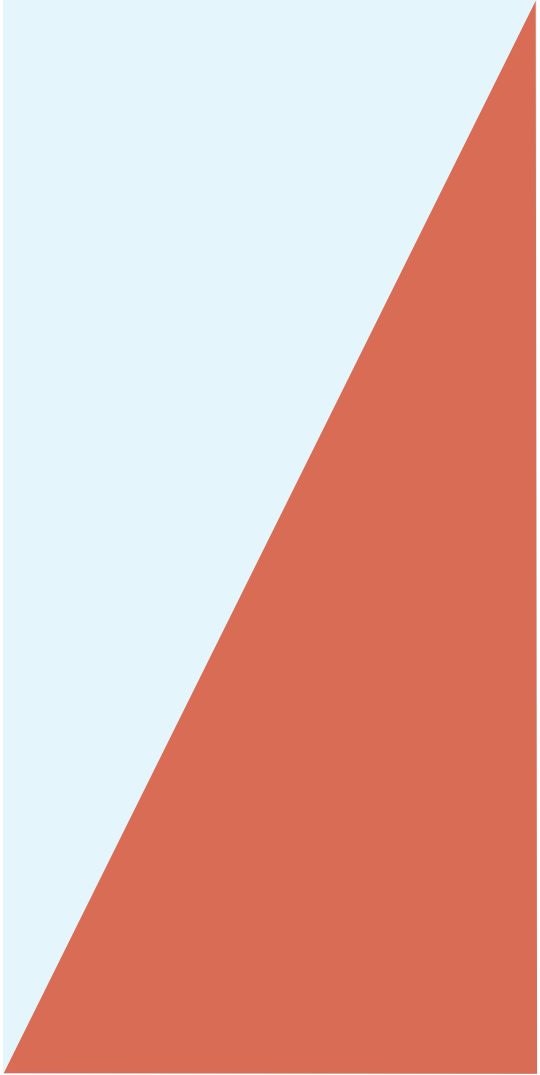
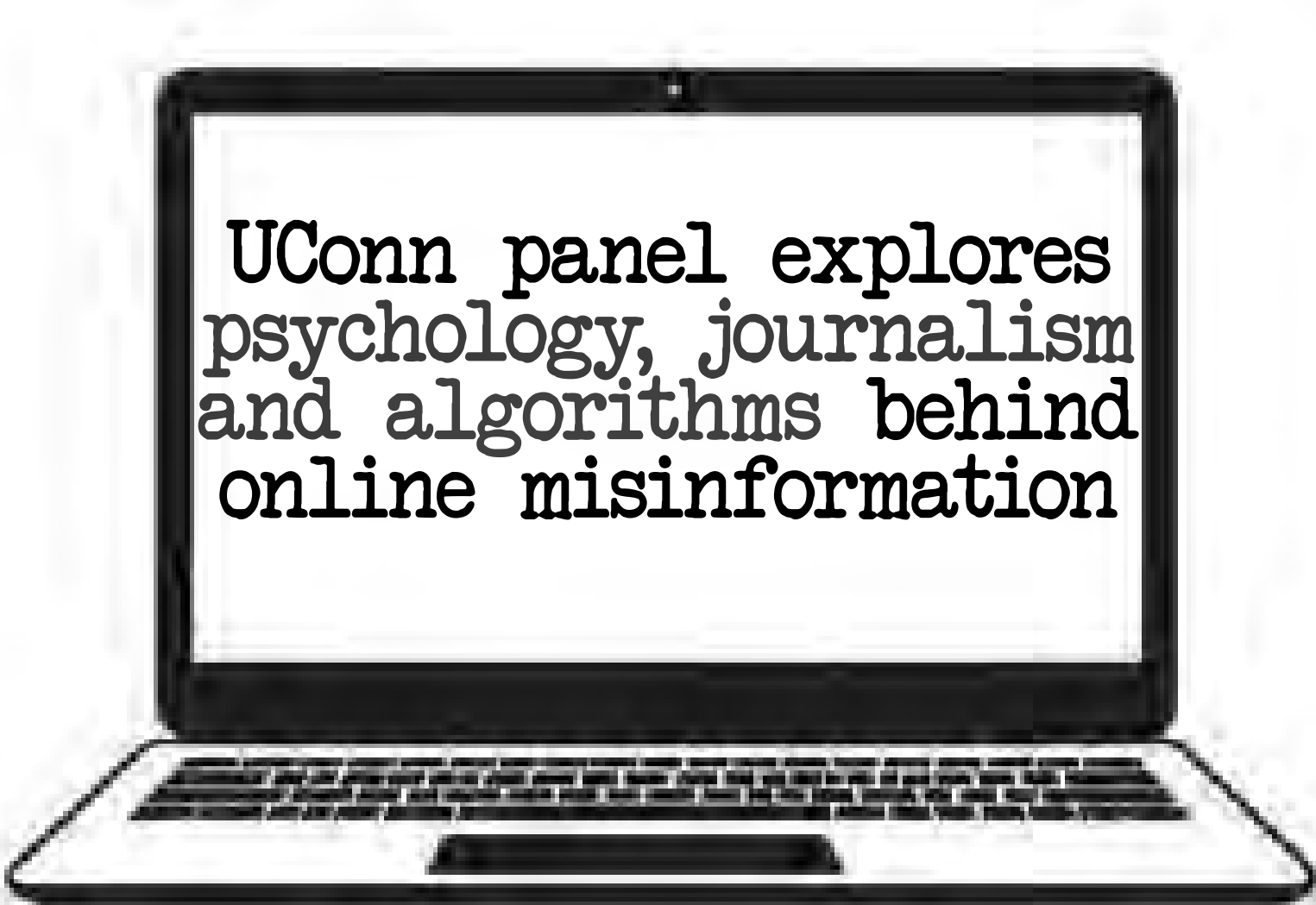


ILLUSTRATION BY RHIANNON WALLACE, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Life



CLIPART COURTESY OF ADOBE STOCK

by Juliana Assis
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On Tuesday, Oct. 28, the University of Connecticut Humanities Institute hosted a Q&A-style panel entitled “The Spread of Misinformation and the Rise of Social Media Advocacy” in conjunction with UConn Student Activities.

The panel featured three experts whose research and professional experience offered a multidisciplinary look at misinformation in the digital age: Dr. Sherry Pagoto, Professor Amanda J. Crawford and Dr. Anne Oeldorf-Hirsch.

Dr. Pagoto is a licensed clinical psychologist, professor and social media researcher whose work focuses on leveraging technology in the development and delivery of behavioral interventions targeting diet, physical activity and cancer prevention.

She connected psychological factors to the way misinformation spreads online, explaining that posts provoking emotions like shock,

anger or fear often generate more engagement — and thus more visibility — as opposed to posts conveying factual information. She also noted that many professionals lack digital literacy skills to effectively share credible information on social platforms and build an audience.

Professor Crawford is a political reporter and literary journalist whose research areas include journalism ethics, misinformation, conspiracy theories and the role of journalists in a democracy.

She examined the media’s role in amplifying misinformation. She discussed journalistic amplification — when reporters unintentionally spread falsehoods while trying to debunk them — as a major concern. Crawford also emphasized that while emotional storytelling can increase engagement, journalists must remain grounded in truth and integrity.

Dr. Oeldorf-Hirsch, an associate professor in UConn’s Department of Communication, studies how people use social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Tik-

Tok and X, formerly known as Twitter, to communicate news, health and identity.

She explored how social media algorithms and influencers shape users’ perceptions of credibility. She highlighted the growing influence of nano-influencers — users with smaller but more trusted followings — in digital marketing. Oeldorf-Hirsch noted the dilemma platforms face: fostering critical thinking could reduce engagement, yet prioritizing entertainment often perpetuates misinformation.

Across their disciplines, the panelists agreed that misinformation thrives because users gravitate toward content that confirms their existing beliefs. They stressed that social media “activism” often begins and ends with engagement — liking, sharing, or commenting — but true advocacy requires tangible, real-world action. Overall, they encouraged all attendees to take a step back from social media in general.

The panel was organized by Norah Forte, a graduate assistant of Civic Engage-

ment & Dialogues at the Neag School of Education.

Forte said this event was organized because “misinformation has become such a defining challenge of our digital age. We wanted to create a space where students and community members could unpack how misinformation spreads and how advocacy can still thrive responsibly online.”

She added that she selected panelists “who approach the topic from different but complementary lenses, through communication, journalism, and psychology.” Her ultimate goal was to reframe misinformation as not just a technological issue, but also a human and societal one.

“Each panelist brought insight into how people process information, how media structures amplify or limit truth and how individuals can think critically about what they share,” Forte said.

Additionally, Forte hopes that attendees left the event with recognition that “everyone plays a role in shaping the online information environment. Even small actions,

like fact checking or slowing down before sharing can make a difference. Advocacy is most powerful when it’s informed, intentional and rooted in truth.”

The panel was thoughtfully structured, with Forte posing targeted and relevant questions to each expert. Her prompts referenced interesting real-world cases of misinformation, such as the viral conspiracy theories claiming COVID-19 vaccines contained microchips. The questions were original, well-researched and engaging.

“I thought it was really interesting and informative,” said Steve Baker, a third-semester mechanical engineering student. He added that the discussion underscored the importance of communication accuracy and media literacy in technical fields like engineering where accuracy is so crucial.

Though time allowed for only one audience question, the panel was deeply engaging and thought-provoking, and left attendees with much to consider by the time it concluded.



Three panelists discuss misinformation in the digital age, on Tuesday, Oct. 28. Dr. Pagoto explains that posts that illicit strong emotions from the viewer generate more engagement than those with factual information

PHOTO BY COLIN MITCHELL, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

CREATE MACABRE MACHINATIONS AT ISHOP'S HALLOWEEN OPEN HOUSE



A showcase of the Halloween pins students made at the iShop's Halloween open house in Oct. 2024. Students had to solder a battery pin onto an LED circuit to make the bulbs light up. PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN INNOVATION SHOP

by Ayyan Tamjeed
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Students gathered at the University of Connecticut's Innovation Shop, located on the first floor of the Castleman building, to create Halloween pins and learn more about its facilities on Oct. 28.

The Innovation Shop is a 6,000 square foot space in Castleman. With the help of 3D printers, CNC mills, laser cutters and more, students can use this space to make their ideas into both experimental prototypes and fully formed creations.

The iShop is dressed up for the Halloween season. Pumpkins and skulls are littered throughout the space, horror-movie inspired posters were hung up which detail the perils of 3D printing errors and a hanging spider would periodically drop down to say hello behind the door of the iShop.

Once students got over the spooky spider, they had the opportunity to create Halloween pins using LED's and laser-cut Halloween designs. First, students had to solder a battery pin onto an LED circuit. Soldering is the process of joining two or more metal items together with a filler metal, called solder; a way to "glue" two pieces of metal together. It was the trickiest part of the pin-making process, as students struggled with uniformly applying the solder across the pins, which left them with flimsy designs.

Once the battery pin is soldered to the LED circuit, students could choose one of the laser-cut designs made by

the iShop staff to glue onto the front of the LED circuit, ranging from cats, ghosts and skulls, with a glue gun. Finally, glue a pin onto the back of the circuit and voila; you have a light-up Halloween pin for Halloween.

As a bonus, students could also get walnuts with scary faces laser-cut onto their shells, showcasing how one can cut a variety of materials with the iShop's two laser cutters.

Anthony Beatty and Joseph Luciani were two members of the iShop staff present during the open house, who use their years of expertise as engineers to train budding engineers into using all the facilities the iShop has to offer.

When asked for the idea behind a Halloween open house, Beatty said "We did it last year... when we first started opening up the space and wanted to get more students to know what the space was about. The space has grown quite a bit since last year, more 3D printing, another laser cutter, just the layout of things has changed quite a bit."

Luciani also hopes to introduce more freshmen engineers to the iShop.

"Last fall, we didn't have access to all of the freshmen engineers, so now we had all [ENGR] 1166, currently having all of Engineering 1000 coming through the space. So, we're slowly introducing the freshman class of 2025 to this new shop," Luciani said.

The open house showcased the iShops soldering and laser cutting facilities because laser cutting a design was faster than 3D printing it, according to Beatty.

"Even though our space is mechanical, we do have a heavy electronics presence," Beatty said. "We give a very basic idea of, you know, it's difficult to solder, so students can come in and practice those skills as well as just basic crafting to make it more Halloween-esque. The crafting aspect of it just makes it a little bit more fun while learning a new skill."

The laser-cut walnuts were a way to present a fun side of the engineering process; proof that you don't need rigid designs to make something.

"I think it's fun whenever you have projects that include multiple points of fabrication, so you have something that's laser cut and then incorporate a circuit into," Luciani added.

In terms of the future, the iShop hopes to conduct workshops in the future for students to learn how to use certain machines, like CNC mills or laser cutters, and skills, like soldering. Beatty hopes students come in to "rapidly [build] prototype stuff so that way students can get their hands in here and know what the space is, that gives us time to build up the rest of the space."

Luciani concluded with "I think that's one aspect we have in here, but also working on the community aspect of it, like how students rely on each other to learn the skills, and also for us to be able to offer workshops on how to learn these skills? These are all things me and Anthony [Beatty] are trying to put together so that we can create a process for you guys to make this place home and your shop."



PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN INNOVATION SHOP



Opinion



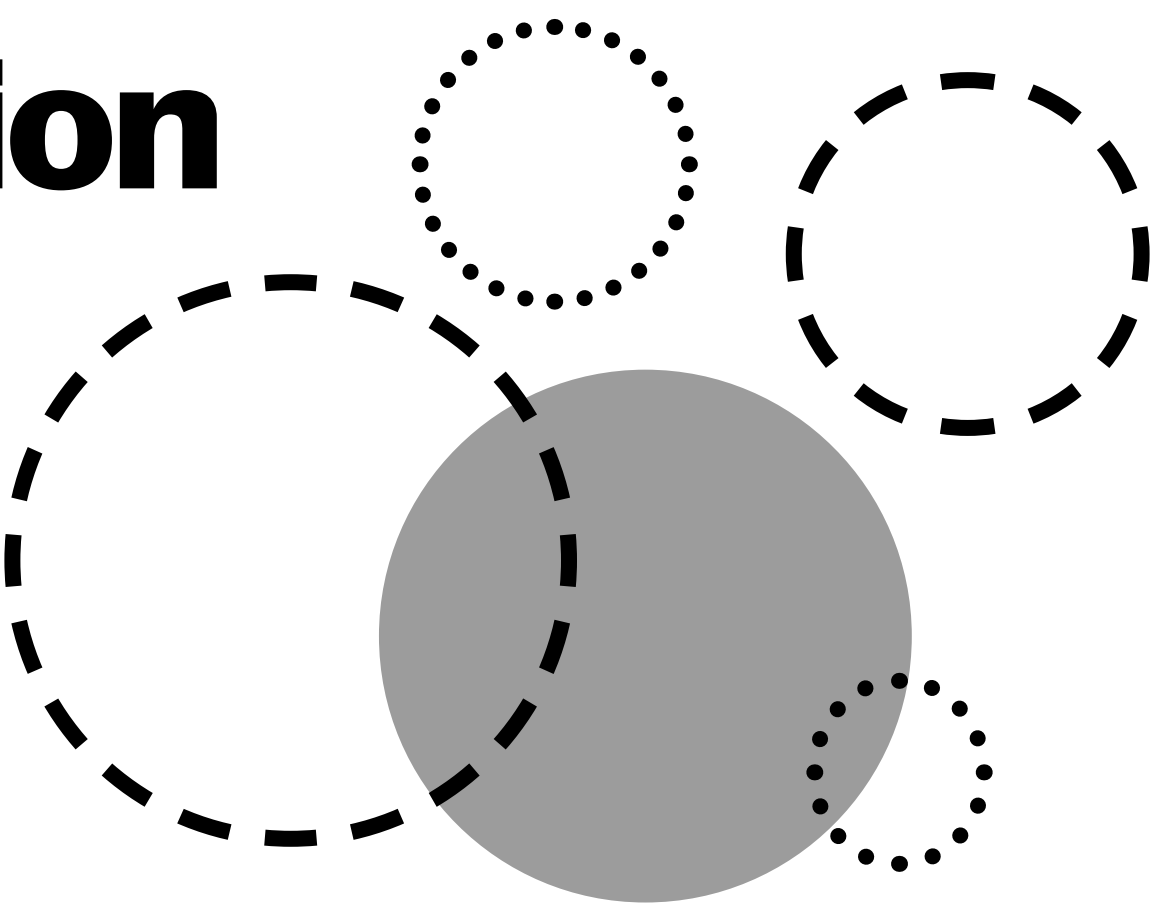
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► Editorial

Are you affected by SNAP cuts? Here are resources at UConn

by The Editorial Board
opinion@dailycampus.com

On Nov. 1, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits will not be renewed for Connecticut residents. SNAP, otherwise known as food stamps, is a federal program which has been running out of funds since the government shutdown. October is set to be the last month before the state loses \$72 million in federal funds and residents’ EBT cards will stop being refilled. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), 10.1% of CT residents rely on SNAP benefits to provide food for themselves or their families.

It can be stated in no small words the drastic impact that this will have on the UConn community, given that previous surveys have revealed that 55% of UConn students face some type of food insecurity. In these times, the Daily Campus Editorial Board recognizes the need for communities to come together to provide for those of us who are most vulnerable. As such, we would like to highlight the community resources available to University of Connecticut students from Storrs to Stamford and ensure that people know where they can get help if they need it.

Husky Harvest Food Pantry

On each UConn campus there is a branch of the Husky Harvest food pantry, specifically operating to support “anyone with a UConn ID.” At Storrs, the pantry is located at the entrance to Charter Oaks apartments, and its operating hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursdays and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays. At Hartford, it is located on the lower level of the Hartford Times Building in room G09. It’s operating hours are Tuesday and Thursday: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Friday: 1 - 5 p.m. At the Waterbury campus, it is located in the Main Building, Suite 107, operating on Tuesday: 3 - 6 p.m., Wednesday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Thursday: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. At Avery Point, the pantry is hosted in the Community Professional Building Room 114 and holds hours on Tuesday and Thursday: 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. and Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Finally, at Stamford it is in the Downtown Campus from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. from Tuesday through Thursday.

To donate, find ways to volunteer and the locations of the branches on the School of Law and UConn Health campuses, more information can be found on their website at huskyharvest.uconn.edu.

Dean of Students Office

The Dean of Students Office currently supports the Students First Fund, a source through which currently enrolled UConn students can request assistance of up to \$1,000 for “unforeseen misfortunes.” To request funds, there is an application on the DoS website that requires students to demonstrate “unanticipated and compelling circumstances;” of which, the nationwide defunding of a key social service should surely be sufficient.

It is also possible to schedule an appointment with the Assistant Dean of Students as part of the UConn Swipes program. After a conversation with the Assistant Dean, qualifying students may be given a block of 25 swipes to be used at any dining hall starting that day.

Local Initiatives

Finally, it is worth highlighting some community organizations and efforts that exist around the different UConn campuses across the state. It is ultimately the strength of communities that will be the difference in providing for food insecure populations during this time, and more people must come together to support grassroots initiatives doing this work. In Storrs, the largest example is the food pantry hosted by Storrs Congregational Church, which operates Monday: 12 - 2 p.m., and Thursdays from 2:30 - 5 p.m. At Stamford, there exists the Fairgate Farm’s “Healthy Food, Healthy Mind Outlet,” a community fridge, food pantry and free library, easily accessible from the street at 129 Stillwater Avenue. And finally, mutual aid groups like Mutual Aid Hartford are available, which provide a breadth of support for the local community.

Patrick’s Politics: Why the military’s lack of transparency is so threatening

by Patrick Minnerly | ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR | HE/HIM/HIS | patrick.minnerly@uconn.edu

The U.S. military has never liked to be that forthcoming in giving out information. No military, really, enjoys being transparent. What official wants pesky journalists coming in and reporting on potentially damaging news? This is why the relationship between the military and the press has always been a contentious one, and it has only gotten worse under the second Trump administration. Since the start of Trump’s new term, the Defense Department has grown increasingly unaccountable. Given Trump’s propensity to use the military in authoritarian and unlawful ways, this lack of transparency is alarming, especially for the principles of democracy and the First Amendment.

In September, the Pentagon, now led by former Fox News television host Pete Hegseth, announced that reporters would have to gather only authorized information within the building, or else they would face losing their press passes. In other words, the military would now control the narrative. This was a move so blatantly detrimental to the freedom of the press that even outlets like Fox News and CNN, so often at each other’s throats, agreed: The vast majority of the media involved turned in their credentials and refused to accept the Pentagon’s new rules.

This is far from the first time Hegseth’s Defense Department — or Department of War, as Trump now wants it to be called — has cracked down on press freedoms. In January, just a few days after being confirmed as Secretary of Defense, Hegseth removed several mainstream media outlets from their Pentagon desks, claiming that it was part of a new “media rotation program,” and replaced them mostly with conservative news sites. In addition, Hegseth has restricted reporters’ access to the press briefing room and prevented them from walking the halls of the Pentagon without the presence of an official. Beyond restricting interactions with the press, the Pentagon also limited communication between the Defense Department and Congress. Now, officials must obtain permission from the department before speaking to legislators or their staff members. All of these moves have ramped up the military’s efforts to increase censorship.

The lack of transparency shows in the military’s recent

activity against supposed narco-traffickers. A series of strikes have been carried out in the Caribbean and the Pacific Ocean, killing more than 50 people that the Trump administration says are working with drug cartels. Despite calling these strikes an “armed conflict” between the U.S. government and the cartels, Trump has so far refused to ask Congress for a declaration of war and provided little information that would verify the identities of those killed. Even the right is getting antsy about the absence of proof; Republican Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky denounced the

after foreign drug traffickers — he’s turning it on American civilians. The National Guard has been deployed to five major U.S. cities since Trump took office, including Washington, D.C, supposedly to combat crime. Trump has talked about sending troops into even more Democrat-run cities he doesn’t like, and in front of American soldiers in Japan, he mused that “If we need more than the National Guard, we’ll send more than the National Guard.”

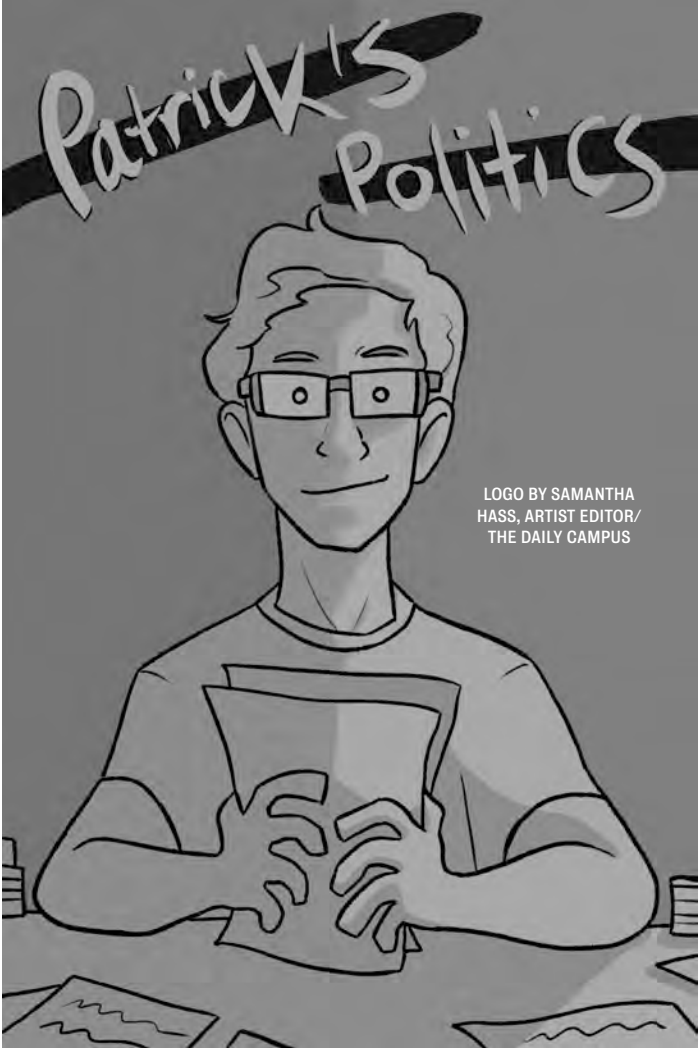
The implications of such threats are obvious. In just nine months, the groundwork has been laid for regular military troops to occupy

American cities. In fact, it has already happened; during protests in Los Angeles over Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids, 700 active-duty Marines were mobilized and sent to the city. Marines are intended to be one of the best fighting forces in the U.S. military, and for them to be used in this way was a chilling harbinger of potential calamity. All Trump has to do is invoke the Insurrection Act, and widespread deployment of the military on American soil could be underway. This tyrannical misuse of the military is exactly what the Founding Fathers fought against as they tried to create a democracy.

A military weaponized by the government

against its own people must be held accountable. If we are not allowed to know what the military is doing, and restrictions on news become even more stringent, the gulf between military personnel and civilians will widen. In a speech to senior officials in September, Hegseth said that “You kill people and break things for a living. You are not politically correct and don’t necessarily belong always in polite society.” When the military is told that they are more violent than the rest of America, and that same military keeps their doors shut to the public, our democracy is put in danger by the force of impersonal, unaccountable arms.

The Defense Department’s transparency problem is an issue that cuts right to the heart of what our country wants to be. Are we a nation that values freedom, or a nation that emphasizes unchecked power? In the actions of the military against “enemies” both foreign and domestic, Trump and Hegseth have chosen control over accountability.



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/ THE DAILY CAMPUS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

- ACROSS**
1 Fennellike herb
6 ___ Jam
 Recordings
9 Talent, informally
14 Crow's-feet
 treatment
15 Food label fig.
16 Reduce
17 Fell for
 completely
18 Investigations
20 See 51-Across
22 Anniversary pair?
23 Acai bowl grain
24 Progressive
 business: Abbr.
25 [Shiver]
26 "Stop right there!"
28 Blokes
31 See 51-Across
35 Bear whose
 porridge was too
 cold
36 ___-blond
37 Miss Piggy, for
 one
38 See 51-Across
43 Possible reason
 for a TV-MA
 rating
44 Remove from
 power
45 Two-person card
 game
46 Agcy. created
 by the Energy
 Reorganization
 Act of 1974
47 Sun, in Seville
48 Texting letters
51 Breakfast cereal
 trio, and what
 20-, 31-, and
 38-Across are
56 Like
 unexpectedly
 lesson-laden
 moments
57 Zinc ___
58 Get clean
59 Charged particle
60 Solar energy
 collector
61 Was a
 straphanger, say
62 "Called it, didn't I!"
63 Aroma
- DOWN**
1 Cut down to size
2 Running an
 errand, say
3 List details

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

By Betsy Ochester & Andrew Gutelle

10/30/25

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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10/30/25

4 Italian wedding ___
5 Investigate
6 "Catch my ___?"
7 "Cimarron"
 novelist Ferber
8 Helpful pgs.
9 Customers
10 Traffic signals?
11 Toddler's scrape
12 ___ review
13 Graduating gp.
19 Practical
21 O.K. Corral
 surname
25 "The Lair of the
 White Worm"
 novelist Stoker
26 Lays into
27 Vier plus vier
28 "ABC World
 News Tonight"
 anchor David
29 One of the seven
 deadly sins
30 Confidentiality
 doc
31 Subway fee
32 Big name in
 movies
33 French bodies of
 water
34 Aroma
35 Some British
 sports cars
39 Shape-shifted

40 Flowering
 desert plant with
 swordlike leaves
41 Furry critter who
 lives on Endor
42 Runs fast
46 ___ chips
47 Embarrassing
 public display
48 Porcupine quill
49 Walk the runway
50 Write some
 letters

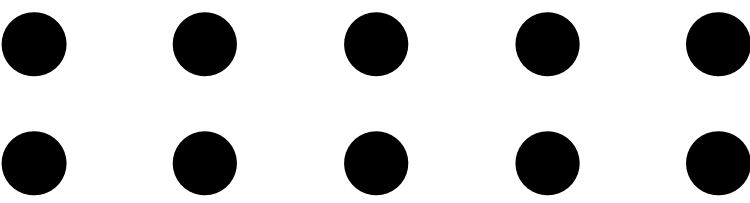
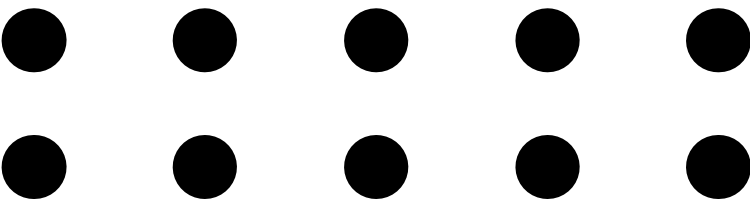
51 Stock exchange
 membership
52 Org. with an
 alphabet
53 Grand slam
 quartet, briefly
54 Flowering desert
 plant with fleshy
 leaves
55 Prep course
 target
56 "Dinner and a
 Movie" airer

CROSSWORD

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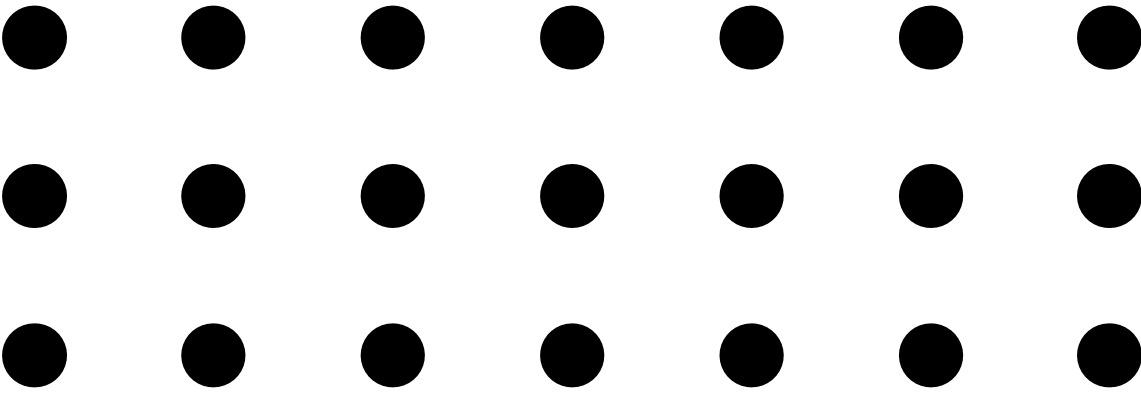
SUDOKU

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

Solution to Wednesday's puzzle								
7	1	9	6	4	2	5	3	8
6	3	8	1	9	5	7	4	2
4	2	5	8	3	7	9	6	1
8	7	6	3	5	1	2	9	4
3	4	2	9	7	8	6	1	5
9	5	1	4	2	6	3	8	7
5	9	4	7	8	3	1	2	6
2	6	3	5	1	4	8	7	9
1	8	7	2	6	9	4	5	3

10/30/25

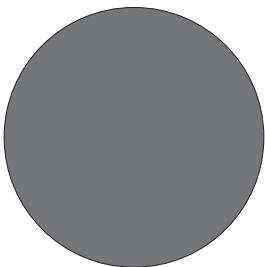
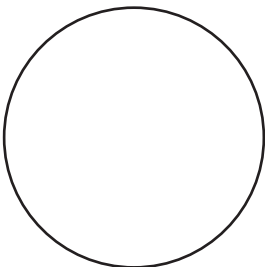
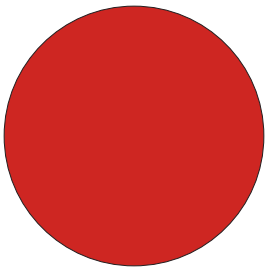
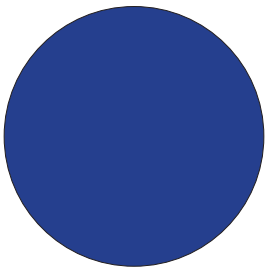
Complete the
grid so each
row, column
and 3-by-3 box
(in bold borders)
contains every
digit 1 to 9.
For strategies
on how to solve
Sudoku, visit
[sudoku.org.uk](https://www.sudoku.org.uk).





Sports

Photo Gallery



University of Connecticut men's basketball takes on University of Michigan at People's Bank Arena on Oct. 28, 2025. This is the first men's exhibition game since the arena has been remodeled. PHOTOS BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

THE BASKETBALL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD STORRS, CT



RIGHT PHOTO BY CONNOR
SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE
DAILY CAMPUS
LEFT PHOTO BY EMMA
MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE
PHOTO EDITOR/THE
DAILY CAMPUS