



## UConn's moon club returns ◇ to campus after hiatus ◇



**A band prepares to perform at Moon Club. Moon Club has recently resumed operations after suddenly being disbanded, with new restrictions on activities such as live music.**  
PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNMOONCLUB

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Following a sudden year-long hiatus, the University of Connecticut's Moon Club returns to operation tonight at 7:30 p.m. on the Student Union Lawn.

"Moon Club is exactly what it sounds like," club president Angelina Lyras said. "It's a club that provides a fun social environment for students who enjoy viewing and appreciating the moon as well as other celestial bodies. Our goal as a club is to foster a safe and loving community centered around the alternative and punk scene, but you know, we all live under the same moon, so everyone is welcome at Moon Club."

Lyras is an animal science major in her seventh semester and is occasionally referred to as the "moon mommy" as a nod to her position in the club. She is leading this year's iteration of Moon Club and was president last year when the club closed.

Moon Club's reopening arrives after the club was forced to shut down out of an inability to comply with university regulations set by UConn Student Union and Event Services, according to The Daily Campus. This is primarily a result of activities related to smoking and drinking, leading to the Union requesting that Moon Club hire security.

Lyras noted that Moon Club had switched to an entirely new e-board when the university put these restrictions in place.

"It was very overwhelming," Lyras said. "Because it was so dizzying, the hiatus was ultimately a shield that gave us enough time to re-vamp the club on our end."

This closure allowed Lyras and the rest of Moon Club's e-board to establish rules and expectations, work with student needs and plan the future of the club. It also allowed Moon Club to meet the Undergraduate Student Government's funding deadlines for hosting meetings.

One of Lyras's plans to keep Moon Club running this year is returning to Moon Club's original operating style, which she referred to as 'Old Moon Club.'

"Our members just congre-

gate under the full moon and enjoy each other's company," Lyras said. "People love to share their art and other special interests and hobbies with each other. And that's again, what I mentioned earlier, how we're celebrating with the theme of the full moon."

Lyras plans to center each Moon Club meeting around the specific full moon happening that month, with October being the month of the Hunter's Moon.

"Since this is our first meeting back after our hiatus, we will be celebrating it as a 'welcome back meeting,'" Lyras said. "Where all of our members will just have a chance to, you know, fit in with the club and the e-board and other members, and just hang out."

Lyras stressed that this meeting of the Moon Club is a sober event, but she said she hopes this will allow for new members to become better acclimated to Moon Club in what she believes to be a more welcoming environment.

"We're going to have some people doing tarot cards there, which is awesome, because that is very much a fun thing to do under the full moon," Lyras said. She also noted there will be a tote bag giveaway. "We have some leftover merch that we had when we got samples, that we wanted to give back out to our members."

Another change for this meeting of Moon Club is that it will not include live music, which Moon Club's secretary Joseph Kosover explained is truer to Moon Club's original structure.

"In the past, Moon Club originally functioned as kind of the meeting on Monday would," Kosover, a seventh-semester student majoring in speech, languages and hearing sciences, said. "Where there's no music concerts. At some point, more recently it became a music scene thing, where there would be bands every time. And as of before our hiatus, our last show had bands and from then on, we're just straight up not allowed to have [live] music."

Lyras noted that while she enjoyed the previous era of Moon Club, it wasn't feasible under university rules and regulations. However, she

noted that future live music is possible, but the club is currently taking a break.

"I think, apart from the drinking, the culture is very much the same," Lyras said. "At the end of the day, Moon Club is a community of, you know, alternative and punk rockers who are just there to hang out and enjoy each other's company. Under the full moon, of course."

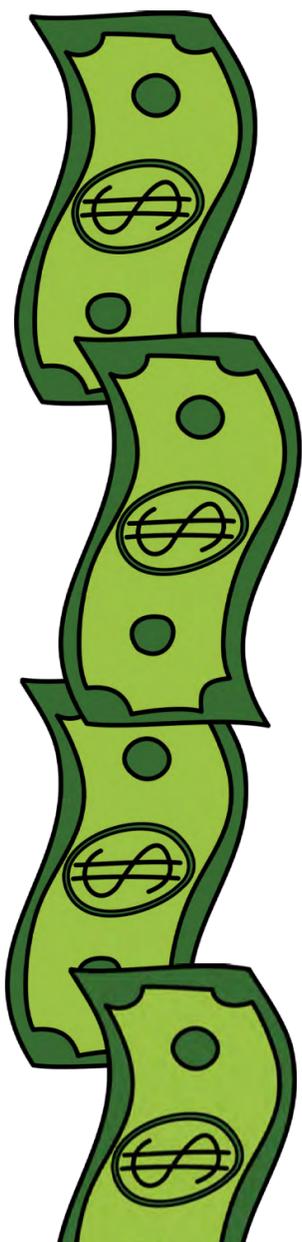
Lyras also expanded on some of the changes she's looking forward to within Moon Club, one being the organization's relocation to the Student Union Lawn.

"I think it's a lot more accessible to most of our members, instead of the Great Lawn where we used to be at," Lyras said. "The Student Union is right there so people will have access to garbage cans and food and water and everything like that, so they don't have to walk as far, which is really nice."

Despite the changes Moon Club has gone through, Lyras noted that Moon Club will still remain a welcoming communal space for people who love the moon.

"I'm very excited," Lyras said. "It's been a very difficult year getting back up, so we're all very happy to be back. And like I mentioned earlier, we're extremely grateful to have such a loving and supporting community, especially during the hiatus."

Moon Club meets every night of the full moon, weather permitting. Further updates surrounding Moon Club can be found on the organization's Instagram account.



## USG PASSES FINAL BUDGET, COMMITTEES REPORT PROGRESS ON PROJECTS

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The University of Connecticut's Undergraduate Student Government (USG) passed its final budget last Wednesday, totaling over \$2.1 million, while committee heads reported their progress on upcoming projects for the year.

The budget was presented under two different titles, a programmatic budget and an operating budget. Both budgets break down the same pool of funds but differ in how line items are presented, according to Comptroller Billy Lipinski.

"Those counts of money are the same. [These] are two budgets that take the same quantity of money and break it up into different ways," Lipinski said.

The programmatic budget breaks up funds based on specific programs and initiatives rather than by expense code, according to Lipinski. One event may have multiple different expense codes in its budget, but the programmatic budget groups all those expenses under one line item, which makes viewing and understanding the budget significantly easier, according to Lipinski.

The senate also heard from committee leaders updating the governing body on progress that has been made towards a myriad of projects.

Director of External Affairs Olivia Eshoo opened reports, recounting the success of the committee's professional clothing closet, which ran from Sept. 29 to Oct. 1.

"We served 165 students during our three-day pop-up," Eshoo said.

The closet will be returning from Oct. 13 to Oct. 16 and again from Nov. 3 to Nov. 6, according to Eshoo.

Eshoo also reported how her committee would be focused on tabling in the lead up to early voting for the municipality of Mansfield, providing students with opportunities to register to vote and educate themselves on what the upcoming election entails.

"We will be working on tabling to register students to vote as well as educating them on what this election is and what they are registering to vote for," Eshoo said.

Director of Student Services Jibreel Akbar informed the senate of a multitude of projects the committee has undertaken, including a series of cooking classes designed to combat food insecurity on campus, as well as coordinating with the Student Health and Wellness Center (SHaW) on campus to distribute Narcan for free amongst students to combat overdoses due to opioids. Akbar also spoke of coordinating with SHaW to stock free menstrual product dispensers in bathrooms across campus.

Chief Justice Ella Bennett announced an initiative between the Office of the President and Student Services to provide students access to free legal services should they require them, in addition to announcing work on a bylaw to standardize onboarding for USG employees.

"I've been working alongside Andy, Haritha and Jibreel on some legal services projects, trying to get students at UConn free legal services, so that's super exciting," Bennett said,

referring to Andy Zhang and Haritha Subramanian, president and vice president of USG.

Chief Diversity Officer (CDO) Phoenix Harper announced work on an immigration panel to be held on campus, discussing the current state of immigration policy and rights in America.

"We're planning on getting some really big public figures, government officials and politicians to come in and kind of talk about the current state of immigration rights [and] give some insight to students on how they can advocate for immigration rights," Harper said. "It's going to be an educational opportunity but also a networking opportunity as well."

Zhang announced that his office would be working on an initiative to collaborate with student governments across the state to form a united body advocating for students statewide.

"Connecticut has a variety of colleges, state colleges, private colleges. So, what we are trying to do is work with the other colleges to form a Connecticut student association, to basically get all the student governments to work together to advocate for all of us," Zhang said.

Other projects announced Wednesday include the return of the cultural pop-up market, along with the dental hygiene clinic, both headed by the CDO, in addition to a tabling initiative to celebrate the launch of natural hair products arriving in the Student Union corner store.

Director of Academic Affairs Caroline Kelly also announced work on expanding dining hall hours and the construction of sensory spaces on campus.

The senate voted to pass legislation that would direct the USG Speaker to refrain from scheduling senate meetings on recognized holidays, which may prove to prevent senators from attending and voting at those meetings.

Wednesday's session coincided with Yom Kippur, the Jewish New Year. As such, some senators were not in attendance in recognition of the holiday.

Initial support for the legislation, written by Senator Joel Harris, was strong but waned as some members of the senate took concern with the bill's vague proxy voting provision.

The legislation stipulated that in the event a senator was unable to attend a meeting, whether for religious or emergency reasons, said senator could appoint another member of the USG senate to vote in their stead.

President Zhang thought such a proxy system would take USG into uncharted waters, both structurally and ethically.

"I think we could be getting into dangerous territory," Zhang said. "We as elected people are delegating our vote to someone that potentially, we don't know if they have the same view. Even in the U.S. Congress, I don't think that senators can give their vote to someone else in their place."

The bill ultimately passed by unanimous consent with the proxy voting measure having been removed. USG Speaker Kyle Lowry suggested that such a system could be brought before the senate at a later date as its own individual legislation.

# News

## GAZA PEACE VIGIL HELD PRIOR TO UCONN FOOTBALL GAME



**Palestinians stand outside of a cluster of several buildings reduced to rubble. Israel has received criticism from several human rights groups for its treatment of Palestinian civilians.**

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

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A small group gathered outside Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field on Saturday afternoon for a Gaza peace vigil ahead of the University of Connecticut football game against Florida International University.

About a dozen people stood near the East Gate entrance holding flags and signs while distributing pamphlets to fans arriving for the 3:30 p.m. kickoff. Organizers said the event aimed to raise awareness about civilian suffering in Gaza and to call for an immediate cease-fire.

“We wanted to meet new people who might be watching what’s on the news and give them something that allows them to think more and maybe get involved,” said Dan Piper, a member of Labor for Palestine and one of the event’s organizers.

Piper said similar vigils have been held in recent weeks, often attracting small groups across Connecticut.

Participants included members of the Connecticut Palestine Alliance, the Connecticut Green Party and the Connecticut Civil Liberties Defense Committee.

Organizers said the timing and location were chosen for visibility.

“We’re here to be as public and as visible as possible,” said Omar Scott Antar, co-founder of the Connecticut Palestine Alliance.

He added that the group also selected the site because the stadium’s naming rights are held by Raytheon Technologies, a defense contractor that he said symbolizes the U.S. weapons industry.

Several attendees noted that

the vigil was part of ongoing demonstrations on campuses and in public spaces, following student encampments nationwide last year.

“Students are some of the most important players in this conversation,” Antar said. “They’ve shown how organizing can start the discussion and inspire others.”

Kay McAuliffe, a member of the Connecticut Civil Liberties Defense Committee, said the purpose was to encourage open conversation.

“It’s nice to talk to people who might not otherwise be discussing what’s going on in Palestine,” McAuliffe said.

Printed handouts from participating groups included statements by Healthcare Workers for Palestine-Connecticut, definitions of genocide from the United Nations convention and a sheet outlining the historical and religious significance of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. Another leaflet from Labor for Palestine called for international worker solidarity and urged U.S. unions to oppose the transfer of weapons to Israel.

Jennifer Peck, secretary of the Connecticut Green Party, said the vigil was meant to promote awareness rather than confrontation.

“This venue is symbolic in a couple of ways,” Peck said, citing both UConn’s investment ties with Israel and the stadium’s defense-industry sponsor. “People from all walks of life are here today. It’s an opportunity to show that this isn’t something we should forget.”

No counter-protesters were visible during the event, and police maintained a presence near the entrance to the stadium. The vigil concluded shortly before kickoff.

## CONNECTICUT JOINS LAWSUIT BLOCKING FEDERAL RESTRICTIONS ON SEX EDUCATION PROGRAMS

by Maanya Pande | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | SHE/HER/HERS | maanya.pande@uconn.edu

Connecticut Attorney General William Tong announced Friday that the state has joined a coalition of 16 states and the District of Columbia in suing the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) over new restrictions that could strip funding from teen reproductive and sexual health education programs, according to a press release by the Office of the Attorney General.

The lawsuit, initially filed in the federal District Court of Oregon, seeks to stop HHS from “arbitrarily pulling funding for longstanding teen reproductive and sexual health education programs from states unless they remove language regarding gender identity.”

The lawsuit challenges the Trump administration’s decision to withhold funding unless states remove language referencing gender identity from their programs, according to the press release. The coalition argues that the policy change violates both federal law and the U.S. Constitution.

More than \$1.6 million in funding awarded to Connecticut through the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) is at stake, according to the Office of the Attorney General. Connecticut has used PREP funding to support evidence-based educational programming aimed at reducing teen pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted infections. The program serves an annual average of 800 to 1,200 at-risk youth in the state, the press release stated.

“When Trump says, ‘medically accurate,’ we all know what he really means is ‘MAGA-approved,’” said Attorney



**Connecticut Attorney General William Tong. Tong announced Friday that Connecticut would join a coalition in suing HHS over the new restrictions.**  
PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

General Tong. “Censorship and political propaganda will not protect teens from unplanned pregnancy or preventable disease. Teens deserve accurate, honest information to stay safe, and we’re suing to make sure they get it.”

HHS’s actions violate the Administrative Procedure Act and improperly override Congress’ authority, according to the press release. The coalition argues that requiring states to erase references to transgender status or gender identity directly contradicts the statutory requirements set by Congress when the grant programs were created.

In response to the lawsuit, HHS defended its stance, saying that federal funds “will not be used to poison the minds of the next generation or advance dangerous ideological agendas,” according to Acting Assistant Secretary Andrew Gradison in an HHS press release published on hhs.gov.

They further asserted that “California’s refusal to comply with federal law and remove

egregious gender ideology from federally funded sex-ed materials is unacceptable,” according to Gradison.

The press release also states that the administration’s actions infringe upon the separation of powers by oversteering Congress’ authority.

“Forcing states to use medically unsupported, incomplete PREP program content violates laws adopted by Congress. The action is arbitrary and capricious under the Administrative Procedure Act,” the press release said. “By unilaterally imposing these vague and nonsensical conditions, it also usurps Congress’ spending power and violates the separation of powers.”

The lawsuit is being co-lead by Washington, Oregon and Minnesota, according to the Office of the Attorney General. Connecticut joins the litigation alongside Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Wisconsin and the District of Columbia.

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**Sunday, October 5, 2025**

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## Life

# IN DISCUSSION WITH BREE MCEWAN: EXPLAINING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMAN COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY

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Bree McEwan, a professor in the Institute of Communication, Culture, Information, and Technology at the University of Toronto-Mississauga and founder of the Questioning Reality Conference, visited the University of Connecticut on Thursday, Oct. 4, to present her findings on the intersection of interpersonal communication and various forms of communication technology. The event was held in the Arjona Building and featured a panel consisting of graduate students and faculty from the Department of Communication.

McEwan also serves as the Associate Director of the University of Toronto and is the author of the 2015 book "Navigating Media Networks: Understanding and Managing Challenges in a Networked Society." In addition, she has constructed a research lab, the McEwan Mediated Communication Lab, where she studies how people experience human interaction in virtual reality (VR) and utilize communication technologies more broadly. One of the lab's recently funded projects was with a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant, exploring how VR headsets can enhance educational outcomes by testing learning under different conditions of immersion and cognitive load.

McEwan has been studying the connection between individuals and communication-mediated technology for more than two decades. At Arizona State University, where she obtained her Ph.D. in Human Communication, one of McEwan's pub-

lications focused on relational violence and the dark sides of haptic communication.

"In grad school, I began to question why people do this," McEwan said. "Why do people lean on these forms of technology for self-fulfillment?"

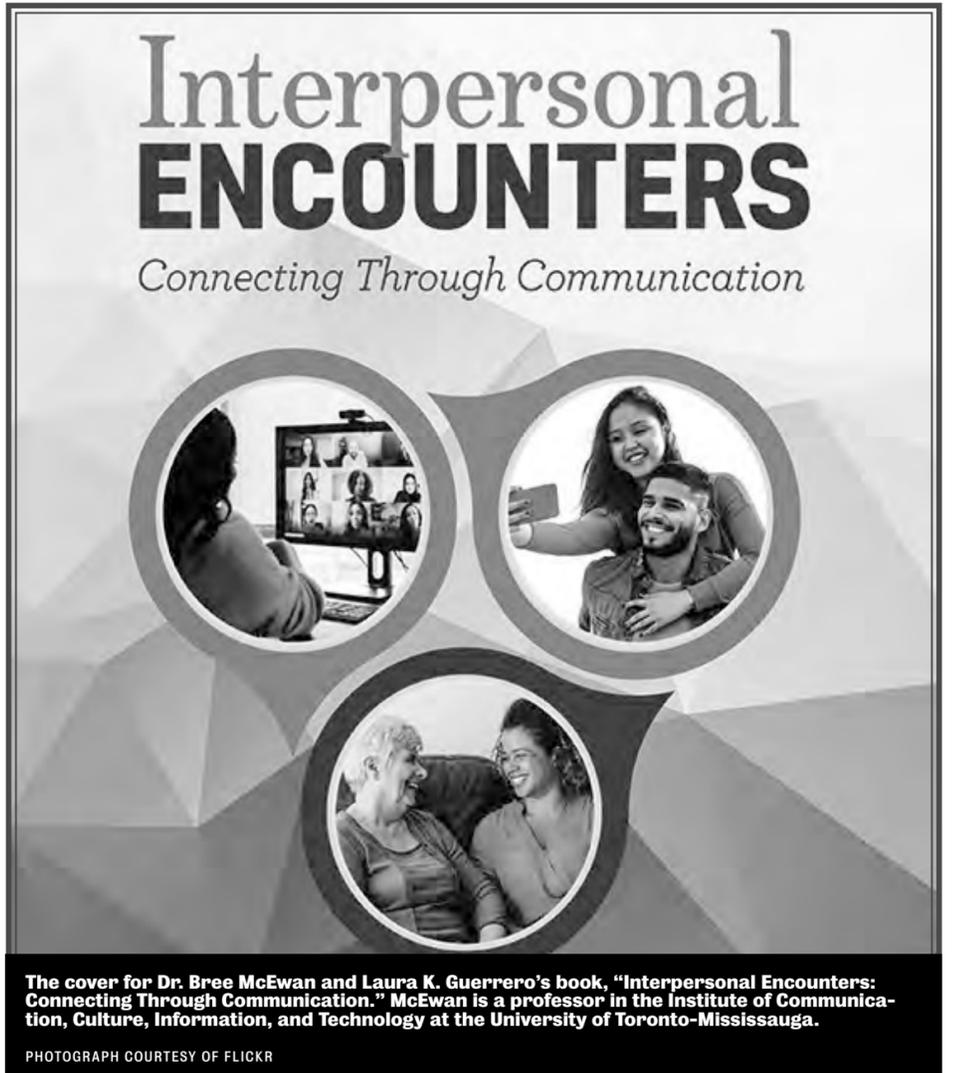
In this discussion, however, McEwan brought technological devices, such as VR, to the forefront of her presentation, offering insight into how, in McEwan's words, "constructed meanings are woven through technologies." McEwan also brought up the idea of "affordances," a concept defined by not only the features of a technological device alone, but how people perceive the technology and what it allows them to do. For example, an iPhone serves not just the purpose of allowing its users to call and message somebody, but also brings them various forms of entertainment, such as video games.

"I had the benefit of all these arguments regarding social media," McEwan said.

She emphasized that affordances are not fixed or the same for all users and that different users in different contexts perceive affordances differently. She also argued that the idea of affordances applies not just to technological devices, but also to simple, everyday objects, such as chairs, tables and classrooms, "all of which, McEwan said, "can serve different purposes."

In addition to the affordance's topic, McEwan also covered the theory of the niche, which argues that just because a certain technological device is new doesn't necessarily mean that consumers would want to buy it.

"The media may fulfill specific niches where a medium's



The cover for Dr. Bree McEwan and Laura K. Guerrero's book, "Interpersonal Encounters: Connecting Through Communication." McEwan is a professor in the Institute of Communication, Culture, Information, and Technology at the University of Toronto-Mississauga.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF FLICKR

characteristics 'amplify or attenuate opportunities,'" McEwan told her audience.

After the presentation, McEwan allowed students and faculty to ask questions and provide feedback on the subject matter covered. One graduate student, who asked to remain anonymous,

said that McEwan's presentation had been enjoyable and insightful, offering fresh insight into the complex relationship between humans and technology.

"As a graduate student, I feel that Prof. McEwan's speech has definitely helped me gain a bet-

ter understanding of communication technology and how we as communication scholars can better understand the psychological mechanisms behind consumer use," they said. "Not only that, but it's helped me better understand why I'm studying what I'm studying."

## Historian Ying Jia Tan on the Taiwanese Plastic Industry

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Wesleyan University's Ying Jia Tan, an associate professor of history, gave a talk at the University of Connecticut's Wood Hall about the Taiwanese plastic industry in support of his upcoming book for the East Asian Workshop lecture series on Friday, Oct. 3.

UConn history professor Victor Zatssepine gave a short introduction on Tan. Tan received his Ph.D. in history from Yale University and has an interest in the history of science and technology. His primary interests are East Asian history and Chinese maritime history. Zatssepine also said that the East Asian Workshop happens twice a semester.

Tan began the talk by talking about the Chang Chun Group, which has no relation to Changchun, China. Chang Chun Group once known as a plywood adhesive producer. Tan asked the audience, "How did this company start with this [and] grow into the second largest petrochemical corporation in Taiwan?"

Tan's working title for his upcoming book is "Catalogue of Dreams: Plastic and the Economic Transformation of Chinese East Asia." The chapters of the book are named after specific "dreams," for example, "Dreams of Eternal Spring." He said, "I'm looking into the dreams of these companies."

Tan acknowledged the large presence of plastic in Taiwan. The culmination of this could be found in how a chain of hospitals and universities were owned by petrol companies. Tan also noted the "transformation from an organic economy to a carbon economy" marked in 1968 with the opening of the first plastic factory.

Tan said that plastics are

not a "cardinal evil," noting, "it is possible to make a sort of carbon-neutral plastic." He also made the audience aware of carbon that could trap carbon dioxide and transform the gas into acetic acid. However, Tan noted that some companies claim that they're environmentally friendly as a marketing strategy despite the harm they cause to the environment.

The talk was split into three parts: the making of phenolic resins or Bakelite on the ruins of Japanese imperialism, the thermosetting plastic plywood adhesive urea formaldehyde and the growth of Taiwan's chemical industry, along with polyvinyl alcohol and methanol facilitating Chang Chun's transformation into a diversified petrochemical industry.

Tan began with a brief historical background on Taiwan around the time of the plastic industry there. In 1945, Taiwan was controlled by China after Japan's colonization of the island. Later on, the United States offered agricultural and industrial aid to Taiwan, which helped the plastic industry there become what it is now. Before plastic, Taiwan's main three exports were sugar, tea and camphor. Tan also noted that the plastic industry helped the agricultural industry as well.

Eventually, the plastic factories needed a replacement for the original plastics they were producing. This was how they started producing Bakelite.

The Taiwanese Liao Ming-kun, Cheng Hsin-I and Lin Shu-hon were the founders of Chang Chun and they worked on Japanese machines making Bakelite at the Forestry Research Institute. Tan called it a "very typical Taiwanese story." He also noted that in chemistry practices, it was possible to buy materials from stores at the time. It proved extremely profitable and an easy process to make Bakelite.



Ying Jia Tan, an associate professor of history at Wesleyan University, with his book "Recharging China in War and Revolution, 1882-1955." Tan gave a talk at UConn this past Friday about the Taiwanese plastic industry as part of UConn's East Asian Workshop lecture series.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF FLICKR

The plastic industry profited from the Korean War since, according to Tan, "Phenol is used to make gunpowder" and was sold in the black market as a result.

The plastic urea formaldehyde, which eventually turns soft and flimsy was sold at \$1000 USD per ton and was restricted from trade so Chang Chun moved to plywood adhesives using plywood from the Philippines. "All they had was a stopwatch and a pipette," Tan said.

Later on, Tan said, "Japanese supplier Toyo Koatsu offer[ed] to export technology for formaldehyde production to Chang Chun Synthetic Resin Factory." This sidestepped the trade restrictions on formaldehyde. Chang Chun also observed what the Japanese companies

were doing.

"I teach a course in Taiwan, and what I want to get out of it is that Taiwan has a complex history," Tan said. "This is a story of reverse integration."

In the Q&A, Tan said about his book, "What I'm dealing with is that this is a really difficult chapter to write because I have to scrape [information] from the government." Tan only has a few documents to work with.

An attendee asked Tan about how these chemical engineers were able to read the economic conditions and pivot into different products to sell and become successful. Tan said, "They are very privileged, they all have degrees in chemical engineering." Tan also said that the engineers had been educated in Japanese-occupied Taipei, Taiwan,

so the majority of their classmates were Japanese as a result.

Zatssepine ended the official talk by saying, "I think your work is an example [of] how sciences and humanities should talk together and communicate." He then made the audience aware of the next East Asian Workshop on Nov. 14 with professor of history Peter Zarrow on museums in Taiwan.

When asked about his thoughts on the talk, Douglas Temple, a seventh-semester economics major said, "It was excellent. I think that Prof. Tan is an old school polymath [in] history, chemistry and economics. I think it's incredibly impressive in this day and age with niche understanding of such knowledge across a broad field is impressive."

# SCHOOL SPIRIT AND LOTS OF DANCE: UCONN HOMECOMING LIP SYNC BATTLE 2025

by **Maleena Muzio**

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The University of Connecticut hosted its 39th annual Lip Sync Battle as part of Homecoming Week on Thursday, Oct. 2. Several teams consisting of active members of the UConn community, ranging from the cultural centers to paired fraternities and sororities, gave it their all on stage at the Jorgenson Center for the Performing Arts.

“[The Lip Sync Battle] is a good addition to Homecoming Weekend because it showcases a variety of communities and organizations at UConn in a fun and upbeat way,” said Sofia Baron, a third-semester digital media and design major.

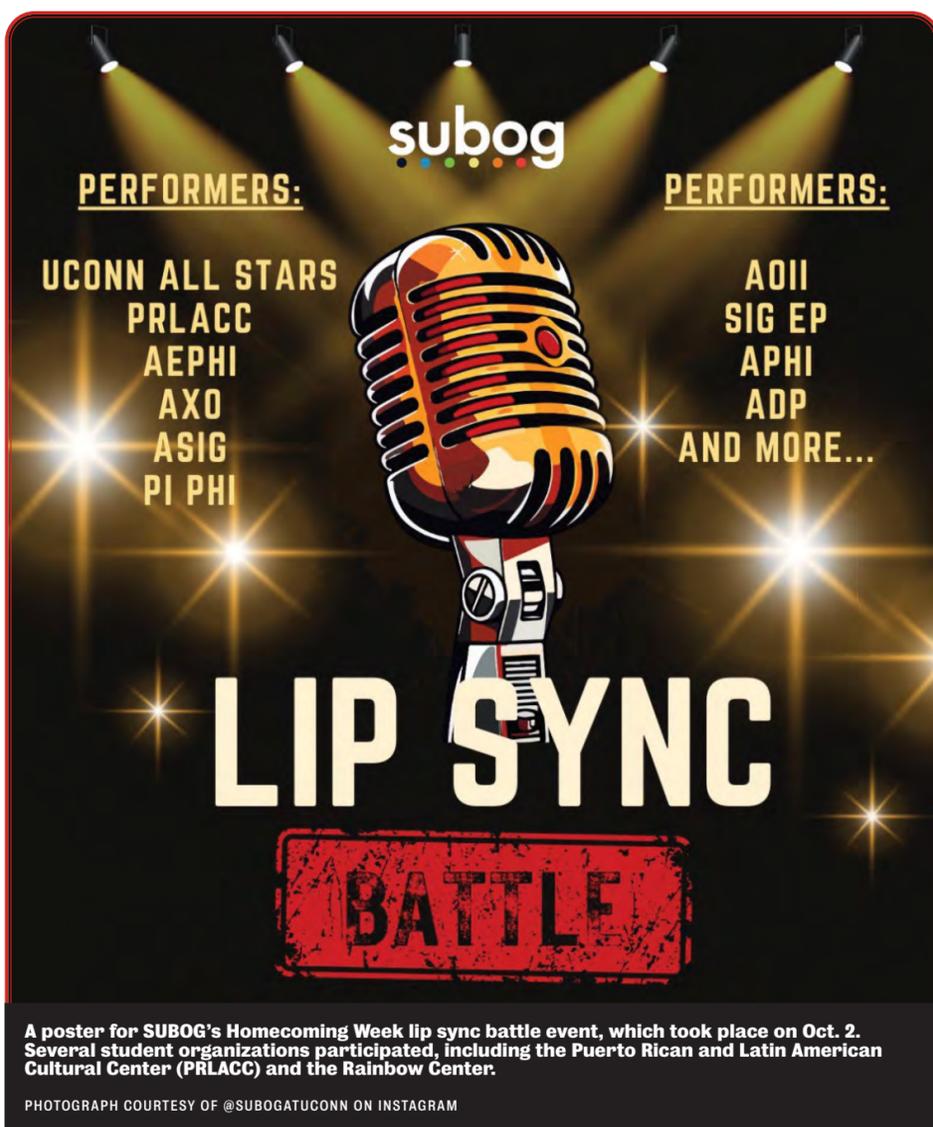
The Homecoming Lip Sync Battle was sponsored by the Student Union Board of Governors (SUBOG) and UConn Homecoming.

“Overall, I really enjoyed the performance,” said Sabrina Canihuante, a third-semester psychology major. “I thought it was very creative and everyone on stage seemed to be having a lot of fun. I also liked how it was completely run by students.”

Teams were judged throughout the night by a panel, based on four main categories. The first category was originality, theme, creativity and costuming or use of props. The second category was routine, with the other two being professionalism and lip syncing.

The show opened with an energetic performance by the UConn Dance Team to hype up the crowd for the remainder of the night, dancing to Nicki Minaj’s hit, “Moment 4 Life.”

The first three competing teams were all involved with Greek Life. Performances in-



A poster for SUBOG’s Homecoming Week lip sync battle event, which took place on Oct. 2. Several student organizations participated, including the Puerto Rican and Latin American Cultural Center (PRLACC) and the Rainbow Center.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @SUBOGATUCONN ON INSTAGRAM

cluded songs, such as “Jingle Bell Rock,” “Dancing Queen” and “We’re All in This Together” from “High School Musical.”

The UConn All Stars, UConn’s only competitive step and dance team, also performed.

Their set dove into the history of UConn, dancing and lip syncing through the eras of its past as an agricultural school, jumping to the disco age of the 1970s and even performing a rendition of 2010s hits, such as “Watch

Me (Whip/Nae Nae).” Their set was powerful and terrifically in sync.

A team representing AE Phi, AXO and ASig performed later in the night and earned third place. Their set was enthusi-

astic and showed clear signs of practice and effort put into their complex dance routines.

The Puerto Rican and Latin American Cultural Center (PRLACC) won second place and received lengthy applause from the audience. Their set consisted of Latin American dancing (both inspired by the past and modern day), colorful outfits and the representation of various countries’ flags.

“My favorite group was PRLACC because their routine was very organized and unique,” said Canihuante. “It also referenced traditional Hispanic dances. I enjoyed the historical references as well as the modern parts, like when one group member pretended to be Bad Bunny.”

The winner of the competition was the Rainbow Center. Their team may have been small, but they were rather mighty. Dancing to LGBTQ classics, such as “I’m Coming Out” by Diana Ross, “Vogue” by Madonna and a series of Lady Gaga songs, including “Born This Way,” their team was eccentric and sassy. Splits, jumps, voguing and traditional drag-style lip syncing were all showcased in their performance.

“My favorite was probably the Rainbow Center,” said Baron. “Although there were just five of them on stage, they were all super enthusiastic and a lot of fun.”

Homecoming Week’s lip sync battle showcased student talent and school spirit on the main stage of campus. It was a performance that brought together a diverse range of groups to represent the student body at UConn.

“I haven’t been to any other homecoming events, so this definitely set the bar high,” said Baron.

## “The Life of a Showgirl”

PUT YOUR QUILL DOWN AND GET OUT YOUR GLITTER GEL PENS

by **Sarah Barker**

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Swifties around the world have been patiently waiting for what Taylor Swift’s next era would sound like, and the wait ended on Friday, Oct. 3 with the release of “The Life of a Showgirl.” Swift collaborated with producers Max Martin and Shellback, who worked on “1989” and “Reputation,” for this album and created 12 new tracks that are certified bangers.

With any Swift drop, the general public is always going to have something to say, whether it’s that the lyrics are too pretentious or the production sucks. When you’ve been in the industry for as long as Swift has and are growing in success, that hate is just a part of the job. But on this album, she doesn’t care anymore. She’s happy, unbothered and baking bread, and that comes through in the music.

The first track, “The Fate of Ophelia,” is inspired by “Hamlet.” It immediately sets up the album to be full of songs about being in love that’ll make you want to get up and dance. It also reimagines what could’ve happened to Ophelia if she hadn’t been surrounded by men who drove her mad.

“Elizabeth Taylor” was the first song written for the album, and it takes inspiration from Taylor’s life but mixes it with Swift’s. It talks about fame and love and how those two intertwine. It’s about the anxieties of

getting into a new relationship and hoping that it’s forever set to amazing beat drops.

“Opalite” is pop perfection, simple as that. Ignoring the lyrics, the production itself is so dancey, I dare someone not to bop around to this song. The story behind the song is that Opalite is man-made opal, which led to using it as a metaphor in a song about making your own happiness when life feels dark.

It was revealed a few days before the album’s release that “Father Figure” would be an interpolation of the George Michael song of the same name. This song is fully inspired by getting her master recordings back and the mentor-mentee relationship she had with Scott Borchetta, and the power dynamics in the music industry. Some of my favorite lyrics come from the key change in the final chorus, where the narrative flips and Swift becomes the so-called “mentor.”

“Eldest Daughter” has gotten mixed opinions because, she uses internet slang like “bad bitch” and “savage,” which takes a lot of people out of the song, and it’s disappointing because it’s such a raw and emotional song. She talks about the internet and how people are expected to have these perfect and cool personas

online, when she’s not that; she’s the eldest daughter who’s fiercely loyal and doesn’t want her tough exterior to crack. The piano got me instantly and the bridge is some of her best work,

Ferris wheels, kisses, and lilacs / And things I said were dumb / ‘Cause I thought that I’d never find that.”

In “Ruin The Friendship,” someone dies, and Abigail, Swift’s high school best friend, is mentioned. It’s a reminiscence of high school and how being young can make everything feel so big, when telling someone you like them usually wouldn’t be the end of the world. It’s one of my favorites from the album, and I think it helps put in perspective why Taylor seemingly jumps from relationship to relationship; she knows how much it hurts when you leave things unsaid.

“Actually Romantic” is a gag, and I’m obsessed. Everyone knows who this song is about, but with that, I don’t think it’s just about one person. It really is just saying to all these people who claim to hate Swift and have this one-sided beef with her, yet can’t stop talking about her, that she doesn’t think about them — but is flattered that they put so much energy into thinking about her. “Wish List” is just her telling us how in love she is, as she should honestly. Another personal favorite of mine. I love that she’s basically saying I hope you all get what you want, but this is what I want. The way

she sings “Boss up, settle down, got a wish (Wish) list (List) / I just want you” in the chorus scratches my brain perfectly. The beat is so good, and I love how she sounds; it’s another one you just have to dance to.

One of the most underrated tracks is “Honey.” The concept of the song is having these pet names you hate because of the context they’ve been used towards you, but then having someone come into your life and making them mean something completely new and heal those wounds.

The title track closes out the album perfectly. Swift said that after she wrote the song, she needed Sabrina Carpenter on it because of how she encapsulates the song and navigates the industry so perfectly. The song tells the story of a fictional showgirl not shying away from telling a fan what her life is truly like and in turn, the fan goes through with it and becomes a showgirl too. It’s such a theatre-esque song; it’s so full, and the production is perfect.

This album is pop perfection to me, and it gets better with each listen. There are complaints that her pen isn’t here anymore, but I implore listeners to read the lyrics in this album because Swift is still a lyrical genius, even if she isn’t writing about wanting to kill herself. I’m so happy to see her having so much fun exploring this era, and I’m so excited to see what else might come from it.

Rating: 5/5 stars



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEXA PAPPAS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

with lines like “We lie back / A beautiful, beautiful time-lapse /



# Life

## Fan Fest Friday: Free Food, Prizes and Activities

by Michelle Pawlos  
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Homecoming week concluded with one final event on Friday, Oct. 3. Hosted by the Student Union Board of Governors (SUBOG), students were invited to attend “Fan Fest Friday” from 1 to 4 p.m. on the Student Union lawn for free food, t-shirts, games and the opportunity to win free merchandise.

Upon arriving at the event, students were given two tickets, which they could use for either of the food trucks. “I plan on getting the fried dough with powdered sugar and the oxtail, I love oxtail,” said Summer Harvey, a third-semester psychology and human development and family sciences double major.

Students had the option of getting fried dough if they craved something sweeter, or soul food and Jamaican cuisine.

“Out of everything today, I definitely like the fact that there was free food,” said Taylor Lamothe, a third-semester psychology major. “Being a college student, you start taking any opportunity you get to get free food, so that was really nice.”

Free food was the main attraction for most students, especially with such a wide range of options to choose from. The “Good for the Soul” food truck offered a variety of dishes, including curry and jerk chicken, oxtail, fried chicken, mac and cheese, white rice and more according to their menu.

Students also stood in line

for airbrush T-shirts, which seemed to be another popular attraction. There was a choice of a bucket hat or a T-shirt, on which they could choose a name or word to put on it. From there, they could also choose from four fonts.

The artists did whatever they wanted to with what they were given, making it all more personalized. Students watched as their shirts were created, with the final product not being revealed until the very end. Each shirt took around ten minutes to complete and dry.

After receiving their T-shirts, students made their way to the picture area, where they could have their pictures taken. Pictures would then be printed out in a photobooth style. Students had a variety of props and items to choose from, making the experience all the more enjoyable and allowing them to take home pictures that would create memories for a lifetime.

“I chose to come to this event to socialize and meet some more people,” said Lamothe. “Since everyone really enjoys events like this, it’s a good way to meet a lot of people really quickly. Also, with it being midterms week, it was really helpful for me to take my mind off the stress of schoolwork for a bit and have fun.”

On the other side of the lawn were inflatable games, including basketball, a water race and a western games booth. Students could create a competition between themselves and their friends to play any of the games and win a prize. The



A poster for Fan Fest Friday, where students enjoyed free food and games. The event took place on Oct. 3, 2025.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @SUBOGATUCONN ON INSTAGRAM

prize buckets had many stuffed animals to choose from, making the area perfect for fun and friendly competition with your friends for the prize.

When asked about what she thought would be the most fun activity, Emily Cooper, a third-semester psychology major, said, “Honestly, I would

say the wheel spin for the free item.” Students waited in line for the chance to win merchandise, including sweatshirts and T-shirts. The suspense of not knowing what you would win, if anything at all, made it that much more exciting.

Homecoming week’s final event was the perfect way to

unwind, especially since it coincided with midterm season and offered the chance to win a cute stuffed animal, receive a customized shirt, take photobooth pictures and enjoy free food. It reminded everyone that even during the most stressful parts of the semester, there’s still room to have fun.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY:

by Isabella Kulawik  
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Microwaves: The savior of university students who, like me, got off the meal plan and have no idea how to cook. The dim yellow glow and lackadaisical turn of the glass dish fill me with joy like no other after a long day of classes and work. But how did we get here? The microwave revolutionized cooking, but it didn’t happen overnight. On Oct. 8, 1945, Raytheon Manufacturing Company filed the first patent for the microwave. Standing at six feet tall and weighing over 750 pounds, it’s a far cry from the kitchen appliance we know today. But how did we get here? It all starts with self-taught engineer, Percy Spencer.

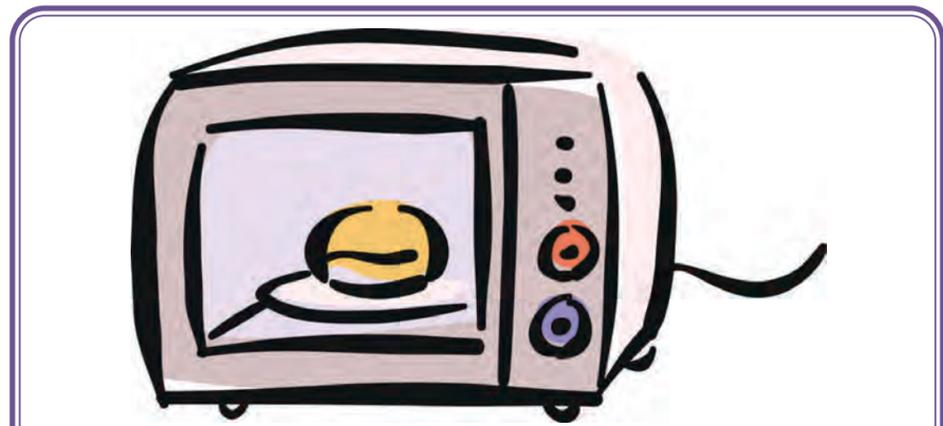
Dropping out of school at 12 years-old to work at a weaving mill, Spencer’s engineering journey first began when he joined the U.S. Navy six years

later to fight in World War I. There, he learned about radars and self-studied subjects like trigonometry and physics, which is what I like to call a healthy dose of dedication.

After being discharged from the Navy, he began to work at the American defense company Raytheon. It was here that he began working with magnetrons. This device was a vacuum tube that generated microwaves by controlling the flow of electrons with an applied magnetic field. Initially, these tools were intended to emit signals that could detect enemy aircraft and ships, similar to radar, which uses radio waves.

With his expertise on radar and radio, Spencer was working with colleagues at the time to develop and improve systems using the magnetron. Now here comes the part of the story that every science teacher mentions to their classes: Spencer had what we call a sweet tooth. He loved his Payday bars, and one day, when working in the lab, he noticed that the microwaves melted the candy bar in his pocket. It was the perfect accident, but the most important thing is what Spencer did afterwards.

He began to experiment with the device, pointing microwaves at foods surrounded in a metal box, and observed their effects. Now I know this seems like the natural thing to do, but someone less ambitious might have simply left it at the chocolate bar. Something I’ve noticed in academia, especially, is how easy it can be for researchers to get burnt out. Essentially, it can be simpler to note down an unexpected result but not pursue it further. Spencer



A sketch drawing of a microwave. The microwave was first invented in 1945.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF FLICKR

went above and beyond to invent something incredible that can be used inside and outside of the kitchen. Microwaves are incredibly versatile and have even been used as a cleaning method to power chemical reactions in the laboratory.

The microwave didn’t become a household staple until the 1970s, when it had more of a compact, countertop design and no longer cost an exorbitant amount. In 1946, the large microwave described earlier cost \$5,000, which, adjusted for today’s inflation, would be equivalent to around \$88,000.

As a college student, I’m thankful that the microwave has become such a staple. It means I can spend less time on meal prep and more time on PHYS 1401Q, something I presume Spencer would have appreciated. However, as a scientist, Spencer serves as an inspiration to dig deep into your research and find answers to all that is unexpected.



Percy Spencer, the inventor of the first microwave. Spencer was a U.S. Navy veteran and self-taught engineer.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF FLICKR



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



# Opinion

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COMIC BY ERIKA ECHEGOYEN, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# UConn, Take A Hike: WHY WE MUST REGAIN THE SIMPLE ART OF WALKING

by **Alexander Renzulli**  
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UConn Huskies, it's that beautiful time of year in Storrs again. You open the door to leave for your 8 a.m. and a brisk chill hits your face instead of dry and heavy heat. The flannels and sweatshirts start emerging from the back of our already limited closets, and for some reason I'm hearing a lot more jazz. It is autumn, a time for somber reflection and new beginnings. And in this time of contemplation, as I admire the complexities of the leaves hanging from the trees, I am reminded how much of a joy it is to simply meander, and how the art of walking around campus is not appreciated nearly enough.

Here at UConn, it is ever too easy to show our animosity towards the holier-than-thou scooter kids. They whip past us common folk on sidewalks (which they very illegally ride on) and show no remorse. As I pleasantly crunch these fragile oak leaves beneath the sole of my shoe, I can only feel pity towards the crowd whose only goal is to get to their destination early.

I'm not ignorant, the UConn Storrs campus is pretty large; it's easy to fall behind schedule if you don't know where

you're going. But if your need to get to class is blinding you from the intrinsic beauty of the land, I do not pity you. Here on campus, I've seen some of the most beautiful sunrises only because I choose to slow my roll and look up for a little while. We're so incredibly fortunate to live in beautiful New England, a land of lakes, streams and forests. Take advantage of our environment! If slowing down on the way to class means I can stop to appreciate the church bells in the morning and the falling maple leaves twisting in the breeze, then I hope to never be on time.

Dare I further suggest that walking out of the way, perhaps on a less convenient path, is one of the most rewarding things one can do during the day. Routine is inevitable and sometimes necessary for success. Deviation from your routine, however, is paramount to growth. What a blessing it is to get lost here at UConn! Taking new paths is perhaps the loveliest aspect of walking, and something those flying around on scooters fail to understand. What a shame it would have been if I didn't mistake Jorgensen for the Union during WOW Week and not end up at the greenhouse. What a charming little space on campus!

Here at UConn, there is a new club to enjoy, a new person to meet and new activities to explore around every corner. Fall in line with an unwavering routine or blind yourself with getting to a location on time and you've effectively ignored every opportunity available. And at a college with an undergraduate body of 21,000 students there are literally thousands of opportunities waiting to be unlocked. Horsebarn Hill may be a mile-long trek out of the way of anything, but if you find some time to hike out with some friends, bring a picnic blanket, and enjoy the setting sun, I'm more than positive you'll unlock a core memory.

My lamenting, furthermore, is extended to those who feel the need to bump music as loud as possible in noise-cancelling headphones while walking to and from class. Wanting to feel like the main character for a 15-minute walk is an acceptable excuse for music, but the possibilities that we miss when we are solely focused on ourselves and our music while walking is simply sad. How much of life do you miss out on when you fail to listen to others? I recall a walk home not long ago, in which the stars were bright, and the air was crisp.



ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTIAN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

On my journey, three strangers walked by and discussed how overhyped the film "La La Land" was. Of course, I had to join in on this fine discussion! It was only because I was not locked into my phone or listening to music that I engaged in a conversation, made three new friends, exchanged Instagrams and formulated a wonderful memory. This enforced my thoughts that college is an incredible place to make friends. Walking alone can be a time for somber and peaceful contemplation, but walking with a partner can be one of the most splendid times

of the day. It is always lovely to have someone to understand, laugh with and enjoy the presence of. It makes these shorter fall days a little more joyful.

To end another article with a song lyric, Billy Joel said it best: "Slow down, you crazy child / You're so ambitious for a juvenile." There's a simple beauty to living life slowly, so enjoy the walk. Whether you're a ride-or-die scooter kid or a walker just like me, I implore you to look up for a little, lose track of time and enjoy a stroll around cow town. Who knows what you'll find?

# THUNDERBOLTS: CAN MARVEL STILL MAKE A GOOD MOVIE?

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

As many are well aware, following the release of "Avengers: Endgame," there was much contention regarding the direction the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) would go. After the death of the beloved genius, billionaire and philanthropist Tony Stark, as well as the end of Steve Rogers, fans were anxious to see who would take up the mantles, and who would make up the next big team.

Six years later, we finally have some sense of a strong unit due to the "Thunderbolts" movie: a new Avengers, one could say. This team, comprised of Yelena, Bucky, John Walker, Red Guard-

ian, Ghost and Sentry, like that of the original Avengers, is chaotic, messy and not perfectly collaborative. There are disagreements, jealousy and anger, but there is also a strong connection — a force that pulls them together, driving them to work with one another towards a common goal. Just as with the original Avengers, these misfits have to learn to unite as they all share the desire to do good and save lives.

Where "Thunderbolts" went right, in ways that more recent MCU projects went wrong, was in its focus on the characters and their dynamics. While there was,

as always, a potentially life-altering threat unraveling, the focus wasn't on cool fight scenes and who could punch hardest. Rather, the movie was about confronting yourself and helping those you love to do the same. It chose to tackle an interesting subject, which is something we saw in MCU projects before "Endgame." In the Iron Man trilogy, we see a focus on mental health and complex internal battles, which carries over into the Avengers movies. We see intriguing topics in the Captain America movies as well, specifically with Bucky Barnes and "The Winter Soldier." The exploration of these inherently interesting characters and their dynamics with those around them is what drew audiences in, and the hope for more films to do the same is what keeps audiences returning.

Thunderbolts managed to catch onto this core, although it wasn't done perfectly. Certainly, it isn't comparable to "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," the best Marvel movie. For one thing, there wasn't nearly enough of Bucky in this movie, and it's clear Marvel wasn't quite sure what to do with his character, because he had been so heavily tied to Steve Rogers. Also, they arguably leaned too hard on the character of Bob, who's both the villain and the newest character introduced in

the film. The movie gave us some depth regarding his character and his background — we're made to understand that he's a vulnerable man with a dark past, which gives his character a lot of potential. However, I felt that his silliness, which many seemed to like, was a bit over the top.

Regardless, "Thunderbolts" recognized the importance of creating flawed, intriguing and likable characters, an aspect that seemed to fall to the wayside in the more recent MCU films. Instead, the scale of the threat seemed to be at the forefront of the creators' minds. In reality, what hooks viewers is interesting characters. Had the filmmakers deciding the fate of the MCU watched more "House M.D.," for instance, they would have sooner come to the realization that audiences want relatable, compelling and fascinating characters. While the superpowers and fight scenes are cool, like the medical cases in "House M.D.," the draw is from the characters.

Thunderbolts even managed to make me like John Walker, something I couldn't fathom following his introduction in the series "The Falcon and The Winter Soldier." Walker's introduction in the series was one of a man not suited to be a leader. He seemed to care more about proving himself as

worthy of taking on the mantle of Captain America than doing what was right. He was inclined to follow whatever orders he was given, something that Steve Rogers refused to do, opting instead to do what he believed was right. In "Thunderbolts," there is an emphasis on Walker growing as a person, recognizing his own faults and seeming to work on them. They didn't magically remove his flaws, but they focused on his strengths, like his reflex to protect his fellow team members (like when he jumps in front of Bucky to protect him). They also dove deeper into his unlikable traits, such as his cockiness, which in the film is shown to be a result of insecurity rather than a belief that he's better than everyone. Like the original Avengers, however, each character was introduced as flawed but ultimately lovable as they wanted to do the right thing, and their flaws only made them seem human.

Ultimately, "Thunderbolts" is a step in the right direction for Marvel. The movie focused on the core of character-driven storytelling, exploring the characters and the dynamics between them, as opposed to simply building the plot around saving the world. The plot itself was new and intriguing, and I liked the focus on characters and their pasts.

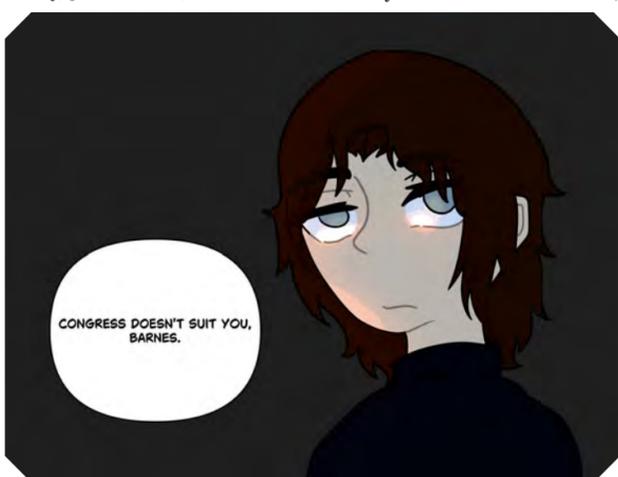


ILLUSTRATION BY SETH WALLEN, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Opinion

## Photo of the Day | A beautiful day



Horsebarn Hill on a warm autumn day in Storrs, Conn. on Oct. 3, 2025. Many students enjoy seeing the cows and taking walks on Horsebarn Hill.

PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## TRUMP AND TYLENOL: FROM VACCINE HESITATION TO ANTI-VACCINATION

by Holly Thompson

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On Monday, Sept. 21, Donald Trump said that taking Tylenol was correlated with developing autism. He insisted that people who cannot access Tylenol have “no autism” and that women should “tough it out” instead of taking the medication while pregnant. This shocking claim caught listeners off-guard and intensified discourse surrounding the use of medications and vaccinations as treatments.

Like Tylenol, vaccinations help to relieve pain as well as save millions of lives each year. It is important to be vaccinated, not only for oneself, but for the people around you, especially those who are immunocompromised. However, individual and group influences as well as vaccination specific issues “can act as a barrier against vaccine hesitancy or promote such attitudes.” Trump’s claim can push vaccine-hesitant individuals to become anti-vax through the spread

of propaganda with a lack of evidence to back it up.

It’s important to understand the difference between people who are vaccine-hesitant and people who are anti-vax. While people who are anti-vax are firmly against vaccines, people who are vaccine-hesitant are unsure about receiving vaccinations due to an array of concerns. These can include misconceptions about safety and access barriers to vaccination services. Above all, misinformation and a lack of information is the driving force of hesitancy. This can intensify peer influence, discrimination and concerns about overall side effects.

Trump’s claim about Tylenol causing autism ties into vaccine hesitancy because the increase of misinformation about Tylenol and vaccines have both shown dramatic increases since the press conference. In a CNN article, Dr. Scott Hadland, the chief of adolescent medicine at Mass General Brigham for Children, spoke about the effects of the conference. Messages have flooded Hadland’s in-

box with questions and concerns from parents about choices they made years ago.

“The surge of information on Tylenol and vaccines is clearly already heightening parents’ guilt,” said Hadland. This can leave their children feeling confused and potentially internalizing that guilt as their own. The increase in hesitance and shame decreases the likelihood of trusting further vaccinations, leading parents’ and children’s health and wellbeing to decrease.

Instead of listening to well-qualified doctors, Trump is still insisting that Tylenol and vaccines are the primary causes of autism. He has continued to talk about this on X (formally known as Twitter), where he posted in all caps, “DON’T GIVE TYLENOL TO YOUR YOUNG CHILD FOR VIRTUALLY ANY REASON.” Even worse, perhaps, he offered unwarranted medical advice about how to treat a child’s pain in the same post.

Scientists do not approve of Trump’s claim that has reportedly

zero evidence to back up. Many researchers that are studying autism say that there is not enough data to link the cause of autism to the use of Tylenol.

Many scientists say that even the most thorough research has not found a link between the usage of Tylenol and the increase in children with autism. In an article from The Week, Helen Tager-Flusberg, who studies autism at Boston University, agreed. “The better controlled studies are less likely to find even “a small risk,” said Tager-Flusberg.

James Cusack, the chief executive of Autistica, a charity that researches autism, also explained in an interview with the outlet Nature that there is no definitive evidence to suggest that taking Tylenol while pregnant causes autism in children.

“When you see any associations, they are very, very small,” said Cusack. Remember, correlation does not equal causation. While these two variables may happen to increase, that does not mean whatsoever that they are directly causing

each other to shift.

Cusack also believes that focusing on this is merely “a distraction,” and I agree. I believe Trump’s current political tactic is ‘flooding the zone.’ ‘Flooding the zone’ means issuing executive orders and controversial statements to “overwhelm the opposition and the media” to create confusion. Ridiculous claims such as this distract us from much larger problems within the political atmosphere. This is why it is so important to not allow the mass, redundant stream of upsetting and outrageous news to numb and desensitize you. Stay alert.

On a positive note, the National Autistic Society is currently working on a campaign “to fight back against the dangerous misinformation about the causes of autism from President Donald Trump.” It is more important to address the very real and challenging issues autistic people face in society today instead of creating problems out of thin air. Tylenol and vaccinations are not your enemies, but the people abusing their power to shame and fool you are.

## YOU’RE BACON MY HEART: THE ISSUE WITH THE CARNIVORE DIET

by Gianna Cassino

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Scrolling through TikTok mukbangs, amidst the Taco Bell and Wingstop videos, you’re bound to find a carnivore. Carnivorous influencers display giant cutting boards of steak, biting into sticks of butter like candy bars. The carnivore diet is a highly restrictive subculture of the keto diet in which only meat, seafood, eggs and some dairy products are consumed. In recent years, its spread has been heavily facilitated by the internet. The increasing number of people subscribing to the carnivore diet is directly linked to society’s worsening exclusivity and disregard for the planet.

Proponents of the carnivore diet sing its praises in terms of health benefits: weight loss, prevention against cancer, lessening visible aging, lowering blood pressure to the point of no longer needing medication. Such claims sound just short of medieval potion-sellers peddling waters from the “fountain of youth.” They sound too good to be true, and according to Harvard Medical Studies, they are too good to be true. The carnivore diet has been proven to increase the risk of kidney stones, gout and osteoporosis. Rather than prevent cancer, diets high in red meat increase the risk of colon cancer by 30%. The concept of a keto diet is inherently harmful — ketosis is a temporary change in state in

which the human body does not have enough glucose to create sustainable energy levels, so it breaks down fat instead. Normally, ketosis is a state typically reserved for starvation. Now, it’s rebranded as a chic way to lose weight to fit some archaic beauty standard.

Many diets center around weight loss, but keto diets are a different beast. Ketosis is essentially controlled starvation, which is dangerous if not carefully monitored. In a world in which many starve to death, the carnivore diet is especially cruel. Starvation can only become a trendy lifestyle and a hobby for those who are privileged enough to not see it as a real issue.

Veganism, the reverse of the carnivore diet, was popularized

due to its affordability, accessibility and incredible benefits to the environment. Vegans often receive a reputation of being “tree-huggers,” refusing to eat animals out of care for living beings and the planet as a whole. They are often ridiculed for restricting themselves, despite vegan diets providing all necessary food groups where carnivore diets do not. Aside from being extremely restrictive, carnivore diets lack the values and morals behind diets like veganism. With the growth of the carnivore diet, I can’t help feeling that dietary trends are shifting in a negative direction. Meat is expensive, especially when it’s being eaten multiple times a day. Furthermore, animal agriculture represents 14.5% of all human-caused greenhouse gas emissions. With an influx of people eating meat for a majority of their meals, this number will

only increase. The carnivore diet is inherently exclusive to those who can afford or access high-quality meat and has detrimental impacts on the planet.

If you went back to 2016 L.A., land of the vegans, and showed the average person a steak mukbang, they’d just about have a heart attack if they realized people ate three meals a day this way. If you traveled back to the ‘90s and started chomping at whole sticks of butter, you’d be met with intense concern (“don’t you know how bad butter is for you?”). Why is that? It is the concept of diet fads that has led to this moment, and these temporary fads are inherently harmful. People have different health issues that require treatment through nutrition. Swinging too far in the direction of either carnivore or herbivore can lead to vitamin deficiencies and eating disorders. One’s diet is not only lifestyle, it’s medicine. Yet no one bats an eye at the concept of taking advice from unqualified strangers on the internet as to what they should be eating. At this point, I wouldn’t be surprised if the next viral diet was called “star,” short for starvation, in which you eat nothing but rice cakes and ice cubes.

All in all, the popularity of the carnivore diet has startling implications. A meat-centered diet is expensive, unhealthy and exclusive. Consider the implications of taking diet advice from random people on the internet, and do your body a favor by eating a vegetable every once in a while.



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY ALEXA PAPPAS, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# THE MARCH TO APRIL: SEC BASKETBALL PREVIEW

by Jake McGreven

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The SEC was pretty good last season. Like, really good — historically good.

A record-breaking 14 NCAA Tournament bids (six of which were three seeds or higher), three consensus All-American first-teamers, four Regional Final bids and a national champion headlined the conference's best season in its 92-year history.

Its sights are set on replicating that in year 93. The top of the conference comprises some of college basketball's most complete and star-studded squads brimming with national championship expectations.

The depth teams could all soundly reach 20 wins — and perhaps match the SEC's historic NCAA outing last season.

The Contenders (Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas)

All the reigning champs did this off season was retain four of their top five frontcourt scorers, rejuvenate the backcourt with three transfers who all averaged over 13 points at previous stops and bring in two four-star freshmen. Florida will again be in contention for the top overall seed come March.

Mark Pope replaced four starters this spring with hopes

of rebuilding Kentucky on a bedrock of defense. It's frontcourt, which now contains NBA prospects Denzel Aberdeen, Mouhamed Dioubate, Jayden Quaintance and Malachi Moreno (among many others) should help with that. Jaland Lowe is an elite playmaker, and he's running the show on the back-end.

Rick Barnes' ever-so-steady sideline presence will keep Tennessee in SEC contention until he retires. The Vols retooled the backcourt with a pair of senior transfers in Ja'Kobi Gillespie and Amaree Abram, welcomed in blue-chip freshman Nate Ament and returned two valuable frontcourt pieces in Cade Phillips and Felix Okpara. That's a solid starting lineup.

Arkansas welcomes five-star freshman Darius Acuff to the starting lineup to replace Boogie Fland (who left for Florida) and run the show in Fayetteville. He'll be joined by three returning players who all averaged over 20 minutes per game last season, including the score-first DJ Wagner at the two. The Hogs ended last season red-hot and are primed for much of the same in 2025-26. Shooting the three efficiently may spell the difference.

The Second Tier (Auburn, Texas, Alabama, Oklahoma)

Yes, Steve Pearl learned under the tutelage of his father for

over a decade on the Plains and yes, Steve Peal retained every player on the roster following his father's abrupt retirement.

But it's still Bruce Pearl that Auburn lost. Perhaps it's for the better that four starters and almost 90% of the minutes from last year went with him. There may be some growing pains for the Tigers in the early going.

Texas is a tough job to keep. Just ask Chris Beard, or Rodney Terry — actually, don't ask them. Sean Miller will try his hand in 2025-26, and he'll do it with two returning, experienced backcourt pieces and a revamped frontcourt that features SEC-caliber size and strength. He'll need to find a scorer to replace Tre Johnson, however.

Nate Ots has upgraded the pedigree of Alabama basketball to the point where a No. 4 seed is a "let down" year. Not letting the Crimson faithful down in 2025-26 will rely on the health and consistency of his backcourt, which heads the Tide's break-neck pace. The starting five is legit, but the Tide will need to form more credible depth for a shot at a title.

Oklahoma's blistering 13-0 start was washed away by a 7-14 record down the stretch and a first-round exit from the NCAA Tournament. Porter Moser lost Jeremiah Fears to the NBA but went hard in the portal to replace him, landing Xzayvier

Brown and Nijel Pack to run the show on the backend. The Sooners should contend for an at-large again in 2025-26.

The Bubble (Mississippi State, Mississippi)

Josh Hubbard's aura of invincibility as a scorer will keep the 'Dogs in games come February. But what Chris Jans did in April, landing the duo of Achor Achor and Quincy Ballard from the portal, has Mississippi State fans excited for 2025-26. If the frontcourt additions pan out, look for the Bulldogs to etch another 20-plus win season in Starkville.

Chris Beard has tremendously elevated the standard of the Mississippi program. He'll now face his largest challenge as head coach of the Rebels; replacing four starters and 85% of the minutes from last year. Ole Miss will play small, something that some consider to be a cardinal sin in the SEC.

The Fringe March Teams (Missouri, Texas A&M, Vanderbilt, Georgia)

Dennis Gates' highly efficient offenses will need to be matched by an equally salty defense for Missouri to have a fighter's chance in the SEC. Upgrading the size of the roster is a good place to start, which Gates did with the addition of Shawn Phillips Jr. from Arizona State.

Bucky McMillan will be the vanguard of a 180 in tempo,

playstyle and roster construction for Texas A&M, which returns zero minutes from last season. Mackenzie Mgbako and Federiko Federiko are two solid building blocks down low.

Vanderbilt returned to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in eight years in year one of the Mark Byington era. He'll hope to lead the Commodores to a second consecutive tournament appearance for the first time in as many years behind the well-rounded roster he's constructed in Nashville.

Georgia's roster reconstruction focused primarily on its backcourt, which will start a pair of transfers (Jordan Ross and Jeremiah Wilkinson) who combined to average north of 23 points per game last season.

The Basement (LSU, South Carolina)

There's bound to be a sacrificial lamb (or two) in every conference. LSU and South Carolina were involuntarily forced into that role by the rest of the SEC last year, bullied to a 5-31 combined record in conference play.

It doesn't look so good this year, either. South Carolina lost most of its frontcourt scoring while LSU resets the roster — again — under Matt McMahon. Both teams are inexperienced down low and will rely on transfers to head the scoring in the backcourt.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

# FIELD HOCKEY: HUSKIES FACE RANKED OPPONENTS IN WEEKEND MATCHUPS

by Amita Akshinthala

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The UConn Huskies secured a 3-1 win over Providence field hockey late Friday afternoon and 2-1 win against UMass Amherst early Sunday afternoon.

The Huskies entered the matchups ranked No. 27 nationally, above their fellow Big East foe Providence at No. 48, and faced No. 16 Massachusetts.

Ending with a loss to Providence from last season, the Huskies worked to redeem themselves on Friday. The game started with a drive from UConn's offense, with senior midfielder Sol Simone attempting to notch a goal, but it was saved by the Friars' goalie, Ava Porter. Providence followed up with junior midfielder Florencia Talarico attempting a shot on goal, going wide. The repeated attempted shots on goal set the tone for the remaining quarters.

The second quarter, starting uneventfully, ended with a series of shots happening in quick succession. Senior midfielder Jasmijn Damman began the assaults with a shot on goal, saved by Porter.

Simone followed the assault with a penalty kick, while sophomore back Milou Heucker made a shot blocked by Porter. Then 27 minutes in, freshman Emma Larit had a go at the net, ending too high. A short two minutes later, the Huskies secured the first goal of the game by senior forward Julia Bressler, with an assist by Heucker and Simone, ending the second quarter.

Early in the third quarter, UConn's defensive line faced a challenge with Providence's junior forward Lily Procaccianti attempting a shot that went off high. The attempt was followed by another shot by Talarico, going wide. The quarter ended with a penalty corner by Providence's sophomore midfielder Johanna Mähner and a shot by junior midfielder Bo Martina, blocked by UConn goalie Natalie McKenna.

The fourth quarter began with UConn reclaiming control. The Huskies saw another goal from sophomore back Fien Hollander. The goal was followed by two shots from the Huskies' own Bressler, blocked by the Friars' goalie. Bressler followed up with a penalty kick goal, notching the

score to 3-0. As the final blow, Providence's junior forward Carly van Benten secured a goal in the back of the net. The game ended with the Huskies tallying another win for their record.

The first quarter of UConn's matchup against UMass mirrored that of the game against Providence. Massachusetts made the first blow with sophomore midfielder Cara Falconer attempting a shot that was saved by Natalie McKenna.

Following Massachusetts' attempt, UConn player and junior midfielder Olivia McKenna shot at goal, ending in a block by Massachusetts goalkeeper Myrte Van Herwijnen. The quarter ended with a final shot on goal by UConn's freshman, Abby Davidson, resulting in a block.

The second quarter began quickly with Massachusetts driving on their offensive line. 20 minutes in, the Massachusetts Minutemen secured their first goal by junior midfielder Kristy Leonard, assisted by freshman defensive player Lina Kroeger. Olivia McKenna, with

the Huskies, made a shot on goal that

went high, ending the quarter 1-0.

The third quarter began with senior midfielder Mia Smith, with Massachusetts, attempting a shot on goal that was saved by Natalie

McKenna. UConn players Simone and junior forward Viole Fran- cese attempted

shots in quick succession, both ending in failure. The quarter ended with UConn's Larit receiving a green card.

The fourth quarter started with the Huskies pressing Massachusetts' defensive line, ending in two UConn goals back to back. Simone led the first ball into the back of the net with freshman Lene Bunjes following closely behind, scoring another goal with an assist by freshman Pien Prins. The quarter ended with the Huskies securing another win.

Next up, the Huskies will travel to Philly to take on the Temple Owls, Friday at 1 p.m.

PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# MEN'S SOCCER: HUSKIES BLOW PAST BLUEJAYS IN SECOND HALF SURGE

by Avery Becker

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After two tough losses in a row, the UConn men's soccer team redeemed themselves on Friday night with a 3-0 shutout win against the Creighton Bluejays.

Right out of the gate, both teams were vying to get points on the board. However, goalkeeper Kyle Durham protected his team between the pipes, preventing the Bluejays from scoring, as did Creighton's goalkeeper.

Durham, a red shirt sophomore, put on quite the performance in this match. The New York native recorded a career-high of 10 saves in this win and ranks third among all goalkeepers in the Big East conference, with his fifth shutout of the season.

"He's doing pretty well; he's really helped us and saved us and kept us in some games. If he continues to play like that, then we give ourselves a chance," Head coach Chris Gbandi said when asked about Kyle Durham.

Despite neither team getting a point on the board in the first half, the Huskies had a surge of three goals in the second half of the match. This is the fourth time this has happened to the Huskies, all those times resulting in a victory for the Huskies.

In the 53rd minute, junior defender Ayoub Lajhar secured his first goal of the season, putting the Huskies on the board first in the bottom left of the goal post off the dish from Austin Brummett.

Then, just three minutes later, Lajhar notched his second point of the game with an assist to freshman Edward Wester. Lajhar crossed the ball across the goal to Wester, where the forward kicked it in to give the Huskies the 2-0 lead.

"We've had a group of left-backs that have done well here," Gbandi said when asked about Lajhar. "He's a great player, he works hard. I think today all the work that he has put in has really shown for people to see."

Up until the 87th minute, when the Huskies racked up their third and final goal, the Bluejays attempted to dig themselves out of their rut to get

themselves on the board — but this was where Durham came to play.

In just these 30 minutes, Durham made seven out of his 10 saves in the entire match.

Then, freshman Preston Allesio scored the game winning goal off a pass from Alfonso Arredondo, where Allesio headed the ball into the net.

"To be honest, not too much, because I thought we were playing pretty well in the first half," Gbandi said postgame when asked what sparked the second half surge. "And for whatever reason we just couldn't get the ball in the net. In the second half, the

guys were just more determined and worked pretty

hard. We got a pretty good win."

With this win, Connecticut has a 7-2-3 record on the season and a 2-1 record in Big East play.

Next up, the Huskies will head to the nation's capital to take on the Georgetown Hoyas, this Saturday, Oct. 11. Kickoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., and Husky fans can tune into the match on ESPN+.



PHOTO BY LUISA MASSASSO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Sports

## Photo of the Day | UConn v FIU



The UConn football team won a victory over the FIU Panthers this past weekend. Their victory marked Jim Mora's 100th win as a head coach. PHOTO BY KALI REED, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## WOMEN'S HOCKEY: HUSKIES SPLIT WEEKEND SERIES AGAINST NO. 9 CLARKSON

by Colette Doyle

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The UConn women's hockey team took a trip to Potsdam, N.Y. on Friday to take on No. 9 Clarkson in a two-game series. The team fell 2-0 in the first game on Friday, Oct. 3. The next day, the team clinched the win in a close 3-2 game.

UConn is coming off their home opener series, which took place last week, against No. 11 St. Cloud State. The first game ended in a 2-1 Husky loss; however, they came away dominant (2-1) the next day. The win showcased the talent of the team. Defensively, graduate student goaltender Tia Chan dominated with a high of 36 saves. Offensively, senior forward Brooke Campbell and junior forward Livvy Dewar led. During Friday's contest, Campbell opened the scoring in the first period with her first goal of the season. Then, Dewar recorded her first goal of the season in the second period, which was also her first

career game-winning goal.

The Golden Knights came off dominant on Friday night with a goal just 23 seconds into the game. The Huskies had to step up quickly and were forced to play catch-up for much of the game. The Huskies earned a first period power play but were unable to break through the Golden Knights' defense. Junior forward Ashley Allard had continuous energy throughout the first period with multiple shots on goal but was repeatedly blocked by Golden Knights graduate student goaltender Holly Gruber.

In the second period, the Huskies' offense continued to be aggressive. Junior forward Julia Pellerin and Allard led the second period offense; however, Gruber held strong, denying the Huskies a chance to score. Clarkson capitalized on UConn's scoring struggles, allowing

them to double their lead midway through the second period.

Defensively, Chan held up strong under Clarkson's constant pressure, blocking 27 shots. Senior forward Megan Woodworth and graduate student Camryn Wong also contributed to the defense by limiting rebounds. However, the Golden Knights were often able to quickly transition and force turnovers.

In the third period, the Huskies brought aggression and provided immense pressure for Gruber. Pellerin had a shot that bounced off the post almost spoiling Gruber's perfect game. However, Gruber blocked the shot, stopping all 23 shots that came her way. The Huskies had a solid offense and a disciplined defense; however, they struggled to convert offensive opportunities into goals.

In Saturday's win, the Hus-

kies had a dominant offense and defense. Chan led the defense with a season-high of 37 saves. Chan's resilience against immense Clarkson pressure, especially in the third period, proved to be the key in finishing dominant.

Offensively, the Huskies came out strong. Woodworth opened the scoring midway into the first period. However, Clarkson quickly responded five minutes later with a goal. Penalties late in the first period led to both teams gaining a power play chance; however, neither capitalized on this opportunity.

Clarkson came into the second period with dominance, taking a 2-1 lead two minutes in. The Huskies then took advantage of a power play, which allowed senior forward Kyla Josifovic to score her first goal of the season, tying the game. Minutes later, Campbell scored, and the

Huskies took the lead.

The Golden Knights responded to the Huskies lead with strong offensive pressure. However, the Huskies defense stayed strong with Chan recording 19 saves in the last period. Clarkson gave a final push in the closing minutes, pulling their goaltender and attempting to take advantage of a late game power play due to a delay of game penalty for the Huskies. The Huskies defense held strong to hold onto the lead.

The win against a top 10 team showcased the Huskies' impressive defense and offense skills that thrive under pressure. The win also marks a milestone for head coach Chris MacKenzie, giving him his 200th career win in 13 seasons. This makes MacKenzie the winningest head coach in program history.

Next, the Huskies will host No. 15 Princeton on Friday, Oct. 17 and Saturday, Oct. 18 for a two-game series. The games will begin at 2:30 p.m. and 1 p.m., and Husky fans can tune into this matchup on FloSports.

## MEN'S HOCKEY: UCONN FALLS IN FIRST REGULAR SEASON GAME, RALLIES TO WIN GAME TWO

by Nicole Caruso

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The UConn men's hockey team headed west to face off against Colorado College in a two-game weekend series to kick off their regular season.

The Huskies started their first game of the season off strong on Friday night, scoring a goal just 52 seconds into the first period, thanks to junior forward Joey Muldowney. The quick goal was assisted by junior forward Jake Richard and left winger freshman Carlin Dezainde.

UConn goaltender senior Tyler Muszelik held the fort down for the Huskies against Colorado's many shots on goal during the first, but the Huskies was faced with a challenge when Richard was sent to the box for a hooking penalty with just over two minutes left in the first. Sophomore forward Owen Beckner took full advantage and capitalized on the power play, successfully scoring a goal to tie the score entering the second period.

The second period started off with Colorado College taking an early lead with back-to-back goals within the first five minutes. Freshman forward Brayden Schuurman scored his first goal of the season with help from forwards junior Riley Stuart and freshman Brandon Lisowsky. Less than three minutes later, Colorado added to



UConn Men's Hockey plays Boston University in Storrs, Conn. on Feb. 25, 2025. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

their lead with a goal from sophomore defenseman Philippe Blais-Savoie to leave the Huskies trailing by two.

Texas native senior Tabor Heaslip cut Colorado's lead down by one after scoring midway through the second period. Despite the Huskies having a power play opportunity later in the period, they failed to tie up the score, sending them into the third period needing to up their goal scoring.

However, the third did not go in the Huskies' favor as their limited shots on goals caused them to have limited offensive ice time. Within the last few minutes of the game, UConn pulled their goaltender, and

Colorado was able to score an empty-net goal, securing a 4-2 win.

The next day, UConn and Colorado faced off again with the Huskies looking for a comeback win.

UConn had a tough challenge during the first few minutes of the first period as Colorado College was given a power play opportunity. Colorado attacked the ice and stayed heavily in UConn's zone despite the Huskies' defensive attempts to clear the puck out of their zone. Goaltender Muszelik made impressive saves during the two minutes, denying Colorado a goal.

Shortly after, Colorado was the first to get on the scoreboard

with a goal from junior forward Bret Link.

The Huskies responded shortly after towards the end of the first period, when a delayed penalty caused them to pull Muszelik and add an extra skater on the ice. The enhanced pressure resulted in senior forward Ryan Tattle's equalizing goal to send the game tied entering the second.

UConn carried this momentum into the second period, scoring a goal within just one minute of the period. Sophomore forward Ethan Gardula fought for the puck along the boards and successfully gained control, passing it to teammate sophomore Mike Murtagh who

then slid it to senior defenseman Thomas Messineo that shot it right into the net giving the Huskies a 2-1 lead.

The Huskies dominated on a power play opportunity increasing their lead to 3-1 thanks to freshman Alexandre Blais. Shortly after, Muldowney increased UConn's lead even more, netting the fourth goal of the game assisted by Tattle and Richard. Later in the second period, Colorado College had a 5-on-3 power play advantage, but the combination between the Huskies penalty kill and Muszelik's saves, they kept Colorado from getting back on the scoreboard.

UConn entered the third up 4-1, but did not stop there. The team solidified their win on a power play goal scored by sophomore forward Kaden Shahan to end the game with a final score of 5-1.

The Huskies held off against Colorado's multiple shots on goals throughout the third, giving fans a preview of the defensive plays they can look for during the rest of their season.

UConn will find themselves in another two-game weekend series against Ohio State, but this time UConn will have home ice advantage. The Huskies face off against the Buckeyes on Friday, Oct. 17 at Toscano Family Ice Forum, with a puck drop set for 7 p.m. They will then head to Hartford on Saturday for an afternoon game set for 4 p.m.

# CARSON PROPELS HUSKIES OVER THE BLUEJAYS

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The UConn women's soccer team defeated the Creighton Bluejays 1-0 in a defensive battle late Saturday night in front of 1,771 fans.

This win marks the Huskies' second consecutive and boosts their record to 6-3-2. Creighton on the other hand, falls to 4-7-2.

In the 77th minute, sixth year defender Anna Carson launched the ball to the right corner of the goal to score the only goal of the match.

The game started physically, with each team recording two fouls in the first 10 minutes. Redshirt freshman forward Se-Hanna Mars took the Huskies' first shot of the game in the 12th minute, but it was blocked. Two minutes later, Mars had yet another shot denied.

Over the next 15 minutes, both teams combined for two shots on goal, continuing the defensive tone that defined the early stages of the match.

Both teams made numerous substitutions, but nothing seemed to be working offen-

sively until the 32nd minute. For Creighton, freshman defender Olivia Sides kicked the ball toward the net but was rejected.

Moments later, junior midfielder, Tejia Murray-Powell had her shot knocked away by freshman goalkeeper Ava Yamas.

This was followed up by UConn senior forward, Chioma Okafor, having her shot stopped by senior goalkeeper, Alyssa

Zalac in the 34th minute.

After that, the rest of the first half shots were spread out and stopped to keep the score 0-0 heading into the locker room.

The second half started with a Connecticut yellow card. Freshman defender Ines Nourani was given an unsportsmanlike conduct call.

30 seconds later, senior midfielder Tori Gillis took a shot for Creighton off target.

The match did not have another shot until the 47th minute when sophomore midfielder Taylor Jenkins was off target with her shot. During the 64th minute, Jenkins was off target yet again.

From there, both teams were able to keep each other from attacking. The Bluejays' freshman forward, Jalen Chaney had a prime opportunity to score in the 71st minute, but Yamas came

up with a major save to keep zeros on the scoreboard.

During the 72nd minute, Slides was guilty of unsporting, leading to a yellow card.

Five minutes later, Okafor was awarded a free kick and set up Carson in great position to move up field and find the angle to put the ball in the net to break the scoreless tie.

The goal was Carson's first goal in two seasons in Storrs.

Creighton was only able to get off one more shot from that point, and the Huskies walked away with the victory.

UConn is now 3-1-1 in the Big East and 4-1-1 at home. The Bluejays are now 1-1-3-1 in the Big East and 2-4 away from Omaha.

During the match, UConn fired off 13 total shots and five shots on goal. Creighton totaled nine shots and five shots on goal.

The Huskies tallied five saves to Creighton's four.

The UConn women's soccer team returns to action on Saturday, Oct. 11 against Marquette. The game will be played at Morrone Stadium and kickoff is scheduled for 6:30 p.m.



UConn women's soccer team plays Creighton at home in Storrs, Conn. On Oct. 4. A UConn goal in the second half secured a 1-0 win for the Huskies. PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# SOFTBALL: UCONN GOES 2-0 IN FALL BALL WEEKEND

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UConn finished another fall ball weekend game slate at home, with a hard-fought 4-2 victory against the Boston College Eagles and a dominating 22-4 finish over Eastern Connecticut State University.

UConn came out hungry, seeking redemption after a late loss to Boston College last season. The Eagles left the Huskies with a memorable 10-5 defeat in front of their home crowd at the Burrell Family Field.

UConn went straight to work, pushing for a quick three outs at the top of the first. The entire starting lineup came prepared and set an early tone: redemption was ready to be served. It was a true team performance, and contributions poured in from all positions. After a strikeout, a stop at second and a leftfield catch, the Huskies stepped up to bat on a hot streak. Connecticut held its rhythm and opened the scoring at the bottom of the first. Bringing home a runner on a long grounder, UConn claimed the first lead of the night.

The Eagles responded swiftly, matching the early intensity. Kiley Buckley sent one deep in the second for a two-run homer. The Stanford transfer scored 25

home runs across her two seasons prior to joining the Eagles' roster. Buckley — junior UTL — is shaping up to have a solid season with her new program.

It was a quieter Friday night for the outfielders on both lineups, with only a few advancements throughout the evening. On the other hand, it was a jam-packed night for infielders across the board. Senior Kaia Higa was a standout performer for the evening, with a dominant showing at first base. The infielder from Seattle has been an outstanding addition to

the roster as a junior-year transfer. She anchors UConn's defense, with a remarkable .992 fielding percentage to show for it.

Late in the fifth, UConn regained the lead on a run batted in. It was freshman Bella Cefola to cross the plate for the Huskies. The recruit joins the squad with a decorated high school career under her belt. Cefola was a four-time All-Conference selection, and she earned New Jersey Athletic Conference's Female Athlete of the Year. She's also put up a commendable stat line of 88 runs, 80 steals and a .350 batting average across her four years. This is just her warmup, and she's setting off to be a front-runner at the collegiate level.

Junior Kaitlyn Breslin had a late-game home run that

equally electric from the top of the stands to down in UConn's dynamic dugout. Breslin has been a leading force for the Huskies throughout her underclassmen campaign. She rounded out the 2025 season with a sensational .386 batting average and finished second on the team with 16 home runs. In Friday's match, she accounted for an additional run batted in on a deep ground ball. Husky fans should expect another stellar season for Breslin, come the springtime regular season.

The roaring momentum of the homer lifted the Huskies through the homestretch. Up 4-2, they found themselves faced with a set of loaded bases and just one out at the top of the seventh. UConn's defense channeled poise and control. They took on two Eagles' batters and converted on a strikeout and stop at first. Powered by the dialed-in push from the field, UConn protected their margin to close out the night.

The second game was a stunning defeat over the ECSU Warriors. UConn made a similar start in game two, sending an early message on the defensive end. It was a quick three outs, with stops coming from infield, outfield and catcher action.

The Warriors outfield had an eventful afternoon, with UConn achieving several long balls. The outfielders showed great effort and converted many of the Huskies fly ball attempts to outs.

UConn was the first team to get on the scoreboard late in

the second. Freshman Caprice Bohmer had a deep flyout that earned a run for senior Haley Coupal.

Graduate student Jessica Walter had an outstanding feat on the mound. She served the Warriors three consecutive strike outs for a quick top of the third. The Huskies rode this wave into their offense where Cat Pettey scored a three-run homer for the Huskies.

UConn did not slow down from there — upholding a dominant display. Walter's pitching continued to be a problem for the Warriors. On the offensive end, aggressive base runs from Bella Cruz, Savannah Ring and Ava Calciano contributed to the Huskies' mass scoring streak. They closed out the seventh up 14-1.

Both teams held strong efforts until the end. Despite the scoreboard margin, ECSU fought hard until the final moments. Their late-game offense consisted of solid hitting which earned them a few runs. The Huskies reigned dominant on all ends. They increased the intensity of their offense to score an additional eight runs before Pettey matched Walters to end the 10th on a three-strikeout inning.

The extra-innings wrapped with a crushing 22-4 finish for the Huskies.

UConn will finish off their fall ball season this Sunday with a double header. They take the diamond at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to face off against Quinnipiac.

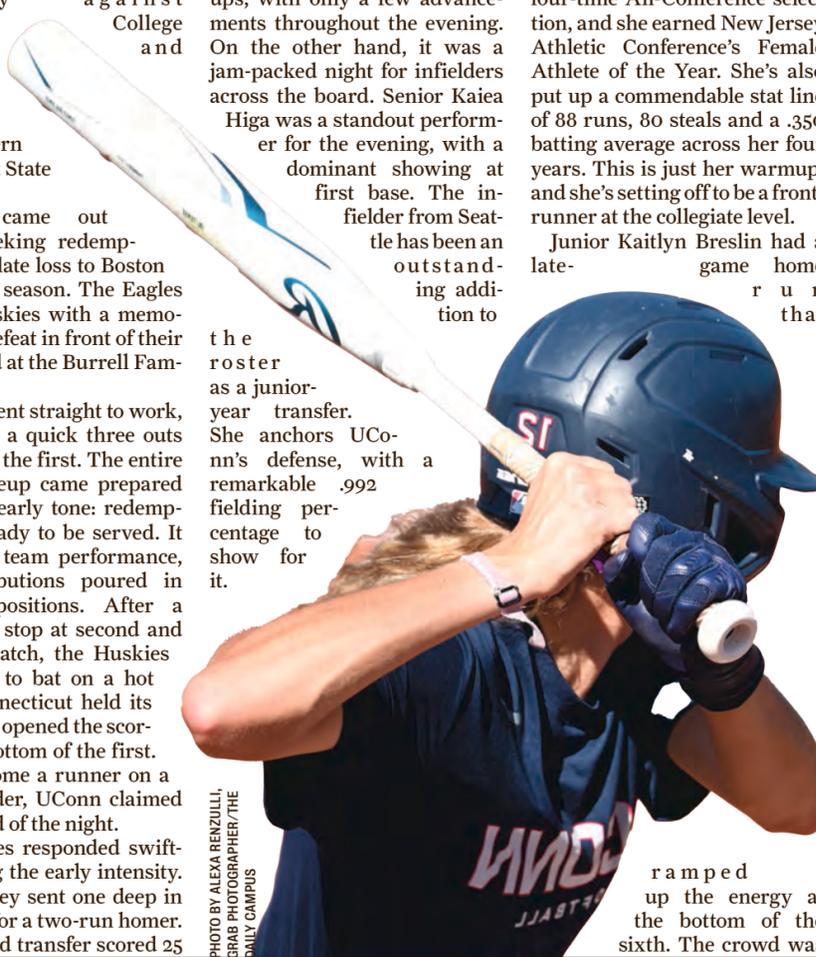


PHOTO BY ALEXA RENZULLI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

ramped up the energy at the bottom of the sixth. The crowd was

# WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY: HUSKIES STAY STRONG AS COMPETITION HEATS UP AT THE PAUL SHORT RUN

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The UConn women's cross country team proved its mettle at the Paul Short run, battling against national powerhouses to secure sixth overall as a team.

The college gold 6K proved to be a positive step for the team, showcasing their full potential to compete at a higher level. It provided them with the opportunity to compete against some of their notable Big East opponents, including Villanova, which finished in first place, and Georgetown, which secured third place. This experience not only highlighted their capabilities but also contributed to their growth and preparation for future competitions.

Other strong teams in the competition included Penn State, which is currently ranked 15th in the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association's Poll for this week. Penn State finished in a solid second place behind Villanova. Utah State, which is ranked

17th on the poll, also performed well, placing fifth. Additionally, Texas A&M, although not ranked, still demonstrated its strength by finishing in fourth place, showing that the team is a serious contender in the field. These teams showcased impressive performances, highlighting

the depth and competitiveness of the event.

At a longer distance than their 3K and 5K team results, which they won, they demonstrated their commitment to running as a team, with the top five UConn runners finishing among the top 75 overall among individual run-

ners.

Brooke Strauss, named Big East Female Athlete of the Week after her performance at the Ted Owen Invitational, continued her dominant debut. Leading the Huskies as well as all true first-year students in the race, she finished 24th overall with a time

of 20:22.4. Senior captain Chloe Trudel was second, finishing 33rd overall with a time of 20:30.1 and Sascha Leticia was third, taking 45th with a time of 20:47.5.

Malin Rahm finished 64th with a time of 20:58.4 and Logan Hughes rounded out the top five, finishing 75th with a time of 21:05.9.

Finishing next were Claire Paci and Allison McCarthy, with times of 21:10.2 and 21:15.8, 82nd and 93rd, respectively. To finish out for the team, Teanne Ewings, Calista Mayer and Samantha Moore finished with times of 21:24.6, 21:25.3 and 22:16.0 — with the entire squad finishing under 25 minutes.

Head coach Beth Alford-Sullivan praised both freshmen and returning runners, noting their improvement from a year ago.

"We needed this race to give us an opportunity to see our Big East opponents and get our noses dirty in competition," Alford-Sullivan stated, as the team looks forward to competing in Princeton two weeks from now, the meet before the Big East Championship in Omaha, Neb.



Huskies Finish Sixth Paul Short Run. Other teams in the competition include Penn State, Utah State, and Texas A&M. PHOTOS COURTESY OF UCONN ATHLETICS.



# Sports

## FOOTBALL: HEAD COACH JIM MORA EARNS 100TH CAREER WIN OVER FIU

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The UConn football team (4-2) defeated the FIU Panthers 51-10, marking this as head coach Jim Mora's 100th career victory while head coaching.

Mora has won 22 games with the Huskies, 68 NCAA matchups over the past 10 years and 32 clashes with the Atlanta Falcons and Seattle Seahawks.

"Without the support of all these people, we wouldn't be making the progress that we're making," said Mora, discussing the past 22 wins with UConn. "I hadn't really thought about that it was 100 ... I just want one win."

With Saturday's win under the Huskies' belt, this improves their 2025 home record to 3-0.

Connecticut's defense was the talk of the town, as the team held FIU's starting quarterback Keyone Jenkins to just 74 passing yards. Collectively, UConn racked up five sacks for a loss of 29 yards, two fumbles, two fumble recoveries and three interceptions for 29 yards.

Linebacker Amir Renwick led the way with 10 tackles, a sack for a loss of five yards and a pick for a 27-yard return. Alongside Renwick, Bryun Parham ended the day with nine tackles and a sack for a loss of 13 yards.

In the first half, Parham forced a fumble and recovered two balls, with one leading to Chris Freeman notching a 43-yard field goal. With just under 11 minutes remaining in the second quarter, extending UConn's lead to 17-0.

"He [Bryun Parham] plays with a ton of energy. He is very instinctual as a linebacker; his ability to read and react," said Mora. "He's the guy we need on the field because he brings the juice, he brings the energy, brings consistency."

To end the contest, linebacker Aaron Key sealed the victory for the Huskies after snagging quarterback Joe Pesansky's pass.

Even though the defense only conceded 10 points, Parham emphasized how the battle finished.

"Our goal is to give up no points to the end," said Parham. "On one of the last drives, we gave up a free seven, so we just have to build on that."

Offensively, quarterback Joe Fagnano completed 22 of 28 (78.6%) throws for a career-high 355 yards for four touchdowns.

Something Mora frowned upon was the offensive line protection.

"I thought Joe [Fagnano] was clean, not happy with our protection," said Mora. "It's unlike us, we gave up four sacks on the year, we gave up three tonight, so we've got to take a look at that and get that corrected."

After a quick three-and-out

from the Panthers on the opening drive of the clash, UConn struck first. Fagnano found wide receiver Skyler Bell for an 18-yard passing touchdown.

FIU tried marching down into enemy territory but running back Devonte Lyons fumbled the ball on a jet sweep. Defensive lineman Cleto Chol forced the turnover with Parham scooping the ball at the Panthers' 39-yard line.

FIU's defense nearly covered for the offense, as defensive lineman Keegan Davis sacked Fagnano for a loss of seven yards and knocked the ball loose. However, right tackle Carsten Casady jumped on it, moving Connecticut back to the FIU's 45-yard line.

To end the first quarter, Fagnano connected with wide receiver John Neider for a 45-yard catch, setting UConn up on FIU's 20-yard line. With 20 seconds until the two-minute timeout, running back Cam

Edwards plowed through for 16 yards and crossed the goal line.

With just under 11 minutes remaining in the second quarter, running back Anthony Carrier rushed for 29 yards, placing the markers at Connecticut's 33-yard line. Two plays later, Kejon Owens ran to the Huskies' 11-yard line. The drive ended with a goal-line stance, forcing a successful 26-yard field goal, making the score 17-3 UConn.

On UConn's following drive with three minutes left in the half, Bell caught a 14-yard pass, but defensive back Mister Clark punched the ball out. Linebacker Josiah Taylor pounced on it for FIU, giving them possession at their own 39-yard line. This was Connecticut's first turnover of the 2025 campaign.

With 30 seconds left until halftime, the Panthers turned the ball over on downs on Connecticut's 40-yard line. Fagnano exploited the turnover and targeted wide receiver Reym-

ello Murphy for a 61-yard touchdown. This was Murphy's third endzone appearance this year.

FIU tried redeeming itself, but defensive back Cam Chadwick intercepted those plans, snagging the ball and placing it on the Panthers' 40-yard line. Freeman then drilled a 36-yard kick through the uprights. Heading into halftime, Connecticut extended the deficit to 24-3.

UConn did not hold back coming out of the break, as Fagnano threw to running back Victor Rosa, who took it to the house for a 65-yard touchdown. This became Rosa's longest career reception.

After another quick three-and-out from FIU, the Huskies landed on the Panthers' 27-yard line, allowing Freeman to drain his third field goal of the day. So far, Freeman has converted 10 straight kicks, dating back to Central Connecticut in Week 1.

With a little under three minutes left in the third quarter, Fagnano pinpointed Bell for his second endzone appearance of the day. With six clashes remaining for UConn, Bell owns six touchdown receptions and is on track to break the program record of 11.

In the fourth quarter, Swedish running back Oliver Lundberg Coleman drove a yard into the endzone for Connecticut, making the score 51-3. This is the second time the Huskies have scored 50-plus points at Rentschler Field this year and the third time in the past two seasons.

With a little under six minutes remaining in the match, the Panthers entered the endzone for the first time. Owens scored a 2-yard rushing touchdown.

The Huskies head into the bye week on a three-game winning streak. The team returns to action on Oct. 18, where they'll travel to face Boston College. The kickoff time is to be determined.



Head Coach Jim Mora achieves his 100th career victory after the UConn football team defeats the FIU Panthers on Saturday, October 5th, 2025. PHOTO BY KALI REED, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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Last week, the UConn volleyball team (13-3, 2-2) opened conference play with two losses and came into this weekend hungry for momentum. They returned to Storrs and picked up victories over Seton Hall University and St. John's University, winning both games three sets to one.

The Huskies opened Friday evening against Seton Hall with effective blocking by seniors Emma Werkmeister and Audrey Rome. Werkmeister went on to deliver two service aces to fuel an early UConn run. UConn dominated the rest of the set, holding the Pirates to just 11 points as junior Grace Maria and senior Brenna Wyman each added a pair of aces to seal the set, 25-11.

The second set was much tighter, with both sides trading scores and neither able to break away. Early on, Rome led the UConn attack with four kills that led the Huskies to an 11-8 lead. Although Seton Hall kept it close, they reclaimed the lead 18-15 after capitalizing on UConn miscues. Senior Hanna Tylska and sophomore Loren Winn each buried three kills to bring the Huskies to set point. Seton Hall battled back, though, and Pirates' freshman Daria Safian carried the team with three kills and a block to end the set, 27-25.

The Huskies remained firing at the service line, as sophomore Anna Herman drilled an ace for the first point of the third set.

Werkmeister powered in back-to-back aces to give UConn an early lead. After the Pirates tied it at 12, the Huskies went on a 5-0 run fueled by an ace and a kill from Wyman. UConn kept up that momentum with a relentless attack after consecutive kills from Rome further extended the lead. Sophomore McKenna Brand capped off the set with an ace, the Huskies winning 25-16.

UConn capitalized on early mistakes by Seton Hall to jump out to an 8-3 lead in the fourth set after Werkmeister and Herman teamed up for a monster block to shut down the Pirates. Werkmeister and Maria powered the Huskies to a 19-12 lead, but Seton Hall found some life as a pair of kills from senior Asli Subasili brought them to within three points. Aces from Werkmeister and Brand helped keep the Pirates away as a kill from Tylska secured the match with a kill, as the Huskies won the fourth set 25-19.

Werkmeister looked impressive as ever with 12 kills and seven aces to tie her career high. Tylska led the team in scoring with 16 kills, seeming confident in every swing.

"I felt really good, my setter trusted me, my teammates trusted me and I just felt like I knew what I needed to do with the ball," Werkmeister noted in an interview on the UConn broadcast.

The Huskies were just as impressive defensively, coming up with key blocks and junior libero Isabella Suhy led the

squad tying a career-high 16 digs.

UConn took on the St. John's Red Storm on Saturday evening, and the match started with a tightly contested first set. Rome came out swinging as she delivered three of the first four kills for the Huskies. Maria and Herman each delivered aces as UConn tried to pull away, but the Red Storm continued to find answers. Suhy notched an ace to give the Huskies a 13-10 lead, but another run by St. John's quickly tied it back up at 16. Kills from Tylska and Winn helped string together a 5-1 run to give the Huskies a 21-17 lead. The Red Storm once again rallied to tie it at 22, but UConn managed to shake it off and Werkmeister capped off a nail-biting 25-23 set with a strong kill.

The Huskies continued their momentum early in the second set with an ace from Werkmeister

and errors by the Red Storm. They pushed the lead up to 12-8 after a kill by Winn, but once again St. John's managed to rally. It remained tightly contested for much of the set, but key kills and blocks from the visitors gave them late momentum, which they rode to a 25-22 victory in

two.

The third set began just as competitively, each side driving in aces to keep the score tight. St. John's was the first to build a lead, going up 10-7 after a few mistakes by the Huskies. Tylska and Werkmeister led a powerful response from UConn, taking seven of the next ten. St. John's tried to stage another comeback, but this time the lead proved too much as UConn sealed the set 25-20.

Werkmeister started the first set with authority, powering in two aces to push the Huskies to a commanding 8-3 lead. UConn never looked back, as Rome and Winn ignited the offense to give the Huskies a 21-11 lead. The Red Storm went on to score seven of the next eight, but the Huskies' lead proved to be insurmountable after a kill by Herman finished off the final set 25-19.

The Huskies proved their resilience with dominant performances after a disappointing start to conference play. Now standing at 2-2 in the Big East, they go back on the road next week to face Xavier at 6 p.m. on Friday and Butler at 5 p.m. Saturday. Both games can be streamed live on ESPN+.



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