

## USG Elections Overview: Who's running?

by Mikayla Bunnell  
STAFF WRITER  
SHE/HER/HERS  
mikayla.bunnell@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut Undergraduate Student Government (USG) elections are less than a week away. Students will be electing their new president and vice president, chief diversity officer and comptroller, as well as academic and multicultural and diversity senators. Voting opens on March 3 at noon and will close March 5 at noon on UConn.

So, who's running? The office of the president and vice president has two tickets this election: Joel Harris and Eliyahu Cohen, and Venice Montanaro and Keira Conrad.

Harris is a fourth-semester mechanical engineering student and currently serves as a senator for the College of Engineering according to his campaign Instagram page. He's also part of the UConn Honors Program and the Special Program in Law.

His running mate, Cohen, is a fourth-semester financial technology major. He currently serves as the Busby residential senator and is the founder and president of two student organizations, according to the campaign page: Connect.AI and UConn Financial Technology.

The two are running on the slogan "Leadership That Listens." They want to ensure that USG will collect input across campus with "open town halls, surveys and direct channels," according to their Instagram. They are seeking to provide more funding for Tier-II organizations and student activities.

"I'll transform USG into an organization rooted in transparency, fiscal responsibility, and student empowerment, one that truly works for you," Harris wrote in his candidate biography on the USG website.

Montanaro is running for USG president on the other ticket. She's a sixth-semester political science and sociology major and Latino studies minor. Montanaro started her student government career at the Stamford campus as a senator before becoming the Director of Special Events according to her campaign Instagram page. After moving to the Storrs campus, Montanaro became the Deputy Advocacy Director of Student Services, where she currently serves.

Montanaro's running mate, Conrad, is a fourth-semester political science and economics major. She served as a senator and then an Advocacy Coordinator, where she led the development of USG's free professional clothing closet, according to her campaign Instagram page. She currently serves as Deputy Director of the External Affairs Committee.

Together, Montanaro and Conrad are running their



The Undergraduate Student Government candidate debate was held on Feb 24, 2025. This debate gives students a chance to hear from candidates running for office in the upcoming USG elections. PHOTOGRAPH BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

campaign on three principles: "Quality of Life, Affordability and Transportation and Safety," Montanaro's candidate biography said. According to their Instagram page, the two are looking to expand programs like Husky Harvest, promote financial literacy for students and start a learning community for transfer and campus-change students, among other initiatives.

There are two candidates for chief diversity officer: Syna Patel and Sadaf Zarei.

Patel is a fourth-semester political science major. According to her campaign biography, she has studied at UConn's Waterbury campus and abroad in Italy, which made her realize how "different and valuable each UConn experience can be," something she says student government should reflect.

If elected, Patel hopes to use her position to advocate for initiatives to make UConn more supportive and engaging "across campuses and experiences." She says she is looking to make UConn a more transparent and inclusive place.

Zarei is a sixth-semester economics and math major and an international student. If elected, she seeks to address the university's "absence of structured interfaith dialogue, the avoidance of serious civic debate and unclear access to legal or administrative support for students facing immigration or financial constraints," which she says harms students' academic performances.

"If elected, my focus will be execution: clear pathways to legal and advisory resources, forums that allow rigorous disagreement without penalty, and initiatives tied directly to academic and career outcomes," she wrote.

There are also two candidates for comptroller: incumbent William Lipinski and challenger Andrea Perez-Meneses.

Lipinski is a sixth-semester political science major and currently serves as comptroller. During his term, Lipinski has handled funding for Tier-II organizations, serving nearly 200 of them according to his

campaign biography. He has also maintained an "open door policy," often encouraging student leaders to reach out to him with funding questions.

"I ask you to re-elect me to the Comptroller position so that I can continue to be a voice for the students, but also so that I can continue meeting and supporting you all in the various, incredible clubs you create and events you hold," he wrote in his campaign biography.

Perez-Meneses is a fifth-semester economics major with a minor in financial analysis. She has been active in USG since she arrived at UConn, serving as an ACES senator and a multicultural and diversity senator. Currently, she serves as the engagement coordinator of the Senate.

If elected as comptroller, Perez-Meneses is looking to establish more transparency in the Tier-II funding process, according to her campaign biography. She wants to make financial decisions, appeals and processes easier through better communication and feedback.

"I'm a strong believer that student money should reflect student values, and with your vote I will make sure that your voice is heard," she wrote in her campaign biography.

Students can hear directly from these candidates at USG's annual debate on Monday, March 2 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Student Union Theatre. Students will be able to hear the candidates dive deeper into their platforms and ask questions of their own. Pizza will be provided.

Though they won't be at the debate, students will also be able to vote for their academic and multicultural and diversity senators.

Running for College of Liberal Arts and Sciences academic senator positions are Zohaib Saleem, Layla Garner, Quinn Geier, Julia Petro, Aditi Hemant Thaker, Kayla DeLuca, Vishal Rampur, Ramin Mirzaee, Daphne Kam, Javed Ahamed, Adan Bernard and Debora St Surin.

Running for engineering senator positions are Harris, Larissa Chiarito, Auveen Beheshti, Raby Meelar and Dave Silvestri.

Gwyneth Dubail is running for fine arts senator. Laura Wagner is running for senator of the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, including the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture.

Running for multicultural and diversity senator positions are Perez-Meneses, Patel, Zarei, Kiara Kelly, Mirolla Boules, Vedika Patel, Damian Howson, Katherine Gutierrez and Ana Clara Apolinario.

For the candidates' biographies, visit the USG website.

## CT Hall honors Rare Disease Day today

by Jenna Outcalt  
NEWS EDITOR  
SHE/HER/HERS  
jenna.outcalt@uconn.edu

The Connecticut Hall dining facility is raising awareness for Rare Disease Day today led by Gabby DiSalvo, a student employee with myofibrillar myopathy.

There will be a baked potato bar hosted by DiSalvo, and students can wear purple to show support, according to University of Connecticut Dining Services.

DiSalvo, who originally pitched the idea to raise awareness for Rare Disease Day, is a senior at UConn with an individualized major. According to Dining Services, "her goal is to host her own cooking show to advocate for people with disabilities and rare diseases and to teach adap-



Gabby DiSalvo, Cooking on Wheels, preparing Butterfly Pea Tea for the Rare Disease Awareness Dinner at Connecticut Dining Hall. PHOTO COURTESY OF CONNECTICUT DINING HALL STAFF

tive cooking techniques."

Kian McEnerney, the student manager at CT Hall, said this was an opportunity to showcase how much DiSalvo contributes to the dining hall since she's usually "behind the scenes."

"People don't really see her contributions — it's definitely felt by the chefs and our cooking staff, but she's kind of like an unsung hero around here," McEnerney said.

DiSalvo, a wheelchair user, makes a cooking show with UConn Student Television called Cooking on Wheels, where she showcases accessibility-friendly cooking. She has also made multiple ap-

pearances on The Rachael Ray Show, according to a profile from UConn Today. The episodes, along with the most

**"There's a lot of mystique out there for what's truly going on, but Gabby doesn't let that stop her"**

KIAN MCENERNEY

recent Cooking on Wheels video and more information, are on DiSalvo's Linktree.

DiSalvo is one of only three people with myofibrillar myopathy at birth, according to Dining Services. Most people with the disease develop symptoms around age 30 to 40. McEnerney said that her diagnosis is "not stopping Gabby from accomplishing what she wants to."

"There's a lot of mystique out there for what's truly going on, but Gabby doesn't let that stop her," McEnerney said.

DiSalvo described the myofibrillar myopathy as a "low-muscle tone condition that affects my whole body" in her UConn Today profile. Although she works on an adjusted schedule at CT Hall, McEnerney said she is always ready to get involved and go above and beyond.

"We assign her to do things, and she takes everything with grace, just looking to do more all the time," he said.

Although Rare Disease Day takes place tomorrow, CT Hall is celebrating one day early to align with DiSalvo's work schedule. Student workers are asked to wear purple, DiSalvo's favorite color and a color often associated with disability advocacy, as well as jeans for "genes."

McEnerney noted that every dining hall is encouraged to wear purple clothes and jeans on Friday to show support, not just CT Hall.

**"We assign her to do things, and she takes everything with grace"**

KIAN MCENERNEY



Connecticut Dining Hall. CT Hall will host Rare Disease Awareness dinner today.

PHOTOGRAPH BY NATHAN GALICINAO/THE DAILY CAMPUS



The Undergraduate Student Government candidate debate was held on Feb 24, 2025. This debate gives students a chance to hear from candidates running for office in the upcoming USG elections. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

For more... [dailycampus.com](http://dailycampus.com) [The\\_DailyCampus](#) [The\\_DailyCampus](#) [DailyCampus](#)

**Daily MODERN MONSTER | PAGE 6**  
The next era of horror

**Daily AI AND LITERATURE | PAGE 7**  
ChatGPT is not Stephen King or Mark Twain

**Daily MENS HOCKEY | PAGE 12**  
The UConn mens hockey team

**WE ARE NOT THE DAILY DIGEST**

News

# First Hindu prayer space opens on campus

**by Sara Bedigian**  
STAFF WRITER  
SHE/HER/HERS  
sara.bedigian@uconn.edu

The first Hindu prayer space opened on the University of Connecticut Storrs campus this month.

An effort spearheaded by the Undergraduate Student Government and Hindu Student Organization (HSO), the space is a place students can sit in peace, meditate, pray and practice their faith on their own time.

Sreeja Terala, co-president of the HSO, said it has been a longstanding goal of her organization to create a location where students could practice their faith in a safe and welcoming environment.

“For HSO, this marks a historic milestone, one that reflects our commitment to preserving and celebrating Hindu religion and culture while creating a sense of belonging and home for students at UConn,” Terala said.

The space, located in Arjona Building room 122, is open during building hours, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., and is available for anyone to use. USG began working with

the HSO over the summer to plan logistics and work with university administration to obtain permissions and secure the space. USG President Andy Zhang said the effort reflects a broader commitment to ensuring that students of all faith backgrounds feel seen and supported on campus.

**“For HSO, this marks a historic milestone, one that reflects our commitment and celebrating Hindu religion and Culture”**

SREEJA TERALA

change often spans multiple USG administrations, so I am especially grateful that we were able to both initiate and complete this effort within a single term,” Zhang said.

This, however, was not the first time that students tried to create a Hindu prayer space.



The Hindu Prayer Space on the University of Connecticut Storrs campus. The room is in Arjona Building, room 122, from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

PHOTO BY SREEJA TERALA

Tanya Sinha, USG ex-officio senator for the Asian American Cultural Center, said the proposal had been discussed for nearly a decade and when she took office at USG last spring, she was determined to make the longstanding goal a reality.

Sinha, who grew up in a predominantly white school sys-

tem, said she often felt disconnected from openly celebrating her faith. When she arrived at UConn, it became a priority for her to create a space where students, like herself, could practice their faith comfortably.

“Connecting the Hindu Student Organization with

laboration, the planning required meetings with Dean of Students Fany Hannon, Senior Director for Inclusion and Cultural Engagement Angela Rola and Assistant Director of Space Planning Maria Groza, which Sinha said were essential to the success of the initiative.

The official inauguration of the space was Feb. 15, during Shivaratri, an annual Hindu festival. The event included a ceremony performed by Priest Jignesh Ji, a celebratory dinner and a performance by UConn Sanskriti, the competitive Indian classical dance and singing team.

The prayer room initiative was supported and sponsored by Dr. Madhu Reddy, president of the Indian Arts Foundation and the Wilton Hindu Mandir in Wilton, Conn., Terala said.

“This achievement is not just the fulfillment of a dream,” Terala said. “It is the beginning of a lasting legacy that will continue to inspire and support generations of students to come.”



The Hindu Prayer Space on the University of Connecticut Storrs campus. The room is in Arjona Building, room 122, from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. PHOTO BY SREEJA TERALA

**“This achievement is not just the fulfillment of a dream, it is the beginning of a lasting legacy.”**

SREEJA TERALA

university leadership to make this prayer space a reality has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my college career,” Sinha said. “This project was the result of collective perseverance, and it stands as a testament to what determined student leadership can accomplish.”

In addition to student col-

# The Daily Campus

Printing since 1896, The Daily Campus is the oldest and largest independent student publication at the University of Connecticut. The Daily Campus circulates 1,500 newspapers daily and strives to serve the student body by delivering accurate, relevant and timely news and content, both in print and online at DailyCampus.com. Our staff is comprised entirely of students, with roughly 200 undergraduates gaining professional development while contributing to the daily production of the paper, with positions including writers, photographers, copy editors, page layout designers, graphic designers, advertisement representatives, receptionists, delivery drivers and digital producers. Thanks for reading.

**Want to advertise in print or online?**  
businessmanager@dailycampus.com

**Corrections and Clarifications:**  
Send Corrections to EIC@DailyCampus.com

Thursday, February 26, 2026

Copy Editors: Mikayla Bunnell & Vangmayee Upadhyay  
News Designer: Sarah Cartagena  
Life Designer: Christina Roby  
Sports Designer: Camille Kiang  
Opinion Designer: Isabella Kulawik & Christina Roby  
Photo Producer: Isabella Kulawik

**Karla Perez**, Editor-in-Chief  
**Connor Lafferty**, Managing Editor  
**Hayden Cromer**, Business Manager  
**Ky’Lynn Monts**, Digital Editor  
**Colbi Loranger**, Associate Managing Editor  
**Isabella Kulawik**, Associate Managing Editor  
**Sarah Vial**, Associate Digital Editor

**Jenna Outcalt**  
News Editor  
**Pierce Colfer**  
Associate News Editor  
**Bridget Bronsdon**  
Sports Editor  
**Avery Becker**  
Associate Sports Editor  
**Connor Sharp**  
Photo Editor  
**Emma Meidinger**  
Associate Photo Editor  
**Samantha Brody**  
Life Editor  
**Maleena Muzio**  
Associate Life Editor

**Tomas Hinckley**  
Opinion Editor  
**Patrick Minnerly**  
Associate Opinion Editor  
**Samantha Hass**  
Artist Editor  
**Lillian LaFemina**  
Associate Artist Editor  
**Noa Climor**  
Outreach/Social Media Coordinator  
**Kayden Lynch**  
Circulation SMOC  
**Karla Guerrero**  
Circulation Manager  
**Valley Publishing Company**  
Derby, Conn.

For more information about getting involved as an editorial, business or digital employee:

Editorial · managingeditor@dailycampus.com  
Business · businessmanager@dailycampus.com  
Digital · digital@dailycampus.com

**Prefer to read our content online?**

Check out our newly redesigned website at [dailycampus.com](http://dailycampus.com) and follow us on social media.  
Instagram · The\_DailyCampus  
Facebook · The Daily Campus  
Twitter · The\_DailyCampus

**Want to write, photograph or draw for The Daily Campus ?**

The Daily Campus welcomes writers, photographers and artists of all backgrounds, interests, majors and levels of experience. To get involved, it’s as easy as attending section meetings on Sunday nights, all at the Daily Campus building, (1266 Storrs Road) or reaching out to an email below:

**Opinion (Meetings at 5 p.m.)**  
opinion@dailycampus.com  
**News (Meetings at 5 p.m.)**  
news@dailycampus.com  
**Life (Meetings at 6 p.m.)**  
life@dailycampus.com  
**Sports (Meetings at 7 p.m.)**  
sports@dailycampus.com  
**Photo (Meetings at 9 p.m.)**  
photo@dailycampus.com  
**Artists (Meetings at 9 p.m.)**  
artists@dailycampus.com

THE DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 After-dinner drink
- 6 Players who may have to start over many times
- 11 Cannabis compound
- 14 Tickle
- 15 Home of the first jet bridge
- 16 Peach or plum
- 17 \*Inlay material, often
- 20 Opposite of very
- 21 "iZombie" setting
- 22 Lip \_\_
- 25 "The Phoenician Scheme" director Anderson
- 27 Surgical tool
- 28 \*Not cooped up
- 32 Boris Johnson, for one
- 33 Keeps (off)
- 34 Treats embossed with flowers, dots, and dashes
- 36 Blue
- 37 Silent display of skepticism, or a phonetic hint for making sense of the answers to the starred clues
- 40 Cash back?
- 43 Leavening agent
- 44 Lorna of literature
- 46 Typical choice
- 49 \*Flexible
- 52 Totally believed
- 54 Rx writer
- 55 Price points
- 56 Moseys
- 59 "Poppycock!"
- 61 \*Lightheaded ones?
- 66 Short-horned bighorn
- 67 Key in
- 68 Acrobat's platform
- 69 "¿Qué \_\_?": Spanish greeting
- 70 Run-down
- 71 Rub it in

DOWN

- 1 Reservoir creator
- 2 Punk subculture
- 3 Share of the profit

- 4 Fearing disgrace
- 5 Stanza units
- 6 "Ask someone else"
- 7 Exultant cry
- 8 Bumpers
- 9 "The Marvels" star Larson
- 10 Floral leaf
- 11 "For real?"
- 12 Starter, e.g.
- 13 Sticks in the refrigerator
- 18 Cutesy growl
- 19 Divisions d'une nation
- 22 Pair sharing halves of a heart charm, informally
- 23 Environs
- 24 Furnish temporarily
- 26 Expressed contempt
- 29 "10-4"
- 30 Miracle-\_\_
- 31 Serpentine creature
- 35 Ye \_\_ Shoppe
- 38 NBA legend Ming
- 39 Predict-ability?

- 40 Musical conclusion
- 41 Earth's pull, for short
- 42 Settles down, in a way
- 43 "Just checking in"
- 45 Discreetly, in slang
- 46 Chemistry lab fixture
- 47 National Gallery of Canada locale

- 48 Old Toyota subcompact
- 50 Public figure?
- 51 Symbol
- 53 Works at, as a trade
- 57 Solitary
- 58 Venue
- 60 \_\_ beetle
- 62 Took charge
- 63 Joey of fiction
- 64 "Space Jam" org.
- 65 Fully taken care of

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

02/27/26

|    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4 | 5  |    | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |    | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 |    |    |   |    |    | 15 |    |    |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |
| 17 |    |    |   |    |    | 18 |    |    |    |    |    | 19 |    |    |
|    |    |    |   | 20 |    |    |    |    | 21 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 22 | 23 | 24 |   |    | 25 |    | 26 |    |    | 27 |    |    |    |    |
| 28 |    |    |   |    | 29 |    |    |    | 30 | 31 |    | 32 |    |    |
| 33 |    |    |   |    |    |    |    | 34 |    |    | 35 |    |    |    |
| 36 |    |    |   |    | 37 | 38 | 39 |    |    |    |    | 40 | 41 | 42 |
|    |    |    |   |    | 43 |    |    |    |    |    | 44 | 45 |    |    |
| 46 | 47 | 48 |   |    | 49 |    |    |    | 50 | 51 |    |    |    |    |
| 52 |    |    |   |    | 53 |    |    | 54 |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |
| 56 |    |    |   |    | 57 | 58 |    |    | 59 |    | 60 |    |    |    |
| 61 |    |    |   |    |    |    |    | 62 |    |    |    | 63 | 64 | 65 |
| 66 |    |    |   |    | 67 |    |    |    |    |    | 68 |    |    |    |
| 69 |    |    |   |    | 70 |    |    |    |    |    | 71 |    |    |    |

By Sara Muchnick & Doug Peterson  
©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

02/27/26

AND SUDOKU

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

Level **1** **2** **3** **4**

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

Solution to Thursday's puzzle

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

CLASSIFIEDS

**Policy:** Classifieds are non-refundable. Credit will be given if an error materially affects the meaning of the ad and only for the first incorrect insertion. Ads will only be printed if they are accompanied by both first and last name as well as telephone number. Names and numbers may be subject to verification. All advertising is subject to acceptance by The Daily Campus, which reserves the right to reject any ad copy at its sole discretion. The Daily Campus does not knowingly accept ads of a fraudulent nature.

CLIPART COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS



# Snow Days and Sickness: Lessons from the storms

Students walk past a snowy Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Connecticut, on Jan. 25, 2026. They wore their winter jackets in preparation for the upcoming storm.

PHOTO BY ELLA GORHAM, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Samantha Brody

LIFE EDITOR  
SHE/HER/HERS  
sab23059@uconn.edu

It's official — this winter is cursed. Now that the University of Connecticut is facing what seems to be the next ice age, students must grapple with fluctuating temperatures, endless amounts of snow (where did my sidewalks go?) and syllabi and course schedules that are suddenly wildly out of date.

After two overbearing snowstorms and with a possible third on its way, UConn students are left to puzzle out how they're meant to navigate a campus with a constantly shifting landscape of snow. Unfortunately, there's no end in sight, so here are a few strategies for the next time campus shuts down (thank you, Punxsutawney Phil).

**Keep food close, but don't overspend**

Eagle-eyed students may

have noticed a sudden surge in grocery bags around campus. It certainly seems like most people have made the decision to stock up their mini-fridges before each storm, and while this is an excellent idea, it's easy to go overboard.

The fact of the matter is, we're all college students, so it's always a good idea to keep an eye on the bank account. When buying food, keep in mind that dining halls don't close during storms. If you're comfortable walking to the nearest dining hall, or happen to live in the same building as one, there's no need to make the trip to Price Chopper.

However, it's important to remember that the Student Union will shut its doors in the event of a storm. Additionally, UConn will cancel late night dining at the Northwest and South dining halls. If you see yourself being busy up until at least 7 p.m. on any

given night, then the grocery store might be worth it.

On top of that, don't rely on third-party delivery apps. Restaurants and fast-food locations will shut themselves down to DoorDash, Instacart, Uber Eats and other apps in the event of a storm. Make sure you plan ahead!

**Be wary of sickness**

Unfortunately, it also happens to be flu season. I have personally already fallen victim to this year's intense flu strain, and I can say firsthand that it's not something I'd wish for anyone.

When navigating this year's flu season, it's best to keep an eye out for symptoms. The flu can initially appear to be just a cold in its early stages, but this is also when it tends to be the most contagious. If your friend starts to complain about a cough before your next hangout, it might be time to hit the breaks.

In the event you do catch the flu, it's always a good idea to head to urgent care or Student Health and Wellness — if you end up getting diagnosed, a doctor's note can save you some hits to your grade. It's also a good idea to see if anyone you know is willing to bring you food, as the first few days of the flu will likely make it difficult to walk anywhere.

**Catch up on homework**

I know, I know, it's a boring answer, but it's also a helpful one. We're currently in week six of classes, which is when things typically start to get harder. Spring break may be here soon, but for now, we're all in the jungle together.

Given the emptiness of the average snow day at UConn (classes suddenly cancelled, club meetings shuffled away), it can be nice to take the time to relax. However, that emptiness also means the energy usually spent on other things

can now be turned to homework and other assignments.

**Make a day of it**

Ultimately, a snow day is only what you make of it. With four snow days on the record so far, it might be easy to start taking them for granted. Who knows, maybe next year will be the hottest winter on record. There's truly no way to tell.

Catching up on assignments is a good way to spend the time, but it's not the only option. If you've been feeling stressed, overworked or burnt out, now is the time to get some sleep and do whatever matters most to you.

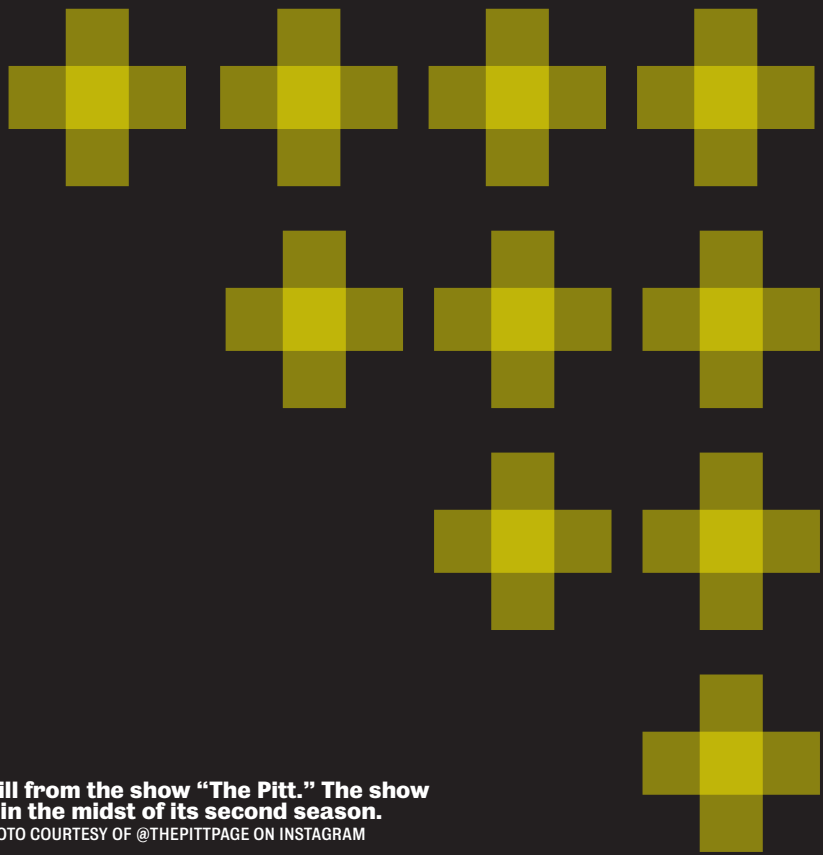
It's also a good idea to get in contact with a few friends around campus. In my opinion, snow days are best spent shared. So, find some friends and put on a movie, go outside or just sit around and talk. Snow days aren't forever, but then again, neither is college.



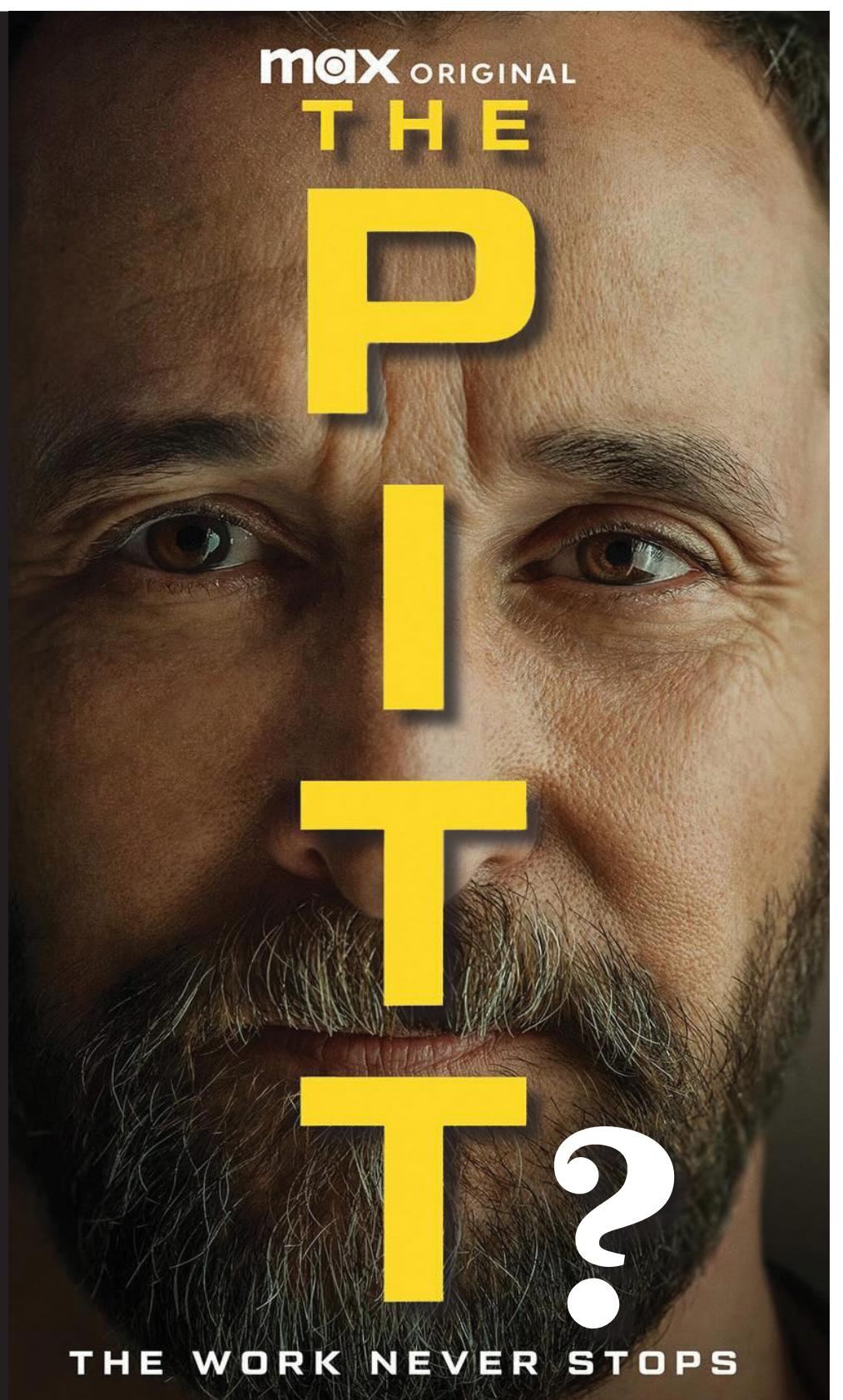
Students shovel snow off of their cars on Jan. 29, 2025. The large snowbanks have posed a challenge for students parked on campus.

PHOTO BY MORGAN BLANCHARD, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Is it time for you to dive into



Still from the show "The Pitt." The show is in the midst of its second season.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF @THEPITTPAGE ON INSTAGRAM



Amidst established medical dramas like "Grey's Anatomy" and "The Good Doctor," there's a fresh show that's name has been making the rounds: "The Pitt."

by **Pierce Colfer**  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR  
HE/THEY  
pierce.colfer@uconn.edu

The emergency room drama premiered its first season in January 2025, and immediately received acclaim for its performances, writing and realism, winning five Emmys at the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, including Outstanding Drama Series and three acting awards.

Less than a year after its season one premiere, the first episode of the show's second season aired on Jan. 8, and last night the season reached its halfway point with its eighth out of 15 episodes.

In less than two months, season two is going to be at its end, so it's about time to ask yourself the big question: Is "The Pitt" worth your time?

If you're up for the intensity that comes with plunging yourself into an ER on some of its worst days, the answer is unequivocally yes. "The Pitt" offers a fantastic character-driven procedural drama while immersing you into what it feels like to work in the emergency medicine field.

"The Pitt" follows the

emergency department of the Pittsburgh Trauma Medical Center, affectionally dubbed The Pitt by its employees, as the doctors and nurses are pushed to their limit by the hardships that come with the job. The show primarily follows attending physician Dr. Michael "Robby" Robinson, played by executive producer Noah Wyle, as he deals with the turmoil that goes on in the ER — along with his own repressed trauma.

The show's structure is unique among other medical dramas; each season follows one 15-hour shift which is split into 15 hour-long episodes. Because of this, each season takes place on a particularly harrowing day, such as the Fourth of July, when the department is understaffed, overloaded with patients and everyone is on the brink of falling apart.

The core strength of the show is its large ensemble cast, which makes the world feel alive. Student doctors struggle to get a hang on the fast-paced nature of the emergency room, while the nurses anchor the department and make sure that everything,

and everyone, is running smoothly. The Pitt is populated with attending physicians, resident doctors, charge nurses, surgeons and social workers, all of whom are vital to the center's function.

This ensemble isn't there to just fill up space though. The core cast of characters all fit into the narrative, and the actors provide excellent and believable performances across the board. Highlights come from Katherine LaNasa as charge nurse Dana Evans, carrying herself with warmth and grit as her character helms and maintains the ship, and Isa Briones as medical intern Dr. Trinity Santos, who is cocky, ambitious and oftentimes puts her own beliefs ahead of what's best for the patient.

But frankly, there's no weak link in the show. Every character has a reason for being in the ER: They have internal struggles and flaws, and each member of the cast carries immense depth that is often difficult to find in procedural dramas like "The Pitt."

The audience is drawn back to each episode not because they want to see the

next gnarly operation, but because they want to see how these characters interacting with each other react to the situations they're put in.

But it's impossible to talk about the show without talking about those gnarly operations, and there's one big disclaimer that must be brought up when talking about "The Pitt": This show is not for the faint of heart.

"The Pitt" has been lauded for its realism and accurate depiction of emergency medical work, which means that every episode is full of multiple bloody procedures that will make your stomach turn.

Although these procedures are often intense and overwhelming, they make you feel as if you're a part of the show. Every time a new patient is brought in bloodied on a stretcher, the doctors and the audience are plunged into the chaos together and both are left wondering if the patient is going to make it.

It can feel like there's no respite watching the show, and that's the point. The show has received praise from the medical community for its accurate depiction of medi-

cal procedures, but also its accurate depiction of how it feels to be an ER doctor.

The job is not glamorous. It requires you to work 15-hour shifts where you're constantly seeing life-threatening injuries and trying your best to save patients, and sometimes you fail. Departments are usually understaffed, burnout rates are high and doctors are operating on little food and sleep.

"The Pitt" understands that. It doesn't romanticize the job. It doesn't make it feel cool. It makes it feel real. The show relies on this realism to force the audience to understand that, although the show and the characters are fictional, the world that they're in is real, and there are emergency doctors who have gone through the exact same days that the characters have.

If you're up to go through it with them, to trudge through the front lines of the ER, even when it feels like it's too much to handle, you'll come out on the other side having watched one of the best shows on TV right now. Even better yet, you'll find a newfound respect for the thousands of healthcare workers who put themselves in those front lines every day.



Still from the show "The Pitt." The show is in the midst of its second season.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF @THEPITTPAGE ON INSTAGRAM

Daily

Life

# The Modern Monster: The next era of horror

**AUTO from "Wall-E." The robot is the primary antagonist of the movie.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF @DISNEY\_FAN\_JAMAL ON INSTAGRAM

by **Samantha Brody**

LIFE EDITOR  
SHE/HER/HERS  
sab23059@uconn.edu

One of the biggest societal conversations right now is the artificial intelligence boom, and it's no surprise as to why — with the rise of OpenAI and the integration of AI into most social media platforms, it seems like there's a robot around every corner. If I had to guess, I'd say there might be an increase in AI-related horror on the way, but for how long have we worried about machines?

Hello and welcome back to the Modern Monster, a bi-weekly column about horror and its history. This time around, we're looking at a current day anxiety: artificial intelligence.

"Evil robots" are neither a new concept nor one exclusively seen in horror. Pixar's "Wall-E" features one of the better-known nefarious AIs in the form of a spaceship autopilot, known as AUTO.

While AUTO is the primary antagonist of the film, its status as a villain is questionable. AUTO is responsible for many of the actions that inhibit Wall-E, Eve and Captain McCrea, which specifically involves doing anything in its power to prevent McCrea from learning about Earth's newfound vegetation, which would prompt a return to humanity's home planet.

Although not a horror movie by any means, "Wall-E" presents one of our first questions on the topic of artificial intelligence: is AI evil, or are its creators?

AUTO operates in accordance with code implemented by the humanity of the past, specifically the individuals who made the decision to launch humankind into space following the events of whatever devastating cataclysm had ravaged Earth. This includes acting as a "first mate" to the captain, whoever it may be at the time, but AUTO is notably the only constant of the ship's leadership, given the short lifespan of humans.

Unbeknownst to McCrea, AUTO is not what it seems. The humans of the past programmed it with a special di-

rective: even if a plant is found, humanity must never return to Earth. At the climax of the film, McCrea needs to physically fight off AUTO to confirm the ship's mission home.

While many might consider "evil robots" to specifically be rouge AIs, AUTO represent a side of artificial intelligence that seems like a much better picture of modern-day society. After all, ChatGPT is a large language model trained on the words of humans, and AUTO is driven by manmade code. Both are capable of evolving but remain based upon human ideas.

AUTO and its functions are also reminiscent of another famous machine: Mother from the 1979 horror classic "Alien," which also happens to be one of my all-time favorite films. Much like AUTO, Mother is a computer program responsible for overseeing the lives of humans but contains secret instructions that allow Mother to put those human lives at risk if it means furthering a separate goal. In this case, it's the capture and preservation of the xenomorph alien terrorizing the ship.

Not all AIs are created equal, however. While AUTO and Mother are still operating under a code designed by humans, some robots go rogue.

"Companion" is a 2025 sci-fi thriller directed by Drew Hancock. The movie features Sophie Thatcher as Iris ("Siri" spelled backward), a companion robot designed to meet the romantic and sexual needs of her "boyfriend" and owner, Josh (Jack Quaid). Josh and his friends manipulate Iris's programming (who is unaware of her robotic nature) to stage the murder of a billionaire in the hopes of taking his fortune without any of the blame.

While it may seem like a surefire plan, Iris develops a newfound sense of independence after learning of Josh's betrayal and the fabrication of their relationship. She makes the decision to strike out on her own, which involves, of course, a little bit of murder.

Unlike AUTO and Mother, Iris isn't designed to contain any desire to leave Josh's side. While she does have

an adjustable setting dictating how violent she can be at any given moment, she's not programmed to seek independence or kill anyone, least of all ex-boyfriends.

If AUTO and Mother act as a reflection of humanity's darker impulses, essentially behaving as mechanisms of power to exert upon others, Iris is instead a response. For many, AI can pose a threat. After all, there's something disconcerting about an endlessly intelligent machine that's constantly learning, without a need for sleep or rest. Iris could act as a look at what might happen if AI ever suddenly gained enough sentience to rebel.

Ultimately, AUTO, Mother and Iris are all designed to be servants of humanity, but that's not the only kind of metal villain you can find on the big screen.

Released in 1999, "The Matrix" tells the story of Keanu Reeves' Neo, a man who has suddenly learned that his entire life, boring office job and all, is nothing more than a simulation designed by computers. The computers in question, known simply as the Machines, project the simulation into the minds of sleeping humans, who are unaware that their bodies are being used as fuel for this robotic race.

"The Matrix" is essentially an "anxiety piece" — released just before Y2K, the film clearly based itself upon the fears of the era. For some time, humanity feared the turn of the millennium, which could have spelled disaster for computer programs around the world. Many worried it would trigger some sort of catastrophic fallout.

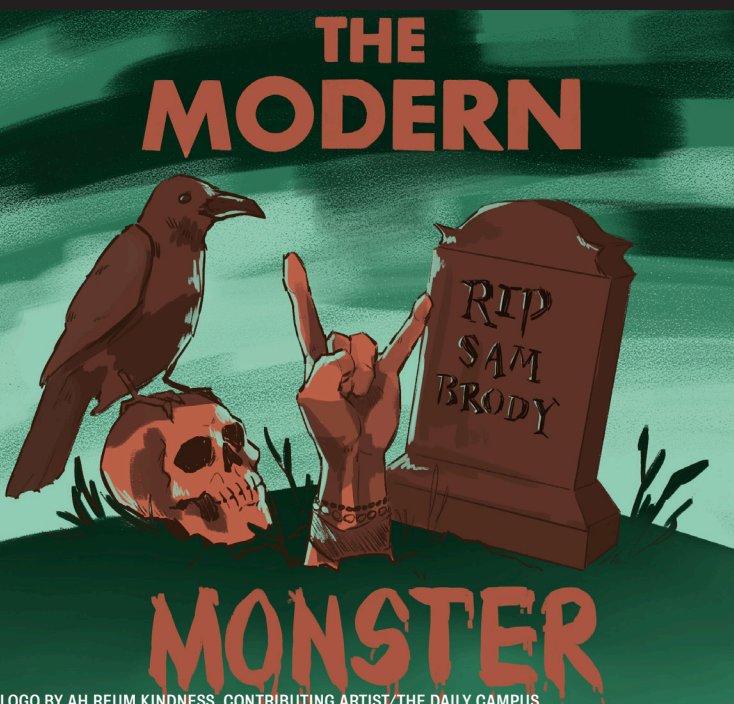
"The Matrix" takes place sometime around 2199, although it's stated that the war between humans and machines took place in the 21st century, which only furthers the Y2K-inspired narrative.

While the current climate surrounding AI is not as intense or as widespread as the Y2K panic, it has some similarities. And if humans were making movies about evil robots in response to that era, it may be time for a new genre of horror to rise: artificial intelligence.



**Iris from the 2025 film "Companion." Iris is a robot made to fulfill the romantic and sexual needs of her owner.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF @CINEMATIC\_XP ON INSTAGRAM



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



# Opinion

## The Daily Campus

### EDITORIAL BOARD:

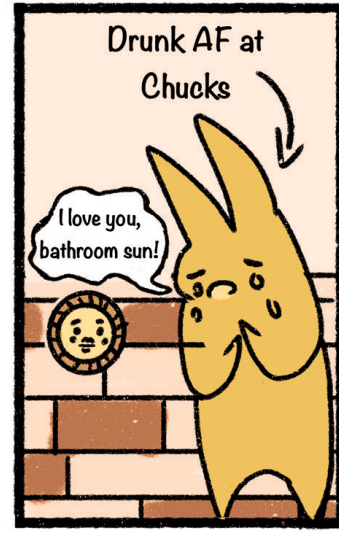
Karla Perez.....EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Tomas Hinckley.....OPINION EDITOR

Patrick Minnerly..ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

Gianna Cassino.....WEEKLY COLUMNIST

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed by individual writers in the opinion section do not reflect the views and opinions of The Daily Campus or other staff members. Only articles labeled "Editorial" are the official opinions of The Daily Campus.



COMIC BY JASON J. SAMPSON, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Alysa Liu proves there is no 'perfect aesthetic' for women



Alysa Liu at the Winter Olympics. Liu retired from figure skating at age 16 in 2022, but announced her return in 2024.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @VANITYFAIR ON INSTAGRAM

by Victoria Hancock  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
SHE/HER/HERS  
vsh23002@uconn.edu

When it comes to classically female-oriented sports such as dance, gymnastics and figure skating, there is a deeply entrenched history of harmful control over the athletes. The image of women as dainty and lithe is a stereotype long withheld throughout society that continues to plague us to this day. Historically, the skinnier and more graceful a woman was, the more worth she had. Women were meant to be seen and not heard. When it comes to the athletic world, sports that are driven towards women do not highlight strength or athleticism such as with men. Instead, they serve to emphasize the imagery and grace of women that the public eye had wanted to see. But this unlocked a world of harmful coaching practices that continue to haunt the sport.

The idea of the "perfect" body is impractical to attain for the majority of people. But this has never stopped people from forcing women to gain this image by any means necessary, oftentimes involving strict discipline and control over what and when women eat. Sports such as dance and figure skating are synonymous with their drill sergeant-like coaching methods that place young girls under immense pressure. These sports require athletes to start at a very young age if they want to compete at a high level, conditioning countless girls to starve themselves or only be allowed to express one aesthetic. Not a strand of hair out of place or an unnatural color, a thin waist with a stomach that doesn't stick out, a painted perfect smile always on. Women who pursue these sports are forced to give up certain autonomy and tend to develop eating disorders, all while being put under extreme stress

that could shatter them with one wrong move. These practices are wrong — everyone knows that. But because it's "tradition" and creates results, no one dares to break from the path.

Insert Alysa Liu, a young figure skating talent from the United States that's the perfect image of the classic skater. At just 10 years old, she became the youngest female skater to win intermediate gold medal at the 2016 US Championships. In her junior division debut, she won the 2018 US Championship while being too young to qualify for the World Junior Championship. At 14, she became the youngest two-time champion in the US, all before making her senior debut. She finally debuted at the senior level in 2021, eventually being named to the 2022 Winter Olympics team and placing third at that year's World Championships. She was the first Ameri-

was due to the trauma of over-training and control over what she ate and drank, something no child should have to experience.

Flash forward to March 1, 2024, when Liu posted a video announcing her comeback to skating as an entirely new person. Liu returned on her own terms, getting to pick her own music and claiming, "no one's going to starve me or tell me what I can and can't eat." Liu also rocked a new "alt" aesthetic, with wide eyeliner, halo raccoon hair dye, and a smiley piercing she did herself. This new Liu contrasted everything the figure skating world has taught, which implied that her success would never be the same since she abandoned tradition. However, Liu returned stronger than ever, placing on the podium or in fourth in almost every competition she faced until eventually being named to the 2026 Winter Olympic team. Liu went on to win not one but two gold medals, placing first in the women's singles with a captivating short program to "Promise" by Laufey and a near-perfect free skate to Donna Summer's "MacArthur Park Suite". Throughout it all, Liu skated with a smile on her face bigger than ever before, and with confidence she never had during her childhood.

Liu's success post-retirement is proof that controlling how women look and act isn't beneficial to their success and actually stunts growth. Developing an outdated view of beauty through harmful means such as diet control and strict coaching robs children of their personalities and perpetuates the image issues faced by women throughout society. When girls get to pick how they look, what they do and what they eat, they excel at a higher level than under the stress of perfectionism. Women should control what they do with their bodies for their own good and for their own success.



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEXA PAPPAS STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

can woman to medal since 2016.

This all came to a halt, though, when Liu announced her retirement in a now deleted Instagram post on April 9, 2022, at the age of 16. Liu said her life was being taken over by skating. Despite following all of the rules and traditions, Liu lost her love for skating before she even graduated high school. Liu later revealed her retirement

## ChatGPT is not Stephen King or Mark Twain

by Jaylyn Davis  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
SHE/HER/HERS  
iue25001@uconn.edu

We all know who Stephen King is — he's the king of horror, and he's written some marvelous novels such as "Carrie" and "The Shining." There's also Mark Twain, the "father of American literature." He's written some fabulous stories, including "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." These stories came from the authors' own minds. They didn't use Google to help write their stories, and they certainly didn't use artificial intelligence models like ChatGPT.

Many writers today can use ChatGPT for numerous aspects of creative writing, from brainstorming ideas to writing the entire story. But how creative is ChatGPT when it writes stories? ChatGPT is certainly not King or Twain. In other words, AI's process of writing is not as creative as the way King, Twain and other professional authors can write stories.

Before going into detail, let's define creative writing. Creative writing is a form of writing that uses ideas, emotions and thoughts to craft a story. When writing stories, authors often base the emotions and content of the story on their own personal experiences. ChatGPT doesn't have any memories or personal experiences to use when writing stories. As a result, the stories that AI creates either lack humor or flashbacks whenever it's asked by a user to put one or both of those elements in a story. Humor is classified as an emotion, so if ChatGPT's writing lacks humor, then it lacks an emotion. If it lacks an emotion, then its stories can't be as creative as King and Twain's writing.

Besides having a lack of personal experience in a story, ChatGPT is not very creative when coming up with prompts. AI models rely on outside sources to answer any statement or question a user throws at them. So, the prompts that ChatGPT hands a user aren't coming from ChatGPT's mind. Instead, they're coming from outside sources, demonstrating that ChatGPT doesn't exhibit creative writ-

ing. Instead, it exhibits plagiarism.

Not only does ChatGPT lack originality when coming up with prompts, but the prompts that ChatGPT creates are very vague. Specifically, when a user asks ChatGPT to create an entire outline for a story, ChatGPT will give the user an outline that's undefined in terms of plot. It'll also give unrelated advice that isn't helpful when trying to write a story.

When a user asks ChatGPT to create a scene, the platform responds by giving the user a scene that is very boring and lacks figurative language, emotions and drama. An excellent scene is supposed to grab someone's attention, and it's supposed to have some sort of conflict that keeps the reader engaged throughout the story. But when ChatGPT tries to write a scene, it lacks just that.

Writer Celeste Kallio did an experiment to prove this concept. She asked ChatGPT to write a scene in which "a man asks a woman about her mother." Instead of getting a scene full of rich details, conflict and figurative language, Kallio received ten paragraphs that were bland and boring. After receiving these paragraphs, Kallio asked the platform to continue the scene, so that the women's mother has a very dark secret. ChatGPT still gave Kallio an output that lacked figurative language, had absolutely no drama, contained no conflict of any kind and used word choices that were equivalent to those of a kindergartener. So, if ChatGPT couldn't make one simple scene interesting to read, then how do you expect it to write an entire short story or novel that's fascinating enough to win a Pulitzer Prize?

ChatGPT is convenient. It allows users to avoid strenuous tasks such as brainstorming ideas for a story or writing the story themselves. But if ChatGPT can't create original ideas, inject humor into a story or create a scene that's at or above a toddler's imaginative ability, then what's the point? If you're struggling to come up with a story, then you might as well leave ChatGPT alone and seek out a friend or a professor instead.



Stephen King poses in a shirt gifted to him for his birthday. King is a prominent author of horror novels. PHOTO COURTESY OF @STEPHENKING ON INSTAGRAM

## Opinion

## Photo of the Day |



Students enjoy their walk to class on Feb. 26, 2026, following three days of snow in Storrs, Conn. Despite the previous winter weather, the snow began to melt as students made their way to classes. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Later, I will read this article

by **Sophie Shugrue**  
 CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
 SHE/HER/HERS  
 hdc24004@uconn.edu

I sit here, swathed in the ambery light of the cat-shaped Tiffany lamp on my desk, fingers hovering over the middle of my keyboard, and I do not even want to start.

This is a feeling that comes to me every time I write an article, and it's not because I dread deadlines or because I hate doing the work. I love the work, and I love to write. It's because I want every word on the page to be perfect, and I know that nothing I write will ever be absolutely perfect. But if it's not going to be flawless, should I even bring it into existence? This sentiment, this doubt that engulfs me, is called imposter syndrome.

Maybe I could call it a personal idiosyncrasy, but it seems to be a problem that affects many women in higher education and high-powered careers. According to find-

ings published by the Survey Center on American Life, 55% of young women ages 18 to 29 report feeling like they are "not good at their job." However, only 46% of young men report feeling that way, and this gap between men and women continues throughout different age groups, up to men and women ages 65 or older.

There is no logical reason for women to feel this way. An article published by Forbes states that there are millions more women enrolled in institutions of higher education than men, and women are outpacing men in graduation rates. So, if women are proven to have the capabilities, what is it that plagues us with imposter syndrome?

I theorize that the reason women have continuously felt self-doubt and impostor syndrome is that societal and gendered conditioning, as well as historical exclusion in workplaces has made women feel that, in anything we do,

we must work twice as hard to prove ourselves as competent as the men in our professions.

From childhood, women are conditioned, by either their parents or by society itself, to be humble and to avoid being too assertive. Most women feel these traits carry into their academic and professional lives, and it causes them to downplay their achievements or not think of their achievements as anything to celebrate. It also causes them to attach little importance to their own capabilities. When a woman begins to feel that her capabilities are of little importance, she also starts to doubt that any capabilities she has are good enough to accomplish her academic or professional goals.

This self-doubt can also be attributed to the exclusion that has plagued women historically. Having women in the workplace was not normalized until the 1970s, and

though women have made significant strides since then, they are still the minority in the workplace. We have had to fight so hard and for so long that now, when we should be enjoying the benefits we have gone through so much strife for, we are instead fighting again to prove ourselves. This time we are fighting from the inside of workplaces.

What we do not realize is that we don't need to. Yes, we should work hard. Yes, there is still much for us to accomplish. But so many of us are caught up in proving ourselves to be smart enough, hard-working enough, that we forget to relish our accomplishments. We let the doubt hold us back, when we can work through it.

To cut through this collective mindset, women must continue to lift each other up and talk about these feelings. Talking about this self-doubt, bringing these feelings into the open, takes away the power

they have over us. It means that women can look at new challenges through a fresh lens; challenges are opportunities to demonstrate our abilities and are not there to diminish us.

I have no doubt that any woman reading this might then open Google and look up "how to beat imposter syndrome." Doing so elicits many responses, including that one should make a "brag file" of their accomplishments to remind themselves of how much they have done.

I have my own version of the "brag file." As corny as it sounds, whenever I have an article published, I like to cut it out and put it on my bulletin board, alongside pictures of me and my friends. Seeing my own name in print is very rewarding, but I rarely ever read my own articles because my impostor syndrome had led me to believe that I shouldn't. Every time I write an article, though, I begin to believe that my next one will be better than the last. I think later, I am going to read this article.

CLIPART COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

# What **M**ONSTERS, INC. reminds us about FOSSIL FUELS

by **Gabrielle Wincherhern**  
 CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
 THEY/SHE  
 gabrielle.wincherhern@uconn.edu

If you were born in the early 2000s, you've probably heard of the film "Monsters, Inc." You might've seen it back then and thought fondly of it, but nothing more. Last week, I rewatched the movie, and in my illness-induced haze, decided that "Monsters, Inc." is not just a fun take on the whole "monster hiding under your bed" trope.

It's about fossil fuels. "Monsters, Inc." takes place in a world fueled by the screams of human children. The titular Monsters, Inc. is a company that provides these screams by sending monsters into the bedrooms of human children at night. The monsters do their best to scare the kids and make them scream.

Scream energy is an analogy for fossil fuels. Scream energy is an incredibly widespread power used to do everything from heating, lighting and fueling cars, as stated by a commercial for Monsters, Inc. at the start of

the movie. In our world, as of 2024, over 80% of global energy consumption comes from fossil fuels, with the three components of energy consumption being heating, electricity and transport. Fossil fuels are equally as pervasive in our world as scream energy is in "Monsters, Inc."

The similarities don't stop there. Right off the bat, we're shown that scream energy is not a sustainable energy source long-term. In the same commercial from the beginning, we find out that human children are getting harder to scare, making it more difficult to source scream energy. The monster world is already feeling the effects of this. A newspaper headline declares: "ROLLING BLACKOUTS EXPECTED." Protagonist Sulley even makes his friend Mike walk to work instead of taking his car to save energy, paralleling how we are encouraged to drive less to cut down on carbon emissions.

Now, living in New England in 2026, the idea of us running out of energy doesn't seem likely to happen. But

"Monsters, Inc." started development in 1996 and was made by a bunch of people born in the '60s. And from the '70s to the early 2000s, Hubbert's peak oil theory, (in very simple terms, it's the idea that we are eventually going to run out of oil), appeared to be true. Although peak oil theory seems to have been debunked as of 2008, it doesn't mean we're in the clear. Global electricity demand is projected to grow, (especially with all these AI data centers), and it's not totally clear that we can meet it.

Aside from its lack of long-term potential, collecting scream energy is also shown to actively cause harm. In the movie, this is because in order to obtain energy, you have to purposely instill fear in a child (which hopefully, you agree is unethical).

In real life, obtaining fossil fuels also causes harm, though on a much different scale. Fossil fuel production drives global warming, causes earthquakes and pollutes water and air, overall damaging both the environ-

ment and human health. So if these particular methods of energy sourcing are so bad, why aren't they causing outrage?

In "Monsters, Inc.," this is because of widespread anti-children, pro-scream energy propaganda. In the monster world, children are widely believed to be extremely toxic and dangerous. The CEO of Monsters, Inc., Henry J. Waternoose, declares at the beginning of the movie that "a single touch from a child could kill you!" Later in the movie, we see that this is a lie, as various monsters come into physical contact with a human child and don't die (unfortunately including Waternoose). It's through this misinformation that the corporation gets away with the unethical aspect of scaring children.

In real life, misinformation is also (at least partly) the reason behind why sourcing fossil fuels doesn't lead to as much public outcry as it should. Major fossil fuel companies (colloquially known as "Big Oil") have worked for de-

cadates to stop the public from thinking unfavorably of fossil fuels, including spreading misinformation about the true impacts of using fossil fuels and denying climate change.

So far, everything I've discussed is pretty grim, but not all of the movie is doom and gloom. Although the scream factory gets shut down, it's replaced by a more ethical, more effective energy alternative: children's laughter.

We're not trapped in using unethical fossil fuel energy in our world, either. Although they have their issues, solar and wind energy are less harmful to the environment and more efficient in the long run than fossil fuels.

"Monsters, Inc." is a children's movie that came out a quarter-century ago, but it's still relevant today. A good story mirrors and inspires deeper reflection on our world. "Monsters, Inc." is the story of dismantling an existing unethical, unsustainable energy production system in favor of a more effective one that prioritizes minimizing damage. We should strive to do the same.

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF @DISNEY\_FAN\_JAMAL ON INSTAGRAM

# Men's Basketball: No. 6 UConn to honor seniors before return game against Seton Hall

by **Matt Dimech**

STAFF WRITER  
HE/HIM/HIS  
rwq24001@uconn.edu

When No. 6 UConn first met Seton Hall this season, both programs were chasing the top of the conference standings. The Huskies (26-3, 16-2) were perfect in conference play, and the Pirates (19-9, 9-8) were ranked No. 25 in the AP Poll.

Saturday's rematch at Gampel Pavilion comes under different circumstances.

Seton Hall nearly came all the way back from an 18-point second half deficit during the first matchup on Jan. 13. The deciding moment came at the hands of Braylon Mullins. His fingertips to be exact.

Mike Williams curled around a screen to find himself with a seemingly open three-point look on the wing with 17 seconds left and Seton Hall trailing 67-64. Mullins clawed his way around the screen and leapt out, narrowly tipping the shot and veering it off course. Head Coach Dan Hurley credited him after the game.

"Braylon's just a special guy," Hurley said. "He's physically strong, he's got a knack and a toughness down the stretch of games."

The Huskies would go on to win 69-64, and Hurley snapped a four-game losing streak against his alma mater in the Prudential Center. Seton Hall had won four of its last five games and were tied for second in the conference standings prior to the loss. That's where it all fell apart.

The Pirates proceeded to lose their subsequent three games. The four-game slide neutralized any hope for a regular season title. Seton Hall is 5-6 since falling to Connecticut and stands

just one game over .500 in conference play.

The Pirates will look to spoil The Huskies' hopes of claiming the regular season crown. UConn strengthened its position on Wednesday with arguably the team's most impressive win of the season over No. 15 St. John's, 72-40.

UConn's defensive identity was back and on display. The Red Storm scored the fewest total points a team head coached by Rick Pitino has ever scored. They didn't make a basket for the final 17:38 of the game, missing 24 consecutive shots.

In the middle of it all was Tarris Reed Jr.

Reed anchored the paint in

the dismantling of the Johnnies. He earned a career high six blocks to go along with a 20-point double-double. He shut down the Big East Player of the Year front runner Zuby Ejiofor, allowing just six points on the night.

"The season is going to go with the way Tarris goes," Hurley said. "If he repeats that, we're not going to lose many more games the rest of the way."

The Huskies' starting center also had a monster game against Seton Hall in January. Reed took advantage of the undersized Pirate's roster which features 6-foot-9 Stephon Payne taking most of the minutes at center.

Reed posted 21 points while

pulling down nine rebounds for a near double-double. His shortcoming in that game? Free throws. Reed was 5/13 from the line while the team was 16-for-26 overall, leaving the door open for a Seton Hall comeback.

Budd Clark was the engine behind the Pirates' comeback. The 5-foot-10 guard scored 12 points. The Huskies had no answers for his pull up jumper. Clark's intensity on the defensive end of the floor disrupted several of UConn's sets. He fouled out with less than 30 seconds to go in regulation.

Clark is No. 4 in the conference for assists per game with 4.7 and is the Pirates' second leading scorer. He scored a sea-

son-high 31 points against Providence on Feb. 11.

Saturday will also mark Senior Night at Gampel Pavilion. Reed will be honored before the game alongside Alex Karaban, Malachi Smith, Alec Millender and Dwayne Koroma.

Alex Karaban, the longest tenured player of the senior group, started on both the 2023 and 2024 National Championship teams.

"I've tried not to think about it. I can get emotional, so I think probably I will cry," Karaban said. "We just got to get to Saturday and see what happens."

Tipoff is scheduled for Feb. 28 at 12 p.m. and is available to watch on FOX.



UConn men's basketball against the St. John's Red Storm at PeoplesBank Arena in Hartford, Conn. on Feb. 25. UConn won, 72-40. PHOTO BY GONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# WOMEN'S HOCKEY: UCONN TO WELCOME MAINE FOR HOCKEY EAST QUARTERFINALS

by **Colette Doyle**

CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
SHE/HER/HERS  
crd23003@uconn.edu

After wrapping up a dominant regular season, the UConn Huskies now turn their attention to the postseason where they will play No. 7 Maine Black Bears in the Hockey East Quarterfinals this Saturday in Storrs.

UConn enters the matchup with a 24-8-2 overall record and a 17-6-1 record in conference play, momentum that could prove crucial as the Huskies chase a deep Hockey East run.

The Huskies displayed offensive and defensive power in their matchups this past weekend. On Friday, Feb. 20, the Huskies fell to their rival Husky opponents, Northeastern, in overtime, despite putting up a strong performance. On Saturday, Feb. 21, the Huskies defeated Merrimack in another home matchup, powered by sophomore forward Claire Murdoch's first career hat trick.

The Huskies outshot their opponents in both games, shooting 42-32 against Merrimack and putting out 14 shots in just the third period versus Northeastern. These two matchups displayed the depth of the team, with five different players recording points across the two games. The team also excelled in high pressure situations, going 1-for-4 on power play and perfect on penalty kill against Merrimack.

Defensively, graduate goaltender Tia Chan stood out with 29 saves in the win over Merrimack. Chan also had a strong performance against Northeastern, keeping the Huskies in control early on with nine first period saves. Junior forward Ashley Allard has also been a defensive force showing dominance in the faceoff circle. The team has shown overall defensive strength, allowing just six goals across the two final goals of the regular season.

Offensively, Murdoch was a key player, recording her first hat trick along with the game-



UConn women's hockey against Merrimack at the Toscano Family Ice Forum on Feb. 21, 2026. UConn won, 5-3. PHOTO BY MADISON HENDRICKS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

winner goal. Forward junior Julia Pellerin also displayed offensive strength, recording her eleventh goal of the season to open the matchup against Merrimack. Pellerin also added an assist to the game-winning goal. Forward senior Brooke Campbell contributed to the offense with a power-play goal, her seventh goal of the season. Along with a strong defensive performance, Allard also dominated offensively with a goal against Northeastern.

Maine enters the Hockey East tournament with a strong opening round, a 4-0 win against Merrimack, to advance to the quarterfinals, securing the first playoff win under head coach Molly Engstrom. The Black Bears outshot Merrimack 26-20 in the matchup and took early control by scoring twice in the first period.

Offensively, junior forward Raegan Wurum dominated, with two goals in the opening round of the tournament, including a key goal late into the second period. Freshman forward Isabelle Michaud clinched the win for the team, scoring her tenth goal of the season. Junior forward Lily Fetch also provided key defensive strength for the Black Bears, with her sixth goal of the season scored in the second period. Scoring, featuring four players, displayed the depth of the team.

Sophomore goalie Kiia Lahtinen provided a powerful defensive force for Maine. Lahtinen recorded a 20-save shutout versus Merrimack, which is the first back-to-back shutout stretch by a Maine goalie since 2016. This is also Lahtinen's sixth career shutout, fourth shutout of the season and third shutout this month.

Though UConn holds the historical advantage with an 8-1-1 advantage over Maine in the last 10 matchups, the teams' recent meetings, including a close 4-3 victory on Jan. 10, suggest Saturday's matchup could once again come down to a single goal.

## Sports

## Photo of the Day | Good luck on midterms



The UConn women's basketball team faces off against St. Johns at PeoplesBank Arena on Jan. 7, 2026. The Huskies won with a final score of 88-43. PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# MEN'S HOCKEY: 2025-26 SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

by **Ava Inesta**  
STAFF WRITER  
SHE/HER/HERS  
ava.inesta@uconn.edu

For the last Friday night matchup of the regular season at Toscano Family Ice Forum, the UConn men's hockey team will celebrate their seven senior players at their game against UMass; Tabor Heaslip, Ryan Tattle, Tom Messineo, Huston Karpman, Tyler Muszelik, Tristan Fraser and Jake Percival. Most of the players have been four-year Huskies, aside from goaltender Muszelik, who transferred in for his junior campaign. This senior class represents the third full recruiting cycle to come through UConn since the program joined Hockey East in the 2014-15 season.

After half of this class transferred throughout the years, six players remained. Those six players, with the addition of Muszelik, helped steer the ship, taking this program to new heights. In four seasons, this group has tallied two CT Ice championships, led UConn to its first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance and now need just four more wins to become the winningest class in program history over a four-year span. At 75 wins, they are just shy of Hudson Schandor and John Spetz's record of 78 wins from the 2021-2025 seasons. It's easy to say that this class has made UConn hockey history and has paved the way for future Ice Bus classes through its victories on and off the ice. Now let's take a deeper look into each senior's individual accomplishments.

## **Tabor Heaslip (Captain) - Forward**

Heaslip, one of the captains of the Ice Bus, has been a steady two-way presence for the Huskies throughout his career. In his junior season, Heaslip played in all 39 games for the Huskies while tallying eight goals for 21 points, blocking 27 shots and winning 51% of his faceoffs. A highlight of Heaslip's career is his two-goal performance in the 2025 Hockey East Championship game against Maine. After appearing in every game during both his freshman (6 points) and sophomore (8 points) campaigns, Heaslip has consistently contributed offensively to the team while also continuing to develop into a reliable, hard-nosed leader wearing the letter "C" on his jersey for senior year.

## **Ryan Tattle (Captain) - Forward**

Next up is another one of the Huskies captains, Tattle. The senior has been a staple on the Ice Bus since his younger years on the team. Through his time, he has earned captain's honors and in his junior season, posted a career-high 18 goals and 32 points while playing in all 39 games. One of his biggest highlights is his last-second game-winning goal over then-No. 15 Quinnipiac to send UConn to the CT Ice Championship game that it went on to win. After developing steadily from his freshman and sophomore seasons, Tattle has become a consistent offensive threat with nine multi-point games last year. Additionally, Tattle is a finalist for the Hockey Humanitarian Award, as he has raised over \$180,000 for cancer research through his annual "Score for Cancer" game, leaving a lasting impact on and off the ice.

## **Tom Messineo - Defenseman**

Now for the defensive zone of the ice: defenseman Messineo. The senior has been a dependable presence on the blue line during all four years at UConn. Messineo played in all 39 games since junior season while recording nine points and ranking third on the team with 61 blocked shots. One of his career highlights is his first-ever goal scored against Boston College last year. A steady contributor since his rookie campaign, Messineo has appeared in almost every game for the Huskies since he's been on the roster, totaling 25 assists and 149 blocked shots over three seasons, establishing himself as one of the Huskies' most reliable defensive anchors.

## **Tyler Muszelik - Goaltender**

In his first season with the Huskies after transferring from New Hampshire, Muszelik made an immediate impact in the net as a junior, posting a 12-6-3 record with a .914 save percentage and 2.29 goals-against average in 23 appearances. He earned CT Ice All-Tournament Team honors and MVP recognition in 2025. In his senior campaign as the Ice Bus's starting netminder, Muszelik's play has been elevated further with a 16-7-4 record, .932 save percentage, and 2.09 GAA, solidifying himself as one of the top goaltenders in the nation. From his performances, Muszelik is a Hobey Baker nominee and a Mike Richter Award Watchlist selection for this season.

## **Huston Karpman - Forward**

## **ward**

Karpman's collegiate career can be defined by perseverance through adversity as he has battled multiple injuries. He appeared in seven games as a freshman, one as a sophomore and 15 as a junior. Karpman scored his first career goal on Oct. 31, 2025 during a shootout before suffering a torn ACL on Dec. 5, 2025 that would ultimately end his playing career. Despite the setback, Karpman remained an integral part of the program, taking on a role alongside the coaching staff on the bench and continuing to lead and support his fellow seniors and teammates in a new capacity while recovering.

## **Tristan Fraser - Forward**

Fraser has been a reliable contributor for the Huskies as he played in all 39 games in his junior season and recorded 12 points. A career highlight for the senior forward includes an overtime game-winner against Vermont on Nov. 3, 2024. After posting 11 points as a sophomore and nine as a freshman, where he scored his first career goal against Vermont on Oct. 1, 2022, Fraser has consistently provided timely scoring and steady offensive production throughout his career for the Ice Bus.

## **Jake Percival - Forward**

As the only Connecticut native on this senior class, Percival's career is significant to this team. Percival has been a consistent contributor throughout his career, appearing in all 39 games during his junior season and totaling 19 points, including two shorthanded goals. After posting 14 points as a sophomore and 12 as a freshman, Percival has steadily elevated his impact each year, highlighted by a dominant five-goal stretch over four games during the 2023-24 season. The senior's career-defining moment came in the 2026 CT Ice Championship at Yale, when he netted the game-winning goal against then-No. 6 Quinnipiac, to help the Huskies to secure back-to-back CT Ice victories.

"That win record says something about what they've done and the imprint that they've left on this program," said Head Coach Mike Cavanaugh about the team's seniors. "They bleed blue and they are true to the program. They've given everything that I could ask for in four years. So I'm very proud of the group, and I'm excited to see where they're going to go, because it's not over for them yet."



UConn men's ice hockey take on Boston College at PeoplesBank Arena in Hartford, Conn., on Feb. 21, 2026. The Huskies played a strong game that extended into overtime, but Boston College scored the deciding goal to secure a 2-1 victory. PHOTO BY ELLA GORHAM, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:

## NO. 1 UCONN STEAMROLLS GEORGETOWN 84-52 IN HARTFORD FINALE

by Jake McCreven

STAFF WRITER  
HE/HIM/HIS  
jpm23012@uconn.edu

The next item on a long list of lasts for Azzi Fudd and the UConn women's basketball team's senior class has been checked.

Well, two items, actually (or more, depending on how thorough your list is).

UConn blitzed Georgetown (13-15, 6-13) 84-52 in its Hartford finale, bringing it within one game of a fourth consecutive undefeated regular season in Big East play and extending its winning streak to 46 games.

The 32-point shelling of the Hoyas gave Connecticut its 30th win of the season and 16th at home. This particular Thursday night game in Hartford had a kicker to it, however: it was the senior class's last regular season home game as Huskies, which, oddly enough, happened after Senior Day.

Unlike Saturday's 81-38 detonation of Providence, when the Huskies built a 25-point lead by the second quarter media timeout, UConn found itself down in the opening minutes to a Georgetown team that just couldn't miss from 3.

The Hoyas found the bottom of the net on four of their first eight 3-point attempts, including a stretch of three in a row that was rivaled only by Fudd on the other end.

The graduate wing accounted for eight of UConn's first 12 points, matching the Hoyas' 3-point barrage with three of her own from behind the line and a pair of elbow jumpers in

the opening seven minutes.

It was the start of what became Fudd's 10th 20-point game this season and second in Hartford. As she checked out for the final time in PeoplesBank Arena as a Husky with a minute remaining in the third quarter, her game-high 24 points and 9 made field goals (including six 3-pointers) warranted a fitting standing ovation.

Georgetown answered her early haymakers, though, punching back after every UConn run with four of five in a row to end the first quarter down only one point.

Then Sarah Strong – as she inevitably does – got going from the paint. And the perimeter. And on defense.

Strong rattled off 11 of her 13 points in the second quarter, including a pair of 3-pointers on back-to-back possessions that pumped the Huskies' lead up to seven in the matter of 50 seconds.

And it was all Connecticut from there. Three Huskies enclosed on unsuspecting Hoya ball handlers in the backcourt and forced wayward passes that Strong picked off and cashed in at the hoop. Kayleigh Heckel got in on the team picture in the paint with two elbow jumpers of her own, which raised Connecticut's lead to 14 by the midpoint of the second period.

On the first possession out of the break and in danger of turning the ball over a 14th time, Darnell Haney was forced to burn a timeout after Khadee Hession got trapped by Fudd and Allie Ziebell in the coffin corner. That same possession

ended with KK Arnold at the free throw line after she was fouled on a coast-to-coast lay-in.

The Huskies completely smothered a reeling Georgetown offense in the second quarter, holding the Hoyas to a 2-of-14 mark from the field and forcing eight turnovers – a defensive stand that was emblematic of a 23-point halftime gap.

The second half offered much of the same. Georgetown turnover, UConn score; Georgetown airball, UConn 3-pointer; Georgetown shot clock violation, UConn lay-in.

It snowballed for the Huskies, who with a lineup comprised mostly of reserves, stretched their lead to as large as 36 in the third quarter. UConn forced

23 Hoya turnovers, which it cashed in for 26 points, and held Georgetown to a 32% (16-of-50) mark from the field.

Connecticut's attention now turns to a date with St. John's (21-9, 11-8) at Madison Square Garden on Sunday for the last game before post season play begins in Uncasville next weekend.



UConn women's basketball team plays against Georgetown at PeoplesBank Arena on Feb. 26, 2026. The Huskies won with a final score of 84-52. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# SAM'S SECTION: ONE LAST HOME GAME FOR KARABAN, REED, SMITH, KOROMA, MILLENDER

by Sam Calhoun

STAFF WRITER  
HE/HIM/HIS  
samuel.calhoun@uconn.edu

Saturday's meeting with Seton Hall will be an emotional one.

It will mark the end of an era for Alex Karaban, the winningest player in program history. After going through the Senior Day ceremony last year, the two-time national champion returned to Storrs for one last dance.

It has been a long journey for Karaban. He enrolled midway through the 2021-22 season and redshirted while practicing to get a head start leading into his redshirt-freshman season.

"I'm trying to enjoy every second I have left in this jersey and with this program," he said after a 32-point win over No. 15 St. John's on Wednesday.

He did not even start that first game he played in. In the 85-54 rout over Stonehill, the Huskies' lineup was Tristen Newton, Nahiem Alleyne, Jordan Hawkins, Samson Johnson and Adama Sanogo. Johnson ended up suffering a foot injury after 17 minutes and did not return to the floor until Jan. 22, 2023. This forced Dan Hurley to elevate Karaban to the starting lineup. In every game that he has been healthy for, Karaban has remained the starting power forward ever since.

"When I first came to UConn, I was worried about playing," Karaban said after becoming the winningest player in program history. "To have my name at the top of that list is special. I'll forever be blessed for all the teammates I've had; I'll forever be blessed to play for the best coaching staff that's made it easier to get those wins, too."

Karaban was among the best freshmen in the Big East that year, averaging 9.3 points per

game, shooting 47.6% from the floor, 40.2% from deep and 80.9% from the free throw line. He was a crucial piece in the Huskies' quest for a fifth national championship. Just look back at the halftime buzzer-beaters he had against Gonzaga and Miami (Fla.) during that run.

He could have left after that first season. He could have left after his redshirt-sophomore season, averaging 13.3 points on nearly 50% overall shooting as he helped the Huskies complete the back-to-back championship hopes. Everyone remembers where they were during that 30-0 run in the Elite Eight against Illinois, seeing Karaban dunk on the fast break.

Even though the 2024-25 season was a roller-coaster, including some of the lowest moments in Karaban's decorated career, he still could have gone to the NBA.

But, through all of that, he stayed. He stayed despite all the NBA talk and the current state of college basketball. It is a rarity, with virtually every team now utilizing the transfer portal and NBA teams targeting freshmen and sophomore prospects with sky-high potential.

"I know the NBA can be here next year and in the future," Karaban said in October. "But you can't really get your years back at UConn, with how much love the coaches and fans have given me."

The fans will honor Karaban on Saturday with a "Karabaner." Organized by the Husky Ticket Project, fans are invited to write messages on a giant banner from 10 to 11 a.m., thanking him for everything he did throughout his career.

He is no stranger to the festivities. He went through Senior Day last season, coincidentally against Seton Hall, after graduating from UConn in three years with a degree in economics.

Academically, he is expected to earn a certificate in nonprofit management once his college career is all said and done.

Karaban is not the only player who will go through Senior Day this weekend. Tarris Reed Jr., Malachi Smith, Dwayne Koroma and Alec Millender are all being honored in their final game at the Harry A. Gampel Pavilion.

Reed is coming off arguably the best game of his career: 20 points, 11 rebounds, six rebounds, three assists and two steals on 9-of-14 shooting. He may not have been in Storrs as long as Karaban has, but the "Kodiak Bear" has become a fan-favorite in his two seasons as a Husky.

"I was a little kid dreaming, never in a million years I thought I would be playing here at UConn, so it's a blessing to play along these guys," Reed said on Wednesday. "It's all I could ever dream for and pray for. So, [I am] forever grateful."

Then there are the players who just came in this year: Malachi Smith, Dwayne Koroma and Alec Millender.

Smith, coming in from Dayton, slid into the role that Hassan Diarra was in during the 2023-24 season, backing up Silas Demary Jr. at point guard. He came in clutch in some of the Huskies' most crucial games. There was the game at Madison Square Garden against Illinois, where he had 14 points and nine assists while knocking down all three of his 3-point attempts. The win at home against Providence saw him notch double figures for the second time this season, finishing with 12 points and seven assists while connecting on all four 3-pointers.

Koroma has not seen as much playing time lately, but he was a massive help in the non-conference portion of the season. While the stats may not tell the

story, the Le Moyne transfer held his own in the paint against some of the nation's best centers: Arizona's Motiejus Krivas and Kansas's Flory Bidunga. While Reed missed a handful of those non-conference games while dealing with injuries, Koroma stepped up and came off the bench to provide some crucial minutes while Eric Reibe was on the bench.

Then, there is Millender. He has not played many games this season, but his locker room and bench presence alone have pro-

vided the team with a spark in some of the thrilling wins this season. His impact on the team, especially in terms of the team's chemistry, is better shown off the court, with him serving as commissioner of a Dynasty Deep Dive league on EA Sports' College Football '26.

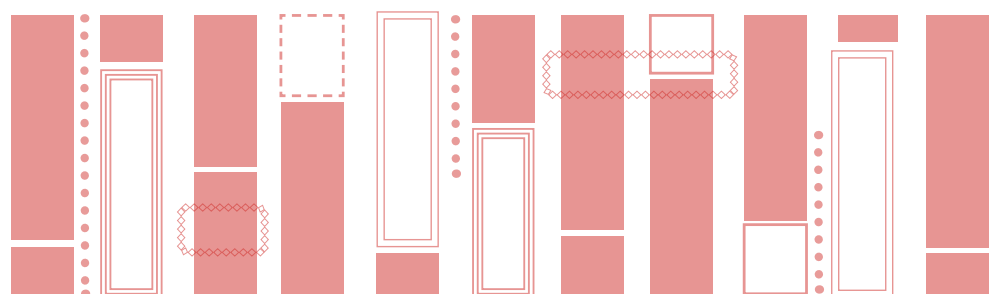
Saturday marks the end of an era, but the journey is not over. There are still three championships to play: the Big East regular season title, the Big East Tournament and the national championship.



UConn men's basketball takes on Villanova at PeoplesBank Arena on Jan 24, 2026. Both teams were tied 61-61 at the end of the second half, but the Huskies toppled the Wildcats in overtime, winning 75-67. PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# Sports



## Men's Hockey: Huskies set for pivotal home and home against UMass with Hockey East seeding on the line

by **Brayden Gorski**

STAFF WRITER  
HE/HIM/HIS  
brayden.gorski@uconn.edu

A crushing weekend at the hands of Boston College dropped UConn to third place in Hockey East.

A 5-2 defeat in Boston on Friday, Feb. 20, was followed by a heartbreaking 2-1 loss just 27 seconds into overtime. In front of over 10,000 fans in Hartford on Saturday, Connecticut could not finish the job after jumping out to an early lead.

The Huskies now have 37 points in conference play after gaining just one point last weekend. So, who is in fourth place? You guessed it: the UMass Minutemen.

The Minutemen went 6-1 in January to propel themselves in the standings. They are 3-2 in February ahead of this weekend's two game set. UMass has 32 points in Hockey East play with a record of 11-9 in confer-

ence play.

The top four seeds are important in Hockey East because they get a home game in the conference tournament before heading to TD Garden if they win. If UMass gets all six available points this weekend, they will jump UConn for third place like Boston College did to Connecticut's second place spot last weekend.

UConn had not lost since Jan. 17 before last weekend, so there is still room for error. With a record of 17-9-4 (11-7-2 in Hockey East), the Huskies are holding on to one of the final spots in the NCAA tournament. A first ever Hockey East Championship win would automatically clinch their spot in the tournament, but a strong showing throughout the entire tournament should go a long way for the Ice Bus.

Kaden Shahan was a bright spot in a rough weekend for the Huskies.

The sophomore scored in both matches against BC and has tallied

9 goals and 10 assists on the season. He also had plenty of great plays on Saturday that did not show up on the stat sheet — a valuable trait this late in the season.

Despite the two losses last weekend, Tyler Muszelik has been great in goal all season for the Ice Bus. Muszelik snagged 50 saves over the course of two games against the Eagles, including some beautiful game-saving ones which sent Saturday's game into overtime. He was playing some of his best goalie all season before facing a strong BC offense. The New Jersey native shut down Northeastern and Maine for back-to-back shutouts. His presence will be felt in both Storrs and Amherst this weekend.

Jack Musa is having the best season by any skater on UMass this season. The junior forward has 14 goals on the year, including a hat trick against UMass Lowell at the beginning of the month. Musa has also dished out 17 assists, bringing his point total to 31 on the season.

Michael Hrabal has started most of the games in net for the Minutemen. In 24 games, Hrabal averages about 26 saves per game and has notched 4 shutouts, including one last week against UNH. However, he on average gives up two goals per game, a stat that the Huskies can take advantage of this weekend.

UConn is 11-17-4 against UMass all time. The squads faced off three times last season, each ending a different way. The first two games took place in October with UMass winning via shootout on their home ice. UConn got its revenge the next night with a 3-2 victory at home. The two teams did not see each other again until February when the Minutemen left Storrs with a 5-4 nail-biting victory.

Both teams know the stakes of this weekend's tilts and their play should emulate that fact.

Puck drop is set for 7 p.m. on both days and fans can tune into ESPN+ to see the Huskies and the Minutemen battle.

The UConn men's hockey team faces Merrimack College at Toscano Family Ice Forum on Dec. 6, 2025. The Huskies won with a final score of 5-2.

PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

