

Trash cans in offices being removed amidst budget cuts

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Trash cans are being removed from faculty, staff and administrative offices at the University of Connecticut's Storrs campus to aid in cost cutting and sustainability efforts, according to university officials.

The decision was met with skepticism by some faculty and staff members at UConn who don't understand how removing trash cans saves the University a significant amount of money, according to the head of the Department of Mathematics.

University spokesperson Stephanie Reitz said that UConn is following the footsteps of other universities and agencies who've been adopting a system called "centralized waste collection" over the last decade.

Interim Vice President for Finance Reka Wrynn confirmed that changes to trash disposal were made as a cost savings effort. Cutting waste collection from offices was part of a larger restructuring of a contract for custodial services on the Storrs campus which saves \$1.57 million annually, according to Reitz.

On Aug. 27, 2025, Vice President of Facility Services and University Planning Eric Kruger sent an email to faculty announcing that custodial services would be focusing on core services as a response to university-wide budget reductions, according to a LISTSERV archive.

The changes Kruger said to expect included reduced cleaning in low-traffic spaces, centralized trash collection, adjusted service levels and scaled-back deep cleaning. He added that public-facing spaces like those used for recruiting and family tours would continue to be maintained to a higher level of cleanliness.

Kruger's email said that two buildings were already using centralized trash collection systems where visitors are responsible for disposing trash and recycling into communal containers.

Kruger did not respond to an interview request.

"The larger receptacles remain in the nearby hallways and common areas for everyone's use," Reitz said. "[This reduces] the potential for odors and insect/rodent activity to develop if food products are left in the trash cans over time."

Buildings where centralized trash collection were already

taking place include the John J. Budds administrative building, public safety complexes and facilities operations, according to Reitz.

Some buildings have exceptions to the no-trash-can rule. Reitz said the buildings which won't be included are the Visitor's Center, Gampel Pavilion and the Jorgensen Center because of their significant foot traffic. She added that residence halls and clinical settings like examination rooms will also get exemptions.

Ambar Sengupta, the head of the Department of Mathematics, said some of his concerns about the removal of trash cans from offices were addressed by a discussion he had with Kruger.

"I do appreciate that [Kruger] spoke with me in a nice way and we came to an understanding," Sengupta said. "But it is a fact that upper administration have a [history of making] decisions that impact individual departments and faculty."

"[Kruger] said [UConn] sends people to clear the offices, but most are clear so there's nothing in the bins," Sengupta said. After the conversation, Sengupta said he understood how office trash cans could be considered "useless spending of money."

Sengupta said he is overall more understanding than most faculty members about the decision to take away trash cans, whom he said are pretty upset. He added that he's heard skepticism from other faculty members about how centralized waste collection could save UConn money.

"To be personally honest, I myself don't use the trash bins, but if people had bins close to their offices it shouldn't be that much of a problem," Sengupta said.

One example that Sengupta said was a flaw in the decision-making process was taking away trash cans in all offices without exceptions.

"I understand most faculty feel that it's insult to injury," Sengupta said. "A little more consultation would have helped."

One example where Sengupta said consultation was needed was within the removal of trash cans in the undergraduate advising office, where he said students may end up crying and needing tissues at the office.

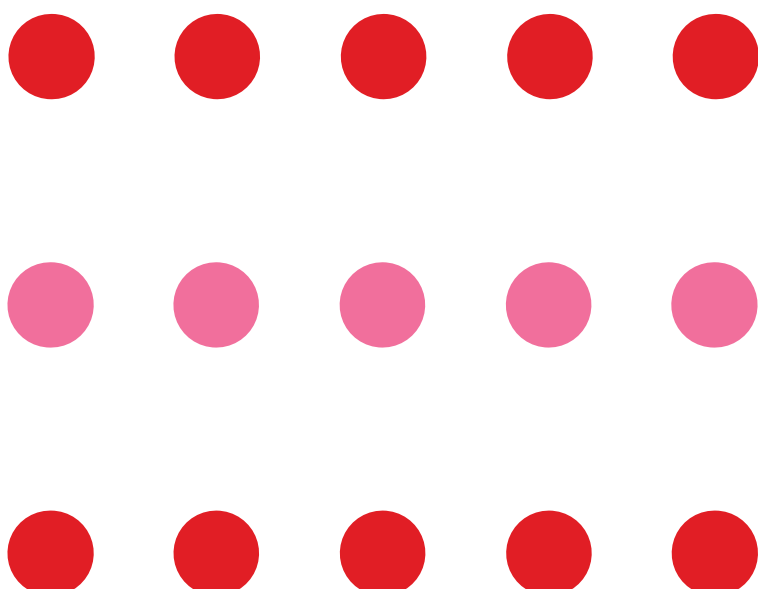
"[UConn's] decision making is always high-minded," Sengupta said. "All that is needed is to do a survey."



The Wilbur cross building which houses many offices and a library is one of the many buildings expecting to have its number of trash cans reduced. The reduction is part of a larger plan to reduce costs and shift to a central trash collection system. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

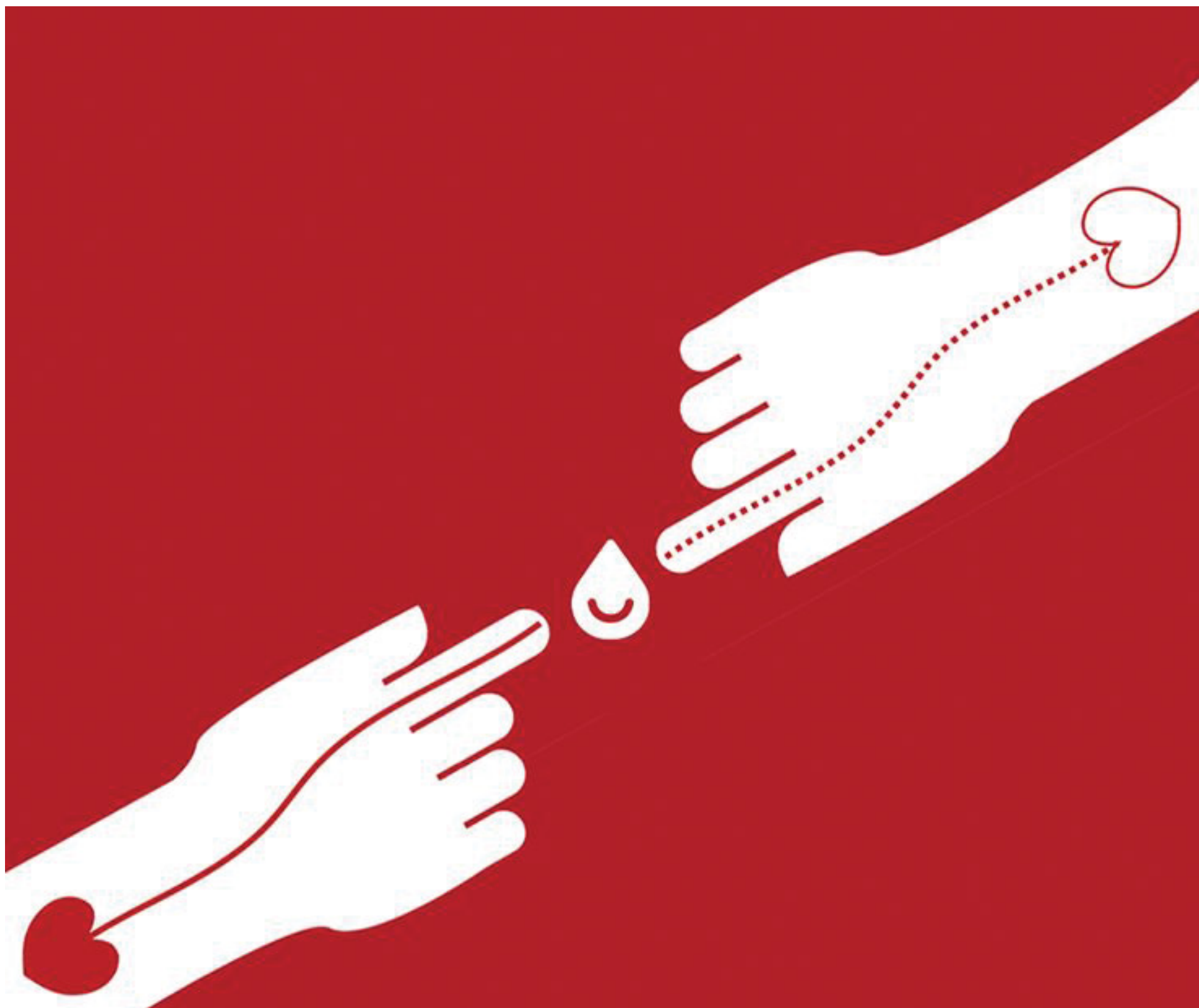


University administration plans for the removal of trash cans in many buildings and offices to cut down on costs. Push back from the staff has come after a lack of communication. PHOTO COURTESY OF @WEBSTORAINTSTORE ON PINTEREST



News

UConn Red Cross club hosts blood drive



UConn's Red Cross club hosts a blood drive due to the nationwide shortage. This illustration represents the idea of blood drives, as with every donation, three lives are saved. PHOTO BY @MILLARLAWFIRM ON PINTEREST.

by **Ariana Mohamed**
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The University of Connecticut Red Cross club is currently holding one of their many blood drives from Feb. 9 to 13 from 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. It will be held at the Alumni Center from Feb. 9 to 12 and at the Foundation Building on Feb. 13.

Information about UConn's blood drive and sign-up times can be found on the Red Cross website.

People interested in donating blood will have to answer questions to determine if they are eligible to donate, said Chiara Puzella, an advertising chair for the club and an eighth-semester physiology and neurobiology major at UConn.

"Every time you donate it saves three lives," Puzella said.

According to Puzella, donors will receive a \$20 Amazon gift card.

She said before donating it is important to be hydrated and wear a t-shirt to your donation time.

Requirements for donating blood include being at least 17 years old and 110 pounds, along with others such as having a sufficient iron level for donating, Puzella said.

Joy Elwell, the director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program for the Red Cross club, helps set up the blood drives and helps people who want to volunteer with the club.

According to Puzella and Elwell, there is always a need for Type O blood. Type O blood is considered the universal donor, which means it can be given to anyone with any blood type.

"There is a tremendous

shortage of blood for donation for use in the United States," Elwell said.

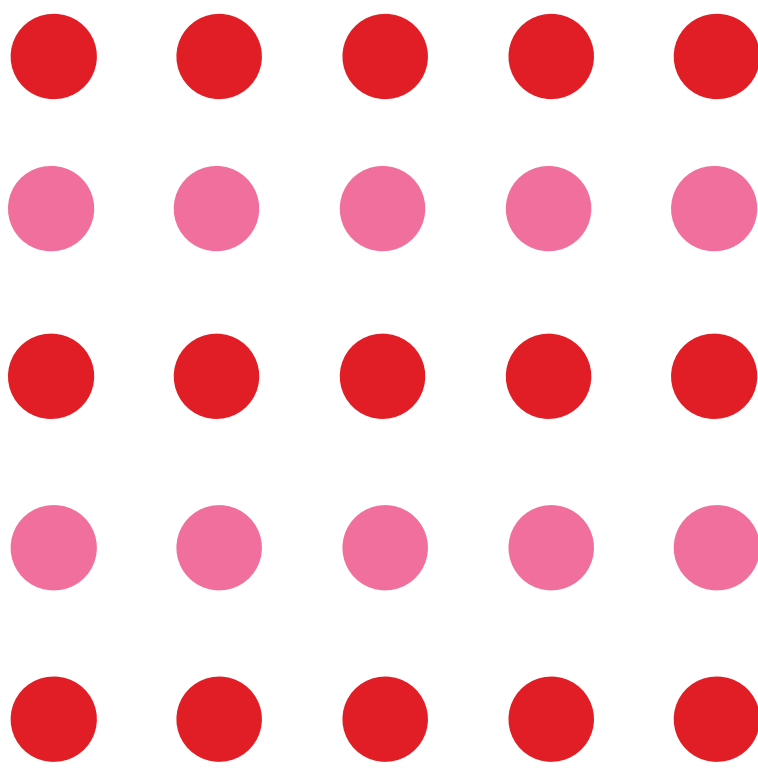
Blood donated can be used in emergency situations, surgery and in the intensive care unit, Elwell said.

After donating blood, your body regenerates the volume of blood you donated within a few days, according to Elwell.

Puzella said she joined the Red Cross club during her junior year because it was a good cause.

"I started out volunteering, at the blood drives and tabling, and then over time, I worked my way to becoming the advertising chair," she said.

The Red Cross Club will have two more blood drives in the spring semester from Feb. 23 to 27 and March 23 to 27, according to the club's UConncontact page



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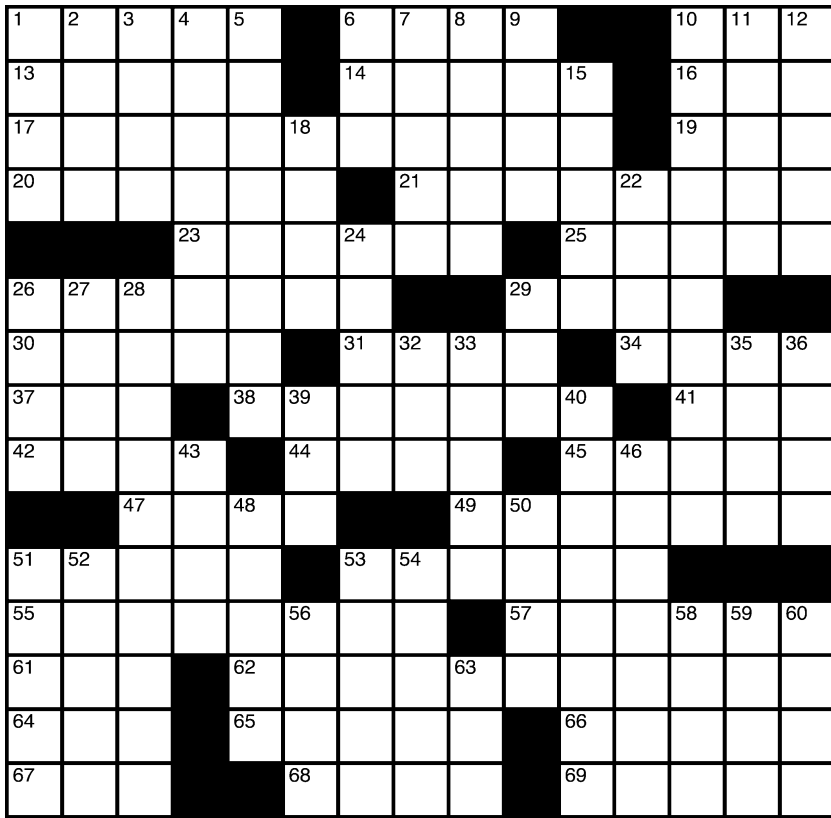
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THE DAILY CAMPUS CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

- ACROSS**
- 1 Winter X Games host city
 - 6 "Hey, c'mere!"
 - 10 Park place?
 - 13 ___ Doone cookies
 - 14 Navel type
 - 16 Janelle's "Abbott Elementary" role
 - 17 *Pointless task
 - 19 Derisive cry
 - 20 Chances to swing
 - 21 *Climb without ropes
 - 23 Like the most yellow banana on the tree
 - 25 Urgent care employee
 - 26 Chemical synthesis need
 - 29 Not on solid ground
 - 30 Desert refuges
 - 31 Messy pile
 - 34 Goblet part
 - 37 Telethon VIPs
 - 38 *Craftsman kit
 - 41 Prospector's find
 - 42 Sigh of relief
 - 44 "You sure of that?"
 - 45 Pieces of the heart
 - 47 Noble title
 - 49 Had a great time at
 - 51 Quickly get through a season
 - 53 Gets out of Dodge
 - 55 *Squeaker
 - 57 Swashbuckler's sword
 - 61 Downside
 - 62 Collection found under sofa cushions, or what can be found in the answers to the starred clues?
 - 64 N.J. winter hrs.
 - 65 Bunch of flowers
 - 66 Gas in some colorful signs
 - 67 Software engineer, for short
 - 68 Exceedingly dry
 - 69 ___ of all



By Joe Marquez

2/12/26

- DOWN**
- 1 A in communications?
 - 2 Chimney buildup
 - 3 "Not my ___"
 - 4 Blow up
 - 5 Most unpleasant
 - 6 "¿___ qué?"
 - 7 Sees the sites
 - 8 Kick off
 - 9 Prong
 - 10 Place for experiments
 - 11 Shapes formed by spotlights
 - 12 Lake in the Sierra Nevada
 - 15 Utopias
 - 18 "30 for 30" network
 - 22 Takes to court
 - 24 Shared belief system
 - 26 Easy win
 - 27 Per person
 - 28 Product line?
 - 29 Primatology subject
 - 32 Pharmaceutical giant ___ Lilly
 - 33 Daisy kin
 - 35 Maumee River endpoint
 - 36 Honey brew

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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- 39 Canola ___
- 40 Mausoleum on the Yamuna River
- 43 Happy dog's movements
- 46 In reserve
- 48 Film rolls
- 50 Drug cop
- 51 Secretly looped in
- 52 "No prize for me this time"
- 53 Nap noisily
- 54 Labor leader Chavez
- 56 Unwelcome sound from a barber
- 58 Actress Swenson
- 59 Impediments to effective teamwork
- 60 Monopoly payment
- 63 Needle part

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

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Solution to Wednesday's puzzle

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

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Life

HUMANITIES-CENTERED INVOLVEMENT FAIR SHOWCASES OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

by Thaddeus Sawyer

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The Humanities Involvement Fair was held in the Student Union Ballroom on Wednesday, Feb. 11, showcasing eight different humanities-related organizations on the University of Connecticut campus.

The event was organized by eight-semester human rights student Breanna Bonner, a student mentor at the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute. Bonner, who was at the event representing the institute, saw a need for a Humanities-specific fair due to students in the field feeling underrepresented at UConn.

“The idea essentially was thinking back to my experiences in the past four years and on other things I have heard from other students,” Bonner said. “Sometimes it feels like it’s a very STEM-focused campus.”

Bonner pointed out that the Spring Involvement Fair can be overwhelming for students in the number of tables and opportunities, while career fairs tend to be STEM-oriented.

“I thought that it would be nice for humanities students to have their own involvement fair because there’s so many different things you can be involved in,” Bonner said. “Any one of these tables, there’s a way for you to get involved.”

Bonner also talked about the continuous ways of getting involved with the human rights institute.

“I think it’s just important

to keep reminding students that they can always come to the rights institute,” Bonner said. “There’s always events happening.” Bonner added that the institute is holding an event about Latino Migrants in the United States on Thursday.

Tables at the fair included a mix of UConn-sponsored groups, such as the Center for Career Readiness and UConn Enrichment Programs, as well as student-run organizations. One student group in attendance was the UConn Ethics Bowl team.

The team travels to Boston every fall to debate other universities on ethics issues. In recent years, topics have included prisoners selling bodily organs to reduce sentences and the right of the U.S. government to restrict Snapchat, according to group member and fourth-semester linguistics and speech, language and hearing studies student Bianca Hriscu.

“We do some background research and do some research both for and against so we can really understand the case,” said Avi Yarlagadda, another group member and fourth-semester political science and government student.

Across the room, a representative of the Homer Babidge Library offered fidgets, stickers and other freebies to entice students to come over. Anna Twiddy, a student success and engagement librarian, says that the library has librarians specializing in most subjects to help students with research, including the humanities.

“What’s really key for stu-



Students representatives from different clubs and organizations showed up to table at the Humanities involvement fair. The fair was a big success this year in getting students involved.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADISON HENDRICKS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

dents to know is that they are open to research consultations,” Twiddy said.

Twiddy says that tabling at events like the Humanities Involvement Fair give library staff the opportunity to get out from behind the desk and meet students out in the community.

“I feel that they are very important ways to have face-to-face interactions with students,” Twiddy said.

Elsewhere around the room, the Green Garden, a mental and environmental awareness club, fittingly offered fruit snacks as they promoted UConn’s first on-

campus community garden at the UConn Botanical Conservatory.

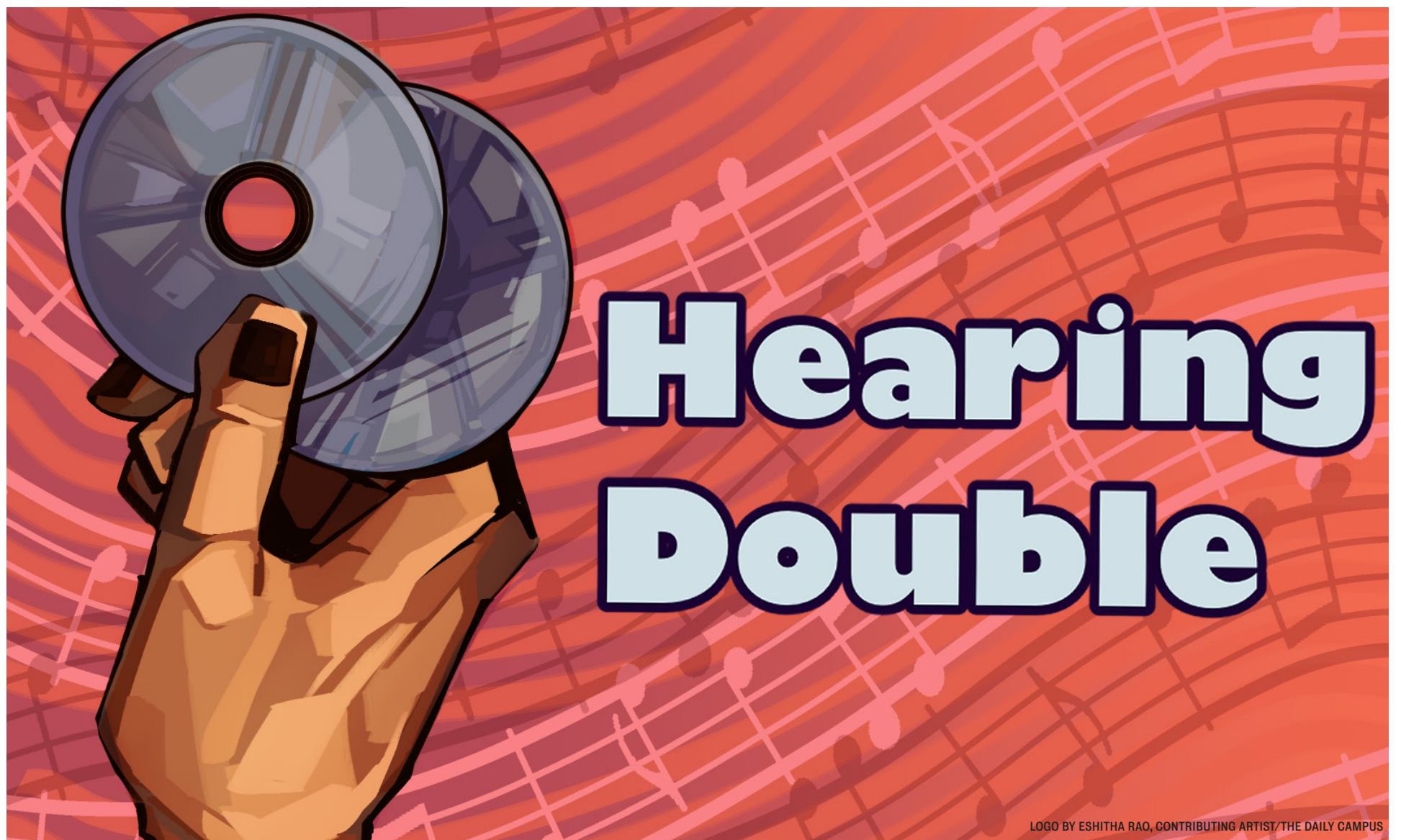
The Long River Review, a literary and arts magazine, the Undergraduate Linguistics Society and the UConn Humanities Institute rounded out the organizations represented at the event.



Two student representatives sit at a table representing the Ethics Bowl Debate club. Many different clubs showed up to table at the Humanities involvement fair.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADISON HENDRICKS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Hearing Double: Looking at it Another Way



LOGO BY ESHITHA RAQ, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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

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

This week, we're seeing things in a different light with "New Perspective" by Panic! At The Disco and Noah Kahan.

"This week, we're seeing things in a different light with "New Perspective" by Panic! At The Disco and Noah Kahan."

Panic! At The Disco released "New Perspective" in 2009 as part of a promotional campaign for the brilliant cult classic movie "Jennifer's Body." Lead vocalist Brendan Urie started writing it two years before the movie's release. When he was contacted about releasing a song for the movie, "New Perspective" wasn't his original plan. However, he sent it to his manager as an alternative, and it ended up sticking.

This "New Perspective" is an upbeat song with a classic

2000s feel. It speaks about a shallow, whirlwind love affair that captures the teenage angst present in "Jennifer's Body." Each verse has a repeated theme of the narrator dreaming, whether that's while sleeping or simply drifting off in thought.

Meanwhile, he's finding the titular perspective in the chorus, where he asks us to "stop there" while he corrects the drifting thoughts of the verses and pre-chorus. However, the chorus still acknowledges the narrator's shallow attitude toward his lover, saying she can "come along because I love your face/And I'll admire your expensive taste."

At the final chorus, new lyrics come into play. In addition to repeating that "leaving now would be a good idea," the singer says he doesn't want to "live a life that is comprehensive" and "seeing clear would be a bad idea," indicating that destructive patterns will continue to plague him.

The lyrics are steeped in a delightful irony as the narrator plays at being introspective while continuing to hold a less than admirable perspective. In classic Panic! At The Disco fashion, heavy guitar riffs and skillful drum-



A clip from Panic! At The Disco's music video for their song "New Perspective". The song was released in July of 2009.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @PRONGZ ON PINTEREST



NOAH KAHAN

STICK SEASON

Noah Kahan's album cover for his hit album "Stick Season" released in 2022. This album features the song "New Perspective" on it.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @MAGGIESFILMS ON PINTEREST

beats keep the song at a fun pace and ensure the listener can't help but nod along. Especially given the masterpiece of a movie it associates with, this song is a trip down memory lane for any lover of 2000s nostalgia.

Noah Kahan released his "New Perspective" in 2022 as part of his hit album "Stick Season." The song is another example of Kahan's iconic love/hate relationship with the little New England town he calls home. In an interesting twist, the "New Perspective" is not Kahan's, but instead belongs to a loved one who left home. Rather than desiring a new perspective like Urie, Kahan wants to "shut it in a closet/And drag you back down."

The song paints a visceral picture of a small town in which nothing much happens. All it takes is one Target for people to declare an area "downtown." But despite the narrator's evident distaste for his town, he is bitter about a loved one coming back home and suddenly seeing the world in a different way from him. He even says the state bird now "sings our song so out of key."

Kahan masterfully weaves together the narrator's frustra-

tion with feelings of insecurity and nostalgia. As is typical of many Noah Kahan songs, the lyrics are underscored by a gentle, folk-inspired guitar that beautifully reflects the tone of the song. It's a deeply self-aware song, projecting negativity for another outward while subtly emphasizing and articulating the negative emotions within the narrator.

"One is meant to be lighthearted, and the other is meant to be deeply emotional, which makes them difficult to compare."

The two songs have extraordinarily different subjects and tones. One is meant to be lighthearted, and the other is meant to be deeply emotional, which makes them difficult to compare. That said, a new perspective sometimes means looking inward to change how you see the world, even if you're examining why you're angry at someone else's new perspective.

Winner: Noah Kahan



Life

Katt Williams Delivers Some Words of Advice in his “Last Report”

by Ayyan Tamjeed
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On Tuesday, Feb. 9, Netflix released Katt Williams’ fourth comedy special with the streaming company, dubbed “The Last Report.”

Katt Williams, referred to as “the king of underground comedy” according to the special’s voiceover, is an American actor and stand-up comedian. He is best known for his viral podcast interview with Shannon Sharpe, which racked up 91 million views, and as the voice actor for “A Pimp Named Slickback” in television show “The Boondocks.”

From the get-go, it’s easy to notice that Williams likes to talk with his audience and makes several remarks to them. His first bit of the show is appreciating the different people who came out to this Florida show. In order, he thanks the white people, Hispanics, African Americans and, most importantly, the ladies who showed up.

The name of the comedy special, “The Last Report,” is derived from Williams’ self-appointed role as the inside man to Hollywood and the Illuminati, and how this special might be his last because of the revelatory information he states. He brings a clever spin on several conspiracy theories, like John F. Kennedy’s assassination or the debate on fluoride in water. He also makes the claim that since your brain is 100% cholesterol, why

do cholesterol levels matter?

While the brain is the most cholesterol-rich part of your body — about 20% of your body’s total cholesterol — it’s mostly made up of water, so this claim is largely false.

When he isn’t delivering jokes, Williams switches his tone and tries to deliver sage advice to the audience. He stresses the importance of physical and mental health, recounting his experiences with two kidney stones and how he laid “at the end of my bed shaped like a pretzel.” He has a small speech in the middle of the special highlighting the importance of community, which received a round of applause.

Williams also had a bit about believing in yourself, which doubled as a take-down on FBI director Kash Patel. He said that

if the cross-eyed Patel can become a high-ranking official, then anyone in the audience could achieve their dreams.

“Cross-eyed and director of the FBI? You can’t even be an eyewitness,” he said about Patel.

Apart from Patel, Williams also had material written on Donald Trump, who at this point was over 200 days into his second presidency. Along with Hollywood stars and their Ozempic use, Sean “P Diddy” Combs’ lenient prison sentence and the anticlimactic Tyson-Paul boxing match

also made their way into Williams’ routine. Combs’ prison sentence was a particularly funny bit, since Williams gave added personal context of how he almost received a similar sentence for possession of marijuana, compared to Combs’ charges for transportation to engage in prostitution.

Outside of the material, a bright spot in this special is Williams’ use of music. He starts and concludes the show with Kendrick Lamar’s “tv off,” featuring Lefty Gunplay. He was even able to use Lamar’s iconic “Mustard” shout as a punchline to a joke about male genitalia. The music stings that complement punchlines, whether it be a parody of “The Imperial March” to describe Donald Trump or Dave Blunt’s “Can’t Put Down The Cup,” are used sparingly enough to provide a pleasant surprise each time they pop up.

Props should be given to Williams’ acting as well. The physicality he brings to some jokes and his accompanying voiceover sells the punchlines and earns Williams an extra few laughs.

Overall, this was a decent special with good material on current topics and great execution, by a comedian who brings his own unique flavor to the table. It may not

be his best work — from what I’ve seen his 2006 special “The Pimp Chronicles’ Pt. 1” may be even funnier — but it’s worth checking out.

Rating: 3/5



Rating 3/5



In Katt Williams most recent Netflix special he hit on some of the most current and controversial topics of the last year. This is his fourth Netflix standup special.

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Patrick's Politics:

Why voter suppression is all the rage on the right

by Patrick Minnerly
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Have you ever disliked the outcome of something? Don't you wish you could change it? Of course, you can't. The lesson has been drilled into us since childhood: You get what you get, and you don't get upset. Unfortunately, it appears that Donald Trump and the Republican Party never received that helpful memo. Trump constantly complains about the "stolen" 2020 election to this day, even though it was quite fair. Like a child throwing a temper tantrum, he can't resist bringing it up. But Trump's whims are far more dangerous than child's play, because he just might try to destroy the democratic experiment while he's whining – and string Republicans along

comments, but even the mere floating of this idea should not be taken lightly. Nationalizing our elections is both illegal and a massive conflict of interest, especially for an administration so bent on repeating falsehoods about the voting process. Trump's FBI is still focused on searching for nonexistent evidence that the 2020 election had massive fraud. On January 28, federal agents raided the elections office for Fulton County in Georgia and took hundreds of boxes of election material with them. If you recall, Georgia was a major hotspot for election fraud claims; Trump pressed Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to "find 11,780 votes" in a phone call shortly after he lost.

The Republican Party, as ever, seems willing to dance for their ruler. In Congress,

gal voting, it is extremely rare for noncitizens to vote.

So then why try to pass this bill? The answer is, Republicans don't actually want to stop voter fraud. They want to stop people from casting their ballots. They want voter suppression.

Research has shown that voter ID and election integrity laws, which the SAVE America Act would add to, disproportionately affect minorities. This includes Georgia's state law S.B. 202, which was enacted by a Republican legislature shortly after the 2020 election and put several new restrictions on how Georgians could vote. These restrictions, such as limiting access to ballot drop boxes, only serve to suppress the vote of historically disenfranchised communities. As the Brennan Center for Justice points out, racially diverse states led by Republicans have been "far more likely" to introduce voter suppression bills than more majority-white Republican states. It might not surprise you to then learn that minorities vote for Democrats more often.

With the upcoming midterm elections, Republicans have been working to up the ante on voter suppression. It's no secret that Trump is unpopular. According to a recent NPR poll, Trump's approval rating is 39%, with 56% disapproving of his performance. Out of that number, 51% strongly disapprove. The right knows that his administration's actions are anathema to the majority of the American public. Trump himself said in early January that if Democrats take back Congress, he'll be impeached.

In response to fear over losing the midterms, the right is lashing out with voter suppression ideas that make dis-

crimatory laws seem downright benign. Steve Bannon, former White House adviser, said in a Feb. 4 interview that "We're going to have ICE surround the polls come November." Given the well-publicized terror Immigration and Customs Enforcement has spread across the country, which includes the fatal shootings of two U.S. citizens this year, the impact of this statement is clear. We have seen ICE arrest anyone for any reason. Threatening to send militarized agents to polling places is a vicious attack on voting rights. The Trump administration was given a chance to distance themselves from this position, but Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt only said, "I can't guarantee an ICE agent won't be around a polling location in November." In other words, if you show up to vote, there's a chance you might be taken away and shipped to a detention center. That is not how a functioning democracy should operate.

All of this attempted voter suppression is clearly aimed at preventing a Republican loss in the midterms and beyond. Trump has already laid the groundwork by continuing to protest the 2020 election results, priming his supporters to be concerned about so-called "election integrity." Regardless of whether bills like the SAVE America Act end up getting passed, we must still be vigilant about how our rights can be restricted. Regardless of whether ICE is deployed to polling stations or not, we must remember that the threat was made. And regardless of whether Trump does attempt to nationalize elections, we know the effort to suppress voting is born out of the desire to subvert democracy and cheat the system.

Regardless of Trump's fantasies about rigged elections, the Constitution is clear: administering elections is a power given to the states, and the federal government cannot take over voting.

with him.

This past week, on a podcast with rightwing personality Dan Bongino, Trump called for the federal government to "nationalize" elections in several Democratic strongholds. He later claimed, "Look at some of the places – that horrible corruption on elections – and the federal government should not allow that." Regardless of Trump's fantasies about rigged elections, the Constitution is clear: administering elections is a power given to the states, and the federal government cannot take over voting.

We have yet to see how serious Trump is about his

Republicans are busy sating Trump's desire to shift how elections are run. As I'm writing this column, the SAVE America Act is coming up for a vote in the U.S. House. This act would make it significantly harder to vote, making potential voters explicitly prove their citizenship before they cast their ballots. On the surface, this might not seem like a bad idea. Why not ensure our elections are safe and secure? The bill, however, ignores that many Americans don't carry proof of citizenship on them, such as a passport or birth certificate. It also solves a nonexistent problem; despite false claims of mass ille-

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Layup in week 4



UConn women's basketball team playing a home game against the Creighton Blue Jays at Gampel Pavilion. The Huskys dominated the game, winning 94-44. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The American Fuhrer

by Ayden Mirabella
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The American people need to see that President Donald Trump is using the same playbook used by fascist leaders such as Francisco Franco, Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler. Fascism is a political movement that seeks to uproot a country in all aspects to get back to a mythological time of greatness. Overturning a culture, people, way of life, religion and government. It usually needs a strong central figure that makes promises of greatness. Fascism also coincides with the belief that a certain race is better or a certain race is worse. In this article Trump is put through the test to compare him to fascist leaders of the past.

Trump's actions involving Greenland compared to the Anschluss of Austria in 1938. To explain, the Anschluss, known as Anschluß Österreichs in German, was the annexation of Austria into Nazi Germany on March 12th, 1938. Hitler would justify this by claiming that Austria had descended into chaos and that it was necessary to unite all German speaking people under one nation. Hitler would also

state that there were riots in Vienna started by communists, and the Austrian Chancellor had called for German troops to suppress the riots. Compare this to Donald Trump and his claims and ambitions in this year alone. Trump says that it is necessary to have Greenland for security purposes, that the United States could do a better job protecting the island than Denmark. Trump may not hold the same racial ideas as Hitler, but he does hold the same lying aspect. When Trump lies stating taking Greenland is for security and not for economic gain he pulls the same card as when Hitler claimed there were communist riots in Austria.

Now let's focus on a coup d'état. A coup d'état or a coup for short, is a sudden, violent seizure of power from the government. Fascism can come in two ways. One is often using violent coups or civil wars to get around democratic governments, and the other is elections. Mussolini marched on Rome with his Blackshirts and demanded power in 1922, Franco attempted to overthrow the Spanish Government in 1936, and Hitler did the same with his failed Beer Hall Putsch in 1923. Now compare those to Trump on Jan 6. Trump urged his supporters to stop the cer-



Trump stands before a sea of his supporters at a rally in 2019 ahead of the 2020 election. He has since continued to have a following of MAGA supporters. PHOTO COURTESY OF @MATRIG123 ON PINTEREST

tification of the 2020 election in which he lost. This was an attempt to cling to power and remain as president. Trump attempted to overturn an election because he couldn't accept the fact he lost.

Time for a look at the rhetoric of these men. All these men know that a divided country is prime for the taking. Look how Trump looks at his opponents. He calls them the radical left, communists, socialist, illegal aliens, etc. He divides and conquers. Yet many of his

opponents are not communist or socialist; They are Americans with different viewpoints. Trump used the same play as many fascist leaders to divide the population and then pander to the largest or most vocal part. That part then became the most outspoken group. Much like Mussolini's Blackshirts or Hitler's brownshirts. This group provides an echo chamber that amplifies the central figure's words and actions. Trump knows that he doesn't need support from ev-

erywhere, just enough to keep up the facade of a united front or group.

The current administration has begun to slowly push what is accepted as American democracy. They push who is an American, they push on personal freedoms and they push on the foundational documents of this nation. Sinclair Lewis wrote "when fascism comes to America, it will be wrapped in a flag and carrying a cross". Not because fascism supports these but because America does.

COMIC OF THE DAY BY RAYFORD BROMLEY CONTRIBUTING ARTIST



PREDICTING WAN'DALE ROBINSON'S MARKET

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After eclipsing 1,000 yards for the first time in his career in 2025, impending free agent receiver Wan'Dale Robinson is set for a significant raise when free agency opens next month.

The most logical destination for Robinson may simply be a return to New York. Robinson was a second-round pick in General Manager Joe Schoen's first draft class and saw the field on 84.61% of offensive snaps in 2025.

While the Kentucky product would return to being the number two option at best upon Malik Nabers' return at some point in 2026, Robinson may be better suited for a reduced role regardless. He would still provide second-year quarterback Jaxson Dart with a familiar option as the offense learns to re-incorporate Malik Nabers into a new scheme.

The Giants also don't have a ready-made replacement in waiting and were already lacking in receiver talent in 2025. Even if they were to draft a receiver such as Ohio State's Carnell Tate or a slot-exclusive player like University of Southern California receiver Makai Lemon in the first round, they would still have an additional hole at receiver to address in free agency.

Robinson showed more vertical prowess in 2025, meaning that the Giants wouldn't

be forced to pick a certain archetype of receiver in the draft should he return.

For his part, Robinson expressed interest in returning to the Giants next season in an article by ESPN Giants writer Jordan Ranaan, but understands that a reprise in New York may not be in the cards.

"I love New York and this is the place that drafted me," Robinson said. "I feel like I have good chemistry with Jaxson [Dart] and all of my teammates that I've been here with and I've spent the last four years of my life here. So it's a lot easier said than done just to get up and move and go somewhere else. So I would like to stay here, but at the end of the day, if it's not the right place then we'll see what happens."

Outside of a return to New York, the Titans stand as a distinct possibility following former Giants head coach Brian Daboll's hiring as offensive coordinator in Tennessee.

Tight end Chig Okonkwo led the Titans with 560 receiving yards, demonstrating just how mediocre the Tennessee receivers' room was in 2025. That mark left him outside of the top 15 amongst the position in the NFL. Fourth-round rookie Elic Ayomanor topped the receivers with 515 yards, good for only 81st in the league. Robinson reached nearly double that output last season.

While Robinson wouldn't provide a true number one option, he would provide former

first-round pick Cam Ward with a reliable safety blanket with familiarity in Daboll's system.

Elsewhere in the AFC, the New England Patriots could choose to upgrade in the slot over DeMario Douglas if they strike out on more impactful trade targets, such as A.J. Brown.

The Commanders could try to steal Robinson from a division rival, and HC Dan Quinn and co. should have plenty of familiarity with Robinson after seeing him accumulate 137 yards and two touchdowns over his last four contests against Washington. Robinson could be an alternative if they allow Deebo Samuel to walk in free agency.

The Raiders and new HC Klint Kubiak could also make a run at Robinson. Kubiak demonstrated with Jaxon Smith-Njigba that he can maximize former slot receivers and convert them into more well-rounded options. While Robinson isn't in the same echelon as JSN, he would still provide likely first-overall pick Fernando Mendoza with an experienced option who has improved in each season of his NFL career and may still be on the rise.

Robinson's new contract is likely to be in line with four-year/up to \$60.2 million extension (\$32 million guaranteed) Khalil Shakir received from the Buffalo Bills last offseason. That contract made Shakir one of the highest paid slot receivers in football.

While Shakir produced more

consistently than Robinson leading up to the signing of that deal, Shakir hasn't reached the same peak as Robinson.

Spotrac places Robinson's market value in the same ballpark but values him a

bit more, predicting a four year/\$70,568,000 contract.

Final prediction: Wan'Dale Robinson re-signs with the New York Giants for four years and \$65 million (\$35 million guaranteed).



Wan'Dale Robinson of the New York Giants runs with the ball. As a new free agent, Robinson has many options for contract deals with various teams. PHOTO COURTESY OF @NYPOST ON PINTEREST.

ELLIOT'S WEEKLY TIP-OFF

ONLY ONE UNDEFEATED TEAM REMAINS



Dylan Darling of the St. John's men's basketball team goes for a layup against the UConn Huskies. The No. 25-ranked Johnnies successfully upset the formerly No. 3-ranked Huskies in a tight Big East matchup. PHOTO COURTESY OF @STJOHNSBALL ON INSTAGRAM.

by **Elliot Koplas**
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And then there was one.

A single Division I NCAA basketball team remains unbeaten as we approach March.

Some may think it is the number one team in the country standing alone at the top. However, it is a team most people may have never even heard of, Miami (OH).

The Mid-American team stands alone ranked No. 23 in the country, but holds a title most teams can never accomplish, the perfect season.

Miami (OH) has been on a 24-game winning streak this season, and they only have seven games left to play making this perfect season in reach.

After No. 9 Kansas defeated No. 1 Arizona on Feb. 9. The top ranked Wildcats finally fell for the first time. They were 6-0 against ranked opponents this season, including monstrous wins over BYU, UConn, Alabama and UCLA. All of these were also on the road.

Another top five shakeup happened in the Big East when No. 3 UConn fell to rival No. 22 St. John's on the road. This game brought every bit of intensity with eight lead changes and six ties. The Johnnies pulled away in the final minutes, but UConn will prepare for their next matchup against them at Peoples Bank Arena on Feb. 25.

The first game of the "Battle of The Blues" took place in Chapel Hill, N.C. in an instant classic. Duke held the lead for the whole game, until the final .4 seconds. UNC climbed back from a 13-point deficit to stun the top ranked Blue Devils. In a last second shot, UNC guard Seth Trimble drilled a corner three-pointer to secure the win. Leaving .4 seconds on the clock, Duke forced a desperation throw that never hit the basket.

While the calendar says Valentine's Day, the bright lights remain on the hardwood with multiple top 25 matchups this Saturday.

The ACC has No. 4 Duke taking on No. 20 Clemson. Clemson has won 14 consecutive road games dating back to last season, which ties the second longest streak in ACC history. That history will be tested on the road as they face a Blue Devils team hungry for a win after the buzzer beater loss in Chapel Hill.

After Kansas's big win against No. 1 Arizona, they will look to continue the streak on the road against No. 5 Iowa State. The Jayhawks handed the Cyclones their first loss of the season in January 84-63.

Kansas first-year guard Darryn Peterson did not play against Arizona on Feb. 9 and could make things harder for Kansas. Despite this, they are coming off a huge win and showed they can take on any opponent.

Arizona will host Texas Tech in a Big 12 matchup. This is the only meeting of the season between these two successful programs and should be a high-scoring game with these offenses.

After coming off their first loss of the season, the way Arizona responds will be crucial as we approach the biggest month in the college basketball season. Arizona also has two more ranked opponents following this matchup, and a slip-up here could hurt their March ranking.

The final top 25 matchup takes place in the home of the defending "chomps."

The Florida Gators will host Kentucky after the Wildcats season sweep against Tennessee. Florida has not been that national championship team they were last year, but they have shown they know how to fight, and it puts them in the top spot in the SEC. Kentucky is right behind them and can switch places with a win on the road.

As conference standings tighten, this week brings top seeded teams to the hardwood. Every possession is important as the clock winds down to March.

Love is in the air, but the tension on the court could not be higher.

Sports

Photo of the Day |



An artist holds up two portraits of UConn women's basketball players. The Huskies took on Butler at PeoplesBank Arena on Feb. 7, 2026, earning a victory of 80-48 versus the Bulldogs. PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

THE WEEKLY POWER PLAY:

INJURIES AND HOW THEY AFFECTED THE OLYMPICS

by **Nicole Caruso**
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For the first time in 12 years, NHL players are headed to the Olympics. With the roster for each country released in early January, injuries were inevitable.

Team USA

IN: Jackson LaCombe (Anaheim Ducks)

OUT: Seth Jones (Florida Panthers)

Jones has been a standout player for the Panthers this season with 24 points. The defenseman sustained an upper body injury, specifically a broken collarbone, in the Winter Classic game on Jan. 2 against the New York Rangers. Jones was placed on long-term injured reserve and shortly after withdrew from the Olympics. The Ducks alternative captain was named his replacement. LaCombe currently has six goals this season

and a career-high 31 assists.

Team Canada

IN: Seth Jarvis (Carolina Hurricanes)

OUT: Brayden Point (Tampa Bay Lightning)

Point sustained a lower-body injury on Jan. 12 against the Philadelphia Flyers where he was helped off the ice, favoring his knee. Days later he was placed on injured reserve and recently placed on long-term IR. Point's start to the season

has been slow, averaging just 30 points in 37 games for the Lightning. On the other hand, Jarvis has had an impressive season with the Hurricanes, averaging 25 goals and 18 assists in just 48 games this season.

Team Sweden

IN: Marcus Johansson (Minnesota Wild) and Hampus Lindholm (Boston Bruins)

OUT: Leo Carlsson (Anaheim Ducks) and Jonas Brodin (Minnesota Wild)

Carlsson underwent a procedure in the middle of January to his left thigh, putting him on injured reserve for 3-5 weeks. Anaheim's emerging star was set to lead the first line for team Sweden, but his injury caused Johansson to step in. Similar to Carlsson, Minnesota's Brodin underwent surgery for a lingering lower-body injury but is expected to return to the team prior to the end of the regular season. The defenseman is replaced in the Olympics by Hampus Lindholm of the Boston Bruins. Lindholm played for the national team before, winning gold at the 2018 world championship.

"I have some really good memories playing for the national team, obviously one world championship there, and anytime you put it on, doesn't matter what scenario, it's such a cool jersey, has so much history tied to it," Lindholm said in an interview with NHL.Com. "So, for any player -- we haven't had that many opportunities for Olympics either for me in my career so far -- it's going to be a great honor to go there."

Team Finland

IN: Joonas Korpisalo (Boston Bruins)

OUT: Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen (Buffalo Sabres)

Luukkonen sustained a lower-body injury during the Sabres win against Toronto on Jan. 27. The goaltender has a .899 save percentage across his career and has been a strong force in the net for the Sabres. Korpisalo is in a backup goaltender role for the Bruins with goaltender Jeremy Swayman starting in the majority of games. Despite this, the 29-year-old has an impressive track record so far with a .900 save percentage across his career. With Swayman representing team USA, both Boston goaltenders will be going up against each other for Gold.

The men's Olympic hockey tournament begins on Wednesday, Feb. 11 and will conclude on Feb. 22.

Fan can tune in to watch on streaming services such as Peacock and NBCOlympics.com.



A player of the Finnish men's hockey team scores a goal against the Swedish goal during a round of shootouts. Previously, NHL players were not allowed to compete in international matchups; the 2026 Winter Olympics mark their first time since 2014.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @RIZKI_ROBILLARD ON INSTAGRAM.



LOGO BY ALEXA PAPPAS, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WILKER'S WEEKLY:

PATRIOTS SUPER BOWL OVERVIEW

by **Graham Wilker**
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After a hard fought 14-3 regular season and three playoff wins, the New England Patriots faced off against the Seattle Seahawks in the Super Bowl on Sunday. While homers like me were holding out for a spectacular Drake Maye performance, what we saw was far from that. The Patriots were unable to score until the fourth quarter, and across the 10 drives prior to their first touchdown; they totaled just 78 yards, punting eight times and fumbling once. Five of those drives were three and outs. They turned the ball over three times in total, one of which was a pick-six.

The offensive line was a major culprit of the team's downfall. Will Campbell allowed 14 pressures, the most of any single player in the NFL in a game this season. Jared Wilson looked lost as well, with both rookies struggling immensely against Seattle's excellent defensive line. The backfield wasn't much of a supplement to the passing game, either. Rhamondre Stevenson and TreVeyon Henderson combined for 42 yards, and while New England was behind the entire game, the delta was just nine entering the fourth quarter. They easily could have continued to run the ball if it was bearing fruit for them. The pair had a combined 13 carries for 3.2 yards a pop.

The receiver group was as disappointing as they have been all playoffs. Stefon Diggs caught three balls for 37 yards in the

biggest game of his career, while Kayshon Boutte had one catch. Mack Hollins stepped up as a deep threat, but his efforts were too little too late. Pop Douglas had an okay day underneath, with five catches for 45 yards. It was as clear as ever that the bunch-of-WR3s gimmick New England has run over the past few years isn't an effective one. Hunter Henry and Austin Hooper had minimal contributions.

Defensively, the unit continued to show exactly why they're one of the league's best. Despite the Patriots offense having just 78 yards in the first three quarters, the defense continued to contain the Sam Darnold-led unit to just nine points in that time frame. They allowed only one touchdown, a pass to A.J. Barner. Across the playoffs, they allowed just two touchdowns.

While the unit struggled against the run more than usual in the game, there's no way to give them anything more than the utmost respect and praise. Christian Gonzalez's Super Bowl performance was one for the ages, as he didn't allow a single catch in man coverage against the Offensive Player of the Year, Jaxon Smith-Njigba.

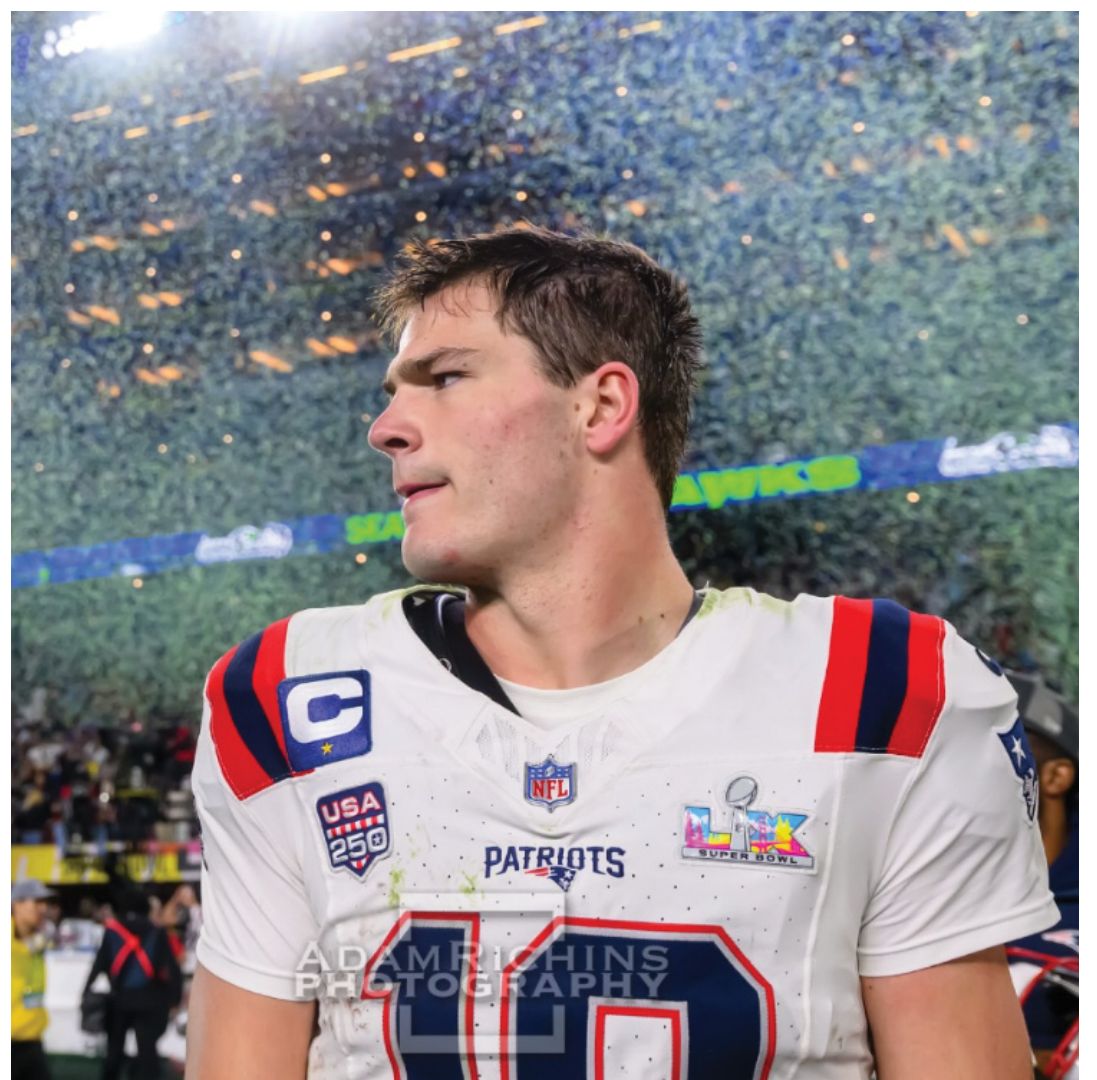
The offense throughout the playoffs was disappointing. Maye averaged three fewer completions and 51 fewer passing yards per game, while seeing a drop in completion rate of 13.7% compared to the regular season. Henderson's 40 carries totaled 66 yards; Diggs averaged 27.5 yards per game, and Hunter Henry wasn't much better

at 30.5 yards per game. There needs to be major improvements made to bolster the offense going into 2026 if the team wants a chance to repeat their feat of making it to the Super Bowl.

As disappointing as it is that

New England was unable to pull off the improbable, the team is well ahead of schedule. Going into the offseason, they rank 10th in effective cap space with 12 selections in the upcoming draft, all while having a super-

star quarterback on a rookie contract. While 2025 wasn't the year New England could claim their seventh Lombardi Trophy, they've put themselves in an excellent position going into the offseason.



Quarterback Drake Maye of the New England Patriots looks at the Seattle Seahawks' celebration following their win in Super Bowl LX, located at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara. The Seahawks beat the Patriots by a score of 29-13. PHOTO COURTESY OF @ADAMRICHINS PHOTO ON INSTAGRAM.

LOMBARDI LINEUP:

WHY ARE "G-LEAGUE DROPOUTS" PLAYING COLLEGE BASKETBALL?

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After a controversial few weeks with "G-League dropout" chants becoming commonplace in opposing student sections, Alabama center Charles Bediako has officially been ruled ineligible to continue playing in the NCAA as of Monday.

The 23-year-old played for the Crimson Tide from 2021 to 2023 before declaring early for the NBA draft. After going undrafted, he signed a two-way contract

with the San Antonio Spurs and played with their G League affiliate. His professional stint was short-lived, however, after a torn meniscus led to his release.

For most players, that would have marked the unfortunate end to their playing careers, but Bediako's story took a different, more complicated turn.

The groundwork for Bediako's attempted return to college hoops was laid in December 2025, when former 31st overall pick James Nnaji signed with Baylor University. He was granted four years of eligibility

since he never actually signed an NBA contract. Nnaji instead played overseas, primarily with FC Barcelona, before joining Baylor this year.

This decision was controversial by itself, with many believing it goes against the spirit of amateurism. However, Nnaji technically didn't violate the NCAA's bylaws that prohibits entering the draft after enrollment, since had not already attended any college.

Unlike Nnaji, Bediako had already played two seasons of college basketball and signed

an NBA contract. His situation was in clear violation of NCAA's definition of an amateur, yet he pursued the issue further.

After the NCAA denied his eligibility request, Bediako filed suit in a Tuscaloosa court, arguing that he was being unfairly treated compared to international players. Large NIL deals suddenly skyrocketed after his time in college, and he believed he was unfairly missing out on significant money because he left and could not return.

A judge granted him a temporary restraining order that allowed him to play for Alabama as the case was sorted out. His return immediately ignited outrage across the sport.

"The rule is pretty clear but it's very frustrating when somebody can go to court and get a decision and turn the whole thing on its head," said NCAA President Charlie Baker at the time.

Fast forward to today, and that temporary window was closed. Bediako's case was denied, ending his short-lived return to college basketball. Baker publicly supported this decision, stating, "Common sense won a round today."

While Alabama is taking the majority of the criticism, professional players returning to college are becoming more and more common.

Santa Clara guard Thierry Darlan, for example, is a similar case to Nnaji. He played for the G League Ignite instead of attending college and spent time playing for the 76ers' G League affiliate. Cases like this seem to be the true gray area: players who never attended college, trying to make the jump after briefly playing professionally.

And then there are players following in Bediako's footsteps, such as former UCLA and Charlotte Hornets guard Amari Bailey, who has played 10 games in the NBA. Bailey has been

visiting multiple Division 1 programs, claiming that he is working towards receiving eligibility for next season.

The NCAA has already stated that they will not allow Bailey to return to college since he has signed an NBA contract. This means that much like Bediako, his appeal will need to go through the courts. However, after Bediako's ultimate failure to stay in the NCAA, his denial may become the precedent for similar cases going forward.

The broader question remains, when will the line be drawn? As players receive more compensation and the difference between amateur and professional erodes, there needs to be a firm decision on when players, if at all, can return to college. While ultimately unsuccessful, Bediako's story shows that the courts can override the NCAA's bylaws, opening the door for similar cases to continue appearing as those who fail in the G League seek NIL contracts in college.

Allowing players who have signed NBA contracts could lead to significant changes in recruiting and roster construction going forward. These older players could be taking away spots that would be going to up-and-coming talents entering college the traditional way. If this were the case, we may see more players skip college and test the NBA waters first, then return if that fails. At this point, we aren't far away from a world where college basketball becomes more like a secondary G League rather than a celebration of amateurism.

Right now, though, the NCAA has already drawn a line, and the courts upheld it this time. Whether that continues to be the case in the coming years remains to be seen, but right now, college basketball fans can breathe a sigh of relief.



James Nnaji looks at the court during a game for the Charlotte Hornets. Nnaji currently plays for the Baylor Bears men's basketball team; however, he faced controversy for the time he spent in the NBA before the NCAA. PHOTO COURTESY OF @THEOPENCOURT ON INSTAGRAM.



Sports

Women's Basketball: Strong returns with Marjanović in attendance, No. 1 UConn cruises past Creighton 94-44

by Jake McCreven
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The top-ranked UConn women's basketball team's 32-point win over Butler last Saturday felt... gaudy - as though the Huskies were ready to go but never quite ready to get going.

Geno Auriemma, forced to watch an offense marred by turnovers and inconsistency, palmed his temples in between gazes down the bench at Sarah Strong, who missed the first game of her career due to tightness. Life without the superstar forward was destabilizing and frustrating.

"When she's not on the floor, there's a lot missing," Auriemma said. "Sometimes you put a player on the floor, and 'this' [one thing] is what they do. When you take somebody like Sarah off the floor, now you're missing a great shooter, a great post player, a terrific passer, another ball handler, maybe our best defender. So, one person out of the lineup is like losing three or four people out of the lineup."

Good thing he didn't have to live that excruciating reality again.

Strong, a late midseason and top 20 watch list candidate for the Wooden Award, returned Wednesday and starred in the Huskies' (26-0, 15-0) 94-44 squishing of Creighton (12-13, 8-8), posting 16 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists and a plus-26 +/- in 19 minutes.

"There definitely is a different feel with her on the court versus off the court," Azzi Fudd said. "We've been really fortunate to not have to experience off the court too much. When she's on the court, it's like a sense of peace harmony, like all things are right in the world."

She made up for lost time early, chipping in eight of the UConn's first 10 points, including a pair of contested 3-pointers, while also adding a forced turnover, block and an interception before the first quarter media timeout.



UConn women's basketball team playing a home game against the Creighton Blue Jays at Gampel Pavilion. The Huskies dominated the game, winning 94-44. PHOTOS BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

"Yeah," Auriemma admitted with a toothy grin, "I always miss her. So do the other players."

Strong had scored 12 of Connecticut's first 14 points by the time Auriemma pulled her in favor of Allie Ziebell, offset only by a Fudd elbow jumper on the second possession of the game.

Ziebell sank her first triple of the night only a minute after she was subbed in, breaking a 14-14 tie built on four Creighton 3-pointers.

It was the first make of her 20-point, five 3-pointer day on the wing. Ziebell poured on 17 second half points, highlighted by a 4-of-7 mark from 3, to finish as the team's leading scorer for the second time in four games.

"When somebody's not available to you," Auriemma said referring to Blanca Quiñonez's shoulder injury, "that's

really an opportunity for other people to say 'this is my shot'... [Ziebell] was a point guard in high school; she knows where the ball is supposed to go. She can shoot it like nobody else."

The young and relatively inexperienced Bluejays punched above their weight class for most of the first half, staying within single digits of the Huskies until the second quarter media timeout, when Fudd picked off a wayward pass and ran to the rim for an uncontested lay-in.

Creighton hit on four early 3-pointers and held the Huskies to a 4-of-11 start to begin the game, limiting UConn's second chance opportunities with a hardy effort on the defensive glass.

But it didn't last - Kayleigh Heckel made sure of it.

Heckel checked in at the 5:14 mark of the first quarter and swiped two steals on her first

three defensive possessions, stymieing the Bluejays' transition offense that had kept them afloat.

"Everybody talks about how many points they scored," Auriemma said of Heckel, Ziebell and Ashlynn Shade. "But for us, I want to evaluate these guys on what kind of impact they had on the game. Do they impact the game? Do we notice them defensively? Do we notice them making a play that doesn't show up on the stat sheet. I thought Allie, Heckel and Ash were exactly what we need them to be."

After four minutes on the bench, Heckel checked back in with three minutes remaining in the first half and sliced the Bluejay defense in half with a pair of powerful straight line drives. The sophomore scored seven points in two minutes, including a momentum-seizing and-1 that pushed the lead

to 20.

Heckel was one of five Huskies to finish in double figures, scoring 13 points on an efficient 6-of-10 shooting.

Connecticut flexed its lead from the 3-point line in the third quarter, thanks in part to a combined 15 points off five triples from Fudd, Ziebell and Shade. Fudd rattled off six points in 15 seconds to force a Creighton timeout early in the third quarter, which buried the 'Jays in a hole they wouldn't escape from.

Fudd finished with 19 points on 8-of-13 shooting, adding a trey of 3-pointers, four rebounds and four assists in 28 minutes.

"There are things we can get better at and there are some things that we're going to have to deal with," Auriemma said. "Play through it. Mask it a little bit. It's a constant process - trying to get better."

