

The Daily Campus



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UConn faculty paid family leave debate continues in CT Mirror Op Ed pages

by Sara Bedigian
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University of Connecticut faculty have expressed their frustration with university administrations over paid family leave policies.

UConn molecular and cell biology professor Sarah Hird published an op-ed in the CT Mirror on Oct. 21 stating that faculty “gets zero days of guaranteed paid family leave,” which warranted a response from University Spokesperson Stephanie Reitz rebutting the claim.

Hird said in the op-ed that while administrators and graduate students are guaranteed paid family leave, it is not guaranteed for professors. It is instead up to the discretion of each college at UConn, which has its own policies for paid family leave. Hird wants that effort to be guaranteed across all of UConn.

She summarized her difficult postpartum experiences and the challenge of teaching a class following the birth of her children, which could impact student learning. She said that if professors are guaranteed paid family leave, it could recruit and retain faculty, creating a stronger university.

“[Without guaranteed paid family leave,] we get worse educators in the classroom, less creative and less productive scientists in the lab, un-

reliable committee members and poor decision makers,” Hird said in the op-ed.

Reitz emphasized in her response on Oct. 24 that UConn is following all federal and state laws for its employees, which includes job-protected family and medical leave.

Reitz explained every tenured and tenured-track employee is entitled to six months of paid leave for their medical condition, along with clinical, in-residence and extension faculty with at least three years of UConn employment. She said that employees with qualifying medical conditions, including recovering from childbirth and other conditions like postpartum depression, would be granted six to eight weeks of paid leave. Tenured-track faculty are granted an additional year on their tenure clock if they have taken qualified family or medical leave as well.

For faculty not yet eligible for six months of paid leave, six to eight weeks is typically granted, she said.

“UConn is aware of no cases in which a faculty member or any other employee was expected to return to work only a short duration after giving birth,” Reitz said in the op-ed.

In a follow-up interview with Hird, she talked about her response to Reitz, which was published by UConn’s chapter of the American Association of University Professors, emphasizing how

good paid family leave policy should exceed “the bare legal minimum.”

Hird said while some faculty have six months of medical leave available to them, it does not include healthy post-partum mothers, fathers, non-birthing mothers and adoptive parents that are not experiencing a qualifying medical condition.

“Of course you follow the law, and that’s great, but the law has a very low bar for how to treat parents,” Hird said. “When we require excellence from students, staff, faculty... there’s no reason we can’t have excellence coming from the administration and from our policies as well.”

She explained how UConn College of Liberal Arts and Sciences used to have a better policy which released a professor from their teaching obligation during the semester in which the event occurs or the following academic year semester, while guaranteeing six to eight weeks of paid leave. This was taken away in January 2024.

This is not Hird’s first time advocating for better parental leave policies — she has been involved in the efforts for over two years.

In a letter addressed to administrators, which she co-wrote with 19 other women and was signed by over 200 people in 2023, she called for 12 weeks of paid parental leave following the birth or adoption of a child, to be standardized across all UConn colleges and schools.

“It is emotionally and physically draining to be a professor...you’re responsible for the education of between 10 and 300 young minds,” Hird said. “If you had asked me to be in front of a classroom at six weeks postpartum... it would not have been good for anybody.”

Following the letter, UConn released a new modified duties policy in January 2024 to standardize regulations. The policy allowed faculty to request out-of-classroom duties that could be more flexible as opposed to teaching.

Hird said the modified duties policy did not address anything stated in her letter and was warranted with further frustration.

This year, UConn AAUP asked for 16 weeks of paid parental leave at a press conference in February, where professors discussed their concerns with current leave policies, which vary by college, according to previous reporting by the Daily Campus.

State Senator Mae Flexer voiced her support at the conference and said it was wrong that public employees — which include UConn faculty — were not granted the same guarantee of paid family and medical leave compared to others.

Hird said since the press conference did not receive a response from the administration, she decided to write the op-ed to make noise.

“I’m frustrated they don’t seem to respond to anything,” she said. “And so I was very surprised when I saw that they had responded [to the op-ed], like I was shocked.”



Stephanie Reitz PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHANIE REITZ ON LINKEDIN



Sarah Hird PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH HIRD ON LINKEDIN



The Wilbur Cross building shines its golden dome over the University of Connecticut. The building offers services for student needs, all housed within one of the 47 buildings at UConn on the National Register of Historic Places.

PHOTO BY GONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR

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Banner No. 12 raised in top-ranked UConn’s 99-67 win over Florida State

WE ARE NOT THE DAILY DIGEST

News

IU NEWSPAPER ADVISOR SUES UNIVERSITY AFTER FIRING

by Mikayla Bunnell
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Former Indiana University Director of Student Media James Rodenbush has sued the university for wrongful termination after he was fired for not limiting the Oct. 16 issue of the Indiana Daily Student to only Homecoming content.

According to the complaint, which was filed on Oct. 30, Rodenbush said the school violated his First and 14th Amendment rights with the firing.

The IDS, previously a weekly paper, recently cut printing to just seven special edition issues a semester as a cost-cutting measure to reduce the paper's deficit, which in July 2024 was nearly \$1 million. The IU Media School wiped this debt, according to an IDS article, and implemented a Student

Media Plan to prevent another deficit from building. The plan included the "strategic reduction in the IDS print edition" as well as a consolidation of the school's three outlets, including WIUX Student Radio and Indiana University Student Television, into one multiplatform, "revenue-generating" network, the plan said.

According to Rodenbush's complaint, in the spring 2025 semester, Media School Associate Dean Galen Clavio said that university administrators were frustrated with the fact that the special editions printed news coverage. Administrators directed Rodenbush to tell the paper to stop publishing news, despite the paper being editorially independent from the university.

According to the complaint, "the IDS had been instructed to print only fluff pieces about IU's upcoming homecoming and no news" for their Oct. 16

edition.

"The Administration's guidance that the IDS restrict their content to propaganda about IU's football program and the appurtenant pageantry was an expectation," it said.

According to the complaint, at another meeting in September 2025, Rodenbush "told Clavio that he did not control what students published in the IDS" and said that telling the students what they could publish was the "definition of censorship."

The complaint said that in an October meeting, Rodenbush told administrators that he refused to dictate what the IDS could publish. Five days later, he was fired.

"Your lack of leadership and ability to work in alignment with the University's direction for the Student Media Plan is unacceptable," the termination letter from Media School Dean David Tolchinsky read. "As a

result, leadership has lost trust in your ability to lead and communicate appropriately on behalf of the University."

The IDS co-editors-in-chief Mila Hilkowitz and Andrew Miller asked the school to rescind the order, and the next day, IDS print publication was cut entirely.

In a letter to the IDS editors, Tolchinsky said that the printing cut was not due to the content of the newspaper.

"As you know, a personnel decision was made on our campus regarding a staff member engaged with the IDS," he wrote. "The juxtaposition of the personnel matter and the budget-related decision to pause printing of the IDS fueled a perception that editorial content drove the decision not to print. Let me be clear: my decision had nothing to do with editorial content of the IDS."

In his letter, Tolchinsky said

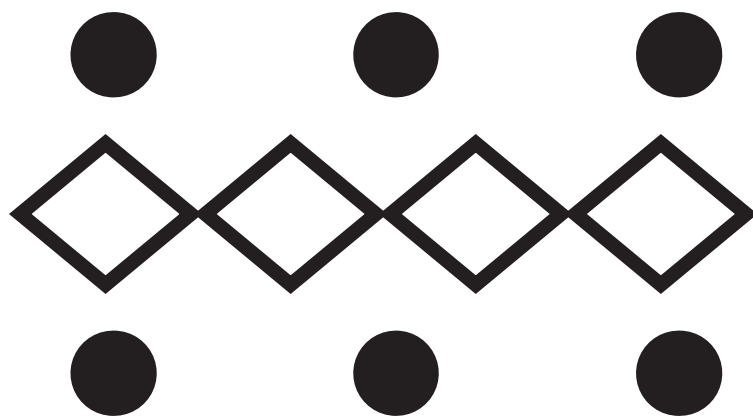
he was allowing IDS editors "to use their established budget through June 30, 2026, as the editors see fit — so long as they remain true to their budgetary parameters."

The paper can print what it wants until the end of June, when the Media School's Task Force on Editorial Independence and Financial Sustainability of Student Media (for which the composition has not yet been announced) can create a plan to uphold the university's values while addressing financial issues.

Rodenbush is seeking monetary compensation for "embarrassment, humiliation, emotional distress, and mental anguish," along with compensation for the "malicious conduct" of the school and repayment of his legal fees, with interest. He is looking to be fully reinstated to his position as director of student media at the university as well.



Indiana University Bloomington's campus on a sunny day. The university is currently being sued by James Rodenbush for wrongful termination. PHOTO COURTESY OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY



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THE DAILY CROSSWORD & DRUMSWAMP

- ACROSS**
- 1 ___ rug: small carpet
 - 5 "Cool!"
 - 10 St. Louis landmark
 - 14 Player's set of cards
 - 15 Peter of "The Maltese Falcon"
 - 16 Spotlight moment in a concert
 - 17 Superhero nemesis, often
 - 19 Antlered deer
 - 20 Radio, TV, newspapers, etc.
 - 21 RR stops
 - 23 Passports, e.g.
 - 24 Massive dark spots in outer space
 - 28 Tapioca source
 - 31 Brewery kilns
 - 34 Athletic gp. for the Blue Devils
 - 35 Egg cells
 - 37 "That is perfect!"
 - 38 Place for a "No Trespassing" sign
 - 42 Move to a different folder, e.g.
 - 43 Schoolyard game
 - 44 Suffix with percent
 - 45 Last Supper question from Judas
 - 46 Beards similar to Vandykes
 - 49 William S. Burroughs work
 - 53 Number of players in Connect Four
 - 55 New York canal
 - 56 Virtuous
 - 60 Partake of
 - 62 Unexpectedly enlightening, and what can be found at the starts of 17-, 24-, 38-, and 49-Across
 - 65 Celebrates birthdays
 - 66 Large member of the violin family
 - 67 Dollop
 - 68 Swollen mark
 - 69 Swap
 - 70 Email folder

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												67		
68												70		

By Michael Hobin

11/10/25

- 6 Lithium-___ battery
- 7 Pat down at a security checkpoint
- 8 Verified fact
- 9 Binary type of question
- 10 Donkey
- 11 One that takes turns making dinner?
- 12 Dressed (in)
- 13 Leaves none for others
- 18 Fundraising fete
- 22 Sailboat with one mast
- 25 "Let's put it to ___". "Show of hands"
- 26 Spelunking site
- 27 Roof projection
- 28 ___ pants: calf-length garment
- 29 Agricultural measures
- 30 Work of fiction considered for a Hugo or Nebula Award
- 32 Book name
- 33 Eyelid sores
- 36 Tending (to)
- 37 Enter one's user name and password
- 39 "La Dolce ___"

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

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

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- 40 Similar
- 41 Prego competitor
- 47 Maker of rocket-powered roller skates, in cartoons
- 48 Suits found on many a beach bum?
- 50 Not hunched over
- 51 Renovation project enthusiast, casually
- 52 "Futurama" captain with one eye and purple hair
- 53 Spring melt
- 54 Salary
- 57 Agitate
- 58 Short story writer?
- 59 Pride parade inits.
- 61 Ballpark fig.
- 63 Having celebrated many birthdays
- 64 American writer Edgar Allan ___

Level **1** 2 3 4

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

SUDOKU

Solution to Saturday's puzzle

11/10/25

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

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

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Life

ZOSO: The Ultimate Led Zeppelin Experience

Rocks UConn

by Maleena Muzio

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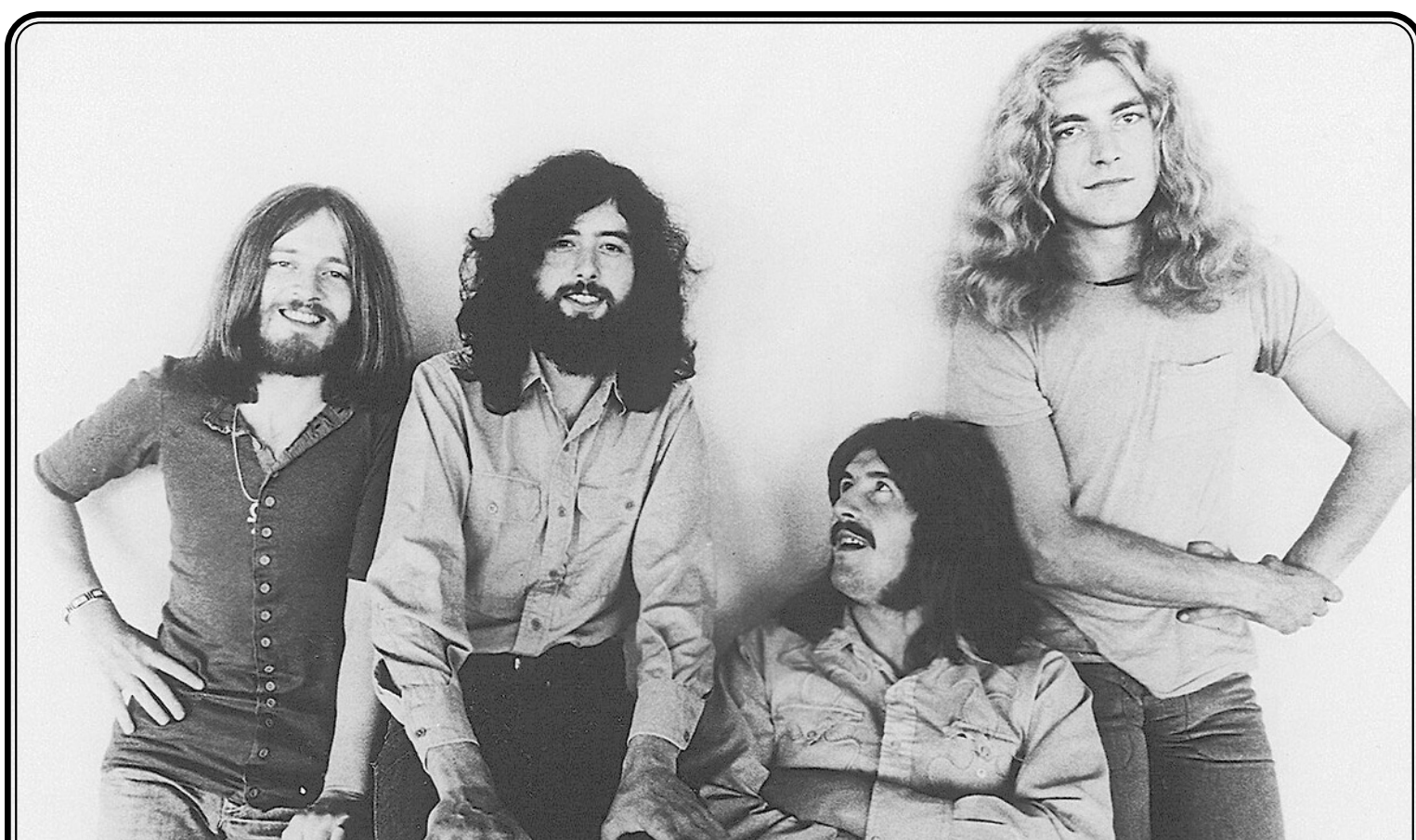
Powerful vocals and hypnotic instrumentals came together as one on stage as Zoso, a popular Led Zeppelin tribute band, rock and rolled its way to the University of Connecticut on Saturday, Nov. 8.

Zoso: The Ultimate Led Zeppelin Experience performed a vibrant set at the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts, celebrating their 30th Anniversary Tour and paying homage to the infamous classic rock band Led Zeppelin. The performance was one of many coinciding with Jorgensen's "Eight Days a Week: An Illustrated Record of Rock 'n' Roll" exhibit, celebrating the 70th anniversary of the birth of rock music.

The concert was an exhilarating experience for those who were never able to witness Zeppelin live in the 1970s, and for audience members who saw the original band and were granted the chance to reminisce on their youth.

"Zoso definitely has their songs and performance down really well," Peter Medved, an audience member and East Hampton local, said. "I think they did great. I'd like to see them again."

The set consisted of 17 of Zeppelin's most loved songs. Ranging from full production songs to the acoustic hit "Going to California," the list provided variety and contrast to audience members, showcasing each of the band members' talents. Before performing "Going to California," Matt Jernigan, the lead singer of the band, explained that he began the band with Adam Sandling, the bassist and multi-instrument musician, in California in the early 1990s.



Led Zeppelin posing for a photo of their band. The group made many songs over the span of their careers, many of them topping the charts.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Songs from popular albums, like "Zeppelin" I through IV, "Houses of the Holy" and "Physical Graffiti" were performed and replicated down to the mannerisms of the front men of the band.

Zoso put in effort to showcase difficult songs, like "Ten Years Gone," which is better suited for the studio, however, was adapted for live performances with Sandling successfully playing two instruments simultaneously.

"My favorite [to perform] is probably "Ten Years Gone,"

Holston Rainero, the guitarist of Zoso, said. "It's really impressive to pull off live."

Rainero is the youngest and newest member of the band, joining the rest of the crew in early 2025.

"I really liked the young kid [Rainero]," Tammy Medved, an audience member, said. "He was awesome."

Rainero's skills were demonstrated throughout the night and stood out during the mesmerizing rendition of "Since I've Been Loving You." As a longtime Zeppelin fan, that was my personal

favorite song of the show.

Other standouts were "Moby Dick," the relentless drum solo recreated by Bevan Davies, the popular hit "Kashmir," and "Stairway to Heaven," where Jernigan's vocals and mannerisms channeled Robert Plant perfectly.

Sandling noted "The Rain Song" as his favorite to perform. "It's just beautiful," he said.

Despite many audience members being older than the typical concert crowd, there was enthusiasm and excitement in the room, with people singing

along to songs, such as "Whole Lotta Love," as part of the band's energetic encore. Both Peter and Tammy Medved shared that they enjoyed "Whole Lotta Love."

Peter Medved has seen multiple Zeppelin tribute and cover bands and said, "Zoso was right there with them."

Zoso put on a thrilling show at UConn, reviving the iconic Led Zeppelin. The band demonstrated the power of live music to younger generations and ignited nostalgia in the older portion of the crowd.

DANNY BROWN CELEBRATES ANOTHER PART OF HIS HEALING JOURNEY WITH 'STARDUST'

by Bonnilil Lilith Rampertab

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Danny Brown, the 44-year-old rapper from Detroit known for his distinct squawking rapping voice, has been through a lot. He has been incredibly candid about his struggles with drug addiction and mental illness in his projects such as "XXX" and especially the experimental rap drug addiction PSA from 2016 "Atrocity Exhibition."

Brown, called "Uncle Danny" by his fans, is a versatile rapper not only lyrically, but sonically, and is always willing to experiment and try new sounds. For example, he rapped on dubstep beats on the second half of his 2013 project, "Old." This interest in electronic music has only grown with his time on the Internet and being surrounded by a ton of different artists.

As a huge and vocal fan of hyperpop music, collaborating with acts such as femtanyl, Jane Remover and Quadecca, it was inevitable for Brown to try his own hand at the genre in his own way while platforming hyperpop artists. This coalesced into Nov. 7's "Stardust," which features occasional poetry by Angel from electronic duo Frost Children.

The album begins with the extremely introspective and atmospheric "Book of Daniel," with production and outro vocals by Quadecca. In the song, he shouts out past collaborators Kendrick Lamar and Earl Sweatshirt and says they're the actual big three of rap. There's also the extremely relieving line, "Sleeping real good at night 'cause I'm proud of myself / Say a prayer when I wake up because that rehab helped." Furthermore, he reassures the audience at the end, "Believe in yourself, and don't have a



Danny Brown's newest album, "Stardust." It features Quadecca, Jane Remover, Underscores, and more.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DANNY BROWN ON BANDCAMP

care in the world about what anybody think." This song was likely cathartic for everyone involved and it's utterly inspiring to hear Danny spreading positivity the way he is with his pen and knowledge of himself and the world.

This gets dampened by the obnoxious and comparatively less profound "Starburst." The first half of the beat is one of the worst on the entire project for how generic it sounds, but it's passable. The second half is more interesting and encapsulates the chaos of Brown's lyricism. It was a mistake to place

this song right after one of the most profound songs of his entire career, which is a recurring issue with this album.

"Copycats" with hyperpop artist Underscores is an appropriate apology for the previous song. It's a bouncy and energetic song about reveling in success and making fun of shallow fame-seeking people who steal others' style. Her vocals are a great contrast to the abrasiveness of Brown's voice; The "ugh" exclamations by Brown were an excellent stylistic choice as well.

"1999" is where things get

extremely experimental and morbidly existential. Featuring experimental electronic artist JOHNNASCUS, known for his chaotic screaming vocals, both artists share a theory that the world ended in 1999. The highlight of the song beyond the glitchy noise instrumental that sounds amazing with Brown's voice on it is the third verse by JOHNNASCUS where he hypothetically people-watches an entire lifespan. Again, this shouldn't have been placed where it was, especially after a poppy song like "Copycats," but for those who enjoy abrasive

sonic profiles, this is for you.

"Green Light," featuring electronic and hyperpop duo Frost Children, sounds like it was produced by the influential Swedish cloud rap collective Drain Gang with the melody and usage of subtle sub-bass.

"What You See," like "Book of Daniel," is a super confessional and honest song about Brown's experiences with the intersections between love, romance and sex, both growing up and as an adult with a more subdued voice and also featuring Quadecca. He opens up to having commitment issues.

"Whatever The Case" features an amazing verse by ISS-BROKIE, who outraps Brown on his own song with an aggressive flow reminiscent of old Nicki Minaj with some clever lyrics like "I put a stake through they neck, now I'm lookin' like Buffy" and "Quit hatin', boy, come out the closet."

"The End" is Brown's longest song by far and one of his best with its three-part beat of atmospheric piano over breakcore drums, more breakcore and then acoustic guitar playing. The lyrics in Ukrainian and Polish by ta Ukrainka feels like communications straight to Danny and feels incredibly heartfelt.

"All4U," featuring production by hyperpop artist Jane Remover, feels like Danny directly rapping to the audience about his experiences and trying to give his listeners hope, especially with the lyrics "Devil in the rear view, I still hear you / I'ma keep goin' 'til my life is over."

Regardless of terrible curation, hearing Brown with a more positive mindset is incredibly empowering for those who have followed him during his lowest times. Maybe this is campy, but Uncle Danny is living proof that changing and healing is possible.

Rating: 3.75/5

UConn's ELEVATE Brings Y2K Back in Style

by **Ky'Lynn Monts**
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The University of Connecticut's Fashion Society brought early 2000s nostalgia back to campus on Friday, Nov. 7 with their fashion show, ELEVATE, a Y2K-inspired fashion show turning the Student Union Ballroom into a runway full of confidence and creativity. From 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., the ballroom radiated with energy as students showcased their looks to a mix of throwback hits and new school anthems.

The show's theme, ELEVATE, was not only about fashion, but also about community. During intermission, audience members were invited to walk the runway themselves, showing off their clothes, radiating their confidence as audience members cheered and recorded from the crowd. The show featured a range of both student and independent designers, each bringing their own spoon to the runway.

The night opened up with the first designer lookbook from Royal Lifestyle, a streetwear brand founded in 2017 bringing their own unique swag to the stage. Their collection embodied the message behind ELEVATE, empowerment through expression.

"I love seeing people wearing my stuff, I love seeing how they transform when they put the clothes on like a sheet of confidence" said by Jei, co-founder of Royal Lifestyle.

The brand's segment set the tone for the rest of the night, illustrating that fashion is more than just the clothes, but also confidence and creativity.

Between fashion segments, UConn's Encore Club brought dance and stepped to the runway performing to hits like "Poison" by Bell Biv DeVoe and "Promiscuous" by Nelly Furtado. Later, New York artist Nia Sade took the stage, performing a soulful set adding new rhythm to the night and giving the event a true fashion show feel.

Next came Vision Aquarius, a brand that blended futurism with street influence. Models walked out to Tyler, The Creator's "Stop Playing With Me," matching the brand's bold colors that radiated attitude.

"I don't work with a lookbook, I look at the models and try to figure out their aesthetic, and whatever pieces I make I try to fit to their aesthetic," said Santana, the designer of Vision Aquarius. Vision Aquarius proved that the best fashion isn't about the following of trends, but rather the following of people, celebrating who they are in every color and stitch.

Closing out the night, models reputed to the runway displaying collective designs that captured the show's spirit. Each look tells its own story blending self-expression with creativity.

"I feel like this event was very successful," said Fashion Society President Alexander Vereen Jr. "I feel like there was a lot of hard work put in, we dedicated a lot of time and it came out great"

As the lights dimmed and the music faded, the energy stayed, attesting to the fact that style on campus is not just about what you wear, but how you carry yourself. UConn Fashion Society did not just showcase fashion; rather, it celebrated community, confidence and creativity.

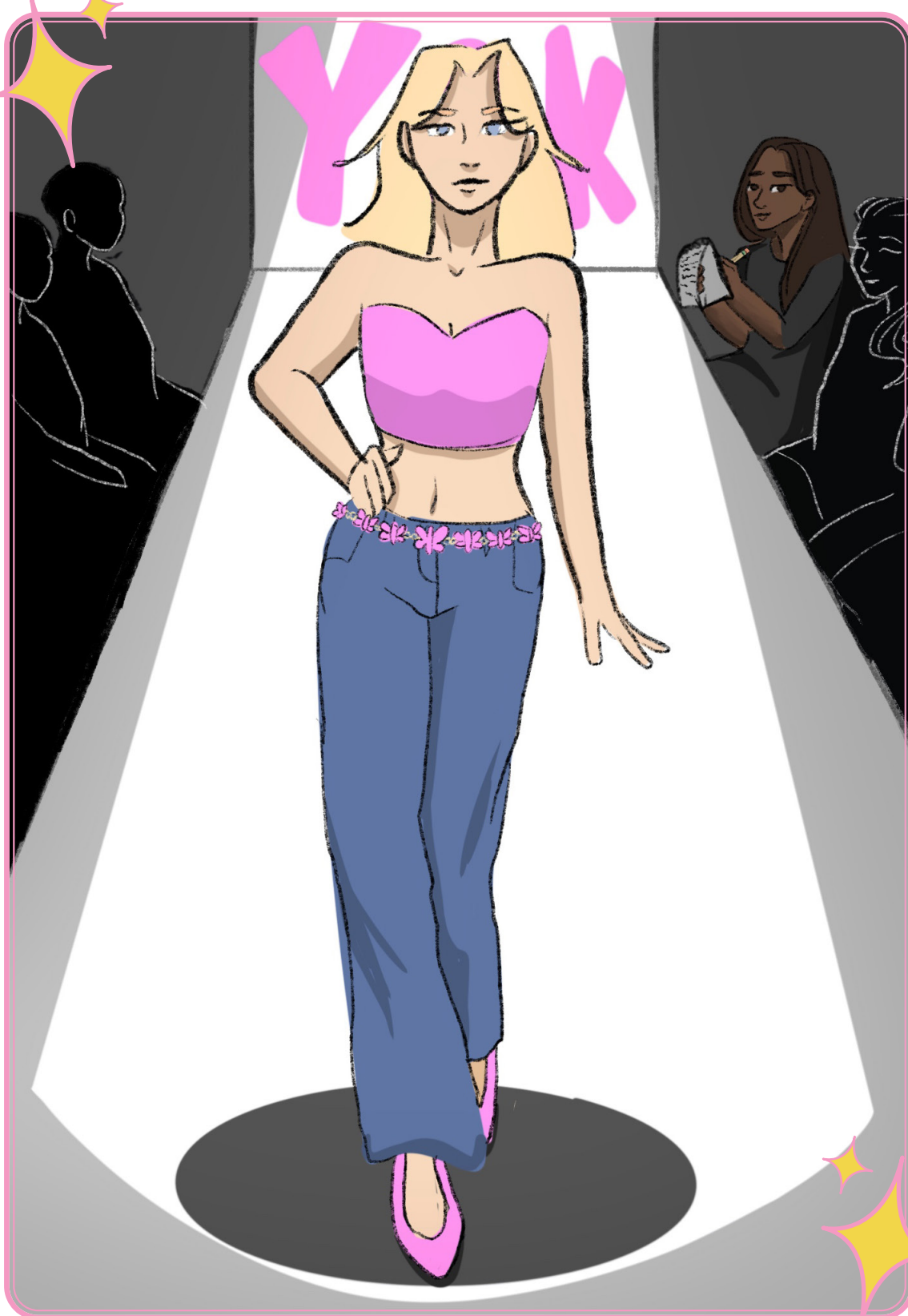


ILLUSTRATION BY RHIANNON WALLACE, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

A Night of Bonding with Painting and Cultural Questions

by **Elijah Polance**
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With Thanksgiving break, the last respite before finals, still weeks away, students at the University of Connecticut might have trouble finding ways to minimize stress. But for those struggling, what better way to soothe the nerves than a mini-game show and a night of painting with friends?

STEM Scholars, an Honors community at UConn, hosted a "DEI Paint Night" on Thursday, Nov. 6. Over 20 students gathered at the Gentry building for an hour filled with bonding activities and plenty of painting.

Members of STEM Scholars began by explaining what Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) is and why it is important. They emphasized fostering community, helping understand one another and creativity as some of the biggest benefits.

The attendees were divided into groups for a brief game. The STEM Scholars gave a category, and each group had to try naming something that belonged to it for each letter of the alphabet. The first round focused on countries and was followed by languages, food and holidays.

There were no prizes for getting the most names down, but a 90-second time limit kept things tense. After each round, the STEM Scholars posed some questions for the groups about the different cultures that



ILLUSTRATION BY COSETTE ELLIS, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

might have been represented in their answers.

Morgan Bentley, a seventh-semester psychology major and one of the STEM Scholars leading the event, said the DEI component was helpful to

implement. She said the paint night has become an annual occurrence because of its success.

"We added the DEI portion of it to make it a little bit more engaging so people will communicate with each other [and]

problem solve," Bentley said. "We could also make it an Honors event, which is really nice, and we did have some here for that purpose in addition to the STEM Scholar community."

After the game segment, the

painting portion of the night began. Each student was given a canvas along with a variety of paint colors and brush types to choose from. Students talked amongst themselves about what they were painting, creating a lighthearted atmosphere.

The attendees produced a variety of work. Some students focused on nature scenes with flowers, trees, turtles and skies; others went more abstract, blending colors in unexpected patterns. One student even illustrated a mini-Sponge-Bob scene.

Yelsi Vega, a first-semester mechanical engineering student, painted a red flower with a warm-colored sky gradient behind it. She said she was impressed by the painting materials available at the event.

"There were a lot of options; I don't usually see that," Vega said. "There was even some Spanish paint that we could do ombre with."

Ryan Krishna, a fifth-semester student pursuing an individualized major on the neuroscience of language, along with English, made an abstract painting with different shades of blue and glow-in-the-dark paint. He said he had lots of fun naming things for certain topics during the game portion but was not as invested in other categories.

"I really enjoyed the geography and the painting, especially with the diverse selection of blues," Krishna said. "It was fascinating to see others' artworks and getting to share my work with others."



Life

Coffee and Creativity at the Benton Museum's First Thursday

by **Eva Nyquist**
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The Benton Museum welcomed students to its First Thursday Open House event on Thursday, Nov. 6. The event ran from 4:30 to 7 p.m. and was the Benton's second open house event of the fall semester. The museum worked in collaboration with Student Health and Wellness, WHUS Radio, SUBOG, the Homer Babbidge Library and The Beanery to bring unique activities to attendees, including music, books and free drinks.

Activities were split between the building's two floors; SUBOG's Open Mic event took place downstairs in The Beanery, while SHaW, WHUS's live DJ, the library's book stand and the Benton's craft night all resided upstairs in the east galleries.

SUBOG's Open Mic was a standout hit among attendees. Students could sign up to perform both covers and original works, and participants' stunning vocals and exceptional guitar skills captivated an impressively large audience. Many performances were followed by raucous applause and eager demands for "one more song!"

"We've been doing this event for a few years, and it keeps developing each year into something new," said Kaitlyn Nigborowicz, the concert chair of SUBOG's concert committee. "I think the partnership really helps because more people come in and stay and participate. I liked the relaxed atmosphere that allows people to come, do homework and watch the per-

formances. It's evolved into an established event, which I really like."

Attendees were able to enjoy free drinks and baked goods from The Beanery while watching.

Heading upstairs, attendees could explore the museum's galleries and partake in activities scattered throughout. In contrast to the lively atmosphere below, the upstairs galleries were quiet, inviting contemplation of the striking pieces of art.

One activity offered was an optional scavenger hunt, which required attendees to find around 20 items within the exhibitions based on one-to-three-word descriptions. While there was no reward for the hunt, it encouraged students to engage more deeply in the art, as finding all items required careful observation of each piece.

Also enjoying the innovative art were SHaW therapy dogs Maui and Andy, who sat among the exhibits and received many loving pets from students and families.

Craft tables were set up in the final gallery room as well as the library booth, which offered a collection of fiction books from Homer Babbidge to borrow, and the live DJ from WHUS, who played an assortment of calming classical tunes to immerse audiences in the artsy feel of the Benton.

At the tables, attendees could color (or decorate with pom-poms or feathers) custom illustrations of tarot cards, drawn by students currently enrolled in Christina Corey's Topics in Illustration class. These illustrations were inspired by the



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEXA PAPPAS, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

exhibition "Fate and Magic: The Art of Maureen McCabe." There were several illustrations to choose from, each with a unique, thought-provoking subject like a grandiose tree lifting the world, a mystical dragon conquering a temple or a magical woman.

If there's one thing the Benton excels at, it's uniting the UConn student body in a safe, comfortable environment. The

craft room provided a space for diverse expressions of creativity and reflection on the exhibitions, but also a tranquil place to connect with peers and unwind. As students sat and meticulously colored these intricate designs, they chatted among themselves and shared their art.

"I always enjoy coming to the Benton events," said Anabelle Redline, a third-semester design

and technical theatre student. "It gives me a chance to do some fun and creative activities during a busy week."

Attendees were able to collect a complementary Benton pencil and sticker. The museum store also offered a 20% discount on all other merchandise.

The Benton's next First Thursday Open House will be on Thursday, Dec. 4.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

THE WRECK OF THE EDMUND FITZGERALD

by **Isabella Kulawik**
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50 years ago today marks the wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald, which is infamous for its mystery and notoriety from the Gordon Lightfoot ballad that so many know today. These past few weeks, memes about the treacherous Gales of November have flooded Instagram and TikTok's For You Pages. So naturally for "This Week in History," I thought I would contribute to the conversation. Though all the memes and jokes have kept the memory alive, I can't help but feel that we've "lost the plot" so to speak. 29 men lost their lives that night, joining the 6,000 ships lost to the depths of Lake Superior. Ultimately, the loss of the Edmund Fitzgerald heralded a new era of maritime safety and regulation. Since 1975, no commercial ships have sunk in Lake Superior, showing that perhaps the tragedy was not in vain.

The Edmund Fitzgerald was a mighty ship at 729 feet long.



The SS Edmund Fitzgerald, an American Great Lakes freighter that sank in Lake Superior in a storm. The boat went under on Nov. 10, 1975, killing the entire crew of 29 people.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

It was known as the greatest ship on the Great Lakes during its launch in 1958. The ship was named after the CEO of Northwestern Mutual Insurance, who had commissioned the ship, and during its christening Fitzgerald's wife Elizabeth had attempted to break the bottle of champagne two times before it finally gave way. Shortly after, they had some difficulty releasing the ship; it ended up sliding into the water sideways, sending a giant wave toward the crowd of 10,000 spectators. One man had a heart attack from the shock and passed away. Superstition and maritime culture go hand in hand. When I visited Croatia just last summer, I spoke to some local sea sponge divers who believed it was bad luck for women to be on ships. Some say that this inauspicious christening may have paved the way for the ship's untimely end 17 years later.

The Great Lakes were

known for their October and November storms. When the Fitzgerald went out that night, however, they weren't expecting the conditions they faced. The storm was said to travel south, causing rough conditions, though not impassable, but that ended up not being the case. As the barometer dropped and the winds picked up speed, the Fitzgerald and the other freight ship nearby, the Anderson, headed to a northern course in Lake Superior so they could be protected by the Canadian Shore. Weather conditions continued to deteriorate accompanied by 12-to-16-foot waves. The Anderson watched as the Fitzgerald approached too close to a shallow area near Caribou Island, where the waves would be even stronger. Throughout the night the Fitzgerald kept in contact with the Anderson, informing them that they had been taking on water and were facing problems and asking

them to remain close by during the storm.

In a 1993 interview, Captain Jesse Cooper of the Anderson recalls his last interactions over the radio with Captain Ernest McSorley of the Fitzgerald. The last he heard from McSorley was that "they were holding their own." After that, silence, no mayday or call of distress. The snow continued to block visibility, and the lights from the ship went out.

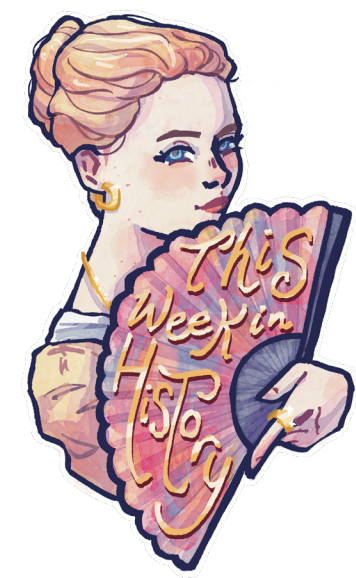
After losing sight of the Fitzgerald, Cooper began communicating with the Coast Guard. Concerned for the ship and the crew, the Anderson crew even risked their own lives to help aid in the search. The Fitzgerald's lifeboats had not been deployed, and they were unable to find any of the crew amidst the wreckage. To this day exactly how the ship sank is still a mystery. Perhaps that's why the legend continues on.

Gordon Lightfoot, as a Great

Lakes sailor himself, felt a connection to the tragedy. He sought to write the ballad to honor these men and their families and was surprised when the song reached the top of the charts in 1976. Each year, the Great Lakes Maritime Academy rings the Fitzgerald bell 30 times to commemorate those lost to the lake; the year Lightfoot passed, they rang it a 31st time.

Today, the Fitzgerald lives on in our hearts, perhaps in a way that was not expected. I simply ask that, within all the memes of "Edmund Fitzgerald November," we remember the 29 men who lost their lives and eventually put a stop to the deaths occurring on commercial shipping routes in the Great Lakes.

"The legend lives on from the Chippewa on down of the big lake, they call Gitche Gumee. Superior, they said, never gives up her dead when the gales of November come early."



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



Opinion

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WHY MARATHONS BUILD COMMUNITY

by **Amber Greene**
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Between the months of September and November, millions of people around the world run 26.2 miles during the marathon season. I could never conceptualize running for such a large amount of time; however, people of all ages, backgrounds and physical abilities do it and most shockingly enjoy doing it. This is a feat that is impressive for several reasons, but there is a lot more that can be taken from the famous races run during this season; marathons also build a strong sense of community.

The New York Marathon took place last Sunday, and watching the runners during the race reaffirmed my admiration. This specific course takes runners through all five boroughs to several famous landmarks. The race itself has a competitive lottery system that those hoping to run enroll in. People find out their status six months prior to the race date in early November, and only about 2% of applicants are accepted. The people who apply know that there is a low chance of getting in, but still go into it with full force.

Those who finish in a quick few hours have a drive behind them that is respectable, but it is even more fulfilling to see the final racers cross the finish

line and to hear their stories. Watching the group of spectators who waited until midnight this year to cheer on the final finishers adds another level to how uplifting a race can be even for those who don't win. In the New York Marathon this year, these finishers included a married couple and a stroke survivor. But the most inspiring story was that of the final racer, Juan Pablo Dos Santos — an amputee. Dos Santos lost his legs in an accident in 2019 and when he was given the chance to walk again, he set a goal to finish the New York Marathon. He pushed himself by training with swimming and strength training before he was accepted into the 2025 marathon. When he crossed the finish line, he was met with a ribbon and a crowd of people cheering him on. This is just one story that shows the dedication of all runners, especially those who run for a purpose.

Many people run for other purposes, including charity. For the Chicago Marathon, which also takes place in the fall, those who register with a charity are required to raise at least \$2,200 for their organization. Due to this policy, in 2024 this marathon raised \$36 million for charity, and in its 23-year history, they have raised over \$300 million in total. People giving their all to run such a far distance for people who

cannot do so, or to promote their charitable organizations, reveals a selflessness that a lot more people should have.

No one can just wake up and decide they want to run a marathon, but for those who push through the cold winter months and mental blocks, it is a huge accomplishment. And celebrating that accomplishment is an important part of the process. It is the people who cheer on the runners that make the race worth it. Seeing a city show up for others in their community annually, from early in the morning to late at night, fosters connections that are now very rare to come by. The world feels a lot less connected than it has ever been, but a marathon is a setting where people must all be together. It promotes families supporting their loved ones and strangers supporting people they would never come in contact with otherwise. People are there for each other through creative signs, music and providing the occasional pack of candy.

For those of us who don't run often, supporting those who do is the next best thing. Even if it isn't a huge race in a big city, look for those in your own area, just to be in that atmosphere. A lot can be learned and shared as an onlooker. I urge everyone to get the positivity that comes out of marathons and build the community that we all need.



Celebrities after completing the NYC 2025 marathon. This event is hosted for runners to compete and for funds to be raised for charities! PHOTOS COURTESY OF @NYCMARATHON ON INSTAGRAM

DAILY CAMPUS COMIC

BY CHRISTIAN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST

Lydia and the winter coat



Opinion

Photo of the Day | Cheering towards the end of a semester



UConn students at the men's basketball game on Friday Nov. 7, 2025. Students cheered from their section at People's Bank Arena in Hartford, Conn.

Representation should be more than mere presence

by Isaac Grad
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It's generally widely understood that representation is important. It's helpful for everyone to watch a movie or show and feel understood and seen; to relate to at least one character. For many, this can be the difference between feeling completely alone and finding self-acceptance. However, we seem to be in an era of

surface level representation. Just about everyone can find an example of someone who is like them in media, but these examples aren't as in depth as the characters with more mainstream identities. This doesn't mean that characters with marginalized identities have to be perfect; in fact, they should most certainly not be perfect, as nobody can relate to a perfect character, nor are they generally very likable.

Creators' ideas of repre-

sentation have gone through a number of phases. We've seen the presence of a minority character alone, generally as a stereotype of that group and almost never as a main character. We've seen minority characters as protagonists, but as near perfect protagonists, thus making them boring and uninteresting. We have, of course, seen media wherein the marginalized characters do nothing but suffer, in an attempt to address the hardships that people of marginalized identities face.

If I can name all of the failed attempts at representation, surely I can name when it's successful. In fact, I can! For example, the series House M.D., which began in 2004, somehow nails representation. It isn't the only one of its kind of course, but it happens to be a series that both intentionally and possibly unintentionally nailed representing a whole spectrum of identities. One intentional representation is clearly that of someone with a physical disability, in the main character and protagonist Gregory House. What was done well here is that his character is incredibly well-thought out and thus far from surface level. His character, problems and life don't revolve exclusively around his disability, but we see how it heavily impacts all of those things. Plus, though I disagree, most will tell you that House is not perfect and is in fact incred-

ibly flawed, which allows for more realistic representation.

One example of possibly unintentional representation in House M.D. is relationships between men. While there are instances of background characters in the show who are explicitly stated to be gay, as well as Remy "13" Hadley, a main character introduced in season four who's bisexual, the core relationship of the show is between Wilson and House. Their relationship is never explicitly stated to be romantic, and they both have romantic relationships with women (though all of these fail spectacularly). As any Hilson shipper will tell you, there are countless instances implying romantic feelings between the pair. I personally don't care if there are romantic or sexual feelings between the two; to me the point is that their relationship is the core one. Through them we're able to see proof that two men can live together, care for one another, and have a lifelong, stable relationship full of love and attention despite their many flaws (they're perfect, they have none). That, in my opinion, is quality representation for a group that doesn't have an excess of that; the representation that does exist for gay men is often stereotyped or focused exclusively on how it's gay love, rather than just how it's love.

At no point are any of the characters in House reduced

to their marginalized identity alone. House is never treated as solely someone with a disability. Wilson, Cuddy and Taub are never treated as though being Jewish is their only personality trait, Foreman's issues and personality don't revolve around him being black and 13's bisexuality isn't treated as the most interesting thing about her. Along with that, in the era of House M.D., one wouldn't be surprised by any means if a bisexual character was placed in exclusively heterosexual relationships. However, 13 is shown to be in a number of relationships with women, even getting a happy ending with her girlfriend, something incredibly rare to see in media even now. While there were plenty of identities treated with a less-than-desirable amount of respect in the series, there are many examples that can be pulled from to the present day to create more well-rounded, realistic and interesting representations for marginalized identities.

It's more than possible to create characters that provide positive representation for people of all identities, as shown in shows like House M.D. When given the proper time, attention and thought, marginalized and minority groups can be properly represented in media, offering people who often already feel alienated and misunderstood an opportunity to feel seen.



PHOTO BY SAM HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

COMIC BY COSETTE ELLIS
STAFF ARTIST



FOOTBALL: PARHAM'S FUMBLE RECOVERY SECURES 37-34 UPSET WIN OVER DUKE

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Just when people say, “You can’t” — you can (hat tip to Jim Nantz). UConn football (7-3) stays on the right track with a 37-34 upset win over the Duke Blue Devils (5-4, 4-1 ACC) on Saturday.

In front of a crowd of 38,106, the largest crowd at a UConn home game since No. 15 Michigan came to East Hartford in 2013, the Huskies’ two-minute defense was superb for the first time this season.

“I think if we hadn’t had the failures that we had in the two-minute drives early in the year, maybe we wouldn’t have had the success that we had tonight,” UConn head coach Jim Mora said after the game. “I know that sounds really strange, but there was a calmness and a confidence to the defense tonight that I think was born from those experiences that they had, and they were able to get it done at the end.”

Duke had a chance to tie the game with a field goal and send the game into overtime, where UConn has not had much success. However, the two-minute defense came up massively with Bryun Parham forcing a strip sack on Duke quarterback Darian Mensah, which was recovered by Trent Jones to seal the game for the Huskies.

“I had to go make the play to win the game,” Parham said. “Man, this is surreal. I always wanted to make a play like that, and I finally did it.”

To close out the first half, Connecticut’s defense looked poised in a two-minute drill. Devin Pringle picked Mensah off with 1:10 remaining in the second quarter, which set up a crucial field goal made by Chris Freeman from 45 yards out. With 51



The University of Connecticut football team defeats Duke 37-34 on Nov. 8, 2025. UConn fans celebrated the win by rushing the field after the nail biter game. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

seconds left in the half, the Blue Devils could not move the sticks as the Huskies’ defense forced a three-and-out to head into the locker room with a 20-14 lead.

Skyler Bell had another historic day, eclipsing 1,000 receiving yards on the season while also finding the end zone twice for 13 on the season. The latter is the new program record in a single season. Despite the whole stadium knowing the ball is going primarily to Bell, he showed out on Saturday with a stat line of 11 receptions for 87 yards, including those two house calls.

“That’s what the great ones do,” Bell said. “If you’re great, they’re going to try to find ways to stop you. So, you’ve got to find ways to not let them stop you.”

In addition to Bell’s historic day, Reymello Murphy had the best performance of his career. Despite not scoring a touchdown, the former Arizona Wildcat led all receivers

with 110 receiving yards on five catches. Every single one of them seemed to come at a critical moment in the game, with each one of them resulting in a first down.

“He’s great after catch-and-run, contested catches,” Joe Fagnano said. “He can do it all. His route tree is, you know, there’s no end to it. It was good to see him have a big game for us.”

Fagnano continued to shine as one of the top quarterbacks in college football. According to CBS Sports (the graphic is from early in the game), he tied former LSU quarterback Joe Burrow for the most consecutive games with over 250 passing yards, at least three touchdowns and zero interceptions in the last 10 seasons (5). He finished the game with 311 yards on a 27-39 completion rate with three touchdowns.

“It’s a pretty darn good feeling when you’ve got Joe back there,”

Mora said. “You feel like you always have a chance, you know? And the thing about Joe that’s so special is his situational awareness in a football game and his decision-making. It’s just rare, it’s so rare.”

Saturday afternoon was a quarterback duel between Fagnano and Mensah. Coming into the game, Mensah and Fagnano were respectively fifth and sixth in the FBS in passing yards, accounting for 43 passing touchdowns and two interceptions combined this season.

However, Mensah would match his season total of interceptions in one game. On his third passing attempt of the game, Kamo’i Latu deflected his pass, which let Parham get the interception in a day that was spectacular for him, finishing the afternoon with 16 tackles, one sack, 1.5 tackles for loss, one interception and one forced fumble.

“He’s our energy guy,” Fagnano said. “He brings the energy, especially on defense, obviously, and he’s a hard worker. Super proud of him, proud of the way he played today.”

Despite Mensah’s two interceptions, he was able to shake off the mistakes with 222 passing yards on a 22-31 completion rate with three touchdowns.

“Boy, that kid is special,” Mora said. “That’s a \$4 million quarterback right there. He’s worth every penny.”

Duke’s offense was still tough to stop, but it seemed like the Huskies’ defense tackled better after Mora emphasized how the tackling needs to improve after the win over UAB the week before. Against UAB, UConn had 63 total tackles. Against Duke, that number improved to 77.

“It’s something you just have to constantly work on,” Mora said.

One player who was hard to stop for UConn’s defense was Duke running back Nate Sheppard; the freshman was phenomenal on Saturday, rushing for 100 yards on 16 carries with two touchdowns.

Mora was impressed by the “juice and lightning” Sheppard has, even despite him being the second-string running back on Duke’s depth chart.

Connecticut now leads in the all-time series against Duke, 3-2. It was the first UConn win in the series since 2007. The Huskies are now 2-1 against ACC teams this season, with a win over Boston College and a heartbreaking loss to Syracuse. According to the Hartford Courant’s Joe Arruda, the Huskies have not beaten multiple power conference opponents (excluding the Big East) in the same season since 2009.

The Huskies will close out their home schedule, where they are 5-0, next weekend against Air Force.

MEN’S BASKETBALL: REED SHINES IN RETURN TO ACTION AS HUSKIES WIN BY 63

by Matt Dimech
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No. 4 UConn men’s basketball did not allow a made basket for 13 minutes and 20 seconds en route to its 110-47 victory over UMass Lowell on Friday night.

The Huskies (2-0) led by 30 points before the game reached 10 minutes of play, scoring 11 unanswered to start the contest. As the game entered halftime, UConn found itself with the team’s largest lead in program history, up 47 points at the break.

The previous record was set against one of head coach Dan Hurley’s former gigs, Wagner, in 1998 when the Huskies led 63-23 at the half.

The win over the River Hawks (1-1) came after what UConn’s spirited head coach called an “excruciating” performance against the New Haven Chargers on Monday, who the Huskies defeated 79-55.

“I just thought it was an appropriate level of playing mad, playing angry, being embarrassed with the first game performance and taking it out on an opponent,” Hurley said.

Tarris Reed Jr. scored the Huskies’ opening basket after coming down with an offensive rebound, a scene the River Hawks would be forced to re-watch all night, as he dominated in his season debut for the Huskies. A hamstring injury had sidelined Reed through the preseason and the team’s season opener.

The 6-foot-11 center looked like he hadn’t lost a step, as he snatched UConn’s first three defensive boards of the game. He had four points paired with five rebounds before getting his first rest, not even four minutes into the game. The only blemish in his performance was a missed dunk in the middle of the second half.

Reed finished the game with a 20-point double-double in just 17 minutes.

“He makes a big difference on both ends, on the backboard,”

Hurley said. “He’s one of the best big guys in the country.”

Hurley ripped the Huskies on ball defense in the press conference following the game with New Haven. In that game UConn allowed the Chargers to net 23 field goals. Against Lowell, it took the River Hawks 18 attempts to finally see one go in, as Austin Green knocked down a mid-range jumper, cutting the Huskies lead down to 48-7.

Hurley credited Malach Smithi and Silas Demary Jr. for “setting the tone” on the defensive end. He also said that Jayden Ross was “awesome” defensively. The Huskies were able to force 21 turnovers on the night.

“I was pleased to see the level of defensive intensity that we were able to sustain,” Hurley said.

The Huskies operated like a well-oiled machine. Hurley commented on Monday that the Huskies were not passing as well as they should have been, finishing the game against New Haven with just 11 assists.

On Friday, the ball was passed around like napkins at a barbecue restaurant. The Huskies tallied 27 assists on the night, as seven players finished in double figures.

Silas Demary Jr. was a key driver for the offense, dishing out seven assists of his own. Demary was named to the Bob Cousy Award Preseason Watch List, given to the best point guard in the country. He showed the fans why tonight, missing just one shot on his way to a 16-point performance.

“I think I’m starting to get comfortable,” Demary said. “I’m gonna get up the floor as quick as [I] can and get the best shot, trying to get a paint touch, and whether that be a drop off to T Reed, or whether it be a kick out to AK or Solo, I think just finding that balance, and pushing at all times.”

UConn shot a measly 34% from three in the win over New Haven but were able to turn around its shooting woes against the River Hawks. They

buried four of their first five attempts from beyond the arc.

Alex Karaban and Malachi Smith led the three-point attack, each knocking down three triples on the night.

“We didn’t have really a

game like that last year,” Hurley said. “We won some games by a considerable margin, but there was a level of dominance.”

UConn will return to Storrs, Conn. on Monday as the team

takes on Columbia at Gampel Pavilion, a final tune up game before the thick of the Huskies schedule.

Fans can tune into the game on FS1 where the tip-off is scheduled for 6:30 p.m.



UConn men’s basketball defeated UMass Lowell 110-47 at People’s Bank Arena in Hartford, Conn., on Nov. 7, 2025. The Friday night game showcased UConn’s great offense, with impressive plays for the win. PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sports

Photo of the Day |



UConn men's basketball defeated UMass Lowell 110-47 at People's Bank Arena in Hartford, Conn., on Nov. 7, 2025. The Friday night game showcased UConn's great offense, with impressive plays for the win. PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WOMENS HOCKEY: LATE GOALS DEFINE WEEKEND SPLIT BETWEEN UCONN AND BOSTON COLLEGE

by Colette Doyle
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The UConn women's hockey team competed against Boston College for a two-game series this weekend. The first game took place on the road at Conte Forum on Friday, Nov. 7 and ended in a 3-1 win for the Huskies. The Huskies hosted the second game at the Toscano Family Ice Forum on Saturday, Nov. 8, and the Eagles took their 2-1 win in the final seconds.

The Huskies are coming off a weekend sweep against the Holy Cross. The first game ended in a close 4-3 win for the Huskies. The second game ended in another close 3-2 win for the Huskies. Senior forward Kyla Josifovic delivered the first win for the Huskies, with her second game-winning goal of the season. On the defensive end, freshman goaltender Taylor Belchetz earned her first career win with 23 saves. Senior forward Megan Woodworth shifted the momentum for the Huskies with her fourth goal of the season in the third period. On the defensive end, graduate student goaltender Tia Chan earned her sixth win of the season with 21 saves.

In Friday's matchup, the Eagles took control early on, which allowed allowing them to take an early 1-0 lead in the first

period. They also took control of shots on goal, leading 11-3 in the first period. However, as the period continued, the Huskies began to shift the momentum in their favor by taking control of the possessions and continuing to maintain a steady defense.

Chan provided a defensive backbone for the Huskies throughout the game with a total of 31 saves. Her consistency allowed the Huskies to bounce back after coming out short in the first period. Offensively, junior forward Julia Pellerin and

Josifovic led the way and allowed UConn to take control of the game. Both players increased the pace of the game and contributed to opening shooting lanes for the Huskies. Sophomore forward Claire Murdoch capitalized on this momentum to break the Huskies scoring slump and tie the game at 1-1.

In the third period, the Huskies continued to play with speed and aggression. Sophomore forward Sadie Hotles executed a defensive sequence to bring the Huskies to a 2-1 lead

with just under four minutes left. In response to this late deficit, Boston College decided to pull its goaltender to gain an extra skater in the final minutes. However, Josifovic shut down the Eagles hopes to rebound with an empty net goal, extending the lead to 3-1 and securing the victory for the Huskies.

The Huskies returned home for the second matchup of the series. The Eagle's senior goaltender, Grace Campbell, proved to be a formidable force throughout the game. Campbell consistently

prevented top offensive Huskies from scoring, including Josifovic, Pellerin, Hotles and graduate student Claire Peterson. Josifovic nearly scored a goal on a power play, hitting the post, on a power play, but Campbell quickly reacted to prevent the goal. The Eagles' strong defense early on allowed them to open scoring midway through the first period.

The defense on both ends was dominant, allowing no scoring in the second period. For the Huskies, senior Emma Eryou and senior Megan Duchesne-Chalifoux were strong on defense for the Huskies with crucial shot blocks.

The Huskies tied the game with less than 10 minutes left in the third period with a goal by junior forward Martha Mobarak from a pass by Pellerin. This marks Mobarak's first goal of the season and Pellerin's second of the assist of the weekend.

The momentum was shifted to the Huskies with their game-tying goal, although the Eagles found a way to scramble to the front of the net with just two seconds remaining giving them the game-winning goal.

Next up, the Huskies will host Vermont on Friday, Nov. 21 and Saturday, Nov. 22 for a two-game series. The games will begin at 6 p.m. and 2 p.m., and Husky fans can tune into these matchups on FloSports.



UConn women's hockey team takes on Boston College at the Toscano Family Ice Forum on Saturday, Nov. 8. The Huskies were defeated 2-1 in the final seconds of the game. PHOTO BY PARKER MEYERS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

MENS SOCCER: HUSKIES CLINCH THIRD CONSECUTIVE BIG EAST TOURNAMENT BERTH WITH UPSET WIN OVER SETON HALL

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ORANGE VILLAGE, N.J. — On Friday night, the UConn men's soccer team (10-3-4, 5-2-1) rallied back from a one-goal deficit late in the game to upset conference rival No. 21 Seton Hall (7-3-7, 3-1-4) by a score of 2-1 at Owen T. Carroll Field. With the win, the Huskies earned their third consecutive appearance in the Big East Conference Tournament, taking place Saturday at the Maryland SoccerPlex in Boyds, Md.

Senior forward Austin Brummett and junior Max Gummesson each recorded a goal in the contest, including the game-winner off the foot of Gummesson in the final minutes of the second half. Their offensive efforts were supported by a stout Huskies defensive unit, including sophomore defender Alex Tupay, senior defender Khaya Roudette-Gregory and goalkeeper Kyle Durham.

The defenses of both Seton Hall and UConn had a stellar

first half.

Despite being outshot 7-2, the Seton Hall defense withstood the UConn shooting barrage, highlighted by stellar play from goalkeeper Matias Molina.

But just as impressive, if not more so, than the Pirates' defensive efforts were those of the Huskies, who didn't allow their opponents to take a shot on goal through the first 15 minutes of play.

As the first half concluded, the score remained deadlocked at 0-0.

The Pirates finally broke into the scoring column during the 72nd minute, as senior defender and Bremen, Germany, native Konstantin Donalies redirected a corner kick from the foot of Hugo Gerbore, giving Seton Hall a 1-0 lead with 18 minutes left to play.

The Huskies responded.

Only four minutes later, Sabri Hanni, who leads the team in assists, found an open Brummett, who struck UConn's first goal of the game to tie it 1-1. The score was Brummett's seventh of the season, leading the team

in goals.

During the 81st minute, the Huskies finally gained the lead after Gummesson, assisted by Evan Pickering, perfectly headed the ball into the net, bringing the score to 2-1.

The Pirates' offense tried to respond, taking three shots at Durham, but ultimately fell short as the Huskies completed the 2-1 upset victory.

Both Durham and Molina recorded two saves in the contest, playing spectacularly throughout. It's also worth noting that with the win, the Huskies knocked the Pirates out of Big East title contention, a remarkable feat for unranked UConn.

With that, the stage is set. The third-seeded Huskies will take on the second-seeded Akron Zips in the Big East Tournament semifinals. Kickoff is slated for 5 p.m. at the Maryland SoccerPlex. If the Huskies win, they'll face the winner of top-seeded Georgetown and fourth-seeded Providence in the championship game Sunday at noon. All games will be streamed on ESPN+.



UConn men's soccer with a 2-0 win against Butler on Nov. 1, 2025, on a cold Saturday night. With two crucial goals in the second half, the Huskies extend their record to 9-3-4. PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

MENS ICE HOCKEY: UCONN AND PROVIDENCE SPLIT WEEKEND SERIES IN A HARD-FOUGHT HOCKEY SHOWDOWN

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The Huskies opened their weekend series against the Providence Friars on Friday, Nov. 7. The series consisted of a home game on Friday for the Huskies, followed by a match in Providence the following day.

To start the first period for the Huskies, they found themselves with a powerplay opportunity in the opening two minutes. The Huskies, however, were only able to get one shot off until the Friars got back to full strength. Soon after, Connecticut found themselves defending a power-play, but they were able to defend well, allowing four shots on goal but keeping the score at a deadlock. Later in the period, Providence's Logan Sawyer opened up the scoring with a power play goal in the 16th minute. This would put the Friars up 1-0 to close out the opening period.

The Huskies came out fired up in the second period; however, they gave up a goal early in the second minute of play. The Huskies then faced another power play on defense a minute later as they defended well, allowing just one shot on goal to keep Providence's lead to only two. The Huskies battled hard for the rest of the period before getting a power play opportunity as Sawyer was forced to the

penalty box for hooking. This power play opportunity gave the Huskies four shots with Ethan Whitcomb giving the Huskies their opening goal and cutting the lead to one. The second period would end in a 2-1 lead for the Friars, however, following that Huskies' goal, Toscano Family Ice Forum got their spark back as fans saw hope for the Connecticut side.

The third period would lean more towards the Friars, as they netted two goals to extend the lead and finished 4-1 at Toscano. Providence outshot the Huskies 40-38, and the Huskies found themselves in the penalty box five times compared to Providence's three.

Game two of the series took place in Providence, R.I. at 7 p.m. with a crowd of 2,796.

The opening period kicked off with a UConn power play opportunity in the ninth minute, with the Huskies taking three shots on goal but unable to find the back of the net. Six minutes later, the Friars got a power play opportunity from a boarding penalty called against UConn's Viking Gustafsson Nyberg. Providence took two shots during the power play with Kale McCallum netting the opening goal of the game and giving the Friars a 1-0 lead to end the first.

The second period started similarly with a UConn power play opportunity in the first

three minutes; however, the Huskies were only able to put one shot on goal. Two minutes later, Providence notched their second goal of the game, extending the lead to 2-0. The second period saw four power plays total with each team given two opportunities. Despite this, the only goal scored was by the Friars in the fourth minute.

Due to an opening minute power play to start the third period, the Huskies saw a glimpse of hope despite not scoring. The energy carried on and four minutes later, UConn freshman Carlin Dezainde netted the first goal for the Huskies to cut the lead to one. Soon after, the Huskies defended a power play due to a cross checking call on Mike Murtagh. With two minutes left in the game, senior forward, Ryan Tattle netted the game tying goal for the Huskies

to force the game into overtime.

The Huskies carried the momentum into overtime as they controlled the puck early and found themselves with many opportunities to net the winner. Providence defended well and took several shots on offense, forcing UConn's senior goalkeeper, Tyler Muszelik to keep the Huskies alive. The game ended with Providence taking 41 shots compared to UConn's

30. With the game ending in the tie, a shootout was needed to determine the extra point for the Hockey East Standings. Muszelik was perfect in front of the net, saving every shot before Trey Scott netted the winner to give the Huskies the extra point.

Next up, UConn will host Northeastern in the Howlin Huskies contest in Storrs, Conn. Puck drop is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 14 at the Toscano Family Ice Forum. The following day, the Huskies will travel to

Boston for a second Northeastern matchup.



UConn men's hockey team goes up against Providence at the Toscano Family Ice Forum. The Huskies lost to Providence 1-4. PHOTO BY MORGAN BLANCHARD, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

FIELD HOCKEY: HUSKIES LOSE OVERTIME HEARTBREAKER IN BIG EAST CHAMPIONSHIP

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After beating Old Dominion University (8-10) to advance to the finals, No. 11 UConn (11-8) fell in overtime of the 2025 Big East Field Hockey Championship to No. 7 Liberty University.

Liberty entered Sunday's contest 7-0 in Big East play. The Flames beat Villanova University (5-13) 3-1 on Friday in the semifinals to advance to the championship.

Liberty and UConn faced off once already, early in conference play, with the Flames shutting out the Huskies in a 1-0 defensive battle. It was UConn's only regular season Big East loss.

While the Flames would score first when freshman Morena Giacosa put a rebound away for the game's first goal, UConn avoided a second consecutive goose egg on Zita Grigoliet's unassisted goal with seven minutes left in the first half.

That 1-1 tie would hold throughout the second half, with both UConn junior goalies

Natalie McKenna and Liberty freshman Diane Saint John putting up strong performances. Saint John, the 2025 Big East Goalkeeper of the Year, made four saves in the half.

McKenna had eight over the course of the contest.

With neither team finding the net, the game would enter

sudden death overtime with a trip to the 2025 NCAA field hockey tournament on the line.

That didn't last long, as senior Lou Combrinck, Liberty's leading goal scorer, ended it on a corner penalty attempt just over two minutes into overtime. The game winner

was assisted by Julieta Tornati.

To reach the championship game, UConn first had to take on Old Dominion in Friday's semifinals. After narrowly inching out the Monarchs in an overtime win earlier in the year, the Huskies handled them handily in this one, winning 4-1.

Freshman Pien Prins had a pair of goals, with Fien Hollander and Abby Davidson chipping in one each as well. Sol Simone and Grigoliet each had a goal for the Huskies.

Sian Emslie, the Monarchs' leading point scorer, had Old Dominion's only goal. McKenna made four saves on the day as the Huskies limited Old Dominion to just five shots. In comparison, UConn took 15 shots and placed 10 on goal.

Prior to the beginning of the tournament, multiple Huskies were named to all-conference teams. Senior midfielders Juana Garcia and Simone were named to the first team. Senior forward Julia Bressler and McKenna were named to the second team. In addition to making the all-conference first team, Simone was named Midfielder of the Year.

Liberty will now receive the Big East's automatic bid for the 2025 NCAA field hockey tournament. Unless they make the field as an at-large selection, UConn's season will come to an end.



UConn women's field hockey team playing Old Dominion on Friday, Oct. 24, 2025. The Huskies won the game 2-1 in overtime. PHOTO BY ELLA GORHAM, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER, POSITION/THE DAILY CAMPUS

VOLLEYBALL: UCONN SPLITS WEEKEND AGAINST BUTLER AND XAVIER

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The University of Connecticut women's volleyball team went 1-1 this weekend after they took on the Butler Bulldogs and the Xavier Musketeers.

The Huskies dominated Butler 3-1 on Friday, with Emma Werkmeister leading UConn with 14 kills. Werkmeister was followed by Hanna Tylska with 13 and Jess Perry with 11.

Doga Kutlu lead UConn with 34 assists during their match, with the next most being three by Butler's Ayva Cebollero.

UConn won the first set 25-23 while Butler won the second set 25-21. Sets three and four were won by UConn 25-20 and 27-25.

Some players on the Bulldogs the Huskies had to look out for during the match were Elise Ward, who had 15 kills, and Kaylee Finnegan and Sarah Kempf, who had 18 and 19 assists, respectively.

UConn played Xavier the following day, falling 3-1. Xavier

won the first set 25-19, the second set 25-22 and the fourth set 28-26. UConn won the third set 25-22.

Werkmeister succeeded in the match with 23 kills, Audrey Rome with 11 kills and Kutlu with 42 assists.

Xavier's top players were Emma Grace and Anna Taylor who had 21 and 15 kills respectively and Macy Hatkevich who had 37 assists.

Some players who have been the focal point of UConn's offense this season are Werkmeister who has gotten 457 points and 372 kills in 26 matches, Rome who has 270.5 points and 217 kills in 26 matches and Kutlu who has 886 assists in 26 matches.

UConn's top defensive players are McKenna Brand who has 349 digs in 26 games, Kutlu with 258 digs, Werkmeister who achieved 179 digs and Grace Maria who has 151 digs in 26 matches. Rome leads the team in blocks with 78 followed by Eli Adams with 42 and Werkmeister with 39.

Werkmeister leads UConn

in receptions with 31 followed by Maria with 15 and Brand with 14.

After starting the season 11-1, UConn has gone 18-8 overall with just four matches left in the season. They have gone just 7-7 in the conference but have a dominating 12-3 record at home with a 4-5 record away and a 2-0 record at a neutral venue.

UConn's next games are against fellow Big East foes Villanova and Georgetown on Nov. 14 and 15.

UConn lost their previous matchup this season against Villanova 1-3. During their last outing, Villanova's Abby Harrell led both teams with 20 kills. UConn's Kutlu led both teams with 40 assists.

UConn has an 11-9 record against Villanova since Nov. 11, 2006.

UConn won their last match against Georgetown 3-0. Last match Rome led both teams with 13 kills, while Kutlu led both teams with 31 assists.

Husky fans can watch both games on ESPN+.



The UConn women's volleyball team takes on Providence College for a mid-sunday showdown. The Huskies are currently seventh in the Big East. PHOTO BY ALEXANDER RENZULLI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Sports

WOMENS BASKETBALL: BANNER NO. 12 RAISED IN TOP-RANKED UCONN'S 99-67 WIN OVER FLORIDA STATE

by Jake McCreven

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As the 12th national championship banner was unveiled in the Gampel Pavilion rafters on Sunday afternoon, a video of Geno Auriemma walking alongside the program's dozen NCAA championship trophies played on the video board.

He spoke to what it takes to win a championship at Connecticut: playing hard but relaxed and stressing the need to be intelligent, sound basketball players.

Azzi Fudd and Sarah Strong were that on Sunday and then some. The two preseason All-Big East selections combined for 44 points, 16 made field goals, nine assists and a plus/minus of +65 in the 32-point drubbing of the Seminoles.

"Whenever we're drawing up a play in the huddle, one of the first two words out of my mouth is either 'Azzi' or 'Sarah,'" Auriemma said. "They're going to be involved — in one way or another — in whatever we're doing."

In the early going of the top-ranked Huskies' (2-0) 99-67 win over Florida State (2-1), however, Auriemma's squad played anything but sound and relaxed.

The opening possession served as a synopsis of the first frame for Connecticut. Four shots and three second-chance opportunities all bounced off the apparent lid on the rim before the Noles cashed in on the other end to draw first blood.



UConn women's basketball team playing its first game at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn. for the 2025-2026 season. The Huskies won the game 99-67 against the Florida State Seminoles. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Twelve points off turnovers and seven offensive rebounds kept Connecticut afloat in what was an otherwise forgettable first period.

The Huskies shot a woeful 35% from the field and turned the ball over four times — but still managed a 10-point lead at the break. Florida State kept pace with three first quarter triples and an early penchant for breaking the Husky press.

The Noles closed the gap down to six early in the second period behind three pointers from Sydney Bowles and Emma Risch on consecutive possessions.

And then the Huskies woke up.

A 22-4 avalanche to close out the half, catalyzed by a slew of turnovers and transition baskets, gave the Huskies a 24-point lead in less than six minutes. Fudd and Strong set the net on fire with 20 combined points while the Husky defense forced eight turnovers and pressed baseline to baseline.

"It started on defense," Strong said post-game. "Picking up the pressure kind of messed them up and Azzi took advantage of what they were giving her."

Fudd scored all 13 of her second quarter points in those five-and-a-half minutes, which in-

cluded a catch-and-shoot triple and interception-turned-lay-in on the other end on back-to-back plays. The fifth-year senior also added two jumpers from the elbow — including one to beat the buzzer — to close out the half.

But the graduate guard filled out the stat sheet with more than just points on Sunday. Five assists, two steals and three rebounds (two of which were offensive) gave Fudd one of the most complete stat lines of her career.

"That was a big thing, we [the coaching staff] were talking about it on the bench," Auriemma said of Fudd's perfor-

mance. "Azzi is known as a great shooter and scorer, but, little by little, she's starting to get comfortable with some of the other stuff."

Strong added seven of the other nine points while Kayleigh Heckel added a lay-up in the process for what acted as the dagger for the Huskies.

"I try not to think of it as pressure," Strong said of the expectations she shoulders as a scorer. "I'm just playing basketball out there."

Auriemma told the media on Saturday that the team had a "serious look" in its eye the whole week about rectifying the mistakes from Louisville. Those mistakes included an improvement from behind the arc and a firm grasp over a late-game lead.

The Huskies checked one of those boxes on Sunday — they still shot under 37% from three.

Connecticut went on second half runs of 15-3, 6-0 and 7-3 en route to an 18-point advantage through the final two quarters. Forty-two points off turnovers, 24 fast break points and 23 turnovers forced helped right a wobbly first quarter ship.

Heckel continued to find her spots in the second half and finished with 12 points and three assists in 21 minutes, becoming the third and final double-figure scorer for the Huskies.

All 12 Huskies who checked into the game scored, including Ayanna Patterson, who saw her first official action in 960 days. Carolina Ducharme banked in a three-pointer and Ice Brady got to the line for an and-one opportunity.

MEN'S BASKETBALL: NO. 4 UCONN PRIMES FOR HOME CONTEST WITH COLUMBIA

by Matt Dimech

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One would assume that when No. 4 UConn men's basketball takes on Columbia at Gampel Pavilion, it will serve as nothing more than a tune up game before its non-conference schedule heats up.

Head Coach Dan Hurley disagrees.

"As far as I'm concerned, Columbia, is the Super Bowl for us on Monday night," Hurley said. "We've got to raise our level of intensity going into that game. We've got to be, like a pack of hungry wolves in that one."

Both teams tipped off their seasons with victories over New Haven, who just made the transition to Division I this season. Hurley says that Columbia (1-0) "beat New Haven better than [UConn] beat them." The Lions came away with a 71-53 win on the road. The victory was Columbia Head Coach Kevin Hovde's debut, earning the first win of his career.

Monday will mark the 12th meeting between the two teams. UConn (2-0) holds a 9-2 record advantage over the Lions all-time. The last time they faced off was in the fall of 2017, Kevin Ollie's last season as Head Coach for the Huskies, as Hurley would take over the following season.

In that game, UConn rallied back from a 15-point deficit to force overtime, after the Lions lead for over 36 minutes of the game. Christian Vital scored seven points in overtime and made a de-

cisive steal to secure a 77-73 win for UConn. Vital finished the game with 29.

Columbia has just six wins all-time when facing a nationally ranked team. The Huskies will pose their first test against a ranked opponent since 2019, when they played No. 9 Virginia. It is just the 10th time in school history that Columbia has taken on a top-five team.

UConn enters the game 2-0 after a win over UMass Lowell, that can be described as nothing short of utter domination. The Huskies took a program record 47-point lead at half time, as the River Hawks failed to score a basket for over 13 minutes of action.

UConn had an efficient night, shooting

60.9% from the field. This was the team's highest mark since Feb. 10, 2024, when the Huskies posted a 61.1%.

Tarris Reed Jr. made his season debut for UConn, as a hamstring injury kept him sidelined for the opener. Reed immediately made his impact felt, notching a 20-point double-double. He snatched five rebounds before making his first

substitution of the game.

"I think, when you look at us across the floor, and you see T Reed playing the five, it's a scary sight, because he has such a big presence," Silas Demary Jr. said. "He talks a lot. I think he's a leader. So, I think him being on the floor just brought another level of who we are."

The Preseason All-Big East First Team center selection played just 17 minutes in that game, as the team looks to avoid re-aggravating his injury. Hurley commented that Reed felt "great," and will likely see an increase in play going forward.

"He was on the minutes restriction [Monday], so, you know, we'll be able to bump that up," Hurley said. "We wanted to keep him at 20 now he can go, and I'd imagine we'll extend that out another five to eight minutes."

After being named to multiple preseason National Player of the Year

watch lists, Alex Karaban has gotten off to a hot start to his 2025-26 campaign. He has knocked down a trifecta of three-pointers in each of his first two outings, and his shooting 60% from beyond the arc.

"The skills are way better. He's physically stronger. He's a better player," Hurley said. "He can play at a high level in his sleep."

One of Columbia's key strengths this season is its continuity. The Lions are returning 68.4% of their scoring from last season, which ranks seventh in the country. Kenny Nolan and Connecticut native Avery Brown are both in position to score 1,000 career points for Columbia this season.

The pair each finished the win over New Haven in double figures, along with first-year Miles Franklin who shot a perfect 5/5 from the field.



UConn men's basketball defeated UMass Lowell 110-47 at People's Bank Arena in Hartford, Conn., on Nov. 7, 2025. The Friday night game showcased UConn's great offense, with impressive plays for the win. PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

This will be the Huskies' final game before facing their first ranked opponent, No. 8 BYU on Nov. 15. Four of UConn's five games following Columbia will be against nationally ranked opponents. Fans can tune into the game on FS1, as the action tips off at 6:30 p.m.