



Rideshare program powered by Uber on the horizon at UConn

by Angel De Jesus
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The UConn Transit Advisory Committee revealed plans to subsidize Uber rides for students possibly as soon as spring semester in a meeting in early October.

According to Andy Kelly, the associate director of logistics at the University of Connecticut, this arrangement is meant to supplement the campus shuttle service's off hours.

"In doing that, the intent would be to subsidize those rides," Kelly said. "There's a lot of different ways you can divvy that up, and several different universities have tried different ways. The university is working on a more comprehensive agreement with Uber... [USG] is putting up a very large sum of money to contribute to the subsidizing of rides, and we would also contribute to that pot of money."

"For instance, we could say, okay, we'll contribute \$8 per ride for up to five rides," he said. "Or we could say, all right, you have \$30 this semester. Spend it as you wish. Or some combination of that in order to help out with the gaps in our current shuttle coverage."

HuskyGO, UConn's on-campus shuttle service, has been provided and operated by the Windham Region Transit District (WRTD) since fall 2020.

HuskyGO is free for students as well as the general public, providing service to downtown Storrs as well as throughout the UConn campus. The service is partially funded by undergraduate students through



One of UConn's HuskyGo red line busses drives past the Student Union. This line has been indefinitely combined with the silver line.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BLAKE SKYES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

their tuition. Every undergrad is charged a fee of \$106 for every semester that they attend UConn, according to information provided by the office of the bursar.

Since the coronavirus pandemic, the WRTD has been putting up with a shortage of bus drivers according to Corrie Washington, administrator of the WRTD.

"Everyone's hurting for operators," Washington said. "It's an industry problem. It's not just isolated to us."

According to a report put out by the American Public Transportation Association this year, the main reasons for the shortage of transit workers include an aging workforce with a high retirement rate, high competition for workers, and concerns about scheduling as well as compensation leading workers to quit.

As a result of the driver shortage, the WRTD has undertaken measures such as cutting the operating hours of some bus lines and combining other lines altogether. For example, shuttle services used to end at midnight on weekdays and 1am on Fridays and Saturdays. Now these services end at 10:30pm on weekdays, 10pm on Friday, and 10:30pm on Saturday as of March 17, 2024, according to The Daily Campus.

The red and silver bus lines were combined indefinitely, according to UConn's transportation services website.

"We have to make structural adjustments without leaving students or community members reeling from the impact," Washington said. UConn students have felt the impact despite WRTD's

best efforts, however.

In October 2024, dissatisfaction with the HuskyGO shuttle service culminated in the creation of a petition calling for UConn to take action and improve the service.

Because of the problems presented by WRTD due to the driver shortage, a rideshare option might help supplement transportation services in the area.

Most restaurants, bars and shops are far from campus and issues with bus service and parking make it difficult to access these places, according to Cameron Costa, chief of staff at Undergraduate Student Government.

"We've been wanting to explore corporate partnerships as an idea," Costa said. "And we want to make existing options [for transit] a little more affordable."

USG initiated the conversa-

tion with Kelly about bringing a subsidized rideshare program to UConn over the summer, according to Costa.

Initial discussions around the plan centered around looking at rideshare programs at other universities and trying to figure out whether or not UConn would be better served by Lyft or Uber.

"UChicago was one of the schools we reached out to," Costa said.

UChicago partnered with the technology company Via to provide their student body with an exclusive rideshare program. The program offers students rides seven days a week from 5 p.m. to 4 a.m. and serves a designated campus service area, according to a page about the program on UChicago's website.

"Analyzing the budget available, we are unsure what specific contributions will look like, but it will come from the existing budget. No increase in fees," Costa said. "In general, USG is looking to find new transportation options, and if we can work out this deal it would be for a short term and a long-term solution."

USG has completed their end of the deal and is now waiting on the department of procurement for an update, according to Costa.

"It seems like it's right on the pretty near horizon, and we might have it in place for next semester," said Kelly. "If not next semester, we would not hold off to the fall semester. "As soon as we can implement it, we would. If that's the middle of this next semester then that's what we're going to do."

UConn researchers utilize AI model to determine predictability of weather forecasts

by Katie Servas
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The University of Connecticut has partnered with Eversource, the state's lead energy provider, in a research effort to predict extreme weather events and their effects on energy systems and aquatic environments.

Israt Jahan, a Ph.D. student studying environmental engineering, is one of the researchers working on the project alongside Dr. Marina Astitha, an associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at UConn. Their research focuses on improving the predictability of wind gusts using machine learning and deep learning with an artificial intelligence (AI) model.

"I have developed hybrid models that integrate ML [machine learning] and DL [deep learning] approaches with physics-based numerical weather prediction [NWP] outputs to improve prediction accuracy and reliability," Jahan said. "I have also applied various explainable AI techniques to demonstrate the drivers behind the AI model predictions and uncertainties for better interpretability and transparency. Currently, I am analyzing severe wind events across the contiguous United States under both historical climate and pseudo-global warming conditions to assess how extreme wind hazards may evolve

in a warming climate."

The use of AI was not initially proposed in the research program until 2016. Astitha's work was founded in physical modeling. However, with the introduction of AI, there have not been many challenges with capturing nonlinear relationships and uncertainties in physics-based models, according to Astitha.

She's found herself integrating AI in all areas of her research on extreme weather prediction, renewable energy climate assessment and aquatic ecosystem health.

"We use AI to reduce forecast bias, quantify uncertainty, fuse multiple data streams and build hybrid physics-ML models that outperform either approach on its own," Astitha said. "And increasingly, we're developing trustworthy AI frameworks that emphasize interpretability and reliability, which is essential when predictions influence engineering decisions or emergency operations."

The intelligence has not only cut down the computational time but has also shown a decrease in prediction error in comparison to a NWP model, according to Jahan.

"Overall, AI expands what is scientifically and operationally possible. It doesn't replace physical modeling; it enhances it, filling gaps and increasing trustworthiness," Astitha said.

This approach in Astitha's research group unites physics-

based models with AI to improve extreme weather predictions.

"I lead the Atmospheric and Air Quality Modeling Group, where we blend physics-based atmospheric models with state-of-the-art AI and machine learning to improve forecasts of high-impact events such as windstorms, snowstorms, and tropical cyclones," Astitha said. "These storms have enormous societal consequences, from power outages to infrastructure damage, so improving prediction is an urgent need."

The group is currently developing the next generation of AI frameworks that combine physical knowledge with machine learning to capture storm dynamics, according to Astitha.

Along with these models, they are also determining the impact climate change will have on wind resources and the offshore wind industry by using "high-resolution modeling and down-scaled climate projections to understand how hub-height winds will change over time, which directly informs energy planning in the region," Astitha said.

She continued to say that the group had also built physics-guided ML systems for freshwater ecosystems, integrating "weather, hydrology, air quality and fertilizer-application data to forecast chlorophyll-a, phosphorus and dissolved oxygen dynamics in lakes."

Astitha began working with

Eversource Energy at UConn in 2015, prior to the inauguration of the Eversource Energy Center.

This program was created to "bring academic research and utility expertise together to reduce storm-related power outages and improve emergency preparedness," according to Astitha.

Together, forecasting methodologies, data sharing, modeling infrastructure and translations of research innovations into operational tools used are created.

The research group led by Astitha "focuses on improving the predictions of extreme weather events using advanced modeling and machine learning approaches," Jahan said. "My specific role in this collaboration has been to develop and validate machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL) models for wind gust predictions, ensuring that they outperform benchmark Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) models."

Astitha and Jahan aren't the only ones conducting weather forecast research. They said a second research group is running a power outage prediction model that inputs various weather variables to determine the number of power outages there may be in Eversource's service area with upcoming storms.

"The goal overall is to provide Eversource with more accurate power outage predictions by improving extreme weather

forecasts to support operational preparedness and outage restoration efforts," Jahan said.

This long-standing partnership has grown through UConn's research programs but also through support from outside organizations, according to Astitha.

"This work has also catalyzed broader support from NSF's IUCRC program and DOE, enabling us to expand the research to climate resilience, renewable energy, and next-generation AI systems," Astitha said.



Marina Astitha, an associate professor in environmental engineering at the University of Connecticut. She is currently studying how AI can be used to help predict the weather.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARINA ASTITHA ON LINKEDIN

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WE ARE NOT THE DAILY DIGEST

News

UConn realigns Academic Affairs and Student Life Divisions

by Juliana Assis
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Effective Dec. 1, the University of Connecticut is reorganizing its Academic Affairs and Student Life and Enrollment divisions “to ensure that every student is supported from classroom to community,” according to a statement.

Under the new structure, the Center for Career Readiness and Life Skills, Dean of Students Office, Student Activities, Cultural Centers and Programs and the Center for Students with Disabilities will now report to the Division of Student Life and Enrollment.

In a joint statement to UConn Today, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Pamir Alpay and Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment Nathan Fuerst said the change will create “a unified network of support services and resources that supports a student-centered structure integrat-

ing the student experience and wellness under one umbrella.”

Additionally, the Office of the Registrar and the university’s academic integrity and misconduct functions will transition to the Office of the Provost, following the recent reintegration of the Office of the Vice President for Research into the Provost’s Office earlier this semester.

Fuerst said the realignment aims to improve coordination and efficiency while advancing the goals outlined in the University Strategic Plan.

“The goal was to improve alignment of student services under the Division of Student Life and Enrollment, in support of the goals articulated in the University Strategic Plan,” Fuerst said. “We believe this reorganization will ultimately enhance the student experience while creating opportunities for our teams to improve efficiency and effectiveness.”

According to Fuerst, bringing together several student-focused

offices under one division will allow for more targeted, intentional service delivery.

“This change will allow teams within our division to be intentional in how they prioritize students through the services they provide,” he said. “It also reinforces opportunities for coordination and collaboration between student service areas.”

Fuerst acknowledged that any large organizational change presents challenges, but said his team is working proactively to ensure a smooth transition.

“Any big change introduces the risk of new challenges,” he said. “I’ve asked our leaders to be forthcoming with what they view as potential pitfalls or risks. By identifying those early, we can mitigate them through intentional planning aimed at ensuring uninterrupted support for UConn students.”

With the Cultural Centers and Programs now housed within the Division of Student Life and Enrollment, the university’s goal is

to strengthen its capacity to serve underrepresented student populations.

“Across every aspect of this reorganization, we are improving our ability to support all students— and in particular, to enhance the experience of stu-

dents who are underrepresented among our student populations,” Fuerst said. “We’re focused on meeting students where they are, helping them connect with their experience as a UConn student, and supporting them in fulfilling their career and life aspirations.”



Students busy studying on Monday, Sept. 8, 2025, in Homer D. Babbidge Library. Class workload increased as the university entered its third week of the semester

PHOTO BY SCARLETT DOYLE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

UConn Ph.D. candidate wins top prize at venture competition

by Maysarah Javed
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Young entrepreneurs competed at the University of Connecticut’s venture competition to fund their innovations. This year’s winner was SeaSol Technologies, a company that hopes to redefine food wrapper manufacturing.

The Wolff New Venture Competition is UConn’s entrepreneurship competition that recognizes and supports student entrepreneurs. It is hosted each year by the Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship Innovation (CCEI).

The basis of this competition begins in March, where ten startups are selected by an independent panel to participate in CCEI’s Summer Accelerator. Then, over the course of eight weeks, CCEI focuses on strengthening these startups to make them market ready.

During the fall, five finalist teams pitch their ventures to a panel of judges made up of investors and entrepreneurs.

This year, SeaSol Technologies, a startup led by University of Connecticut Ph.D. candidate Yidan Zhang, took first place at this year’s Wolff New Venture Competition. SeaSol Technologies uses seaweed to create compostable, food-safe packaging that can reduce plastic waste in the food

service industry.

Zhang describes the winning moment as “surreal and amazing.”

“Everyone in the competition was so talented, and their ideas

were amazing,” she said. “Any one of us could have won.”

The grand prize, which included a \$30,000 check and \$5000 in pro-bono services from Wolff

Financial Group, is now being used by the company to purchase essential equipment. This competition helped SeaSol progress its manufacturing process.

Zhang, alongside her cofounder, packaging industry expert and advisor Jonathan McGee, and Dr. Mingyu Qiao, a packaging industry expert and advisor, identified seaweed farming in Connecticut as a unique opportunity. What started as an exploration to see how Connecticut aquafarmers were growing seaweed alongside oysters turned into a mission to promote sustainable packaging.

“The idea actually started in a very organic way,” Zhang explained. “We saw so much potential in using seaweed as a natural resource for multiple applications.”

Building SeaSol Technologies as a Ph.D. student is not an easy task. Zhang emphasized how time was one of the biggest challenges.

“As a graduate student, I had to manage my time between coursework and developing the startup,” she said.

Though “there were many late nights,” Zhang emphasized the help and support she received from the UConn community.

“Everyone I reached out to was willing to offer advice or mentorship,” she said. “That support made it possible for me to keep moving forward.”

For SeaSol’s future plans, Zhang hopes to “manufacture a wide range of applications of seaweed across Connecticut, but for that, we still have a long way to go.”



SeaSol Technologies wins UConn’s Wolff New Venture Competition for its innovative seaweed-based compostable food packaging designed to reduce plastic waste. The award will help the startup advance its manufacturing process and further develop its sustainable materials.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNCCEI ON INSTAGRAM

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By Ben Wildman-Tobriner & Stephanie Wildman 11/14/25

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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G	H	O	S	T			E	A	S	Y		L	G	S		
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Sudoku By The Mepham Group

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

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

Solution to Thursday's puzzle

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

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LIVE MUSIC PREVIEW: 11/14 - 11/16

It's crazy that there's only two more weeks of classes here at the University of Connecticut. As the end of the semester approaches, students are busy pulling together research papers and getting

“It's crazy that there's only two more weeks of classes here at the University of Connecticut.”

ready for final exams. With such little time left, there's only a few more weekend nights to spend with friends, and what better way to do so than by heading to one of the many great shows being put on by Connecticut bands? Here's a look at some of the best shows happening this weekend in Storrs and across the Nutmeg State.

“On top of the bill is alternative rock band Ruby Leftstep making their return to the venue after performing one of the most-attended shows in recent Storrs history last month.”

Friday 11/14: The Dog Pound - Storrs

It's been a great semester of shows at The Dog Pound, Storrs' preeminent basement venue, and this weekend's lineup continues that trend. It all kicks off on Friday, Nov. 14, with a dynamite four-band lineup. On top of the bill is

which is making their Dog Pound debut.

Doors open at 6 p.m., music starts at 7 p.m. and admission is \$10. No parking is available on-site. For the address, message @thedogpound on Instagram.

but the five-band lineup is a worthy successor. On top of the bill is Overloded and Don't Go Outside, two of the leading emo punk bands in the Connecticut scene right now, as well as five-piece emo pop band Showgirl. Join-

on-site. For the address, message @thedogpound on Instagram.

Sunday 11/16: Ledyard show - Ledyard

For those looking to get off campus for a bit, then look no further than this four-band

“The last show set a high bar, but the five-band lineup is a worthy successor.”

show happening in Ledyard, Conn., on Sunday, Nov. 16. The lineup features Foundations of Wednesday, who has made frequent appearances in the Storrs scene, as well as Nor Fork, an emo band based in Hartford. Rounding out the lineup is alternative rock band South of One and Fire, Escape!, a trio from Boston.

Doors open at 4:30 p.m., music starts at 5 p.m. and admission is \$10 to \$15. The address

“On top of the bill is Overloded and Don't Go Outside, two of the leading emo punk bands in the Connecticut scene right now, as well as five-piece emo pop band Showgirl.”

for the show is 740 Colonel Highway in Ledyard, Conn.

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alternative rock band Ruby Leftstep making their return to the venue after performing one of the most-attended shows in recent Storrs history last month. Joining them on the bill is Storrs frequent Lootbug, Sert Agnt and Soggy Paper Cups, the latter of

Saturday 11/15: The Dog Pound “Emo Night Vol. II” - Storrs

After the success of the first “Emo Night” show in September, The Dog Pound is running it back with “Emo Night Vol. II” on Saturday, Nov. 15. The last show set a high bar,

ing them on the bill is Frogs, a Boston-based punk band, and Cadmium, who describes themselves as “CT's main cause of hearing loss and beer drought.”

Doors open at 6 p.m., music starts at 7 p.m. and admission is \$10. No parking is available



Two people playing instruments and having fun. This weekend, Storrs and nearby towns are hosting shows from Connecticut bands, including alternative rock, emo punk, and pop acts at venues, including The Dog Pound.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @THEDOGPOUND ON INSTAGRAM

THE MODERN MONSTER:

Hauntings and the Ghosts That Come With Them

by **Samantha Brody**
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Content warning for discussions of death and suicide.

Now that Halloween is over and the University of Connecticut finally (finally!) approaches the end of the fall semester, it's easy to look back on old memories, old friends, old enemies, old experiences and the way things used to feel. As we creep closer and closer to that dark New England winter, these moments of the past persist like something beyond the grave.

Welcome back to The Modern Monster, a biweekly column about all things scary and suspect. This week, we're turning to one of my favorite talking points: the humble ghost. Spoilers ahead for "The Haunting of Hill House" and "The Haunting of Bly Manor!"

Ghosts are an interesting question. There are a lot of ways to interpret a ghost, but the standard definition is a simple one: something that used to be alive isn't anymore, but that doesn't mean it has lost the ability to affect our lives.

I've always enjoyed ghost stories. Some of my favorite media revolves around it, specifically "The Haunting of Hill House" and its spiritual sequel, "The Haunting of Bly Manor," both by Mike Flanagan.

"The Haunting" duology — if that's what you want to call it — has no connective tissue between its individual parts. The only similarities are the cast, with different characters played by the same actors, and the usage of a big house with a whole lot of ghosts inside.

"The Haunting of Hill House" primarily revolves around a family living in a large manor house that the adults, Hugh (Timothy Hutton and Henry Thomas, for old and young versions) and Olivia Crain (Carla Gugino) are working on flipping to re-sell. The ancient presence inside the house has begun to have a disastrous effect on Olivia, who is driven to suicide after the ghosts convince her it's the only way to protect her family. Hugh, reasonably, flees the house with his five children.

Interestingly enough, Olivia appears to believe that death is a release of some kind. The ghosts convince her that, through death, she will be able to protect her kids. Both Hugh and Olivia are good, protective

parents, but the house is able to manipulate them into putting the children in danger. Hugh is distracted by mold and other disasters that threaten the project and Olivia is plagued by migraines and psychosis. When Olivia commits suicide, she believes it will protect her children from future pain, unaware that her suicide is ultimately what dooms them.

The unfinished business left inside the house and the lingering sorrow follows the children throughout their lives, particularly the youngest, Luke (Oliver Jackson-Cohen and Julian Hilliard) and Eleanor, or Nell as she prefers to be called (Victoria Pedretti and Violet McGraw).

Luke and Nell are twins, and as the youngest in the family, it's unsurprising that they're the most affected. Luke is struggling with a heroin addiction, and Nell is seemingly struggling with some sort of unrelenting connection with the house. The show opens with the family gathering to mourn Nell's death. It's later revealed that the young Nell was haunted by visions of "The Bent-Neck Lady," a ghost with a twisted neck snapped to the side. We later learn that this ghost is Nell's future self, who dies by hanging in the manor as an adult.

While "The Haunting of Hill House" has plenty of real ghosts, there are also many metaphorical ones. The entire family still experiences a deep connection to the old manor house, and it's no surprise as to why. Their mother died in that house, and so did much of their spirit. The family will never be the same.

The show also plays with the idea of the ghosts of former selves. While there's no literal ghost of Luke walking around the manor, he's still haunted by the experience. The young boy that Luke once was is gone, replaced by a depressed shadow of a man fighting his own internal demons.

"The Haunting of Bly Manor" also plays with a few different kinds of ghosts. The story ends up following a similar conclusion, as that show's spooky manor house is haunted by The Lady of the Lake, whose status as the resident ghost is replaced by the main character Dani (Victoria Pedretti) at the end of the show.

Hill House and Bly Manor both play with the idea of inevitabilities. Nell has to become the Bent-Neck Lady and Dani

has to become the Lady of the Lake, which is definitely an odd choice of typecasting for Victoria Pedretti. The shows raise an interesting question: are we haunted by the future just as much as the past? Dani is aware of her inevitable ending as The Lady of the Lake, and that knowledge follows her and her partner Jamie (Amelia Eve) throughout their entire relationship.

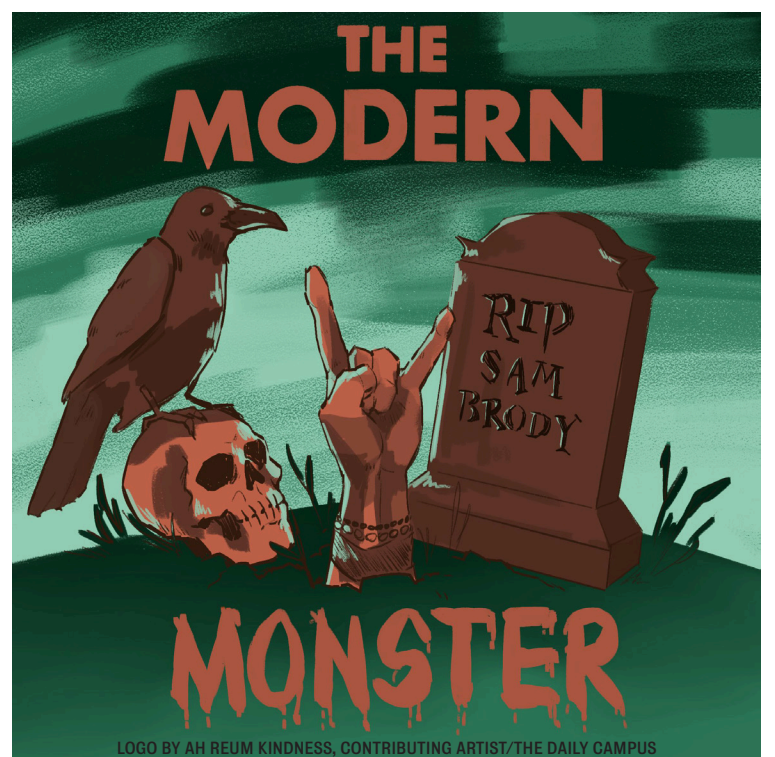
"Ghosts of the future," if we're willing to call them that, is an interesting way to look at hauntings. We can always be haunted by the past — decisions we made, people we lost and the experiences we've had — but it's possible to be just as haunted by the future. Dani will become The Lady of the Lake and Nell will become the Bent-Neck Lady. This simple fact follows them for many, many years. There's no forgetting that their entire world will eventually be lost.

There are also plenty of interesting ways to interpret ghosts as a whole. They can be religious in nature, purely spiritual or a misinterpretation of energy readings. Is that EMF meter going off because of a sudden ghostly presence, or is that old power line still giving off a strong enough charge to activate the device?

The way I've seen it, ghosts are interpreted. While the idea of literal walking and talking specters is up for debate, human emotions aren't. Ghosts are undeniably real if we look at them as reflections of how humanity grieves. Letters left behind by long-gone ancestors can instill plenty of human emotion, along with old keepsakes and cherished memories. These are ghosts in their own right. Whether or not it's "real," we can still feel some sort of presence.

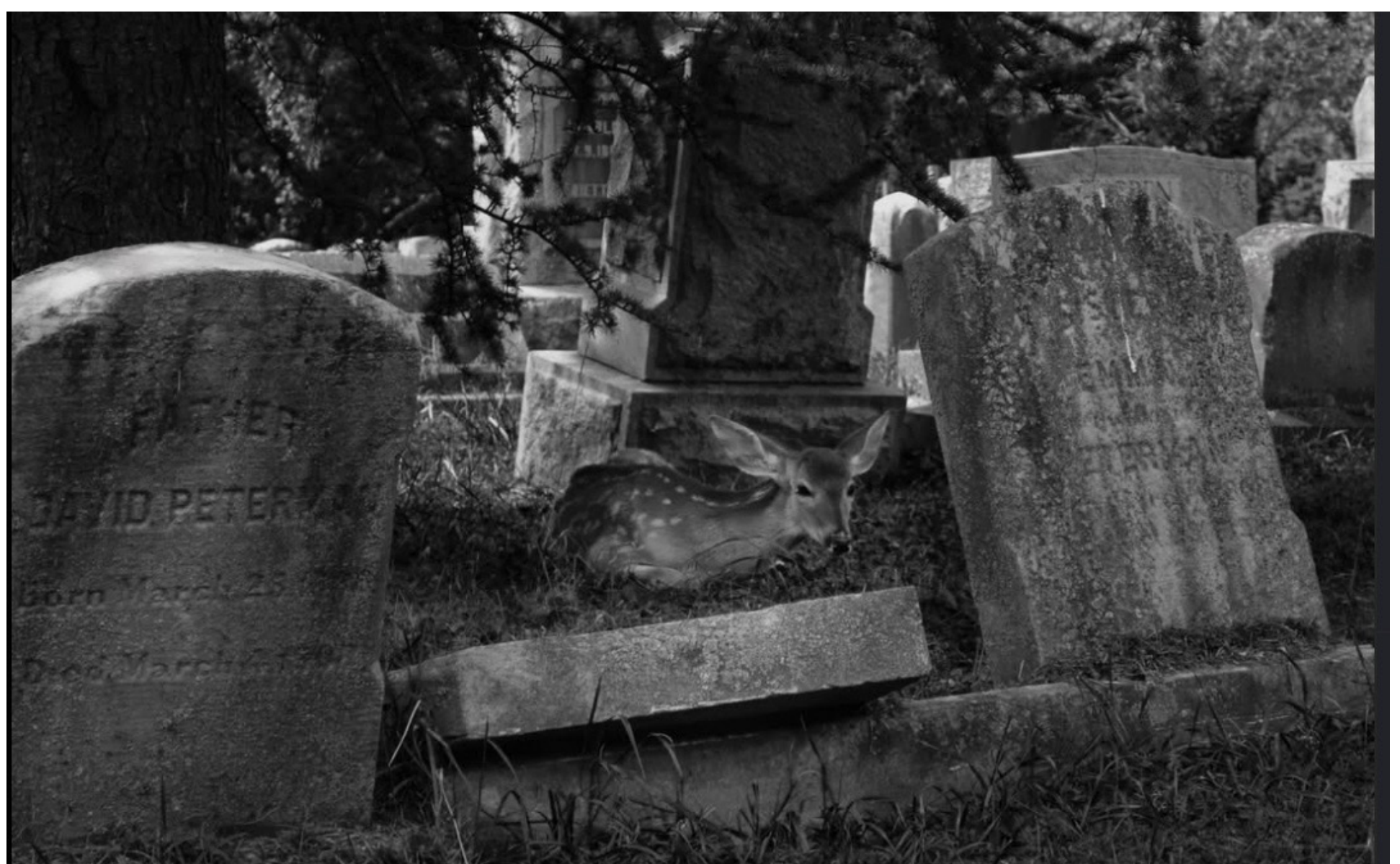
"The Haunting of Hill House" and "The Haunting of Bly Manor" present their stories as very literal, but at the same time, we can't trust our narrators. Jamie, Dani's partner, is the one to tell the story of Bly Manor, and oldest son Steven Crain (Michiel Huisman and Paxton Singleton) logs the tragedies of Hill House in a book. Are we seeing the actual events that happened, or are we seeing a manipulated version from the storytellers in charge of the tale?

Whether or not ghosts are real at the end of the day, one thing is for sure: Ghosts or not, it's all up to whether we believe.



A ghost standing in a dark graveyard. Movies, shows, and books will sometimes use ghosts to represent unresolved pain haunting them.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @ACORPSEGOINGTOABALL ON INSTAGRAM



A deer laying down in a graveyard. Graveyards are used frequently in Halloween media to portray many different things through symbolism.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @ACORPSEGOINGTOABALL ON INSTAGRAM

Daily

Life

ROUNDTABLE

'STRANGER THINGS' SEASON FIVE PREDICTIONS

The long-anticipated fifth season of Netflix's "Stranger Things" is finally here, with the first four episodes slated to be released on Wednesday, Nov. 26. With excitement building, members of The Daily Campus life section shared their predictions about what they think will happen in the new season.

by Maleena Muzio

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"Stranger Things" is my favorite show produced in the last decade, and despite everything I know about the franchise, I am having trouble coming up with predictions about the newest and final season. I can confidently say that I predict at least one or more of the main characters of the show are going to die, but I am not so sure who. Some major possibilities are Dustin, Steve or Will. Contrary to popular belief, I do not think Eleven will be joining Billy, Eddie or Alexei among the dead.

Speaking of the dead, I do think there may be some Eddie flashbacks in this season, but do not think his character will be making a comeback, as actor Joe Quinn has been busy with major films.

I am curious to see what happens to the Nancy, Jonathan and Steve love triangle. I love Nancy and Jonathan together, but their relationship in season four lacked excitement, leading me to believe that something may happen between Nancy and Steve this season. I think Mike and Eleven's relationship was also set up in season four to be approaching the chopping block. However, I believe Mike will be less annoying and more important this season than he was in the last two, and they may stay together, despite the Will-Mike rumors.

by Ayyan Tamjeed

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Before I begin, I must preface by saying I have barely watched "Stranger Things"; I only know it as the show that revived that one Kate Bush song, Noah Schnapp's odd haircut and making Millie Bobby Brown into a star, I think. I heard they also played Dungeons and Dragons as well.

As for what's going to happen in season five? I think America is due for a Weezer revival; the showrunners better put "The Good Life" on the soundtrack, or else. I hope Noah Schnapp's character, whose name is Will Byers according to the Wikipedia page I just pulled up, can get a better haircut. This show is also set in Indiana during the 1980's, so I'm hoping they kill a monster using Bob Knight's chair maneuver in homage to the former Indiana head coach. Or not, that guy was terrible.

by Pierce Colfer

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When you're entering the fifth season of a show, there are some patterns you'll be able to spot across seasons, and Stranger Things is no different. So, I'm here to hedge my bets on what'll happen by looking at things that have happened across the last four seasons and hoping that the patterns continue.

Prediction one: A quirky, endearing side character is introduced at the beginning of the season, forming a strong bond with a main character and quickly becoming a fan favorite, before being tragically killed in a tone-shifting scene near the end of the season — think Bob, Alexei or Eddie.

Prediction two: A relatively unimportant side character who had somewhere between three to five scenes in the previous season gets promoted to the main cast, suddenly becoming privy to all the going-ons of Hawkins and growing the already-packed cast even further — think Erica or Murray.

Prediction three: A main character heroically sacrifices themselves in the final episode, satisfyingly completing their character arc and bravely saving the other characters and all of Hawkins at the cost of their... Wait a second! They somehow survived it! Everything's actually completely okay, and the cast can keep growing! Yay! Think Hopper or Max.

With those predictions, I don't think anything that'll happen in season five can surprise me. My bets feel pretty hedged right about now.

by Noa Climor

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The strangest thing I ever did... was think about potential predictions for the ending of this show. "Stranger Things" premiered almost ten years ago, and it's undeniable to say that it greatly impacted pop culture and TV show formatting.

As far as predictions go, I'm 99% sure that they are killing Steve; either that or he somehow magically escapes and works at some cool store with Robin. To be honest, it is a hard show to predict, but I do think they are choosing a go big or go home mentality based on the reactions of the cast and people who have gotten to see the first episode. My main prediction is a main character death.

My second prediction is a confirmation of a certain ship. Who that is, I shan't say, but maybe the odds will be in their favor. surprise me. My bets feel pretty hedged right about now.

by Alex Klancko

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In season five of "Stranger Things," I think Eleven will get her powers back after they dwindled in season four. Eleven struggled with her powers in season four, and along with that, had been getting bullied by multiple girls in school. I think to get her powers back, Eleven will have to go back to the Upside Down and survive a bit.

Although her powers do not directly come from the Upside Down, she did create the gateway to it and I believe that in some sort of way she will have to get closer to the Upside down to gain back her powers. I also think that to close the gateway to the Upside Down, Eleven will force herself into the dimension and use her powers to close the gateway and save Hawkins, Ind. I also think Jonathan will die; I don't know how, but I just have a hunch.



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ILLUSTRATION BY CAMERON COHAN, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Opinion

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On Oct. 25, British Vogue published an essay by Chanté Joseph titled "Is Having a Boyfriend Embarrassing Now?" Subsequently, the internet lost its collective mind over it - and rightfully so.

The piece was subversive, eye-catching and appeared to capture a growing sentiment that has been waiting to burst from beneath the surface ever since Sabrina Carpenter dropped "Please, Please, Please" in June 2024. I'd recommend fully reading it to understand the discourse, but it essentially rests upon this idea that it is no longer cool, chic or good aura for women to publicly tie themselves to their boyfriend. Instead, more women are subtly "soft-launching" their relationship, providing only basic, anonymized details to signal to the public that one is partnered but not telling them with whom.

The reason for this, as many across the internet have built on Joseph's original concept, is that tying oneself to a boyfriend means creating a brand liability. Men, after all, generally have bad habits of doing things which are quite embarrassing to their girlfriends. This could be seen as something like cheating, but also other slip-ups, like how one popular Substack writer put it: "One bad outfit, one questionable like, and you're publicly reevaluating your judgment."

The key part of that quote is the word "publicly." This is where the entire question originally presented by Joseph centers on: the idea of a boyfriend as part of one's public persona. The article, and its progeny, views a boyfriend as a symbolic representation of status and partnership. The ideal presentation of one is strictly impersonal - at least, for the sake of the audience. In fact, the primary evidence she uses to explain her concept is from influencers, the population of people most dependent on the publicization of one's personal life.

She uses them as far as it's possible to draw conclusions from trends in their content, which she then applies to the general societal mood.

This is because influencers represent only the extreme endpoint of a feeling commonly seen across society right now. They are the people whose personal lives are most exposed by the internet, but to some degree, all of ours are already exposed in the same way. Social media has created a

world in which cameras are everywhere and people are always potentially watching. There's no telling when we might be getting recorded by some stranger and put in front of an online audience that we neither measure nor control.

On the flipside of that, we are also purposefully putting ourselves online more than ever before. The process of creating and curating personal content and

putting it onto the internet affects almost everyone to some degree. We exist in a generation of people who have an overwhelming desire to create and express a version of themselves online in the public forum, whether that be on Instagram, TikTok, X, formerly known

as they exhibit themselves online. The gaze we put towards others eventually becomes the one we put towards ourselves. It's a reflexive act. As philosopher Byung-Chul Han states, it is to the point where we live in a "digital panopticon." We constantly act as though we are being watched, because we can never tell when we are or who is watching.

When we take this into account, the concept of an embarrassing boyfriend be-

comes all the more interesting. As another Substack writer argued, it shows that, "if Instagram did not exist we would basically not be having this conversation." If our entire private lives weren't put on the internet for display, people wouldn't feel that watchful gaze that tells them to curate it all perfect and pretty. They wouldn't feel embarrassed at their boyfriends solely because of the potential for them to cause

some harm to their image as it is consumed by a faceless, amorphous online audience. The issue wouldn't be getting turned into "the meme, the 'couldn't be me' quote tweet," but rather people could focus on the actual harm being perpetrated in relationships. It's more important to figure out why boyfriends are embarrassing than it is to discuss why women lose online followers when they post them. This discourse "engages in neither critical nor emotional work" on the subject, but focuses on love only as it is represented in content, on the aesthetics of it. When harm happens, interrogate the harm, not how it looks to other people. Encourage the work, from both sides of a partnership, to not do things that are embarrassing or harmful. In other words, touch grass and stop worrying about perception; do something about the problem.

Now, there's something to be said that a significant portion of this article diverges from the direct statements of the original article by Joseph and focuses heavily on the points of discourse that came from it. As far as that article is concerned, there is still value in understanding the cultural "appreciation" for a boyfriend, because that does communicate something very interesting about the state of gender relations in the world right now. Although, as an aside, I'd question how much of society actually thinks like this. There are large conservative portions of society that do not romanticize the single life and the author does not consider them. This, frankly, is probably also due to the "online-ness" of the article's focus, and that is ultimately the issue. While exploring a real societal shift, it focuses on the wrong aspects. If you're worried your boyfriend is embarrassing, don't worry about what Instagram will think - just dump him.



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Opinion

Photo of the Day | Celebrity appearance



Students cross Fairfield Way while Johnathan the Husky heads into Homer Babbidge Library in Storrs, Conn. on Nov. 13, 2025. He greeted students as he walked around campus throughout the day. PHOTO BY ELLA GORHAM, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

THE DIMINISHING FUNCTIONALITY OF BRUTALISM IN COLLEGE CAMPUSES

by **Miranda Noguera**

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Brutalist architecture is present all around the country. The Boston Government Service Center, Phoenix Symphony Hall and the Hilton San Francisco Financial District are all examples. But there is an even greater pattern of brutalism amongst college campuses, including the Geisel Library at UCSD, Northeastern University Library and our very own Homer Babbidge Library, located in the middle of Fairfield Way. This has led me to reflect more on the style; the primary function with which the Brutalist movement was established is no longer contributing and/or inciting something amongst schools. Rather than promoting functionality and productivity as it once did after periods of war, it is just becoming obsolete, repetitive and even depressing.

This style of architecture originated in the United Kingdom in the 1950s after World War II. It emphasized raw materials and a very brutal modern approach. In the Brutalist style, structures are as simple as they can get and

convey direct messages. Architects were working with materials within their reach and had to settle with these transcendental styles of a new era.

The message Brutalism tries to convey is functionality; not twirling things around and digging for answers, just explicitly putting out a clear understanding of a structure, its forms, materials and textures. Such was the success of the movement that in the early 1960s it made its way to the United States, specifically towards college campuses. The John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library at Brown University is known to be the first Brutalist college campus library in the country, dating back to 1964. At a time of despair and sadness, the new structures were innovative; they were minimalistic and modern yet amusing. It was something new people looked forward to, not just at Brown but at many other campuses that shortly followed up with this style.

Architects such as Paul Rudolph pioneered and continued to spread this new form of art through schools such as the

Yale Married Student Housing (1960) and the Yale Arts and Architecture Building (1969). The style continued to be a triumph throughout the 1960s and 1970s, but what happened by the 1980s? People started to see that in the long run, concrete didn't hold itself up pretty well due to water damage and the decay diminished the overall aesthetic. British author Anthony Daniels called it "monstrous" over time, also mentioning the architect Le Corbusier: "a single one of his buildings... could ruin the harmony of an entire townscape." The love for Brutalism was spreading rapidly and massively early on, but the style ended up creating a monotone, depressive and repetitive concrete landscape.

Due to its origins of functionality and "function over form," the Brutalist movement is making a comeback, and I am against it. The bases and roots of this influence were after periods of war in which concrete and organic forms were the most accessible - the material was not a choice, per se. If we have the opportu-

nity to explore more styles and experiment with new technologies and a variety of resources at reach, why settle for a style that originated from the "bare minimum" in the first place? Brutalism was a success in its time; it created a modern approach mixed with organic forms never seen before, all while working with the basics. But that function is long gone.

When looking at these cubic concrete buildings, there is no incitement of innovation or productivity; rather, there is a monotone and repetitive feeling that can even become depressing. On our own campus, when comparing the Homer Babbidge Library to Wilbur Cross, students might argue that the South Reading Room at Wilbur Cross (the only room in the building that currently serves as a library) is a more adequate environment for study motivation: the tall towers, the

earthy, muted and stone-based color scheme, dark noble materials and influences of institutional identity and prestige. As silly as it sounds, a more whimsical environment can boost a learning experience, and I can speak on behalf of many students and myself.

I am not advocating to get rid of Brutalist structures and rebuild libraries. Brutalist architecture should be appreciated and admired for its attributions in a time period of reconstruction and scarce resources. But its symbolism of economic hardships should not be the ideal in an educational structure that is supposed to foster learning. Instead, schools should aim at trying new styles, implementing new colors, shapes and textures, using new technologies in favor of innovation and even preserving the collegiate gothic buildings in which institutions were built with the intention of stimulating education.



The Phoenix Symphony Hall, a multi-purpose performing arts venue located downtown Phoenix, Ariz. The hall is the home of the Phoenix Symphony, Arizona Opera, Ballet Arizona and the site of numerous other performances.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Full 90: Premier League midseason report

by Will DeLetto
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Hello and welcome back to another edition of The Full 90. Since the Premier League is on hold due to the November international break, this week, I wanted to take a moment to discuss the current state of the Premier League and where I think it's going heading into a busy winter period.

Currently at the top of the table sits the dominant defensive leader Arsenal FC. Through eleven games, the Gunners sit four points ahead of second place, Manchester City, and six points in front of third place, Chelsea FC. The Gunners have looked strong and fortified throughout the beginning months of the season, but the pressure mounting a 2-2 draw in their most recent game against Sunderland FC could prove to be costly to the North London side. This dramatic draw to Sunderland was the first sign of defensive weakness with the Gunners. This unusual conceding of goals was not normal for them as through ten games they held the best defensive record in the league, having only conceded three goals before their 2-2 draw to Sunderland. In recent years, Arsenal has been prone to choking and falling short after

leading the title race. This result will surely have Arsenal fans reminiscing on their team's tendency to crack under pressure. Could this result be the beginning of another title running downfall? We will see how the team carries itself heading into a busy schedule with two tough games against rivals Tottenham and Chelsea following the November international break.

Manchester City has restored its levels and seems to be back to its former glory under legendary manager Pep Guardiola. Striker Erling Haaland has been a goal machine on overdrive this season, leaving defenders chasing shadows as they watch him slot the ball in the back of the net week in and week out. The Norwegian powerhouse has now netted 14 goals in 11 games and shows no sign of slowing down. With a big win over Liverpool before the November international break, Guardiola's side will continue to stalk Arsenal at the top, waiting for the frontrunners to slip up and drop points.

In third place are the young bucks from southwest London,

Chelsea FC. With an average age of just 24 years old, Chelsea ranks as the youngest team in the Premier League. Its in-

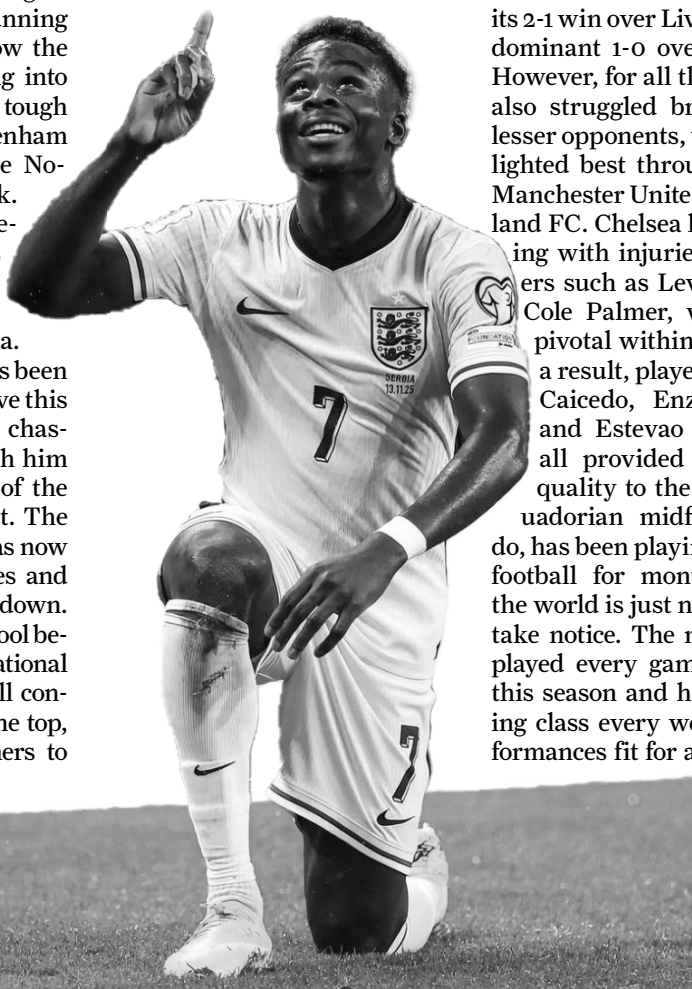
consistent performance within the Premier League has been a pretty accurate portrayal of its youth. Chelsea has had some massive wins this season, like its 2-1 win over Liverpool and its dominant 1-0 over Tottenham. However, for all the good, it has also struggled breaking down lesser opponents, which is highlighted best through defeats to Manchester United and Sunderland FC. Chelsea has been dealing with injuries to key players such as Levi Colwill and Cole Palmer, who are both pivotal within its squad. As a result, players like Moises Caicedo, Enzo Fernandez and Estevao Willian have all provided an influx of quality to the side. The Ecuadorian midfielder, Caicedo, has been playing world class football for months now, but the world is just now starting to take notice. The midfielder has played every game for Chelsea this season and has been exuding class every week, with performances fit for a player that is

the best in the world. As the season goes on, we will see how its team spirit

is displayed, as London's worst enemy is its youthful inconsistency against lesser teams.

Rounding out the top four is arguably the best story of the season, as newly promoted underdog Sunderland FC sits at fourth with 19 points from eleven games. The Black Cats from Northeast England have made an incredible effort this season after being promoted in dramatic fashion with a come-from-behind win against Sheffield United in the Championship playoff final in May of last year. Their hard-fought victory sent a message to everyone surrounding the club, and this was best shown through the influx of funds the owners poured into making their Premier League returning side. The club spent a grand total of \$155 million over the summer and secured marquee signings like former Arsenal midfielder Granit Xhaka and French Defender Nordi Mukiele from PSG. Among these signings were other smart and efficient signings that maximized its minimal budget and bolstered its squad ahead of the 2025-26 campaign.

As the holidays near, the packed Premier League schedule approaches. Expect tantalizing drama, extreme emotions and relentless intensity. With a jam-packed schedule of games imminent, every goal and mistake will matter; this is where titles take shape and true resilience is tested.



Bukayo Saka plays as a forward for Arsenal FC. The team drew 2-2 with Sunderland FC in its most recent game.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @PREMIERLEAGUE ON INSTAGRAM

Men's Hockey: UConn faces Northeastern in weekend series

by Nicole Caruso
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The UConn men's hockey team is coming off two less-than-stellar games against Providence last weekend. The Huskies lost game one of the two-game series with a final score of 4-1 and tied the second game 2-2. However, Northeastern is coming off a win, having swept Stonehill last week.

With just one loss this season, Northeastern will be a tough team to beat, so UConn will need to bring its A-game. This is the first time the two teams will face off against each other this season since their last matchup in March, where UConn had a strong 7-1 victory.

Senior Tyler Muszelik has been a steady player for UConn so far this season. The 6-foot-3 goaltender has prevented several goals this season but often struggles in later periods in letting in goals. Muszelik averages a .928 save percentage and has started in nine of ten games for the team.

So far, UConn (4-4-2) has performed better in away games with

a record of 2-1-1 compared to an at home record of 2-3-1.

UConn's "Ice Bus" has many tenured players this season, with a combination of freshman newcomers already making an impact. Junior forward Joey Muldowney currently leads the Huskies in goals (five), with teammate Jake Richard leading the team in assists (six).

Northeastern (7-1-0) is one of the hottest teams in the Hockey East right now, with junior Dylan Hryckowian leading the team with five goals. They have won their last six games in a row.

UConn will need to get the puck past goaltender junior Lawton Zacher, who was named the Hockey Commissioner's Association Goalie of the Month for October. Zacher closed out October with a .952 save percentage and 1.51 goals against average, according to Northeastern Athletics.

Zacher had a season high of 40 saves against Boston College and gave up only nine goals throughout the month.

"Northeastern played a strong, smart, game tonight and they just kept on making good plays.



UConn men's hockey team goes up against Providence at the Toscano Family Ice Forum. The game took place on Friday, Nov. 7 with the Huskies losing 4-1.

PHOTO BY MORGAN BLANCHARD, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

"They're a solid team," said Boston College Men's Hockey head coach Greg Brown.

Last week, Hockey East ranked Northeastern No. 11 for Men's National Rankings and UConn at No.14. With the season just get-

ting started, both of these Hockey East teams will be looking for a win in the regular season.

UConn will host Northeastern this Friday, Nov. 14, at Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs with a puck drop set for 7 p.m.

Both teams will then head to Boston on Saturday to face off again at Matthews Arena. Puck drop for the game on Saturday, Nov. 15, is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Husky fans can tune into both games on ESPN+.

Volleyball: UConn set to take on Villanova and Georgetown in final regular season games

by Julia Sasso
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The Huskies will hit the road this weekend to play in their final regular season matchups, following a split weekend at home where they beat Butler, but fell to Xavier. UConn will end its regular season conference play against Villanova on Friday, Nov. 14, and Georgetown on Saturday, Nov. 15.

Despite their mixed weekend, the Huskies still set several individual records with several players achieving career and conference milestones. Senior Emma Werkmeister continued her domination on the court as she broke the Big East single season record for service aces, scoring 37 aces in conference play this season. In addition, the senior also leads the nation with 64 service aces overall.

However, Werkmeister is not the only player to reach a major milestone as graduate student Doga Kutlu reached 1000 career digs. She is only 15 assists short of 3000 career assists, a feat that only 5 former Huskies have achieved.

Another player who stood out last weekend was senior Eli Adams as she reached a career high of 8 blocks against

Butler on Friday.

UConn heads into this weekend with a 7-7 conference record and a 4-5 away record, sitting fifth in the Big East standings.

First up this weekend, the Huskies will head to Villanova, Pa., to face the Villanova Wildcats. The Wildcats head into the matchup with a 9-5 conference record.

This is the second time the two programs have faced this season. The two teams went head-to-head in early October in Storrs. Despite a hard-fought game, the Huskies came up short and lost 1-3.

Despite their early success, the Wildcats have faced their fair share of struggles, including losing to No.12 Creighton last weekend. Villanova needs at least one more win this season to secure its spot in the Big East Tournament.

One player to look out for in the Wildcats' roster is junior Abby Harrell. She leads the team with 39 service aces, 370 kills and 279 digs. She has been consequential to the Wildcats, averaging 3.85 kills per set this year, and is ranked within the top 60 in the nation for points. Another important player has been freshman Reagan McGovern, who leads the program

with 97 blocks.

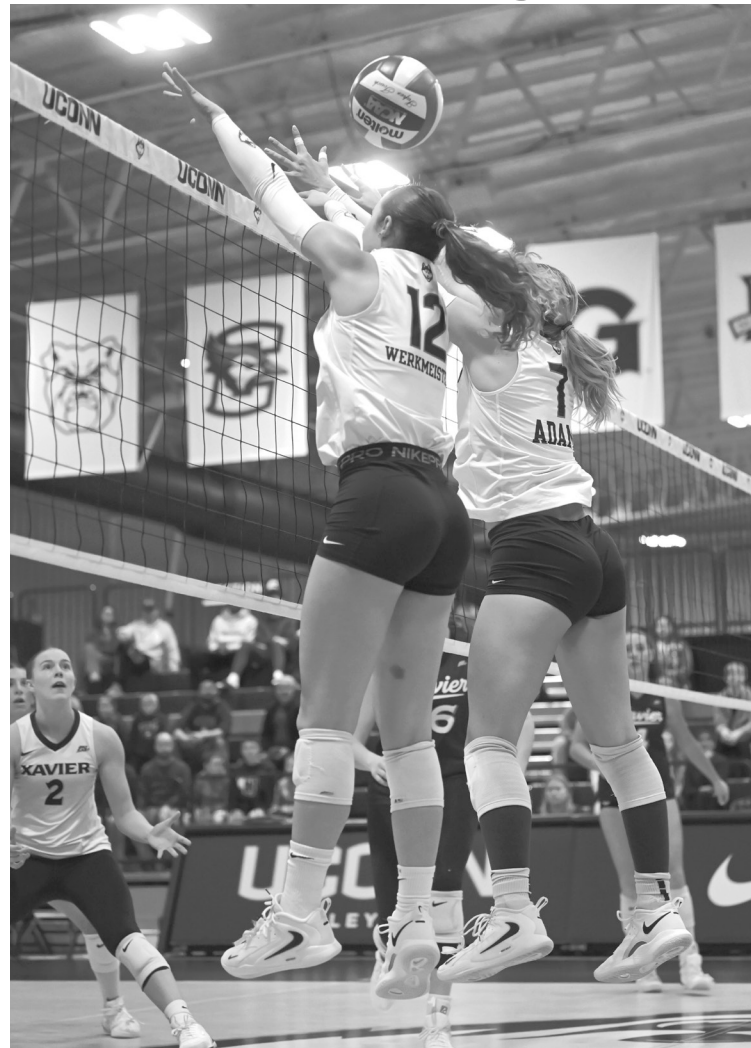
The Huskies will end the regular season in Washington, D.C. on Saturday against Georgetown. UConn currently has a three-game winning streak against the Hoyas. Their last matchup was in early October in Storrs. Connecticut took the victory in three sets, beating Georgetown 3-0.

The Hoyas are tied with DePaul for sixth place in the Big East, with a record of 6-8.

Georgetown's offense is led by freshman Samantha Soderlund and sophomore Julie Urbina. Soderlund leads the program with 250 kills. Meanwhile, Urbina leads the team with 40 service aces and 674 assists. She has averaged 6.48 assists per set, making herself an essential part of the Hoyas attack.

UConn will be aiming to finish the season strong and add two more wins to its record, hoping to secure a spot in the Big East Tournament at the end of the month.

First serve against Villanova is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 14. The Huskies' final regular season match against Georgetown is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 15. Both matches will be streamed live on ESPN+.



UConn visits Villanova and Georgetown to close the regular season after a split weekend and several player milestones. The Huskies sit fifth in the Big East entering their final two matches.

PHOTO BY MORGAN BLANCHARD, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sports

Photo of the Day |



UConn women's basketball plays Loyola Chicago on Nov. 12, 2025 at Gampel Pavilion. The Huskies won with a final score of 85-31.
PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Football: UConn hosts Air Force on Senior Day with undefeated home record on the line

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With one dominant game after another, the UConn football team (7-3) comes into Senior Day with one final home game after winning the first five games of the 2025 season. On Saturday, Nov. 15, the Huskies will face the Air Force Falcons (3-6, 2-4 Mountain West) at Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field.

The Huskies are coming off a program-defining win over the Duke Blue Devils on Nov. 8, making it the first time Connecticut has defeated multiple power conference opponents (excluding the Big East) in the same season since 2009.

That win elevated UConn on the national stage even more than it initially was. Earlier this week, Joe Fagnano was named a semifinalist for the Davey O'Brien Award, awarded to the top quarterback in college football.

Fagnano has been one of the best statistical quarterbacks in the country. He ranks second nationally in passing yards (2,840), third in passing touchdowns (25), seventh in points responsible for (164), 10th in passing yards per game (284), 11th in completions per game (23.6) and passing efficiency (162.4) and 19th in completion percentage (68.8%).

Fagnano is coming off his fifth 300-yard passing game

of the season, throwing for 316 yards and three touchdowns against Duke. He joined former LSU quarterback Joe Burrow in throwing for at least 250 yards and at least three touchdowns in each of the last five games.

"[Expletive] Heisman Trophy," UConn men's basketball head coach Dan Hurley said about how great Fagnano has been this season.

Along with that, Bryun Parham was named a semifinalist for the Walter Camp Player of the Year Award, which is awarded to the best player in college football. Parham has been one of the top defensive players in the country, ranking third nationally with 10.5 sacks and seventh in sacks per game, averaging 1.05. Parham has recorded a sack in eight of UConn's 10 games this season.

He is coming off a career-high 16-tackle performance against Duke, along with a sack, an interception and a game-sealing forced fumble.

Air Force is coming off a 26-16 win at San José State last Saturday, Nov. 8. The second quarter was vital in the Falcons' win, with 16 points, which led to a 16-3 halftime lead. Air Force was terrific on the ground, rushing for 261 yards. Owen Allen led the rushing offense with 109 yards on 20 carries; it is the third game he has hit the 100-yard rushing mark in the last four games. The Falcons are notorious for their rushing offense, with a streak of 94 games

of over 100 yards on the ground as a team. They rank second in the country in rushing yards per game, averaging 269 yards.

"They're not like Rice, but there are some similarities," UConn head coach Jim Mora said on Tuesday. "What helps us is preparing well during the week and going out and playing well. At least there's a little bit of familiarity, but these guys are polished."

Air Force is also one of the hottest teams on defense. In the last three games, the Falcons have held each of their last three opponents to 21 points or less.

The player to watch is quarterback Liam Szarka, leading the way on the ground with 903 yards and 13 touchdowns on 183 carries.

The Huskies are 1-7 against Mountain West opponents, with the lone win coming in 2022 against Fresno State. This is the first time UConn will face Air Force in program history, with a home-and-home series ending on Halloween next season.

UConn will honor many players on Saturday, including Fagnano, Aaron Key, Chris Freeman and Stephon Wright.

"I'm proud of them," Mora said. "I'm proud of the things that they've worked so hard to accomplish and the resilience that they've shown and the toughness that they've shown."

Kickoff from The Rent is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 15, at noon and is available to watch on CBS Sports Network.



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.
PHOTOS BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Basketball: No. 3 Huskies ship up to Boston to take on No. 7 BYU

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The first test of the No. 3 UConn men's basketball (3-0) team's loaded non-conference schedule has arrived. The Huskies will ship up to the TD Garden in Boston on Saturday, Nov. 15, to take on the No. 7 BYU Cougars (3-0).

It will be a homecoming for Southborough, Mass., native Alex Karaban, who grew up roughly 27 miles outside the city. The two-time NCAA champion has been

7-15 from the field. Karaban had the best overall performance with 20 points, six rebounds and four assists on 7-11 shooting.

Ball is the team's leading scorer through three games, averaging 18.3 points per game (94th percentile).

While three games are a small sample size, Connecticut is one of the top teams on both ends of the court. According to KenPom, UConn boasts the No. 4 and No. 12 offenses and defenses, respectively, in terms of efficiency. The Huskies' true

centile) on 57.5% shooting from the floor. He spoke to the media about his ties to the Boston area, including his time at St. Sebastian's School in Needham.

"It was just great," Dybantsa said of his time at St. Sebastian's School. "That's why I did my re-class year, my ninth-grade year. Went to go play in the ISL, get some better competition. Team-based, though, I had Trevor Mullin on my team. He's at Yale... I just made a lot of friends, [that] I'm still friends with right now."

The Cougars have been more

last season in a 76-72 UConn win over Baylor.

Richie Saunders completes the starting backcourt, making him and Wright one of the most lethal guard duos in college basketball. Saunders was pivotal in BYU's second-half surge, scoring 20 of his season-high 26 points while recording 10 rebounds for his second double-double in his career. In the second half alone, the Riverton, Utah native knocked down six 3-pointers.

Dybantsa was the third player in double figures on Tuesday,

in the country in terms of adjusted efficiency, with one of the lowest turnover percentages nationally (8.5%, fourth-best in the nation).

Saturday night will feature two top 10 offenses, with a lot of pressure coming on BYU's defense, which ranks 55th in the country.

BYU is just the first of many premier non-conference opponents that Connecticut will face; they still have No. 5 Arizona (Nov. 19), No. 14 Illinois (Nov. 23), No. 25 Kansas (Dec. 2), No. 10 Florida (Dec. 9) and Texas (Dec. 12) on the horizon.



The UConn men's basketball team takes on Columbia at Gampel Pavillion on Nov. 10, 2025. The Huskies won the game 89-62.
PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

excellent in Connecticut's first three games of the regular season, averaging 17.3 points (96th percentile nationally), six rebounds and 2.7 assists (93rd percentile) on shooting splits of 58.1% from the field, 53.3% from 3-point range (88th percentile) and 88.9% from the free-throw line. While three games are a small sample, Karaban has hit the ground running in his final season with the program.

UConn comes into Saturday night after two impressive performances against UMass Lowell and Columbia. On Monday night, the Huskies defeated Columbia, 89-62, led by a 23-point performance from Solo Ball, who shot

shooting percentage stands out in advanced analytics (66.4%, 96th percentile). After a lot of struggles on the defensive end of the court last season, each of UConn's advanced defensive analytic categories ranked in at least the 90th percentile.

BYU also has a star forward from the Boston area, as Brockton native AJ Dybantsa comes in as one of the best freshmen in the country and a popular pick to go No. 1 overall in the 2026 NBA Draft. Dybantsa comes into the game averaging 18.7 points (97th percentile), seven rebounds (85th percentile) and 2.7 assists per game (93rd per-

centile) on 57.5% shooting from the floor. He spoke to the media about his ties to the Boston area, including his time at St. Sebastian's School in Needham.

The last time out for BYU was not pretty. On Tuesday, the Cougars trailed at the midway point against a winless Delaware team, using a second-half surge to defeat the Blue Hens, 85-68.

They were led by a huge performance from Baylor transfer Robert Wright III, who finished with 26 points, nine assists and nine rebounds on 9-17 overall shooting and 4-7 from deep. UConn is familiar with Wright's game, as he dropped 22 points off the bench

Nov. 11, scoring 18 points while pulling down seven rebounds and two assists.

"When you watch clips of BYU and AJ [Dybantsa] and [Richie] Saunders, they got one of the best point guards in the country," UConn head coach Dan Hurley said after the win over Columbia. "When you see that quality on film, you get scared straight. Things that worked the first three games won't work."

So far this season, BYU is shooting 48.7% from the field, 32.4% from downtown (177th in the country) and 76.9% from the free-throw line. According to KenPom, BYU's offense is rated No. 7

"This time of year, people are challenging themselves in these non-conference games, and it's a good barometer for where you're at," Hurley said. "I think you have a pretty good sense where you're vulnerable, but it's really going to expose vulnerabilities."

It will be the first time the two programs have met since a 58-53 win during the 2003 NCAA Tournament.

Since the 2018-19 season, UConn is 3-4 against the Big 12, with all three wins since the 2022-23 season. Overall, Connecticut is 13-14 against Big 12 opponents.

Tip-off from TD Garden in Boston is set for 7 p.m. and will be tele-

Field Hockey: UConn to face heavy offensive firepower in NCCA tournament

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Despite coming up short in the 2025 Big East Field Hockey Championship, the No. 11 UConn field hockey team (11-8) earned an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament and will take on No. 7 Wake Forest (15-4) on Friday, Nov. 14, at 2:30 p.m.

UConn has the most losses and lowest winning percentage (.579) of any team in the tournament that did not have to participate in a play-in round.

To overcome their underdog status, the Huskies will be looking for a rebound performance from senior forward Julia Bressler. The second-team All-Big East selection is tied for the team lead in goals this season but hasn't found the back of the net since Oct. 26 against Fairfield. Bressler recorded a combined nine shots across UConn's two Big East tournament games, which represents just over 17% of the shots that she has taken the entire season. One of two team captains, she has taken 29 more shots than anyone else on the UConn roster. Bressler has not recorded an assist this season and is banking on converting a few more of those shots into goals this weekend if she hopes to remain a productive member of the offense.

Bressler went into the Big East tournament in sole possession of the team lead in goals. Freshman attacker Pien Prins made up a two-goal difference in a single game, netting a pair in the Huskies' semifinal win over Old Dominion. After scoring three goals over UConn's first two games, the first two coming against New

Hampshire, the forward didn't record a goal or assist over the entire month of September. Prins didn't find the back of the net again until Oct. 24, where she fi-

looking to make sure that the Huskies can't get past today and will do so on the backs of a pair of star performers. Mia Schoenbeck won the 2025 ACC Offen-

over two games against Power Four competition in the regular season, including a loss to ACC semifinalist Duke.

Should UConn upset Wake

ence championship and earn the conference's automatic tournament bid. The Huskies took a 4-3 win over the Wildcats thanks to Prins' two goal performance.

The Wildcats' leading scorer is America East 2025 Offensive Player of the Year Nicole Poulakis. The senior midfielder led the conference in both goals and points and was tied with Schoenbeck for the second most goals in the nation. Forwards Kathelijne Knuttel and Tasmine Cookman also made the conference first-team.

Despite the offensive fire power possessed by UNH, it's Harvard who comes into round one as the favorite. The Crimson already have plenty of hardware for 2025 after sweeping the Ivy-League major postseason awards.

Junior forward Sage Piekarski won Co-Offensive Player of the Year (sharing the title with Princeton's Beth Yeager) and led the team in goals. Senior defender Bronte-May Brough won Defensive Player of the Year after helping freshman goalie Linde Burger on her way to earning Rookie of the Year. Head coach Tjerk van Herwaarden and company took home Coaching Staff of the Year.

Harvard went undefeated in the regular season before suffering its first loss in the Ivy League championship game against No. 2 Princeton. The Huskies lost to the Crimson in mid-September, 2-0. UConn is 1-3 against Ivy League opponents this season.

All three games this weekend will take place at Berylson Family Field Hockey Field at Harvard in Cambridge, Mass. The quarterfinals will take place Sunday, No. 16, at 1 p.m. Each game will stream live on ESPN+.



UConn enters the NCAA tournament as an underdog. To win, they'll need big performances from Julia Bressler and Pien Prins.
PHOTO BY ELLA GORHAM, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

nally broke through with a score against Old Dominion. Since then, she has scored an additional three times.

Due to streaky seasons from both the former and the latter, the Huskies have yet to see their top two scorers find simultaneous success but could be reliant on that coming to fruition if they hope to play past this weekend.

The Demon Deacons will be

sive Player of the Year and sophomore back Mia Montag won ACC Defensive Player of the Year. Schoenbeck led the ACC in goals with 23, good for second in the nation. Jennifer Averill was also named ACC Coach of the Year.

Despite the two teams both winning multiple national championships since the turn of the century, the programs have never faced off. UConn went winless

Forest, they will take on one of two familiar opponents. UNH will face tournament host No. 3 Harvard University today at noon for the second spot in the quarterfinals.

UConn beat UNH all the way back in August in both teams' first game of the season. The Wildcats squeaked out a win over Vermont in double overtime to win the America East confer-



Sports

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

NO. 1 UCONN TO HOST OHIO STATE BUCKEYES

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The No. 1 UConn women's basketball team is set to make its regular-season debut at the newly renovated PeoplesBank Arena on Sunday, Nov. 16. With three games and three wins under their belt, the Huskies are set to take on the Ohio State Buckeyes.

Connecticut is coming off an 85-31 win over the Loyola Chicago Ramblers on Wednesday, Nov. 13. Freshman Blanca Quiñonez made her debut as a Husky and junior KK Arnold continued playing with her new veteran role.

Quiñonez replaced Serah Williams on the court in the first quarter, immediately taking to the pace of the game. In total, Quiñonez finished the night with five points, three assists and two steals.

"I'm hoping we can just keep ramping up her minutes, you know as we go along, either with Sarah [Strong] or when Sarah's [Strong] not out on the floor, you know, to have a similar type of presence out there," said head coach Geno Auriemma after the game. "I think it was a good start for her."

Despite things looking unstructured on the offensive end, Arnold and the program's defense were what kept the Huskies in the game.

"I'm not exactly thrilled with where we are offensively right now, so much of our offense comes from our defense," Auriemma said. "I don't know if that's something you're gonna be able to count on every night."

Despite in past seasons where the program had been plagued with injuries, this season the program has lots of versatility throughout its starters and their bench. Out of the 13 players who were available on the roster to play, each had a chance to put points on the board.

For the game Sunday against Ohio State, Quiñonez and Gandy Mamou-Mamel will both be available after returning Wednesday, despite missing the first two games of the season due to injury. Morgan Cheli is still expected to be out against the Buckeyes. Ice Brady missed the game against the Ramblers due to inflammation in her knee, and Auriemma still considers her day-to-day.

A player on the Buckeyes roster that the Huskies should

look out for is sophomore guard Jaloni Cambridge. Standing at 5-foot-7, Cambridge averaged 15 points per game in her freshman campaign. In the Buckeyes' first game of the season against Coppin State, Cambridge tallied 23 points.

In this game against Coppin State, the Buckeyes racked up 15 turnovers throughout the entire game and only shot 23% from beyond the arc. The Huskies will need to stay aggressive on the defensive end of the court and utilize turnovers to their advantage to add more points onto the scoreboard.

The last time the Huskies faced the Buckeyes was in March 2023, where Ohio State took the win 73-61. Since first facing one another in December 2010, that was the only time Ohio State beat the Huskies. Should the Huskies polish up their shooting from beyond the arc and take advantage of their depth up and down the roster, they will have the upper hand in this one.

Tip-off is scheduled for noon, with the banner unveiling occurring before game time. If Husky fans cannot make it to Hartford, they can stream the game on Peacock or listen in on 97.9 FM from Learfield.



THE HUSKIES AND AURIEMMA ARE HERE TO WIN

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Depth is abstract and ambiguous. It's hard to define and even harder to utilize. Most teams don't have it and the ones that do tend to lose it in the annual off-season bidding war that has become the transfer portal.

Depth is invaluable, especially for a coach that's seen his fair share of injuries to star players. It's a privilege to have and a necessity for any team with championship aspirations.

Depth is what wills a team through the slog of mid-February. Depth fills in the cracks left by injured starters and compensates for fatigue come March.

Geno Auriemma knows that. More importantly, he knows his team has it this year.

"Tomorrow's rotation might be completely different than Tuesday's," Auriemma said referring to his ever-changing rotational plans. "Next Wednesday's rotation might be completely different than tomorrow's."

He wasn't lying. The top-ranked Huskies have used 44 different lineup combinations across the first 120 minutes of game action in 2025-26, with the only one – the starting unit – seeing more than 10 minutes of floor time (31 total minutes).

The backcourt is jam-packed with scoring. The frontcourt is hyper-flexible. Auriemma likes his small ball lineups but knows that he has a three-big unit waiting in the wings.

"[Each game] is just another opportunity to try to find which combinations do what."

Twelve players checked in and played at least eight minutes in the team's 99-67 win over Florida State last Sunday, Nov. 9. Thirteen (welcome to the party, Gandy Malou-Mamel and Blanca Quiñonez) saw the court on Wednesday, Nov. 12.

Ten of them logged double-digit minutes and 12 of them scored more than one basket.

Is it sustainable (or even realistic) to empty the bench every night? Probably not. Is it a valid sampling considering the Huskies have won their last two games by a combined 86 points? Questions can be raised there, too.

But this isn't about how many players Auriemma can let loose onto the court on a given night. That isn't skillful, nor does it take much strategy.

This more so questions how many meaningful contributors he has at his disposal in late-game situations.

The starting five are the bedrock; Azzi Fudd and Sarah Strong have anchored the Connecticut scoring attack thus far and most likely will the entire season.

Serah Williams has been a solid complementary option in the low post despite her somewhat awkward transition into becoming a tertiary option for the Huskies after spending three years at Wisconsin as a primary one.

KK Arnold continues to show growth offensively and has been her usual steady yet chaotic self on the defensive end. She's cracked double figures in two games already.

Ashlynn Shade, despite averaging just five points per night, is the team's third leading rebounder and has hit 50% of her two-pointers.

Those five, regardless of if they start or not, will continue to contribute on a nightly basis for the Huskies.

But it's the bench that's been the early story for top-ranked Connecticut.

Kayleigh Heckel and Allie Ziebell have combined for 47 points and 14 steals in 110 minutes so far. Heckel was the lone double-digit scorer alongside Fudd and Strong in the team's win over Florida State, while Ziebell spelled Fudd off the bench to the tune of 13 points

and five made field goals in the exhibition win over Southern Connecticut State.

Those two have entrenched themselves as rotational mainstays and should continue to see an increase in floor time.

Jana El Alfy had undoubtedly her best game of the season in the low post on Wednesday, even if the box score doesn't show it. She's been a stone wall defensively and collected nine boards in 21 minutes against the Ramblers.

Quiñonez injured her shoulder before Louisville and missed the first two games of the season. She returned on Wednesday, Nov. 12, and the flashes of her proclaimed elite offensive playmaking ability and steady defensive presence were there.

Five points, three assists and two steals don't speak to the way she glided in transition, twirled through the lane and pickpocketed Rambler guards all night long.

Auriemma was bullish post-game, stating his intent to "ramp up" Quiñonez's minutes and make her a regular fixture to the rotation.

That's nine right there, which doesn't count Caroline Ducharme's spot duties along the wing.

Auriemma's teams usually hang around the nine or 10-deep mark when healthy enough. That number has shrunk down to eight (2021-22, 2022-23 for example) but hasn't climbed above 10 since 2007-08, when 11 players averaged double-figure minutes.

The rest – Ice Brady (who's dealing with knee inflammation), Kelis Fisher, Ayanna Patterson, Malou-Mamel and (eventually) Morgan Cheli – will be facing an uphill battle for consistent playing time.

But that doesn't mean they aren't capable; they're just buried. Buried in one of college basketball's most complete depth charts.

Expect the nine-man rotation to include a handful of variable line-ups, with none receiving much run outside of the starting five.

The University of Connecticut women's basketball team defeated Florida State University in a 99-67 bout. The Huskies started off the evening by unveiling their 2025 NCAA Championship banner.

PHOTOS BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS