



Life

PRIZES AND GAMES OF CHANCE AT STUDENT ACTIVITIES BINGO NIGHT

CLIPART COURTESY OF NICEPNG

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On Thursday, April 23rd at 9 p.m., the University of Connecticut's Department of Student Activities hosted a bingo night at the Union Mall. The event was a part of the Student Activities' Spring Weekend campaign and featured various prizes for the winning students in each round.

The event ran for eight rounds with increasingly difficult bingo patterns each round, with the last round being a race to fill in every square of the bingo board.

"Spring Weekend's main idea is to just allow the students to have fun, free, accessible activities during this

hard time during the semester where it's right before finals, right before classes ends," said Julia Pheifer, a student facilities monitoring assistant in Student Activities. Pheifer is a sixth-semester molecular and cellular biology major and has been the announcer at Spring Weekend's bingo night since her freshman year.

The event had several large tables set up under a massive white tent on the Union Mall, but by the end of the night groups of students joining late filled in the nearby area with lawn chairs from the surrounding field.

"The event was great, everyone was chanting what number they wanted, cheering when I called a good

number or bad number," said Pheifer.

The prize pool for the event included earbuds, phone chargers, a variety of gift cards and a LEGO Batman set. Only the first three winners to reach the stage for each round could choose a prize from the collection, leading to several mad dashes during the event for the best prizes.

"Yeah, it was a little chaotic today just because we realized the bingo boards were a little messed up probably halfway through the event, but otherwise, like, I always love chaos," said Pheifer.

Despite the chaos, Pheifer also said the event allowed "students to de-stress, just hang out with friends, chat, meet new people, and that's

what we're all about here in student activities; the main part of this is community."

Bingo was the last Spring Weekend event held on April 23, but similar events were held beforehand.

"Before this we had a capella group M-pact come, tomorrow we have the comedy show, we have trivia, cookie decorating — there's just so many different activities you wouldn't normally see on campus being brought to campus for Spring Weekend," said Pheifer.

Spring Weekend takes place each year before the last week of school and is run primarily by Student Activities with collaboration from SUBOG. Spring Weekend featured events including la-

ser tag, OOzeball, late night snack options and the annual SUBOG comedy show, featuring Michael Blaustein and Trevor Wallace.

The end of Spring Weekend marks the end of most events for the 2026-27 school year, though lawn chairs and the white tent will stay out for students to enjoy.

"Shoutout [to] Student Activities for planning this, it takes a lot of hard work, specifically Eric Bouchard, who puts on Spring Weekend, he has been planning this for months and months and to see it come to life has been amazing, I just love that we can provide for the students in this way that allows them to express themselves," said Pheifer.

INDULGE IN LAUGHTER WITH 'Comedy Tonight: An Evening of One-Acts'

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As part of the Connecticut Repertory Theatre's ongoing comedy series, audiences watched University of Connecticut students put on two comedy shows at the Studio Theatre on Saturday, April 25.

The first show of the night was "The Further Adventures of Nick Danger: Third Eye," first written and performed by comedy troupe The Firesign Theatre, with this iteration of the show directed by Sandi Caroll.

The play is a satire on classic radio serials, spoofing the elements of old radio plays down to the live sound effects, advertisements, bumper music and on-air host, played by Justin Boutin.

These audio elements were created by Jake Neighbors, the sound designer for both shows. Neighbors was a sound engineer for several companies before he ended up in CRT.

"I often look at myself as the glue that helps hold all the other design areas together," Neighbors said in an interview with CRT. "I'm making sure everyone fits together nicely so that when the audience comes and watches our show that everything is seamless."

The story of the play is a string of messy plots tied together in a frantic attempt to fill the hour. You follow the adventures of Nick Danger (Danny Reyes) who hopes to find his long-lost love Nancy (Zachary Russell) and ask for a repayment on the ring he gave her.

Unfortunately, Rocky Rococo (Mariangelie Vélez) was conspiring with Nancy and her elderly husband Catherwood (Bryan Anderson) to steal Nick's ring contract. They even staged Rococo's death via car crash to implicate him in a felony offense to Lieutenant Bradshaw (Lillian McIntosh).

At this point, things start going off the rails, as half the cast is transported into a flashback — and then back into the present where Nancy and Nick fight with their past selves. The late President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivered a speech about the Pearl Harbour attacks as a cardboard cutout, voiced by Beau Brennan.

Caroll wrote about how the cast embraced her teaching method, which she calls "The Discipline of Play," and embodied it in their performances, according to her program note. This method involves actors having fun while still remaining in the moment, which stems from traditional European comedy training, Caroll wrote.

"I've discovered this to be an essential skill in life, no matter the task, and this company has embraced that spirit with joyful generosity," Caroll wrote.

After a 15-minute intermission, the night resumed with "The Polycule, A Comedy of Manners," written by Jillian Blevins and directed by Michael Samuel Kaplan.

This show covers a woman's first time meeting her new boy-

friend's polycule. The play "satirizes the conventions of unconventional relationships," according to CRT's description of the play on their website.

After a short introduction of each person of the seven-member polycule, their relationship dynamics and a crash course on the polyamory dictionary, we see the cracks unravel and how the faultlines between each polycule member have formed.

Fern (Claire Huebner) is the newcomer to the polycule — a heterosexual country girl who comes to a dinner party with her boyfriend Andy (Garrett LaBranche). Elise (Gianna Nichols) is a bisexual woman married to Andy and a stickler for the rules of the polycule.

Apart from the main couple and Fern, there is also Vee (Ben Lewin), the only asexual and non-binary character, who is eager to please and loves soaking up all the gossip in the house. Mira (Ian Rothaus) is a bisexual woman who has a very direct personality and used to getting what she wants.

Lastly, there is the couple Kyle (Aidan James) and Gary (Brandon Collado). While Kyle is openly in relationships with multiple people within the polycule — since his love can't be contained to just one person, according to himself — Gary is the only monogamous person here. Gary is described as just an average guy by other characters.

One more thing to mention is the fact that characters speak in rhythmic verse, which makes for a unique viewing experience and gives a timeless edge to a modern story. This writing decision was inspired by French playwright Moliere, according to CRT's description of the play.

Lillian Ransijn served as the intimacy coordinator for both shows. She first found interest in becoming an intimacy coordinator due to her background as a dancer and her interests in physical theatre. Ransijn said that an intimacy coordinator can help provide clarity for an actor in intimate scenes, so they can focus on delivering a good performance for the crowd.

"When you have that clarity with your scene partner, you can be assured that you know what you're doing," Ransijn said in an interview with CRT. "Sometimes, the intimacy director is there to support the actors when what they are doing is not reading [to the audience]."

Kaplan believes that this play is a reminder of the importance of interpersonal relationships, according to his program note.

"What better time than now to remind ourselves that, beyond our myriad shortcomings, each of us, thank the heavens, is human and thus imperfect," he wrote. "To remember who we are to one another, all we have to do in any moment is simply see and love."

CRT will continue showing these two comedy acts until Sunday, May 3. Tickets can be found at connecticutrep.uconn.edu.



Ian Rothaus and Garrett LaBranche acting in the Connecticut Repertory Theatre's one act show, "The Polycule, A Comedy of Manners". The show closes on May 3, 2026. PHOTO COURTESY OF @CRT_UCONN ON INSTAGRAM



Mariangelie Vélez acting in the Connecticut Repertory Theatre's one act show, "The Further Adventures of Nick Danger: Third Eye". The CRT put on two comedy shows at the Studio Theatre on Saturday, April 25. PHOTO COURTESY OF @CRT_UCONN ON INSTAGRAM