Life

UCONN RAINBOW CENTER CELEBRATES HALLOWEEN WITH SPOOKY NIGHT SOCIAL



Students sit in the Student Union in Storrs. The Rainbow Center hosted Spooky Night, a Halloween event.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL JEFFERS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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Editor's Note: Marianne Rampertab is a Campus Correspondent for the Daily Campus

In light of Halloween, the University of Connecticut Rainbow Center and its Influencing Readiness, Inspiring Success (IRIS) Program hosted their Spooky Night Social on Friday.

Bailey Gaffney, a third-semester Master of Arts in Higher Education and Student Affairs student who is the Rainbow Center's graduate assistant, said the Spooky Night Social has been hosted in the past.

"We've had this event for a few years now, and it's been a really successful event, especially since our IRIS Program's collaborations with the Rainbow Center make it open to all students," Gaffney said.

The Spooky Night Social is a great way for students to celebrate Halloween on campus, and it's a nice alternative for those who don't want to go partying, according to Gaffney

Many students attended the event. Some wore costumes to showcase a variety of people and characters, such as a cowgirl, a witch, L from "Death Note" and Lightning McQueen.

Pizza, soda and candy were provided. There were also four activity options: Werewolf, coloring, cookie decorating and a photo booth.

Most people took advantage of the photo booth, where they could take selfies and group photos in front of a "Five Nights at Freddy's" wall decoration.

Many attendees flocked to the program's room for Werewolf, a game where players were randomly assigned to be a werewolf, vampire, detective, angel, mayor, saboteur or townsperson. At the beginning of a round, everyone is ordered to close their eyes. When commanded, the werewolf and vampire turn a player into a ghost. Afterwards, everyone opens their eyes and try to guess the werewolf and vampire's identities.

Many students enjoyed Werewolf. One was Mia Sharp, a fifth-semester American Sign Language student.

"It was quite fun," Sharp said. "I was familiar with the game because of "Among Us," which I played during COVID[-19]."

Marianne Rampertab, a seventh-semester English and history student who is an IRIS Program coordinator, said Vergil Hart did an amazing job leading Werewolf.

"He was very cinematic," Rampertab said of the fifth-semester structural biology and biophysics student's efforts. "He was overly dramatic, but that's the point. It's supposed to be funny and silly."

Some attendees did cookie decorating, which also took place in the program's room. Plain sugar cookies and chocolate sugar cookies were available to attendees, who used icing, Sour Patch Kids and sprinkles to adorn them.

About half the attendees did coloring, which was in the main lounge. Markers and Halloween-themed coloring sheets were provided.

In the last half hour of the event, about a dozen people participated in a costume contest, which had five awards: the silliest costume, the scariest costume, the craftiest costume, the most creative costume and the gayest costume. Those who won an award received a Bluetooth speaker with the Rainbow Center's logo.

A third-semester animal science student who chose to remain anonymous said they enjoyed the Spooky Night Social.

"I think Werewolf was the best part," they said.

Rampertab said the event was successful.

"A lot of people came to the Rainbow Center, and it was a fun time," Rampertab said.

Rampertab feels proud of those who helped host the Spooky Night Social.

"Everyone at the Rainbow Center worked to make this happen, and we're so happy that everyone loved working at this event," Rampertab said. and we're so happy that everyone loved working at this event," Rampertab said.



A whiteboard filled with Halloween drawings sits in the Student Union in Storrs. The Rainbow Center hosted Spooky Night, a Halloween event.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL JEFFERS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

DE LA SOUL IS NONSTOP: A 30TH ANNIVERSARY ALBUM COMMEMORATION

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Hip-hop legend group De La Soul released its 30th anniversary version of their 1996 album "Stakes is High" on Friday. The group flourished in the 1990s, but they released a new album in 2025 and continue to tour.

The Daisy Age was a hip-hop movement spanning the late 1980s into the 1990s, defined by inner-city creativity and expression of positivity. We all have De La Soul to thank for coining the title – D.A.I.S.Y. is an acronym for Da Inner Sound, Y'all – and invigorating the era with jazzy rap music.

De La Soul was known for their playful, lighthearted sound since releasing their debut album, "3 Feet High and Rising," alongside beloved producer Prince Paul. Prince Paul is kind of an unsung hero in the world of hip-hop, DJing for Stetsasonic, working on early projects with Queen Latifah, collaborating on and producing a myriad of albums for Gorillaz, Vanilla Ice and, of course, De La Soul. Seven years and three records later, "Stakes is High" was their first album created without his input, marking a notable shift for the group.

This record took on a direct sound, featuring harder-edged beats and a slightly more serious tone. "Investin' in fantasies and not in God," the second-to-last track says, warning listeners in a prophetic manner. "Welcome to reality, see, times is hard."

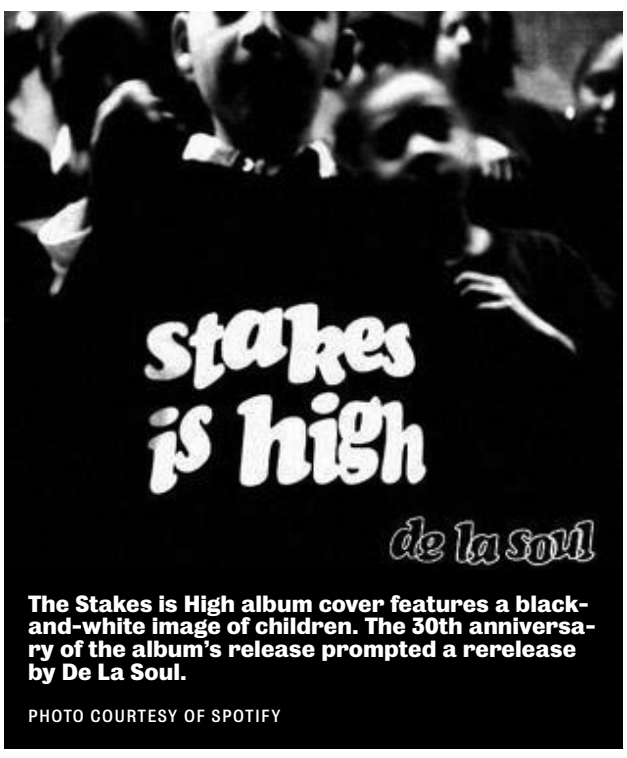
The distinction between the original and the 30th anniversary version of the album is that the latter includes multiple unreleased tracks as well as an instrumental version of each song. This provides a stripped-down listening experience and shines light on the raw, boom-bap sound.

The title, "Stakes is High," is a tribute to the all-or-nothing urgency induced by commercial pressures at the time. Replacing the underground subculture hip-hop previously comprised was a multi-billion-dollar global industry. As labels began to realize that controversy sold records, artists were pushed to lean into the stereotypical depiction of rappers in order to prosper in a period where label executives capitalized on "Gangsta Rap." The race to win over money-hungry labels meant hip-hop transitioned from an inclusive, private outlet for Black expression into a cutthroat climate in which artists were forced to compete for production.

As Black American communities suffered deep racial tensions and mass incarcerations in the 1990s, De La Soul spoke from the heart, to the heart. Track eight, "Dog Eat Dog," on the rerelease expresses that musicians are forced to look out mainly for themself, disremembering other artists within the genre. The lyrics "Extra, extra, what's that all about?" mock the tendency of gossip and drama to steal attention from real issues. I find this idea completely applicable to today, as we celebrate 30 years of "Stakes is High," and live in a flurry of self-righteousness and influencer-centric media.

The lyrics "Stakes is high, but we gonna try to have fun this year" on the sixth track on the original, "Dinninit," gives a worried crowd permission to find what they're living for despite the violence surrounding them, as fans across generations honor the legacy of De La Soul's "Stakes is High" on its 30th anniversary.

Rating: 5/5



The Stakes is High album cover features a black-and-white image of children. The 30th anniversary of the album's release prompted a rerelease by De La Soul.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SPOTIFY

SUBOG Weekly Events:

October 19th - November 8th

November 4th - GTA VI Trivia @ 7:00 pm in the Student Union Theatre

November 5th - Coffee House @ 4:30 pm at the Benton Museum

November 6th – Jersey Day @ 6:00 pm in SU 325

November 7th - Harvest Fest @ 12:00 pm on the Student Union Mall

November 8th - Amazing Race @ 11:00 am across campus

Any questions? Email subog@uconn.edu