The Daily Campus

130 YEARS Serving UConn since 1896

Volume CXXX, Issue no. 24 | Friday, October 9, 2026 | dailycampus.com

LIFE | PAGE 6



NATIONAL COMING OUT

5 ways to celebrate National Coming out day

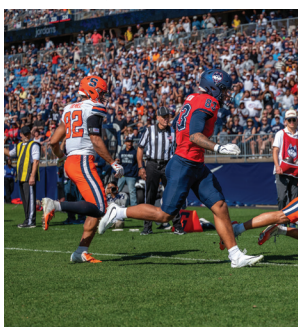
OPINION | PAGE 7



STUDENT PROTESTS

Student Protests in France: What Americans Can Learn

SPORTS | PAGE 12



FOOTBALL

UConn looks to break skid on the road against Temple

SPORTS EVENTS OF THE WEEK

MEN'S GOLF
Oct. 5 | Farmington, PA

MEN'S GOLF
Oct. 6 | Farmington, PA

MEN'S SOCCER
Oct. 6 | Storrs, CT

WOMEN'S SOCCER
Oct. 7 | Storrs, CT

WOMEN'S TENNIS
Oct. 9 | New Haven, CT

FIELD HOCKEY
Oct. 9 | Storrs, CT

BASEBALL
Oct. 9 | Storrs, CT

VOLLEYBALL
Oct. 9 | Storrs, CT

MEN'S HOCKEY
Oct. 9 | Storrs, CT

WOMEN'S TENNIS
Oct. 10 | New Haven, CT

WOMEN'S ROWING
Oct. 10 | Amherst, MA

SOFTBALL
Oct. 10 | Fairfield, CT

WOMEN'S SWIM
Oct. 10 | Storrs, CT

SOFTBALL
Oct. 10 | Fairfield, CT

VOLLEYBALL
Oct. 10 | Storrs, CT

FOOTBALL
Oct. 10 | Philadelphia, PA

MEN'S SOCCER
Oct. 10 | Storrs, CT.

MEN'S HOCKEY
Oct. 10 | Storrs, CT

WOMEN'S SOCCER
Oct. 10 | Cincinnati, OH

WOMEN'S TENNIS
Oct. 11 | New Haven, CT

SOFTBALL
Oct. 11 | Storrs, CT

THE DAILY CAMPUS
1266 STORRS ROAD
STORRS, CT 06269

FOR MORE...
dailycampus.com
The_DailyCampus
The_DailyCampus
The Daily Campus

MEME OF THE DAY



UConn parent sues university over blue light emergency phone reductions

A student walks past a blue light emergency phone on Monday, Sept. 21. UConn stated that it is removing most of the emergency phones on campus.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL JEFFERS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Garrett Saxonhouse
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR
HE/HIM/HIS
dmo25007@uconn.edu

The father of a University of Connecticut student is suing the university over plans to reduce the number of blue light emergency phones on campus, citing concerns about student safety and unreliable cellphone service. Billyjoe Contreras, a New Jersey resident, filed a lawsuit challenging the university's plans to scale back the emergency phone system, which has been in place since the '90s. The phones allow students to contact UConn Police at the press of a button and allow an alternative to calling 911 on a cellphone.

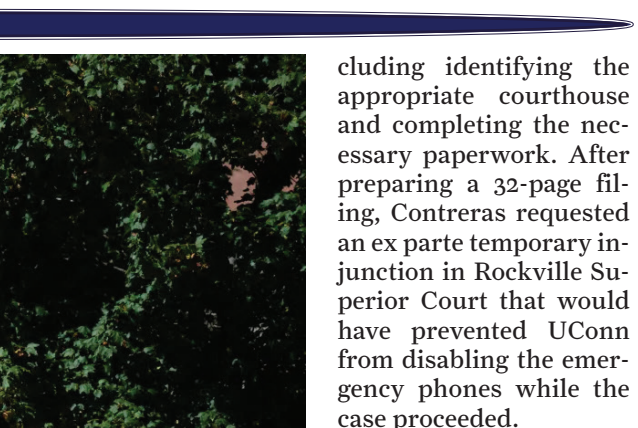
UConn has defended the proposed reductions, citing the widespread use of cellphones, the availability of its LiveSafe safety app and the cost of maintaining the aging system. According to the university, maintaining the phones costs approximately $70,000 annually and upgrading the system to modern standards would cost an estimated $6 million. University officials also pointed to limited use of the blue light system. Over the past five years, the phones received 166 calls, only two of which required a police response. Those incidents involved a report of being followed that was determined to be unfounded and a car crash, according to the university.

UConn is not alone in reconsidering its emergency phone system. Universities across the country, including the University of California, Davis and the University of Tampa have removed or phased out blue light phones from their campuses. However, other Connecticut universities continue to maintain the systems. Central Connecticut State University has moved to expand its emergency phone network following an incident in which a blue-light phone was used during a robbery.

Contreras has raised concerns about areas of UConn's campus with unreliable cellphone reception and argues that reducing access to emergency phones could jeopardize student safety. The university has said it intends to retain blue light phones in areas where cellphone service is limited.

Contreras, who has participated in organizations supporting victims of child abuse and founded the nonprofit Child Abuse Prevention Organization, initially pursued legal action without an attorney. He described difficulties navigating the court system, including identifying the appropriate courthouse and completing the necessary paperwork. After preparing a 32-page filing, Contreras requested an ex parte temporary injunction in Rockville Superior Court that would have prevented UConn from disabling the emergency phones while the case proceeded.

The court denied the request. The case is scheduled for an online hearing today at 9:30 a.m., during which the parties are expected to discuss the possibility of resolving the dispute. Contreras has since retained attorney Edward Jay to represent him in court and launched a Change.org petition opposing the reductions that has gathered more than 4,000 signatures. The petition proposes, "that UConn not only maintains but enhances the current system. This could include upgrading the existing infrastructure with modern technology, incorporating features like video monitoring or GPS locators, to ensure robust safety coverage across campus areas."



A blue emergency phone stands in the daylight on Monday, Sept. 21. Universities across the country, including the University of California, Davis and the University of Tampa have removed or phased out blue light phones from their campuses.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL JEFFERS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

UConn releases Clery Annual Security and Fire Safety Report

by Malek Sidani
NEW CONTRIBUTOR
HE/HIM/HIS
mms21013@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut released its Annual Security and Fire Report on Sept. 30, containing crime and fire statistics on all UConn campuses for the years of 2023, 2024 and 2025.

The report is released annually at the end of September in accordance with the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act, a law requiring colleges and universities to report crime data and detail safety procedures on their campuses.

Among the Clery reportable crimes on the Storrs campus, three reports of rape were recorded in 2025, down from eight reports in 2024 and eight reports in 2023. Of the three 2025 reports recorded, one was on non-campus property. The report also showed four reports of fondling in 2025, after two reports in 2024 and four reports in 2023.

Among the Violence Against Women Act violations on the Storrs campus, seven reports of stalking were recorded in 2025, up from one report in 2024 and two reports in 2023. There were also five reports of domestic violence in 2025, down from 10 reports in 2024 and nine reports in 2023.

As explained in the report, the Violence Against Women Act introduced amendments to the Clery Act which require reports to define and disclose forms of violence against women such as stalking or dating violence.

Among the weapons, drugs and liquor violations, disciplinary referrals for liquor law violations fell to nine reports recorded in 2025, down from 64 in 2024 and 219 in 2023. There were eight arrests for liquor law violations in 2025, up from two in 2024 and none in 2023.

These statistics and more can be found under the campus crimes statistics section of the report. The section also provides definitions of each reportable crime.

The fire safety section of the report noted the introduction of a new special hazards truck at the UConn Fire Department which went into service in early 2026, replacing an older apparatus.

Compiled by the UConn Division of University Safety, the report also includes university safety and discrimination policies, emergency preparedness plans and information on security and safety programming.

An email from University Communications linking the report was sent to all university employees and students on Sept. 30, inviting them to read the report on behalf of Gene Labonte, police chief of the UConn Police Department and associate vice president of University Safety.

According to the email, students may obtain a physical copy of the report at the University Division of Safety facility at 126 N. Eagleville Road in Storrs.



A UConn firetruck parked outside. UConn released its Annual Security and Fire Report on Sept. 30, containing crime and fire statistics on all UConn campuses for the years of 2023, 2024 and 2025

PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN FIRE DEPARTMENT ON FACEBOOK.



A grocery store displays alcoholic beverages. Among the weapons, drugs and liquor violations in UConn's Annual Security and Fire Report, disciplinary referrals for liquor law violations fell to nine reports recorded in 2025, down from 64 in 2024 and 219 in 2023.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ABC