

CONFIRMED 2021 COVID-19 CASES AT UCONN STORRS
as of 8:47 p.m. on Feb. 3 *positive test results

25 Current Residential Cases (positive/symptomatic)

46 Cumulative Residential Cases*

28 Cumulative Commuter Cases*

136 Cumulative Staff Cases*

USG Senate overrides veto against denouncing white supremacy

by **Naiela Suleiman**
STAFF WRITER
naiela.suleiman@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut Undergraduate Student Government held an emergency meeting to discuss the veto on a statement denouncing the Capitol riot and White supremacy.

Wednesday night, the USG Senate voted 24-12-1 in favor of overriding the veto President Michael Hernandez issued last week.

The legislation denouncing White supremacy and the riot of the US Capitol will go into effect immediately.

Undergraduate senators found the veto from President Hernandez to be a confusing surprise.

"I thought USG was about moving forward but this feels like a step backwards," Jessica Delgado, a USG senator said. "If you are against racism as an organization, I don't understand why we are debating a veto to make a statement denouncing White supremacy and the capitol riots."

Productivity can be an issue in USG according to resigned senate member, Sam Zelin.

"The Senate would often see an issue that would really affect the student body and have these big debates about tiny issues rather than tackling the issue," Zelin said. "When you veto this bill, you veto a call against White supremacy."

Some senators showed support



The University of Connecticut Undergraduate Student Government conducts a meeting regarding food insecurities. USG held an emergency meeting Wednesday night reverting the veto on a statement denouncing the Capitol riot and white supremacy.

PHOTO COURTESY OF USG

for Hernandez's veto because the statement is too partisan.

"Defund UCPD has too big of an impact to be an issue that a reasonable person can call a semantic issue," Anissa Jahal, USG Senate member said. "Keeping USG nonpartisan is a goal that should be strived for because we are an organization that is supposed to represent the entire student body, not just one side."

No amendments or changes were suggested for the legislation before Hernandez submitted his veto.

"It's really exhausting to be a part of USG and it is more exhausting when things like this happen," Delgado said. "The president, vice president and the chief diversity officer had the time to amend this legislation but never took the opportunity, so we weren't expecting the veto."

Damani Douglas, chief diversity officer, supports reinstating the Connecticut Commitment and Defund UCPD, despite being in favor of the veto.

"I did work with Senator Sarah Hill and Andrew Mack ahead of time to come to a compromise about some of the clauses on the legislation," Douglas said. "In my own advocacy, I am not in favor of calling people out for not doing more without suggesting more that they could have done."

Senate members voiced concern on partisanship, and said this vote will indicate whether USG remains non-partisan in the future.

"This veto is indicative of

what is wrong with this organization," Darren Mack, Senate member said. "For so long USG has hid behind the safety shield of nonpartisanship, but it is a waste of time to sit idly by and worry about partisanship when the lives of people of color are on the line."

After the vote was cast, Sarah Hill issued her resignation from the USG Senate, citing irreconcilable differences between the current president and herself.

Dining services to open plant-based café in fall 2021

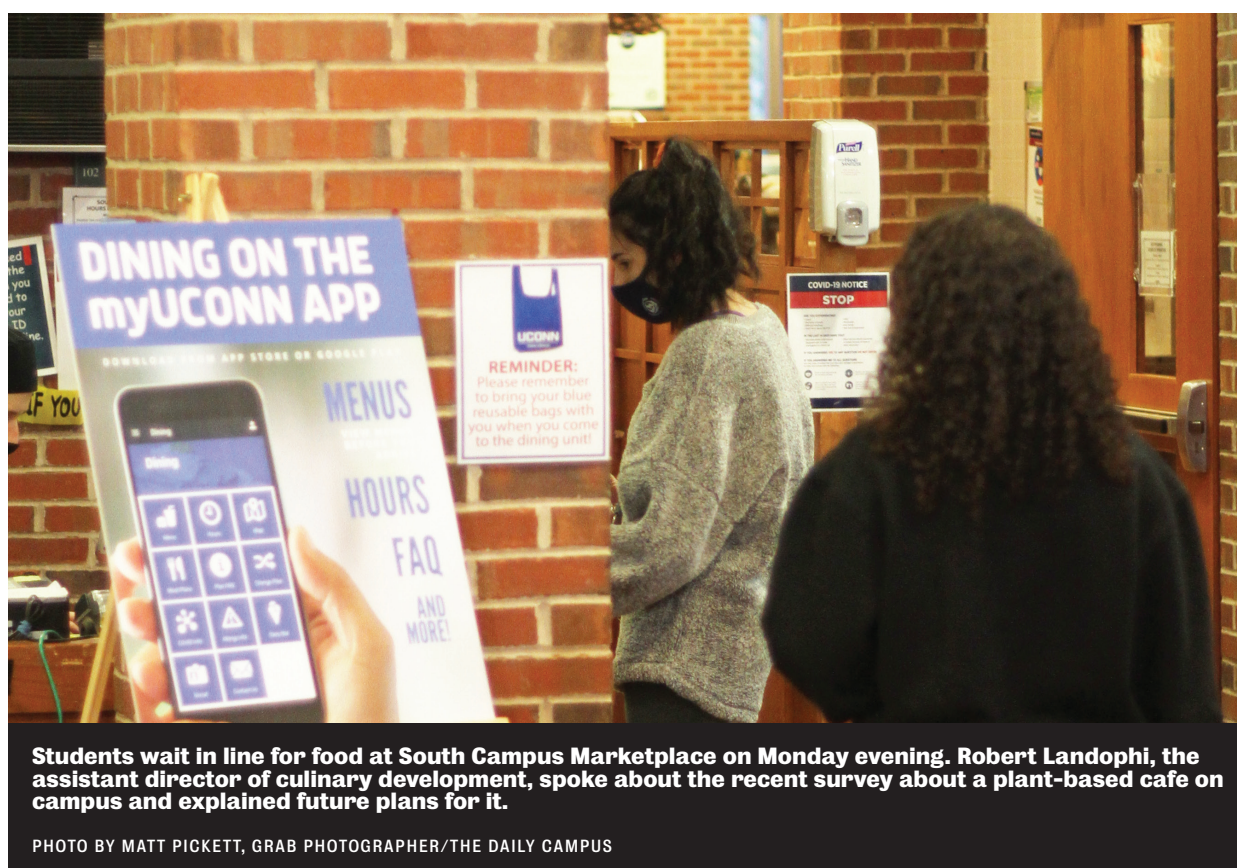
by **Thomas Alvarez**
STAFF WRITER
thomas.alvarez@uconn.edu

Robert Landolphi, assistant director of culinary development, spoke about the recent survey sent to University of Connecticut students about student interest in a plant-based café on campus and what it means for the future.

Landolphi said there are three main goals in mind for the plant-based café: to offer a mix of vegetarian and vegan dishes, to support local farming efforts and to directly involve students in the café development. He said they hope to involve students in different aspects of the café's planning.

"The vision is to have a café that offers plant-based vegan and vegetarian dishes, supports as much local agriculture as possible and has as much student involvement as possible ... We are still in the planning stages of the café, but our goal is to have students take part in different areas of implementation," Landolphi said.

Landolphi said the idea was first brought to dining services by student Maddie Pickett, a fourth-semester biomedical engineering major, after she discovered a plant-based café in Massachusetts. She felt the idea would do well on the UConn Storrs campus, so she approached dining services with her idea.



Students wait in line for food at South Campus Marketplace on Monday evening. Robert Landolphi, the assistant director of culinary development, spoke about the recent survey about a plant-based cafe on campus and explained future plans for it.

PHOTO BY MATT PICKETT, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

"A University of Connecticut student by the name of Madelyn Pickett approached us with the idea," Landolphi said. "She stumbled across an independently-run cooperative plant-based café in Massachusetts and thought it was a unique idea that might work on UConn's campus."

Dining services is content with the student response to the survey sent out on Jan. 20, Landolphi

said. He said they received almost 3,000 responses and almost 1,000 students said they were interested in assisting with the café in some way.

"We were very happy with the results of the survey and had almost 3,000 students respond to the survey, and close to 1,000 who were interested in being involved in the project, whether it is planning stages or working at the café," Landolphi said. "Based

on the results, we now have enough data to move forward with this project with a goal of opening this café in the fall."

Looking to the future, Landolphi said they will develop a mission statement before contacting students for their favorite recipes or any ideas they may have. Following this, he said they will test and evaluate the dishes to see what will be on the menu.

"We will probably put together

a mission statement and then we will ask students to share their favorite plant-based recipes and ideas," Landolphi said. "I will then categorize those recipes and invite a handful of students who are interested in working the café to join me in the Innovation Lab/Test Kitchen to test the recipes; this means preparing, tasting and evaluating the dishes."

Landolphi said they hoped this café will also give dining services the opportunity to support more Connecticut farms. In particular, he cited the Spring Valley Farm on campus as a particular farm they look to support.

"We hope that this café will also give us an opportunity to use more Connecticut-grown produce and support our student-run Spring Valley Farm on campus," Landolphi said.

Pickett said her goals for the café included showing others that plant-based eating could be viewed as a lifestyle rather than just a diet. She said she hopes to share the benefits of this change not only for individuals but for UConn and the world as a whole.

"I brought this to life because, for me, I see the whole idea of 'plant-based' as a form of a sustainable lifestyle rather than just a diet," Pickett said. "My main goal here, more than anything, is to educate and spread awareness not only on the benefits for our individual selves but for the UConn community and our planet."

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Tweet of the Day

ROBINHOOD | PAGE 4
What will happen to Robinhood after the GME chaos

TILLING THE SOIL | PAGE 5
Virtual event in recognition of Black History Month

WBB RECAP | PAGE 12
Basketball: Freshmen come up big in Huskies' win over St John's

Dr. Constanza Cabello
[@FSUVP_DrCons](https://twitter.com/FSUVP_DrCons)
Always happy to give back to @UConn - A place that gave me so much!

News

Wisconsin prosecutors seek Rittenhouse arrest, higher bond



This undated booking photo from the Antioch, Ill., Police Department shows Kyle Rittenhouse. The Illinois teen is charged with shooting three people, killing two of them, during a protest over police brutality in Wisconsin, after he apparently violated his bail conditions.

PHOTO FROM FILE/AP

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Prosecutors asked a judge Wednesday for a new arrest warrant for an Illinois teen charged with shooting three people, killing two of them, during a protest over police brutality in Wisconsin after he apparently violated his bail conditions.

Kyle Rittenhouse failed to inform the court of his change of address within 48 hours of moving, Kenosha County prosecutors alleged in a motion filed with Judge Bruce Schroeder. The motion asks Schroeder to issue an arrest warrant and increase Rittenhouse's bail by \$200,000.

Rittenhouse is charged with multiple counts, including homicide, in connection with the protests in August in Kenosha. The demonstrations began after a white police officer shot Jacob Blake, who is Black, in the back during a domestic disturbance, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down.

Prosecutors allege Rittenhouse, who was 17 at the time, responded to a militia's call on social media to

protect Kenosha businesses from protesters. He opened fire with an assault-style rifle on Joseph Rosenbaum, Anthony Huber and Gaige Grosskruetz. Rosenbaum and Huber were killed; Grosskruetz was wounded but survived.

Rittenhouse, who is white, fled to his home in Antioch, Illinois, but turned himself into police there the next day.

He has maintained he acted in self-defense after the three men attacked him. Conservatives have rallied around him as a symbol for gun rights and pushing back against anti-police protesters, although others insist he escalated tensions by walking around the protest with a gun.

Conservatives raised \$2 million to cover his bail and he walked

out of jail in November.

Last month Rittenhouse was seen drinking at a bar in Mount Pleasant, Wisconsin, and posing for photos with two men as they made "OK" signs with their hands, a symbol used by white supremacists, according to prosecutors. Five men at the bar also serenaded Rittenhouse with a song that has become the anthem of neo-fascist group the Proud Boys, prosecutors alleged.

Rittenhouse is now 18 but still too young to drink. However, he could consume alcohol in a bar under Wisconsin law because he was with his mother.

The judge ordered him not to have any contact with white supremacists after that episode.

Prosecutors wrote in their motion Wednesday that they learned Rittenhouse was no longer living at his Antioch address after the court mailed him a notice and it was returned as undeliverable on Jan. 28. Kenosha detectives traveled to the address on Tuesday and discovered another man had rented the apartment and had been living there since mid-December.

The prosecutors said in their motion that it's unusual for any homicide defendant to be allowed to roam freely and the court needs to know where Rittenhouse is at all times. They did not say whether they knew where Rittenhouse currently resides, saying only that he has failed to provide the court with a new address.

"He posted no money so he has no financial stake in the bond," they wrote.

"He posted no money so he has no financial stake in the bond."

THE PROSECUTORS

Montana lawmakers hear bill to block federal firearms bans

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — Montana lawmakers on Tuesday considered a measure that would prohibit local law enforcement agencies from enforcing federal bans on firearms and ammunition.

Supporters of the bill told the House Judiciary Committee that it would protect the Second Amendment from stiffer gun control laws that could be imposed by the Democrat-dominated U.S. Congress and the administration of President Joe Biden.

Bill sponsor Rep. J. J. Hinkle, R-Belgrade, said "the time has come now to fortify Montana's gun owners against a very likely attack on our constitutionally protected freedoms."

The bill would ban state employees from enforcing or implementing federal bans on firearms, magazines or ammunition, except in certain cases, including those related to fully automatic firearms, violent felons, and domestic violence.

The Republican-controlled

Legislature has attempted to pass the measure into law for almost a decade. Similar bills were vetoed by former Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock in 2013, 2015 and 2017. Republican lawmakers hope the measure will find a more favorable fate on the desk of Gov. Greg Gianforte, the state's first Republican governor in 16 years.

In vetoing the bills, Bullock wrote that they would "put law enforcement officers in the position of violating laws they are sworn to uphold."

Hinkle and other supporters alluded to possible gun restrictions that could be reconsidered after the election of President Joe Biden — including a ban on AR-style rifles, universal background checks, restrictions on high-capacity magazines and a federal red flag law designed to prevent people at risk of harming themselves or others from purchasing a firearm. But some have said such measures face an uphill battle amid polarization of the issue.



Biden flexible on who gets aid, tells lawmakers to 'go big'



President Joe Biden looking at the camera. On Feb. 3, he met up with other major Democrats to discuss the coronavirus relief package.

PHOTO BY EVAN VUCCI/AP

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden encouraged Democratic lawmakers Wednesday to "act fast" on his \$1.9 trillion COVID rescue plan but also signaled he's open to changes, including limiting the proposed \$1,400 direct payments to Americans with lower

income levels, which could draw Republican support.

Biden told lawmakers in private comments he's "not married" to an absolute number for the overall package but wants them to "go big" on pandemic relief and "restore the soul of the country."

"Look, we got a lot of people hurting in our country today," Biden said on a private call with House Democrats. "We need to act fast."

On the direct payments, Biden said he doesn't want to budge from the \$1,400 promised to Americans. But he said he is willing to "target" the aid, which would mean lowering the income threshold to qualify.

"I'm not going to start my administration by breaking a promise to the American people," he said.

Biden spoke with House Democrats and followed with a meeting of top Senate Democrats at the White House, deepening his public engagement with lawmakers on his American Rescue Package. Together the virus and economic aid is his first legislative priority and a test of the administration's ability to work with Congress to deliver.

Biden's remarks to the Democratic House caucus were relayed by two people

who requested anonymity to discuss the private conference call.

While Biden is trying to build bipartisan support from Republicans, he is also prepared to rely on the Democratic majority in Congress to push the package into law. Democrats moved ahead with preliminary steps in the House and Senate this week to approve it on their own, over Republican objections.

A group of 10 Republican senators offered a \$618 billion alternative with slimmer \$1,000 direct payments and zero aid for states and cities, but Biden panned it as insufficient, though private talks with the Republicans continue.

See AID, p. 3

The Daily Campus

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BIDEN'S FLEXIBLE AID PLAN

AID, cont. from p. 2



Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., takes a photo of, from left, Vice President Kamala Harris, President Joe Biden and Senate Majority Leader Sen. Chuck Schumer of N.Y. during a meeting to discuss a coronavirus relief package in the Oval Office of the White House, Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021, in Washington.

PHOTO BY EVAN VUCCI/AP

At the start of his meeting with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and 10 top Senate Democratic committee chairmen in the Oval Office, Biden sounded confident he could still win over GOP support.

"I think we'll get some Republicans," Biden said.

With a rising virus death toll and strained economy, the goal is to have COVID-19 relief approved by March, when extra unemployment assistance and other pandemic aid measures expire. Money for vaccine distributions, direct payments to households, school reopenings and business aid are at stake.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said the president fully recognizes the final package may look different than the one he initially proposed.

She said further targeting the \$1,400 payments "means not the size of the check, it means the income level of the people who receive the check." That's under discussion, she said.

As lawmakers in Congress begin drafting the details, Biden is taking care to politically back up his allies while also ensuring that the final product fulfills his promise for bold relief to a battered nation.

House Democrats were told on the call with the president that they could be flexible on some numbers and programs, but should not back down on the size or scope of the aid.

"We have to go big, not small," Biden told the Democrats. "I've got your back, and you've got mine."

As the White House reaches for a bipartisan bill, House and Sen-

ate Democrats have launched a lengthy budget process for approving Biden's bill with or without Republican support.

"We want to do it bipartisan, but we must be strong," Schumer said after the 90-minute session at the White House. Democrats are "working with our Republican friends, when we can."

The swift action follows Tuesday's outreach as Biden and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen joined the Democratic senators for a private virtual meeting, both declaring the Republicans' \$618 billion offer was too small.

Both Biden and Yellen recalled the lessons of the government response to the 2009 financial crisis, which some have since said was inadequate as conditions worsened.

Earlier in the week, Biden met with 10 Republican senators who were pitching their \$618 billion alternative, and told them he won't delay aid in hopes of winning GOP support even as talks continue.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell criticized the Democrats for pressing ahead largely on their own as the GOP senators try to provide bipartisan alternatives.

"They've chosen a totally partisan path," McConnell said. "That's unfortunate."

The two sides are far apart. The cornerstone of the GOP plan is \$160 billion for the health care response — vaccine distribution, a "massive expansion" of testing, protective gear and money for rural hospitals, similar to what Biden has proposed for aid specific to the pandemic.

Canada designates the Proud Boys as a terrorist entity

TORONTO (AP) — The Canadian government designated the Proud Boys group as a terrorist entity on Wednesday, noting they played a pivotal role in the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6.

The Proud Boys have faced increased scrutiny after seizing on the former Trump administration's policies and the group was a major agitator during earlier protests and the Capitol riot on Jan. 6. The Proud Boys is a far-right, male chauvinist extremist group known for engaging in violent clashes at political rallies. Canada is the first country to designate them as a terrorist entity.

During a September presidential debate, Donald Trump had urged the Proud Boys to "stand back and stand by" when asked to condemn them by a moderator.

Senior officials speaking on a technical briefing said authorities had been monitoring and collecting evidence about the Proud Boys before the Capitol Hill in-

surrection, but confirmed that the event provided information that helped with the decision to list the organization.

Public Safety Minister Bill Blair said they revealed themselves.

"Their intent and their escalation toward violence became quite clear," Blair said.

Enrique Tarrío, the chairman of Proud Boys, called the terrorist designation "ridiculous."

"There is no basis for it. It's infringement of free speech rights. All the Canadian Proud Boys have ever done is go to rallies," Tarrío said in a phone interview.

"They used what happened at the Capitol to push for this."

Tarrío said the Canadian chapters are very quiet compared to their American counterparts. He estimated there are between 1,000 and 1,500 Proud Boys in Canada.

Tarrío was arrested in Washington shortly before the Capitol riot. He was accused of vandalizing a Black Lives Matter banner at a historic Black church during

an earlier protest in the nation's capital.

U.S. Federal authorities, meanwhile, arrested Wednesday a man who describes himself as the "Sergeant of Arms" of the Seattle chapter of the Proud Boys after he was charged in connection with the riot at the U.S. Capitol. He is at least the eighth defendant linked to the Proud Boys facing federal charges after thousands of pro-Trump supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol as Congress was meeting to certify Joe Biden's presidential win.

Asked whether the U.S. will follow Canada and designate Proud Boys as a terrorist entity, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the U.S. has a domestic extremism review underway. "We will wait for that review to conclude before we make any determinations," Psaki said.

The terrorist designation in Canada means the group may have assets seized and face harsher terrorism-related criminal penalties. A government official said just because they are a member doesn't mean they will be charged with a crime, but if they do engage in violent acts they could be charged with terrorist crimes.

"Their intent and their escalation toward violence became quite clear."

MINISTER BILL BLAIR



A protester carries a Proud Boys banner, a right-wing group, while other members start to unfurl a large U.S. flag in front of the Oregon State Capitol in Salem, Ore. The Canadian government designated the Proud Boys group as a terrorist entity on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021, noting they played a pivotal role in the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6.

PHOTO FROM FILE/AP

Justice Department drops Yale admissions discrimination suit

WASHINGTON (AP) — In another reversal of Trump-era policy, the Biden administration on Wednesday dropped its discrimination lawsuit against Yale University that alleged the Ivy League school was illegally discriminating against Asian American and white applicants.

Federal prosecutors said the Justice Department's underlying investigation, aimed at ensuring Yale complies with federal anti-discrimination laws, continues.

The government accused Yale in October of violating civil rights laws because it "discriminates based on race and national origin in its undergraduate admissions process, and that race is the determinative factor in hundreds of admissions decisions each year." The investigation stemmed from a 2016 complaint by the New Jersey-based Asian American Coalition for Education coalition against Yale, Brown and Dartmouth.

Yale said its practices comply with decades of Supreme Court precedent and that it looks at



Future graduates wait for the procession to begin for commencement at Yale University in New Haven, Conn. The Biden Justice Department said it is dismissing its discrimination lawsuit against Yale University on Wednesday, Feb. 3rd.

PHOTO FROM FILE/AP

"the whole person" when deciding which applicants to admit.

A department spokesperson said in a statement that it was dropping the suit "in light of all available facts, circumstances, and legal developments" but didn't specify further. The government also notified Yale that it had withdrawn its determination

letter that the university discriminated based on race and national origin.

Yale was gratified and pleased by those two developments, spokesperson Karen Peart said.

But Swan Lee, a co-founder of the group behind the complaint, called it "a racist decision because it preserves discrimination in education. It's a setback in our fight against racial discrimination against Asian Americans in education."

The change in administrations brought an end to the suit, but the challenge to college admissions policies that take race into account is alive in a case against Harvard's practices. The challengers have lost at each round in

the lower courts, but their appeal is expected in the coming weeks at the Supreme Court, where a conservative majority may well be more receptive.

"The challenge to race-based affirmative action in higher education will continue regardless of any change in the Department of Justice," said Edward Blum, the president of Students for Fair Admissions, which filed the lawsuit against Harvard. The department, under President Donald Trump, had backed the challenge in the lower courts.

The Yale investigation also found that the university used race as a factor in multiple steps of the admissions process and that Yale "racially balances its classes."

The Supreme Court has ruled colleges and universities may consider race in admissions decisions but has said that must be done in a narrowly tailored way to promote diversity and should be limited in time. Schools also bear the burden of showing why their consideration of race is appropriate.

"I am totally shocked by the Biden DOJ's hasty decision to drop the Yale lawsuit, only eight days after President Biden signed an executive order claiming to combat anti-Asian discrimina-

tion," said Yukong Zhao, the president of the Asian American Coalition for Education.

But the decision was lauded by other civil rights groups, including one run by the Biden administration's incoming assistant attorney general for civil rights.

"It has been proven in the courts that race-conscious admissions programs are lawful, and Black students and other students of color who come from all walks of life can rest a little easier knowing our government is looking to lift them

up, not divide and suppress," said David Hinojosa, director of the Educational Opportunities Project at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

The group's president, Kristen Clarke, is Biden's nominee to run the Justice Department's civil rights division.

Biden's Justice Department is working to undo Trump policies, including "zero tolerance," the immigration policy that was responsible for family separations. Also Wednesday, the Supreme Court agreed to requests from the Biden administration to put off arguments in two challenges to Trump-era policies involving the U.S.-Mexico border wall and asylum-seekers as Biden works to change the policies that had been challenged in court.

"A racist decision because it preserves discrimination in education."

SWAN LEE

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► Editorial

The Ed Equity Lab cannot be only step toward democratizing access to higher education

The University of Connecticut was recently selected by the National Education Equity Lab to join other institutions in offering university courses to underprivileged high school students at no cost and for credit.

This is a solid step towards democratizing access to higher education. The courses are taught by university faculty in asynchronous formats, which broadens the geographic reach of the program as well as allows students greater flexibility while engaging with course material. Teaching assistants provide live-time support to students, and high school teachers monitor student progress through regular meetings. The courses provide opportunities for students to experience the rigors of college-level academic work, as well as to realize their own capabilities for it.

The Ed Equity Lab provides UConn with a unique opportunity to leverage its position as a state university with the country's oldest concurrent enrollment program, the Early College Experience, to be a leader in increasing accessibility to higher education. The ECE program allows UConn to build upon existing logistical infrastructure and community partnerships to offer opportunities for students to earn actual UConn credit for their work — unlike institutions like Harvard and Cornell, that, although partners of the Ed Equity Lab, seem only willing to offer credit from their online extension schools.

However, it remains to be seen whether UConn will move beyond its current pilot stage of involvement towards a more focused and extensive commitment that addresses educational inequity with concurrent high school enrollment programs. Presently, the only course offered from UConn through the Ed Equity Lab is a course on happiness taught by Yale professor Laurie Santos. Such humanities courses offer students the opportunity to improve their writing skills and engage in college-level discussions on topics they likely wouldn't have classes on at their high schools. We hope that programs like the Ed Equity Lab and UConn also take steps to provide students with similar opportunities for enrichment in other areas of education in addition to the humanities. For example, gaps in math skills play a critical role in college success — in both STEM fields, and other fields such as business and the social sciences that require quantitative reasoning skills — and there are significant gaps in math performance between students from low-income families and their peers. Math or statistics courses offered through programs like the Ed Equity Lab would, similarly to the happiness course, allow students to gain critical skills through non-traditional course pathways. This could also be a significant way to mitigate educational inequities. UConn already has numerous quantitative courses that don't fit into traditional high school math pathways, such as math modeling, problem solving, data analytics and applied math courses for business and economics.

As UConn pilots the program this semester, we hope they are diligently planning to expand their involvement in the fall to include more humanities courses as well as STEM courses. With an established ECE program, an extensive course catalog and now the partnership with the Ed Equity Lab, UConn has an immense opportunity to be a leader in democratizing access to higher education — and should step up to the challenge.



CARTOON BY DIONEL DE BORJA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Carson's Commentary Don't sweat, Millennials — Robinhood will bounce back

by Carson Swick
WEEKLY COLUMNIST
carson.swick@uconn.edu

On Tuesday, disgraced stockbroker Jordan Belfort (also known as “The Wolf of Wall Street”) predicted that Robinhood’s future is “toast.” Given everything the investment app encountered last week, Belfort’s prediction should come true. However, I am confident that the impending chaos will soon boil over and leave Robinhood mostly unscathed.

For those unfamiliar with this incredibly complex situation, Robinhood found itself under fire after a group of Reddit users completely blew up the stock price of the electronic retailer GameStop by purchasing thousands of shares. The Redditors’ actions stood in stark contrast to the actions of many Wall Street elites, who had written off GameStop as a declining, soon-to-be worthless corporation. Who could blame them? GameStop’s value was less than \$5 per share for most of 2020. And as anyone who’s been to GameStop knows, this value is still greater than the compensation you receive for returning a video game!

Jokes aside, GameStop stock began to

recover last month, when Chewy’s Ryan Cohen was added to the company’s board of directors. But the Redditors made the real difference, as GameStop’s market value nearly doubled from Jan. 25 to Jan 26. The next day, it opened at a ridiculous \$347 per share. In the midst of all this chaos, Robinhood suspended all buying of GameStop stock on its app.

Almost immediately, Robinhood was called out for suppressing the freedom to trade — and rightly so. The app is popular with young investors, who tend to distrust traditional hedge fund managers, whom they hold responsible for the 2008 financial crisis. Given its base and mission to “democratize finance for all,” the fact that Robinhood acted like a shady Wall Street firm has led to several lawsuits against the app.

But as I stated earlier, there is no cause for concern; Robinhood’s reputation is battered, but not shattered. Since the GameStop fiasco, \$3.4 billion in donations have rolled in for the app. The dozens of lawsuits facing Robinhood — identified by Jordan Belfort as the likely culprit for the app’s unraveling — won’t matter all that much in the end. \$3.4 billion will certainly cover Robinhood’s

legal fees, and whatever is left should handle the majority of out-of-court settlements.

This is, of course, assuming that Robinhood’s lawyers are smart enough to realize they will not win most cases contending an interference with the free market. The suspension of GameStop purchasing has been condemned across the political spectrum, with everyone from Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to Ted Cruz and Donald Trump Jr. speaking out against it.

As long as donations continue to pour in, Robinhood will make it out alive. But even if they dry up, the company’s censorship of common stock traders has given it a seat at Big Tech’s table. Since it has gone there and clearly chosen a side, it will be difficult (but not impossible) for Robinhood to win back the trust of its base.

Taking on Wall Street and its hedge funds has seldom, if ever, yielded a favorable outcome for its challengers; Robinhood’s GameStop controversy is no exception. But to create such exceptions in the future, we the investors must take a stand... and maybe spend a little more time lurking on Reddit.

Walking in a winter wonderland

by Teresa DiStefano
CONTRIBUTOR
teresa.distefano@uconn.edu

As I sit here writing this piece, my window is open to the beautiful Nor’easter falling around us. Even though all classes were canceled early Sunday night, I went to bed with the anticipation of a giddy school child, excited for the prospect of waking up to a world blanketed in snow. Remember when we were younger, and we would sit around the TV with our families late into the night watching the weather station, waiting for our school to come across the moving bar on the bottom of the screen with the words “Regional School District 9 — Closed”? As soon as my brother and I saw those words, we would do a happy dance, serotonin rushing through our bodies at the prospect of waking up to a world that resembled a snow globe. Sitting in my bed at college right now makes me wonder why snow has such a comforting presence and what activities people (especially college students) can do to pass the time.

Living in Connecticut my entire life, I have grown up surrounded by four seasons. Some people don’t like the dreary winter weather, but I for one enjoy the snow. Sure, it might make driving conditions unbearable, and with it comes freezing weather, but that’s the best excuse for a day spent inside, wrapped in a blanket with a good novel and a cup of steaming hot chocolate. This picturesque snowy landscape has actually inspired many

movies and TV shows to set their winter plots in Connecticut because there is something special about the traditional snow in a Northeastern state (Christmas in Connecticut, anyone?). I look forward to the first snowfall and the big ones that follow because of the relaxing power of the snow. Picture walking outside and leaving footprints in the

snow. When I pack for school every year, I always make sure to have gear for enjoying the snow. Since classes are canceled, this is the perfect time to have some fun. Think of the numerous activities that snow brings, including snow angels, snow forts, snowball fights and ice-skating rinks. As a student at UConn, when I experienced snow freshman year I anticipated the moment when my friends and I would be able to venture out to Horsebarn Hill. That year, two of my closest friends dressed up in snow gear and joined me on an adventure — attempting to sled down Horsebarn Hill. Even though the snow wasn’t in perfect condition for sledding that day, I remember it as one of my happiest moments of college, as all three of us decided to have a snowball fight on the top of the hill; I still smile just thinking about it. Last semester, I had plain old fun building a snowman in the middle of campus after the very first



CARTOON BY ALISIA GRUENEL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

enchanting landscape, breathing in the cool air and watching as your breath forms. Look around at the cleanliness of the white snow and step into it, leaving fresh footprints, and take a path of your choosing to embark on a new adventure. Take one inhale and notice how Lorelai Gilmore is right when she excitedly exclaims “I smell snow.”

Looking outside right now, I see the snow coming down, and I am happy. I am reminded of my carefree childhood, making me want to recreate my memories of playing in

snowfall. We spent time rolling the snow to build a face and arms and everything in between (except for a corn cob pipe and a button nose), and yes, we named him Edward. As people walked by, they commented on it and told us we were doing a great job, and it’s those little interactions that make me realize all that COVID-19 has taken away in terms of seeing those smiling faces on campus. But what if you aren’t fond of the cold weather and would rather stay inside?

See SNOW DAY, p. 8



Daily Life

@dailycampuslife

Black farmers plant the seeds for change

by Sarah Goodman
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
sarah.2.goodman@uconn.edu

On Feb. 3, the University of Connecticut Foundation program hosted the virtual “Tilling the Soil: Black Farmers, Sustainability and Uplifting Community” event in collaboration with the School of Social Work and the BH365 student organization in recognition of Black History Month.

Since the rise of agrarian societies, farmers have been the backbone of human civilization. Nourishing communities with food and goods, farmers are also characterized by a tirelessness that is matched only by their benevolence. The United States, however, has a history of not providing farmers with fair recognition for their labor. This is explained by the high concentration of Black farmers, who have been forced to toil the soil of a land that still won’t duly nourish them as they have their country.

The program commenced with Dr. Joanne Corbin, a social work professor at the university as well as the associate dean for academic affairs for the School of Social Work, describing how this came to be: Black farmers once accounted for the majority of the farming community during the Reconstruction period following the Civil War, but as the ideals of emancipation deteriorated with Jim Crow era violence and discriminatory land lending practices, so did the ideal of independent Black agriculture. Black farmers lost their farms, and consequently, their economic stability. The monumental losses faced by Black

farmers have ramifications felt by the Black community to this day, such as food insecurity. Institutional racism not only corrupted the hospitality traditionally of those in the farming profession, but also Black farmers’ very livelihoods.

“With the loss of land came the inability to use the land as collateral to obtain loans, send their children to college or transfer land and resources to children and relatives,” Dr. Corbin said. “This loss of generational wealth among Black farmers is estimated at 350 billion dollars.”

Though the history may seem bleak, the “Tilling the Soil: Black Farmers, Sustainability and Uplifting Community” program demonstrated how we can look to a hopeful future in our present by inspiring attendees to engage in activism after listening to agricultural specialist panelists Dr. Tammy Gray-Steele, Lauren Little and George Roberts.

“What we’re looking to do is really have participants recognize the work and contributions of Black farmers to the agricultural industry — not only historically, but also in the present —

ways that they’re working to assist their communities in living healthier lives, while also understanding the systemic oppression that Black farmers still continue to face to this day, and having the same access to

an aforementioned healthy future, noted by the panelists’ use of animistic, hortative language to describe the farming practice and its relation to the mind and body.

For example, though the panelists were in agreement that Black farming was among the most toilsome jobs in the country, third generation farmer Roberts implored the audience:

“Always have faith,” Roberts stated. “Agriculture is nothing but faith ... Everything you plant in a seed in the ground, you gotta have faith that that seed is gonna come up.”

These sentiments were echoed by Dr. Steele, who is also the founder of the National Women In Agriculture Association.

“Our environment ... is really about our bodies,” Dr. Steele said. “We have to take care of our environment to have a healthy soil. I cannot stress more enough about healthy soil, healthy soil, healthy soil, because from the cattle, to the plants, to the fruit — all that is recycled, and it comes back to us.”

DR. STEELE

resources of state and federal programs administered by the USDA,” Milagros Marrero-Johnson, the director of Strategic Programming at the UConn School of Social Work, said.

The act of farming materializes itself into a sort of philosophy that counteracts the difficulties of racism for the guest panelists and paves way

for an aforementioned healthy future, noted by the panelists’ use of animistic, hortative language to describe the farming practice and its relation to the mind and body.

“[I] get the students intrigued and really curious, because they’re already smart. They already know that they want to gain knowledge, and that doesn’t go away for a while, and we can take the opportunity to cultivate it. I really let them know, ‘Hey guys, we’re gonna have snacks!’ Students like vegetables. If it’s something that they’ve grown, that tastes good, that isn’t slimy, then they’re really open to trying new things,” Lauren Little, a farmer and educator local to Connecticut, explained regarding her agricultural instruction to students. “I don’t tell [the students] what to do ... I want them to take the reins, and as I guide them, they’re interested!”

Black farmers are harnessing their agricultural power, no matter how diminished, to nourish their communities through health, wealth and education. Because of their Blackness, this humble benevolence is not only long-established farmers hospitality, but also the reclamation of what was taken from their ancestors throughout American history. Farming is inextricable from Blackness, and Blackness is inextricable from farming, for Black history is American history.

UConn Honors Program teaches students problem-solving strategies for uncertain times

by Sean Rago
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
sean.rago@uconn.edu

2020 was the most globally chaotic year of many college students’ lives. The dramatic and sudden changes thrust upon us brought with them new challenges, and facing these challenges brought about new anxieties. In order to help students develop the necessary strategies for coping with sudden change, the UConn Honors Program hosted a discussion Wednesday afternoon in the Student Union. “Stay Whelmed: Certainty in Uncertain Times” was led by Dr. Leigh Fine, assistant director for residential communities and programming for honors.

Although Dr. Fine presented a

slide show to guide the event, the focus was on discussion between himself and the students with the idea being that everyone in the group could share their experiences and learn from one another.

in that mess as is appropriate, but then also develop some strategies for finding some islands of certainty where we can,” Dr. Fine said.

He began the discussion by asking students to share the uncertainties they have recently dealt with in their lives. The participants shared stories related to academics, jobs, extracurricular activities and the difficulties of adjusting to college life.

The participants also discussed strategies for dealing with uncertainty that have previously worked for them. Many different strategies were discussed including managing expectations, focusing on what you have control over, planning for different outcomes, staying orga-

“By looking at things in more of a big perspective, and just seeing the big picture — what I can do later on if I get these things done now — gets me that little burst of motivation. That’s a big thing for me.”

DEREK MASON

nized and practicing stress-relieving activities, such as exercise or meditation.

“I definitely think by looking at things in more of a big perspective, and just seeing the big picture — what I can do later on if I get these things done now — gets me

that little burst of motivation. That’s a big thing for me,” Derek Mason, a fourth semester pre-teaching major said.

Dr. Fine built on this by showing a video that discussed coping methods, as well as by sharing what has worked for him personally. These topics were tied together by the central idea that to deal with uncertainty, one must work to change their perspective and consider the most productive way to view their problems.

“I think that weird paralysis before you make a decision [is overwhelming],” Dr. Fine said. “And then once you make a decision, even if the outcomes aren’t ideal it’s like, ‘Oh, I have a path forward. I have something I can focus on.’”

At the end of the event, the participants discussed the various ways they plan to implement what they learned into their lives.

“Today I learned that sometimes you just have to be resilient and realize that this bad thing happening isn’t all that bad when you realize that a good thing in the future would have never happened without this bad thing,” Michael Dunn, a second-

semester chemical engineering major said. “You have to be able to focus on what you can control and not just worry about the things you can’t control.”

Dr. Fine reiterated the main points of the event.

“We all are trying to do the best we can in making progress,” he said. “So, focusing on the things you can control, taking those small successes — those small paths for-



Dr. Leigh Fine presents to students during the “Stay Whelmed” series by the UConn Honors Program. Students who attended the event said they felt better about the future. PHOTO BY AUTHOR

ward — honoring when things aren’t going too well. We’re all trying to do our best to get through this uncertainty.”

“Stay Whelmed: Certainty in Uncertain Times” provided UConn students with a friendly atmosphere in which to discuss the problems they have faced over the past two semesters. They certainly left the Student Union better equipped to deal with whatever may lie ahead.

Life

Weezer delivers a mixed bag of an album with 'OK Human'

by Ian Ward
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
ian.ward@uconn.edu

Listening to Weezer in 2021 is like listening to a time capsule holding classic pop and rock songs of the past generation. Since the days of their debut album and "Pinkerton," Weezer have crafted quirky and ravishing tunes that have spoken to millions of fans.

On their latest album, "OK Human," Weezer reinvents their sound for a new generation. Unlike previous Weezer albums, "OK Human" is a stripped-back take on singer Rivers Cuomo's life with a sound similar to "Pet Sounds" by the Beach Boys.

Having a 38-piece orchestra be the foundation of an album demonstrates the musical versatility Weezer is known for. The piano and string sections add a mystical charm to the record, putting listeners in a dreamy atmosphere. This addition helps personify the mature direction Weezer helped cultivate.

Added to the atmosphere is the topicality of the album. The name "OK Human" is a play on Radiohead's 1997 album "OK Computer," which is fitting, considering the themes both albums explore. The messaging behind the seventh track, "Screens," has good intentions and calls out people who are glued to their devices. With that being said, Cuomo comes off as

a whiney curmudgeon complaining about today's youth.

Thankfully, listeners have the opportunity to listen to another side of Cuomo, one that isn't cynical or jaded. "Mirror Image" is a love song that conjures images of Cuomo and his wife enjoying each other while also fearing death.

Listening to "OK Human" brings out a vulnerable side of Weezer not seen since their earlier career. Lyrically, their album echoes the frustrations of being middle-aged and living in a time when hope is futile. The blatant contrast between a song like "Buddy Holly," from their first album and a song like "Dead Roses" is stunning. "Dead Roses," is among the tracks

representing a subdued departure from the bouncy sound Weezer is best known for. In some ways, I miss the Weezer of decades prior—they felt wholesome, while also inventive. Cuomo had other plans for "OK Human," and it works well for 2021 given the global circumstances.

Weezer is a band that has managed to keep its identity while also reinventing its sound. "OK Computer" feels too short and weighed down by melancholic singing to be considered a great album. However, Cuomo's wit and creativity save the album from being forgotten.

Instead of taking notes from The Beach Boys, Weezer should've based their album on Wilco's 2002 classic

"Yankee Hotel Foxtrot." Both albums are laid-back and reserved, but Wilco takes it a step further with the absence of interludes, something that was included on "OK Human."

Unlike Weezer, Wilco crafted an album that is timeless. "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot" is the older, more successful brother to "OK Human." It has better songwriting and vocals from lead singer Jeff Tweedy, and it takes its time creating a story.

What listeners are left with instead is a shortened collection of ideas that could have used more time in development. Not a bad album from Weezer, but it is a far cry from their earlier releases.

Rating: 3/5

NETFLIX'S NEWEST HIT 'FIREFLY LANE' IS A STORY OF A FRIENDSHIP THREE DECADES IN THE MAKING

by Emma Gehr
STAFF WRITER
emma.gehr@uconn.edu

Netflix's "Firefly Lane" provides viewers a candid look into the lives of two childhood best friends, Tully (Katherine Heigl) and Kate (Sarah Chalke). The two when they are 14 years old and embark on a friendship spanning three-decades into their 40s. The series is based on the New York Times Bestselling novel by Kristen Hannah, who is known for crafting endearing characters that find their way into the hearts and minds of readers.

Described by Netflix as a romantic television drama that is sentimental, heartfelt and intimate, "Firefly

Lane" also reveals that there are always secrets hidden beneath surface -- ones that can come to define you in adulthood.

The first episode starts off during the summer of 1974, as Kate finds herself at the bottom of the social pyramid, while Tully is facing her own troubles dealing with a turbulent home life. Much to Kate's surprise, Tully, who quickly rises in popularity at her new school, moves in across the street and befriends Kate. Although they are polar opposites, the two girls make a pact to be best friends forever and become inseparable as they navigate the messy waters of middle school, high school and their adult lives.

As children, both Tully and Kate dream of becoming journalists. However, Tully finds more success in this field and is able to live out both of their dreams through her talk show "The Girlfriend Hour." Kate, on the other hand, has been dealt a more difficult hand in life and constantly finds herself in the shadow of her best friend. She struggles to cope with a divorce while raising a rebellious teenage daughter and trying to find a new job.

Each episode travels across three separate timelines and takes viewers through a complicated, yet remarkably relatable, set of events about the highs and lows of growing up alongside your best friend. The story

weaves through a somewhat predictable set of events, with Tully serving as the extroverted, outspoken friend who always finds her way into the spotlight, whereas Kate falls into the background and can never seem to catch up to Tully. Despite the mainstream plot, "Firefly Lane" features a solid cast of characters and span of events that fans of romance and television drama will find appealing.

The show definitely demands your full attention as it jumps between various time periods in Tully and Kate's life, while introducing new characters with little to no warning. Some might find this to be a fault, as it is easy to become confused or lose track. However, for viewers who watch closely,

the flashbacks to their childhoods offer the ability to learn about the characters' pasts and gain a better understanding of what led them to their current situations.

Heigl and Chalke's on-screen chemistry helps transform "Firefly Lane" into a heartfelt drama that details the lives of two childhood best friends, each with their own set of baggage. Through divorces, having kids, finding fame and more, Tully and Kate's promise they made during the summer of 1974 to be best friends remains a constant and enduring part of both of their lives.

HOLLIEATS
SNOW DAY SNACKS

by Hollianne Lao
LIFE EDITOR
hollianne.lao@uconn.edu

Storrs's first snowstorm of the year (I'm not counting the few inches we got a few weeks ago), also called for the university's first snow day of the year, granting students a pleasant respite from classes. I'm glad to know snow days in some forms still exist, as I feared for their phasing out once virtual classes became the norm. For some, perhaps it was a bit difficult to take advantage of the snowy landscape (bless you if you had to shovel while it was still snowing). But for those who are able to indulge in a wintery walk, sledding or snowman-making for the next few days, they're bound to enjoy indulging in a comforting snack once they return to the warmth of the indoors. Here are some savory and sweet snack ideas to spice up your usual wintertime roundup.

ELEVATE YOUR
CLASSIC HOT
CHOCOLATE

Hot chocolate is synonymous with snow day. Who wouldn't want to curl up with a steaming mug of this decadent drink? I'm definitely not talking about watery hot cocoa, but the real deal—the thicker my hot chocolate, the better. Although it takes more effort to make your own from scratch rather than just heating up some milk and stirring in some powdered mix (Starbucks or Lake Champlain are good options, if you're going down that route), the result is well worth

it. But maybe you're in the mood to go beyond the tried-and-true. If that's the case, don't be afraid to add flavors that go well with chocolate: peppermint, cinnamon, orange, ginger and caramel are all delicious options. Feeling really spicy? Spiking your hot chocolate with Bailey's or Kahlua are wonderful options as well. Look up a recipe for homemade hot chocolate, like this one from Drive Me Hungry, and go from there.

BRUNCH IT
UP

Hopefully, you took advantage of canceled classes by taking some extra time to sleep or rest. My roommates and I lazed about the first few hours of Monday, enjoying some freshly flipped chocolate chip pancakes to use up the rest of our buttermilk from a red velvet cake recipe (Price Chopper was banana-less, or we would've tossed some in as well). Pancakes are a lovely vessel to contain all the mix-ins and toppings one could desire, as well as tasting delicious in their purest form (much like hot chocolate).

Whip up a bowl of pancake mix (either store-bought, like Bisquick, or from scratch, like this recipe from Cafe Delites) and get creative. There's the classic addition of fruits, like blueberries or bananas, or sweet ingredients, like chocolate chips. If you want to step it up a notch, you can try flavor combinations like pumpkin spice, apple pie, Oreo, cinnamon pecan, mocha, peanut butter and banana, dulce de leche and more! These would taste great with a variety of toppings:



Banana bread snow day inspiration. Author Hollie Lao wrote about how to take advantage of a snow day with warm and delicious snacks. PHOTO BY ALEX LAU OF BON APETIT

consider flavored syrups, whipped cream, fruit jams or nuts.

SUPER
SOUPS

Maybe you want something warm, but also savory. If so, never underestimate a humble bowl of soup. If you can't make up your mind, many food blogs and websites provide a selection at your fingertips, like this collection from The Spruce Eats. Some of

my favorites are beef noodle soup, arroz caldo, butternut squash, clam chowder, loaded baked potato, corn chowder and tomato (clearly, I love soup). If all else fails, ask a relative to make a pot of a family classic—I'm sure you have one!

DELIGHT IN
DESSERTS

Snow day baking is a popular activity for a reason. The oven warms up

the whole house, the sweet smell of treats wafts through the air and you get to relax while you create something delicious. There are different recipes for different baking levels, so everybody gets to join in on the fun. Banana bread, chocolate chip cookies and brownies are the first desserts that come to mind—they're easy to make, and as the trend in this article seems to be, easily customizable. However, don't forget about dishes like pies, turnovers and sweet buns.

SUPER BOWL LV: MUST-HAVE SNACKS, SWEETS AND TREATS FOR THE BIG GAME

by **Gino Giansanti Jr.**
STAFF WRITER
gino.giansanti_jr@uconn.edu

The Super Bowl is easily the greatest understated eating holiday of the American calendar. While it may lack the showy courses of Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Super Bowl is certainly known for its mouth-watering array of finger foods perfect for both football fans and those “just watching the commercials.”

Super Bowl LV, slated for this upcoming Sunday, Feb. 7 at 6:30 p.m. EST, will be a historic game to say the least, as Americans’ preferred viewing plans are significantly altered. The stadium itself will house 25,000 fans sitting socially distanced alongside 30,000 fan cutouts. For the remaining spectators planning on tuning in via TV, like myself, the usual watch parties will have to be put on hold, but that doesn’t mean we still can’t indulge in our favorite football snacks. Who says we can’t serve party snacks for a party of one, two or four?

Here are some Sunday-night football crowd pleasers for all your not-so-crowded Super Bowl plans:

BACON CHEESEBURGER ROLL-UP

Every football tailgate comes with the all-American feast of hot dogs and hamburgers to fill up fans before cheering on the home team. So naturally, football’s biggest night should

also put hamburgers and hot dogs in the spotlight. While February is not the greatest month for outdoor grilling, you can still get the smoky flavor of a summer barbecue with this shareable spin on classic dish, courtesy of Kraft.

BUFFALO CHICKEN DIP

Buffalo chicken wings – both on the bone and boneless, either medium, mild or hot – are undoubtedly staples of the football season and therefore deserve a place at the Super Bowl table. If you are not up for the challenge of cooking your own wings, try the dish as a dip, courtesy of allrecipes.com.

PEPPERONI PIZZA DIP

While pizza is an import from Italy, it has been firmly adopted and adapted into the American cuisine, perfect for such a holiday as the Super Bowl. Rather than ordering an entire pizza for the big night, why not make a savory spread to cater to your craving for sauce and cheese while still indulging in all the other foods that make an appearance on the table’s party platters?

NACHO ROLL-UPS (V)

While it is no secret that the Super Bowl is an eating holiday made for meat-lovers, this doesn’t mean that vegetarians can’t join in the fun. Nachos are a classic snack for football fans, and this particular spin on the dish, courtesy of the Food Network, wraps cheese, salsa, jalapenos, avocado and refried black beans in a tortilla, almost like a Tex-Mex take on sushi.

SLUTTY BROWNIES

There is always room for dessert on Super Bowl Sunday, and without the vast array of desserts brought by the stream of party-goers, it can be hard to pick just one dessert to serve at your COVID-19 style soiree. Why pick one when you can combine three fan favorites to form one decadent dessert? Slutty brownies consist of three layers: a chocolate chip cookie dough base, a middle row of Oreo cookies, and a top layer of brownie batter to fill in the cracks. Once baked, the three layers will come together into a delectable treat that will make you wonder why you never thought to combine them sooner.

While the usual festivities of the first weekend of February will surely be missed, there are still certainly ways to get in the spirit and excite those taste buds with a smorgasbord of savory snacks. Happy Super Bowl 2021, and happy eating!



Nacho Roll-Ups and Slutty Brownies are some Super-Bowl snacking favorites. PHOTOS FROM FOOD NETWORK

THIRSTY THURSDAYS FLAVORED VODKA COCKTAIL IDEAS

by **Rebecca Maher**
ASSOCIATE LIFE EDITOR
rebecca.l.maher@uconn.edu

So your friend bought you a fun bottle of flavored vodka, but you’re awful at shots. What do you do with it? You can’t just mix whipped cream or peanut butter and jelly vodka into fruit juice. You can’t even stomach the idea of tomato or horseradish vodka. So what happens? You can either leave it on your shelf to collect dust, or you can get creative. Here’s a few ideas.

WHIPPED CREAM VODKA

Whipped cream vodka: This vodka smells like vanilla and may seem easy to mix, but the truth is it can only go into drinks you’d like to top with whipped cream. So, that basically means you have to stick to hot drinks. While I think coffee would be a delicious base for this cocktail – maybe you could even throw in some chocolate or espresso liqueur – it may not be a great idea to chug an alcoholic cup of coffee at night. Instead, I recommend mixing it with hot chocolate.

When I attempted this cocktail with my fellow Thirsty Thursday taste testers, I took a more bougie route. First, I whipped a batch of homemade salted caramel sauce on the stove using a really easy recipe I found online. Next, I mixed a

generous spoonful of caramel and a strong shot of whipped cream vodka into my fresh mug of Swiss Miss hot chocolate. Topped with whipped cream and a drizzle of caramel, this drink took my night to the next level. I highly recommend it for snow days!

PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY VODKA

Peanut butter and jelly vodka: This flavor is made by Van Gogh Vodka and is a revolutionary flavor. Van Gogh Vodka recommends mixing the vodka with cream and berry liqueur. But, I think it would be incredible mixing it with a tall glass of Welch’s grape juice. Not only would the grape juice mix well with the grape jelly in the vodka flavor, but it can also mask the more alcoholic taste of the vodka. In fact, grape juice is one of the best juices to use to cover the taste of vodka. If you want a very strong beverage, grape juice is the way to go.

TOMATO OR HORSE-RADISH VODKA



Outcome of the “Whipped Cream Vodka” drink. On this week’s Thirsty Thursdays, author Rebecca Maher discusses weird-flavored spirits. PHOTO BY REBECCA MAHER

Tomato or horseradish vodka: These two flavors of vodka would pair perfectly with a healthy dose of Bloody Mary mix. After that, all you would need to do is load your glass with odds and ends: celery, bacon, olives, parsley, lime, etc. This is your chance to get creative. And like mimosas, Bloody Marys are a wonderful brunch cocktail. So crack some eggs, toast a bagel or two and embrace your inner 1950s housewife.

COOKIE DOUGH VODKA

Cookie dough vodka: Yes, this wonderful flavor exists, and was created by Pinnacle Vodka. To my delight, Pinnacle recommends

mixing it in a tall glass of milk for the ultimate chocolate chip cookie experience. I believe it would pair well with fresh baked cookies.

So be brave! Get creative! And really play around with that odd flavor of vodka you’re too nervous to drink.

Opinion StudyBreak

Photo of the Day | Udderly nose-y



A cow at Horsebarn Hill gets a closer look at a photographer's camera. PHOTO BY SOFIA LANGOU, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Reminiscing on snow day activities

SNOW DAY, cont. from p. 4

Well, you're in luck because a snowfall is the perfect excuse to clean your room, decorate the dorm, cook something new, watch tons of movies, take a road trip, go online shopping or even play board games.

Whether you are staying in to enjoy the winter weather from

afar or running into it head-on by going outside to experience the beauties of a snowfall firsthand, there is something for everyone when it snows. As college students, we have the freedom to do what we want, courtesy of the newfound independence that staying at school gives us. With the snow falling around us and the wind howling, this is

just another one of those opportunities to take advantage of our situation. Look around at the white snow surrounding campus, transforming it into a winter wonderland. Embrace the beauty and the happiness, take a break from studying and look forward to a long winter season filled with new opportunities and fun adventures.

'Bridgerton' and the failure of imagination

by Aarushi Nohria
CONTRIBUTOR
aarushi.nohria@uconn.edu

"Bridgerton" is a tremendously popular historical drama that debuted on Netflix on Dec. 25, 2020. It was advertised as a twist on the classic Regency style work because it cast people of color in prominent roles. Chris Van Dusen, the creator and executive producer of "Bridgerton," explained that he "wanted to escape to this lush, beautiful, cinematic world, but [he] also wanted to explore real topics like gender and class and race and sexuality — topics that are relevant and important." Unfortunately, he failed to do so.

Note: there will be mentions of sexual assault. There will also be spoilers.

The show portrays women as prisoners of the patriarchy whose value is dependent on marriageability and eventual motherhood. Daphne Bridgerton (Phoebe Dynevor) recognizes the issues of this social structure, but does not mind it since she desires love and domesticity, which are possible within these constraints. By contrast, Eloise Bridgerton (Claudia Jessie), Daphne's younger sister, hates every part of this system, including the women who participate in it. She is meant to serve as a refreshing dose of feminism, but instead recalls dated values of third-wave feminism and the "not like other girls" character trope.

awakening characterizes the majority, if not all, of the episodes. At the end of season 1, episode 6, Daphne ignores Simon (Regé-Jean Page) when he makes it clear he does not want the continue having sex, raping him. Despite the show's aforementioned attempts to simplify nuanced topics, they somehow try to complicate the very clear-cut instance of rape by focusing on whether or not Simon had lied to Daphne about his ability to have children.

It is issue enough that "Bridgerton" glosses over sexual violence, but it also serves as evidence that people of color are simply props in the show. Simon is depicted less as an individual coming to terms with his childhood trauma and more as an object and catalyst for Daphne's supposed empowerment. He is a mostly static character whose development only shifts based on Daphne's needs. The extras in the show are diverse, providing representation for non-Black people of color, but, by the nature of extras' roles, they too are props to the main cast.

When first watching "Bridgerton," I assumed that the show used color-blind casting because there was no real discussion of race. I then realized that the only Black characters with speaking lines were light-skinned, so the colorist casting couldn't have possibly been "color-blind." Additionally, in season 1, episode 4, we hear the first explanation about the existence of Black aristocracy by Lady Danbury (Adjoa Andoh), Simon's mother-figure: "We were two separate societies divided by color until a king fell in love with one of us. Look at everything it is doing for us, allowing us to become. Love, Your Grace, conquers all." Here, we circle back around to Van Dusen's goals for "Bridgerton": a combination of idealized escapism and grounded conversations about race and gender. In suggesting that one marriage — that of the king to a Black woman — could cure the world of racism reveals the show's racism is not real world racism.

There is so much more to be said about the show's treatment of Black women in particular. This is by no means a comprehensive critique of "Bridgerton," but hopefully the beginning of a discussion. Overwhelming support for the show will enable executives to allow the show to continue as it has, so it is critical to have these conversations. Balancing escapism and "real topics like gender and class and race and sexuality" is undoubtedly a difficult task, but it is not impossible. Genres like Afrofuturist do it well — both in media and literature. "Bridgerton" has so much potential, and I hope that it acknowledges its failings from season 1 to change course in the upcoming seasons.

[Eloise Bridgerton] is meant to serve as a refreshing dose of feminism, but instead recalls dated values of third-wave feminism and the 'not like other girls' character trope.

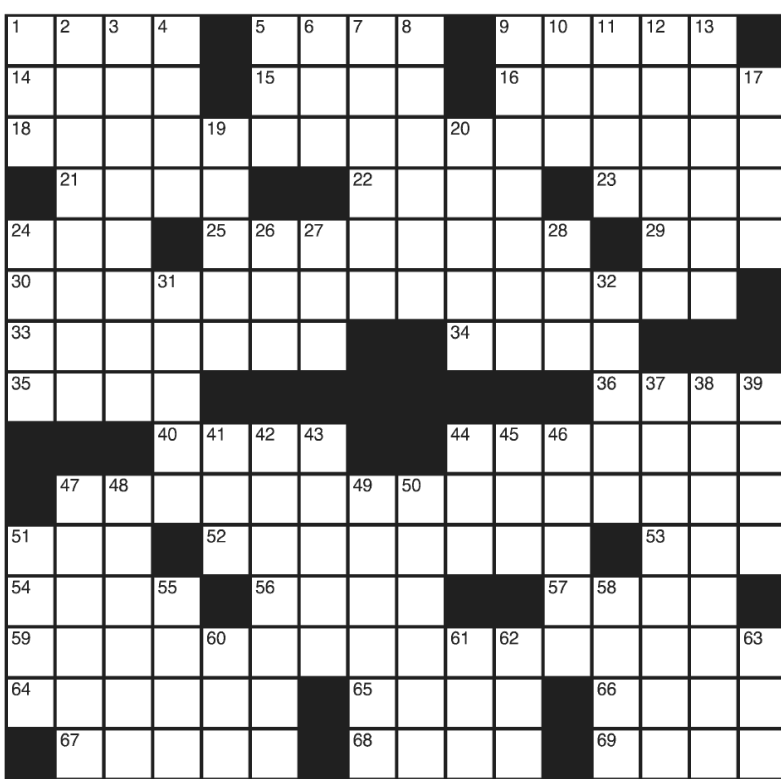
Daphne and Eloise represent two extremes of living in a patriarchal society without any of the emotional nuance that can be found in reality, both in the Regency era and in the present. Eloise's condescension suggests that the patriarchy is only the external system that oppresses women, which is as far as "Bridgerton" goes with exploring the topic of gender. Even that may be a little generous, considering that most of the discourse on gender revolves solely around marriage. If "Bridgerton" intends to speak on "real topics," it must do so by depicting a full range of emotions and issues.

We see the values of third-wave feminism not only in Eloise, but also in Daphne, as the arc of her sexual

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Queens stadium namesake
- 5 Elevated vantage point for Wile E. Coyote
- 9 Sister of Sasha
- 14 Many a gamer
- 15 Oodles
- 16 Freezes
- 18 Red River city
- 21 Fronded plant
- 22 Exit in a hurry
- 23 Oodles, with "a"
- 24 They, in Calais
- 25 Drawn from diverse sources
- 29 Hound for payment
- 30 Words of urgency
- 33 Partners
- 34 TV component?
- 35 He hit his 600th homer exactly three years after his 500th
- 36 Medical suffix
- 40 Caesar's next-to-last words
- 44 "Take a hike!"
- 47 Intro suggesting uncertainty
- 51 Way off
- 52 Be decided by
- 53 Sot's woe
- 54 Caesar's last day, e.g.
- 56 ___ act
- 57 Summers in Bordeaux
- 59 Pre-road trip detail ... and a hint to what certain parts of three long answers were doing as you solved them
- 64 Make certain
- 65 Island in Micronesia
- 66 Big name in digital imaging
- 67 Jovial
- 68 Modern address letters
- 69 "Got it"



By Jeffrey Wechsler

2/4/21

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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2/4/21

- 4 Many an MIT alum
- 5 Ralph Ellison's "Invisible ___"
- 6 "Livin' Thing" rock gp.
- 7 Cold dessert
- 8 Stick on
- 9 Central dividing point
- 10 Here, in Juárez
- 11 Albanian money
- 12 Tristan's love
- 13 Filmmaker with a distinctive style
- 17 One before a king?
- 19 "It's ___ the other"
- 20 Try to strike
- 24 Old Peruvian
- 26 Old TV component
- 27 "___ Miz"
- 28 Wile E. Coyote collectible
- 31 Surfing tool
- 32 Bridal shop array
- 37 Source of some tadpoles
- 38 "Okay to come out yet?"
- 39 Norms: Abbr.
- 41 Asian holiday
- 42 Competition

DOWN

- 1 DOJ bureau
- 2 Shipwreck site
- 3 "Want to know the culprit? I'll tell you!"

- 43 Strip of gear, as a ship
- 44 Econ. yardstick
- 45 Environmentalist's prefix
- 46 Principle
- 47 Cruelty named for a marquis
- 48 Ultimatum phrase
- 49 "Just stop, okay?!"
- 50 Production
- 51 World Cup soccer org.
- 55 Omit a part of, perhaps
- 58 Asian takeout option
- 60 Mdse. category
- 61 Angkor ___: Cambodian temple
- 62 Trickster
- 63 Encl. with a resumé

NWHL cancels rest of season after additional virus positives

AP - The National Women's Hockey League called off the remainder of its season Wednesday on the eve of the playoffs because of additional positive test results for the coronavirus.

The NWHL cited safety concerns for what it called the suspension of play inside a quarantined bubble in Lake Placid, New York. COVID-19 instead wreaked havoc on the two-week event.

"We were not trending in the right direction," interim commissioner Tyler Tumminia said of more test results coming in Tuesday night. "Our actual numbers per se were not alarming in comparison to the scope of other sports clubs or other sports leagues. However, if you project a number that was going to happen, it doesn't make sense for us."

Two of the league's six teams had already withdrawn from the tournament, with the Metropolitan Riveters citing "several" virus cases. Tumminia said the team had 10, which was over the threshold for disqualifying a team.

The Connecticut Whale's departure was a choice made at the team level. Tumminia said the NWHL would not disclose how many total positive tests it had in what she called a "restrictive access environment" that did not hold up like other pro sports bubbles.

"The athletes came in into designated hotels on designated floors," she said. "They were restricted in the sense that they went from their rooms to the rink, rink to the room. That is the technical term of what this bubble was. That's how we defined it."

The NWHL had an agreement with Yale University to provide saliva-based COVID-19 testing for players and staff, similar to what the NBA used for its Disney World bubble last year. Even that testing couldn't keep the virus out, and Toronto owner Johanna Neilson Boynton said, "We knew going in it was a gamble."

"We stuck by a very strict protocol, and there's human error," NWHL Players Association executive director Anya Packer said.

Tumminia added, "Defining the origin and placing blame right now is not really our game."

Two semifinal games Thursday and the final Friday were set to be televised nationally in the U.S. on NBC Sports Network, putting women's hockey in a prominent spotlight a year away from the Beijing Olympics.

Despite not doing that, Tumminia called the NWHL season "successful."

"I actually see it as a success, she said. "I'm very proud where we got to this point."

The end of the NWHL bubble experiment came on the same day the rival Professional Women's Hockey Players Association announced it will play a game at New York City's Madison Square Garden on Feb. 28. The PWHPA is made up of 125 of the sport's biggest stars, including members of the U.S. and Canadian national teams, who banded together in the hopes of forcing the creation of a new pro league.

The game at MSG comes 13 months after PWHPA players took part in NHL All-Star Weekend. It will be the first professional women's hockey game at



In this Feb. 10, 2019, photo, Jenna Curtis, left, a forward on Team Stecklein, battles for the puck with Michelle Picard, right, a defender on Team Szabados, during the NWHL All-Star Hockey Game in Nashville, Tennessee. The women's hockey league decided to shut down on Wednesday after multiple players tested positive.

PHOTO BY MARK HUMPHREY/AP

the storied arena.

"This is a major milestone for women's hockey and young girls who aspire to play professional hockey but don't have the option to make it a career today," said Hockey Hall of Famer Jayna Hefford, an operations consultant for the PWHPA.

The NHL's New York Rangers are hosting the women's game with the team playing at Buffalo that day. Rangers president John Davidson said the team is "ex-

cited to play even a small role in helping elevate visibility for the women's game."

"The talent level of women's hockey is simply incredible," Davidson said. "We all love this sport so much and any opportunity the Rangers have to participate in its advancement is something we want to be a part of. It's a win for everyone involved."

The game in New York is set to be the first stop on the second "Dream Gap Tour," with others

around the U.S. and Canada to be determined. The announcement was made on National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

"Investing in and advancing women's hockey strengthens the game overall and creates a range of professional opportunities for women as coaches, front office executives and athletes," said Bauer Hockey vice president of global marketing Mary-Kay Messier, an adviser to the PWHPA.

GARRET RICHARDS FINALIZES \$10M, 1-YEAR DEAL WITH RED SOX



San Diego Padres starting pitcher Garrett Richards throws against the Los Angeles Dodgers during a spring training baseball game in Peoria, Arizona, in this Monday, March 9, 2020, photo. Right-hander Garrett Richards and the Boston Red Sox finalized a \$10 million, one-year contract on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021. PHOTO BY ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

BOSTON (AP) — After spending the first decade of his career on the West Coast, Garrett Richards was eager to give Boston a try.

"Being in this division, you have to make sure your game is at a high level," he told said Wednesday after finalizing a one-year deal that guarantees \$10 million. "Plus, I thought it would be a good chance to see the other side of the country."

Richards went 47-41 with a 3.62 ERA in 10 seasons with the Los Angeles Angels and San Diego Padres. The right-hander had Tommy John surgery in the middle of 2018 and came back for just three games at the end of the '19 season, then went 2-2 with a 4.03 ERA during the pandemic-shortened 2020 season.

The one thing he would do differently, he said, would be to have the elbow surgery in 2016 "and be done with it."

"I've had a few rough years, some unfortunate injuries here

and there," he said. "Over the years I've been banged up a little bit. But every time you get banged up. I think you learn something about yourself."

Richards, 32, agreed to terms on Jan. 23, pending a physical. He gets an \$8.5 million salary this year, and the deal includes a \$10 million team option for 2022 with a \$1.5 million buyout.

Boston opened a spot from him on the 40-man roster by designating right-hander Joel Payamps for assignment.

Richards said when considering offers he was intrigued not just by playing in the AL East and on the East Coast but also by the Red Sox organization. First baseman Mitch Moreland, a teammate from the Padres at the end of last season, "had nothing but great things to say about the Red Sox."

"They've won championships, and they've won a lot over the last 10 years or so," Richards said. "These guys always look like

they're having a blast. Those are the kind of teams that I want to be a part of."

Payamps, 26, had a 3.86 ERA while making four appearances for the Diamondbacks over the past two seasons. He had been claimed on waivers this offseason.

Notes: Richards' 2022 option price could escalate by \$1 million depending on 2021 starts: \$250,000 each for 20 and 25, and \$500,000 for 30. His buyout would increase by \$500,000 if he is traded in that same period, and by \$62,500 each for 20 and 25 starts, and by another \$125,000 for 30 starts. He also gets a hotel suite on road trips. ... Kiké Hernández's \$14 million, two-year contract calls for salaries for \$6 million this year, of which \$1.5 million is deferred and payable in \$250,000 installments each Jan. 15 from 2027-32, and \$8 million in 2022, of which \$1 million is deferred and payable in \$250,000 installments each Jan. 15 from 2033-36.

Gardner, East Carolina upset No. 5 Houston 82-73

GREENVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Jayden Gardner had 21 points and 15 rebounds to help East Carolina stun fifth-ranked Houston 82-73 on Wednesday night, securing the Pirates' first win against a ranked opponent in nearly two decades.

Tremont Robinson-White added 17 points for East Carolina, which defied season-long offensive struggles against one of the nation's top defensive teams. East Carolina shot 47% and made 11 of 24 3-pointers — and more impressively, the Pirates led for the last 12-plus minutes against a Houston team that struggled to make much of anything after halftime.

East Carolina (8-6, 2-6 American Athletic Conference) hadn't won a game in more than a month between five straight losses and three postponements. But the Pirates found an unforgettable way to end a 33-game losing streak against AP Top 25 teams, though it came with no fans to storm the court in celebration and only a limited number of attendees in Minges Coliseum due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Houston (15-2, 10-2) came in as KenPom's No. 2-ranked defense, allowing 86 points per 100 possessions, while also ranking as one of the nation's top rebounding teams. But the Cougars didn't do much to hold down the Pirates in either category while their offense sputtered.

DeJon Jarreau matched his career high with 25 points to lead the Cougars, who had won nine

straight meetings dating to 2015, including wins by double-digit margins on ECU's home floor in each of the past four seasons. But top scorer Quentin Grimes struggled to just seven points on 2-for-10 shooting.

BIG PICTURE

Houston: The Cougars moved to No. 5 in Monday's latest AP Top 25, marking their second stint there this season. That's the program's highest ranking since the 1983-84 season that ended with the Hakeem Olajuwon-led Cougars reaching the NCAA title game. They had also won all eight of their games since the start of 2021. But they made just 8 of 31 shots after halftime (25.8%) while finishing with a 37-36 rebounding edge.

ECU: East Carolina hadn't won since beating Tulane at home on Dec. 22. And the Pirates hadn't beaten a ranked team since upsetting a Dwyane Wade-led Marquette team ranked 13th in December 2002. Those skids are over.

UP NEXT

Houston: The Cougars host NAIA program Our Lady of the Lake on Saturday, a game added to the schedule Wednesday. Houston then returns to AAC play by visiting South Florida next Wednesday.

ECU: The Pirates visit Memphis on Saturday.

Sports

Photo of the Day | Women in Sports



In this Oct. 6, 2019 file photo, a UConn softball player takes a swing at the ball during a game against Boston College. The Huskies lost the game 8-7. PHOTO BY BRANDON BARZOLA, ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WBB: Freshmen show out in 94-62 win over St. John's

WBB, cont. from p. 12

The highlight of the game came in the last couple minutes as UConn ran the fast break. The ball was thrown up the court to Muhl who, in one swift motion, jumped, caught the ball and redirected it to a wide-open Edwards who hit the easy layup.

The final quarter saw seven freshmen see the court, five of which got on the scoreboard. Edwards scored eight more to set her new best point total, Bueckers hit a triple, McLean and Aubrey Chassion each scored a bucket and Muhl added another five points en route to her season-high 11 points to go with six assists and four steals.

Muhl, in particular, has continued to show more confidence since receiving more minutes beginning in late January and took a season-high seven shots includ-

ing four from 3-point territory.

"I feel like it's slowly coming [to] where I want it to be," Muhl said. "I'm still not there yet and I have a long way to go but I feel like little by little I'm more confident and comfortable on the court."

Outside of UConn's newcomers, Olivia Nelson-Ododa added 11 points and five rebounds while Westbrook scored eight points, dished out seven assists and added three steals. Any questions regarding whether the Huskies could stay dominant with such a young team have been put to rest as career-nights across the board should have Auriemma and fans excited for the future.

UConn has a quick turnaround after this one, with their next game set for Friday against Marquette where they will hopefully have a more complete team. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m. and can be watched on SNY.



UConn Huskies forward Aaliyah Edwards (3) drives the ball against St. John's Red Storm forward Rayven Peoples (20) in the second half at Harry A. Gampel Pavilion. UConn defeated St. John's 94-62, and Edwards finished with a career-best 22 points. PHOTO BY DAVID BUTLER II/USA TODAY

Best Super Bowl QB matchup ever?



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes celebrates at the end of the AFC championship game against the Buffalo Bills, Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021, in Kansas City, Missouri. The Chiefs won 38-24. PHOTO BY REED HOFFMANN/AP

SUPER BOWL, cont. from p. 12

The storylines truly write themselves for this game. If Brady and the Bucs win, the story will be that Brady isn't giving up his stranglehold on the league just yet, and that he's on top of his sport at 43 — something we've never really seen before besides Tiger Woods at the Masters a couple of years ago. If Mahomes and the Chiefs win, the game takes on more of a "passing of the torch" narrative where Mahomes officially supplants Brady as the best quarterback in the game. While most people — especially those who are sick of Brady — are probably hoping for the second outcome, I'm here for either one. I just want a fun game.

The storylines are there. Now, the game itself just has to live up to them. The Super Bowl is weird because sometimes the greatest matchups on paper don't end up being that great. The Montana-Marino Bowl was kind of a dud, and when Troy Aikman and Jim Kelly faced off in two straight Super Bowls, neither game was really competitive.

I don't believe that will happen in this game though. Every time Brady and Mahomes have played each other, it's been a really good game that comes down to the wire. I don't expect this one to be any different.

This has all the makings of being one of the best Super Bowls of all time, and during a time where there isn't too much to be excited about, I sure as hell am excited about this.

Roundtable: Super Bowl predictions

ROUNDTABLE, cont. from p. 11

Danny Barletta
Sports Editor

This is going to be a fun game. I just finished writing a column about how much I can't wait for this historic quarterback matchup, so I'm not going to talk too much about it here. The point is, it's Brady vs. Mahomes for the Super Bowl, and that's pretty cool. Just like all the previous Brady-Mahomes games, I think this one will come down to the wire, and I'm expecting a lot of offense. So let's go 37-34 Bucs on a last minute touchdown drive by Brady. I'm expecting no less than five lead changes throughout the game and at least 900 combined yards of offense. If the game goes down like this, Brady will almost certainly bring home his fifth Super Bowl MVP, but I wouldn't mind seeing it go to

someone like Devin White if he picks off Mahomes and makes a few other big plays. He's been a stud this season.

Conner Gilson
Associate Sports Editor

I'm gonna keep this one short. I'm a Packers fan, and for that reason alone I'll die before I root for TB12 and the Bucs. But honestly, even if I didn't have an unhealthy hatred toward the GOAT (yes that hurts to admit but it's time), Pat Mahomes and the Chiefs' offense is a different breed. Plus their defense doesn't have guys like Kevin King in their secondary to give up a half-time heartbreaker ... That aside, I'm putting my money on Mahomes and co. to repeat, beating out the Bucs 31-24 with Chris Jones kissing the MVP trophy postgame just like Brady kisses his kids on the lips. God I hate that man.

Cole Stefan
Campus Correspondent

I like this matchup very much. It could be "a changing of the guard" between Brady and Mahomes, even if Brady wants to play beyond the age of 45. I am going to pick the Buccaneers here, less because Brady should get a seventh ring, but so the team can get that second ring and truly prove its city is a city of champions, just like Los Angeles. The final score is going to be 27-25, as this should be a good slugfest that does not determine a winner until the final seconds of the fourth quarter. The defense is loaded and without Eric Fisher in at tackle, the defense could have a reasonable field day with Mahomes and his receiver corps. Now in terms of MVP, I would love to see another defensive player win it, so I will pick Jason Pierre-Paul because he is dangerous at defensive end. This contest is going to have Super Bowl shootout vibes.

Roundtable: Super Bowl LV MVP and score predictions



A man passes signage for Super Bowl 55 as he runs along the Hillsborough River on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021, in Tampa, Fla. The city is hosting Sunday's Super Bowl football game between the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Kansas City Chiefs. PHOTO BY CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

by DC Sports Section
sports@dailycampus.com

It's Super Bowl week, so you know what that means: It's prediction time. This year's game features one of the greatest quarterback matchups we've ever seen: Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers vs. Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs. The greatest quarterback of all time vs. the best quarterback in the league right now. You can't ask for much more as a football fan. These two greats have already matched up a handful of times, including in the 2018 AFC Championship,

and every game has been a down-to-the-wire thriller. If we get more of that this time around, Sunday should be fun.

This week, The Daily Campus sports section will make its predictions for the final score of Super Bowl LV as well as who will be the game's MVP. Will the GOAT add a seventh ring to his resume, or will this be a passing of the torch game to the league's next great one? It's anyone's guess, but here are ours.

Evan Rodriguez
Campus Correspondent

In such a talented Super Bowl, it's a tough decision for both who will win and who will be the MVP. But, I do have the Kansas City Chiefs over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers with a score of 24-17. It should definitely be a close Super Bowl, but it's gonna come down to defense with two stacked offenses controlled by Patrick Mahomes and veteran Tom Brady. I'm gonna make a bold prediction and go with Tyreek Hill as my Super Bowl MVP. As Mahomes's main target, I think the Tampa Bay defense will have a hard time finding coverage for the speedy receiver, and he will have many opportunities to get

to the end zone. Tyreek Hill is most certainly the game changer for me in Super Bowl LV.

Karthik Iyer
Staff Writer

I am by no means a football expert. However, as a New England Patriots fan, I have to support Tom Brady, the GOAT. Contrary to popular belief, I believe this game will not be the shootout people are expecting. I think the Buccaneers' only chance to win is if they keep that vaunted Chiefs offense to under 30 points by pressuring Mahomes early with their superior defen-

sive line. I'm going to go out on a limb and predict a score of 27-24 in favor of the Buccaneers. The likely MVP will be Brady in the event the Buccaneers win, but a dark horse MVP could be running back Leonard Fournette, who will have to play an instrumental role in regulating the game's pace. The Buccaneers' best shot is to keep Mahomes off the field with long offensive drives to control the time of possession. This matchup of two of the most potent high-octane offenses could turn into some traditional smashmouth football.

See **ROUNDTABLE**, p. 10

Karthik's Take: Intentional walks are ruining baseball

by Karthik Iyer
STAFF WRITER
karthik.iyer@uconn.edu

At their most fundamental level, sports are an entertainment venue. All financial incentives to operate a professional sports league are predicted on the sport's ability to create a spectacle that fans are willing to pay for. Baseball is no exception. That is why the MLB needs to ban the intentional walk.

According to the MLB, an intentional walk is defined as when "the defending team elects to walk a batter on purpose, putting him on first base instead of letting him try to hit." It is a low-risk, high-reward maneuver that deprives the fans of seeing their favorite big name stars in the most pivotal moments of games. This so-called strategic maneuver is the single most boring let down of a tactic in all of sports.

For all the baseball aficionados ready to rage about this take, consider the following scenario. Imagine that Kobe Bryant has the ball with 10 seconds left with the Lakers down by one to the San Antonio Spurs in Game 7 of the Western Conference Finals in Staples Center. The crowd is amped up as the game reaches its finale. The anticipation builds as the Lakers inbound the ball to Bryant at the top of the 3-point-line, but suddenly the Spurs call timeout and decide having him shoot the potential game winning shot is too risky. They'd rather have anyone but Bryant shoot the ball so he is taken out of the play and, as a result, the Lakers lose.

As a fan that paid hard earned money to go to the game and witness one of the greatest NBA players in history in his element, is that a satisfying outcome? Sports are about witnessing the best compete against each other in high-leverage moments. Allowing the intentional walk tactic to contaminate baseball is not only a disservice to the fans and the players, but to the league itself as evidenced by league attendance declining by over 7% since 2015.



Puerto Rico's starting pitcher Tommy Romero throws during the fifth inning of a Caribbean Series baseball game against Colombia at Teodoro Mariscal Stadium in Mazatlan, Mexico, Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021. PHOTO BY MOISES CASTILLO/AP

The key aspect to understand about baseball and other bat and ball games is that offense drives up viewership. It is very difficult for a casual fan to appreciate great pitching and subtle defensive shifts by the fielders. This is evident in basketball itself — from 1995 to 2001 during the peak of the Steroid Era, before the league implemented performance enhancing drug testing in 2003, MLB game attendance was up 44%. Fans loved seeing their favorite players Hulk smash the ball out of the park at record rates. Consequently, the average ticket price of an MLB game rose 78% in this span and baseball revenue increased as a result by 115%. This statistic only accounts for money earned from strictly the games themselves, not outside corporate sponsorships. While steroid use is not something that should be championed, it proved that the status quo for

sports entertainment had changed. High scoring is more exciting to casual fans than sound fundamentals. With increased competition from faster growing sports that have more effectively engaged younger audiences and other entertainment outlets, like the growing esports industry, baseball now faces the dilemma of whether to keep the game traditional or evolve to attract a younger, more casual support base. Like in Darwin's principle of natural selection, economic success in the entertainment industry is survival of the fittest, and baseball has not been adapting to the changing demographic markets fast enough.

The intentional walk is the most jarring example of how baseball as a sport has not understood that cultivating a casual fandom is the key to league success. Cricket is actually the most comparable example to analyze when discerning how to

transition baseball into being more exciting. It went from a game that could only be enjoyed by people with five days of time to spare to a global cultural phenomenon that drew in 462 million viewers for the Indian Premier League alone in 2019. Cricket shortened the game significantly to raise the stakes of every ball bowled (the equivalent of balls pitched in baseball). A shorter game rewards and incentivizes aggressive batting which is exactly what the fans come to see.

In baseball, the best batters only hit the ball at a .400 batting average which is only 40% of the time. When you consider that each player only typically gets three to four batting attempts per game, it becomes even more egregious for pitchers to have the option to bypass one of these chances to stir up fan excitement. This tactic makes baseball inferior compared

to sports like basketball, which is dominated by the stars, and even cricket, where the rules are that a batter hits until the fielding team can get him out.

In a four-game set in 2016, the Chicago Cubs intentionally walked Washington Nationals All-Star Bryce Harper 13 times, four of which were intentional, out of 19 plate appearances. Players on the Nationals such as pitcher Tanner Roark called it "scared baseball" in response to the Cubs franchise saying that walking Harper was an integral part of their success. That is the problem that intentional walks pose in a nutshell. They are uncompetitive since they literally eliminate any opportunity for a team's players to influence the game in critical situations and rob the fans of seeing quality professional baseball. Jason Brannan of SB nation, a popular sports blogging network, summed up intentional walks best when he said "Baseball is what happens between the pitcher and the batter, or the batter and the fielders. The intentional walk isn't baseball, it's the avoidance of baseball."

While there are measures in other sports to limit star players like double teams in basketball and football, nothing neutralizes a player's ability to help his team like the intentional walk. The tactic is cowardly, lame for the fans and pitchers these days don't need it. Strikeout rates are at an all-time high at 17.5% and the total number of them has been rising every year since 2008, oftentimes being very close to outpacing total hits. Baseball as a league cannot afford to continue allowing intentional walking. Unfortunately, managers have realized that pitchers throwing intentional balls eliminates risk associated with having to throw a wild pitch. In fact, this caused the usage of the intentional walk to increase in 2017 leaguewide.

There must be an incentive implemented to not intentionally walk the game's greatest players. If the MLB doesn't remove the intentional walk, more and more young fans will make the choice to remove MLB coverage from their preferred list of entertainment options.



Sports

Women's Basketball: Freshmen come up big for injury-depleted Huskies in win over St John's

by **Conner Gilson**
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR
conner.gilson@uconn.edu

With Anna Makurat, Christyn Williams and Aubrey Griffin all out due to injury, the Huskies played the majority of the game with only six players, four of which are new to the team. But led by career days from the freshmen, UConn (12-1, 10-0 Big East) was able to walk away from its matchup against St. John's with a comfortable 94-62 victory.

With three starters sidelined in Makurat, Williams and Griffin, head coach Geno Auriemma was forced to start three freshmen — the first time he had done so since 1998 — alongside juniors Evina Westbrook and Olivia Nelson-Ododa. Those three freshmen were Paige Bueckers, Aaliyah Edwards and Nika Muhl, and all three had career nights en route to the team's 12th win of the season. But beyond the result, this game was fun to be a part of for this young Huskies team, as all three freshmen spoke on the joy they got playing alongside their classmates.

"Obviously we're really close off the court, but we're getting that chemistry on the court as well," Bueckers said. "It's really fun to play with them, they bring so much energy and so much competitiveness and I really like playing with them a lot."

The first half belonged to the one-two punch of Bueckers and Edwards. In her second career start and first in nearly a month, Edwards made her presence felt on both ends of the floor, scoring eight points and grabbing four boards early on. Meanwhile Bueckers continued her strong stretch of play, putting up 18 points and four assists in the first half alone.

By game's end, Bueckers would set a new-best 32 points to lead the way for the Huskies, followed closely by a career-high 22 points from Edwards.

Auriemma said it was key for the freshmen to contribute when they are without some of their key players, highlighting the play of Edwards and Muhl in particular.

"I've got tremendous confidence in both of them," Auriemma said. "You know, Aaliyah how hard she works, you saw her work on the boards and what she does running the floor. She's just a big physical presence for us. And Nika's getting more and more comfortable every game that she plays. The more minutes she plays the better she looks. She's shooting the ball with so much confidence, so it felt good to see them have that much success."

The third quarter was more of the same for UConn as Bueckers and Edwards combined for 17 points, but it was fellow freshman Mir McLean who may have made the biggest impact to start the second half.

Halfway through the period, Nelson-Ododa was called for her fourth foul of the game, forcing the freshman in for the final four minutes. In those four minutes, McLean scored three points, grabbed six boards — including five on the offensive end — and forced two turnovers.

Earlier in the season, Auriemma spoke about how McLean tended to fall into a fog during game time, but it was clear that was not the case last night, as her eight boards represented a career-high while her seven points were her second most of the season.



UConn Huskies guard Paige Bueckers (5) shoots against St. John's Red Storm guard Kadaja Bailey (30) in the first half at Harry A. Gampel Pavilion. Bueckers led the Huskies with a career-high 32 points as UConn beat St. John's 94-62 to move to 12-1 for the season. PHOTO BY DAVID BUTLER II/USA TODAY

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DB's Weekly Take: Is this the best Super Bowl quarterback matchup of all time?



In this Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021, photo, Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady reacts after winning the NFC championship game against the Green Bay Packers in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The Super Bowl matchup features the most accomplished quarterback ever to play the game who is still thriving at age 43 in Brady against the young gun who is rewriting record books at age 25. PHOTO BY MATT LUDTKE/AP

by **Danny Barletta**
SPORTS EDITOR
daniel.barletta@uconn.edu

We've all suffered in some way during the past year. Whether we've lost a loved one to the COVID-19 pandemic, struggled with our mental health or missed out on special opportunities due to the pandemic, everyone has dealt with some kind of negativity. That's why now more than ever, we really need to appreciate the positive things in life, no matter how small or irrelevant they may be.

A great example for sports fans is the Super Bowl this Sunday. Despite everything that's happened since last year's Super Bowl, we still get to enjoy watching the NFL's two top teams battle for a championship. Not only that, but we get to see what could go down as the greatest Super Bowl quarterback matchup of all time.

In the previous 54 renditions of the Super Bowl, there have been some all-time greats paired up. Terry Bradshaw and Roger Staubach battled in two memorable Super Bowls in the 70s: X and XIII. At the peak of their careers, Joe Montana and Dan Marino squared off in Super Bowl

XIX. John Elway vs. Brett Favre in Super Bowl XXXII was one of the best matchups ever. In more recent memory, Drew Brees vs. Peyton Manning in Super Bowl XLIV and Tom Brady vs. Russell Wilson in Super Bowl XLIX are the ones that stand out.

But I'm not sure any of those are quite as good as what we're going to see on Sunday in Super Bowl LV when Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers take on Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs. On one side, you have the greatest quarterback of all time, who is still performing at a very high level at 43 years old. On the other side, you have the best quarterback in football right now, who is just coming into his prime at 25 years old. In addition, you have the last two quarterbacks to win the Super Bowl squaring up for the first time ever.

This is truly a historic matchup. Brady is the greatest quarterback ever — what he's been able to do this season at 43 with a brand new team to get to his 10th Super Bowl only confirms that. Mahomes has had the best start to a career in NFL history, winning an MVP and a Super Bowl in his first two seasons as a starter. Now, he's back in the big game

for a second straight year looking to be the first quarterback to repeat as champion since ... Tom Brady with the New England Patriots in 2003 and 2004. Perhaps the craziest part is that Mahomes was just nine years old when Brady accomplished that feat.

This is the ultimate generational battle that I don't believe we've ever really seen in any sport. The current GOAT against the potential future GOAT. This is the equivalent of if Michael Jordan had played a little bit longer and somehow matched up against LeBron James in the Finals. That obviously never happened, but we're basically getting the football equivalent of that this Sunday.

What's crazy about this matchup is that although there is an 18-year age difference between these guys, both are playing damn close to the top of their games. Sure, Mahomes is clearly the best in the league right now, but Brady isn't too far behind. Brady may not be in his prime anymore, but he's playing as close to his prime as any athlete I've ever seen in their 21st season.

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UConn SCOREBOARD

Women's Basketball
Wednesday

vs.

94 vs. **62**

UPCOMING GAMES

vs.
Men's Hockey, Friday, 5 p.m.
Boston, MA

vs.
Women's Hockey, Friday, 4 p.m.
Freitas Ice Forum

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY

NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

@uconnhuskies
We are fortunate to have so many remarkable female student-athletes and alumnae at UConn! #NGWSD #BleedBlue

TWEETS OF THE DAY

Patrick Eaton-Robb
@peatonrobb
Back in my plexiglass bubble at Gampel as the #UConn women play that important 13th game. First visit for #stjohns since the big 2012 upset.

UConn Softball
@UConnSoftball
Happy National Girls and Women in Sports Day! We could not be more proud of our players, alumnae, and coaches for the way they inspire other women to chase their dreams!

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