

# The Daily Campus



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Tuesday, December 7, 2021

## CONFIRMED 2021 COVID-19 CASES AT UCONN STORRS

as of 8:52 p.m. on Dec. 6 \*positive test results

5

Current Residential Cases  
(positive/symptomatic)

55

Cumulative Residential Cases\*

54

Cumulative Commuter Cases\*

78

Cumulative Staff Cases\*

## National News

by Colin Piteo  
STAFF WRITER  
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### Hawaii faces catastrophic flooding

In national news, Hawaii is expecting to see an average of 10-15 inches of rain over the next few days with some areas expecting over 20-25 inches of rain. The storm has been pummeling the region since Monday, but the worst of the storm is expected Tuesday night.

Rain that hit Hawaii on Sunday into early Monday downed trees, flooded roads and homes and triggered power outages. On Maui Island, Kahului Airport lost power and passengers were stuck in planes on the tarmac for hours. The National Weather Service said that the storm posed a "catastrophic flooding" risk. On Sunday, Governor David Ige "urged residents to prepare for the potential of major flooding, landslides, road closures and damage to homes," according to a report by Hawaii News Now.

### Biden administration boycotts Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics

In other news, the Biden administration announced Monday that it would stage a diplomatic boycott against the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics. This does not rise to the level of a full boycott like the United States conducted against the former Soviet Union in 1980. Team USA athletes will still compete in the games, but a ceremonial envoy of U.S. dignitaries and officials will not be sent to China. U.S. Press Secretary Jen Psaki described the action as a necessary response to human rights violations in China against the Uyghur people.



PHOTOGRAPH BY NG HAN GUAN/AP



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

"The Biden administration will not send any diplomatic or official representation to the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics and Paralympic Games given the PRC's ongoing genocide and crimes against humanity in Xinjiang and other human rights abuses," Psaki said.

Hours before the announcement was made, China threatened to take "firm countermeasures" against the U.S. if the Biden administration decided to stage a diplomatic boycott. There has been no elaboration as to what countermeasures China will take.

### Perdue announces campaign for Georgia governor

Finally in Georgia, former Senator David Perdue, who recently lost a Georgia senate run-off election to Senator Jon Ossoff, announced Monday that he will pursue the governorship of Georgia. This poses a primary fight between Republican Perdue and current Republican Governor of Georgia, Brian Kemp.

In his first campaign video, Perdue blamed Kemp for losing Georgia's two senate seats as well as the presidential election. The winner of the Republican primary is poised to run in a general election against Democratic voting rights activist Stacy Abrams, who lost a closely contested Georgia gubernatorial election in 2018. Due to the changing political landscape of the state in the past few years, especially with the Joe Biden, Rafael Warnock and Ossoff victories in November and January, Georgia is no longer a Republican stronghold, and the governorship is truly up for grabs.

Perdue already has the endorsement of former President Donald Trump in the Republican primary against Kemp due to Kemp's refusal to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

## Jussie Smollett testifies at his trial: 'There was no hoax'

CHICAGO (AP) — Former "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett denied Monday that he staged an anti-gay, racist attack on himself, testifying at his trial that "there was no hoax" and that he was the victim of a hate crime in his downtown Chicago neighborhood.

Smollett, who faces charges that he lied to Chicago police about the January 2019 attack, sought to refute damaging testimony from two brothers last week. They said Smollett, who is gay and Black, orchestrated the hoax to get publicity, giving them \$100 for supplies and instructing them to place a noose around his neck and yell homophobic slurs. They also said Smollett gave them a \$3,500 check to carry it out.

Smollett testified that he wrote the \$3,500 check to Abimbola Osundairo for nutrition and training advice. Asked by his defense attorney if he gave Osundairo payment for some kind of hoax, Smollett replied: "Never."

Attorney Nenye Uche asked again if he planned a hoax.

"No," Smollett said, "there was no hoax."

He also said "absolutely not" when asked if he gave Osundairo

and his brother \$100 to pay for supplies for the fake attack.

Smollett told jurors he had just returned from a trip and was walking home after buying a sandwich around 2 a.m. on Jan. 29, 2019, when someone yelled a racist, homophobic remark. Smollett said he turned around to confront the person, who he said towered over him.

Standing up in the Chicago courtroom, Smollett demonstrated how he said the man walked quickly toward him, then pointed to his left temple to show where the man hit him.

"I would like to think I landed a punch. But I don't know if it landed," Smollett said. He said he slipped and they tussled on the ground for up to 30 seconds. Smollett said he saw a second person — who he believes kicked him on his side — as that person ran away.

Smollett said he assumed the person who attacked him was white because he used a racial slur and shouted "MAGA country," an apparent reference to then-President Donald Trump's campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again."

The brothers, Abimbola and Olabingo Osundairo, who are Black, testified last week that Smollett instructed

them to yell "this is MAGA country" during the fake assault.

Smollett said he picked up his phone and told the person he had been talking to that he "got jumped." He noticed he had a noose around his neck as he returned to his apartment. Smollett said he removed the noose but a friend who was at his apartment called police and told him to put the noose back on so officers could see it. Smollett said he was upset police had been called because he would never have done so.

"I am a Black man in America. I do not trust the police," Smollett said. "I am also a well known figure at that time and I am an openly gay man."

Smollett said after news broke that everyone — including Trump — had an opinion about what happened, and that he hated the attention.

"I've lost my livelihood," he added.

Under cross-examination, Smollett said he refused to give Chicago police his cellphone for their investigation because he wanted his privacy. Asked by special prosecutor Dan Webb if he was concerned the phone would show several calls to Abimbola Osundairo, Smollett said no.

## COVID-19 hospitalizations in Connecticut back up to 500

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Gov. Ned Lamont's office reported Monday that the number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 in Connecticut rose over the weekend to 500, just five months after dropping to a low of 25.

**"Maybe with each of these variants coming along, we can't always prevent mild illness. But, you've got to know that the boosters and the vaccines are keeping you out of the hospital and are keeping you out of the morgue."**

GOV. NED LAMONT

That includes a rise of 80 coronavirus-related hospitalizations since Friday, according to the daily metrics released by the governor's office.

It is still well below the high of 1,972 hospitalizations in April of 2020 and the 1,183 hospitalizations reported on Dec. 6, 2020.

Lamont, speaking before the latest numbers were released, credited vaccinations and boosters with keeping hospitalizations down.

Of the 500 patients currently hospitalized with COVID-19, 386 (77.2%) are not fully vaccinated, according to the governor's office.

"Maybe with each of these variants coming along, we can't always prevent mild illness," he said. "But, you've got to know that the boosters and the vaccines are keeping you out of the hospital and are keeping you out of the morgue."

The seven-day rolling average of new COVID-19 cases in Connecticut has risen over the past two weeks from about 738 new cases per day on November 20 to just over 971 new cases per day on Dec. 4, according to John's Hopkins University.

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Bueckers' injury and the impact it'll have on the WBB team

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Manifesting that we all pass our finals

## News

# Omicron vs. delta: Battle of coronavirus mutants is critical

(AP) — As the omicron coronavirus variant spreads in southern Africa and pops up in countries all around the world, scientists are anxiously watching a battle play out that could determine the future of the pandemic. Can the latest competitor to the world-dominating delta displace it?

Some scientists, poring over data from South Africa and the United Kingdom, suggest omicron could emerge the victor.

"It's still early days, but increasingly, data is starting to trickle in, suggesting that omicron is likely to outcompete delta in many, if not all, places," said Dr. Jacob Lemieux, who monitors variants for a research collaboration led by Harvard Medical School. "Certainly, it's potentially alarming."

*The virus is spreading extraordinarily fast, very rapidly."*

WILLEM HANEKOM

But others said Monday it's too soon to know how likely it is that omicron will spread more efficiently than delta, or, if it does, how fast it might take over.

"Especially here in the U.S., where we're seeing significant surges in delta, whether omicron's going to replace it I think we'll know in about two weeks," said Matthew Binicker, director of clinical virology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

Many critical questions about omicron remain unanswered, including whether the virus causes milder or more severe illness and how much it might evade immunity from past COVID-19 illness or vaccines.

On the issue of spread, scientists



A woman is vaccinated against COVID-19 at the Hillbrow Clinic in Johannesburg, South Africa, Monday Dec. 6, 2021. South African doctors say the rapid increase in COVID-19 cases attributed to the new omicron variant is resulting in mostly mild symptoms.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SHIRAAZ MOHAMED/AP



Medical staff talk to a man about to be vaccinated against COVID-19 at the Hillbrow Clinic in Johannesburg, South Africa, Monday Dec. 6, 2021. The new omicron variant appears to be driving a dramatic surge in South Africa, providing the world a glimpse of where the pandemic might be headed.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SHIRAAZ MOHAMED/AP

point to what's happening in South Africa, where omicron was first detected. Omicron's speed in infecting people and achieving near dominance in South Africa has health experts worried that the country is at the start of a new wave that may come to overwhelm hospitals.

The new variant rapidly moved South Africa from a period of low transmission, averaging less than 200 new cases per day in mid-November, to more than 16,000 per day over the weekend. Omicron accounts for more than 90% of the new cases in Gauteng province, the epicenter of the new wave, according to experts. The new variant is rapidly spreading and achieving dominance in South Africa's eight other provinces.

"The virus is spreading extraordinarily fast, very rapidly," said Willem Hanekom, director of the Africa Health Research Institute. "If you look at the slopes of this wave that we're in at the moment, it's a much steeper slope than the first three waves that South Africa experienced. This indicates that it's spreading fast and it may therefore be a very transmissible virus, which is what is being predicted."

But Hanekom, who is also co-chair the South African COVID-19 Variants Research Consortium, said South Africa had such low numbers of delta cases when omicron emerged, "I don't think we can say" it out-competed delta.

Scientists say it's unclear whether omicron will behave the same way in other countries as it has in South Africa. Lemieux said there are already some hints about how it may behave; in places like the United Kingdom, which does a lot of genomic sequencing, he said, "we're seeing what appears to be a signal of exponential increase of omicron over delta."

## Swiss Catholic church orders study of past sexual abuse

GENEVA (AP) — The leaders of the Roman Catholic Church in Switzerland have asked two academics to lead a study into the Swiss church's history of sexual exploitation since the mid-20th century, joining other churches in other countries in Europe and beyond to undergo such a reckoning.

The Swiss Conference of Bishops and two other organizations announced Monday that two University of Zurich history professors, Monika Dommann and Marietta Maier, will assemble a team in the coming weeks before formally launching the project and detailing its full ambitions in March.

"Countless people have endured deep suffering linked to sexual abuse in the context of the Roman Catholic Church," the organizations said. "Work of scientific memory is owed first of all to the victims, but it will also provide lessons for the future."

The one-year pilot project will give the researchers "free access to their files and archives where possible and authorized under canonical and state law." They also pledged to encourage their members and other groups to do the same.

The groups emphasized a need for independence "to provide justice to the victims."

Any information obtained through archives and files of the Catholic groups can only be used as part of the project, and the University of Zurich — the official delegate for the project — has pledged to maintain secrecy about any information not included in the final report. The university noted its obligation under Swiss law to point out any criminal wrongdoing that it might find.

## Stocks rise broadly on Wall Street, travel companies rebound

(AP) — Stocks rose broadly on Wall Street Monday, nearly reversing the S&P 500's losses from last week, when jitters over a new coronavirus variant roiled markets.

The benchmark index rose 1.2%. More than 85% of stocks in the index gained ground, with technology companies and banks accounting for a large slice of the gains. The rally also included airlines, cruise lines and other travel-related companies that stand to benefit from the economy staying clear of more pandemic-related restrictions.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 1.9%, while the Nasdaq composite gained 0.9%. Small-company stocks outpaced the broader market, sending the Russell 2000 index 2% higher. Long-term bond yields rose, also making up a big portion of what they lost last week.

Wall Street was encouraged by comments from Dr. Anthony Fauci, the White House's chief medical

adviser, who said early indications suggested that the omicron variant of COVID-19 may be less dangerous than the delta variant. It will still take a few weeks to learn whether omicron is more contagious, causes more severe illness or evades immunity.

"The COVID concerns from last week maybe aren't as pronounced, and some of the geopolitical tensions maybe are not quite as pronounced," said Willie Delwiche, investment strategist at All Star Charts. "At least for a day, people feel better about it."

The S&P 500 rose 53.24 points to 4,591.67. The Dow gained 646.95 points to 35,227.03. The Nasdaq rose 139.68 to 15,225.15. The Russell 2000 picked up 44.17 points to 2,203.48.

Bond yields rose, which benefits banks. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 1.44% from 1.33% late Friday. JPMorgan Chase rose 1.2%.

Delwiche said that the rise in the 10-year bond yield says more about

investors' confidence in the economy than the pickup in stocks.

"Seeing yields in the 10-year get back above 1.40% is the most encouraging development," he said. "It's hard to make an optimistic case of the U.S. economy if yields are moving lower."

U.S. crude oil prices rose 4.9% and helped send energy stocks higher. Exxon Mobil rose 1.1%.

Airlines, cruise operators and a wide range of travel-related companies made solid gains. Norwegian Cruise Line vaulted 9.5% for the biggest gain in the S&P 500. Rivals Carnival and Royal Caribbean jumped 8.1% and 8.2%, respectively.

American Airlines climbed 7.9%, while United Airlines gained 8.3%. Expedia Group rose 6.7%. The travel industry has been under pressure over concerns about the latest coronavirus variant and the potential for it to crimp economic activity in the midst of the busy holiday season.

## Fired CNN anchor Chris Cuomo steps away from SiriusXM show

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Fired CNN anchor Chris Cuomo said he's dropping his SiriusXM radio show, a decision that followed a sexual harassment allegation.

"While I have a thick skin, I also have a family, for whom the past week has been extraordinarily difficult," Cuomo said in a Twitter post Monday. He said he's stepping back to "focus on what comes next."

Cuomo was criticized for breaching journalism ethics by trying to help his older brother, former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, deal with his own harassment allegations. CNN had suspended the younger Cuomo after learning that his actions were more extensive than previously thought, then fired him Saturday.

Chris Cuomo has said he was simply trying to help his brother.

The harassment claim became known shortly after CNN cut ties with him. The woman, who has chosen to remain anonymous, took her allegations to CNN on Wednesday through

her lawyer, Debra Katz.

Katz did not give any specifics about the alleged behavior which, if it happened, may have occurred before Cuomo joined CNN in 2013. Prior to that, he worked at ABC News, which didn't immediately respond Monday to questions about Cuomo's tenure there.

Chris Cuomo, through a spokesman, has said the harassment claims were untrue. "If the goal in making these false and unvetted accusations was to see Mr. Cuomo punished by CNN, that may explain his unwarranted termination," the spokesman said.

Katz also tied Cuomo's firing to the accusations, saying in a statement that "CNN acted promptly on my client's complaint and fired Mr. Cuomo."

In his post Monday, Cuomo said the way his time at CNN ended was "hard." He was grateful for the support he's received from SiriusXM, Cuomo said, thanking his "loyal listeners" and adding that he looks forward to "being back in touch with you all in the future."

# The Daily Campus

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# Emmett Till investigation closed by feds; no new charges



This undated photo shows Emmett Louis Till, a 14-year-old Black Chicago boy, who was kidnapped, tortured and murdered in 1955 after he allegedly whistled at a White woman in Mississippi. On Monday, Dec. 6, 2021, the U.S. Justice Department told his relatives that it is ending its investigation into the 1955 lynching of Till.

FILE PHOTO/AP

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — The U.S. Justice Department told relatives of Emmett Till on Monday that it is ending its latest investigation into the 1955 lynching of the Black teenager from Chicago who was abducted, tortured and killed after witnesses said he whistled at a white woman in Mississippi.

Till's family said it was disappointed by the news that there will continue to be no accountability for the infamous killing, with no charges being filed against Carolyn Bryant Donham, the woman accused of lying about whether Till ever touched her.

"Today is a day we will never forget," Till's cousin, the Rev. Wheeler Parker, said during a news conference in Chicago. "For 66 years we have suffered pain. ... I suffered tremendously."

The killing galvanized the civil rights movement after Till's mother insisted on an open casket, and Jet magazine published photos of his brutalized body.

The Justice Department reopened the investigation after a 2017 book quoted Donham as saying she lied when she claimed that 14-year-old Till grabbed her, whistled and made sexual advances while she was working in a store in the small community of Money. Relatives have publicly denied that Donham, who is in her 80s, recanted her allegations about Till.

Donham told the FBI that she

had never recanted her accusations and there is "insufficient evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that she lied to the FBI," the Justice Department said in a news release Monday. Officials also said that Timothy B. Tyson, the author of 2017's "The Blood of Emmett Till" was unable to produce any recordings or transcripts in which Donham allegedly admitted to lying about her encounter with the teen.

"In closing this matter without prosecution, the government does not take the position that the state court testimony the woman gave in 1955 was truthful or accurate," the news release said. "There remains considerable doubt as to the credibility of her version of events, which is contradicted by others who were with Till at the time, including the account of a living witness."

Days after Till was killed, his body was pulled from the Tallahatchie River, where it was tossed after being weighted down with a cotton gin fan.

Two white men, Roy Bryant and his half-brother J.W. Milam, were tried on murder charges about a month after Till was killed, but an all-white Mississippi jury acquitted them. Months later, they confessed in a paid interview with Look magazine. Bryant was married to Donham in 1955.

The Justice Department in 2004

opened an investigation of Till's killing after it received inquiries about whether charges could be brought against anyone still living. The department said the statute of limitations had run out on any potential federal crime, but the FBI worked with state investigators to determine if state charges could be brought. In February 2007, a Mississippi grand jury declined to indict anyone, and the Justice Department announced it was closing the case.

Bryant and Milam were not brought to trial again, and they are now both dead. Donham has been living in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The FBI in 2006 began a cold case initiative to investigate racial-motivated killings from decades earlier. A federal law named after Till allows a review of killings that had not been solved or prosecuted to the point of a conviction.

The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act requires the Justice Department to make an annual report to Congress. No report was filed in 2020, but a report filed in June of this year indicated that the department was still investigating the abduction and killing of Till.

The FBI investigation included a talk with Parker, who previously told the AP in an interview that he heard his cousin whistle at the woman in a store in Money, Mississippi, but that the teen did nothing to warrant being killed.

# Prosecutor criticizes school over run-up to mass shooting

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — The prosecutor overseeing the case against the student accused in last week's deadly Michigan school shooting and who took the rare step of charging his parents left open the possibility Monday that school officials could also face charges, saying "in this case, a lot could have been done different."

Oakland County Prosecutor Karen McDonald said the investigation's findings will determine whether school officials will be charged in last Tuesday's attack at Oxford High School.

But she noted that three hours before Ethan Crumbley allegedly opened fire, killing four fellow students and wounding six others and a teacher, the 15-year-old was sent back to class after a meeting between school counselors and his parents over a drawing a teacher found on his desk that included a bullet and the words "blood everywhere."

"In this case, a lot could have been done different. I mean at that meeting he was allowed to go back to school," she said Monday during an interview on ABC's "Good Morning America."

"We know that he either had that weapon with him or someplace where he could have stored it in the school. But he had it in the school, there's no question. And leaving the decision to parents about whether he goes home or not ..." she added, not finishing the sentence.

Tim Throne, superintendent of the Oxford school district, said Crumbley

and his parents met with counselors on the day of the shooting. He said counselors found the teen "calm" and didn't believe he would harm others.

The parents, Jennifer and James Crumbley, were asked to take their son home but "flatly refused," Throne said.

Throne said a third party will investigate the events that occurred before the school shooting in Oxford Township, a community of about 23,000 people roughly 30 miles (50 kilometers) north of Detroit. Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel said her office could conduct the probe and did not rule out investigating even if the school district declines her offer.

"We're better suited to do this than a private actor like a security firm or a law firm or anything of that nature," she told The Associated Press on Monday. "When the institution is serving as a client and they hire a private agency, many times that is only sort of to cover up for any mistakes that might have been made as opposed to really getting to the truth of what occurred."

Nessel said she is not looking to blame the school district. A review of the tragedy, she said, will show what happened, identify possible violations of protocols and provide lessons so students are kept safe.

Asked whether school staffers may be charged, she said: "I'm not going to rule anything out. But we're going into this with the hope that we can discover

er best practices, best policies, best procedures and make recommendations to schools around the state, possibly to the Legislature for laws that should be implemented and to ensure the safety of schoolchildren around the state."

Ethan Crumbley has been charged as an adult with murder, terrorism and other crimes in the attack. And McDonald filed involuntary manslaughter charges against his parents, saying they failed to intervene on the day of the tragedy despite being confronted with the drawing and its disturbing message.

McDonald said Monday that Crumbley's parents did not mention during the meeting at the school that Ethan had access to a 9mm semi-automatic pistol. Authorities say he used the gun to carry out the attack, and that his father bought it for him at a local gun shop on Black Friday as an early Christmas present. Although the gun was legally sold to James Crumbley, minors in Michigan cannot possess guns aside from in limited situations, such as when hunting with an adult.

"You can't even in an airport mention anything that even remotely indicates that there might be some sort of violence on a plane. You'll be immediately extracted. And yet we have a kid who is ... saying some pretty concerning things and he was allowed to go back to school, and neither parent mentions that he had access to a weapon," McDonald said.



This booking photo released by the Oakland County, Mich., sheriff's office shows Ethan Crumbley, 15, who is charged as an adult with murder and terrorism for a shooting that killed four classmates and injured more at Oxford High School in Oxford, Mich., authorities said Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021.

PHOTOGRAPH BY OAKLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE/AP

# Biden-Putin talks on Ukraine crisis rooted in older dispute



President Joe Biden speaks from the East Room of the White House in Washington, Monday, Dec. 6, 2021, about his administration's plans to lower the costs of prescription drugs, letting Medicare negotiate drug prices and capping how much seniors and people with disabilities have to pay for drugs.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SUSAN WALSH/AP

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Cold War ended 30 years ago this month, but one unresolved issue — how closely Ukraine, a former Soviet republic, can ally with the West — is now creating some of the deepest U.S.-Russian tensions in years.

The dispute over Ukraine's status and its growing alignment with U.S.-led NATO will be at the center of President Vladimir Putin's video meeting Tuesday with President Joe Biden, whose administration says an extensive Russian military buildup near Ukraine points to a potential invasion.

Russia denies any intention of invading and says Washington and Kyiv are the ones stirring up trouble.

Putin has his own demands: A binding assurance that Ukraine will not join NATO and that the Western alliance will not add forces in states near Russia.

"I want to make it crystal clear: Turning our neighbors into a bridgehead for confrontation with Russia, the deployment of NATO forces in the regions strategically important for our security, is cat-

egorically unacceptable," Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov said last week, echoing Putin.

That demand is a non-starter for Biden.

A key principle of the NATO alliance is that membership is open to any qualifying country. And no outsider has membership veto power. While there's little prospect that Ukraine would be invited into the alliance anytime soon, the U.S. and its allies won't rule it out.

"NATO member countries decide who is a member of NATO, not Russia. And that is how the process has always been and how it will proceed," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Friday.

Ahead of his Putin meeting, Biden conferred by phone Monday with the leaders of France, Germany, Britain and Italy. They discussed a "shared concern about the Russian military buildup on Ukraine's borders and Russia's increasingly harsh rhetoric," according to a White House statement. They agreed to continue pursuing diplomacy, including through the so-called Normandy Format that brings to-

gether Ukraine, Russia, Germany and France in search of a political solution, so far to no avail.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky wrote on Twitter that he had coordinated positions with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken. "Agreed to continue joint & concerted action," Zelenskyy wrote, saying he was grateful for the "continued support of our sovereignty & territorial integrity."

Blinken last week said the U.S. would work with allies to impose "severe costs and consequences" on Russia if it attacks.

On Friday Biden said he has developed, with allies, the "most comprehensive and meaningful set of initiatives to make it very, very difficult for Mr. Putin" to invade. That likely would be significant U.S. and allied economic and financial sanctions against Moscow. The administration also has been considering providing additional defensive weaponry to Ukraine, though Biden has given no indication he would respond to an incursion with direct U.S. military force.

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**► Editorial**

## Student death calls for reflection on pedestrian safety

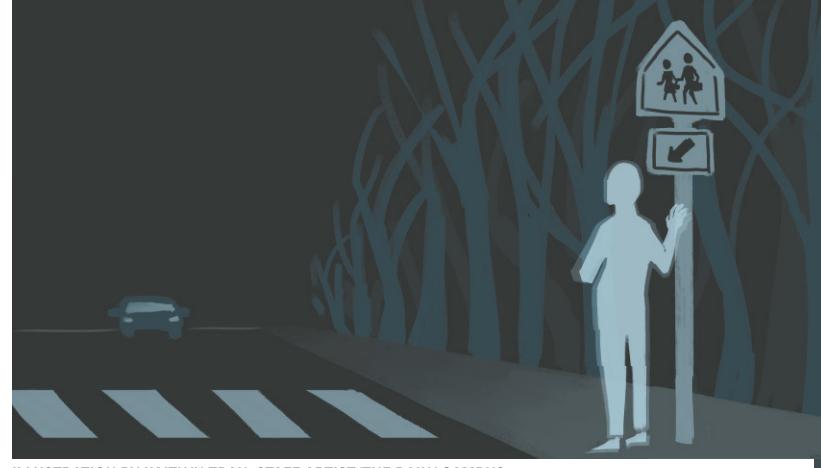


ILLUSTRATION BY KAITLYN TRAN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

**T**he Daily Campus sympathizes with every member of the University of Connecticut community affected by the death of PhD student Nhuong Nguyen, who died of medical complications last Tuesday night after being hit by a car while crossing a crosswalk at the intersection of Eastwood and South Eagleville Road. We hope to contribute to a discussion about transportation justice and preventing similar harm going forward.

Although the investigation into this specific accident is still ongoing and its cause is unclear, it isn't enough for us to only acknowledge the loss and tragedy of this death. We should reflect on the state of transportation safety everywhere on campus and surrounding areas to ensure this never happens again. Automobile fatalities aren't random or facts of life — they're caused by transportation infrastructure built for the supremacy of cars, where traffic conflicts are frequent and walking is unsafe.

Cars are one of the most dangerous modes of transportation. They weigh thousands of pounds and frequently collide with each other and pedestrians, killing thousands every day globally and tens of thousands every year in the United States alone. In 2021, car accidents have increased by 16% in Connecticut, having already killed 283 people as of Nov. 2. If we aren't seriously committed to pedestrian safety, we're complicit in these human costs.

This intersection of Eastwood and South Eagleville Road is an example of many dangers and deficiencies in transportation infrastructure. The crosswalk has no lighting for pedestrians, making them exceptionally hard for drivers to see during the night. There is only one stop sign against the terminal street, so in the event that pedestrians go unnoticed, there's nothing to slow down cars driving straight through the intersection. Further, the only sidewalk is on the opposite side of the street to nearby houses, forcing pedestrians to walk alongside South Eagleville Road and increasing the odds of an accident.

These join many improvements which the town of Mansfield and the UConn administration could accommodate at this intersection and others to slow automobile traffic and make life safer for pedestrians, some of which can already be seen around campus.

Some crosswalks on North Eagleville Road have flashing yellow lights linked to pedestrian buttons to indicate crossing, making clearer the need for oncoming traffic to slow and then stop. Roundabouts, such as the one installed this year outside of North Garage, lower driver speed and increase caution around other cars and pedestrians alike. Medians like the one on North Eagleville Road separate oncoming traffic in both directions and narrow the street, making drivers slower and more cautious, decreasing harm in the event of conflicts. This one, like the median at the intersection of Storrs and Bolton Road, also gives a safe midway-crossing point for pedestrians. Finally, unlike the intersection of Eastwood and South Eagleville Road, other crosswalks around Mansfield are lit during the evening.

We can't possibly cover every infrastructure improvement that would increase pedestrian safety around town. More speed bumps would dramatically decrease car speeds and danger in the event of conflicts. Protected bicycle lanes both slow car traffic by narrowing streets and incentivize cycling, which is much safer than driving. Designs which elevate intersections above the surrounding road impact driver psychology, making the intersection into a fundamentally pedestrian-controlled space in which cars are guests, rather than the other way around. All of these improvements lead drivers to be more aware, and allow pedestrians to enjoy greater safety while walking.

These changes cost money and time to implement, and we're probably all familiar with the nuisance of construction at UConn. Further, pedestrian-safe infrastructure often slows automobile traffic, making the experience of driving less desirable for commuters and visitors, potentially decreasing traffic to our town and school. These are common local administrative concerns when designing with pedestrian safety in mind.

But we shouldn't throw our hands up at such factors. They should inform our advocacy for the human right of safe travel, and for walkable urban areas independent from expensive, environmentally harmful and fatal automobile traffic. Such areas exist all around the world. Mansfield can be like this too if we collectively believe these investments are justified by the sanctity of human life.

FROM ONE TO FIFTEEN



COMIC BY KAITLYN TRAN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



## Conversations about menstruation and period poverty

**by Anika Veeraraghav**  
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In fifth grade, I remember being split up into two separate rooms, one for girls and one for boys. The girls all sat in my elementary school's all-purpose room and watched as the school nurse wheeled in a TV. We were told that our bodies were changing and that we would slowly start to get our periods — a term for which the number of euphemisms is endless. We were taught about pads and tampons and were given large paper bags to conceal them. But one of the most important things they emphasized was to not tell the boys what we had talked about.

**We were taught about pads and tampons and were given large paper bags to conceal them. But one of the most important things they emphasized was to not tell the boys what we had talked about.**

Throughout my middle school years, periods were a taboo topic. If you needed to take menstrual supplies into the bathroom with you, you'd have to take it in a purse because it was too embarrassing not to. The time someone dropped a pad on the hallway floor, people walked around it as if it was a disease they would catch if they got too close. This continued into high school, where if we needed menstrual supplies, we'd ask one another in hushed voices. The dispensers in the bathrooms just took your money, without providing actual menstrual supplies. So, if our friends didn't have any, we'd have to go to the nurse's office because it was a "girl thing."

Menstruation in the U.S. — and worldwide, for that matter — is unnecessarily stigmatized. My experiences in elementary, middle and high school outline quite a few problems: The emphasis of the gender binary in menstruation, the idea that menstruation is something that men should not hear about, the idea that menstruation is something to be ashamed of and hidden, the way people act like menstruating is a disease rather than a biological process and the fact that many schools do not provide menstrual supplies to students, which impairs education

and adds to period inequity in our society.

The overarching attitude regarding menstruation should not be this way — everyone should learn about menstruation in order to deconstruct the stigma surrounding it. Much of this change in attitude would come from more comprehensive education in schools about menstruation, along with better sex and reproductive health education.

According to Planned Parenthood's recent poll regarding sex education, 93% of parents support having sex education taught in middle schools and 96% of parents support having sex education taught in high schools. This clearly shows that most parents support sex education in schools. However, although it is widely supported, it is not a requirement that sex education is taught across the country, and specifics regarding the topics covered vary depending on the school district. Often, menstrual health is not a subject taught in health and sex education classes.

Rather than teaching menstrual health, many schools are relying on campaigns by companies that manufacture menstrual products such as Always to educate children instead. This is not a new idea either. In the 1940s, the company Kotex collaborated with Walt Disney to create a film called "The Story of Menstruation." Although it was helpful in debunking certain myths regarding menstruation and teaching those who menstruate about their reproductive system, it also very likely contributed to ideas regarding menstrual shame and stigma that are still prevalent today. Leaving menstruation education to companies that sell menstrual supplies is not the best choice.

**Menstruation is a natural, biological process, and people who menstruate should not have to speak about it in whispers and feel ashamed about it.**

Menstruation is a natural, biological process, and people who menstruate should not have to speak about it in whispers and feel ashamed about it. When those who do not menstruate are left out of the conversation, more myths regarding menstruation spread. This creates a detrimental cycle with dire consequences of body image issues for those who menstruate as well as how others treat them.

Creating a more comprehensive

reproductive health curriculum country-wide would greatly benefit everyone. In addition to this, however, menstrual inequity in the U.S. must be addressed as well, especially in schools.

Currently, only five states require schools to provide menstrual products for students. California was the most recent state to pass such legislation in October. The legislation applies to both public schools and certain colleges. This is a great step forward, however, this must be a widespread effort, not one concentrated in only five states.

**Currently, only five states require schools to provide menstrual products for students. California was the most recent state to pass such legislation in October.**

A recent study found that almost a quarter of students in the U.S. struggle to access menstrual products, and COVID-19 has exacerbated this problem. This problem, commonly known as period poverty, affects those who menstruate significantly. Some are forced to miss school or work because they do not have adequate access to supplies, and some must choose between buying menstrual products and other essentials, such as groceries, food and clothes.

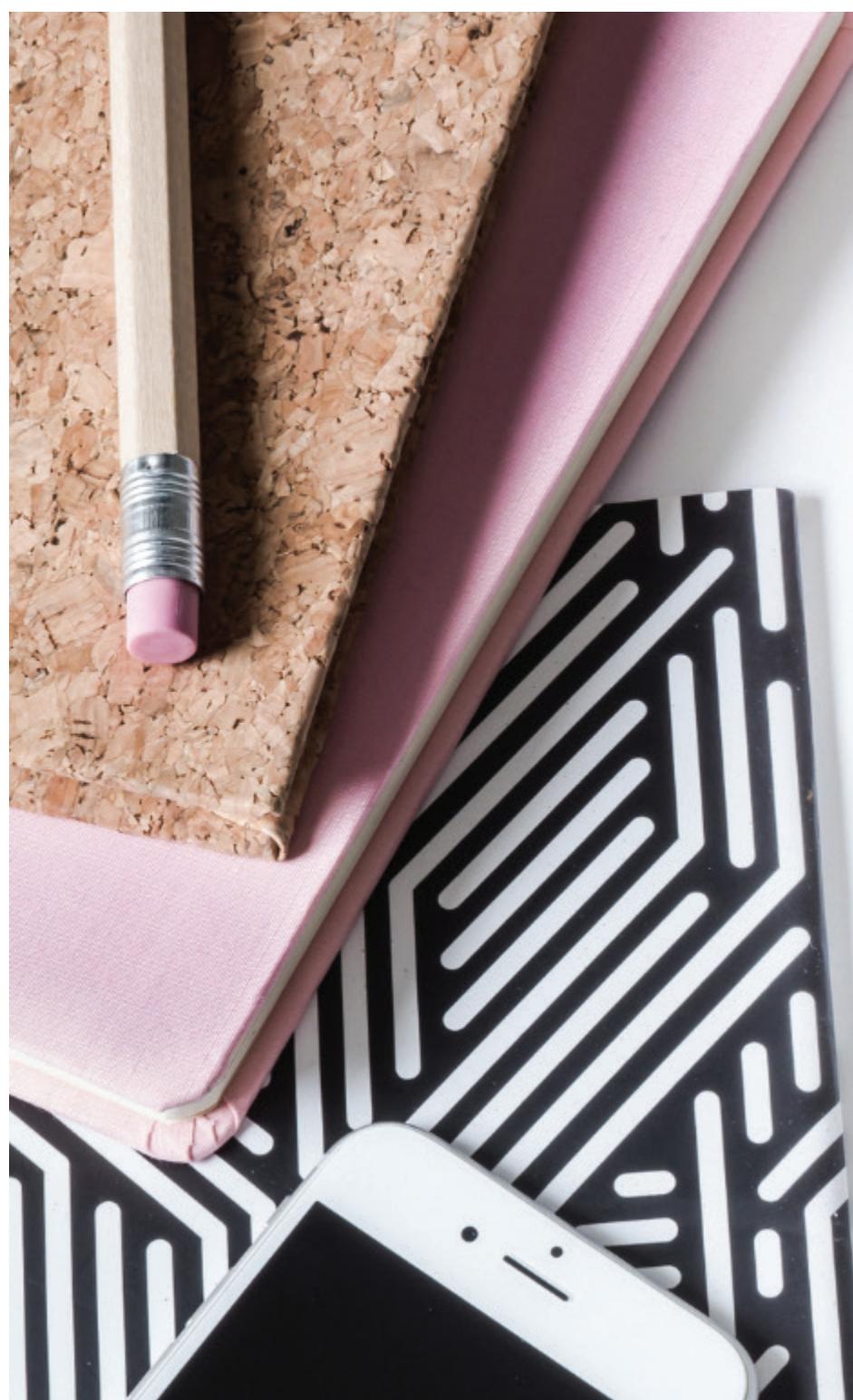
The way menstruation is viewed and the complete lack of support many students receive is something that must change. Schools — and other facilities, for that matter — must provide free, accessible menstrual products for all people who menstruate, and these products must be in all bathrooms to dismantle the gender binary many enforce when talking about periods. Period poverty is a significant, yet clearly overlooked, problem.

For necessary changes to occur, they must first be recognized and talked about. In the case of menstruation, this is not currently occurring because many are still under the impression that it is a taboo topic. People must realize menstruation is a natural, biological process that cannot continue to be ignored. Nationwide, the conversation surrounding menstruation is in dire need of change. Once this shifts, it is important for legislators to mandate better reproductive health education and require access to menstrual supplies in schools and other facilities country-wide. Menstrual health care cannot continue to be overlooked.

Daily

## Life

@dailycampuslife



# MUTUAL MOTIVATION: THE BEST WAY TO COPE WITH FINALS

by Esther Ju  
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Having arrived at the most painful part of the semester, it's safe to say that many of us are now harboring some very deep-rooted negative emotions — bewilderment at how 13 weeks managed to go by so fast, yet so slow; anger at professors who insist on cramming in projects during the last week of classes; stress (for obvious reasons); and finally, nothing says "happy holidays" more than some pre-finals anxiety.

There are several ways you could try to cope with these feelings. You could acknowledge the fact that you've already made it through 13 weeks, and figure you can last for two more. You could fuel your anger into energy by leaving a bad review on a Student Evaluation of Teaching survey or by writing an angry, yet respectful, email. You could realize that worrying about finals does nothing except harm your mental health. And if none of these work for you, you could always turn toward my personal favorite coping mechanism: nihilism.

Given that less-than-stellar advice, I'm clearly not the one to be

delivering any sort of guidance or counselling when it comes to finals. By now, people know how to study and they know how to look after their mental health. Instead, much of the problem lies behind the fact that people don't want to study and that they don't have the time or resources to look after their mental health. All in all, the main buzz about finals season revolves around a motivation issue.

Some of us have experienced burnout for the past three weeks. Others have been burnt out since the beginning of the semester. Regardless, being able to stretch out such a small amount of willpower over an extended period of time is a feat that deserves recognition. So, if you've made it this far, I applaud thee.

My point is, if you're tired, that's okay. If you feel guilty for not being motivated enough to pick up a textbook or open a laptop, don't be. Rest assured that a great majority of the UConn population feels the same way. This isn't to say that you shouldn't study at all, but don't beat yourself up for it either. In my experience, establishing some sort of reward system can help — a 15-minute nap for every two hours of work done; one piece of candy for every hour

spent studying — you never know how far a fun-sized Snickers will get you.

Like many things nowadays, the epitome of finals season can be summarized in the concise format of a viral tweet by @ihyjuju: "mfs be like 'wya' my limit bro. im at my limit."

I think we can all agree with that. However, as sadistic as it sounds, sometimes the best motivation comes from knowing that others are having just as difficult a time as you. And in my honorable opinion, that's what finals season is all about. Yes, a part of it still revolves around securing our futures by raising that GPA and impressing future employers with the amount of classes we've passed. But at the end of the day, having reached the limit months prior to this moment, most of us are trying to survive together.



# 'The Power of the Dog' is a dark Western worth watching



Viewers say "The Power of the Dog," a recently released Netflix film, was worth the wait. The Western film is the first one directed by renowned New Zealand director Jane Campion, and stars Benedict Cumberbatch, Jesse Plemons and Kirsten Dunst. PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

by Edison Escobar  
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"The Power of the Dog" is a newly released Western film that is currently available to stream on Netflix. It is the first film in 12 years by renowned New Zealand director Jane Campion and is well worth the wait. "The Power of the Dog" is a subtle but tense film full of complex characters that is absolutely worth checking out.

The film takes place in 1925 and revolves around two wealthy brothers, played by Benedict Cumberbatch and Jesse Plemons, who own a large ranch in Montana. Plemons' character suddenly marries a widowed innkeeper, played by Kirsten Dunst, who then moves into the ranch with her teenage son, played

by Kodi Smit-McPhee. Cumberbatch's character is angered by their arrival, thinking that they are after their money, and takes it upon himself to psychologically torment them.

The cast is strong, especially Cumberbatch, who portrays the evilness of his character with a subtleness that makes him all the more loathsome. Despite the film not overexplaining everything with tons of exposition, all of the characters are incredibly complex and have secrets they are hiding from one another. The subtle storytelling and ominous tone are some of the best qualities of the film.

One of the most prominent themes in the film is toxic masculinity. Cumberbatch's character is a "manly" rancher who talks down to his brother for not being as tough as himself. He eventually starts to torment Smit-McPhee's character for having effeminate characteristics, such as having an affinity for flowers and being soft-spoken. As the film progresses, we learn more about Cumberbatch's past and why he has such a binary outlook on gender roles.

He never tries to justify his behavior, instead analyzing what leads to it being passed down from generation to generation.

The film is incredibly well-made, with cinematography that captures the beauty and isolation of the ranch setting. The score from Radiohead member Jonny Greenwood also adds tension to the film.

The film is certainly not

for everyone. The slow storytelling might put off many viewers, and the film doesn't explicitly explain everything that happens in the plot. However, it is a subtle and thought-provoking film that is a rewarding experience for those who like to pay special attention to the small details in a film.

"The Power of the Dog" is an incredibly powerful film full of complex characters and themes. While the quality of Netflix original films and shows may be inconsistent, it is great that the streaming service is giving amateur filmmakers a platform to release films that would receive less attention in theaters compared to blockbusters, especially during the holiday season. Anyone with a Netflix account should definitely watch this film.

Rating: 4.5/5



# BOX OFFICE BREAKDOWN

## 'ENCANTO' SINGS ITS WAY TO THE TOP

by Zachary Wisniewsky

STAFF WRITER

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Leading the way again this weekend is the new Walt Disney Animation release "Encanto." The musical animated film grossed another \$12.74 million this weekend, a 53.2% dropoff from its previous Friday-Sunday. While this is not a terrible drop, considering it had no new competition this week and occupies a family animated musical genre that generally exhibits long legs, this is a bit of a disappointment. That being said, with its strong critical and audience reception, "Encanto" has hopes of good holds in the next few weekends. However, the film is about to enter a gauntlet of competition. Next week brings the release of the musical drama "West Side Story" and the week after that brings the hotly anticipated "Spider-Man: No Way Home." While "Encanto" occupies the family crowd, these two films can and will attract family audiences, which really hurts expectations for the animated movie's future. This was a big weekend for "Encanto," and unfortunately it didn't come through.

In second place this weekend is the Jason Reitman directed film, "Ghostbusters: Afterlife." In its third weekend of release, the film dropped another 57.2% to gross \$10.35 million. While this did push the film past \$100 million domestically, the dropoff was quite steep for a third weekend. For a \$75 million production budget picture, the gross is impressive, but like "Encanto," this was an important weekend. Now "Ghostbusters: Afterlife" will not be a box-office disappointment due to it already eclipsing the century mark, but this was its last weekend without direct competition. With the acclaimed "West Side Story" and "Spider-Man" fast approaching, "Ghostbusters" is likely going to have even steeper drops these next few weeks. Although clearing \$100 million domestically is impressive, the question is just how much more does it have in its tank?

In third place is the Ridley Scott di-

rected drama film "House of Gucci." The Lady Gaga-led picture dropped 53% this past weekend and grossed \$6.7 million taking its domestic total to \$33.6 million. While this is an impressive gross for an adult-oriented drama, this film will not make a profit due to its reported \$75 million budget. With the films coming out in the next few weeks, I think the film will struggle to clear \$50 million domestically. Unfortunately, it's looking like the "House of Gucci" is starting to crumble off the charts.

In fourth and fifth place are "Christmas with the Chosen: The Messengers" and "Eternals," which grossed \$4.1 million and \$3.9 million respectively. I will be honest, I had never heard of "Christmas with the Chosen" before seeing it on the charts. It appears this film is a theatrically released event film about the nativity of Jesus. I am surprised this film was able to get such a wide release, though props to it for out-grossing "Eternals."

Looking ahead, as stated earlier, Steven Spielberg's newest release "West Side Story" is coming to theaters this weekend. It is getting rave reviews from critics, though I would still temper expectations for the film's box office. Musical movies are tough to judge - "In The Heights" got incredible reviews this summer and flopped on the charts. However, that film didn't have Spielberg attached to it. Ultimately, I think "West Side Story" will net around \$20 million this coming weekend.

Since we approach University of Connecticut's finals season and winter break, this is unfortunately the final box office breakdown of 2021. Though it wasn't necessarily the year of charts we hoped for, it is incomparable to 2020. Having movies in theaters certainly makes the world much better. While there still is uncertainty with COVID-19 with variants and vaccination rates, we can't help but get excited for what's to come these next few weeks of 2021 and into 2022. The box office may not be back to its 2019 levels just yet, but we're getting close. Perhaps all it needs is a web-slinger to save the day.

**"WITH THE ACCLAIMED "WEST SIDE STORY" AND "SPIDER-MAN" FAST APPROACHING, "GHOSTBUSTERS" IS LIKELY GOING TO HAVE EVEN STEEPER DROPS THESE NEXT FEW WEEKS."**



# Opinion StudyBreak

Photo of the Day | Here's Johnny!

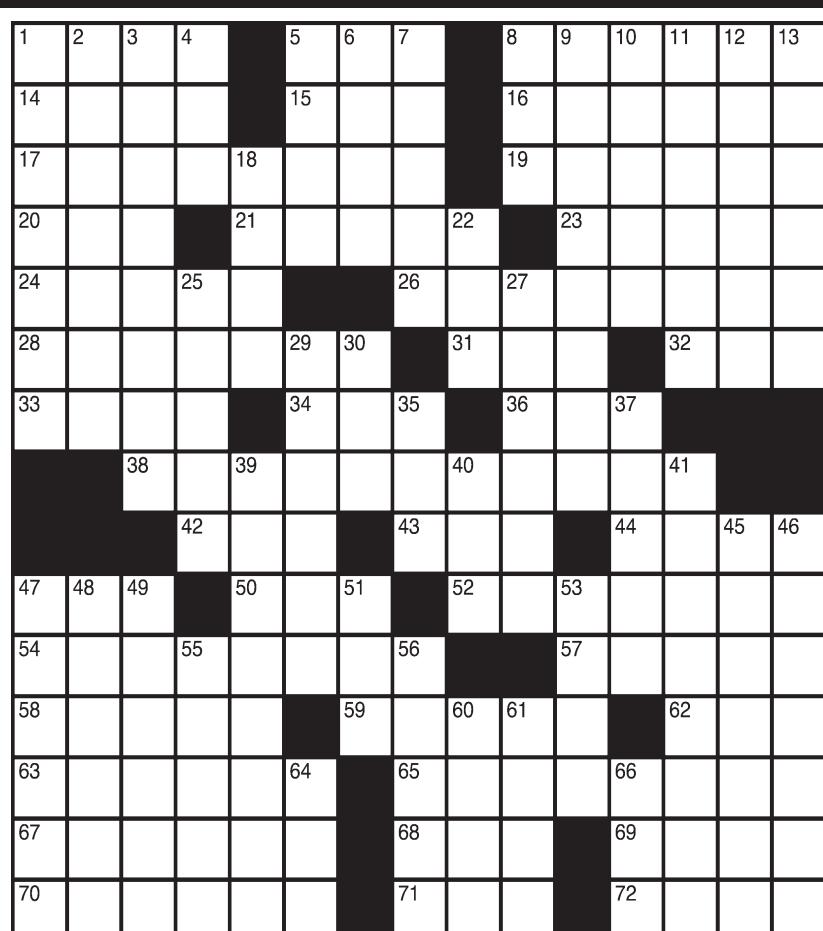


A UConn student poses and takes a selfie with Jonathan the Husky outside of the UConn Recreation Center during one of Jonathan's midday walks on Monday, Dec. 6. PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Crossword

### ACROSS

- Sneaker feature
- Balance scale container
- Plays the role of
- Milky white gem
- Focus of modern-day surfing
- Most achy
- \*Spends time in the gym
- Shrimp entrée
- Prime meridian std.
- Make into law
- Quaking tree
- One of the Coen brothers
- \*Upscale eatery service for topper wearers
- Big-time celeb
- P-like Greek letter
- ACLU issues
- Smell really bad
- Crosses (out)
- Antiquated
- James Taylor classic ... or, respectively, what can precede the two words in each answer to a starred clue
- "\_\_ on my watch!"
- Chaney of horror films
- Where some surfers shop
- Nonprofit URL ending
- Lingus
- Ophthalmologist's field
- \*Times Square New Year's Eve custom
- Calf-length skirts
- Like the sea when waves are crashing
- NFL Dolphins' home
- Bloodshot
- Broadway's Ethel
- \*When employment ends, formally
- Cheese in some bagels
- Freight weight
- Old Spice competitor
- Balanced conditions
- Cinque times due



By Jeff Stillman

12/7/21

### Monday's Puzzle Solved

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

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12/7/21

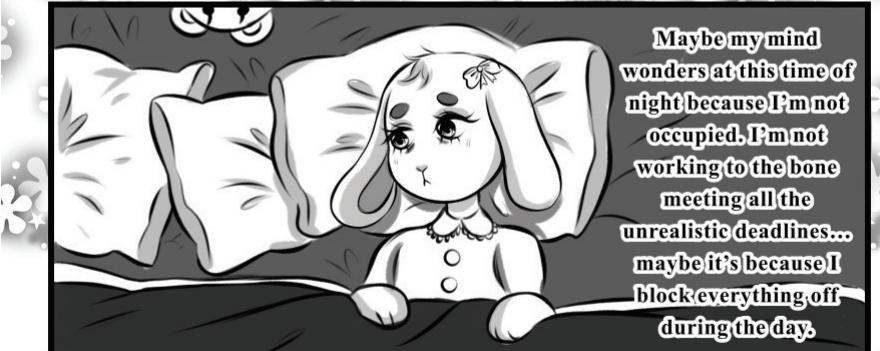
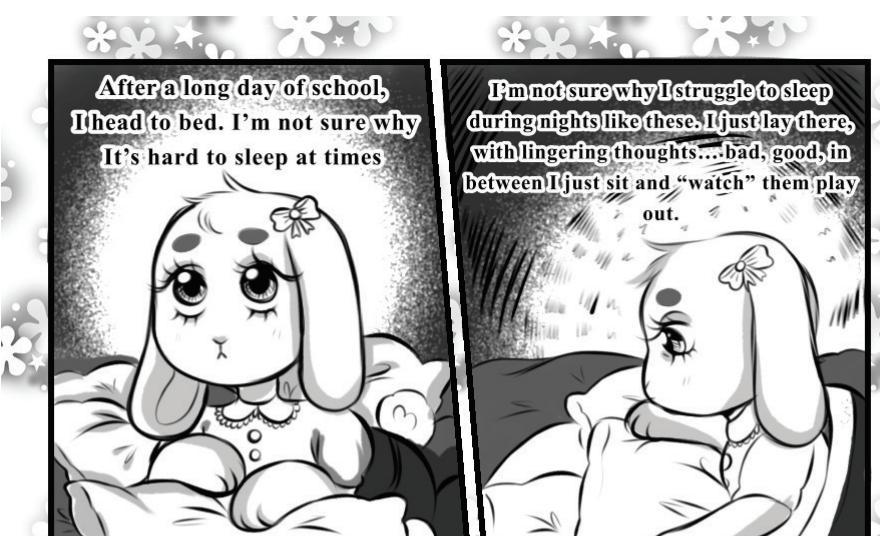
- Aardvark's morsel
- Common flag symbol

### DOWN

- Transmission choice for steep ascents
- Biblical disciple
- One driving the wrong way?
- Lodge member
- Menial laborer
- Océano filler
- V-shaped slit
- Pack animal
- Pepsi rival
- Vandalize
- Start of the Marines' motto
- Appearance
- Smells really bad
- Dispatched
- Driveway material
- Welcome to one's home
- Like rosebushes
- New Hampshire prep school town
- Actor Stephen
- NBC weekend show
- Balanced conditions
- Blowup on the highway
- Buck's partner
- Annual hoops player selection event
- Short operatic solo
- "Whatever you say, honey"
- Trump's White House predecessors
- Cinque times due

- Least cooked
- Vocalist Estefan
- CD follower
- Radiate
- Asian priests
- Michelangelo masterwork
- Neural transmitter
- Like new
- Turndowns
- Courtroom figs.

COMIC BY ZAIRE DIAZ, ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Zaire Diaz

## New Oklahoma coach Brent Venables turns attention to players

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Brent Venables already has received two Oklahoma welcomes fit for a king.

Hundreds of Sooners fans who watched coach Lincoln Riley leave for Southern California last week flocked to Norman's airport on Sunday night to cheer the arrival of Venables, Riley's replacement.

A day later, Oklahoma introduced Venables to a throng of energized fans at the Sooners' indoor practice facility. The Sooner Schooner was on hand, cheerleaders pumped up the crowd and the band played. There were fire machines and streamers. Athletic director Joe Castiglione even handed Venables a pair of Air Jordan shoes.

Venables then explained in detail why bells and whistles aren't what he's about.

"Listen, I'm a simple guy," said Venables, a native of Salina, Kansas. "I value some things that maybe other people don't, maybe more so. I value relationships. I value people. I value quality of life. And I value simplicity. Just because you become the head coach doesn't mean you can't keep things simple. You control that narrative."

There's no reason for him to change now — his approach clearly works. He started his coaching career as an assistant at Kansas State before things really took off. He has won three national titles and coached in eight national title games as a co-defensive coordinator at Oklahoma from 1999 to 2004 and defensive coordinator from 2004 to 2011 and at Clemson from 2012 until the present.

Now, at age 50, he's diving into his first head coaching job. He believes he's ready, in part, because the head coaches he has learned from -- Bill Snyder at Kansas State, Bob Stoops

at Oklahoma and Dabo Swinney at Clemson -- empowered him along the way.

"What they've been able to pour into me -- I've always been a sponge," he said. "I'm taking it all in. I've led my position group. I've led defenses. I've been in front of the team plenty. It's something that is easy for me. It's something that I love to do. I'm just passionate about people. I am passionate about winning. I'm passionate about winning the right way, never compromising those values."

Venables said he had considered becoming a head coach before, most

**"It's not just a job, for me. It's not just a job. You pour your life into it. You don't just walk away and forget about it, good or bad."**

BRENT VENABLES

seriously last year. But because he loved his job at Clemson, he could afford to hold out for the right opportunity.

"Literally for the last 10 years, I went to work every day and I got filled up as a human being," he said. "And that's hard to quantify for some people. But I had perspective. I had awareness. I had appreciation. And I had a lot of fun."

"You try not to screw up happy. I learned that a long time ago. But this is a no-brainer in my opinion, for all the reasons that I said - from

the leadership to the alignment to the success of this program and its history and location and people. All of it."

Oklahoma's administration said it felt blindsided by Riley's decision to leave. Many fans considered Riley disloyal, comparing the move to NBA star Kevin Durant's decision to leave the Oklahoma City Thunder to join the Golden State Warriors in 2016.

Venables made it clear he doesn't plan to go anywhere.

"I have a career, almost 30 years, of being loyal," he said. "Just look at my career. If I've been something I've been loyal. I haven't been a coach that's just jumped all over."

Venables said when he left Oklahoma 10 years ago, he never expected to return as head coach. But he never stopped pulling for the Sooners.

"You feel like that's a part of your fiber," he said. "It's not just a job, for me. It's not just a job. You pour your life into it. You don't just walk away and forget about it, good or bad. You try to learn from all of it. So for me, absolutely, always paying attention."

Venables said he has spoken to star quarterback Caleb Williams and his father and met with the team on Monday morning. He's focused on connecting with current and future players. The Sooners have seen several top prospects decommit, with some looking to follow Riley to USC.

"My number one goal is to get on the road recruiting," he said. "Make sure that this '22 class due to enroll here in the next few weeks is where it needs to be. And then all the while in between visits, visiting with our current players."



Oklahoma head football coach Brent Venables answers a question at an NCAA college football news conference, Monday, Dec. 6, 2021, in Norman, Okla. PHOTO BY SUE OGROCKI/AP

## FREEMAN AIMS FOR NATIONAL TITLE AS HE TAKES OVER NO. 5 IRISH

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — Saying he was "ready for this challenge," Marcus Freeman was formally introduced Monday afternoon as Notre Dame's 30th head football coach.

"I'm ready to lead this program to the greatest heights," said the 35-year-old Freeman, never a head coach but an assistant at five schools, including the last 11 months as Notre Dame's defensive coordinator under former coach Brian Kelly.

Those heights, Freeman hopes, include the school's 12th national championship and first since 1988. Lou Holtz's Fighting Irish won that on Jan. 2, 1989 in the Fiesta Bowl against West Virginia when Freeman, a future standout linebacker at Ohio State, was just days from turning three years old.

The No. 5 Irish, who finished fifth to just miss out of this year's four-team College Football Playoff, won't have a shot this year but instead will take their 11-1 record to the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 1 to play No. 9 Oklahoma State (11-2).

"Being the leader of this program, it isn't about one person, and it never will be," Freeman continued. "Being the leader of this program is about understanding, to be successful on this journey, it's going to take others. We're going to have to do this as a team."



Marcus Freeman walks in surrounded by his family, captains and administration for a news conference Monday, Dec. 6, 2021 at the Irish Athletic Center in South Bend, Ind. Notre Dame formally introduced Freeman as its new football coach, a meteoric rise for the defensive coordinator. PHOTO BY MICHAEL CATERINA/SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE VIA AP

Freeman thanked the crowd of more than 400 in the Irish Athletic Facility that included university president Rev. John Jenkins, athletic director Jack Swarbrick, his father and mother and wife Joanna and their six children, and Notre Dame's marching band and cheerleaders.

But Freeman reserved his biggest kudos for the more than 100 players in attendance who were stunned when Kelly, the school's winningest

coach, left Notre Dame last Monday night to accept a 10-year, \$95-million base contract to coach Louisiana State.

"You're exceptional thinkers," Freeman said. "You never look for the easy path. Most of you never take shortcuts. You're tireless workers, and you're committed to excellence in everything you do."

Junior running back Kyren Williams said Notre Dame was expanding its horizons with the hir-

ing of Freeman, the second Black head coach in the school's history.

"For a person of color like myself, it means everything," Williams said. "We have a lot of diversity (on the team) and we're moving forward at this university ... being able to accept more and different."

Williams was one of seven team captains who met with Swarbrick last Tuesday afternoon after Kelly delivered a four-minute talk to the stunned team at 7 a.m. that day before driving away from campus and flying to Baton Rouge. Williams and the other six — nose tackle Kurt Hinsh, linebacker Drew White, center Jarrett Patterson, wide receiver Avery Davis, defensive end Myron Tagovailoa-Amosa and safety Kyle Hamilton — indicated to Swarbrick what they were looking for in a new coach.

"What they insisted I understand was that they had built the best culture in college football," Swarbrick said. "They also wanted me to know that they owned that culture. They built it. It was theirs. And their message, stated clearly and convincingly, was Jack, don't screw this up."

"The perspective that those seven captains offered to me put a heavy finger on the scale in favor of coach Freeman," Swarbrick continued. "They and I believe so strongly that Marcus is the perfect guardian of the very special culture you, the student-athletes, have built."

## Basketball after Buecker's injury

BUECKER, cont. from p. 12

Evina Westbrook — When Westbrook has been on this season, she has really been on. However, she has been on as much as she has been off. She has three games scoring over 13, but also three games under six points. Her consistency has varied widely, which has generally been fine with Buecker in the lineup. Without her though, she needs to be the definitive secondary player to Williams on a daily basis.

Nelson-Ododa and Aaliyah Edwards — I'll group these two bigs into one category, since really only one of them needs to be dominant for UConn to have success. Nelson-Ododa has performed poorer than many had hoped so far this season. But, she did have a really promising showing against Notre Dame, scoring 14 and grabbing 13 boards. It was her first game in double figures for rebounds and her second game in double figures for points. With a large scoring hole to fill, she will look to build on her momentum. As much as Nelson-Ododa has disappointed early, Edwards has fallen further short. She's averaging just 7.5 points per game and 3.1 rebounds per game, which is not optimal for a player who was projected to be an elite big. Similar to Nelson-Ododa, this is a prime opportunity to pick up the slack and live up to expectations.

At the end of the day, a lot still depends on Buecker's knee. In an ideal world for the Huskies, Buecker's injury is not too severe and the team's general skill will strengthen around her absence, giving the team more experience and a wider foundation in March.



Marcus Freeman answers questions during a news conference Monday, Dec. 6, 2021 at the Irish Athletic Center in South Bend, Ind. Notre Dame formally introduced Freeman as its new football coach, a meteoric rise for the defensive coordinator. PHOTO BY MICHAEL CATERINA/SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE VIA AP

## Photo of the Day | Taking a dip



A UConn swimmer dives during a competition against Southern Connecticut State University in the Wolff-Zackin Natatorium in Storrs, Conn. on Dec. 4, 2021. PHOTO BY KEVIN LINDSTROM, PHOTO & VIDEO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Swimming and Diving: Huskies outswim Owls

by Ajeeth Vellore

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The University of Connecticut swimming and diving team defeated Southern Connecticut State University at the Wolff-Zackin Natatorium in Storrs on Dec. 3 by a score of 157-122. The victory brought the Huskies to 4-2 overall for the season, while dropping the Owls to 0-4-1, leaving the other state school without a victory this year.

One of the most impressive stats of the meet was UConn's four clean sweeps in their 16 events. They dominated the podium in the 200-yard freestyle, the 50-yard backstroke, the 100-yard butterfly and the 50-yard freestyle, racking up 64 of their 157 points in the process. The Huskies also defeated all of SCSU's swimmers in three other events: the 200-yard medley relay, the 50-yard breaststroke and the 100-yard breaststroke. This dominance earned the Huskies another

41 points, putting them well ahead of the Owls in the contest, a deficit SCSU would never be able to overcome.

After team dominance in the first event of the day, the 200-yard medley relay, the first person to achieve personal glory was freshman Amelia Schafer, who placed first in the 1000-yard freestyle event. Fellow freshman Maggie Donlevy followed that with a first place of her own in the 200-yard freestyle, continuing her dominance in the event throughout this season. During the very same event, sophomore Kayla Mendonca finished second, just three-tenths of a second behind Donlevy. For the first section of the meet, it was coming up all underclasswomen.

An upperclasswoman did not top of the podium until the 10th event of the meet, which was yet another Huskies sweep. That honor went to junior Anna Wenman, who won the 100-yard butterfly by finishing ahead of sophomore Melissa Lowry and sophomore

Nicole Burg. Then, the juniors and seniors couldn't stop winning, as they swept the 50-yard freestyle event and took the gold in the 100-yard freestyle. Senior Catherine Fazio and junior Caitlin Spencer led the charge, with freshman Paige Sugra not far behind.

To finally put a bow on the day, Schafer and Donlevy went one-two in the 100-yard breaststroke and sealed the deal as the stars of the weekend. Those two swimmers encapsulated why this team has a really bright future: the younger women are putting the team on their back and winning their share of events. With their improvement, these freshmen and sophomores could be mentoring groups of swimmers down the line, possibly leading to a ranked team in the future.

The Huskies now have a lengthy break ahead of them. After a holiday reprieve, they'll be back in the pool on Jan. 14, taking on the University of Rhode Island away from home in Kingston, Rhode Island.



A UConn swimmer competes against Southern Connecticut State University in the Wolff-Zackin Natatorium on Dec. 4, 2021, Storrs, Conn. UConn defeated Southern 157-122. PHOTO BY KEVIN LINDSTROM, PHOTO & VIDEO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Previously winless Texas Southern stuns No. 20 Florida 69-54



Texas Southern forward John Walker III (24) and forward Joirdon Karl Nicholas (5) celebrate after an NCAA college basketball game against Florida, Monday, Dec. 6, 2021, in Gainesville, Fla. PHOTO BY MATT STAMEY/AP

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Johnny Jones got a wet welcome in the visiting locker room at the O'Connell Center. It was a celebration decades in the making.

Previously winless Texas Southern stunned No. 20 Florida 69-54 on Monday night behind PJ Henry's 16 points and Joirdon Karl Nicholas' perfect shooting performance.

Texas Southern (1-7) became the first Southwestern Athletic Conference team to beat a ranked Southeastern Conference program in The Associated Press poll era dating to 1936, according to ESPN Stats & Info. Ranked SEC teams had been 51-0 against SWAC opponents.

"We were thoroughly outplayed, outcoached, out-everything," Florida coach Mike White said.

Jones got all the accolades. The former LSU coach who took Texas Southern to the NCAA Tournament last season was doused as he stepped into the locker room to celebrate with his team. His shirt and pants were still soaking wet during postgame interviews.

"Water bottles, everything we could throw at him," Nicholas said.

Texas Southern had lost six straight against ranked opponents. The program's last win against a Top 25 team came against then-No. 18 Oregon on Nov. 26, 2018.

The Tigers were 23 1/2-point underdogs in Gainesville. That was no surprise given they were coming off a 27-point loss at Louisiana Tech and catching a Florida team trying to rebound from its first setback of the season.

But the Gators (6-2), who had been ranked as high as 14th a week ago, had no answer for Texas Southern's talent, tenacity and athleticism.

"We just did a terrible job in every aspect," Florida big man Colin Castleton said. "Rebounding, backdoor cuts, loose balls. Everything we did bad the coaches told us to focus on."

The Tigers continuously beat Florida's press despite 22 turnovers and got open looks everywhere. They made most of them, shooting 54.4% from the field and 45.5% from 3-point range. They also out-rebounded Florida 46-23 and out-scored the Gators 42-26 in the paint.

"It's huge for the program and our school at the end of the day because we know how difficult it is," Jones said. "When you have setbacks like we've had, you have an opportunity to either splinter or come together. These guys have done a tremendous job of staying the course and coming together."

It was the Gators' first loss in 27 games against teams from the SWAC.

Nicholas finished with 14 points on 7-for-7 shooting. John Walker chipped in 13 points, seven rebounds and seven assists for the Tigers, who opened the season with seven straight losses during a cross-country road trip that included stops at Oregon, Washington and North Carolina State.

It was a damning loss for White, who revamped his roster with four

defensive-minded transfers and was off to his best start in seven seasons. The Gators ended that with a loss at Oklahoma last Wednesday.

Florida struggled all night, shooting 38.2% from the field and hitting 5 of 24 from 3-point range.

Brandon McKissic led the Gators with 15 points.

"We got to find our roots again," McKissic said. "We've been letting offense dictate. We've got to get back to letting defense dictate. We've got to get back to being us."

### BIG PICTURE

**Texas Southern:** The Tigers were picked to win the SWAC and return to the NCAA Tournament. But no one expected this outcome, especially since they have played so many consecutive road games.

**Florida:** This is a new low for White, who got a contract extension in the spring. The Gators have made each of the four NCAA Tournaments and have high hopes for this rebuilt team. But this outing will temper those for sure.

### POLL IMPLICATIONS

Florida likely will drop out of the AP Top 25 poll after a humbling home loss.

### MISSING MAN

Florida center Jason Jitoboh sat out the game because of a coach's decision.



# TEE TIME WITH T

## Hovland is a hero



Viktor Hovland, of Norway, right, celebrates with his caddie after winning the Hero World Challenge PGA Tour at the Albany Golf Club, in New Providence, Bahamas, Sunday, Dec. 5, 2021. Columnist Taylor Coonan applauds his efforts and is optimistic about his prospects in 2022.

PHOTO BY FERNANDO LLANO/AP

**by Taylor Coonan**  
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Viktor Hovland of Norway brought the heat to the Bahamas in his heroic Hero World Challenge win on Sunday, Dec. 5 at the Albany Golf Course. In the final PGA Tour match of 2021, Hovland made a strong statement, taking over the weekend's top spot amongst a lineup of popular, talented golfers on the Tour. There's a lot to unpack here, so Hovland's scoring statistics are a good place to tee off.

Hovland's first round was average amongst the rest of the golfers with 68 shots. He had a double bogey, his only one of the tournament, which knocked him down to the mid-range. On top of that, he had two bogeys and would go on to have at least two in each round this weekend. What propelled him to victory were the back-to-back eagles he shot in the final round on the 14th and 15th holes.

The Norwegian golfer finished the Hero World Challenge with 270 shots and won 48 World Ranking points, so he now sits at a modest seventh place. This might be a rank or two below what he should be at, only because he's had an impressive tour this year. Not only did Hovland win the World Wide Technology Championship (again), but he set a scoring record of 72 for the tournament's history. I can't say I'm a particularly big fan, but he's been popping up more and more on leaderboards and had a great year overall, so I applaud him for his continuous efforts and I'm sure he'll be hot on the green in 2022.

Now onto the golfer who finished in second place, Scottie Scheffler. If you've been following Tee Time with T, you probably already know exactly what my thoughts are on his finish and performance from this weekend, but I'll emphasize them anyways.

Scheffler was robbed. Again.

With the exception of the first round and technically the last round because they were tied for shots at 66, Scheffler beat Hovland in two rounds. Scheffler

matched him on the last one, and Hovland beat Scheffler on the first, but I think that Scheffler definitely outplayed Hovland.

Scheffler didn't have a single bogey throughout the four rounds, and in the last two he had several birdies. The fourth round saw birdies on half of the holes. With 271 shots, Scheffler was second in the Championship at just a stroke behind Hovland.

Since this wasn't an "official" PGA Tour event, there weren't any FedEx Cup points up for grabs and Hovland's win doesn't count as an actual PGA Tour title, so it's not a huge deal that Scheffler came up short. He sits at 11th in the world, but I can't help wondering if he would be ranked within the top 10 if he came in second instead of third at the Hewlett Packard Enterprise Houston Open, or if he didn't have two double bogeys towards the end of the World Wide Technology Championship.

**My New Year's resolution for Scheffler is to be in the top 10 by the end of January. Is that a short-sided goal? I really don't think so.**

My New Year's resolution for Scheffler is to be in the top 10 by the end of January. Is that a short-sided goal? I really don't think so. He has the talent and capabilities — a lot of it comes down to just a single shot.

Speaking of taking shots, Colin Morikawa of America had a shot this week-

end to enter 2022 as the No. 1 golfer in the world if he had won. He started off playing well, peaked at the third round and then fell hard and fast to second to last place in the final round. On Sunday, he approached the green with a five-shot lead, but after missing three opportunities for birdies at or under 10 feet, Morikawa only won a fiancée this weekend, after popping the question to his then-girlfriend Katherine Zhu.

Perhaps the biggest missed opportunity was for Henrik Stenson of Sweden, the previous Hero World Challenge winner. He had the chance to go back-to-back and just, well, didn't. In the first two rounds, Stenson shot one over par. He managed to pick it back up for the last two and not be at the bottom of the scoreboard, but it was a really disappointing weekend for him as he finished the Challenge at 19 out of 20.

Who was 20? As a fan of Jordan Spieth, it even pains me to write this and highlight the fact that the American golfer had five bogeys in the third round, and then a double bogey to really set him back. He finished last on two rounds, but was never shooting under par.

Spieth was, however, shooting from the wrong tee box on Sunday, just to end the weekend as poorly as it started. Coincidentally, Stenson was in the same "cart" and also shot from the same box — they were teeing off from the 17th hole's box when they were on the ninth hole. As a result, each of them was handed a two-stroke penalty. Spoiler alert: they both had bogeys on that hole — Spieth's was a triple and Stenson had a double.

Both players made about \$100,000 on the weekend regardless, so I'm sure they're both laughing about this now over Dom Pérignon, and tipped the cart girl quite generously when she brought it over.

As this is the last Tee Time with T for this semester, I wish you all a happy holiday season. I hope you find some time to work on your own golf game since the next PGA Tour event isn't until January. See you on the green in 2022!

Daily

# Sports



UConn's Paige Bueckers stands on the court during a game against Notre Dame in Gampel Pavilion on Dec. 5, 2021. The star player suffered a debilitating injury on Sunday in a "worst-case scenario" for the women's basketball team. PHOTO BY KEVIN LINDSTROM, PHOTO & VIDEO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## UCONN SCOREBOARD

Volleyball  
Sunday



3      2

## UPCOMING GAMES



Men's Basketball; Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Morgantown, WV



Volleyball; Wednesday, 7 p.m.  
Home game

## INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@colette\_zee\_frenchie  
Helping mom out with her black hole research  
for the next few days #frenchbulldog  
#frenchieofinstagram #frenchielove #uconn

## TWEETS OF THE DAY

Donovan Branch

@DonovanBranch2

I'm coming home @UConnFootball

@UConnHuskies @UConnCoachMora

#uconn #committed

Tara Lowery

@taralowerymua

There was no reason at all for Paige  
to be in that game with 45 seconds  
left and #UCONN up by 20.  
#wbb #ncaa

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## Stratton's Take

# WHAT IMPACT WILL PAIGE BUECKERS' INJURY HAVE ON THE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM?

by Stratton Stave  
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The worst-case scenario for the University of Connecticut women's basketball team has happened. Sophomore guard Paige Bueckers, the best player in the country and reigning National Player of the Year, suffered an injury on Sunday that could be debilitating for the team. Although we don't know the severity of the injury, the general consensus among the program is that the injury is not minor. Best-case scenario, she has a hyperextended knee and a recovery time of two to four weeks. So, what would the team look like without Bueckers?

Let me preface this by noting that injuries are never good. If Bueckers is out for the season, it would be completely devastating. We could mark the year as something of a lost cause if the supporting cast continues to play as is. Or could the team end up becoming better when all is said and done?

Last year for the UConn men's basketball team, now Charlotte Hornets guard James Bouknight completely carried the team early on. In his first five games, Bouknight averaged 23.2 points per game, while it felt like his teammates watched. Now-senior wing Tyrese Martin even admitted to this, noting "I feel like [not having a killer mindset] was my downfall last year. I feel like I would lose that when [Bouknight] was on the court with me and stuff like that." Being forced to play without Bouknight and taking on that leadership role made him better for when the future lottery pick returned with his scoring increasing in regular season games, thus making the entire team better. The same should happen for the women's basketball team.

Frequently, it felt like the mindset for the team was to watch Bueckers work her magic and hope it was enough to win games. The prime example of this came in their first game of the season against Arkansas, where Bueckers need-

ed a career-high 34-point outing to beat an unranked team by just 15 points. An even better instance of this is their game against No. 1 South Carolina, where Bueckers just couldn't hit a shot in the fourth quarter, and the rest of the Huskies were unable to produce in her shooting absence. If teams want to make deep runs in the NCAA Tournament, they need others to step up when their star player isn't shooting well, which naturally happens. Instead of stepping up against the Gamecocks, the Huskies scored three points and were outscored by 13 in the quarter, losing by 16.

The expectation for the Huskies this year is to win a championship. They should not be scoring just three points in a quarter, regardless of the opponent. Now, other players will be forced to step up with Bueckers out as well as freshman Azzi Fudd.

Fortunately, though, UConn has no shortage of talent. As talented as Bueckers is, her supporting cast should be reasonably close. Second-leading scorer Christyn Williams was the No. 1 overall recruit per ESPN in 2018. Third-leading scorer Evina Westbrook was the No. 2 recruit in 2017. Fourth-leading scorer Olivia Nelson-Ododa was ranked No. 5 in 2018. There is no shortage of talent in the locker room, with six healthy

ESPN top-25 Huskies remaining. However, only Bueckers and Williams average double-figures. That is a lot of star-power averaging very few points per game. Let's take a look at who should step up now and continue to contribute more when Bueckers returns.

Christyn Williams — This is a no-brainer. Williams is already a clear No. 2 option with Bueckers on the floor. Aside from a weak showing against Notre Dame on Sunday, she has been in double-figures every game this year. If the Huskies want to win big games with Bueckers out, Williams needs to contribute at a high level.

See BUECKERS, p. 9