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## Valentine's Day Issue!

FLIP TO THE BACK!

# Hate crimes rose drastically in 2022, fueled by legislation and social media

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**O**n Jan. 20, Voice of America reported that hate crimes increased across most major American cities over the year of 2022. While the FBI releases annual reports on hate crimes, it is noteworthy that their report for 2021 excluded New York City, Chicago and large parts of California.

"Brian Levin, director of the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at the University of California San Bernardino, said while national hate crime trends generally mirror those of big cities, his data show a more modest uptick of 1.2% for the 20 cities surveyed," VoA reported.

The report showed that African Americans remained the dominant target of hate crimes, though both hate crimes against the LGBTQ+ community and Jewish people showed sharp increases. Antisemitic hate crimes in particular climbed 31% from 2021.

"We are living in a period of unease and unrest, whenever you live through these types of crises, people look for very simple solutions to complex problems. Antisemitism serves as an explanation for these problems and has been one for centuries" Avinoam Patt, director of the Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Connecticut, said in an online interview.

Dr. Patt remarked how comments made by celebrities have contributed to a situation where antisemitism has become increasingly mainstreamed in public discourse. He referenced both Kyrie Irving and Ye West, who in

fall 2022 used their influence and position to promote conspiracy theories or threaten Jews and praise Adolf Hitler, according to the New York Times and Vox.

Both Irving and West referenced the Black Hebrew Israelite Movement in their statements, a conspiracy theory which claims African-Americans are the lost tribes of Israel, while Jewish people are impostors or active antagonists of the "real Jews," according to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

### WHITE SUPREMACY USES "REPLACEMENT THEORY," ONLINE MEDIA TO SPREAD HATE

Among the countless acts of hate committed throughout 2022, it was the tragic mass shooting of 10 men and women in a Buffalo grocery store on May 14 that brought the "white replacement" narrative used by white supremacists to the forefront of the public consciousness.

According to CNN, after the shooter's arrest, police discovered a large document on their computer including plans for the crime, a sketch of the store and their justification. The shooter explicitly stated they chose the location due to the high number of African Americans in the surrounding area who visited the store.

"In the document, Payton Gendron allegedly called himself a White man 'seeking to protect and serve my community, my people, my culture, and my race' and said he has never been diagnosed with a mental disability or disorder. He allegedly stated that his goal was to kill 'as many blacks as possible' and to 'avoid dying,'" CNN reported. The shooter's statements

fall in line with "replacement theory," a right-wing conspiracy theory that modern immigration policies are part of a larger plan to replace and undermine white people, particularly in Western countries. According to a document by the National Immigration Forum, followers believe the process will lead to a "conquest" and "undermining" of Western civilization, often blaming Jewish people as those responsible.

An article on Apr. 19 2021 from the Anti-Defamation League provides a timeline of replacement theory, from its beginnings in the 20th century to references and plausibly deniable endorsements by today's right wing influencers, American and European politicians and several mass shooters — one of whom caused the deaths of 51 Muslims in Christchurch, New Zealand in 2019.

"In an interview on Fox News' Justice with Judge Jeanine in July 2020, GOP Congressman Matt Gaetz claimed that an 'attempted cultural genocide' was occurring in the US and that the left wanted to 'replace America'" the ADL said.

Dr. Patt calls antisemitism a "canary in the coal mine" in regards to other forms of hate.

"When antisemitism appears, it is soon followed with rising transphobia, racism, xenophobia and more. That's why it's so important to work in a coalition with other groups to combat hatred," Patt said.

### TRANSPHOBIC POLICY AND MISINFORMATION LEADS TO VIOLENCE

On Nov. 21 2022, several members of Congress called upon the Department of Justice to investigate the growing number of threats and acts of violence against transgender people after a mass shooting at a Colorado LGBTQ+ nightclub which left five dead, according to Boston.com. Attendants of the club eventually subdued the shooter, who was then arrested by police. On the same day, Boston Children's hospital received another surge of harassment and bomb threats, nearly all of which centered around the hospital's program for gender-affirming care for transgender and non-binary youth.

"For example, attacks against Boston Children's began earlier this year when conservative Twitter account

**"When antisemitism appears, it is soon followed with rising transphobia, racism, xenophobia and more. That's why it's so important to work in a coalition with other groups to combat hatred."**

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UCONN DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER OF JUDAIC STUDIES

LibsofTikTok posted various false information about the services Children's provides," Boston.com reported.

The letter to the DoJ came after state legislation across the country restricted access to gender-affirming services and the teaching of LGBTQ+ topics in education. Among these bills include Florida HB 1557, which bans discussion or reference in literature to LGBTQ+ matters for kindergarten to third grade in Florida public schools; Arizona SB 1138, which forbids gender reassignment surgery for minors; several bans on transgender student athletes participating according to their identified gender and new bills to ban drag shows or designate them as sexual businesses or events.

In Texas, several drag events including family-friendly shows and book readings have been met with protests, often with armed protesters present, according to the Texas Tribune.

"This hate does not happen in a vacuum," Jay Brown said, a senior vice president at the Human Rights Campaign who is also transgender. "In Texas — an open carry state — we see multiple armed protests in opposition to LGBTQ+ bars, culture and events each week. These attacks in Texas aim to perpetuate lies about who LGBTQ+ people are and set a dangerous precedent of singling out members of the community that will only result in higher instances of violence," the Tribune reported. These incidents are becoming increasingly common and spreading nationwide. On Dec. 4 2022, CBS reported a drag queen story time event in Columbus, Ohio was canceled after armed protests by far-right organizations and militias, such as the fascist Patriot Front and the Proud Boys. A protest on Dec. 17 against a drag show in Grand Prairie, Texas included the Aryan Freedom Network, carrying flags bearing Nazi SS insignia. On Jan. 5 2023, individuals at a protest in Jackson Heights, New York were seen vandalizing property and wearing white supremacist symbols on their clothing. On Jan. 17 a similar event in Taunton, Massachusetts was interrupted by masked men belonging to the neo-Nazi organization NSC-131 who verbally attacked the readers before being escorted out by police.

The New York Times reveals that not only have these groups frequently appeared armed to protest drag shows. Members, supporters and leaders of Patriot Front, neo-Nazi Vanguard America, Proud Boys and more have been seen armed against Black Lives Matter protests, attended white supremacist marches and have members or leaders involved in the storming of the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021 and the deadly Unite the Right rally in 2017.

According to Professor

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**"We are living in a period of unease and unrest, whenever you live through these types of crises, people look for very simple solutions to complex problems."**

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UCONN DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER OF JUDAIC STUDIES

# News

## HATE CRIMES ROSE DRASTICALLY IN 2022, FUELED BY LEGISLATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA

HATE CRIMES, cont. from p. 1

Avinoam Patt, the people affiliated with these groups serve as an intersection of hatred against several communities, fueling online misinformation and propaganda alongside their appearances at transphobic, white supremacist or antisemitic events.

### THE BULWARK AGAINST HATRED

As violence and threats of violence grow rapidly against marginalized communities, several tactics are being tested independently to combat hatred in real life and online, from instructional classes to identify hate to community defense against armed terror groups.

Two members of the Connecticut John Brown Gun Club, Oliver and Watson, provided their opinions on community defense and their experiences combating inequality and bigotry in the state. As per their requests, their last names have been excluded for anonymity.

Watson explains that the organization primarily serves in Connecticut, sharing resources on self and community defense as well as providing protection for events that could become targets for the aforementioned groups. While not a traditional gun club, the CTJBGC provides courses in firearm safety, self-defense and emergency medical care, particularly for people of color and those in the LGBTQ+ community.

“The CT JBGC isn’t a social

club—we exist to provide accountable community-led defense to combat the existential threats of fascism and white supremacy,” Oliver said, “We engage in direct action. As far as I’m concerned, the time for changing hearts and minds is coming to a close. From here on out, minds will be changed primarily by events.”

Dr. Patt hopes to combat hatred through education, running a pop-up section of UNIV-3088 titled Why the Jews?: Confronting Antisemitism since spring 2022. Dr. Patt was surprised initially at the high attendance for the course, calling it reassuring that so many students were interested in the topic.

“We live in a day and age where it gets much, much easier to circulate irrational illogical conspiracy theories because they spread much quicker online than ever before. We know where these ideas spread, it’s a challenge to know how to respond to it in the present moment. The class has helped students identify antisemitism they find online and prevent it from being spread,” Dr. Patt explained.

Why the Jews? Is now expected to be available every spring as a result of the high attendance. Dr. Patt states that, contrary to what many sources on modern antisemitism state, college campuses tend to be incredibly diverse places which allow for the celebration of diversity and reassurance to Jewish students that they are protected.

Watson and Oliver believe that a more direct approach is

needed to put an end to hatred both within Connecticut and nationwide, done through confronting far-right organizations and providing aid to economically and socially disenfranchised communities. Watson remarked that the nature of the threats to minorities in Connecticut is different from other places in the country where larger displays of anti-LGBTQ+, racist or antisemitic thought are rare. Practices such as redlining, segregation through schools and a legacy of sundown towns have impacted civil rights in the state to this day, according to the Hartford Courant.

“I grew up in a small, racially diverse city that’s a stark contrast from where I live and work now—which is predominantly white and suburban. I work in firearms too, and the culture perpetuated there is grotesque. Every workplace I’ve inhabited has been racist and homophobic but never as overtly and proud as it is in the area I live now,” Oliver said. “It’s not sustainable.”

Both members of the CTJBGC advocate for those who feel worried for themselves and communities against the rising trends of hate of the past year to form networks against fascism, arm themselves and organize together.

“Individuals are as good as that—a lone person,” Oliver and Watson said. “Teams have strength.”

### AID AND EDUCATION ON CAMPUS

As well as Dr. Patt’s course on antisemitism, UConn has several courses and organizations meant to provide safe spaces for people of color, those in the LGBTQ+ community, Jews and other communities. This includes other UNIV 3985 section 2, U.S. Anti-Black Racism Course, UNIV 3800 section 1, Confronting Anti-Asian Racism, WGSS 3269, Gender, Sexuality, and Social Movements and UNIV 3369, Gender, Justice, and Hashtags.

Campus organizations from the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to the various cultural centers provide resources and safe spaces for students, as well as work collaboratively to combat injustices. Student organizations such as the UConn National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Black Student Association, Muslim Student Association, Queer Collective, Hillel Student Organization, Women’s Circle and countless others provide a supporting and welcoming community for all on campus.

## Roslyn Pope, author of ‘Appeal for Human Rights,’ dies at 84

ATLANTA (AP) — Roslyn Pope, a college professor and musician who wrote “An Appeal for Human Rights,” laying out the reasons for the Atlanta Student Movement against systemic racism in 1960, has died. She was 84.

Pope died Jan. 18 in Arlington, Texas, where she moved from Atlanta to be with her daughters after her health began to fail in 2021, according to her family’s obituary.

The document Pope wrote as a 21-year-old senior at Spelman College launched a non-violent campaign of boycotts and sit-ins by Black college students protesting discrimination not just in voting but in education, jobs, housing, hospitals, movies, concerts, restaurants and law enforcement.

“We do not intend to wait placidly for those rights, which are already legally and morally ours, to be meted out to us one at a time,” the Appeal declared. “We plan to use every legal and non-violent means at our disposal to secure full citizenship rights as members of this great Democracy of ours.”

Atlanta’s white-owned newspapers wouldn’t publish it, and Georgia’s segregationist leaders tried to dismiss it, saying it couldn’t possibly be the work of college students. But The New York Times ran it on a full page, as did other publications across the U.S. It was read into the Congressional Record as a testament to how segregation was stifling the ability of people to coexist with equality and dignity.

“She really kicked off our movement and made it acceptable,” Charles Black, who was a Morehouse College student when he joined Pope and others organizing the campaign, recalled Monday.

Pope showed that change doesn’t depend on “great men” like the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and that a few committed people can make a real difference, Black said. “Because of her words, everybody understood what we were trying to do, and that’s why we had such broad, community-wide support.”

Born Oct. 29, 1938, in Atlanta, Pope was exceptional from an early age. She belonged to an all-Black Girl Scout troop and was sent as Georgia’s representative to a national camp in Cody, Wyoming, that no Black Scout had attended before.

“I was one little dark person among 50 white faces,”

she recalled in an AP interview in 2020. “It became national news. Nobody in Atlanta could fathom that such a thing could happen.”

Pope was elected student body president at her segregated Booker T. Washington high school and at college. Her piano playing at Friendship Baptist Church led to a performance with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, and later, a Merrill scholarship to study music during her junior year in Paris.

The experience was life-changing after growing up in a society where race laws restricted her every move, she told the AP.

In Paris, “there were no boundaries — no places I couldn’t go, no programs I couldn’t take advantage of, no limits to my existence. I could eat where I wanted — I couldn’t do that in Atlanta. It felt like shackles had been taken off me. It was just unbelievable.”

Along with movement co-founder Lonnie King, a Morehouse student who had been in the Navy, she felt suffocated after returning to the segregated South. “We just could not pretend that being treated as inferior was all right,” she said.

Pope said she was sharing her misery with future state lawmaker and NAACP chairman Julian Bond at an off-campus drugstore when King walked in waving a newspaper: Four Black students had been arrested at a sit-in the day before in Greensboro, North Carolina.

“It just clicked,” she said. “Why aren’t we doing that?” we said to each other. And before the day was over, we decided to start a movement. We would no longer bear the mantle of inferiority.”

Working in secret, they recruited other students at Morehouse, Spelman, Clark and Morris Brown colleges, Atlanta University and the Interdenominational Theological Center. The six university presidents got wind of their efforts and tried to quash it. When the students refused, they were told to write up a clear explanation of what they hoped to accomplish.

King appointed Pope to a committee to draft the document, and after the young men let days pass without contributing, told her to

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UConn Director of the Center of Judaic Studies

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“write the damn thing,” Black said.

And so Pope did, longhand. She and Bond then spent the night at the dining room table of Spelman professor Howard Zinn, who offered his typewriter. “Julian Bond was typing while I handed him the pages,” Pope said. “We were there all night because we didn’t have a lot of time.”

While the students’ campaign of civil disobedience would eventually break Atlanta’s stalemate over civil rights and hasten the end of racist Jim Crow laws and policies across the U.S., Pope remained a mostly private figure.

She earned a masters in English at Georgia State University and then a doctorate in humanities at Syracuse University, all while raising two daughters, Rhonda and Donna Walker, after a brief marriage to John W. Walker.

She later taught religious studies and led the music department at Penn State University, but said she faced a losing battle there against white prejudice, so she moved to Bishop College in Dallas. After that historically Black college closed, she taught literature and humanities at the University of Texas at Arlington. She later worked in advertising for 20 years at

Southwestern Bell before retiring to Atlanta.

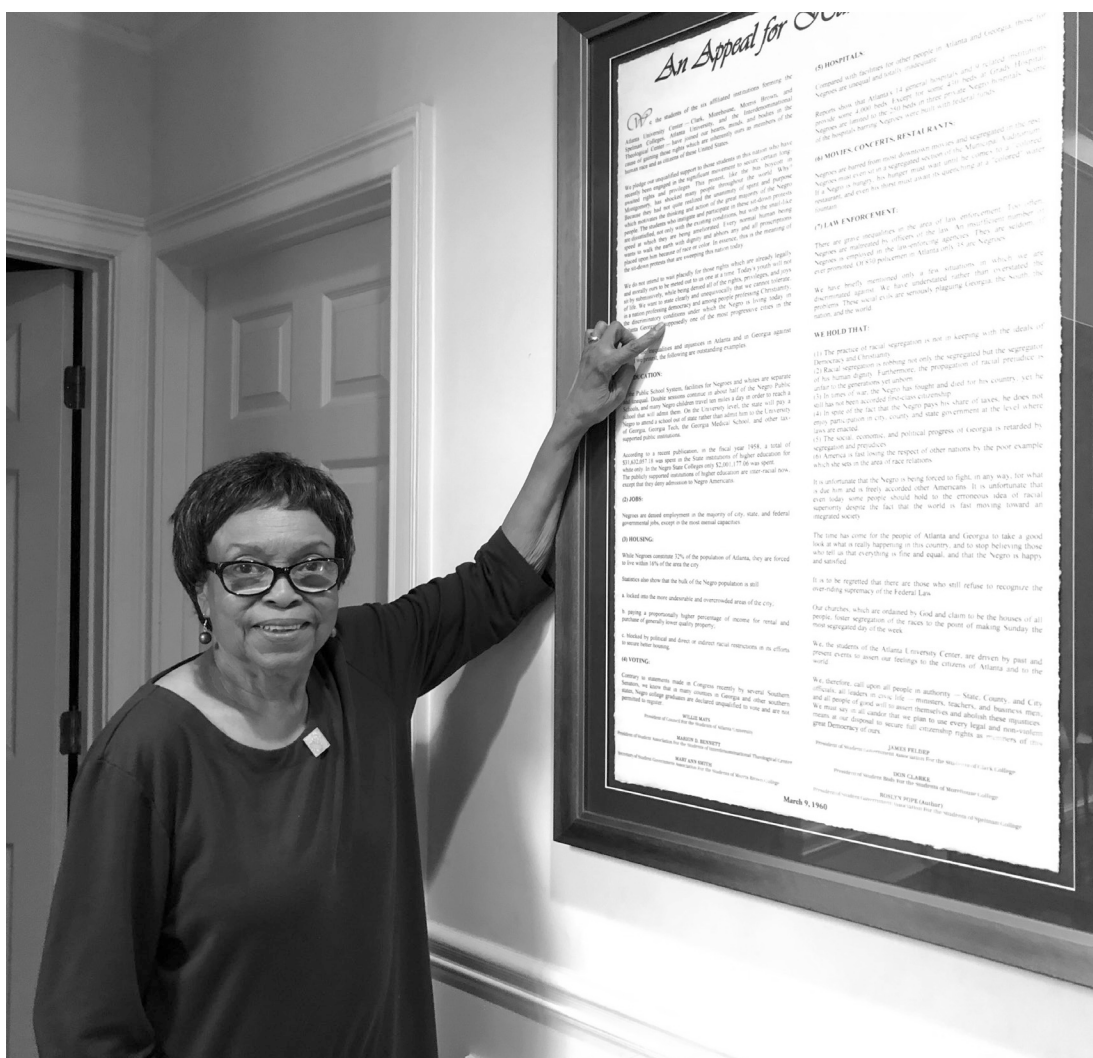
“She was a very quiet and unassuming person, not the kind of person you would expect to achieve that kind of status and leadership, necessarily, but she did,” said Black, who described Pope as a “sage.”

“The fact that she was able to put that document in the frame of human rights rather than civil rights was rather prophetic and very forward thinking,” he said. “Civil rights can be voted in and out of existence, but human rights are inherent in our mere existence, and she recognized that early on,” he said.

Pope said she was thrilled in 2020 to share her experiences with students at Decatur High School as they researched the student movement and the related imprisonment of Martin Luther King for a Georgia Historical Society marker. The same students then campaigned to bring down a nearby Confederate monument.

The Appeal “is just as relevant now as it was when I wrote it,” she told them. “I’m glad that I could do something. It might have been a small contribution, but I contributed.”

The Friendship Baptist Church plans a Feb. 17 service in her memory, and a celebration of Pope’s contributions to racial equality will be held at Spelman College on March 9, Black said.



In this March 4, 2020 photo, Roslyn Pope poses with a framed copy of “An Appeal for Human Rights” in her home in Atlanta. Roslyn Pope, a college professor and musician who wrote “An Appeal for Human Rights,” laying out the reasons for the Atlanta Student Movement against systemic racism in 1960, has died. She was 84. Pope died on Jan. 18 in Arlington, Texas, where she moved from Atlanta to be with her daughters after her health began to fail in 2021, according to her family’s obituary.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL WARREN, FILE PHOTO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Earnest or playful, that Valentine’s card has a history

NEW YORK (AP) — It was Valentine’s Day 1917 in the Minnesota farming village of Lewiston, and Fred Roth — a fourth grader — seems to have come up with just the way to express his love for his sweetheart, Louise Wirt. He gave her a card.

The folding, pop-up Valentine’s Day card, on stock so heavy it remains in good shape 106 years later, reads: “Forget me not!/I ask of thee/ Reserve one spot/In your heart for me.”

And so she did. Years later they married, and Louise displayed the cherished card, tucked into the fretwork of a bedroom dresser, for decades to come. She pointed it out to her daughter, and later to a granddaughter, me, and it remained near her bedside until her death at 91, a token of lasting love.

Although the message was in English, the card is printed with the word “Germany” and is seemingly imported, as were many cards of that era. Small companies in the U.S. also were part of a flourishing commercial card business.

Hallmark, which began offering Valentine’s Day cards in 1913, estimates that today, 145 million Valentine’s Day cards are exchanged annually, not including the kids’ valentines popular for classroom exchanges.

Fertility-related customs and rituals have been celebrated in mid-February since pagan times, says Emelie Gevalt, curator of folk art and curatorial chair for collections at the American Folk Art Museum in New York City.

Tokens of affection varied: In the 1600s, the practice was to give pairs of gloves in mid-February, she said.

“By the 18th century, we start to see something that really begins to resemble modern Valentine’s cards,” she said. “In the 19th cen-

tury, this evolved further to the point where popular ladies’ magazines like Harper’s Weekly published instructions for readers on how to craft them.”

There have long been both earnest, heartfelt Valentines like Grandpa Fred’s, and ones in a more teasing, playful vein.

The museum’s collection includes a number of lovingly crafted tokens of affection from various periods. “You see the heart motif quite a lot,” Gevalt said.

Although not specifically linked to Valentine’s Day, an exhibit at the museum opening March 17, “Material Witness: Folk and Self-Taught Artists at Work,” features two examples of “fraktur,” exuberantly decorated watercolors made by German immigrants in Pennsylvania. One is called “Inverted Heart,” and another depicts a labyrinth.

“They were really dazzling objects, including motifs of flowers or hearts. The playfulness and cleverness of these objects is one of the most interesting aspects they have in common,” Gevalt said.

In the mid-19th century, some people shared “Vinegar Valentines,” a sort of anti-Valentine that featured playfully insulting verses, not unlike a modern-day roast.

Sometimes, cards involved writing in a circle or upside down, like a puzzle. Some had a decorative folded border or verses on the folds; cutwork resembling lace; or watercolor decorations of pierced hearts, lovebirds and flowers. Lover’s knots and labyrinths were also common elements.

“They remind me of games, like plucking the petals of a flower saying ‘she loves me, she loves me not,’” Gevalt says.

The boom in commercial Valentine’s Day cards in the mid-1800s was a reflection of changing courtship patterns, said

Elizabeth White Nelson, associate professor of history at University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

“The idea of companionate marriage and love became a part of the calculus of marriage, and Valentine’s Day cards became a part of courtship,” she said.

These days, the cards continue to evolve.

“Over the last few years, trends have been less about romantic love but more about letting someone know they matter,” said Jen Walker,

vice president of trends and creative studios at Hallmark Cards, Inc.

There are “more inclusive visuals, and a larger representation of relationships — love, chosen family, friendships, parents and children, self-care,” she said.

A bit of mystery surrounds my Grandma Louise’s precious Valentine. It would have been out of character for Fred to buy a commercial card as opposed to, say, presenting her with a bouquet of pussy willows he

had picked.

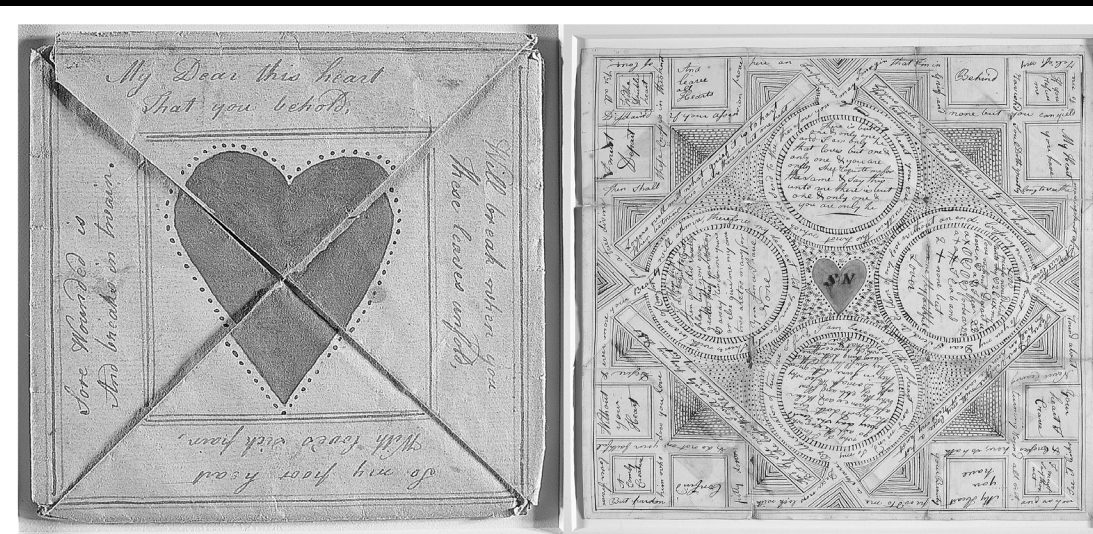
“That period would have been the beginning of an organized practice of exchanging Valentines in school,” said Nelson. In some classrooms, everyone was required, or at least encouraged, to give a Valentine.

“The giving and receiving of Valentines was always partly about performing love, for an audience,” said Nelson, “and once that Valentine’s Day card got saved, it would have become a talisman of all that love is supposed to be.”



This image shows a Valentine’s Day card from 1917, given to Louise Wirt by Fred Roth when he was in the fourth grade. The couple married years later and the card remained near Louise’s bedside until her death at 91.

PHOTOGRAPH BY NANCY ROTH, ASSOCIATED PRESS



This combination of images from the American Folk Art Museum Collection shows Love Token for Sarah Newlin, a Valentine’s Day card made of ink and watercolor on paper and envelope from 1799. The American Museum of Folk Art in New York City has a number of lovingly crafted cards and other tokens of affection from various periods.

AMERICAN FOLK ART MUSEUM, ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# Opinion

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### Letter to the Editor

by Liam Enea

UCONN CLEAN ENERGY SOCIETY PRESIDENT  
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The Daily Campus editorial board's opinion on Thursday calling for UConn to "ditch Eversource" is wholly misinformed and irresponsible.

Eversource, in their Connecticut service territory, is a regulated public utility with a natural monopoly on electricity distribution. If thoughts of twentieth-century trust-busting are rushing to your head, forget them. Electricity distribution is entirely different from power generation, and understanding the way UConn procures and produces energy must come before posing a radical overhaul.

Take a look at your parents' electric bill, be they a rate-payer to Eversource, United Illuminating, ConEdison, National Grid or most other utilities in the Northeast. There are generally two halves: the "supply" and "delivery" charges. These big-name utilities only make money on the delivery component of that bill, which pays to maintain power lines and substation infrastructure, trim vegetation along the lines' rights-of-way and fund certain company operations. This delivery rate is set by state regulators, like Connecticut's quasi-judicial Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), which pursues a lengthy regulatory proceeding every few years called a "rate case." In a rate case, the regulator opens up the utilities' books, hears testimony, and determines a "just and reasonable" rate that the utility will charge customers to safely keep the lights on while earning the company a fair profit. No stone is left unturned.

The "supply" component of the bill, which doubled on New Year's Day, is a whole different animal. That's the one inflicting economic pain on everyone right now. Public utilities like Eversource don't profit off the generation of electricity because they don't own any power generation facilities, like nuclear power stations, natural gas power plants, solar panels and wind farms. Their predecessors were forced to sell off their generation fleet in the 1990s when many U.S. states' electric power and gas industries were deregulated to lower electricity prices and improve grid reliability. Connecticut's power facilities, for instance, are privately owned and bid their energy into ISO New England's regional interstate wholesale electricity markets, whose tightly-regulated market rules fall under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's jurisdiction. In the winter, insufficient pipeline capacity and soaring global spot prices have spiked natural gas prices in New England. Over half of the region's installed generation capacity relies primarily on natural gas, and marginal fuel prices impact wholesale electricity prices, which mainly rise and fall based on power demand and supply bids from hundreds of market participants. It's all economics.

Where does Eversource come in? Eversource manages the lines carrying electricity to UConn. For most other customers, Eversource also procures the cheapest mix of electricity on ISO New England's wholesale electricity market - within renewable portfolio requirements and transmission constraints - and passes it through to rate-payers at a fixed retail rate that resets twice a year. Neither Eversource nor PURA nor ISO New England can just "set" the electric supply rate. Competitive market forces do that for them. Furthermore, UConn purchases Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) for its imported electric supply, meaning Eversource's standard offer - the rate that doubled last month - doesn't even affect Storrs. The suggestion that rate hikes are disproportionately harming UConn is wrong. Limited natural gas availability during cold snaps that force some of the Co-generation plant's turbines to burn oil reaps a far greater cost.

Eversource Energy Center within the Innovation Partnership Building produces cutting-edge research that helps the utility improve grid resilience, protecting people from storm-inflicted blackouts and attacks on the grid while helping interconnect more renewables. This invaluable partnership has nothing to do with UConn's Eversource interconnection off North Eagleville Road, as the editorial board appears to suggest, that actually keeps Storrs alive whenever the Co-generation plant can't support 100% of campus loads. UConn has limited transmission line capacity, as is, from Eversource - meaning we can't pull 100% of our electricity from the grid, either. As a transmission owner, they also have little incentive to invest millions in building more lines out to UConn when the Co-gen is sufficient most of the time. If we're talking about "ditching" the sole electric utility in our neck of Connecticut, that would mean illogically decoupling UConn from the greener New England grid, stranding our campus, and presenting severe safety risks to all of us.

In a nutshell, Eversource doesn't just "set" rates arbitrarily because they have no incentive. In reality, they have little control over power generation. The only monopoly they hold is over the ownership of wires hanging above us, not the current flowing through them. The suggestion that UConn is being exploited by Eversource misunderstands the industry.



COMIC BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## End sanctions on Syria — permanently

by Nell Srinath  
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Imagine if, in the course of one day, the place you've called home your entire life was reduced to rubble by a natural disaster. Imagine if clouds of dust and debris kept the location of your friends and family - and whether they are alive or not - a mystery for a week or longer. To many of us, this scenario is nearly inconceivable.

Now, try to imagine that your neighbors and other volunteers risking their lives to engage in search and rescue operations are held back because they have neither access to the tools they need to dig people out from beneath layers of rubble, nor the ability to relocate people to new housing in brutal winter weather. The deficit of resources comes not from a lack of trying, but from the deliberate and unilateral - that is, one-sided - enforcement of economic sanctions prohibiting the direct delivery of humanitarian aid and nearly all trade with your country.

This is reality for millions of people living in Northern Syria who, along with the people of Turkey, suffered a 7.8 magnitude earthquake followed by another 7.5 magnitude tremor Monday, Feb. 6. The quakes flattened almost 25,000 buildings between the regions, according to Al Jazeera, as well as large swaths of transportation infrastructure, further complicating search and rescue efforts. No less devastating is the growing death toll of over 36,000 people, up from approximately 23,000 this Friday. In just one week, the death toll between Syria and Turkey has eclipsed the number of Ukrainian troops killed in nearly a year of fighting since Russia's invasion of Ukraine by a factor of nearly three - not to wrongly conflate the causes of the two.

The impact of the dual earthquakes on Syria was exacerbated significantly by harsh sanctions imposed on the country by the United States. Economic sanctions, as defined by the U.S. Treasury Office of Financial Assets Control, involve the "blocking of assets

and [imposing] trade restrictions to accomplish foreign policy and national security goals." In other words, sanctions enable the United States to exert foreign influence over sovereign states by limiting their access to global trade and seizing assets held by their nationals. If this sounds to you like a kind of collective punishment, you'd be right: the U.S. sanctions regime is a fundamentally violent and undemocratic exercise of imperial power, even if it is not explicitly military, and it must be ended for the benefit of the Syrian people.

Why are sanctions violent? The logic of it is pretty straightforward: Humans require basic necessities to live; if we have too few of these necessi-

reaching sanctions on the entire country, prohibiting any import, export, or other trade relations between Iraq and UN member states until it withdrew from Kuwait and complied with other demands. UNSCR 665 authorized the use of U.S. and other military naval powers to "halt all inward and outward maritime shipping" to and from Iraq and occupied Kuwait.

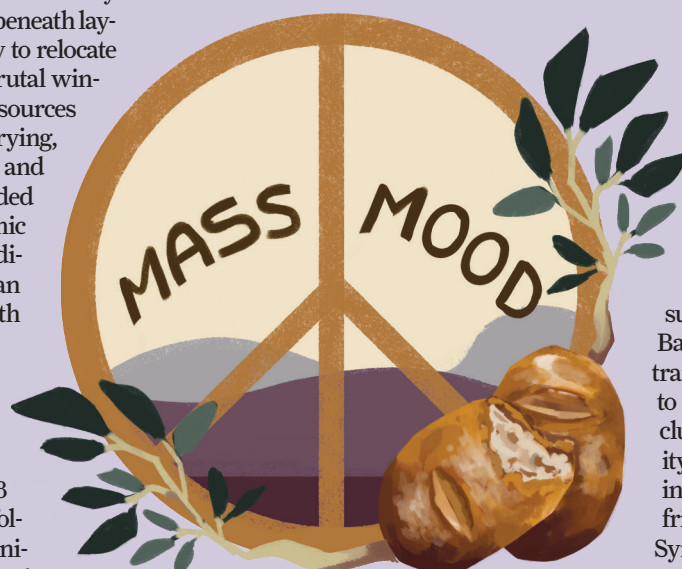
The rapid arrest of nearly all global economic activity with Iraq led to shortages that caused the premature deaths of at least 227,000 children according to some sources, and as many as 500,000 according to others. It should be noted that the collective punishment of all Iraqis for an action authorized by Saddam Hussein is considered

a violation of the Geneva Conventions defining war crimes, to which the U.S. is a signatory.

Syria is in no less of a bind under EU and U.S. sanctions. Executive order 13582, signed in 2011 under the Obama administration to put pressure on Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, prohibits any transactions from U.S. persons to Syria, which ipso facto includes aid in the vast majority of the country, as well as interpersonal transactions to friends and family based in Syria. Furthermore, sanctions

prevented much humanitarian aid and economic assistance from reaching Syria prior to the earthquake - where a decade of civil war demolished infrastructure and displaced more than 13 million Syrians - worsening the already desperate need to rebuild, not to mention the U.S.' direct role in bombing the country. Underdeveloped infrastructure as a result of the sanctions regime, particularly under Trump-era sanctions, is a critical piece of this equation.

On Saturday, the U.S. Treasury announced that it would be temporarily lifting sanctions on Syria for 180 days in the aftermath of the earthquake. This is no admirable act on behalf of the U.S.; with both Syria and Turkey facing years of reconstruction, anything short of fully lifting sanctions means the continued immiseration of the Syrian people and increased national instability.



LOGO BY KAITLYN TRAN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



This satellite image provided by Maxar Technologies shows an overview of with damage to city buildings and the surrounding area in Jindires, Syria, on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023, after an earthquake. There was significant damage to critical infrastructure across the region after a catastrophic earthquake hit Feb. 6, 2023.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES VIA AP

# Opinion

## Photo of the Day | Goin' for a stroll



An individual strolls toward the top of Horsebarn Hill in Storrs, Conn. on Feb. 13, 2023. As this winter season continues to bring warm temperatures, UConn students as well as Mansfield residents can be seen walking around Horsebarn Hill throughout the day. PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## When we vandalize rocks

by Connor Gustafson  
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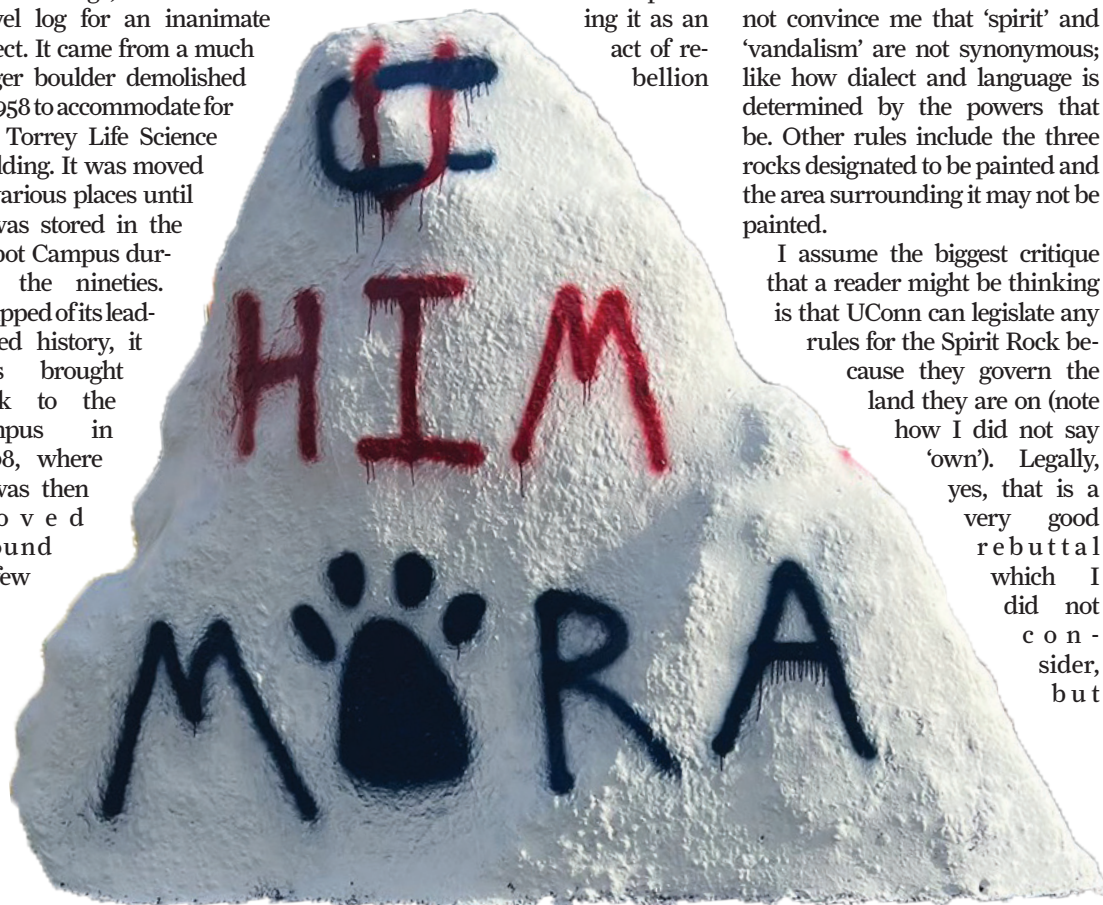
Spirit rocks—the painted boulders around campus—are a generally overlooked feature of UConn’s landscape despite always being there. They are intended to be a billboard for students to promote their activities. In my experience—and I assume some can relate—I look at them and then move on. It did not mean anything to me until we were asked to ‘consider the rock’ (as bizarre as that may sound) in my Environmental Literature course last semester. Where is one to begin? I’m a big rock guy, and I keep track of the traditional rocks that I come across on my daily commute through campus; they are drawn to my hands like a lodestone. While classmates crowded those rocks, I had to spice up this assignment and find an angle. Genius struck me as I walked past the only rock I did not consider to touch: the spirit rock.

The campus is manicured for the student’s experience. Each tree foreign to Connecticut had a committee decide its place while all the natural, old trees must have been considered for removal at one point or another. Mirror Lake is man-made and there are never swans on Swan Lake. In some ways ironic, the emphasis on appearing natural harms the environment. Retroactive landscaping gives legitimacy to the destruction caused by construction because, “look, there are trees and rocks!”

Spirit rocks are a University of Connecticut endorsed feature.

According to Stephanie Reitz in her UConn Today article, “‘Like a Rolling Stone,’ Spirit Rock on the Move,” The Rock, located outside North Garage, has an extensive travel log for an inanimate object. It came from a much larger boulder demolished in 1958 to accommodate for the Torrey Life Science building. It was moved to various places until it was stored in the Depot Campus during the nineties. Stripped of its lead-based history, it was brought back to the campus in 2008, where it was then moved around a few

know, portrays it as a much-loved tradition. It is not there because nature happened to place it there, students did not start painting it as an act of rebellion



UConn’s ‘Spirit Rock’ presenting a message in support of Jim Mora, head coach of the football team. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNFOOTBALL ON INSTAGRAM

more times. More than one-and-a-quarter inches of paint accumulated from 2008 to 2018. Five years later, it must be nearing 2 inches thick. The buildup of layers remind me of tartar on teeth and there’s a perpetual smell of fresh paint.

The plaque in front of The Rock, as all of you that have read it would

which was later incorporated into the school’s culture, and it has been—and can still be—stripped of its layers. It is manicured to appear messy.

Of course, a University-supported pure form of expression would never work. The rules are listed out in the Rock Painting policy. Name-

ly, non-students cannot paint the rock or else it “may be considered defacement of public property.” The superficial distinction between who can contribute to it does not convince me that ‘spirit’ and ‘vandalism’ are not synonymous; like how dialect and language is determined by the powers that be. Other rules include the three rocks designated to be painted and the area surrounding it may not be painted.

I assume the biggest critique that a reader might be thinking is that UConn can legislate any rules for the Spirit Rock because they govern the land they are on (note how I did not say ‘own’). Legally, yes, that is a very good rebuttal which I did not consider, but

requires each student to pass an environmental course to graduate. They continually neglect their values in practice.

Construction is always happening here in the name of “student experience.” The new STEM building just finished construction, and now they are working on yet another South Residence Hall. Some roundabout thinkers may follow the line to find students at fault. New angular, glass buildings advertise to us. It is important to remember that UConn is a business and acts as ruthless as any other. An e-mail sent out by President Maric Feb. 8 reports that UConn is set to lose \$160 million of funding from the state. My initial reaction was “Good. They can finally focus on maintaining rather than expanding,” but we know that will never be the case.

Students that are not here for the sports attend for the campus’ balance of nature and industry. A variety of trees are placed for shade and rocks frame the campus in a way that UMass-Amherst just doesn’t have. On the flip side, Spirit rocks are not here for their beauty but for reassurance that students have an active role in shaping the campus.

A note from a reader reads: “So how did your ‘consider the rock’ assignment turn out?”

Thank you for asking! I totally forgot to circle back to it from the heat of the article. I imagined it must be dark under all of those layers and received an A+. Aside from that, it became an article in The Daily Campus, in addition to a research project.



COMICS BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Coppola's Column: What we've learned from Super Bowl LVII

by **Dante Coppola**  
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Another season has reached its conclusion, with the Kansas City Chiefs topping the Philadelphia Eagles in the Super Bowl. With all that happened over the season, the championship goes to a team that we can comfortably say deserved it. The game itself told a story beyond just who is now crowned the champion of the National Football League. Here, I'll identify some points that were discovered or enforced by this year's big game.

## Mahomes with another feather in the cap; Hurts will have to wait

Heading into this season, Patrick Mahomes was not mentioned by many, if anyone, when discussing who the greatest quarterback of all time is. Yet as his fifth strong regular season concluded, Mahomes began making a case to crack the top ten. Getting named this season's MVP then solidified his spot as one of the best of all time, which is above and beyond for a 27-year-old quarterback. He's only the 10th quarterback with two MVPs in his resume, and then this championship came along.

Mahomes performed better than he had all season, at least excluding his five-touchdown week one performance. Three touchdown passes and a 78% completion percentage gives us some glimpse at how easy everything is for the Chiefs superstar. It's also important

to mention how important their defense was to the game as well, setting Mahomes up for easy drives. His second win and second MVP makes him just the fourth quarterback ever to have a pair of each, along with Tom Brady, Peyton Manning and Joe Montana. If he continues on this path, and has the longevity of a Brady, Brees or Manning, then he has a good case at becoming the NFL's new GOAT.

It's important to not forget about Jalen Hurts though. The young quarterback had a huge third season, making a run at the MVP award and nearly leading his team to a Super Bowl victory. Despite it being a losing effort, Hurts had 300 yards passing, 70 on the ground, and four total touchdowns. The future's looking bright for the quarterback, as well as his team. It also feeds into the notion that it takes three seasons for a young quarterback to develop, as it did for Tua Tagovailoa, Josh Allen, and Kyler Murray. Given the opportunity, maybe we could see breakout performances for Trevor Lawrence, Mac Jones, and Justin Fields next season.

## Where does this put Andy Reid among the greats?

14 coaches have won multiple Super Bowls following this year's competition. Andy Reid was already No. 5 all time in wins as well. So where does this put Reid amongst his peers? He certainly ranks behind Bill Belichick, Tom Landry and Don Shula. But after that, competition with

the former Eagles head coach dwindles. There are a lot of talented coaches, but winning in this era has its added weight. Having such a talented quarterback definitely helps, but it's safe to say his name at least belongs up there with the past greats of American Football.

## What it takes to be champions

In recent seasons we've seen a persistent trend continue: the more experienced quarterback takes home the Lombardi. This is usually accompanied by having an experienced coach as well. The only time this hasn't necessarily been the case was six years ago when the Eagles topped the Patriots. Besides that, for nearly a decade we've seen the need for an experienced and talented quarterback alongside a seasoned head coach. And of course, Mahomes and Andy Reid perfectly fit this bill.

The Eagles' method, while not necessarily this, can't be ignored either. They've waited patiently to develop their quarterback, and made sure to give him plenty of weapons. Their defense is very rush heavy, with increased investments in the secondary to reinforce this scheme. This team is built to become the blueprint that has been outlined, they just needed this test run before they can return victorious.

## Who can fit this mold?

With such a successful team-building strategy, which franchises are in the

right spot to match this template? The Chiefs, of course, would be the boring answer. They've won it twice in the last four seasons, and have been to the conference championship or better in the two other seasons. They have the experience and they are proven to be successful. They have the quarterback and coach so obviously they have the best shot.

The Buffalo Bills and Philadelphia Eagles have good chances in the near future, though I wouldn't necessarily say next season. The Eagles have to prove this isn't a one-off. They're built for extended success, and even though they likely will regress they still have a chance to make a shot next season. However, it's probably too early for the team to capture another Lombardi. As for the Bills, a lot rides on the play of Josh Allen, as much of their success depended on which side of Allen decided to come out to play on a given day. Even if he is at the top of his game, the team needs some more time together before they match the model the Chiefs and Patriots have built before them.

The teams most likely to have a shot next year depending on this trend would have to be the San Francisco 49ers and Cincinnati Bengals. The Bengals are young, but have a very talented core that has already made it to the big game. Joe Burrow has continued to flash his talent across the league, and Zac Taylor has been solid enough to not slow the team down. The 49ers, meanwhile, have their hopes resting on their quarterback play next season. It was their

ultimate downfall this season as their core succumbed to a plague of injuries. Jimmy Garoppolo, who had a good season when he was healthy, is expected to leave. That still leaves Trey Lance and Brock Purdy, both of whom have shown flashes of talent that could lead their team to the Super Bowl. If they return next year with that same fire, the 49ers could very well find themselves raising their sixth banner.

**With all that happened over the season, the championship goes to a team that we can comfortably say deserved it. The game itself told a story beyond just who is now crowned the champion of the National Football League.**

# The Weekly Reed What is the worst example of 'pitching wins championships?'

by **Noah Reed**  
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'Pitching wins championships.' That was the phrase my father repeated to me anytime we watched a game together growing up. Even as I continued my own playing career from little league to junior varsity, every coach expressed that same exact sentiment. I kind of just accepted this as a fact because it made a lot of sense. In theory, good pitching should lead to less runs being needed by your offense to beat another team. As I wondered what to write this week, I thought to my-

self: "Is there a case in which this wasn't true?" To sum it up, I set out to search for the most atrocious pitching staff in the last 21 seasons to win a world championship.

I went to Baseball Reference and found where each year's champion ranked based on ERA. It was easy to conclude that 'pitching wins championships' knowing that since 2002, 20 eventual world series champions had a team ERA above league average. Of those 20 teams, 12 finished within the top 10 and there were three instances of the best regular season ERA leading to a world championship (2020 Dodgers, 2016 Cubs, 2010 Giants).

But one team was left out, namely the 2006 St. Louis Cardinals. While numerous teams were close to being below league average in ERA, the Cardinals were the only team to place below the line. St. Louis finished the 2006 regular season with a team ERA of 4.54 and still found a way to win their division and a championship. How did they do that?

The numbers these Cardinals starting pitchers put up are ugly. Jason Marquis started 33 games in 2006 with an ERA of 6.02 in 194.1 innings pitched. Mark Mulder pitched in 93.1 innings himself in 17 starts and finished with a 7.14 ERA. To round

out the rest of the Cardinals rotation, pitchers Jeff Weaver, Anthony Reyes and Sidney Ponson started 45 games combined for St. Louis with the lowest ERA of the three being 5.06. These starters, along with Chris Carpenter and Jeff Suppan, combined for 159 of the starts for the Cardinals, with Carpenter and Suppan being the only two with an ERA+ over 100. Suppan finished the season with a 4.12 ERA leaving Carpenter as the only starter on this staff with a sub-four ERA.

Chris Carpenter was the shining star of the rotation. Coming off his Cy Young 2005 campaign, Carpenter followed it up with another solid season. He had a 3.09 ERA, led the National League with a WHIP of 1.069 and led the entire MLB with three complete game shutouts. Carpenter made his second career All-Star Game and had an ERA+ of 144 to lead the St. Louis starting rotation. He would end the season finishing third in the NL Cy Young voting, losing to Brandon Webb of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

The bullpen wasn't terrible with Jason Isringhausen converting roughly 76.7% of his save opportunities. For pitchers in the bullpen who appeared in over 20 games, five out of eight had an ERA in the threes. As a team, St. Louis ranked 21st in ERA+, 25th in FIP, 21st in RA/G and 16th in ERA. Looking at Wins Above Average by Position, St. Louis ranked 25th (-5.1) as a staff, 27th for starting pitching (-5.1) and 20th for relief pitching (-1.1). St. Louis was above zero in just two positions, first base (6.6) and third base (4.2), the positions of stars Albert Pujols and newly elected hall of famer Scott Rolen.

How could they possibly win if they were that bad on paper? I only mentioned their regular season numbers.

St. Louis came to play in the postseason, especially their pitching. Through 16 postseason games, the Cardinals staff put up the lowest team ERA out of any of the participating teams at 2.68. Only four championship teams since 2002 have pitched to better ERAs in the postseason, those being the White Sox in 2005 (2.55), San Francisco in 2010 (2.47), Boston in 2013 (2.59) and Houston in 2022 (2.29). Only one team since 2002 has finished the postseason with the worst team ERA, that being the 2003 Florida Marlins. In those 16 games, the staff's WHIP was just 1.16 and they held their opponents to a batting average of .219.

St. Louis had no business winning the world series in 2006, but the players played their best baseball when their team needed it most. Even in the most outrageous of cases, pitching finds a way to win championships. The Cardinals had one of the worst pitching staffs entering the postseason and barely made the playoffs, but they were able to piece it together when it mattered most, giving the city of St. Louis their first world series since 1982.

**'Pitching wins championships.' That was the phrase my father repeated to me anytime we watched a game together growing up.**



The 2006 St. Louis Cardinals celebrate after winning the World Series. This victory came despite an uncharacteristically low regular season team ERA of 4.54. PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

# Sports

## Photo of the Day | nICE



UConn's Kathryn Stockdale (right) skates with the puck along with a defender during a game the UConn women's hockey team picked up a 2-1 loss against Holy Cross at the Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn. on Feb. 11, 2023. PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Big East Baller Update No. 11: The magic of Hinkle Fieldhouse

by Cole Stefan  
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Out of all the arenas in the Big East conference, the one that seems to receive the least attention is Hinkle Fieldhouse. This makes sense when comparing the venue to Gampel Pavilion, the Cintas Center and the CHI Health Center, all of which are equally hard places for the road team to steal a win.

Hinkle Fieldhouse opened in 1928 and has been the home of Butler Bulldogs men's basketball, women's basketball and women's volleyball while they represent numerous conferences. The building has experienced multiple renovations, reducing its capacity from 15,000 to 9,100 in the last 35 years, but that does not deter fans from giving the

road team a hard time. Hinkle Fieldhouse may look like an indoor track facility on the outside, but for decades, national powerhouses and conference foes have been affected by the powerful magic that lies inside.

**Player of the Week:**  
Jayden Taylor - Butler

**Freshman of the Week:**  
Cam Whitmore - Villanova

**St. John's vs. Butler (Feb. 7): A sequence of disastrous decline**

Both teams have been significantly weaker since the beginning of conference play in December, with injuries playing a minor role in their struggles. Even though the Bulldogs have been a get-right game for several Big East opponents, the St. John's Red Storm are in a worse position due to their hotter start. Even with the season becoming a lost cause, the Red Storm hoped their get-right game would help them regain steam.

The Johnnies surged ahead in the first half behind an 8-0 run and a defense limiting Butler to three points in the final four minutes of the frame. As the game went on, the Red Storm did not worry too much about their dwindling second-half lead, but the Bulldogs continued to bring cause for concern. A Manny Bates three-point play and two Jayden Taylor free throws tied the contest with two minutes left before Simas Lukosius' go-ahead floater and several missed shots helped Butler stun St. John's senseless 68-66.

practice question in comparison to who Xavier had left to play away from home, but even the practice questions stump the best test-takers sometimes.

The Bulldogs charged out of the gate, going on an 11-0 run in the first eight minutes and holding the Musketeers to a season-low 21 first-half points. Xavier countered to begin the second with their charge, as it took Butler almost three minutes to score and over five minutes to pick up five points. Both teams traded buckets throughout the second half, but two free

**Seton Hall vs. Villanova (Feb. 11): Magic beyond Hinkle**

The Seton Hall Pirates seemed to be rolling in conference play, with seven wins in their last eight games heading into last week's games. The only thing preventing the Pirates from recovering after a home loss to the Creighton Blue Jays four days earlier were the Villanova Wildcats, who were looking to start another streak in a season full of them.

Villanova looked comfortable from the beginning, possessing a seven-point lead even though Al-Amir Dawes beat the buzzer to end the first half. The Wildcats went from comfortable to feeling fine, as they broke out on a 15-2 run and nearly secured the win with three minutes to play, but Seton Hall had other plans. Femi Odukafe and Dawes buried two



threes and the Pirates still had a chance despite two free throws from Caleb Daniels. Tyrese Samuel laid down the hammer and Jamir Harris made a three with seven seconds remaining, but Villanova survived two missed free throws from Justin Moore and topped Seton Hall 58-54.

**No. 13 Xavier vs. Butler (Feb. 10): Protego; a spell for maximum protection**

Taylor led all players with 19 points, while Bates had 15 and Lukosius dropped 11 with three triples for the Bulldogs. Joel Soriano secured a double-double for the Red Storm with 11 points and 12 boards, while Posh Alexander had 17 on 8-11 shooting and Rafael Pinzon had 14 off the bench. St. John's blew a game it should have won, and it proved that Mike Anderson is not the long-term answer at head coach.

Both Taylor (team-leading six rebounds) and Bates (five blocks) came up huge for the Bulldogs with 39 combined points. Colby Jones scored 17, while the three other Musketeer starters in double figures each buried two threes. This road loss stings for Xavier, not because of the game's ending, but because their next opponent is the Marquette Golden Eagles in Milwaukee. With Freemantle out of action, the odds have further tilted in the Golden Eagles' favor.

Four out of Daniels' five buckets were threes as he finished with 18 points while Dixon had 19 for the Wildcats. Samuel picked up a double-double of 14 and 10 for the Pirates while Dawes scored 13 without a rebound or an assist. Seton Hall plays again on Tuesday as they host the Georgetown Hoyas, but the conference's fifth seed will essentially be determined on Saturday as they take on the UConn Huskies.

The Big East is a bizarre conference because no one knows what tricks are going to come out of anyone's sleeves, whether it is a shocking upset or a breakout player. There is no certainty as conference play winds down, and this week might leave us with several burning questions.



# Sports

## UConn WBB players who could get drafted this spring

by **Stratton Stave** | ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR | HE/HIM/HIS | stratton@uconn.edu

There's just under two months until the WNBA holds their annual draft, where teams select the best of the best from the college level to help bolster their rosters and championship hopes. This year, Geno Auremma's UConn Huskies haven't been the same type of team as the one that built the program, but they still have a lot of talent on the roster. Connecticut has the most players in the WNBA of any university and ESPN's M.A. Voepel projects this list to grow. In her first round mock draft, she predicts two Huskies will be picked. UConn has a slew of players who will be eligible, but just two true seniors are likely to leave, since with NIL, playing at UConn can be more lucrative than the WNBA. Who are these players and what will they bring to the WNBA? Let's discuss.

Dorka Juhasz, 6' 5" forward

From an upside perspective, Juhasz has to be one of the most intriguing prospects in the draft. She's 6' 5", which is reasonably tall for the WNBA, and can shoot. Although she's among the oldest players in the pool having stayed for her fifth year, that shouldn't be a deterrent. She only shoots 27% on the three triples she takes per game, but this number will be higher at the next level. She'll be less of a focus for the defense, which will leave her open, where she excels. Her stroke is impressive from a visual perspective and this will really open up the floor. Having your center able to hit threes is incredibly important and makes it so much easier for the guards to drive in the lane.

Looking at her abilities as a scorer otherwise, she's solid. Juhasz can shoot it from all three levels, which teams will love. She's also great in the post, although she did struggle when facing a stacked South Carolina lineup. Juhasz really helps teams out on the glass. She's averaging better than 10 boards per game, two of which come on the offensive end. The Hungary-native really demonstrated her abilities in the Georgetown win, where she grabbed five offensive-rebounds that led to a number of valuable second-chance points. She's also a capable shot blocker, only doing so around once per game, but her presence inside deters opposing players from challenging her.

Overall, there's a lot to like for WNBA teams looking to select Juhasz. She checks a lot of boxes and has been a big proponent of a successful UConn team's effort. Voepel has her at No. 9, which would give her a chance to stick in the league.

Lou Lopez-Sénéchal, 6' 1" guard

The fifth year transfer has been one of the few players alongside Juhasz who has really shouldered the team's load amidst all of the injuries they've suffered. It's difficult to predict where the Huskies would be without Lopez-Sénéchal. She's had a truly special graduating year, scoring 16 points on 45% from deep.

Her three point and points numbers were higher before the last five games, but Lopez-Sénéchal has really hit a wall with all the minutes she's been forced to play. In that span, she's shot 2-15, which pales in comparison to her 55 makes in her previous 110 tries. She will likely never be asked to be anywhere near as much of a workhorse as she has been now though. This means that her numbers in the WNBA will be more reflective of the way she started this year, rather than how it's been recently, making her a more attractive draft candidate. As impressive as her skillset is, the one issue with Lopez-Senechal is that she's not unlike many other players in the league. She's an exceptional scorer but past that, nothing stands out. She's an average passer and she doesn't look terrible in any categories, but there aren't other areas that are in the same ballpark as her shooting. In the WNBA context you're likely drafting Lopez-Sénéchal as a great sparkplug off the bench, but the question is how high would you draft that type of player?

LOGO BY KAITLYN TRAN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Dorka Juhasz of UConn women's basketball warms up before a matchup the Huskies would go on to defeat Georgetown 65-50 at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn. on Sunday, Jan. 15.

PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



UConn's Lou Lopez Senechal drives past a defender during a game the Huskies would go on to beat Georgetown 65-50 on Jan. 15 at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn.

PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

### WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

#### UConn SCOREBOARD



67 vs. 59

Women's Basketball Saturday

#### Upcoming Games



Softball, 1 p.m. Friday Gainesville, Fla.



Women's Lacrosse 2 p.m. Wednesday Storrs, Conn.

### INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@jonathanthehusky14 It's been a long time coming and I can't wait to see UConn Nation at Wednesday's @uconnwbb game in Gampel.

### TWEETS OF THE DAY



**Stratton Stave**  
@strattonstave  
Adama hitting threes is such a difference maker

**Gary**  
@uconngary7  
The D.P. Dome! End of discussion

Follow The Daily Campus @dcsportsdept

# It's That Time of the Year Again!

The



's

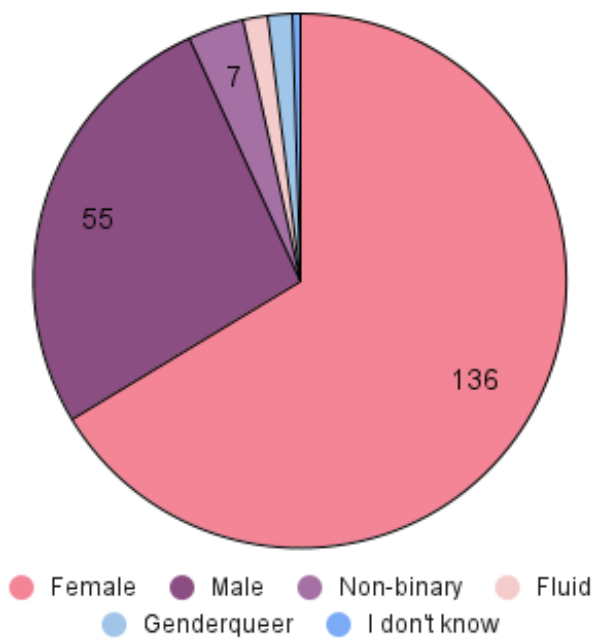


## Valentine's Day Survey!

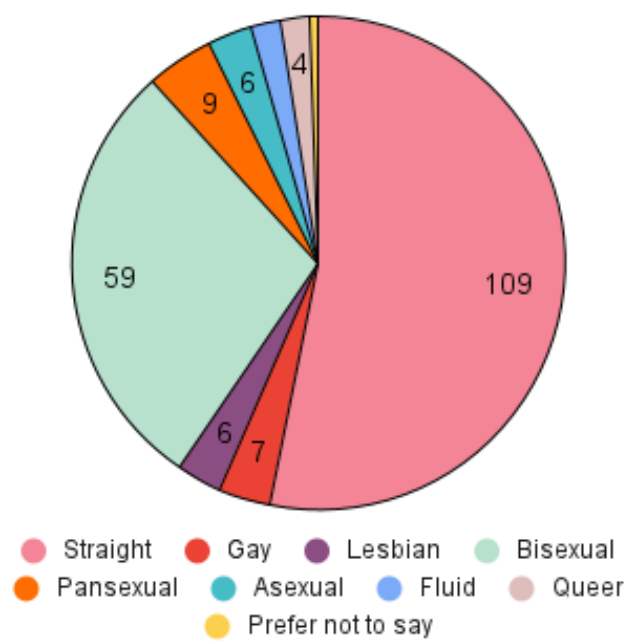
Demographics!

Let's Know UConn Better ;)

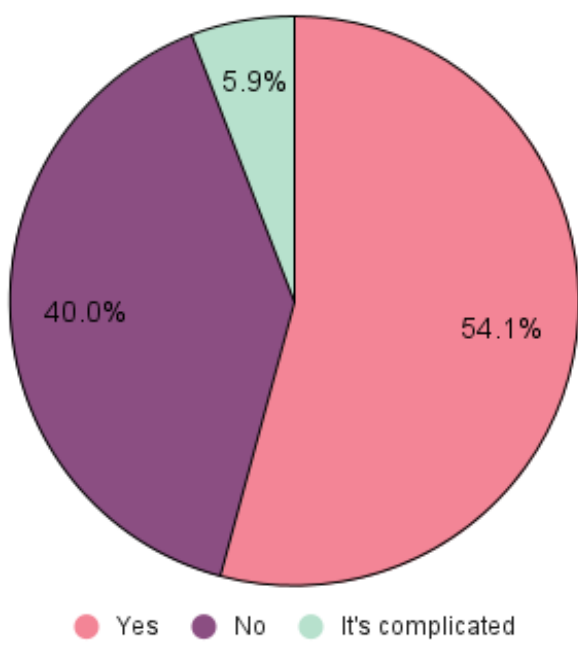
### Gender Identity



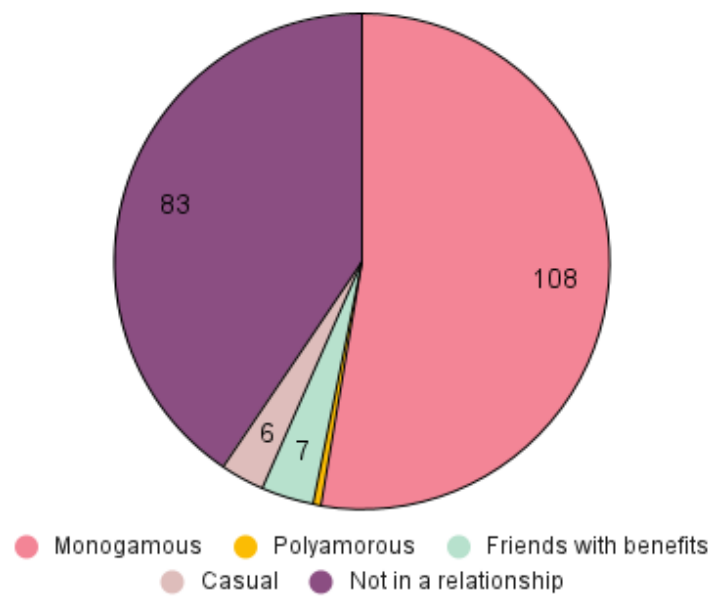
### Sexual Orientation



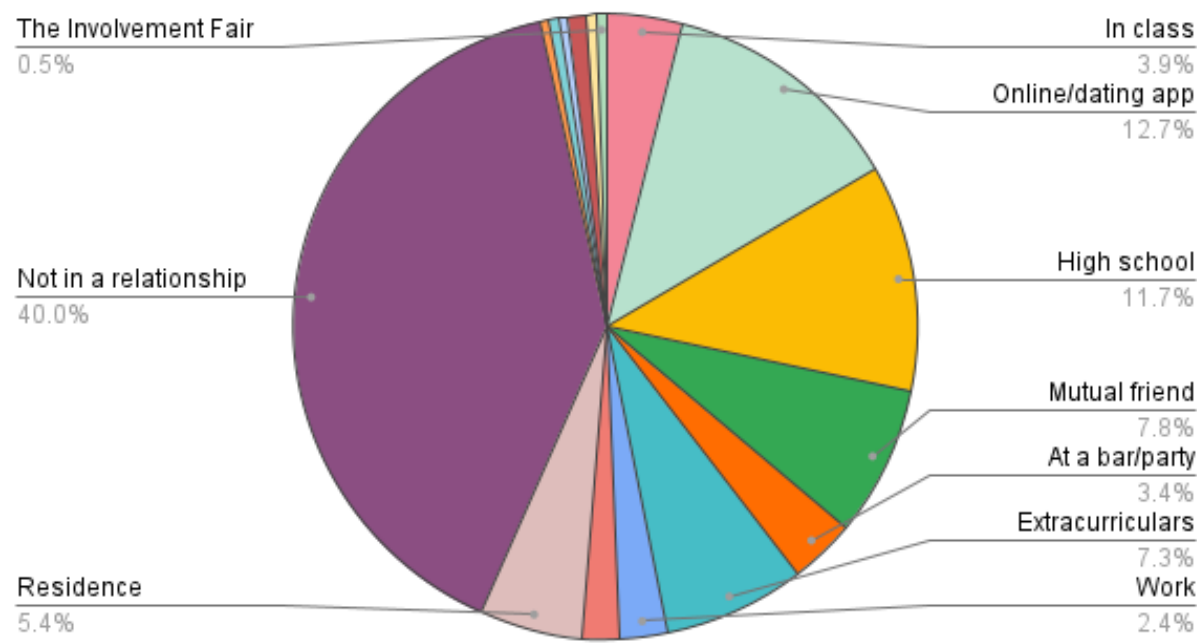
### Are You In A Relationship?



### What Kind of Relationship?



### How Did You Meet Your Partner?





# Lets Talk Relationships. (and Sex!)

The most challenging part is finding and meeting people in the first place who you would have an attraction and connection to. It can also be challenging to figure out whether the person you're interested in has an applicable sexual orientation to you.

UConn was the first (and hopefully only) place I've been vomited on while receiving head! One of the very few times I've been left totally speechless.

The first time I ever spoke to my now-boyfriend was when I drunkenly went up to him, insulted him as a way to flirt, and had a three hour conversation about Mussolini and wanting to pollute the earth. He liked me enough after that to ask for my number :-).

Having a partner who you can depend on and who can depend on you, being able to always have a support person when you need a shoulder to cry on has been really important.

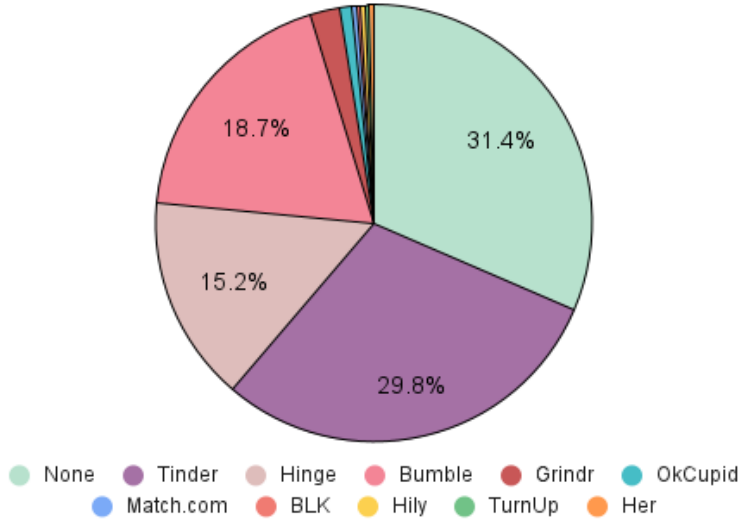
I was having sex with my friend with benefits at the time and as he was pulling out, I jumped off of him in my attempt to pull out as well and he got cum in his eye. I thought it was hilarious, but, he didn't, and that was the last time we had sex.

I ended up dating my crush from 7th grade (I am now a sophomore in college).

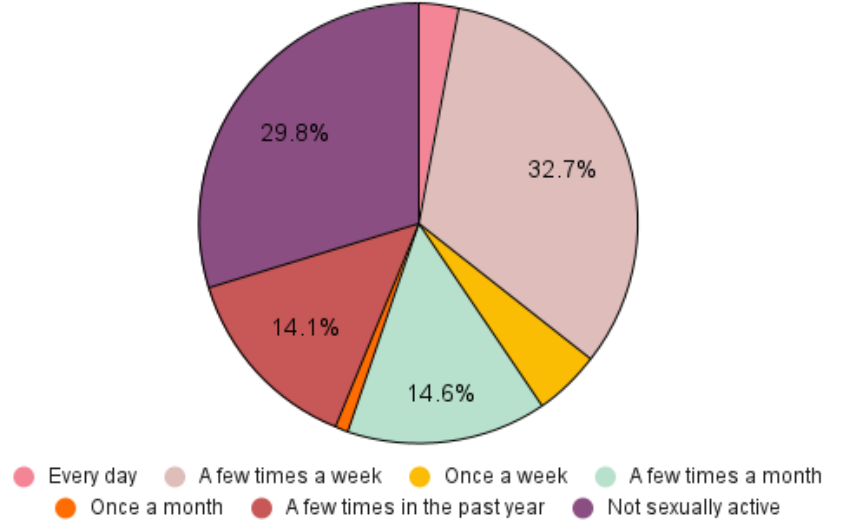
One time I had to pee halfway during sex, so I went to the bathroom and peed for a straight minute and a half. Also, my partner gave me a dress to wear in case anyone saw me (it was a girls-only dorm).

I think the most rewarding part of dating is being able to have someone you can always go to, and being that person for your significant other(s).

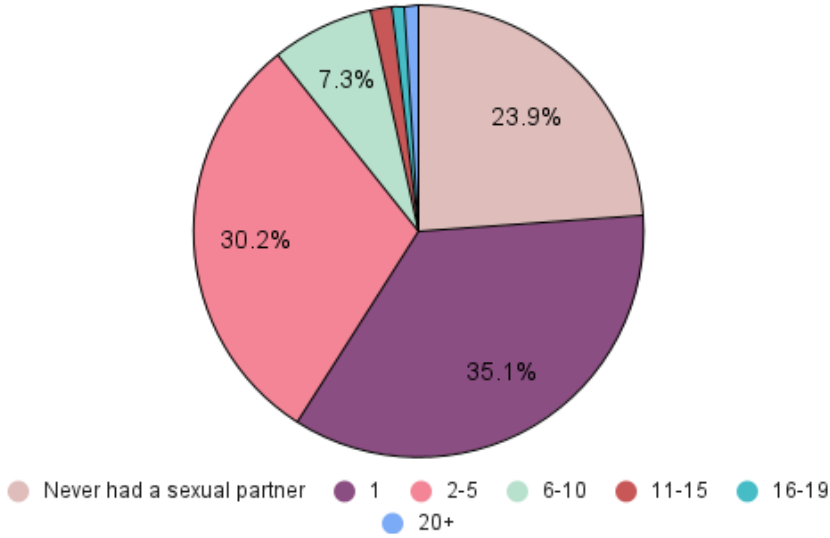
What Dating Apps Have You Used?



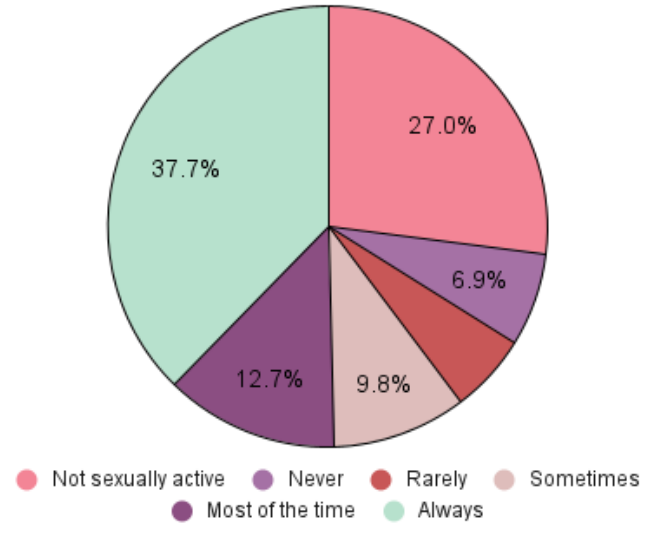
How Often Do You Have Sex?



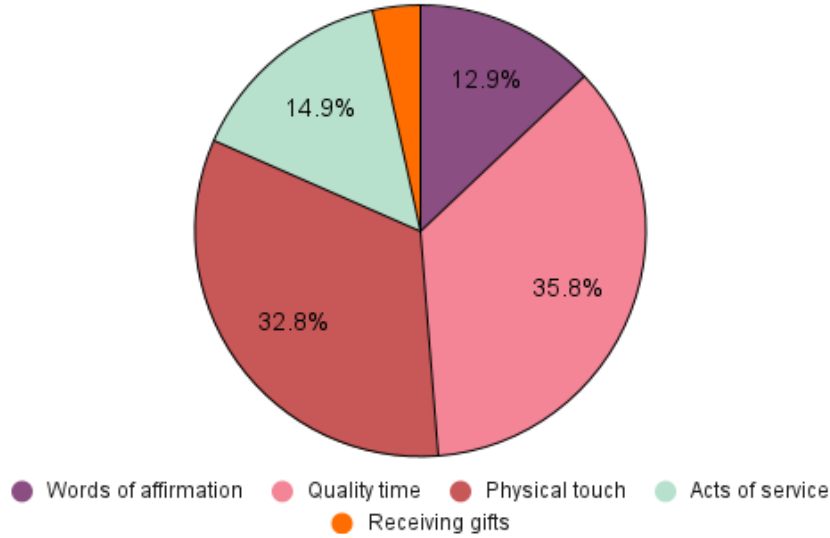
How Many Sexual Partners Have You Had?



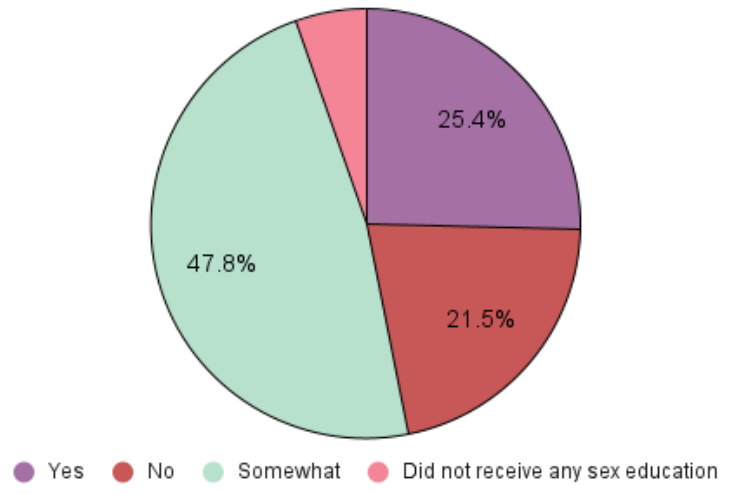
How Often Do You Use Protection?



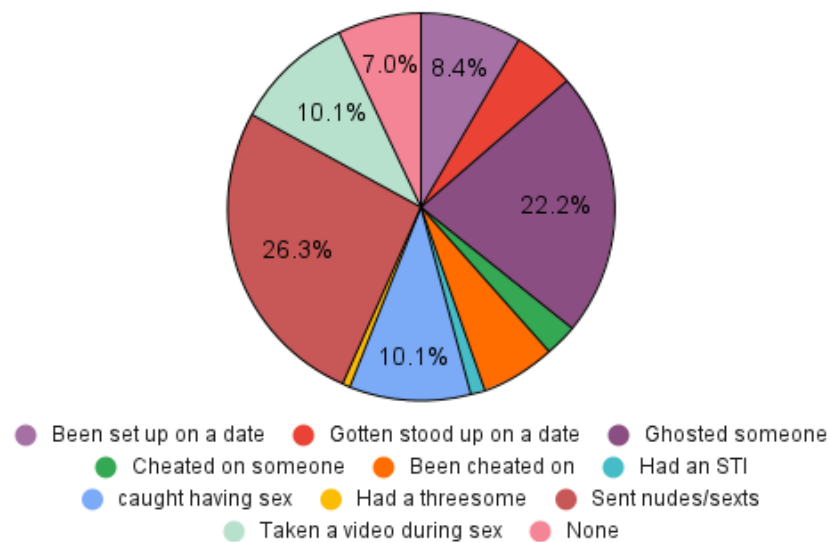
What's Your Love Language



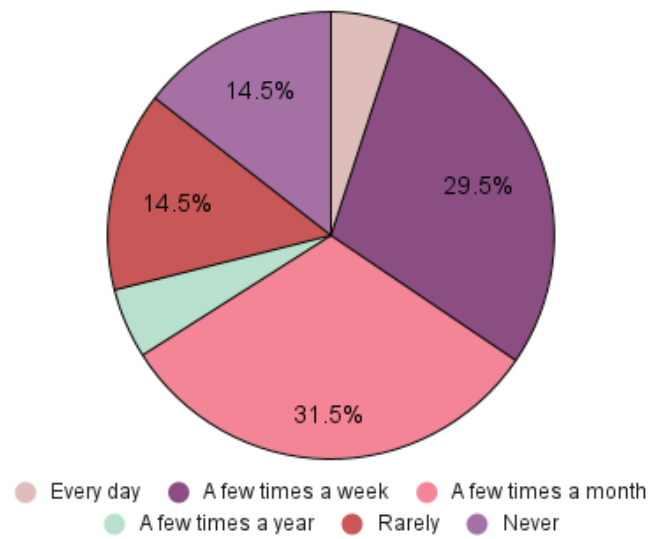
Are you satisfied with the sex ed you received before college?



Have You Ever...



Do you masturbate, and if so, how often?



**“50 First Dates”**  
**(Available to stream on Peacock)**  
 This classic 2004 romantic comedy follows Henry Roth (Adam Sandler). While living in Hawaii, Henry meets Lucy Whitmore (Drew Barrymore) and instantly falls in love. But when he finds out that Lucy has short-term memory loss, he must spend each day trying to woo her all over again.

**“Crazy, Stupid, Love”**  
**(Available to stream on HBO Max)**  
 Cal Weaver (Steve Carrell) had the perfect life until he learned his wife Emily (Julianne Moore) cheated on him. Now single and 40, Cal must navigate the world of dating alone. That is, until self-described player Jacob Palmer (Ryan Gosling) takes Cal under his wing.

In the mood to laugh?

## Valentine’s Day movies for all your moods

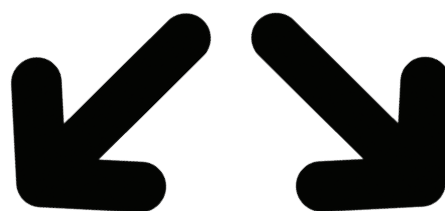
If you’re in the mood for a movie on Valentine’s Day, there are plenty of options to choose from. Whether you want to laugh with your friends, chill with your partner or even cry by yourself, there’s a movie out there to fit every mood this holiday.

Want to cry?

**“Me Before You”**  
**(Available to rent on Amazon Prime)**  
 Overly-cheerful Louisa Clark (Emilia Clarke) floats from one job to another before landing a position as the caregiver of bitter Will Traynor (Sam Claflin), a wealthy banker turned quadriplegic after a tragic motorcycle accident. Will’s cynical heart begins to soften as Louisa shows him that life is worth living.

**“All the Bright Places”**  
**(Available to stream on Netflix)**  
 Based on the bestselling novel by Jennifer Niven, “All The Bright Places” follows two Indiana teens, Theodore Finch (Justice Smith) and Violet Markey (Elle Fanning). Haunted by the scars of their past, the two teens quickly strike up a love affair and have an adventure that neither will forget.

In the mood for sappy romance?



by **Abigail Bonilla**  
 CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
 SHE/HER/HERS  
 abigail.bonilla@uconn.edu

**“A Walk to Remember”**  
**(Available to stream with Amazon Prime subscription)**

When the innocent preacher’s daughter Jamie Sullivan (Mandy Moore) crosses paths with jaded bad boy Landon Carter (Shane West), both of their lives change forever. Set in North Carolina, this romance is sure to warm even the coldest of hearts.

**“Romeo + Juliet”**  
**(Available to stream on HBO Max)**

Baz Luhrmann’s adaptation of the classic Shakespeare novel follows the two star-crossed lovers Romeo (Leonardo DiCaprio) and Juliet (Claire Danes). In the postmodern city of Verona Beach, Romeo and Juliet come from two families of rival gangs. When Juliet’s family throws a costume party, Romeo attends and falls hopelessly in love. Soon however, tragedy befalls the two lovers. If you’re in the mood for a sappy and classic romance tale, “Romeo + Juliet” is the movie for you.



ILLUSTRATION BY KAITLYN TRAN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Being single isn’t **THAT** bad

by **Raymond Ollivierre**  
 LIFE/CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
 HE/HIM/HIS  
 raymond.ollivierre@uconn.edu

For some people, a single life can be hell on Earth. A time condemned to loneliness and a lack of comfort from a partner; truly the stuff of nightmares. But for the chronically single, it has its benefits and there’s a reason why therapists recommend time alone between relationships. Being single can open up a world of possibilities — one where you’re in charge.

The best part about being single is that you have a lot more time for things than you thought was possible. Don’t get me wrong, I love doing the mundane with a signifi-

cant other, like grocery shopping and watching movies, but sometimes you need time for yourself. The ability to do basic things alone makes you less likely to fall into patterns of codependency, which is defined as excessive emotional or psychological reliance on a partner. While there’s definitely time you should be spending with your partner, too much of it together can lead to an unhealthy obsession with each other.

With time firmly grasped in your own hands, you get to decide where and when you want to spend your hours. Hated hanging out with their friends every weekend at the bar? Congratulations, you can binge-watch “Bridgerton”

on the couch in peace. Maybe you were stuck with a control freak that made sure you were home by a certain time every night. Kiss that nonsense goodbye, because you can go wherever you want now.

We all know that person who rushes into relationships because they can’t stand the thought of being alone (or maybe they’re just really horny). You see them end up deep in a passionate bond, time and time again, that fizzles out by the end of the month. It’s a shame because if they took some time to themselves, they could actually reevaluate their life and what they want from a relationship or a casual partner.

Being single gives you the

chance to know yourself properly. You can enjoy time with friends, coworkers and family without the fear of abandoning someone else. During these moments, you’ll probably find yourself closer to your friends than you were while in a relationship, and that’s okay. But sometimes being single flat-out sucks and that’s okay too.

When everyone around you is in a committed relationship, it can feel like you’re stuck as the odd one out. But romance comes and goes, and everyone gets their time in the sun again. It’s important for you to not give up hope. Dating can be complicated and it can take a while to find something truly special. Sometimes dating can burn us so bad we need

time to ourselves, and that’s okay too. In these moments of introspection, we can learn to love ourselves more and take a look at our own flaws.

Look at being single as a vacation for you. During this holiday, you don’t have to worry about anyone but yourself. Let the couples wear matching pajamas and argue over the dishes, while you have a dishwasher and a cool onesie. Fear of getting cheated on? Your pet would never do such a thing. That \$70 dropped on date night is \$70 you can spend on a ticket to Miami. No more awkwardly smiling in photos, secretly hating friends or wondering what they’re thinking. You’re single and living is up the way you’re supposed to be.

ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Valentine’s Day SHOULD BE OPTIONAL

by **Raymond Ollivierre**  
 LIFE/CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
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 email@uconn.edu

Whether you’re single or taken, Valentine’s Day can be a huge pain in the neck for everyone involved. It’s costly, gaudy and pretty overwhelming, especially for a single day. While I’m not the Valentine’s Day Grinch, it’s a rather annoying holiday that doesn’t see much benefit for people outside of relationships. I’ve been single and taken on Valentine’s and my opinion remains the same: I’ve had enough.

Let’s get cynical for a quick second. What’s the main purpose of Valentine’s Day? Your natural response may be “Well, it’s a holiday to celebrate love, romance and intimate moments with partners.” While that’s what Valentine’s

Day is usually marketed as, those are things you should do on other days as well. Valentine’s Day lures us into the belief that we should only go all out for just one day of the year.

Red roses, boxes of chocolates and fancy dinner dates are all in the name of commercialism. But if you chose to do those things the day after Valentine’s, what difference would it make? Chances are unless you have a pretty fickle partner, they would still appreciate it. Romance doesn’t need to be exclusive to Valentine’s when it can be every day if you really wanted it to. Showing affection and support to your partner shouldn’t require a special day on a calendar, it should be something that happens regularly throughout the year.

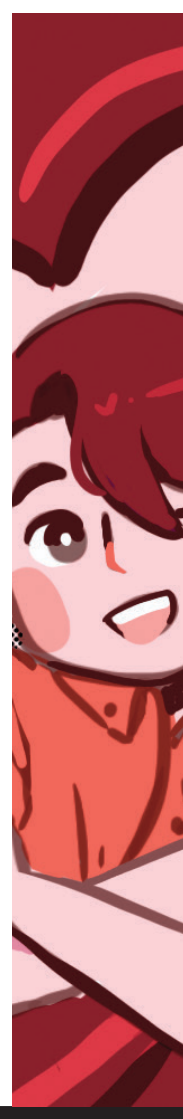
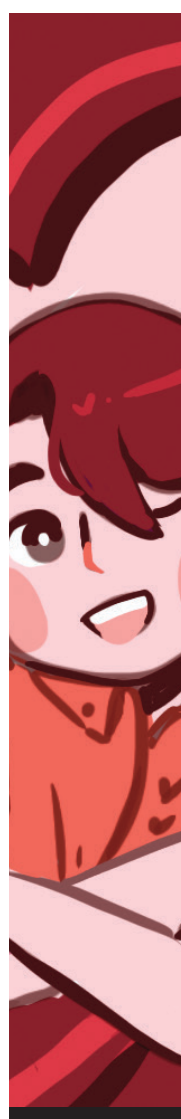
Valentine’s Day capitalizes off of FOMO by hiking up prices

on items that are usually affordable. Maybe you get your partner flowers once a month close to your anniversary date, but because it’s February, everything’s overpriced and out of stock. Those same chocolates you loved to eat on the couch while you watched movies together? Good luck getting a hold of them for a reasonable price. Valentine’s Day is commercially predatory and places immense pressure on partners to do something out of fear of feeling inadequate.

Even if you don’t have a partner and Valentine’s Day means nothing to you, you still feel the effects of it. Valentine’s culture dictates that we all post our significant others on social media to prove to the world that we’re in a relationship. For those who spend Valentine’s Day alone, this can be a pretty miserable experi-

ence when everyone looks like they’re having more fun than you. Even the idea of being opposed to Valentine’s is seen as something “only lonely people do” when really, it’s an argument brought on by both sides.

Valentine’s Day can be stressful, emotional and expensive. There’s an unfair obligation placed on relationships that every Valentine’s occasion needs to be bigger and better than the last — and that can be daunting. For those in and outside of relationships, it can be a struggle to suffer through the non-stop torrent of rom-coms, PDA and booked-out restaurants. While some are hopeless romantics, for the rest of us it’s just another day. It’s time we stop looking at Valentine’s as the be-all and end-all of relationship experiences and start treating it as optional.



# Do you need help imagining your dream Valentine's Day?

by Benjamin Lassy  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
HE/HIM/HIS  
benjamin.Lassy@uconn.edu

Hey there, if you're like me while reading this Valentine's Day issue of the paper, you've probably run into an issue. Perhaps you're on your own or simply in a bit of a rut in your life and are struggling to find joy in the holiday; regardless of the reason, welcome to the club.

The goal of this article is to concoct a dream Valentine's Day: 24 hours that encapsulate as much joy as we can possibly cram in it. So, to help fuel your imagination here's a list of tips to get the mind thinking.

## Step 1. Conjure up a partner.

Of course, it would be ideal if the person you have a crush on — or wish had one on you — would just turn up out of the blue, but if you haven't got a date or significant other, don't fret. Grab your cat if you have one! Otherwise, a rock with a smiley face drawn on should do just fine. Really, the goal is to feel less alone and to feel a connection with something other than yourself — which wouldn't do you any good.

Importantly, you have to feel some connection to your dream Valentine's partner. Admittedly, if you're planning to celebrate with your cat, it's probably hopeless.

## Step 2. Imagine the scenery.

Would you like to be whisked away to a field of roses? Or maybe use the Eiffel Tower as a backdrop to your corny touristy couple selfie? No, of course not. These are way too basic, too predictable. A dream Valentine's Day should be unforgettable, right? Okay, so let's think ... somewhere haunted? No, that's too spooky. How about something highly dangerous?

Here's an idea. Maybe your date surprises you with a Valentine's Day adventure to Mount Fagradalsfjall Volcano in Iceland. While it hasn't erupted since Aug. 2022, stay there for a while and get a sense of the place. If the temperature starts increasing, get a light jog going while holding hands to get out of the blast radius.

Think of the memories you would make — things really would heat up! Okay, that's a little far-fetched, but imagine your dream Valentine's Day destination. Is it the comfort of your room? The amusements of your local Chili's? Either way, I'm sure you'll get there someday, but for now just imagine it the best you can.

## Step 3. Imagine having more confidence than you can imagine. Is that even possible?

This is the hardest step of them all, but of course the last thing we want is an awkward dream Valentine's Day. So when pondering your ideal Valentine's Day, try and imagine your best self. A version of you not held back by anxiety or doubt, a version of you who says immediately what comes to your mind with the utmost confidence. It's the skill of fake confidence.

Imagine the scene of escaping from a volcanic eruption with your partner. With lava chasing you and ash getting stuck in your partner's hair, instead of screaming for your lives and probably crying out of fear, start laughing and say a comical line such as "You're hot!" Can't you just imagine the smiles on your faces?

The bottom line is that whether you're planning a real Valentine's Day or just dreaming, you should really be yourself on a day in which you celebrate your relationship. Don't let your thoughts get the best of you. Value yourself as much as your partner.

Now, these three steps should hopefully help you when you're brainstorming your dream Valentine's Day. Just remember: Imagine a partner, a place and confidence. This mix should suffice to let you dream the day you wish you were having. But who knows, maybe one day your dreams will come true! Just hopefully not the volcano eruption.

by Taevis Kolz  
STAFF WRITER  
taevis.kolz@uconn.edu

Whether you're a Valentine's Day fan or its greatest hater, everyone loves a good love song. This year, to soundtrack your Valentine's Day and beyond, here are ten bonafide, high-quality love songs. Spanning different relationship stages and moods, these songs offer something for everyone who is familiar with the natural, confusing and beautiful human emotion called love.

Kicking off the roster is the disco-infused "Charmed" by DJ Sabrina the Teenage DJ. A dance floor-ready banger, this track describes the feeling of becoming infatuated with someone who may or may not reciprocate such feelings. Whether or not luck is in your favor, there's no denying its infectious grooves or perfectly utilized Gwen Stefani sample.

Perhaps your initial encounter was a success, but you now find yourself in the midst of another mental health-damaging talking stage. Carly Rae Jepsen's "Gimmie Love" has you covered. Slower than "Charmed" while retaining a strong rhythmic backbone, Jepsen's lyrics capture all the uncertainties and mistakes you think about when you're trying to sleep, praying for success in a long-term relationship.

Desire in its purest form is portrayed in the next two songs. The reggae classic, "Is This Love," from Bob Marley & The Wailer is simple in scope but powerful in its message and intention. Meanwhile, Adrienne Lenker's "anything" is a delicate, tender ballad. She softly and sweetly sings, "I don't wanna be the owner of your fantasy / I just

## A Valentine's Day soundtrack perfect for enjoying with your partner or remembering your ex

ILLUSTRATION BY KAITLYN TRAN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



wanna be a part of your family," signaling a love that goes beyond a one-night stand.

Maybe you're conflicted but end up going back to that one person all the same. Maybe you need to remember to love yourself too. Either way, SZA's soulful "Drew Barrymore" should suffice. Her warm vocals combined with the lush strings in the chorus wrap around you like a forcefield that deflects toxicity, but it only works if you let it.

What better title for a love song is there than The Cure's "Lovesong?" Serving as the perfect companion to those dealing with a long-distance relationship, it's straightforward, catchy and passionate. When frontman Robert Smith sings, "However far away / I will always love you," it's a reminder that it's all worth it.

For those looking for a soundtrack that's a little more intimate, start the evening off with "Tonight's the Night" by Janet Jackson and continue with FKA Twigs' "Careless." Both songs offer reassurance and comfort for those vulnerable moments. Finish off the (hopefully) magical night with "Cocoon" by Björk. "Cocoon" is nocturnal, so soft and close that it feels like Björk's whispering directly in your ear. No song has captured the intimacy of lovemaking in such a way.

Closing out this Valentine's Day playlist is none other than "Love Is..." by Common. Produced by the great J Dilla, this song is an all-encompassing portrayal of love as it exists in everyone. Common describes how even if love is buried behind a mask of toughness, it's still there, and that just makes it all the more special.

**Contestant #3:  
Edible Arrangements**

**Chocolate-covered fruits**

I admit, this is a broad category to lump together. Some people love chocolate-covered strawberries, but shiver at the thought of chocolate-covered pineapple on a stick. While this is totally understandable, I think for most individuals, the sweetness of the fruit is only enhanced by the sweetness or bitterness of the chocolate.

However, to avoid the Russian roulette conundrum of chocolate boxes, I suggest straying away from premade, boxed fruits. If you're able, why not start a small fruit garden or make the treat yourself? If you put in the effort to grow or buy the fruit and melt chocolate to dip it in, I'm sure your Valentine will be more than impressed! Plus, it could be a great date idea!

**Rating: 7.3/10**

**Almost too much sugar, but not quite.**

**Contestant #5:  
Candy hearts/  
Conversation hearts/  
Sweethearts**

These are utterly nasty, horrendous candies. Okay, I know that is a bold claim to make. But seriously, does anyone eat these sugary chunks of chalk out of enjoyment? Certainly not me. True, they have cute little phrases, such as "be mine" or "E-mail me" (yes that really is one), but these sweet nothings mean nothing when you have to eat a piece of candy that tastes like gnawing on cobblestone.

I hope you sensible UConn students will back me up in this cause. However, if you're a madman it's possible to find these candies with rather rude comments instead of the usual "I love you," so purchase them at your own risk.

**Rating: 0/10.**

**If your Valentine gifts you these, run.**

**Joanne Biju, ALE**

Over winter break, I discovered the underrated masterpiece that is NBC's "Superstore." The show is a refreshing take on workplace comedy, completely unrelated to the works of Michael Schur — namely "The Office," "Parks and Recreation" and "Brooklyn Nine-Nine."

"Superstore" takes place at a big-box store called Cloud Nine and in the very first episode viewers are introduced to my newest favorite fictional love interest (there are lots), Jonah Simms.

Jonah joins the team of store associates as a business school dropout, thinking of it as a temporary gig to hold him over while he figures out his true calling. But on his very first day he finds himself smitten with floor supervisor, Amy; unbeknownst to Jonah, Amy is married. Known to everyone, however, is Amy's strong disliking for the new kid on the floor.

Amy has a cynical outlook on life at Cloud Nine, pointing out to Jonah that people like her are stuck living paycheck to paycheck, while those like him waltz in, picking up the job for fun. Over the course of the show, Jonah proves to Amy that he's more than just a pretty face, changing her outlook on the store and her future.

There are many things to love about Jonah; he's there for Amy through thick and thin, helping her navigate her relationship with her husband, parent her teenage daughter and grow in her career. At the end of the first episode, he covers the ceiling of Cloud Nine with glow-in-the-dark stars, creating a moment of beauty in the seemingly mundane. These gestures aren't just directed at Amy, he finds a way to be there for all his coworkers.

Jonah is also incredibly passionate about real-world issues. On several occasions, Jonah spearheaded movements to start a union and every Halloween episode he dresses up as a hot-button issue; Gerryman-dering, Brexit and the disappearing bee crisis, to name a few. Jonah constantly sends coworkers articles from NPR and gently corrects the problematic views of his boss Glenn, but he's also self-aware — a quality I am appreciative of.

Jonah and Amy are an adorable couple — though they have their ups and downs — but as a love interest, he simply takes the cake. I'm saying it now, loud and clear, Jonah Simms is the next Jim Halpert.

WHY DO MOST VALENTINE'S DAY CANDIES SUCK?

by Benjamin Lassy  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
HE/HIM/HIS  
benjamin.lassy@uconn.edu

I don't know about you, but I would rather make a stockpile of Halloween candy to use for Valentine's Day than have the rubbish that's out in stores now. But maybe that's a bit of a harsh observation; let's look at some of the most popular kinds and crown the best one!

Before we begin, this is obviously objective, totally factual and not my opinion in the slightest. Jokes aside, do not take these reviews as recommendations or warnings. Rather, try each candy for yourself to make up your own mind! Let's get into it.

**Contestant #1: Chocolate boxes**

A classic, unmistakable icon of Valentine's Day: the heart shaped box of chocolates. Honestly, these are very lovely. The packaging makes it feel like opening a gift, and the chocolates can be delicious and unique, as seen in this review of some of the best options out there.

However, the greatest plus of these boxes is also their major flaw: unpredictability.

Reach into the box and you may get the best, most delectable chocolate delight of your life — or you'll end up with some nonsense, jam-filled white chocolate. It's a chocolatey Russian roulette.

So you have the box, with some clearly unpleasant looking chocolates in there, and now what do you do with it? You'll feel guilty throwing them out, but boy, they sure aren't going anywhere near your digestive system. If you were the owner of Russell Stover Chocolates — one of the main distributors of chocolate boxes — you'd resell it. That's right, "Ash" on Amazon reviewed a 2-ounce Russel Stover chocolate box, only to find it was all white chocolate instead of a mix. Oh wait, I'm mistaken. The white was just because the chocolates were "bloomed" with mold and several months past their expiration date. Yikes.

**Rating: 5/10**

**You never know what you're going to get.**



ILLUSTRATION BY KAITLYN TRAN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

**Contestant #2: Hershey's Kisses**

Who doesn't love a bite-sized milk chocolate treat? You? Well, go read another article. Just kidding of course, please stay. But did you know Hershey's also has dark chocolate Kisses too? These individually wrapped, iconic chocolates are certainly a nice Valentine's candy to give or receive — or to just buy for yourself so you can eat the whole bag.

While Kisses are tasty and fun to open, they aren't free from criticism; especially the absolutely terrifying carrot cake Hershey's Kisses introduced in 2016. Thank goodness those are far from shelves until April.

**Rating: 7/10**

**Predictably delightful.**

**Contestant #4:  
Valentine's Day goodie bag speed round**

Do you remember in early childhood when kids declared their love of sugar by giving little gift bags of chocolates to one another? Usually sold in big boxes to make parents' lives easier, let's breeze through the common inclusions of this Valentine's Day loot box.

**Kit Kats:** A solid, very fun candy. Snapping them is easily their defining characteristic — something that doesn't get old even after splurging on several bags of them.

**Rating: 6/10**

**Heart-shaped lollipops:**

Have you ever actually finished one of these? They're great, but get everything sticky and are often not very tasty.

**Rating: 4/10**

**Smarties:** Perhaps the most divisive on this list so far. Ask your Valentine if they like these before you think of gifting them; unless you don't want a Valentine next year. They aren't especially interesting.

**Rating: 4.5/10**

**Chocolate-covered pretzels:** These are delicious. Whether you get them covered in strawberry, milk or white chocolate, the little pretzels are easy to eat and share. If you disagree because you "don't like pretzels," then go try these. They will no doubt change your life.

**Rating: 9/10**

**Average goodie bag rating: 5.87/10.**

**Decent, but they only exist to line corporate pockets and give parents a break.**

And with that rather low point of an ending, the Valentine's Day candy review comes to an end. So many candies from this holiday are pretty lame, but be sure to stick with Hershey's Kisses or chocolate-covered fruit/pretzels if you're out shopping! Have a lovely Valentine's Day!

ROUNDTABLE:

WHO ARE YOUR FAVORITE FICTIONAL LOVE INTERESTS?



ILLUSTRATION BY ZAIRE DIAZ, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

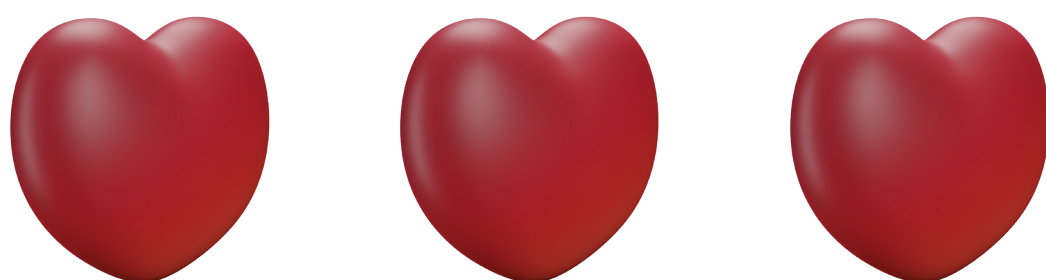
**Books, film and television are mediums that offer a realm of captivating fiction. As themes of romance tend to thrive in writing, we can't help but immerse ourselves in the minds of beloved characters experiencing their own romantic arcs. And what better day than today to discuss which lovers we love?**

**Karla Perez, CC**

My favorite fictional love interests would have to be "Criminal Minds"' own Spencer Reid and Maeve Donovan. While the end of their love story was tragic, every other part of their romance was sweet and innocent.

Spencer did everything in his power to conceal Maeve's identity to protect her from her stalker. He didn't even dare tell Jennifer Jareau, his best friend in the show, about her. Despite his ever-changing schedule and demanding job, Spencer still managed to figure out a specific call schedule with Maeve so that they could speak to each other without fear of the stalker listening in. He had never seen Maeve's face before until the moment of her death. But despite the unknown, he loved her for her character, not her physique.

The two of them knew that until Maeve's safety from the stalker was guaranteed, they could not truly be together; although, the couple's shared words and massive efforts to spend time together revealed that they loved each other deeply. The dedication this couple put into protecting each other without asking for too much is what makes Spencer and Maeve my favorite love interests in TV.



**Esther Ju, LE**

When I stumbled upon Hulu's TV adaptation of "Normal People" during the peak of quarantine, I was not prepared to embark on a years-long obsession with Connell and Marianne. Yet, here we are.

Not only are both characters incredibly flawed, at times their bad decisions create the urge to throw something at the screen. But in the midst of mistakes and misunderstandings, their relationship ebbs and flows throughout young adulthood, and they manage to stay connected as they grow up. It's simultaneously frustrating and beautiful to watch.

I'd argue that "Normal People" is an example of one of TV's most realistic depictions of modern relationships. While Connell and Marianne have difficulties with communication, they offer unconditional support in dealing with each other's struggles, like Connell's mental health and Marianne's abusive family.

Watching the series prior to reading the book was admittedly a critical mistake. However, the book is equally deserving of praise. There's more to Sally Rooney's work than contemporary romance, with little bits of Marxism and subtle commentaries on social class wedged in between. At one point, their difference in status is what causes Connell and Marianne to fall out — something that is translated much better in the book than in the series.

Evidently, "Normal People" is far from a feel-good romance. In fact, you'll probably cry a lot while reading or watching it (like I did in both scenarios). It might also enable you to engage in an emotionally-draining parasocial relationship with its fictional protagonists. Oddly enough, sharing their pain makes it worth being attached.



## WHAT IS TOO MUCH?

by **Xander Serrano**  
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Valentine's Day. A beautiful day to be alive. If you're in a relationship, it's a special, romantic day to share with your significant other and express your love for one another. If you're single, it's a day to reminisce on your past failed relationships, desperately long for companionship, cuddle up with a pint of Ben & Jerry's and binge-watch your favorite Netflix series. But honestly, you're going to be okay!

If you're single and walk outside once in a while, you'll see that we're surrounded by love. It's everywhere, especially at UConn. You see couples of different ages and genders holding hands, giggling, jumping up and down, loving life!

You turn the corner in the library and see a couple cuddling up on those 20-year-old blue couches, making out or watching a movie on one of their phones with their feet kicked up, thinking we walked into their bedroom. And then it's immediately on you for disturbing their peace. To those couples: do us all a favor and just go home.

For the sake of onlookers, let's go through some of the moves of PDA (cuddle edition) that are okay.

The sitting upright with your partner putting their head on your shoulder just to close their eyes for a few seconds. This move is a 10/10 — very classy and loving.

Coming in at number two, the arm over the shoulder while sitting upright move. This is a 9/10. Usually, it doesn't last for more than a few minutes before one of you begins to feel uncomfortable.

The most typical public display of affection is sharing a kiss with your special someone — or a gentleman named Chip you just met five minutes ago. In college, there tends to be a lot of this. If you walk into a college bar and do a complete 360 of the area, I promise you will find at least two people in the corner making out while “Mr. Brightside” plays in the background. This is just expected when you put 100 hormonal young adults in one place at the same time. Essentially, there's nothing you can do. It also becomes too much when this act of passion is done right in front

of the bar where people are trying to order drinks — then it becomes questionable.

PDA is used in spiteful ways as well. During adolescence, one of the most exciting things about going to school was the possibility of a romantic relationship. However, parents may become worried when their child's relationship ends.

Getting out of a relationship as an adolescent is difficult because of the high chance you and the other person attend the same school or have the same friends. Seeing an ex regularly makes the process of moving on very difficult. Some may even go the route of easing the pain by engaging in attention-seeking PDA to hurt their former partner. And that can be incredibly painful.

Nonetheless, displaying your love in a respectful manner in public can be a beautiful thing. Just don't overdo it for the sake of people around you. Give a hug. Kiss someone on the cheek. Hold hands. Keep your partner on the inside of the road so they don't get hit by a car. But most of all, be kind.

Happy Valentine's Day everyone. Much love.

## A MASTER GUIDE FOR SAFE SEX ON CAMPUS

by **Naiya Patel**  
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Valentine's Day is a day for love and showing people you care about them. The best way to care for someone you love is to be safe and know where to go in case of an emergency. As a UConn student, there are an abundance of resources from Student Health and Wellness (SHaW) and throughout campus for you to practice safe sex this Valentine's Day.

If you're searching for an immediate supply of condoms, the Rainbow Center and the SHaW Office in the Hilda May Williams building often have free condoms and other safer sex supplies to give out to students.

If you want to prepare and get a long term stash, SHaW runs the gloveBOX program, which is free for all UConn students. GloveBOX is a safer sex supply delivery service. Students can fill out an order form and wait three to four days before a premade box will arrive at their residence hall for discreet pickup! Students can order condoms, lubrication and dental dams in a variety of combinations in six different boxes, up to three times a semester. Ordering up to three times is close to 60 free condoms and other safer sex supplies.

Even if you don't live on campus, you still have access to gloveBOX. All students have the option to select an in-person box during one of the in-office pickup times. Don't let embarrassment or fear stop you from taking advantage of safe sex supplies. SHaW provides a judgment-free

zone to take any necessary supplies for safe sex on or off campus.

“Sex education is different from state to state and school to school, so we all come into college with different levels and comfort around sexual health,” said Emma Stierle, an eighth-semester women's, gender and sexuality studies major, UConn Sexpert and gloveBOX coordinator. “I think many students may not know about the services SHaW offers for them to feel empowered by inclusive, judgment-free sexual health education programs, resources and care.”

Beyond supplies, SHaW has human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines and clinics, STI testing, emergency contraception and a sexual assault response team (SART).

STI testing can be done for chlamydia, gonorrhea, herpes, genital warts, syphilis and HIV. Although testing can be performed on campus, it is not done for free. Students can consult their own insurance companies for payment information.

Emergency contraception — such as Plan B — is available over the counter at SHaW in the Hilda May Williams Building's pharmacy and is free for all UConn students. Their partnership with Undergraduate Student Government allows students to get free access, but if removed would cost \$15 per student. Students of any age or gender (with a valid UConn ID) can get Plan B without a prescription.

If you are searching for other forms of birth control, students can reach out to discuss options with a healthcare provider in the Hilda May Williams Building.

If you'd rather talk anonymously, the Sexperts program may be for you.

“We [Sexperts] provide free educational programming by request for any organizations on campus,” Stierle said. “We have ‘Ask The Sexperts’ which is an anonymous platform where students can submit any sexual health question they have and we will shortly provide an answer posted onto our website.”

Navigating SHaW online is a great resource for more information.

“On the main gloveBOX page, there's a free guide called the ‘Ultimate Guide to Safer Sex,’ which provides information about various safer sex supplies and what resources are available across UConn's campus related to sexual health,” Cassy Setzler said, a health educator in charge of gloveBOX and the UConn Sexperts peer education program.

“I definitely recommend starting by heading to our website, and clicking ‘Sexual & Reproductive Health’ from the ‘Our Services’ drop-down,” added Setzler. “There, you'll find a comprehensive list of many of our sexual-health related services.”

Visit the second annual Sexual Health Fair on April 17 from 1-5 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom with SHaW to talk to a variety of organizations in person.

# Gifts on Valentine's Day: If anything, the left side of

# don't leave the card blank

by **Janella Briones**  
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There is nothing wrong with a classic Valentine's Day assortment of a heart-shaped box of chocolates, a bouquet of roses and maybe a stuffed animal with some cheesy declaration of love embroidered on it. We, as a society, have come to associate Feb. 14 with such gifts and other red and pink-wrapped displays of affection as much as we do with romance (thank you capitalism). While I get excited for holiday-themed candy as much as the next person, I've always acknowledged extra thoughtfulness put into a present, which in turn made them my most treasured and memorable ones.

First and foremost, if you're going to include a card, make it yourself. There is nothing that kills a great present more than opening a store-bought card that is mostly blank aside from the date, the greeting and a measly "from, your name" signed at the end. If you're gonna go that route, the left side of the card is likely completely empty, leaving more than enough space to write a thoughtful message. Besides, if you're paying at least five dollars for a piece of cardstock, make it worth it.

On the topic of making things yourself, you're not limited to

cards — a drawing, a poem, a song, a love letter, make them a crossword puzzle if they're into that. You like painting? Make your Valentine a portrait of their beloved childhood pet. Does your mom love coffee and you take pottery classes on the weekend? Spin together a mug that she will cherish with every caffeinated sip.

Personally, I'm a fan of curating my space with decorations that have meaning, so whenever I receive an illustration or some other hand-made gift from a friend, I'll display it somewhere or proudly use it all the time just to say, "Yeah, my really cool friend made this."

Let's move on to flowers (avoid if your Valentine is allergic). If your Valentine's favorite flowers happen to be roses, it's likely you won't have trouble finding them at most large stores. If not, curating a bouquet is a spin-off to the classic floral bundle. Get them their favorite flowers — maybe ones that are their favorite colors — or make an arrangement out of the flowers of their birth month; you could even pick them yourself and make a wildflower bouquet. Then, put them in a vase and trim the leaves and stems, unless you know the individual you are gifting it to would prefer to do this themselves. Large mason jars work perfectly if you have them



ILLUSTRATION BY STEVEN COLEMAN, ASSOCIATE ARTIST EDITOR/ THE DAILY CAMPUS

laying around, and if not, finding a unique vase at a thrift store that doubles as a present is thoughtful and more sustainable.

Experiences and activities also make for memorable gifts. A quintessential Valentine's Day dinner is something that I quite enjoy and look forward to; in my case, I don't dress up very often during the school year, and Valentine's Day dinner gives me the opportunity to wear a fancy dress and have a

more formal dinner compared to most evenings. That in itself is an experience I enjoy: going out to eat a delicious meal with someone I cherish, knowing that there are plenty of others who enjoy the same. Making a home-cooked dinner is just as romantic and enjoyable — add flowers and candles and you are just about on-par with every formal restaurant that evening.

The activity doesn't need to be on Valentine's Day either, and it also doesn't have to be dinner-related. Planning something for the future is something that you and your significant other can look forward to and can be significantly less stressful, especially if both parties have busy schedules during the week. Make plans to see a favorite artist or band, take a cooking class together, go stargazing, prepare a weekend picnic in a place with beautiful scenery; there are many options to choose from, enough to find something that you and your Valentine can both enjoy together.

And if actively going somewhere is not the most viable option, a physical gift can double as an experience as well. LEGO has recently come out with sets designed with "grown-ups" in mind which could be a fun long-term — or short-term, presuming you have impeccable LEGO skills and dedication — project with your partner that also acts as a memorable keepsake.

Seeing as there are set options to build succulents, an orchid and wildflowers, this selection can also double as Valentine's flowers that will last much longer, though it does come with a heftier price-tag than that of a living bouquet.

Other options include puzzles (pick one you can frame after!), paint-by-number sets or even card games; a popular one for Valentine's Day is the "We're Not Really Strangers" card set that claims to deepen relationships through a series of questions.

At the end of the day, gifts are not indicative of how much you love or care for someone, and Valentine's Day isn't the only day that we show each other that we care (at least I would assume). Regardless, it's still a day that highlights the important people in our lives and serves as a reminder to show our appreciation for them.

If you decide to partake in Feb. 14 festivities and get someone a gift, no matter how grand or simple the gesture may be, so long as it comes from a place of gratitude and the other person in mind, it is sure to be appreciated. So if you do buy a box of chocolates, get their favorite — not yours — and if you buy a card from Hallmark, don't leave the left side completely blank — write something thoughtful.

For more of the story visit [DAILYCAMPUS.COM](https://www.dailycampus.com)

## Galentine's Day: The cuter, sweeter and overall better version of Valentine's Day



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Karla Perez**  
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Valentine's Day isn't for everyone. You're either someone who loves everything about the holiday, or you're someone who despises it. Regardless if you're single or taken, Galentine's Day is a great alternative for all girls to celebrate. Gather your closest girlfriends around and see what inspiration you get for how to spend your Galentine's Day this year.

Charcuterie boards of all sorts of variations have blown up on social media over the past year. The possibilities for boards are endless. You can either assign people in your party the type of board to create or you all can surprise each other.

The options range from a classic charcuterie board to a cookie board to a sushi board to a Chick-fil-A board and more! Forget a fancy dinner. Get all cute and comfy and feast on your boards while watching your friend group's favorite movie or TV show. That sounds like the perfect "date night" to me!

If this idea doesn't sound extravagant enough, you and your friends could go in the totally opposite direction. Make dinner reservations at a fancy restaurant to treat yourselves; have it be a grand event!

Gather the group to your house, apartment or even your dorm to get ready in your best makeup and hair. Top off your looks with coordinating Valentine's Day-inspired outfits. Load up into one of your cars and blast the aux with music that exudes girl-boss energy. If you're Ubering, hype up your driver — make a new friend! After your meal, close the night with heart-shaped desserts and/or a cozy sleepover.

What if you want a fancy dinner on a budget? No problem, you can bring your girls together to cook as a group! Make heart-shaped pizzas and bake heart-shaped cakes. While they're cooking in the oven, you all can still get dressed up in Valentine's Day attire and full-on hair and makeup. Make a date for yourselves from the comfort of your home.

Pizzas and cakes sound more plausible to do in a house or apartment. For the girls who are

in dorms, there is unfortunately no easy access to kitchens to make this happen. In that case, you can DoorDash or Instacart something microwavable.

You could also order heart-shaped chicken nuggets from Walmart to your dorm. If you want something a little homier, you could order the heart-shaped chicken nugget tray from Chick-fil-A. For desserts, you could get one of the Valentine's Day menu items from Insomnia Cookies in Downtown Storrs. They have desserts like Heart Cookie Cakes, the U + Me Pack, the Chocolate Lover's 4+4 Pack and more.

This final suggestion is inspired by the UConn Dance Company and what we plan to do for our Galentine's Day: Secret Cupid. For this, every member of the company is assigned two other company members to make a Valentine for, and we'll all hand them out during our Galentine's Day. It doesn't have to be an expensive or impressive gift. It could be a simple note just expressing how much you appreciate your friend. Your only job on either Galentine's or Valentine's Day is to make someone feel special and loved.

## Best date ideas for UConn Storrs students

by **Sam Zelin**  
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Whether you're looking for date ideas or just bored and looking to keep busy, finding things to do in and around Storrs can be hard sometimes. However, it's certainly not impossible. Here are some close-by ideas for the next date night (or afternoon) you have.

### Mansfield Drive-in

Located a few miles off-campus, the Mansfield Drive-in is a great place to go on a date. Choose between a few selections of double features, pull your car up to the right big screen and relax. Tickets are \$13 each, and the snack bar serves popcorn and other movie goodies.

If you're looking for something on-campus, UConn's Department of Student Activities hosted a drive-in movie last fall as well. While The Daily Campus was told that this likely will not be recurring this year, keep your eye on the calendar to see if it returns next year.

The drive-in is also home to the Mansfield Marketplace, which is open on Sundays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Entry is \$2 per car, which grants access to a flea market with more than 300 vendors.

While both the drive-in and

the flea market are currently closed due to cold weather, both plan to be open by the beginning of April, and they stay open through the summer and most of fall.

### Exploring nature

There are plenty of spots on campus to walk around or just be outside. Two of the classic options are walking up Horsebarn Hill and sitting by Mirror or Swan Lake. Both are great for some fresh air and peace, and you can even picnic if you want.

Off-campus, a great place to explore nature nearby is Mansfield Hollow State Park. It's a 15-minute drive straight down Storrs Road, but it's definitely worth it. There are open fields, multiple hiking trails, boating, fishing and more.

### Eating out

If the other ideas aren't your speed, there's always the classic date idea of going out to dinner. Storrs Center has a plethora of places to eat, but if you're looking for more of a sit-down experience, you usually have to go a bit off-campus. One option is Fenton River Grill, located about 15 minutes from campus, directly down Storrs Road.

For more of the story visit [DAILYCAMPUS.COM](https://www.dailycampus.com)

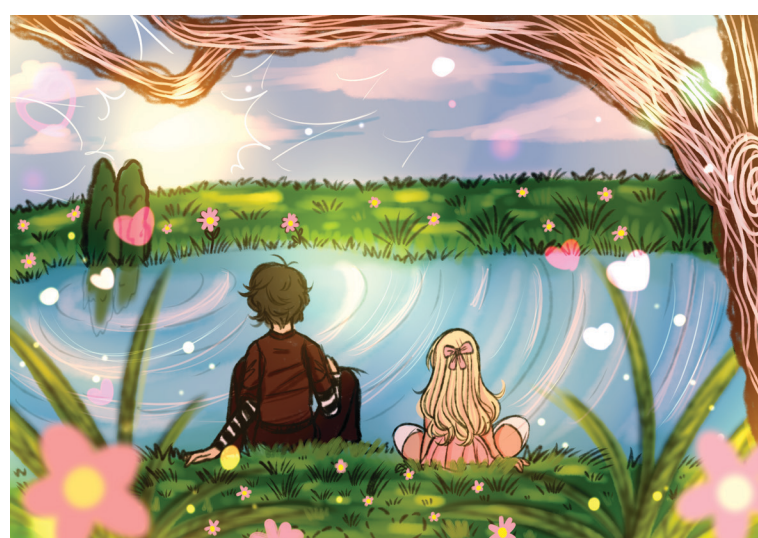


ILLUSTRATION BY ZAIRE DIAZ, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# Life

@dailycampuslife



BANNER BY KAITLYN TRAN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



ILLUSTRATION BY KAITLYN TRAN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## AN INTRODUCTION TO THE VALENTINE'S DAY ISSUE

For the seventh consecutive year, The Daily Campus Life section has taken it upon ourselves to chronicle the spirit of everyone's second-favorite holiday (next to National Lasagna Day). Valentine's Day — in all its Cupid-worshipping, card-making, chalk-flavored heart-eating ethos — has certainly gotten a bad rap for revering the most basic and widely accepted declarations of romance. Obviously, not all love is the same. It's diverse in the people who experience it, the types of relationships it nurtures and the eventual outcomes of pursuing it.

Because of the latter, some may despise its sop-piness. Broken hearts, unrequited feelings and a gag reflex triggered by PDA are valid excuses to sit out on festivities (speaking of gag reflexes, thank you to everyone who took our love and sex survey).

Yet, we're given all year to mope about love's worst moments. Today is an opportunity to celebrate it.

In this issue, you'll find content scoping students' plans for the holiday, date ideas around campus and resources for safe sex, among much more. Perhaps you'll get advice and gain some new insight, or maybe you're just creepily curious about the survey results. At any rate, it's all out now for your fresh eyes to read.

Happy Valentine's Day!

XOXO

ESTHER JU, LIFE EDITOR  
JOANNE BIJU, ASSOCIATE LIFE EDITOR

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## Valentine Vibes at UConn: How students are sharing the love

by **Alicia Gomez**  
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Love is in the air at UConn. The campus is buzzing with excitement as students gear up to celebrate in unique ways. From creative photoshoots to romantic dinner dates and simple, yet meaningful gestures, students are making the most of this special day. Whether with a significant other, close friends or family, the focus is spreading love and showing appreciation.

One student, Alexa McCall Manh Udell, a sixth-semester psychological sciences major, is planning to do a photoshoot with her friends.

**"I love to dress up and customize my appearance, and for me — being a trans woman — it's a way for me to express and experience gender euphoria."**

ALEXA MCCALL MANH UDELL

"I always loved doing photoshoots because it's a way to feel confident in myself and to express myself," Udell said. "I love to dress up and customize my appearance, and for me — being a trans woman — it's a way for me to express and experience gender euphoria."

Udell set up props in her apartment to do the photoshoot.

"One thing I've been wanting to break into more is doing photoshoots with props and 'sets,' so for this pho-



ILLUSTRATION BY ZAIRE DIAZ, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

otoshoot, I bought some Valentine's Day-themed props and stuff to make a set in my apartment," Udell said. "I am so, so excited to get home and take the photos today."

Many students are also planning dinner dates. This year, some students are opting to step away from campus and try something new by visiting restaurants outside of Storrs.

One couple, Lauren Nacle-rio, a sixth-semester nursing student, and Brandon Ello, an eighth-semester mechanical engineering student, is planning to go to dinner at Vinted Wine Bar in West Hartford.

"For Valentine's Day, I'm planning on spending time with my girlfriend and taking her out to somewhere nice outside campus to eat for dinner," Juan Marin, an eighth-semester mechanical engineering student, said. "Some place that has a date-y vibe and with food that I know we both enjoy."

With Valentine's Day falling on a Tuesday this year, many students have to bal-

ance their celebrations with other responsibilities, such as classes and work. As a result, students must navigate celebrating the occasion while keeping up with their daily routines.

For many, this means finding creative solutions to make their celebrations more low-key or scheduling their festivities for a time that better fits their schedules.

"My partner and I don't have matching schedules tomorrow, but we're still going to probably spend an hour together to exchange gifts and all that," Kathleen Jiang, a 10th-semester English major, said.

By keeping their celebrations simple or postponing their festivities until the weekend, they can focus on what's most important: spending time with the people they love.

"My significant other and I are actually both pretty busy on Valentine's Day," Ryan Westervelt, a sixth-semester biomedical engineering student, said. "We already did

a sort of smaller Valentine's celebration over the weekend, but I think we're planning on making chocolate-covered strawberries too."

There are mixed feelings about gifts on Valentine's Day among students, with some wanting to focus on spending quality time with their loved ones instead.

"I really value quality time and care, so I try not to give stuff but instead make sure that I reach out to my friends and spend what time I can with them," Udell said.

Other students plan to exchange gifts.

**"We're planning on exchanging handwritten cards and some other small things. Candy, food, that sort of stuff."**

RYAN WESTERVELT

"We're planning on exchanging handwritten cards and some other small things," Westervelt said of him and his significant other. "Candy, food, that sort of stuff."

Some students are giving more traditional gifts to their significant others.

"I'm planning on giving her a flower bouquet, a box of chocolates and a stuffed animal," Marin said.

Valentine's Day at UConn is a time for love and creativity. Whether students are doing photoshoots, dinner dates or low-key gift exchanges, they're spreading joy and happiness on campus — with a mix of thoughtful gestures, unique plans and busy schedules. UConn students show that love knows no bounds. Happy Valentine's Day, UConn!