



Study conducted on which states have the most college students

by Sara Bedigian
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SHE/HER/HERS
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Some students continue their education and complete their secondary education at colleges and universities across the United States. A study conducted by TypeCite revealed how many total students were enrolled in higher education in 2021 and 2022 and calculated the total percent of the student population in each state.

The study explained that there were less students enrolled in college in 2022 compared to 2021. According to the study, there were 19,465,959 students enrolled in higher education institutions in the US in 2022 a 23% decrease from the 25,349,502 students enrolled in 2021.

“The states with the highest numbers of students enrolled in 2022 were California with 2,637,722 students, Texas with 1,681,910 students and New York with 1,197,003 students,” the study said.

The study reported that 7% of the California population are college students, which was close to the average of 6% for all states. The data concluded that the biggest student city by far is Los Angeles, home to the University of Southern California and the University of California Los Angeles, among other schools.

The study explained that Texas has the second largest college student population in the country, the biggest university being Texas A&M with 70,148 students.

New York has the third largest college student population and America’s largest private university, New York University which has 52,775 students, according to the study.

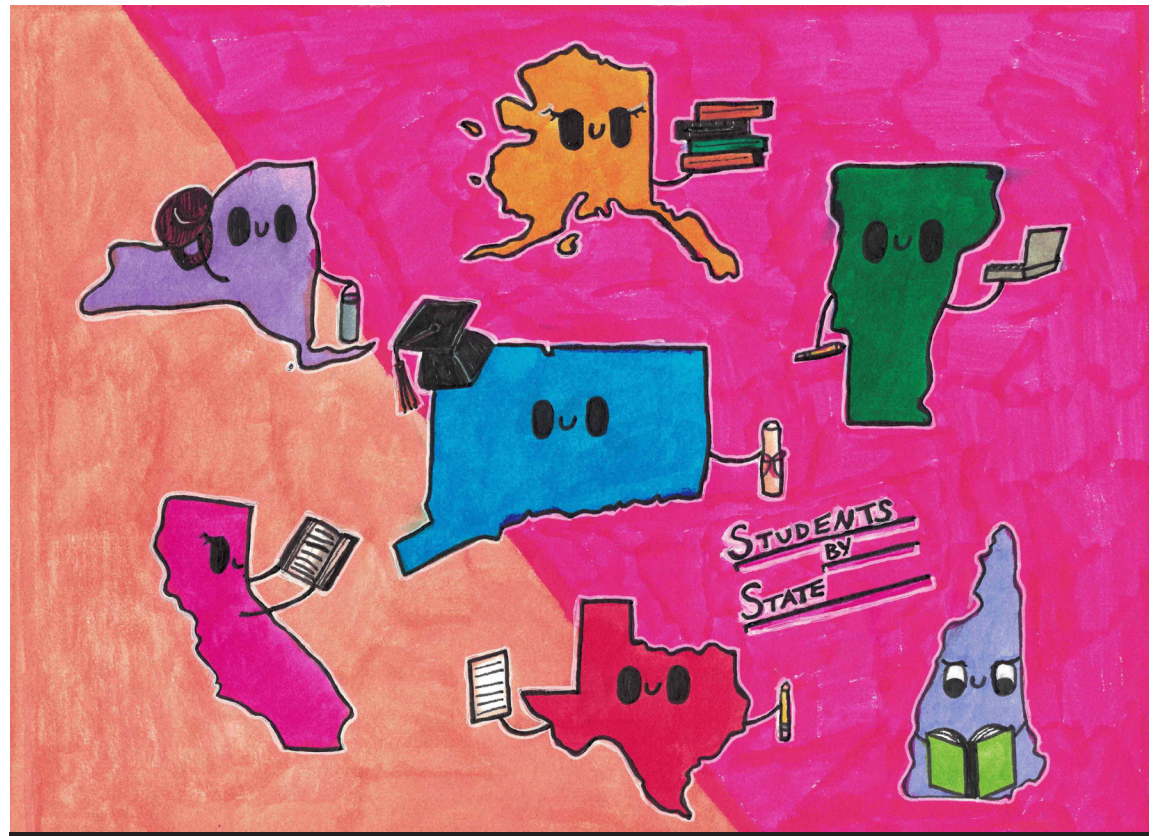
The states with the lowest number of students enrolled were Alaska, Wyoming and Vermont.

“Alaska has 22,106 students, Wyoming has 30,943 students and Vermont has 40,202 students,” the study reported.

The data explained that 3% of the Alaskan population is college students, which was the lowest compared to the other states. The study also found that Alaska saw a 38% drop in student enrollment from 2021 to 2022, the largest decline in the nation.

According to the report, the states and districts with the most students as a percentage of their total population were the District of Columbia with 15%, New Hampshire with 14% and Utah with 12%.

Data from Connecticut revealed that the state generally has fewer students as a percent of population than other New England states. The data reported that there were 193,184



According to recent studies, states like California and Texas have shown to have some of the highest percentage of college students, Bedigian reports.
ILLUSTRATION BY KRISTA MITCHELL, ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

students in Connecticut in 2022, a 24% decrease from the 254,190 students in 2021.

The data showed that 5% of the Connecticut population is college students, out of the 3,605,597 total state population.

When comparing Connecticut to other New England states,

the study reported that 7% of the Massachusetts and Rhode Island populations are college students, 14% of the New Hampshire population is college students, 6% of the Vermont population is college students, and 5% of the Maine population is college students.

The study gathered data from the United States Census, the Integrated Post-secondary Education Data System (IPEDS), the US Department of Education and Univstats, a college statistics website to generate their report.

Russia’s war in Ukraine threatens students daily and forces teachers to improvise

(AP) — Svitlana Popova’s students didn’t realize she was leading their online math class while outside the charred remains of her home in Ukraine until they saw a news video about it on social media.

Her students were in their own difficult circumstances, too – seeking refuge away from their homes, some in other countries.

Popova is a mathematics teacher in the town of Borydanka, in the Kyiv region of Ukraine. Her school was seized as a headquarters by Russian military forces and heavily damaged before their retreat. After her classroom transitioned to online instruction, Russian tanks fired on her house and burned it down. Yet this dedicated teacher continued to lead virtual lessons from a small umbrella-covered table in the yard.

Ordinary Ukrainians have been hailed for their heroism since Russia’s full-scale invasion. “There are no small matters in a great war,” Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy affirmed in an emotional New Year’s address. “Each of us is a fighter,” Zelenskyy stated. “Each of us is the basis of defense.”

Listing the tools of war – ship’s helms, steering wheels, weapons, scalpels – Zelenskyy ended with an unexpected inclusion: the teacher’s pointer. This passing remark highlights an often hidden front in Ukraine’s defensive struggle – the fight by countless teachers and parents to keep more than

8 million children educated, even as their worlds have been thrown into upheaval.

Educational efforts

Like Ukraine’s stunning resistance itself, local educators are rising to the occasion despite enormous challenges. Viral videos show teachers continuing to instruct their small pupils in bomb shelters during active bombardments, or conducting lessons inside a post office after schools lose electricity. Gas stations and grocery stores, powered by generators long after homes and schools lose power, are being transformed into hubs for filming virtual lessons.

One Kyiv teacher spent hours crouching on a snowy sidewalk outside a store, determined to finish sharing the day’s homework assignment despite rolling blackouts. Other teachers now bring their pets for online lessons, lifting spirits and providing psychological support. Many teachers, like Popova, comfort their students despite their own traumatic losses.

Long-term displacement

As an anthropologist working in Ukraine since 2015, I have long observed the effects of armed conflict on Ukrainian children. After Russia first invaded in 2014, regular bomb threats to schools have been attributed by Ukrainians to Russian governmental efforts to sow fear.

Between that first invasion and the second in February 2022, armed conflict with Russia internally displaced 1.5 mil-

lion Ukrainians and damaged 740 schools. I have analyzed the impact of this warfare on children for trauma healing since Russia’s invasion began nine years ago. Still, these earlier challenges pale in comparison with what the Ukrainian educational system faces today.

Russia’s nationwide offensive against Ukraine in early 2022 led to the largest refugee flows in Europe since World War II. In the weeks following the invasion, nearly 16 million Ukrainians were driven from their homes to seek refuge abroad and elsewhere in Ukraine. Many of these were women and children, exacting a heavy toll on Ukraine’s female-majority teaching corps, as well as their students.

With large numbers of Ukraine’s young people at least temporarily resettled in primarily European countries, some teachers reported a surge in their students’ motivation linked to the structure of returning to their online Ukrainian schooling. “The children missed it (school) ... because most of them were on the road for a long time. It was very emotionally draining, and when they returned to school, it was something they were used to,” one teacher told a Ukrainian reporter.

Teaching online, again

Teachers around the world developed remote-teaching skills during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now that war had driven their classes apart again, Ukrainian teachers adapted



Destroyed school in Merefa after Russian rocket strike by Kharkivian, March 2022.
PHOTOGRAPH BY KHARKIVIAN, WIKIMEDIA

those skills to teach students across Europe and the world.

Some private online schools like Optima made their materials available free of charge. This step allowed Ukrainian students to study at home if they could not otherwise access schooling because of the war. It also provided a way for Ukrainian refugee children to retain access to school materials in their native language. Still, new obstacles emerged.

Many countries that took in Ukrainian refugees required the children to attend local schools, even if they didn’t speak the local language. Some children thrived, like the young Ukrainians who stunned their Welsh hosts by learning the local language in less than 12 weeks. Yet for many children,

these host country efforts at integration created new problems. In my ongoing ethnographic research, Ukrainian parents described how these attendance requirements left their children frustrated. “The children just sit there not understanding anything all day,” one parent told me.

Parents told me that after their children finished these long days in a foreign school, many would begin their day’s real learning late at night, chance to stay on schedule with their grade level back home. Failure to do so might further derail their future state exams and graduation dates.

By nightfall, however, children had lost their most produc-

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News

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tive educational hours. Harmful spirals soon followed. Even formerly top students experienced exhaustion-driven pressures to copy virtual assignments. Losing their joy of learning added to the strain of the war's intense trauma in these young lives.

A focus on education

Ukraine's literacy rate is 99.8%, one of the highest in the world, and education is a national point of pride. In wartime, Ukraine's government is working to adapt its educational system to new realities.

Home schooling is permitted, so long as students can pass standardized tests. Still, many supervising parents are overburdened with the tasks of daily survival in the face of the Russian military's relentless attacks on the civilian population. One mother revealed to a reporter that she soothes her children to sleep in bomb shelters before arranging shovels around them in case they become trapped in the rubble of a missile attack. Another mother told me she sends her young child to school with an emergency backpack filled with food, water and clothes in case he becomes trapped with his teachers.

The Russian military has also damaged or destroyed over 2,400 schools, adding to construction burdens. When the school year began in September, government data indicated that less than 25% of Ukrainian schools nationwide were able to offer full-time, in-person instruction. Even those that were intact are now required to have a bomb shelter before they can hold in-person lessons. Major campaigns have rushed to build bomb shelters for schools, but, even so, many are simple, dirt-floor basements.

In addition, Russia's intentional targeting of Ukraine's electrical grid and civilian infrastructure poses new dangers to children's health and schooling. Power outages have

affected an estimated 10 million people, over one-quarter of the Ukrainian population. Over half of Ukraine's pupils are enrolled online and need electricity to attend classes and do schoolwork. Continued electrical outages would be a foreboding new hurdle.

There are no small matters in a great war," Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy affirmed in an emotional New Year's address. "Each of us is a fighter, each of us is the basis of defense.

Under occupation

The status of children's education in Russian-controlled territories is even more alarming. Russia's occupation has ushered in new forms of ideological coercion in the classroom. Teachers in the liberated Kharkiv region have spoken of arbitrary arrests and torture by the Russian military when they refused to teach their students that Ukraine was a territory of Russia.

Ukrainian teachers have also tried to protect their students from Russia's forcible deportations of minors, a crime of genocide under international law.

Courage has become synonymous with global descriptions of Ukrainian citizens enduring war, and teachers exemplify this everyday heroism. Still, Russia's targeting of Ukraine's youngest citizens unfortunately goes much deeper than the physical devastation of their schools, kindergartens and nurseries. In a survey of existing educational challenges, one brave parent admitted, "I am really scared for the future of our children."

Legal recreational marijuana sales start in Connecticut

MONTVILLE, Conn. (AP) — Connecticut's first round of recreational cannabis sales for adults 21 and older kicked off Tuesday at seven existing medical marijuana establishments across the state, less than two years after Gov. Ned Lamont signed legislation making Connecticut the latest state to legalize retail sales.

By the end of the day, state regulators reported more than \$250,000 in sales generated during the first seven hours.

"We have had no reported issues at any of our retailers, and we are proud of the successful launch of the regulated adult-use market," Department of Consumer Protection Commissioner Michelle H. Seagull said in a statement.

While dozens of people waited in lines outside some dispensaries Tuesday morning to be the first customers, there wasn't the huge crush of patrons seen in some states during the early days of legalized marijuana. At some dispensaries, patrons were urged to place orders online and pick them up at a certain time.

As many as 40 dispensaries, along with dozens of other cannabis-related businesses, are expected to eventually open in Connecticut by the end of this year.

Samuel Gabbey, a 32-year-old package delivery operations manager from Mansfield, was among the patrons who lined up Tuesday morning to be one of the first customers at the Fine Fettle Dispensary in Willimantic. He said he's been waiting years for legalization in Connecticut and believes it's better for people to buy from a legitimate shop with regulated product instead of buying marijuana from strangers.

"The day finally came where we can all just come here and get what we want and go home without having to worry about the police or anything," he said. "So it's a good day for people in Connecticut."

Besides creating a regulated, safer product, Lamont, a Democrat, noted how the state's legalization law also allows convictions for low-level marijuana crimes to be erased, many automatically. Nearly 44,000 such convictions have been erased since the start of the new year, officials said.

"Today marks a turning point in the injustices caused by the war on drugs, most notably now that there is a legal alternative to the dangerous, unregulated, underground market for cannabis sales," Lamont said in a statement.

Recreational sales were allowed to begin at 10 a.m. on Tuesday. State-approved shops in Branford, Meriden, Montville, New Haven, Newington, Stamford and Willimantic were expected to open their doors to the general public on the first day. Two other approved dispensaries, in Danbury and Torrington, are expected to open at a later date.

In Montville, local state lawmakers and the mayor turned out for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at The Botanist dispensary. Patrons received free T-shirts and coffee mugs, as well as personal assistance with making their selections.

Lynn Goldstein, 60, of Norwich, was the first recreational marijuana customer to make a purchase at The Botanist. While she didn't intend on being the first in line and have her nearly \$106 purchase documented by reporters, she was happy that she was. Goldstein was given a bag of goodies, including a \$250 vaporizer.

Goldstein said she has suffered with chronic pain since 2011 and has been a medical marijuana customer. While it doesn't take away all of her pain, she says cannabis can be a big help to her and other people with health issues.

"It makes me relaxed and sometimes sleepy and I just enjoy being a little pain free," said Goldstein. But she had some

concerns with legalization.

"I do worry about the young people because they don't know how to handle it and they will be driving stoned, and it's going to be very hard for police to figure out what's what," she said.

Twenty-one states have legalized recreational marijuana for adults over the past decade, even though it remains illegal under federal law. Since voters approved legalization in Maryland and Missouri in November, marijuana advocates have pressed forward with similar efforts elsewhere in the U.S., including in Ohio and Oklahoma.

As of Feb. 3, 2022, 37 states, three territories and the District of Columbia allow the medical use of cannabis products, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. The list includes Connecticut's three neighbors, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York.

Kate Nelson, senior vice president of the Midwest and Northwest regions for Acreage Holdings, which owns The Botanist brand, said the Montville location sees about 200 to 300 medical marijuana customers daily. She predicted there will be a 150% uptick in sales during the first week of recreational sales, but acknowledged that will likely level off.

A second location owned by the company in Connecticut, located in Danbury, is expected to open in the coming weeks after local approvals are finalized.

"I think even before the 40 operators come online, you'll start to see less of that excitement of something new and more so of kind of what the status quo will become," Nelson said. "We're in an area now in the country where there's other adult-use states nearby. So it's really going to be a focus of ours, in the state of Connecticut specifically, to make sure that this adult-use program has the product that it needs to have and we can support the industry ... to make sure Connecticut sets themselves apart from other competing markets."

Initial sales in Connecticut will be limited to one-quarter of an ounce (7 grams) of cannabis flower or its equivalent, in an effort to ensure there will be enough supply for medical marijuana patients. Different items can be purchased together to make up the one-quarter ounce. The state's Department of Consumer Protection plans to watch retail sales and manufacturing supplies closely to determine when that amount can eventually be increased.

In addition the purchase price, customers must pay the state's existing 6.35% sales tax; a 3% sales tax that benefits the host community; and a state tax based on the THC content, which ranges from approximately 10% to 15% of the sale price.



Small businesses, such as Fine Fettle in Willimantic, Conn., have had successful sales since the legalization.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF HARTFORD BUSINESS JOURNAL

The Daily Campus

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ROUNDTABLE: OUR 2023 RESOLUTIONS



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Why do we celebrate New Year's? The chance to see Anderson Cooper and Andy Cohen get drunk on television (which unfortunately did not happen this year)? Or perhaps, the morbid relief of having lived through yet another trip around the Sun?

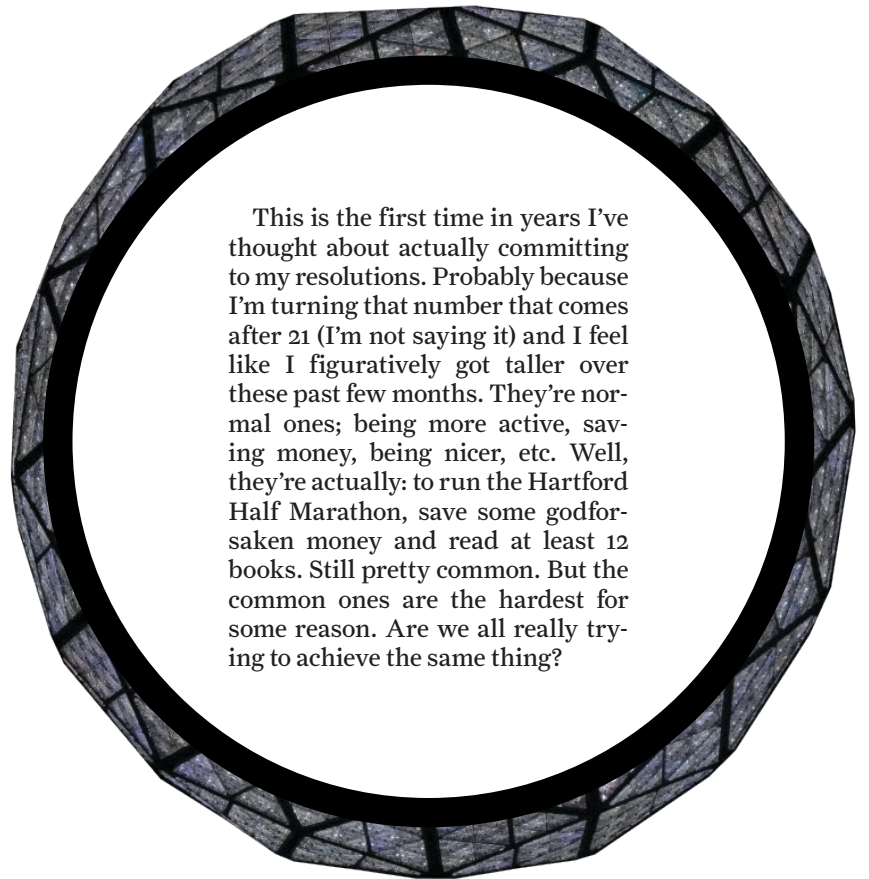
More than anything, New Year's marks a new start for everyone — a fresh beginning, a clean slate, an extra chapter ready to unravel — which is why many rely on resolutions to start the year off right. However, sticking to these goals ends up being the biggest challenge.

Here's how some Daily Campus members plan to pursue 2023. Whether or not they miss the mark 11 months from now, it's still the thought that counts.

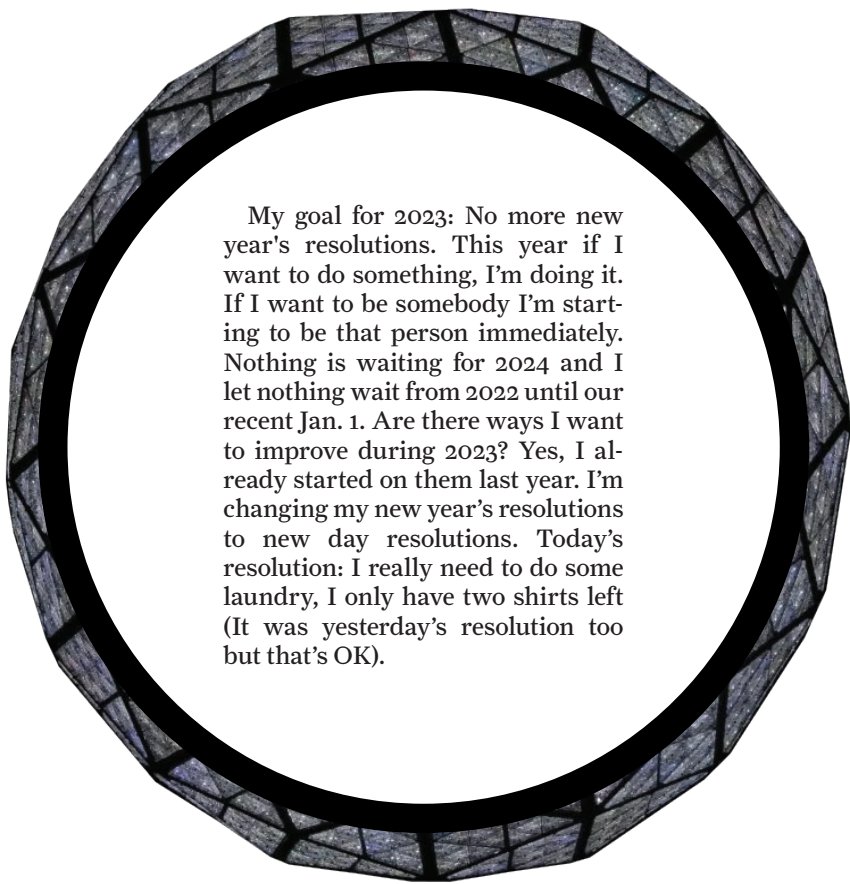


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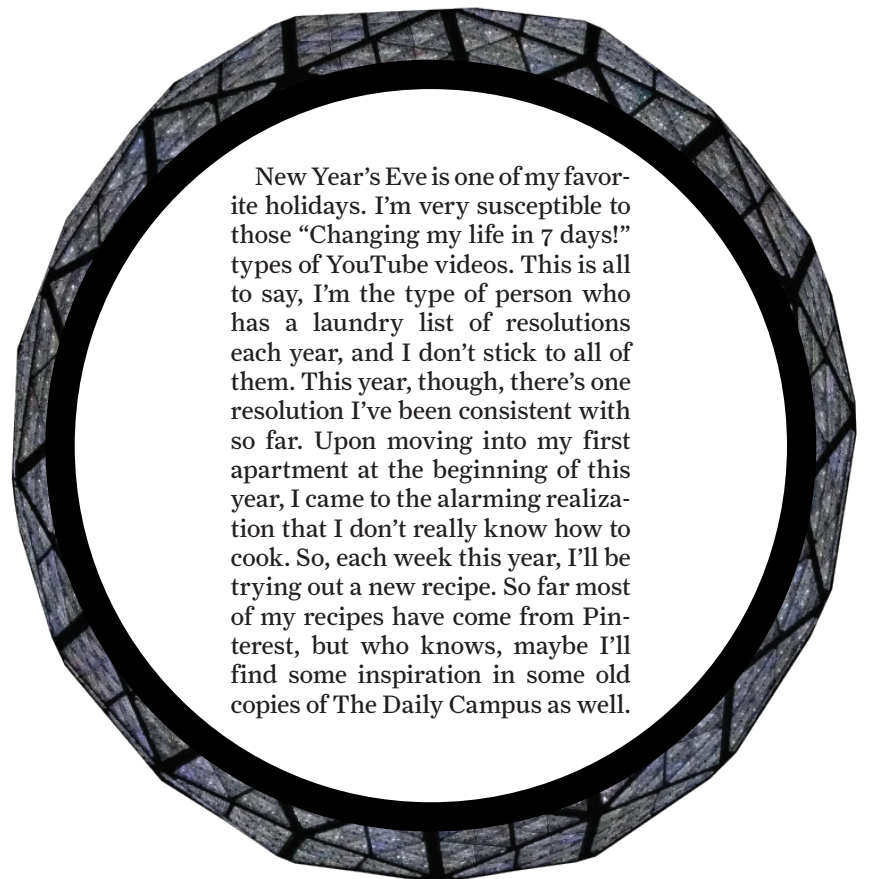


This is the first time in years I've thought about actually committing to my resolutions. Probably because I'm turning that number that comes after 21 (I'm not saying it) and I feel like I figuratively got taller over these past few months. They're normal ones; being more active, saving money, being nicer, etc. Well, they're actually: to run the Hartford Half Marathon, save some godforsaken money and read at least 12 books. Still pretty common. But the common ones are the hardest for some reason. Are we all really trying to achieve the same thing?



My goal for 2023: No more new year's resolutions. This year if I want to do something, I'm doing it. If I want to be somebody I'm starting to be that person immediately. Nothing is waiting for 2024 and I let nothing wait from 2022 until our recent Jan. 1. Are there ways I want to improve during 2023? Yes, I already started on them last year. I'm changing my new year's resolutions to new day resolutions. Today's resolution: I really need to do some laundry, I only have two shirts left (It was yesterday's resolution too but that's OK).

HARRISON RASKIN, EIC



New Year's Eve is one of my favorite holidays. I'm very susceptible to those "Changing my life in 7 days!" types of YouTube videos. This is all to say, I'm the type of person who has a laundry list of resolutions each year, and I don't stick to all of them. This year, though, there's one resolution I've been consistent with so far. Upon moving into my first apartment at the beginning of this year, I came to the alarming realization that I don't really know how to cook. So, each week this year, I'll be trying out a new recipe. So far most of my recipes have come from Pinterest, but who knows, maybe I'll find some inspiration in some old copies of The Daily Campus as well.

GRACE MCFADDEN, DE

ACROSS

- 1 Bit of pond growth
- 5 Snatches
- 10 Map out
- 14 Earsplitting
- 15 Anti-harassment movement
- 16 Perfect gradually
- 17 Soft feathers on a croquet implement?
- 19 Billions of years
- 20 Stick on
- 21 Bow (out)
- 22 Judi Dench and Helen Mirren, for two
- 23 Emeril catchword
- 25 "No thanks"
- 27 Proverb
- 30 Negotiations over the ingredients of a milkshake?
- 35 CBS forensic franchise
- 36 Animated film about a bird from Brazil
- 37 Some unauthorized creations

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By Tom Pepper & C.C. Burnikel

1/11/23

DOWN

- 1 ___ mater
- 2 Be a couch potato
- 3 View from Florida's west coast
- 4 Embrace spontaneity, in a way
- 5 Clock-setting std.
- 6 Give the decor a face-lift
- 7 Resting on
- 8 Neckwear worn by Matt Smith on "Doctor Who"
- 9 Male offspring
- 10 Ring-necked state bird of South Dakota
- 11 Has tremendous influence
- 12 Baby photographer Geddes
- 13 Loch in tabloid photos
- 18 Final, e.g.
- 22 Spreadsheet contents
- 24 Color akin to brick
- 26 Common email attachment
- 27 "Buzz off!"
- 28 Yoga position

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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1/11/23

- 29 Leeway in a negotiation, say
- 31 Falsehood
- 32 Text at a bat mitzvah
- 33 Whale food
- 34 Seat at the bar
- 39 Prozac maker
- 41 Ring of Kerry's isl.
- 44 Vaping device
- 48 Brightly colored wrap
- 49 Escape in a hurry
- 53 Stick in a book
- 54 Animal rescue org.
- 55 Not great
- 57 Austrian peaks
- 58 Lose feathers
- 60 ___ monster
- 61 Give off
- 62 Counts at a gym
- 64 Diagram at a visitor center
- 65 Opposite of paleo-



Life

@dailycampuslife

Box Office Breakdown: "AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER" SWIMS TO \$560 MILLION

by Zachary Wisniefsky
BUSINESS MANAGER
HE/HIM/HIS
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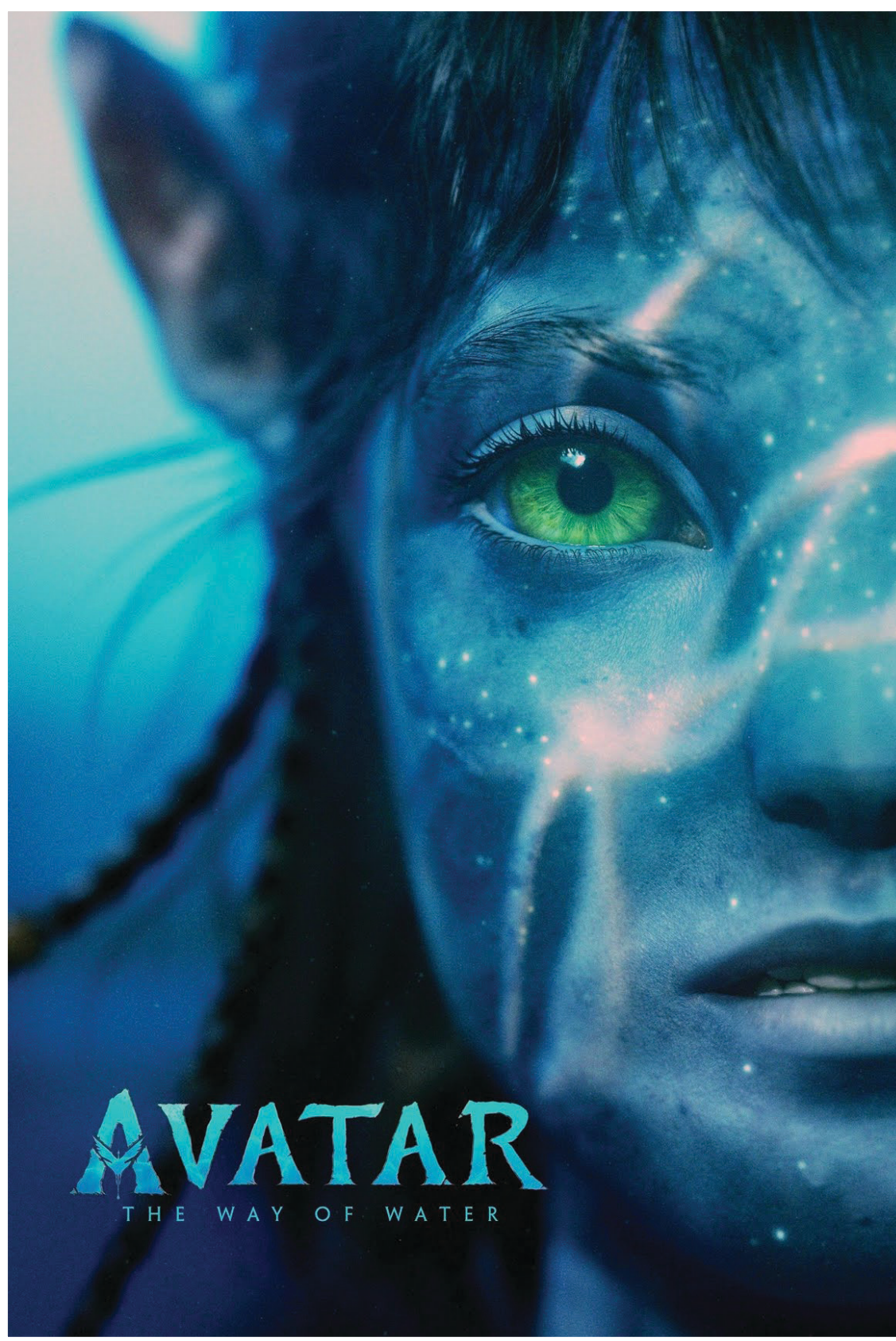
We are back. By the time this article is released, "Avatar: The Way of Water" will have likely passed "Spider-Man: No Way Home" to become the 6th highest grossing film of all time. "Puss in Boots: The Last Wish" put together an impressive holiday run, the \$110 million-budgeted "Baby-

lon" earned less than \$15 million worldwide and "M3GAN" broke the January box office curse.

So let's get into it. First place this weekend was the aforementioned "Avatar: The Way of Water" which earned another \$32.4 million. This pushed its domestic total to \$564 million. There are no signs of slowing down either, as the film only fell 29% in its 5th weekend. Good news for "Avatar" is that it has no blockbuster

competition until "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" releases in mid-February, giving it four more weekends of close-to-free reign. Bad news is that the holiday season is over. Film studios love December releases for the weekday grosses, as children are off from school and parents have breaks from work. That period is over for "Avatar," meaning it will be tougher to have strong weekday performances from here on out. With continued strong holds how-

PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB



ever, there is a chance "Avatar: The Way of Water" can match its predecessor's original domestic gross of \$749 million.

In second place is the horror film "M3GAN" with a gross of \$18.3 million. This 40% drop pushes the film over \$56 million domestically. With a reported \$12 million production budget, factoring in marketing expenses and theater's share of revenue, the film needed to earn around \$46 million worldwide to breakeven. Now having cleared \$94 million worldwide, every dollar earned from here on out adds to "M3GAN"'s profit. I think the film will end with around \$160 million worldwide to earn a profit near \$52 million.

"Puss in Boots: The Last Wish" placed third this week-

end, grossing \$14.4 million. This is a 6% rise for the animated film, increasing its domestic sum to \$107 million. After opening to only \$12.4 million, "Puss in Boots" has rode the word-of-mouth wave to a 35% jump, a 19% drop and now a 6% jump in its fourth weekend. With no signs of slowing down, there is a chance this film could reach a \$200 million domestic gross by next month.

In fourth and fifth place are "A Man Called Otto" and "Plane" which grossed \$12.8 million and \$10.3 million respectively. This was "A Man Called Otto"'s first weekend of wide release, and the Tom Hanks film did well, pushing its domestic total over \$19 million. The film reportedly carries a \$50 million produc-

tion budget, so profit is unlikely, but this is an impressive gross for a drama film. "Plane," the Gerard Butler-helmed action film, carries a near \$20 million production budget, thus will need some strong holds after its opening to profit.

Next week brings one new wide release - "Missing". The computer screen-set thriller starring Storm Reid has earned strong reviews from critics prior to release. I predict the film will open to \$8 million this weekend.

Will "Avatar: The Way of Water" continue to swim ahead of the pack or will "Missing" find itself atop the charts?

As always, we shall see in next week's box office breakdown.



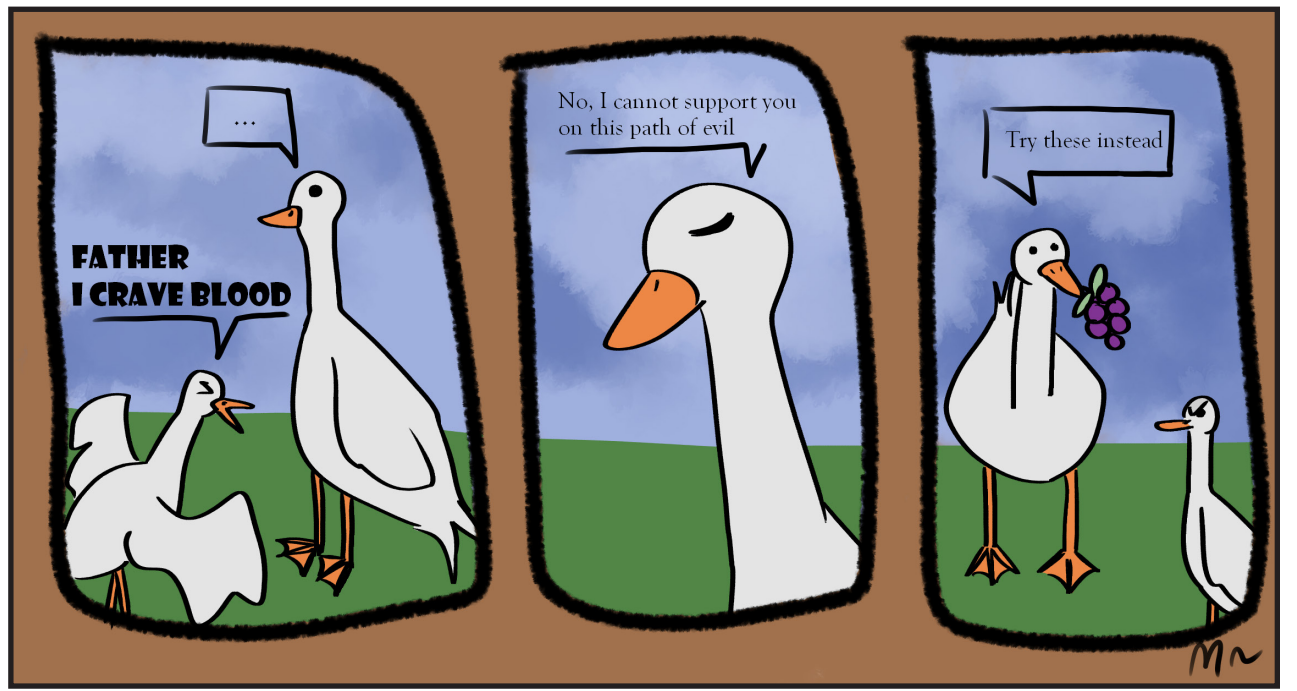
Opinion

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COMIC BY CHUANMAI HUSU, ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Let's face it: The "Let's Go Brandon" meme is incredibly unfunny

by Nell Srinath | ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR | THEY/SHE | nell.srinath@uconn.edu

It's not that "Let's Go Brandon" is particularly edgy or offensive; rather, it doesn't seem to be advancing anything more than a silly catchphrase.

O riginating in 2021 as a cipher for "F*** Joe Biden," this cheeky dig against President Biden became an easy way for American Republicans to package their partisan allegiances without expressly stating them. In fact, the three magic words have covered so much ground that they've been brandished by figures from influential Republican lawmakers like Texas Sen. Ted Cruz to washed-up career conservatives — like Ted Cruz.

It's not that "Let's Go Brandon" is particularly edgy or offensive; rather, it doesn't seem to be advancing anything more than a silly catchphrase. Inside jokes within a community often are just unintelligible nonsense, as anyone in a tight-knit friend group can attest, but this one's sheer harmlessness in spite of its adherents' insistence that it "triggers the libs" makes it prime fodder for a meme that is, well, funny. This is precisely what "Dark Brandon" did.

The "Dark Brandon" meme is a blessing in Gen Z attire to the Biden administration, whose innocuous centrist campaign leading up to his election in 2020 left and continues to leave much to be desired by way of enthusiasm from those who lean Democrat. Assuch, "Dark Brandon" serves to hype up successes of the Biden administration where there is something to be hyped up. For example, Google searches for the term spiked around the signing of the Inflation Reduction Act, the Biden administration's landmark achievement thus far in his first term. Better yet, the meme casts a wide net from Democratic loyalists to left-wing social media users who (somewhat) ironically use "Dark Brandon" to depict an alternative universe Joe Biden as a Machiavellian strongman thwarting the MAGA-era Republican

party. Ultimately, it adds life to a presidency whose approval is arguably bolstered by negative partisanship, or a preference in favor of one major party due to a strong disdain for the other.

So now that Biden is memeable, where does that leave us for important ongoing issues for racial, environmental and migrant justice to anti-imperialism to uplifting labor? Unfortunately, from the perspective of social justice movements seeking to combat systemic issues such as poverty, systemic racism and state violence, climate change and continued neglect of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are in precisely the same position as we were during the Trump administration. When he wasn't enacting violently anti-poor, anti-immigrant and pro-militarist legislation, Donald Trump's frequent gaffes and overall ridiculous demeanor were hilarious in a perverse sort of way.

And while the Biden administration has supposedly lent an ear to important social justice goals, we can't allow his newly discovered charisma to conceal his real allegiance to the status quo of capitalist inequality and imperialism, nor can we forget his decades-long political alignment with right-wing Democrats and anti-Trump Republicans.

Biden's concessions to right-wing West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin on climate have sabotaged his entire environmental agenda, which already upheld feckless tax and market-based decarbonizing incentives that fossil fuel corporations can easily skirt past and lobby against. Granted, this isn't so much Biden's fault as it is the fault of a party leadership that dedicates more of its efforts to undermine progressives than disciplining saboteur caucus members like Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema.

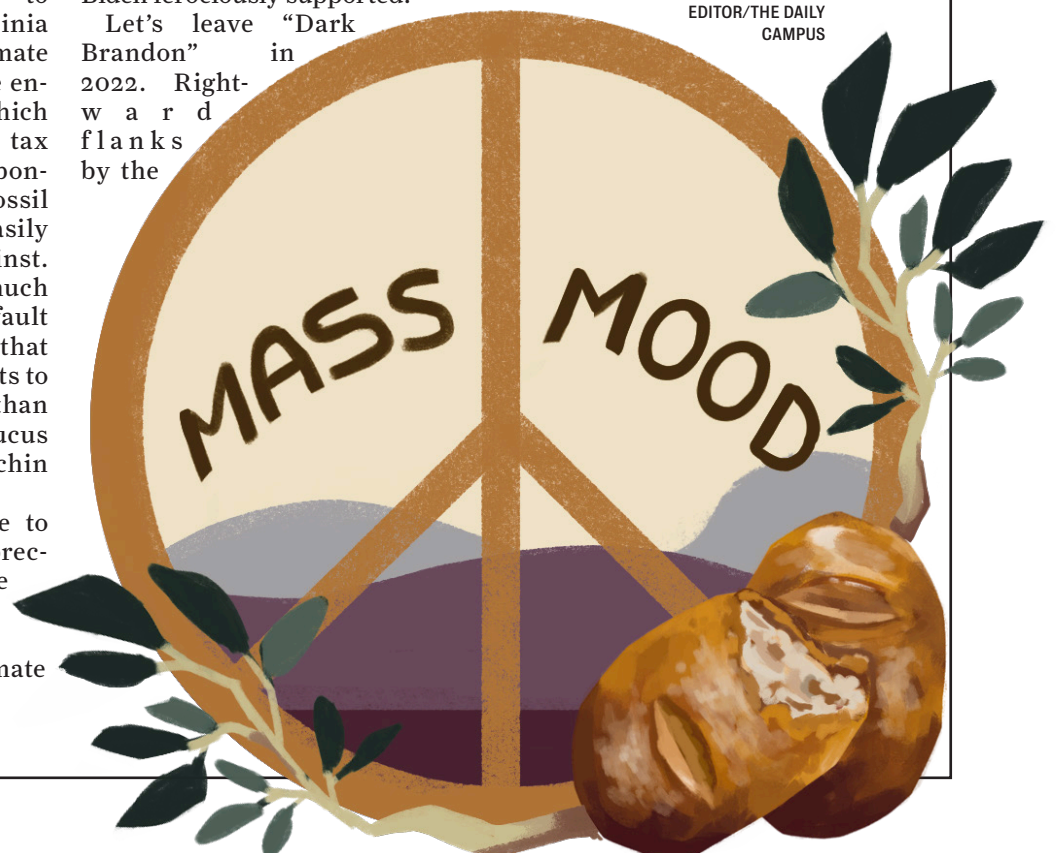
What we can attribute to Biden, however, are unprecedented increases to the U.S. military budget, which further threatens global peace and climate

change mitigation as the U.S. out of its own imperialist geopolitical aims, continues to stoke tension with China over Taiwan. And whether you like it or not, the same result comes from Biden co-signing over \$22 billion in military aid to Ukraine for the war effort against the ongoing Russian invasion. The only long-term beneficiaries are defense contractors like Raytheon, who are enriched by billions of dollars even if it means risking nuclear conflict. From its position on the imperial moral high ground, the United State perpetuates its own economic violence through what the Progressive International calls "illegal sanctions" preventing trade with Cuba, Venezuela, Iran and more, effectively depriving civilians of access to medicine, nutrition and economic stability due to the U.S.' negative views towards state officials. Similarly, as of September, the U.S. and Switzerland seized \$3.5 billion in Afghan assets from Afghanistan in order to "selectively" prevent it from being used by the governing Taliban, exacerbating poverty and suffering brought about both by Taliban policies and the illegal NATO invasion and occupation beginning in 2001 — which Biden ferociously supported.

Let's leave "Dark Brandon" in 2022. Right-wankers by the

Biden administration in the past two months alone include siding with rail corporations and degrading the rights of unionized rail workers. They did this by blocking their planned strike in November, thus preventing them from winning much-deserved paid sick leave and extending Trump-era immigration policies meant to expel refugees fleeing violence and poverty caused, in part, by the legacy of U.S. imperialism in Central and South America. Buying into the spectacle and ridiculousness of Donald Trump is one of the factors that led to his election and enabled his string of catastrophic policies, willful negligence of the COVID-19 pandemic being just one of them. Giving any space to memeify a sitting president gives them leeway and free public relations to distract from harmful policies. We had and will continue to have fun over Biden's many laughable moments — my heart goes out to Cornpop and SODA— but in 2023, holding our leaders unambiguously accountable and fighting for a people's agenda should be our top priority. If you want a little fun, as a treat, I recommend looking up #Lulag to hold you over.

LOGO BY KAITLYN TRAN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Opinion StudyBreak

Photo of the Day | Best seats on campus



The month-long vacancy in lecture halls and classrooms across campus will come to an end on Jan. 17, 2023 as the spring semester begins this Tuesday.

PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

BUS SERVICE IN CT IS BETTER THAN EVER.

WHY AREN'T FARES KEEPING UP?

by **Thess Johnson**

CONTRIBUTOR

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Yesterday morning, I waited at the Milldale Park and Ride bus stop in Southington. From there, like many other days, I rode the Route 928 bus, which drove up from Southington to Hartford. In Hartford, with another student, I waited for about 15 minutes before the Peter Pan Route 913 bus picked us up and whisked us away to the University of Connecticut.

Sure, starting from the bus stop near my home in Southington and going to UConn did take a bit over two hours, but it was a pleasant trip; the total cost was zero, the express buses had nice seats and the Peter Pan bus even had a bathroom.

This was my first journey to UConn of this new year, but I was curious: What would that trip have looked like 10 years ago in 2013?

2013 was not that long ago, but for public transport in Connecticut, things have developed exponentially since then. If I were to attempt the trip then, I would have been limited from the get-go. Nowadays most express buses have around a dozen departures each way, providing reasonable transfers to other routes.

Back then, only three went from Southington to Hartford each day. The sheer lack of trips then would mean that taking the latest Route 928 bus to Hartford (then referred to as Route 24), would get me there a whopping four hours before the earliest bus to Willimantic. Why Willimantic?

Well, there was no bus directly to UConn from Hartford yet, unless you wanted to pay something like \$20 for a Peter Pan. To finally get to UConn, a transfer in Willimantic to a Storrs-bound bus would deliver me on the last leg of my journey.

Seven hours and 45 minutes with a mandatory four-hour layover in Hartford and a one-hour layover in Willimantic. That is how long yesterday's "pleasant" trip would have taken me in 2013.

Importantly, how much



All of Connecticut's transport agencies, some of which are above, have offered free fares since April 2022. Unless it gets extended, the program is set to end on March 31, 2023.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF AUTHOR THESS JOHNSON, CONTRIBUTOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

would this ride have cost? Well, unfortunately for the Constitution State's college students, the UPass program was just being created that year according to a CTtransit report, so full fares would be the only method of payment. There were exceptions, like WRTD using student passes, but these were not statewide yet. The answer is \$7.50. Not awful, but for the spotty service would it really be that good of a deal?

It is obvious from the description of the two trips, then and now, that service has significantly improved over the years. At the same time, the fares have not improved.

I remember standing at the Bushnell Park bus stop in Hartford in the dark during the Winter of 2021. I was able to use my UPass to get on quickly, but I saw the fol-

lowing scene: a UConn student was refused entry to the bus since he did not have his UPass and was a dollar below the fare.

Would that dollar have made a real difference for the company?

The fact is that public transport providers, aside from those in cities like New York, have not been able to sustain themselves completely off fares since the 1950s or 1960s. Ever since the hurried rebirth of United States public transport in the 1970s, transport agencies have needed local, state and federal funding to operate, with their fares serving as supplemental income. The reason companies like Peter Pan and Greyhound are private is because they can charge \$33.00 to go from UConn to Providence. For a public transport agency, providing access to transport means imple-

menting low enough fares to encourage ridership from people of all economic statuses.

In an attempt to scrounge up that little bit of extra revenue from riders despite the aid they receive, you get a mess of fare types and fare methods. One dollar for all rides in Northeastern Connecticut, \$1.75 for a bus token in Bridgeport, free transfer with an express bus fare on a GoCT card.

Luckily, in April 2022, citing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the state legislature suspended all bus fares. This was extended twice, and now is supposed to last until March 31, 2023. Each time the free fares were extended it was done so with bipartisan support, 134-7 in the most recent extension.

The state and federal governments already provide for the operation of Connecticut transport agencies, so why not

just have them cover the final fare gap indefinitely? Ridership, which was down during the pandemic, reached 103% of pre-pandemic totals in late-2022 primarily owing to the free fares according to Connecticut Public. Leaders in Hartford and New Haven want free fares to continue indefinitely, as do passengers, according to Mass Transit Magazine.

Matching the improvement in service Connecticut has experienced, gone are the days of pulling out handfuls of quarters to buy a bus pass, at least until March 31. If Connecticut implements the free bus program permanently, we would be the first state to do so in the entire country. This program hurts no one and helps many. Like adding more trips, eliminating fares would be a step forward in the development of public transport in the state.

Men's Hockey: Huskies start hot, finish cold in first game at Toscano Ice Forum



UConn men's hockey pick up a 4-3 loss against Northeastern following a Saturday night matchup at the Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn. on Jan. 14, 2023. Although being ahead for most of the game, the Huskies lost their lead in the third period when Northeastern broke through, scoring three goals. PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Nick Spinalli
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The No. 11 University of Connecticut men's hockey team lost its second consecutive contest to the Northeastern Huskies on Saturday by a final score of 4-3.

Saturday's matchup marked UConn's first on their new home ice at the Toscano Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn. Breaking in the new ice, both teams came out of the gate with seemingly added energy; the home team looking to secure a victory for the home fans and Northeastern looking to play spoiler.

With the fans making their presence felt immediately from the opening puck-drop, the Ice Bus dominated possession in the game's first two minutes. Graduate student Justin Pearson had an opportunity to sink the first score of the contest in the sixth minute when he broke free down the right side of the ice, but his shot was swallowed up by the Northeastern goalkeeper, junior Devon Levi. Connecticut entered the penalty kill later in the sixth minute, though graduate student Ty Amonte gained control

of the puck and again broke free still down a skater, but his shot was saved by Levi. The first score of the contest came during a delayed penalty call against Northeastern in the fifteenth minute. With the penalty, UConn pulled their goalie in favor of an extra skater, and sophomore Chase Bradley capitalized by penetrating behind the goal, deflecting his shot off of Levi and into the net. The first period ended with the Ice Bus holding a 1-0 edge.

Both teams exchanged good looks during the first four minutes of the second period, with players from each side turning up the physicality. Northeastern entered the power play in the fourth minute after a Connecticut penalty, but the home team killed the advantage with multiple defensive stops to clear the away puck from their goal. UConn managed a second score on a redirected shot by senior Roman Kinal in the eighth minute. After teammate Harrison Rees put a shot on-goal from just inside the offensive zone, Kinal slipped into the shot's path and elevated the puck past Levi and into the net to up the Ice Bus' lead to 2-0. Penalties were called on both teams during the play, and four-on-four hockey was played for the next two minutes.

In the twelfth minute, UConn got out to a fast break, but a quick steal by Northeastern turned the puck around before Connecticut could get back on defense. Now on a two-on-one fastbreak, Liam Walsh made a quick cross pass to Jakov Novak streaking up the right side of the ice, who fired his shot before UConn goalie Logan Terness had time to react. The goal cut Connecticut's lead down to 2-1. The away team followed up the goal with more penetration over the next several minutes, but timely saves by Terness maintained the one score lead heading into the period break.

The Ice Bus looked like they were well on their way to a victory after dominating the first twelve minutes of the third period, stringing together multiple good shot attempts while not allowing Northeastern many opportunities of their own. However, failing to convert any of those shots proved costly, as Northeastern came back to tie the game on a power play in the twelfth minute. After playing extremely physically all game, Northeastern's Jayden Struble was the victim of a hard clipping penalty to give his team the penalty advantage, and teammate Aidan McDonough made UConn pay by sinking

a score on a well-timed cross pass, tying the game at two apiece. Three minutes later, it was McDonough again coming up big for his team. This time, the senior made a few nice puck fakes in front of Terness before wrapping a shot behind the goalie, suddenly giving Northeastern a 3-2 lead and silencing the home fans.

With just over three minutes left, Connecticut committed yet another penalty and once again, Northeastern benefitted from the extra skater. Jack Hughes received the puck looking straight on at Connecticut's goal and had time to line up his shot, converting a fourth goal for Northeastern to double their lead, 4-2. The Ice Bus pulled their goalie in favor of an extra skater in the final minute and entered the power play following a Northeastern penalty. Chaos ensued as Connecticut players swarmed the Northeastern goal, with freshman Samu Salminen managing a putback score with 30 seconds remaining to cut the lead down to 4-3, keeping UConn's hopes alive. On the play, a 10 minute major misconduct penalty was called against Northeastern, but after a referee review, the penalty was called back and instead, a two minute penalty was called against UConn for

delaying the game, sending the home fans into a frenzy. Immediately after, Northeastern challenged the play thinking that goalie interference occurred, but the goal was confirmed. The Ice Bus couldn't find an equalizing score in the final 30 seconds, and boos rained down at the Toscano Ice Forum as the final buzzer was sound.

With the loss, Connecticut falls to 13-7-3 overall on the season, including an 8-6-2 mark in Hockey East play. They have been jumped by Northeastern for the second spot in the conference standings, who with the win picked up their 28th point in conference play this season, one better than UConn's 27. With their second-straight win against the ranked Ice Bus, Northeastern figures to see a significant bump in the national rankings. UConn, on the other hand, will likely see their ranking continue to fall and will need to do some soul-searching following a fourth-consecutive conference loss.

UConn's next game will come against Hockey East rival UMass Amherst on Friday, Jan. 20 from the Mullins Center in Amherst, Mass. Puck-drop is scheduled for 7 p.m., with television coverage provided by NESN+ and radio coverage on ESPN 97.9 FM.



For their next game, the Huskies will go up against Hockey East rival UMass Amherst on Friday, Jan. 20 at Mullins Center in Amherst, Mass. PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Track & Field: Huskies dazzle at UMass Invite

by Jonathan Synott
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The UConn men's and women's track and field teams received over a month of rest in between Sunday's UMass Invite and early December's Joe Donahue Invitational, but there was certainly no sign of rust from the Huskies. Several Connecticut runners excelled at the Track at New Balance, setting podium marks and personal bests.

"We had a lot of heat champions and a lot of good personal bests. My favorite thing that I took away from the day was we just had a really good competitive spirit across the

board," Track & Field Director Beth Alford-Sullivan said after Sunday's meet.

Leading the way for the women in track events was Mia Dansby. The first-year phenom broke two of her personal records, finishing the 60-meter dash and the 200-meter dash in 8.77 seconds and 24.83 seconds, respectively. Both marks were enough to put the young runner in the top five for both events.

In the mile run, it was the Celia Chacko show, as the senior was top dog with a time of 5:01.45. In the Flagship mile run, the cross country trio of Randi Burr, Chloe Thomas and Jenna Zydanowicz took home second, third and fourth place with sub-

five-minute times. Burr's time of 4:50.26 was a new personal best.

"We had a lot of heat champions and a lot of good personal bests. My favorite thing that I took away from the day was we just had a really good competitive spirit across the board."

BETH ALFORD-SULLIVAN

In the field, Patricia Mroczkowski excelled in the high jump, placing second with a jump of 1.61 meters. Sophomore Kalli Knott also took home a silver, clearing 3.80 meters in the pole vault. Fellow Husky Sofia Wittman wasn't too far behind her, clearing 3.65 meters.

Also placing podium for the Huskies were A'lyyah Thomas and Jasmine Barrow, who earned third overall for the long jump and triple jump, respectively.

For the men, Terrel Williams thrived, notching a new personal record of 7.77 seconds in the 60-meter hurdles. Two Huskies finished first overall in track events: Wellington Ventura in the 500-meter and James Maniscalco in the

mile run. Ventura clocked in at 1:03.33, while Maniscalco ended with 4:12.62.

In the field, three UConn athletes ended their day atop the podium in the triple jump, with Kasey Savage, Marc Morrison and Joron Harrell placing first, second and third, respectively. Savage's winning mark was 14.52 meters. Another gold-medalist for the Huskies was Matthew Brady, topping all shot put throwers with a distance of 16.37 meters.

Connecticut has a chance to build upon their successes this weekend with strong showings at the Boston College Eagle Elite Invitational and the Battle of Beantown on Friday and Saturday, respectively.

Sports

Photo of the Day | Ice fight



UConn forward Ryan Tverberg battles a Northeastern player for the puck during a game. The Huskies picked up a 4-3 loss following a Saturday night matchup at the Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn. on Jan. 14, 2023. PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Losing Nathan Carter isn't the end of the world

by **Stratton Stave**
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Yesterday morning, Nathan Carter, UConn's starting running back from the 2022 football season announced he was transferring on Twitter. This announcement came after his abbreviated sophomore season where he played just four games before facing a season-ending shoulder injury. Carter had a phenomenal start to the year. In the three full games he did play, he racked up an incredible 384 yards to go along with a touchdown. If he continued at this pace for the rest of the regular season, that would give Carter the third best rushing season in UConn history. Add in a bowl game and he's second.

Instead, Carter's career as a Husky will always be a "what if," never having a chance to do anything meaningful or really win. Fans were looking at next season's running back room as being loaded. You presumably had Carter leading the charge, but Victor Rosa, Brian Brewton and Devontae Houston would all

chip in too. The thing is that even with Carter leaving, it's not the end of the world. Here's why.

Exclusively looking at Carter, it's silly to act like the program is crashing down with him transferring. Last year he was in a timeshare with Kevin Mensah, and although he was the team's leading rusher, he wasn't anything particularly special. Carter was heavily hindered by the Huskies' atrocious offensive line, holding him to under 50 yards a game. In his lone win last year against FCS Yale, he only managed 39 yards on 17 tries, failing to find the end zone. He performed well in losses against Bottom 10 competition, which once again can't be blamed on him, but these games also can't be used to support him.

This year, Carter opened his sophomore campaign with a bang, ripping off 200 all-purpose yards against Utah State. UConn ultimately lost, but it was a breath of fresh air to see them competitive against a team that

most thought were much better. He followed it up with 141 yards and a score in a victory over Central Connecticut State, further bolstering his breakout year. He didn't play particularly well against Syracuse, a top 25 quality team at the time, only

with only 15 attempts, it's tough to read too far into anything he did. Rosa, the pride of Connecticut, had a fantastic freshman year. Taking over as a part of the committee that replaced Carter, Rosa notched 561 yards and nine touchdowns. He had a knack for the end zone and an ability to get those extra few yards, which really helped the Huskies in crunch time of big games. Rosa will likely be the day one starter next year, thanks to his team-leading rushing and 32% share of the team's total touchdowns.

Houston is the last returner in the mix, gaining just 23 fewer yards than Rosa on the year. He was by far the most explosive back on the team, averaging two yards per carry more than Rosa. Although he scored just three times, he still looked fantastic. He'll be right in the mix to start. No matter how you look at it, the UConn running back situation is fine so long as nobody else leaves. Carter wasn't the key to their success, which should help fans feel better about the direction of the team. The Huskies are still very capable and have a chance to build on their success from this year.



LOGO BY KAITLYN TRAN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

managing 71 yards. Then came the Michigan game, where he got injured after a few snaps.

All of this is to say that Carter is not the key to UConn's success next season. It would have been nice, sure, but Mora and the Hus-

kyes will be just fine. In his 16 career games, the back went 2-14. He was 2-1 against FCS competition and 0-13 against FBS teams. In games that Carter missed this year, UConn went 5-3, including a Power 5 win and a ranked win. They will be just fine.

The only concern is why Carter left. If it's because he knows he can start at a Power 5 school, that's fine. However, if it's in relation to the departure of running back coach EJ Barthel, then that raises some worries. If that's the case, then you have to start wondering about the security of the other three running backs. If they leave, then there's an issue, but if it's limited to Carter, then it's no big deal.

Brewton, who was also a sophomore, raised some eyebrows with his kick returning abilities during his first year in Storrs. He had his signature house-call against Clemson on the opening kickoff, establishing his playmaking ability. He showed flashes this year, but

Big East Baller Update No. 7: The Digital Age

by **Cole Stefan**
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This season of Big East basketball has been like contactless payment and using your phone for educational purposes; it is a new normal and it is different. Rather than Villanova being the best in the league, Xavier, Providence and Marquette control the top of the standings.

Like any new technological device or development, the best way to gauge something, especially the Big East conference, is to fully analyze it. This will be done by taking a closer look at some competitive non-UConn games from the last seven days.

Writer's Note: When the Georgetown Hoyas win a conference game, it is bound to happen this season, it will get included in the next Big East Baller Update that I produce. Mark my words.

Player of the Week:

Souley Boum - Xavier

Freshman of the Week:

AJ Storr - St. John's

Villanova vs. DePaul (Jan. 10): Exorcising Demons

In every meeting between January 3, 2008, and last Tues-

day, the story had been the same; the DePaul Blue Demons lost to the Villanova Wildcats. But like everything else the Wildcats have experienced this season, things just felt different.

It was already interesting after 20 minutes as Villanova went into halftime up one despite being down five twice, but then the Blue Demons went on a 9-0 second half run and everything changed. The Wildcats clawed their way back into the game every chance that they got, but Philmon Gebrewit and Da'Sean Nelson responded almost every time. A free throw by Caleb Daniels made it a three-point game with three minutes and change, but a 5-0 DePaul run and a series of missed three-point attempts from Villanova in the final minute closed the book on the longest winning and losing streak against a single opponent in Big East history 75-65.

Three Wildcats scored in double figures, led by Eric Dixon's double-double of 22 points and 10 rebounds. While four of the five Blue Demon starters contributed to the team's landmark victory, Nelson had a career performance with 24 points in 33 minutes off the bench. Villanova saw two things conclude that day; their winning streak against DePaul spanning 15 years and 22 games, as well as their chances of making it to March Madness

under a head coach not named Jay Wright.

Creighton vs. No. 12 Xavier (Jan. 11) No. 25 Marquette vs. No. 12 Xavier (Jan. 15): iPhone X

This was a pivotal week in the Xavier Musketeers' season as they hosted two conference opponents near the top of the table. In order to truly be considered the best, the Musketeers needed to beat both Midwest foes.

Their first test involved the Creighton Blue Jays, the pre-season conference favorites. Both teams traded blows in the first half, and Xavier was in a small hole early in the second. The Blue Jays maintained their lead and tried to silence a raucous home crowd, but the entire building roared to life on a go-ahead 8-0 Musketeer run. Creighton tied the game up, but never recaptured the lead, as Souley Boum made four free throws in the last five seconds for a 90-87 Xavier win.

Boum's 26 on 9-18 shooting led the way for the Musketeers while Colby Jones scored 20 and Jack Nunge grabbed a double-double with 15 and 12. Every Blue Jay starter scored in double figures led by Baylor Scheierman's 25 and Ryan Nembhard's 17.

Four days later, Xavier hosted the Marquette Golden Eagles, a team that bested the sixth-

ranked UConn Huskies at home, in a true ranked battle. In almost similar fashion, the Golden Eagles went into the break with the lead after exchanging several punches. Both teams continued to duke it out in the second half, but after Marquette tied the game on two straight jumpers, Boum landed the knockout hit with a jumper. Behind a flurry of free throws, the Musketeers came out on top again 80-76.

Every Musketeer starter scored in double figures led by Boum and Nunge's 16 points apiece (Nunge also had another double-double with 13 boards). Tyler Kolek scored 25 on 11-18 shooting for the Golden Eagles.

Winning both big games proved one thing in Cincinnati: the Musketeers are a legitimate powerhouse.

No. 19 Providence vs. Creighton (Jan. 14): The stretch

This game brings three things to mind when thinking about the word "stretch." The first is the Providence Friars nine-game winning streak, the second is 7' 1" Ryan Kalkbrenner and the third is the 12-point halftime lead that Creighton possessed.

That lead got up to 16 before buckets by Bryce Hopkins and Noah Locke cut Providence's deficit into single digits. Those

two turned an insurmountable margin into a one-possession game, but that is where Kalkbrenner started to take the spotlight. Kalkbrenner had scored each of the Blue Jays last five points, and after a 90-second scoring drought by both teams, banged home a dunk to wake the whole building up. The Friars tied the game on a 7-0 run, but Arthur Kaluma gave Creighton a lead they would never relinquish. Layups from Devin Carter and Hopkins were not enough, as Providence got bested on the road 73-67.

Kalkbrenner led the way for the Blue Jays with 21 points while Alexander had 20, half of which came from the charity stripe, and Scheierman made the team's only threes and had 19. Both Hopkins and Ed Crosswell had double-doubles of 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Friars while Carter and Locke combined for 25 to lead the guards. Creighton now has a clear path to return to the Top 25, and that could happen if everything goes their way this week.

Given everything that occurred over winter break, the storylines heading into the midway point of conference play are intensifying. They may be subject to change, but having a general idea about how each team is doing is important, especially if the game's location has an impact on the final result.

Women's Hockey: Toscano Family Ice Forum Era opens with 2 wins

by **Sam Calhoun**
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The No. 14 UConn women's hockey team opened their Toscano Family Ice Forum era with two games on back-to-back nights against Merrimack and Vermont.

In the first game, both teams went on the power play in the first period, with the first two penalties being killed. A second penalty against Merrimack resulted in the first goal in the new arena, scored by first-year forward Brooke Campbell, assisted by senior defensemen Camryn Wong and Claire Peterson.

The second period began with as much aggression as the first. The Warriors had a chance to even the score with the man advantage, but were unable to capitalize. Senior forward and team captain Coryn Tormala was set up by senior defenseman Kaitlyn Yearwood for UConn to take a commanding 2-0 lead. The Huskies' defense made the period seem flawless outside of the body-checking penalty, allowing just two shots on goal, while putting up 24 on the other end of the ice.

Junior forward Kathryn Stockdale spun around and found sophomore forward Brianna Ware for the team's third unanswered goal of the evening early in the third period. However, the final period of regulation would not go without mistakes, as a roughing penalty on UConn resulted in a power play goal for Merrimack first-year forward Sophie McKinley, her first career goal. The Warriors, desperately seeking to get the team back in the game, scored a second unanswered goal not long after the first as forward Hannah Corne-



The UConn Huskies take the ice against Boston College on Friday, Nov. 4, 2022 at Freitas Ice Forum on the UConn Storrs campus. The Huskies scored within the first minute and maintained their lead to finish with a final score of 1-0. PHOTO BY EMILY O'BANNON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

liusen found the back of the net for the first time in 2023. With the score set at 3-2, Merrimack pulled their goalie in hopes that a sixth player could help their chances of tying the game. However, UConn senior and forward Kate Thurman scored the empty-netter as the Huskies won 4-2 in their first game at the Toscano Family Ice Forum.

The second game came against No. 11 Vermont, seeking a road win in the Hockey East. The first period began just like the third period of the Merrimack game ended, with a Kate Thurman goal, this time assisted by Tormala. Stockdale set up first-year forward Megan Woodworth for her second goal in three games. The Huskies finished the first period with two goals on seven shots on goal.

Vermont began the second period with a tripping penalty where Wong, assisted by Campbell and Peterson, increased the Huskies' lead to 3-0.

Both teams played four-on-four hockey to begin the third period, as each team was assessed a penalty. Vermont sophomore and forward Alaina Tanski scored her first goal of the season while the Catamounts were shorthanded. Down 3-1, Vermont pulled their goaltender in hopes of cutting the deficit to one, but first-year UConn forward Christina Walker scored her first career goal on an empty net to give the Huskies a 4-1 victory over the eleventh-ranked Catamounts.

UConn will head on the road again after a weekend sweep at the Toscano Family Ice Forum, traveling to Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts to take on No. 15 Boston College tonight. Puck drop is set for 6 p.m. at Kelley Rink and is available to watch on ESPN+.

Swimming and Diving: Huskies pick up where they left off

by **Ajeeth Vellore**
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After a long and relaxing winter break, the UConn swimming and diving team achieved a resounding win over their second Big East opponent of the year in Seton Hall University. The Huskies came into the meet firing on all cylinders, more than ready to swim after their long hiatus, and it showed in a day that was filled with dominance.

The Saturday meeting between the two conference rivals started with a 200 yard medley relay, in which Kayla

Mendonca, Angela Gambardella, Charlotte Proceller and Maggie Donlevy (the four who could be argued to be UConn's best swimmers) cruised to a victory, setting the tone for the day. That was followed by another wide margin of victory thanks to Niamh Hofland, who has been hitting her stride with long-distance swimming all season. With a gold from Mia Galat in the 200 yard freestyle and another from Mendonca in the 100 yard backstroke, UConn had announced their presence at this meet loud and clear, and it would take a tremendous effort for the Pirates to catch up. Four up, four wins in Connecticut's hand and twelve events left.

The snowball effect continued, and it seemed like the Huskies just could not lose. Gambardella took top spot in the 100 yard breaststroke and rookie Lexi Martino took the 200 yard butterfly comfortably. It took until the seventh event for the Seton Hall Pirates to take their first victory of the day, as Cornelia Jerresand edged out UConn's Ella Epes by a little more than two tenths of a second in the 50 yard freestyle. Soon after, the swimmers took a short break to allow the divers to take over the pool, and the UConn women did not disappoint: Julia Pioso, Ana Laura Faoro and Darah Ostrom swept the podium in the 3 meter dive, bringing the Huskies to the

halfway point with the momentum back on their side.

Despite being down by quite a few points, Seton Hall did not back down, taking first off the back of some great swimming by Natalie Heim in the 100 yard freestyle. Regardless, the Huskies still grabbed second, third and fourth place, minimizing the point deficit for that round. Right after that tough, close loss in the 100 yard free, UConn went on a tear that would effectively seal the day. Robin Edwards and Mendonca took spots one and two on the podium, respectively, in the 200 yard backstroke. Then, Kiera Liesinger and Gambardella would themselves take one and two, respectively, in the 200

yard breaststroke. Hofland would take yet another long distance freestyle victory, winning gold in the 500 yard freestyle, and Epes and Galat put the final touches on this win for UConn, grabbing the two top podium spots in the 100 yard butterfly.

The day was full of great swimming for the Huskies, as they thoroughly outclassed the Pirates in nearly every race. Going 5-0 to start the season certainly has to feel nice for this team, and they'll be looking to continue this streak of winning as they prepare for their next match against Central Connecticut State University at home in Storrs' Wolff-Zackin Natatorium.



UConn women's swimming and diving put on a dominating display in their exhibition matchup against Providence College, successfully concluding their regular season on Feb. 5, 2022 at the Wolff-Zackin Natatorium in Storrs, Conn. PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Sports

MBB: Huskies taken down by Red Storm for 2nd straight loss

by **Evan Rodriguez**
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On Dec. 28 of this season, it would've been unthinkable for any college basketball fan to imagine a scenario where the University of Connecticut men's basketball team, a program that was at the top of the college basketball world, lost 4 of their next 5 games.

Yet, that scenario is the case, as the Huskies were stunned in front of 15,564 fans on Sunday. Every game in the Big East is a tough matchup, but with UConn in front of its home crowd and a 14.5-point favorite, there was good energy in the environment as the team looked to end a rough four-game skid. To top it all off, St. John's hadn't been very successful at the XL Center, losing seven straight games at the Insurance Capital of the World before Sunday's matchup.

Yet, despite the odds against them, the Red Storm played tough, and thanks to players like big man Joel Soriano, the Johnnies looked determined to end their XL Center losing streak and show that they were not ready to be messed with.

One big problem for the Huskies began to show: their defense, a key staple of their identity that pushed them to this point in the year. That tough and gritty style of play

felt lost even in the first half as the Red Storm took advantage of holes and played their brand of basketball in an arena where they hadn't grabbed much success. While players like Jordan Hawkins caught fire on the offensive side of the basketball with tough buckets from beyond the arc, the Red Storm fired right back with tough buckets inside.

Although there was some sloppy basketball from the Huskies, it remained a tie game after a fadeaway buzzer-beater from junior David Jones. It was time for both teams to get some rest and regroup, especially UConn who certainly didn't look like themselves in that first half. When talking about his team after the final buzzer sounded, coach Dan Hurley didn't expect everything to unfold as it did.

"I thought we would play a lot better. Just looked weak and unprepared. Disappointing just begins to describe it," Hurley said.

As the second half began, there were still plenty of problems on the defensive end. Even though the Huskies kept it close on offense, the Red Storm kept firing back. Even when UConn showed more fight on defense, St. John's found ways to score with players like Soriano inside, who finished the game with 19 points and a whopping 13 rebounds. They kept taking ad-

vantage of countless mistakes from the Huskies.

"They were just way tougher every 50/50 ball, every 60/40 ball, they beat us to. Every time that it was a one-on-one situation, their player got the edge," Hurley said on what bothered him in this game.

It was a symbol of resilient basketball, and a first-half scuffle between UConn freshman Donovan Clingan and Jones helped energize the Red Storm to play even harder. In the second half, the Red Storm kept pushing and as the buzzer sounded, St. John's had an 85-74 win over UConn.

"This game proves a lot. It shows what we can do when we're together, when we're connected," Soriano said.

Now, Hurley and the Huskies need a spark more than ever as they look to end their multi-game losing streak in their next matchup at Seton Hall. Change is certainly needed and the Huskies sense that. While Jordan Hawkins had an amazing night on offense, he voiced how it didn't matter to him.

"It really doesn't matter," said Hawkins. "We lost."

With a tough stretch of games behind them and a heightened sense of urgency throughout the program, the Huskies are being pushed further to perform and return to their winning ways. It's time to demonstrate the character that's brought them here.



UConn's Jordan Hawkins attempts to dribble past a defender during a game. The Huskies suffered a 85-74 loss against St. Johns at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn. on Sunday, Jan. 15. Hawkins had a career night despite the loss, scoring a career-high 31 points. PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women's Basketball: Fudd absent for second half as No. 4 Huskies win ugly against Hoyas

by **Cole Stefan**
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In the past week, the No. 4 UConn women's basketball team appeared to be trending in the right direction in terms of their overall health. On Wednesday, Azzi Fudd returned to action after missing the last eight games with a knee injury and the Huskies beat the St. John's Red Storm in the first-ever women's basketball game at UBS Arena.

Four days later, UConn found themselves back at square one against the Georgetown Hoyas, still down Caroline Ducharme and Ayanna Patterson to the concussion protocol.

Late in the second quarter, Fudd and a Georgetown player accidentally collided around Fudd's right knee close to the Huskies' bench. She subsequently hobbled around the paint and headed to the locker room with a trainer not long after getting subbed out.

Fudd dressed in uniform and sat on the bench for the second half while nursing her injury with an ice pack but did not return to the court afterwards. No official update has been given regarding her injury and her status for UConn's next game is to be determined.

Fudd's injury was only part of the problem, as the Huskies' offensive struggles were magnified, and the turnover woes returned in an unpleasant 65-50 win against the Hoyas. The game started like any of the last seven contests UConn played as they scored the first four points, but Georgetown made their first two three-point attempts and shifted momentum the other way. The Huskies fought back with a 5-0 run after Dorka Juhasz drained two free throws and Nikka Muhl buried a three, but the offense turned ice cold for the rest of the period as the Hoyas ended the first up two.

Neither team could buy a bucket in the first three minutes of the second quarter, but Fudd's first (and only) three as well as a fast break layup by Lou Lopez-Sénéchal forced Georgetown to take a timeout. Even with Fudd heading to the locker room and the team not making a field goal in the final three minutes, UConn took the lead heading into halftime, as Aubrey Griffin converted two big free throws and Kelsey Ransom went 1-2 at the line on the ensuing possession.

Down Fudd and playing some of their worst basketball of the season, the Huskies came out of the locker room with a fire in their eyes, waking up offensively and bursting out to a 16-2 run in six minutes of play before the media timeout.

Not even that extended stoppage in play could slow UConn down as they outscored the Hoyas 20-8 in the frame, but they made a living at the charity stripe. The Huskies got into the bonus in three minutes as Georgetown committed 11 fouls in the period, and they produced points off those fouls by going 13-14 from the free throw line.

Down Fudd and playing some of their worst basketball of the season, the Huskies came out of the locker room with a fire in their eyes, waking up offensively and bursting out to a 16-2 run in six minutes of play before the media timeout.

UConn's offense stayed hot in the fourth quarter, cashing in around the paint and draining threes instead of free throws, as a close battle became the blowout everyone expected heading into the contest. Not even a 9-0 Hoyas run in the final two minutes affected the outcome, as the Huskies escaped victorious in a scrappy contest.

Aaliyah Edwards and Juhasz led the charge on offense as they both scored in double figures during the second half. Both forwards

finished with efficient performances on both ends of the floor as Edwards led all players with a double-double of 17 points and 11 rebounds, while Juhasz picked up a double-double in her third straight game with 13 and 10.

With Fudd playing just 12 minutes and none in the second half, Lopez-Sénéchal and Muhl scored 12 points and knocked down two threes apiece to command the guard play. The team as a whole shot 41.3% from the field while making 22 out of 26 free throws, but certain offensive struggles remained prevalent as they committed 23 turnovers (13 in the first half) and got outscored in bench points 19-3 (with Fudd providing all three points).

Brianna Scott led all Hoyas with 11 points on 4-9 shooting, seven rebounds and two threes while Kennedy Fauntleroy scored nine with three steals and three assists. Georgetown kept UConn close in the first half despite shooting 25.7% from the field but were done in by their 32.2% overall mark from the field and getting outscored off turnovers 26-14.

Looking Ahead

The Huskies (15-2, 8-0 Big East) go back on the road to take on the Seton Hall Pirates (13-5, 6-2 Big East) on Tuesday, January 17. Ini-

tially scheduled for January 19, this matchup got moved up two days in order to accommodate UConn's rescheduled game against the DePaul Blue Demons on Monday, Jan. 23. In their first meeting at the XL Center last month, it was a high-scoring affair as the Huskies came out on top 98-73.

The Pirates have been hot since the Christmas break, handing the then-No. 24 Red Storm their first loss of the year during a four-game winning streak before losing to Creighton this past Wednesday. Lauren Park-Lane, who has scored 14 or more points in all but one game since Dec. 1, leads the offense as her 20.1 PPG ranks third in the conference behind Maddy Siegrist and Aneeshah Morrow.

Joining Park-Lane on offense are Sidney Cooks and Sha'Lynn Hagans, who have helped the Pirates average over 70 points per game. Cooks is tenth in the conference with 16.1 PPG, but makes her living around the glass as she leads the team in field goal percentage (53.2%) and is tied for the lead in blocks (19). Hagans is averaging 10.3 points a game and is just as efficient from the floor (53.1%) but lights it up from downtown at a 47.9% clip (second in the conference behind Lopez Senechal).

Tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Walsh Gymnasium in South Orange, New Jersey on SNY.

WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

UCONN SCOREBOARD

vs.

65 vs. 50

Women's Basketball
Sunday

Upcoming Games

vs.

MBB, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
South Orange, NJ

vs.

Women's Hockey, 6 p.m. Friday
Providence, RI

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY

@miltonlevin

Swipe to see tonight's stunning sunset over @uconn (Jan 15, 2023).

TWEETS OF THE DAY

Brit Brat 🇮🇹🇸🇰

@iambbrxtney

asking for a letter of recommendation gotta be top 10 most nerve wracking things to do as a college student

Breezy' 🤔

@OvOBrezzzy

Mfs really got college classes tomorrow LMAOOOOO

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