

# The Daily Campus

THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT SINCE 1896 • VOLUME CXXVII, NO. 67

Friday, December 1, 2023

## Mansfield Downtown Partnership hosting annual Winter Welcome tomorrow afternoon

by **Pierce Colfer**  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
HE/HIM/THEY/THEM  
pierce.colfer@uconn.edu

This Saturday between 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. students can join the Mansfield Downtown Partnership for their 11th annual Winter Welcome. The event, which will take place in Downtown Storrs, will feature community displays, winter-themed activities and much more to welcome in the change of season.

The Winter Welcome has been held annually since 2012, and is all about celebrating the coming Winter according to Kathleen Paterson, the sewnior communications manager for the Mansfield Downtown Partnership.

“The goal of Winter Welcome is to bring people together in Downtown Storrs in celebration of the start of the new season,” Paterson said.

In Downtown Storrs, you will discover activities and attractions hosted by local businesses from Mansfield.

Various programs will be held, including completely new ones from last year’s Winter Welcome. The event will include an instrument petting zoo from Waldron’s Studio 88, a make-your-own-snowman station from the Town of Mansfield Human Rights Commission and lots of things to purchase from many different busi-

nesses, including Levin Aerial Works and Rooted Dreams Floral and Design Company.

There will be community displays all along Royce Circle, including ones from Nautical Bowls, Jeff’s Kettle

LLC and many more. Mansfield Fire Department will also be present with a fire

truck decorated for the holiday season, and there will be live performances from UConn Tap Club, E. O. Smith High School Choirs and students from Mansfield Elementary School.

Nearby these displays

Mansfield Resident State Troopers’ Office. They will be collecting gifts which will be donated to families across Mansfield. Donations can include toys for any and all ages, gift cards, winter apparel and more. The organization specified that gifts should be donated unwrapped.

In addition to these activities and displays, Mansfield Downtown Partnership will be hosting their Trim-A-Tree Contest. These local businesses have been tasked with decorating a Christmas tree. Attendees will be able to view and vote on their favorite trees and the top three entries will receive a prize.

This is just a small preview of what is in store at the Winter Welcome in Storrs tomorrow. For more information about the event, including gift bags, a visit with Santa Claus, ice sculptures and more, visit Downtown Storrs’ website about the event.



Corn, A1 Home Improvement

plays, you will find the Stuff-A-Cruiser Toy Drive being hosted by the

“The goal of Winter Welcome is to bring people together in Downtown Storrs in celebration of the start of the new season.”

KATHLEEN PATERSON

ILLUSTRATION BY ANNA IORFINO, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Two UConn puppet arts students operate a puppet depicting the arrival of winter during the 2020 Winter Welcome. PHOTO COURTESY OF MANSFIELD DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP

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Tweet of the Day

**Daily** TALKING WITH NO MOUTH | PAGE 7  
Talking with no Mouth: Elon Musk is absolutely nuts

**Daily** TALES FROM TURNTABLE | PAGE 5  
The most revered journalist in music

**Daily** WBB | PAGE 12  
No. 11 Huskies vs. No Longhorns

**THE MASK**  
[@themaskbitch\\_](https://twitter.com/themaskbitch_)  
I be upready to crackjokes at 8am that’s my problem

News

# TWO ARRESTED IN INCIDENT THAT ACTIVATED SPRINKLERS AT UCONN'S WERTH TOWER

**by Aiza Shaikh**  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR  
SHE/HER/HERS  
aiza.shaikh@uconn.edu

*Editor's note: Tomas Hinckley is a resident of Peter J. Werth Tower and a weekly columnist at The Daily Campus.*

University Safety responded to the University of Connecticut's Peter J. Werth Tower late Tuesday night after high heat was detected in a residential room and sprinklers were activated.

The sprinklers were activated in response to a flammable substance ignited on one of the building's floors, according to UConn Police and the University Fire Marshal. The act was done intentionally and two people have been arrested.

According to university spokesperson Stephanie Reitz, the first arrestee "was charged with "one count of fourth-degree criminal mischief for allegedly covering the room's smoke detector, police said."

The second arrestee was a minor, whose identity and charges cannot be released.

The activation of the sprinkler system caused flooding and water damage to some areas of Werth, especially areas closest to the room in which the incident took place.

"Water damage from the sprinkler activation was reported in the room where the incident occurred, and in some areas where the water seeped nearby and below," Reitz added.

Tomas Hinckley, a first-semester UConn student and political science major, was inside the building when the incident took place and recalls seeing water spread across the floor, covering the span of the hallway.

"My friends and I were all just hanging out on our floors at night and the fire alarm goes off ... We turned into the main hallway of the floor and saw lots of water coming out from one of the doors," Hinckley said.

According to Hinckley, residents were instructed to leave the building for a while. They were eventually allowed to go back inside on the first floor, where they could see water leaking through the ceiling.

"After a while [the resident assistants] let everyone in on the first floor, and even on the ground level we can see drips of water and little streams coming down from above," Hinckley added.

Hinckley also recalls seeing water reach the floor of several residential rooms.

"We were all pretty shocked at the water ... People went into their rooms and things were soaked," said Hinckley. "If you had anything on the floors, odds were it got wet."

The UConn Fire Department and Facilities Operations, along with a cleaning contractor, are currently drying the hallways with dehumidifiers and industrial-size fans, according to Reitz. They have also restored the fire alarm system.



**Sprinklers were activated on Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023 in Peter J. Werth Tower due to high heat being detected in a residential room. University Safety responded to the situation and two people have been arrested.**  
PHOTO BY TOMAS HINCKLEY, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Sudoku

6			9					1
	2		1				9	
	9	3						
		8	4					9
				6		8		
7					5	1		
		4				9	5	
	7				3		2	
					9			6

9	1	3	6	4	7	2	5	8
8	2	4	3	5	9	1	7	6
7	5	6	8	1	2	4	9	3
2	3	1	5	6	8	9	4	7
5	4	8	7	9	3	6	1	2
9	6	7	1	2	4	8	3	5
4	8	9	2	7	5	3	6	1
3	9	5	6	8	1	7	2	4
1	7	2	4	3	9	5	8	6

## The Daily Campus

Printing since 1896, The Daily Campus is the oldest and largest independent student publication at the University of Connecticut. The Daily Campus circulates 5,000 newspapers daily and strives to serve the student body by delivering accurate, relevant and timely news and content, both in print and online at DailyCampus.com. Our staff is comprised entirely of students, with roughly 200 undergraduates gaining professional development while contributing to the daily production of the paper, with positions including writers, photographers, copy editors, page layout designers, graphic designers, advertisement representatives, receptionists, delivery drivers and digital producers. Thanks for reading.

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Study Break



# DAILY CAMPUS CROSSWORD



**ACROSS**

- 1 Welcome gifts at the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel
- 5 Deputy
- 9 Some parents
- 13 Mount near Taormina
- 14 Passing remark?
- 15 Nike rival
- 16 \*LOL OMG
- 19 \_\_\_ year
- 20 Actress Collette
- 21 Fatal flaw of some Greek heroes
- 22 \*CU soon
- 25 Fuel for some grills
- 26 Youngest March sister
- 27 Some barbecue remains
- 29 Young chap
- 32 Tesfaye whose stage name is the Weeknd
- 35 Bandleader's cue
- 37 Old-fashioned before
- 38 Classic demonstration, and a way to describe the relationship between each starred clue and its answer
- 42 Indifferent review
- 43 Queues
- 44 Fission target
- 45 Hindu title
- 46 Well-worn
- 47 Place for a paraffin body wrap
- 49 \_\_\_ choy
- 51 \*SRY
- 57 Tiny slice
- 60 Can of worms, maybe
- 61 "Narcos" org.
- 62 \*TMI
- 65 Not buttoned
- 66 Actor Rami
- 67 Send for onboarding
- 68 Some twins
- 69 Beltmaking tools
- 70 Not so much

**DOWN**

- 1 Abandon one's inhibitions

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13					14					15				
16				17						18				
19				20				21						
22			23					24		25				
			26					27	28			29	30	31
32	33	34				35	36					37		
38				39	40						41			
42				43							44			
45				46					47	48				
		49	50			51	52	53				54	55	56
57	58				59		60					61		
62						63						64		
65						66						67		
68						69						70		

By Katie Hale

12/1/23

- 2 Hawke of "The Northman"
- 3 Clumsy
- 4 Like a tear-jerker
- 5 \_\_\_ acid
- 6 Ancient Aegean region
- 7 Not yet settled
- 8 Make a lasting impression?
- 9 Green arboreal snake
- 10 Had to scramble to get out the door, perhaps
- 11 Calf-length skirt
- 12 Voices
- 14 Cream relative
- 17 Part of a collection
- 18 Really must, informally
- 23 "Come no further"
- 24 Palm fruits
- 28 Number of suspects in Clue
- 30 "Alligator Boy" in a 2021 Netflix animated film
- 31 Judge to be
- 32 Places for taking notes?
- 33 \_\_\_ garden
- 34 Put on display
- 35 Accord maker

**Thursday's Puzzle Solved**

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

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12/1/23

- 36 Barinholtz of "History of the World, Part II"
- 39 Chaps
- 40 Safflower \_\_\_
- 41 Polite address
- 47 Former weekend programming block that featured "Clarissa Explains It All"
- 48 Anti-fur gp.
- 50 Bakery features
- 52 Kids' batting game
- 53 Fertile spots
- 54 \_\_\_ Bauer
- 55 Gets warmer?
- 56 Chaucer works
- 57 Nose-in-the-air type
- 58 Casual gait
- 59 Oblong tomato
- 63 "Yup" opposite
- 64 Bruins' org.

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Life

# ‘Family Switch:’ Switching things up – just a little

by Benjamin Lassy | LIFE EDITOR | HE/HIM/HIS | benjamin.lassy@uconn.edu

On Thursday, Nov. 30, Netflix released the holiday film “Family Switch,” showcasing a family whose children and parents have swapped bodies. While not the first film to dabble in the idea of body swaps (see Freaky Friday from 2003, among others), director Joseph McGinty Nichol, professionally known as McG, and a cast of famous actors and celebrity cameos.

The film features the Walker family, comprising parents Bill (Ed Helms) and Jess (Jennifer Garner), and their two children, CC (Emma Myers) and Wyatt (Brady Noon). The Walkers are a fairly typical family and showcase a large gap between the parents and their kids – for instance, Bill and Jess don’t understand what their children are going through, while Wyatt and CC feel limited by their parents’ controlling nature.

This family dynamic is common in many holiday or family-oriented films, but

“Family Switch” does a fairly good job of switching up the norm. For instance, Bill is an energetic dad, similar to Chevy Chase’s Clark Griswold in “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation.” Helms does a fantastic job of bringing out the energy in the dialogue even further, and frequently runs around and uses a physical energy to enhance the scene. In general, this chaotic fun differs from many other standard families in Christmas films, which tend to have a stern, disconnected father figure.

Likewise, the energy found in Helms’ performance is accompanied by stellar acting from Garner, Myers and Noon, who all seem to embrace both their roles as children and adults once the bodies are finally switched. It does bear mentioning that while having corny moments throughout – such as commonplace stereotypes

of bossy parents and secret-genius children – writers Adam Szykiel and Victoria Strouse craft a strong plot.

For instance, before the body swap finally takes place, ample backstories, for all characters in their initial lives are described, so that post-swap, viewers can fully understand the difficulties faced by the family members while trapped in their new bodies. Jess has to take on CC’s upcoming soccer game which is being watched by a scout, while Bill enters the highly academic realm of Wyatt’s nerdiness – including narrowly avoiding kissing Wyatt’s crush. Similarly, Wyatt has to grapple with his Dad’s life as a once-promising rock-and-roll star (he was almost a member of “Maroon 6”), and even performs on stage as his father. Lastly, CC takes on her mother’s high-stakes job in a law firm, which doesn’t go very well at first.

When watching a holiday film it’s easy to get critical and point out glaring gaps in the plot, including the inevitable gripe: Why does the swap happen? The film explains the swap as being the result of a planetary convergence, which while sort of implausible, works as a basic magical explanation. Yet, then there is the other magical force in the story, Angelica Walker (Rita Moreno), who acts as a fortune teller and insider on the body swap, as she knows who’s in whose body.

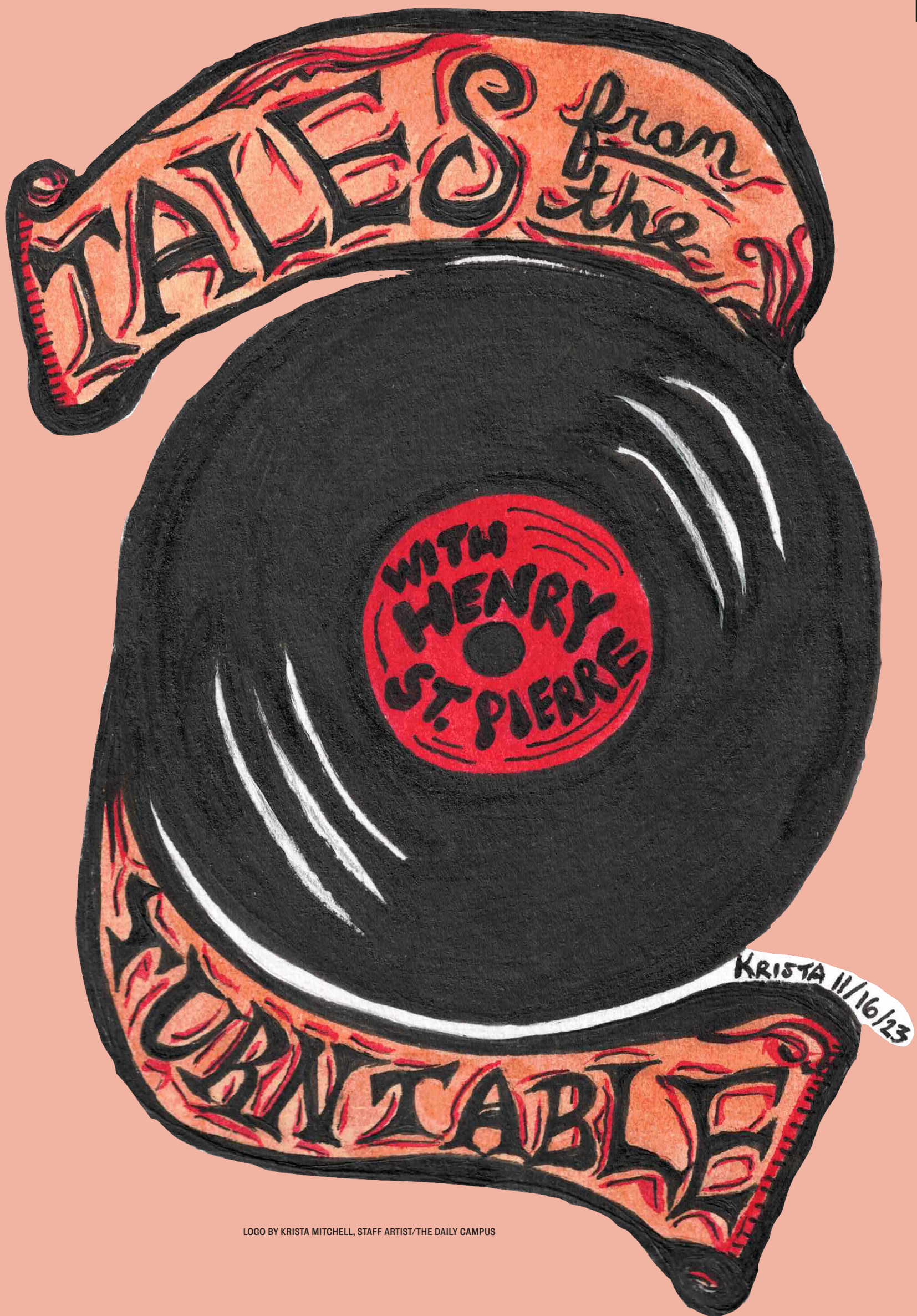
Leaving the unexplained magical elements of the body swap aside, the general plot follows a fairly straightforward yet fun course. In Jess’s body, CC learns about her mother’s sacrifices to afford her daughter’s soccer camps and even winds up shaping a team that advances her mother’s role at the law firm. This success is likewise felt by Wyatt while in his father’s body,

who performs on stage and unites the family as they harmonize to Christmas songs – a corny, yet infectious happy moment. Finally, the parents rediscover their fun side and understand the struggles and stress their children bear each day. While predictable, these resolutions come slowly and rewardingly, and the film takes itself seriously enough that it’s hard not to feel for each member.

The ending brings everyone back together nicely, although not arriving there without some enjoyable twists that make the film well worth a watch. While not a perfect movie by any means, it captures the holiday spirit of togetherness well, without overdoing the stereotypical parent-teenager disconnect. If you’re looking for a fresh Christmas movie that strays away from the norm, and switches up expectations in a small yet effective way, “Family Switch” is a great option.

## Rating:





LOGO BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# TALES FROM THE TURNTABLE: THE MOST REVERED JOURNALIST IN MUSIC

by **Henry St. Pierre**  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
HE/HIM/HIS  
henry.st\_pierre@uconn.edu

Welcome back to Tales from the Turntable! While I usually talk about or analyze events in music history, this week will be a little different. This week we're covering the career of one of the biggest cult icons in music history, as well as one of the most beloved figures on the internet. Before there was the likes of Connecticut-based music critic Anthony Fantano taking the online music community by storm, there was one John Ruskin, better known as "Nardwuar the Human Serviette."

Nardwuar is known for his unique interviews of popular musicians, as well as being the frontman of Vancouver-based new wave band The Evaporators. His amassed cult following is hard to overstate. He regularly garners millions of views across all social media platforms and has the opportunity to interview legendary musicians. Characterized by his happy-go-lucky persona, garish attire and impeccable interviewing skills, Nardwuar has interviewed musicians of all walks of life, from Nirvana to Tyler, the Creator.

Finding his footing in college radio, Nardwuar quickly gained notoriety in British Columbia, Canada for his eclectic personality. His moniker's origin is somewhat mysterious, the most commonly accepted meaning is nothing — it was a name chosen for its goofiness. After diving further into music journalism, he was able to land interviews with increasingly prominent figures in the music industry. As the 2000s rolled around, he started posting his interviews online, finding popularity on the newly-created video sharing site, YouTube.

One thing that sets his interviews apart from others, even those outside the music industry, is his commitment to research. In his interview with singer Pharell Williams, Nardwuar presented the musician with a vinyl copy of the very first song Williams had ever featured on, causing Williams to utter "This is one of the most impressive interviews I've ever experienced in my life. Seriously." Not stopping at politicians, he's also interviewed former President Gerald Ford, former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and several Canadian prime ministers.

While most interviewees are civil and humorous with him, other celebrities aren't thrilled with his loud personality. Several

legendary musicians, including Henry Rollins, Kurt Cobain, Nas and Beck have been hostile during interviews, with some even walking out prematurely. Nardwuar admits that while it can be discouraging to get rejected, it doesn't hinder his performance. Some musicians have even apologized for their malice during interviews, like Blur drummer Dave Rowntree, who apologized in 2011 for verbally and physically accosting Nardwuar during an interview in 2003.

While he's mainly known for his journalism and interviews, he's also the frontman and keyboardist for The Evaporators. Their brand of 80s new wave has also gained recognition with punk fans, releasing several albums and touring to this day. A copy of 1996's "United Empire Loyalists" can be found in WHUS' record collection, being sent to the station for radio play upon its release.

Even after almost 40 years, Nardwuar has shown no signs of slowing down. Similarly, fans continue to enjoy the content he puts out. His rambunctious wardrobe has caused him to become a common Halloween costume among his fans. This year, I dressed up as Nardwuar for Halloween, and even won the costume contest at WHUS' annual Mischief After Dark concert.



# Life

@dailycampuslife



## 25 Years Goes Quickly

*"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."*

*Ferris Bueller  
(John Hughes)*





# Opinion

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COMIC BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# ELON MUSK IS ABSOLUTELY NUTS

by Tomas Hinckley

WEEKLY COLUMNIST  
HE/HIM/HIS  
tomas.hinckley@uconn.edu

After spending the past two weeks down in the weeds on this column, writing about incels and all that weirdness, I wanted to spend the last two articles of my first semester as a student at the University of Connecticut and writer for The Daily Campus talking about some brighter topics. Although it may not seem like it sometimes, we at the Opinion section do actually have other interests than politics and cultural issues. Yet, when I was thinking of my pitch for this week, I saw the recent tweets by Elon Musk and simply could not resist the blood in the water. Musk is an insane sociopathic man-child,

and I don't think the ways he affects the world are discussed enough. For those unaware, on Nov. 16, X (formally known as Twitter) user @breakingbahtweeted a typical white supremacist conspiracy regarding Jewish communities. The belief is that Jewish people are controlling non-white communities all across the globe, bringing them into the United States and organizing them to dismantle and displace the white race. That is absolutely insane and a sign of someone who does exist in the same reality as you and I. As bad as they are, conspiracies like this come up all over the place on Twitter. This is why a lot of big advertisers are trying to get off the app before they become associated with actual Nazism. What's even worse though, is that Musk responded to the tweet and said it was "the actual truth."

Words cannot encapsulate how

bad this is. For starters, this ideology is what drives people to homicide — which already occurred in 2018 at the Tree of Life synagogue. Now, we have a man who owns one of the largest social media sites on the planet and holds 150 million followers on the app while promoting his terroristic ideologies. This is not to mention all the other work he does trying to destroy any traditional media organizations he can, defaming them as leftist propaganda institutions. I won't even bring up how he lamented the melting of old Confederate statues as examples of white extinction. He has transcended normal conservative politics and exists firmly in a state of conspiracy. His actions have peddled antisemitic white supremacist insanity, with enough of a platform to actually put out those ideas to an incredible amount of people.

This is also a good time to note that Musk, as a single private individual, holds power over some of the strongest military assets that exist today with virtually no oversight. I am of course talking about the Starlink satellite system (which

I have written about the risks of before) and how his control over it can literally change the course of modern wars. Originally, I made this point because of Musk's oversized and fragile ego, which directed him to restrict access to this vital resource because he couldn't handle being criticized. Now there's another valid point that his actions during a conflict could be influenced by the latest baseless racist theory that he heard on 4chan.

The rest of this article goes out to all the people who have bought into his cult of personality because, more than anything, Musk is sustained by the love he craves so

dearly from the public. This image that he tries so hard to put forth is not real and he is not the idol that he wishes he could be. He is not cool. He is not self-made. He is not a rebel. He is a narcissist with a fragile ego. He is one of the most powerful men on earth and he will never be your friend or someone that relates to you. Without the support of his fans, he is nothing. Despite all the money and power, he is still just an empty man without real human connection.

LOGO BY HALEIGH SCHMIDT, ASSOCIATE ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# RAPID FIRE

## What does the holiday season represent?

If we're lucky in the Opinion section, we work through our beliefs completely and support them with great arguments. But sometimes, we don't need a deeper reason to hold our convictions. Rapid Fire is for those tweet-length takes that can be explained in just a sentence or two — no more justification needed.

In this Rapid Fire, writers gave their opinions on the question: What does the holiday season represent about America?

**Nell Srinath, Opinion Editor:** Don't get me wrong; I love receiving trinkets and gadgets during the holidays. But there's something deeply unhealthy about gift-giving culture in the United States. The financial toll of buying gifts just for the sake of social obligations, especially to people who are close to you, is significant. Advertising culture has created an almost pathological attachment to gift exchange and it undermines other meaningful forms of interpersonal connection. I've seen this firsthand as a fighter on the front lines (I work retail).

**Dan Stark, Associate Opinion Editor:** There's a startling connection between Hallmark Christmas movies and American suburbia. Every Hallmark Christmas movie uses the same formula and basic plot just copy and pasted over and over, which is similar to mass suburban expansion and those neighborhoods where all of the houses look the same.

**Tomas Hinckley, Weekly Columnist:** The unoriginality that exists in the music industry. We do not need more Christmas covers. The same songs don't need to be replayed again every year. I am so tired of it. I at least give credit to people who make new original Christmas music (<3 Laufey), but still. This also comes from someone raised in an oppressively Christmas music household, all it takes is hearing Micheal Bubl 's voice and I start tweaking. Thank you for your time.

**Athena Brown, Contributor:** Religious exclusion. Traditionally, Christian and western holidays are celebrated in the government and school system by default, with only a sprinkling of other cultures for "diversity." Why is it we get a week or more off for Christmas, but only some institutions give a singular day off for Eid or Yom Kippur, or none at all for holidays like Diwali? Are those celebrating them any less deserving of acknowledgement?



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# "FLIGHT OF THE CONCHORDS" ENDED AT THE RIGHT TIME

by Isaac Grad

CONTRIBUTOR  
HE/HIM/HIS  
isaac.grad@uconn.edu

"Flight of the Conchords" is a 2007 New Zealand comedy set in New York City's Chinatown. Despite its immediate success, it was canceled after only two seasons. In a time now where well-received shows are being canceled after only one season, one would assume the

*Despite my love for this show, I would argue that its end at two seasons was for the best.*

same thing happened with this show. It was not the producers who pulled the plug on this hidden gem, but the actors and writers themselves. Bret McKenzie, who plays Bret, and Jemaine Clement, who plays Jemaine, mutually decided to end the show after the second season, even saying they had to tell their agents to not tell them how much they would make from another season to ensure they wouldn't be compelled to continue for the money. The duo found the making of the show to be too exhausting and anxiety-inducing and simply weren't enjoying making the show. Many fans were and continue to be devastated by this, as being left with two seasons is no fun; luckily, these two seasons are filled to the brim with creative story lines and jokes. One can also imagine if the writers and actors aren't into it anymore the show won't continue to be as enjoyable to watch either.

Despite being known as a cult classic, I've found many people have never even heard of this show, much less seen it. Both McKenzie and Clement seem to be uninterested in fame, and are quite successful at remaining unknown while also reaching many accomplishments in the industry. Clement has been nominated for many awards including Emmys, Writers Guild Award, Producers Guild Awards and won the Toronto International Film Festival- People's Choice Midnight Mad-

ness Award. McKenzie won an Academy Award as well as a Critics Choice Movie Award for Best Song. Despite their accolades, they both manage to stay away from the public eye while also creating wonderful music and entertainment for the world. They do however occasionally tour as a comedy singing duo, which their show is based on in the first place. Their most recent tour being in 2016, was very successful despite their show ending nine years prior at the time, and not due to an old trick of performing at a small venue so as to sell it out.

Despite my love for this show, I would argue that its end at two seasons was for the best. If the actors and writers are no longer into it, the final product will not be as high in quality. I also find that two seasons of completely high-quality television is better than ten, where eight of which are created by people who are uninterested and stressed out. As Jemaine says, "Two minutes in heaven is better than one minute in heaven." I will also say that I am perfectly content rewatching the same two seasons of this show because of how unique and funny it is.

What separates "Flight of the Conchords" ending early as compared to other well-received shows that were canceled early, is that the budget for "Flight of the Conchords" could be much lower. "Flight of the Conchords" is a low budget show, which is part of why it's appealing and adds to the humor. A new, creative and well-received show that also costs very little to make is a producer's dream, so it's no surprise they wanted to continue the show. Now, we see many well-received shows that are canceled after just one season despite having

a fan-base that wants the show to continue. An example of this is "I Am Not Okay With This," a Netflix show that premiered in 2020, and featured a cast of up and coming young actors. While well-received and having a large audience hoping for a second season, the show was canceled due to its high cost.

The show "Freaks and Geeks," which also lasted only one season, was canceled because of the budget, as well as the time slot which placed the show's air time at 8 p.m on Saturdays, not an ideal time if you want your show to have a big audience. Similarly to "Flight of the Conchords" however, all of these shows are enjoyed now and some even considered cult classics despite being so short-lived. "Freaks and Geeks," although canceled for different reasons than "Flight of the Conchords," had a pretty similar situation. While most are familiar with many of the actors in "Freaks and Geeks" now, most of them were completely unknown at the time and were just getting their start. This is the same as "Flight of the Conchords," not only are the main characters played by unknown actors, but many of the jokes center around a country that people were relatively unaware of, as shown in the show. "Flight of the Conchords" managed to use what would otherwise be detrimental to a show trying to gain popularity, to make it special in its comedy. Low-budget shows like "Flight of the Conchords" or "Freaks and Geeks" may be canceled seemingly too early, considering their fresh approaches to television as a way to work

around the lack of money, but their uniqueness lives on long past their final episodes. As fans of shows like these we can appreciate what there is, however limited, rather than wallow in the disappointment that there won't be more. Personally, I'm just happy there's any episodes at all.

*"Two minutes in heaven is better than one minute in heaven."*

JEMAINE CLEMENT

## Opinion

Photo of the Day | Festive Jonathan



The holiday season has to come to Storrs as holiday lights decorate the trees surrounding the Jonathan statue on Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023. Many UConn alumni have rubbed its nose as part of UConn tradition. PHOTO BY SYDNEY HAYWOOD, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## UConn IS ESSENTIALLY 5 BOMB FACTORIES IN A TRENCH COAT: WHEN THE BOTTOM-LINE TOPS "HUMAN RIGHTS"

by Steve Núñez | HE/HIM/THEY/THEM

*Editor's note: This letter to the editor by Steve Núñez will be published in two parts. This section discusses the University of Connecticut's ties to the military-industrial complex.*

We'll never know the depth of UConn's investment in the carnage industry because, though it's a public university, the endowment activities are controlled by the UConn Foundation, a private corporation with no legal obligation to transparency, a fact that I've discovered through years of organizing and petitioning the university to cut ties with the punishment enterprise. Yet, for an institution that constantly purports to aspire to a more "peaceful" world, UConn (and universities in general) surely go through extensive lengths to cozy up to the capital gains made through the brutal annihilation of oppressed peoples.

UConn's engineering program, in particular, is inextricably linked to the carnage enterprise. The university celebrates its ties to Lockheed Martin with its Master of Engineering program called Architect Development and Qualification that provides

further education for Sikorsky-Lockheed employees to improve their destructive capacity. It also hosts, as an adjunct professor, Lockheed Martin Fellow in Systems Engineering, Daniel Durkin, who "serves as the Lockheed Martin's Missiles and Fire Control business area Model-Based Systems Engineering (MBSE) Chief Architect, responsible for the modernization and digitalization of systems engineering processes and tools."

UConn's clearcut hypocrisy and coziness to death mongers is glaring. The profits that UConn accrues from partnerships with death mongering corporations like Lockheed dictate the actions that the university takes, and the refusal to

speak out against the heinous violent Islamophobic hatred hurled at UConn stakeholders. While UConn publicly boasts its commitments to "striving towards a carbon neutral campus by the year 2050," it actively supports some of the most

and our adversaries alike," whenever "we see our fellow humans being dehumanized." Yet, in the face of some of the most grotesque abuses of international law, genocide Joe has consistently refused to rebuke the Zionist regime or call for a ceasefire. Instead, he has pledged billions of more dollars and United States-produced munitions to the fascist apartheid regime. In light of the U.S. financial, military and diplomatic support and enabling of the deplorable decimation of Palestine and Palestinian life, we are reminded of the longstanding fact that colonial commitments to "human rights" only apply to those who are conceived and perceived as "human" in the first

place. UConn, like many other Western institutions, has again made abundantly clear that the bottom line trumps all; so-called "commitments" to human rights always end at the threat to profit margins.

*Steve Núñez (he/they) is a former U.S. Army Special Forces Weapons Sergeant, holds a Master of Theological Studies in Religion, Ethics, and Politics from Harvard Divinity School, and is currently a PhD Candidate in the Philosophy Department whose areas of expertise include anti-colonial theory, revolutionary anti-violence and abolition and carceral studies.*



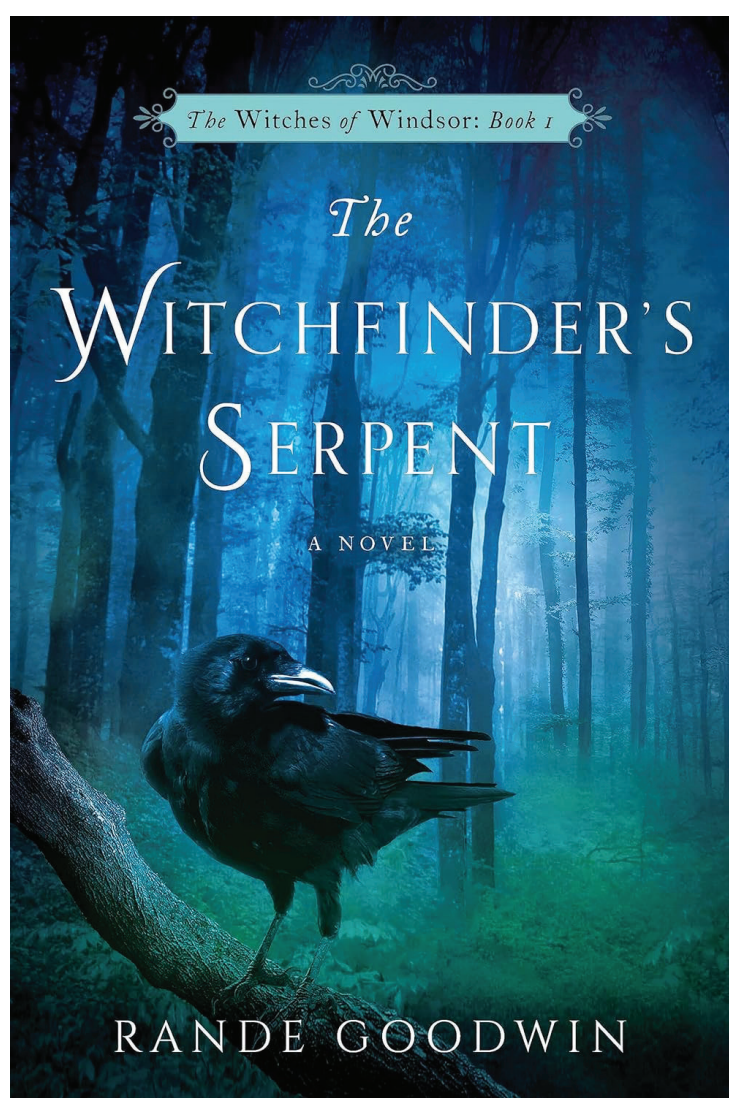
IMAGE COURTESY OF AUTHOR

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Author Signing at the Downtown  
THURSDAY,  
DECEMBER 7  
Storrs Barnes & Noble

Author Rande Goodwin will be signing copies of his award winning fantasy novel, 'The Witchfinder's Serpent,' at the Royce Circle Barnes & Noble from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Visit [www.randegoodwin.com](http://www.randegoodwin.com) for more information on this exciting new book series!



# TRACK & FIELD: HUSKIES TRAVEL TO BOSTON FOR INDOOR SEASON OPENER

by Jackson Crainich  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
HE/HIM/HIS  
jackson.crainich@uconn.edu

As the weather gets colder and cross country has concluded, it is once again time to start this year's indoor track campaign. The UConn men's and women's programs are each coming off successful seasons. Both teams won the Big East Championship last year, making that five straight conference championships for the men and four for the women.

The men's team is coming off a season where the coaching staff was unanimously voted as the best in the Big East. They also return multiple important assets to last year's championship squad. Senior Kasey Savage was the 2023 Big East high jump champion (2.05 meters), and was voted as the 2023 Big East Men's Most Outstanding Performer in Field Events. Senior Terrel Williams and graduate student Travis Snyder are both coming off of record-breaking seasons too. Not only have they both won their event at the indoor Big East championships two years in a row, but also hold school records in 60-meter hurdles (Williams, 7.71 seconds) and in pole vault (Snyder, 5.47m).

On the women's side, it's much of the same. They're also coming off a season where the coaching staff was voted Big East coaching staff of the year. They return a lot of talent, especially with junior A'lyiah Thomas.

Thomas set a school record last spring in the long jump (6.59m), becoming the conference champion in that event. Additionally, Thomas was the 2023 Big East Women's Most Outstanding Performer in Field Events. Also returning for the Huskies are juniors Jailya Ash and Kalli Knott, as well as graduate student Patricia Mroczkowski. Ash took home the Big East 60-meter hurdles championship (8.35 seconds), while Knott was the Big East pole vaulting champion (3.85m). Mroczkowski is the back-to-back indoor Big East champion for high jump (1.81m) and has her eyes set on making it three in a row this season. Senior Jenna Zydanic and Junior Chloe Thomas will lead the distance medley relay. They, along with Emily Lavarnway and Elise O'Leary, set the school record last year (11:19.21). With Lavarnway and O'Leary no longer on the team, it'll be interesting to see how the group performs with their new runners. Thomas also notably competed in the recent cross country national championship just a few weekends ago. The Huskies return this Friday, as they kick off their indoor season traveling to Boston University to participate in the Sharon Colyear-Danville Season Opener. There are high hopes this year as Connecticut looks to pick up where they left off and keep their streak going.



Two members of the UConn men's track team practice hurdling on the indoor track in the Hugh S. Greer Fieldhouse. Both the UConn men and women's track teams won the Big East Championship last year.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNFXC ON INSTAGRAM

# WOMEN'S SWIM AND DIVE: UCONN TRAVELS FOR INVITATIONAL AT BUCKNELL

by Sean Ahern  
STAFF WRITER  
HE/HIM/HIS  
sean.ahern@uconn.edu

The UConn women's swim and dive team (3-2) take on their first invitational of the season as they head to Bucknell (4-2) to participate in the Bucknell Invitational. They look to improve on their fourth place finish from last season's meet.

The Huskies have completed their first stretch of dual meets with a winning record of 3-2, coming off a convincing 162-133 win against Rhode Island. At Bucknell, they will compete against high quality opponents that will test their skills a handful of weeks out from the Big East Championships.

Last year at the Bucknell Invitational, the UConn women tal-

lied 1055.5 points to just miss out on a podium finish. They faced a field of seven other strong programs with the home-team Bison taking a wire-to-wire victory. Despite the loss, UConn gave incredibly strong efforts.

In last year's invitational, now senior Niamh Hofland scored 32 important points in the 1650-yard freestyle with a

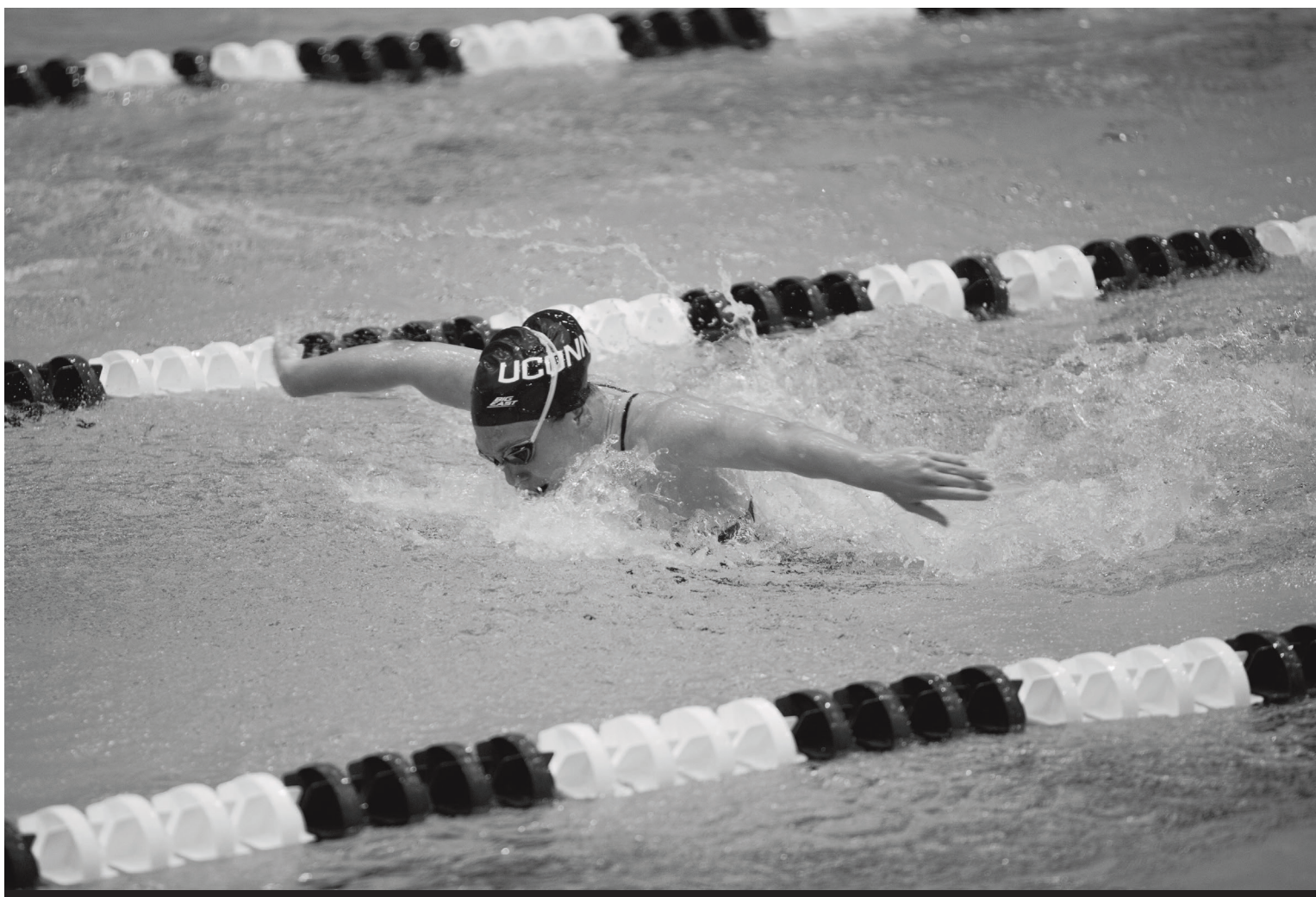
time of 16:43.98. Her time was more than 16 seconds faster than the second-place finisher. Hofland also added 32 more points with a first place finish in the 500-yard freestyle, edging out Bucknell's Sabrina Vumbacco by 0.01 seconds. The Huskies will need her to replicate these performances if they want a chance at the team title.

In the women's one-meter dive last year, UConn had solid contributions from the duo of now junior Julia Pioso and senior Elisabeth Katz. The two Huskies combined for 47 points, but will be looked upon to place higher on the results in this year's event.

For Bucknell, last year was a dominating showcase of the talent they possessed. Despite not having a first-place finish in any event, their depth separated them from the rest of the competition. Among those performances was the second-place 400-yard freestyle relay team that consisted of then freshman Jennifer Bolden, senior Sophia Donati, junior Kayla Lichtner and junior Esme Hunter. Their time of 3:23.70 placed them third all-time in Bison history. If Bucknell can find a replacement for Donati, the four-some could be a threat for big points throughout the meet.

In addition to the relay team, Bolden is instrumental in the Bison's success. At last year's invitational she had impressive individual performances, specifically the 100-yard freestyle where Bolden captured third place in a time of 50.90. At the time it catapulted her to the fifth fastest performance in program history. She also placed fourth in the 200-yard freestyle, finishing as the top freshman. Now as a sophomore, she will be expected to perform if the Bison want to defend their home pool.

Facing multiple teams will be a valuable experience for the Huskies in the three-day event. Once wrapped up, the Huskies will head to Vermont to resume their dual meet schedule.



UConn women's swimming loses their home meet against Villanova with a score of 146-154 on Oct. 21, 2023 at the Wolff-Zackin Natatorium in Storrs, Conn. This was their first loss of the season, after securing wins against SCSU and Georgetown.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Sports

## Photo of the Day | Bueckers' down



UConn women's basketball plays their first Hartford game of the season against Dayton. UConn swept Dayton with a final score of 102-58.

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# MEN'S HOCKEY: 2 WEEKEND MATCHUPS FOLLOWING STRONG WIN



The Huskies face off against the fourth ranked Eagles after a 5-4 loss in overtime the night prior. Unfortunately, UConn was shut out, losing 3-0 to Boston College on Saturday, Nov. 18, at the Toscano Family Ice Forum.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SHELAGH LAVERTY, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Nick Spinalli

STAFF WRITER  
HE/HIM/HIS  
nicholas.spinalli@uconn.edu

The UConn men's ice hockey team will look to continue their winning ways when they play host to the UMass Lowell River Hawks this Friday evening from Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, Connecticut. They'll continue their weekend by traveling to Orono, Maine for a matchup with the Maine Black Bears on Sunday evening.

The Huskies are fresh off of their most encouraging victory of the season last Saturday. Playing at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn., the Ice Bus handedly defeated a pesky Dartmouth squad, 6-1. UConn scored two goals in the first period, one in the second, and three in the third, going up by as much as 5-0 before Dartmouth was able to manage their first score. Chase Bradley scored two goals in the victory with the other four coming from Jake Black, Jake Richard, Ryan Tattle and Matthew Wood. Goalkeeper Ethan Haider corralled 22 saves in a solid buzzer-to-buzz-

er performance by the UConn defense. Bradley and Haider were recognized on the Hockey East Weekly Honor Roll for their efforts on Saturday.

The win moved the Huskies to 6-8-1 overall on the season including a 3-5-0 showing against Hockey East opponents. Their nine points in conference play place Connecticut in a tie with Merrimack for seventh place.

"I think that [these games] are a tremendous way to end our first half," Husky head coach Mike Cavanaugh said ahead of the upcoming weekend. "We've always had tremendous battles with Lowell. I've said many times before that I have the utmost respect for [Lowell head coach] Norm [Bazin] and how he runs his program. It seems that every time that we play them, it's always a tight game and I expect more of the same on Friday night."

The River Hawks played games against Bentley and Army last weekend, losing both matches. They first yielded to Bentley, 4-1, on Friday, before losing to Army, 4-2, on Saturday. Both Dillan Bentley and Jak Vaarwerk were named to the Hockey East Weekly Honor Roll for their performances over

the weekend. The two losses dropped UMass' record to 5-8-1 overall, including a 2-5-1 showing in the Hockey East. Their seven points in conference play place them 10th in the Hockey East, just one spot better than last-place.

"We'll do a better job of preparing for our next opponents and hopefully we start to get results, but we're far from where we want to be and that's just where [we] are right now," UMass Lowell head coach Norm Bazin said following the loss to Army on Saturday.

The Black Bears have lost their last two games, both to No. 8 Boston University. Despite the losses, Maine managed two close games in an away environment against formidable opponents, losing by scores of 3-2 and 5-4. The team will host No. 15 New Hampshire on Friday evening before welcoming the Huskies on Sunday. The losses moved Maine's overall record to a still solid 6-3-1, including 3-2-1 against Hockey East opponents. With their 10 points in conference play, the Black Bears are in sixth place in the Hockey East, one spot ahead of Connecticut.

"If [Maine]'s not the toughest road win in our league, then it's

certainly in the conversation," Cavanaugh said. "It's such a rabid fanbase, a dynamite atmosphere... it's always a fun place to play."

A player to keep an eye on for the Huskies this weekend will be team captain Hudson Schandor. A senior from North Vancouver, British Columbia, Schandor is far and away the Ice Bus' leader in assists this season with 10, five more than the next-closest Husky. He's also scored one goal, giving him 11 points on the season, the second-most for Connecticut. Schandor was an integral part of the UConn offensive attack on Saturday, rifling off three assists in the game. It was the second time that Schandor has dished out three assists in a game in his college career, the first time coming back during his freshman campaign.

One of Lowell's best offensive performers this season has been junior Matt Crasa. In 14 games, Crasa has amounted six goals and three assists, resulting in nine total points, third-best on the River Hawks. His .200 shot percentage and plus-3 plus/minus are each the best for Lowell. Crasa got off to a strong start to the season, scoring two goals in Lowell's season open-

er against Alaska Anchorage. Two games later, against Colgate, Crasa scored a career-high four goals in the contest. He's been consistent ever since, dishing out assists in three separate games to help facilitate UMass' offense.

Freshman Bradley Nadeau has made an immediate impact in his first season with the Black Bears. Hailing from St-François-de-Madawaska, New Brunswick, Nadeau ranks second for Maine in points with 12. He has scored seven goals and dished out five assists on the year. Maine is plus-7 when Nadeau is on the ice, the best individual plus/minus on his team. He slammed home a goal in the Black Bear's most recent loss to BU and has scored two goals in two different contests this season. He figures to be a focal point for Maine against the Ice Bus this weekend.

The Huskies are set to host Lowell at 7 p.m. on Friday from Toscano. Fans at home can catch the game live on NESN. Connecticut will then travel up to Maine for Sunday's bout versus the Black Bears. The game is set for 5 p.m. from the Harold Alfond Sports Arena in Orono. The game will be broadcast live on ESPN+.

# MEN'S BASKETBALL: HUSKIES CLASH WITH JAYHAWKS IN BLOCKBUSTER MATCHUP

by **Evan Rodriguez**  
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR  
HE/HIM/HIS  
evanrodriguez@uconn.edu

It's the matchup that everyone has circled on their calendars for months.

While the UConn men's basketball team has played some incredible opponents over the past few seasons, Kansas is another beast. Don't let the team's loss to Marquette during the Maui Invitational or their close win over Eastern Illinois on Tuesday fool you. This is the toughest challenge that this program will face during its non-conference slate. It's going to take the best performance of the season from this group to grab a win over the No.

5 team in the nation in their house. But, with what fans and critics alike have seen from this program already, they certainly have the weapons to do so.

The biggest priority for the Huskies this game? Do not let Hunter Dickinson get hot. The fourth year transfer big man has looked incredible this season, putting up 21.7 points and 12.7 rebounds per game. His ability to score and rebound the ball has been pivotal for this new-look roster for coach Bill Self. While Jayhawks fans could only hope that the former Michigan center would play as advertised in his new home, he has more than met those expectations during his short time in Lawrence, Kansas.

But, if you're going to be as dominant as Kansas, there has to be more firepower throughout the entire roster and Self has certainly put together a scary and complete program this year. Kevin McCullar Jr. has been a perfect small forward for this team and his 5.7 assists per game rank top 25 in the nation. That's right. If his 18.1 points per game weren't enough for you, the San Antonio native has shown that he's always looking for the best shots on the court, a trait that should be important against a tough Huskies defense.

Completing their dangerous frontcourt, KJ Adams Jr. has certainly been a monster, putting up double-digit scoring.

What stands out about the junior forward is his shot selection. Because Adams looks to get most of his shots in the paint and close to the rim, his field goal percentage of 73.5% is tied for fourth in all of college basketball. Simply put, the Huskies can't let him get any easy looks in the paint.

That's all without mentioning this team's backcourt. If McCullar's assist numbers impressed you at the three, Dajuan Harris Jr. will on a whole different level. At 52 total dimes for the season, the Kansas point guard is third in college basketball in that category. He's a huge reason why the Jayhawks are the top team in the nation in assists per game.

But, even with all the talent from UConn's opponents on Friday, there are some weaknesses that the reigning national champions can certainly take advantage of. While Dickinson is a great rebounder for his squad, the Huskies are an elite rebounding team on both ends of the floor. With Tristen Newton in the backcourt and Donovan Clingan in the frontcourt, the program can take significant advantage of their skill and grab more opportunities at scoring.

At the same time, Connecticut can't repeat their shooting numbers from Monday's outing against UNH, where the program put up a horrendous 4-28 night. That played a part in bringing the team's three point average down to just 30.9%, below Kansas' 32%. In response on Friday, UConn needs to knock down its shots from beyond the arc, especially if the Jayhawks give this team plenty of open looks.

Lastly, the Huskies need to embrace their defensive mentality to win this one. As stated prior, Kansas has some cold-hearted killers on their roster that are capable of taking the life out of teams. While it's equally as important that Connecticut comes out aggressive on the offensive end, they'll also need to bring their A-game and make sure that their opponents do not get hot, especially down the stretch when it can potentially be anyone's game.

As the biggest challenge for UConn thus far, the Huskies need to respond accordingly. In a packed Allen Fieldhouse, this is the perfect confidence booster that Dan Hurley and his squad need for an intense Big East schedule that lies ahead. If there's any time to play like a top college basketball team in the nation, it's Friday.



The UConn men's basketball team goes up against the UNH Wildcats at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn. on Nov. 27, 2023. The Huskies, who hold the National Championship title with this win, created a brand new record in NCAA history for 24 straight non-conference double digit wins.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Sam Calhoun**  
STAFF WRITER  
HE/HIM/HIS  
samuel.calhoun@uconn.edu

December has arrived with two intriguing matchups for the first-place UConn women's ice hockey team (10-4-1, 8-3-0 Hockey East). For the first time this season, the Huskies will host two different Hockey East opponents before taking over a month off.

The Huskies will begin by hosting Merrimack College (6-8-2, 3-6-2 Hockey East) on Friday afternoon, part of a doubleheader at the Toscano Family Ice Forum.

Today's matchup is the "Husky Alliance Game," with the UConn Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) promoting the event.

Not only is defenseman Ainsley Svetek one of the anchors of the Huskies' defense with 19 blocked shots this season (tied-team high), but she is also the president of the SAAC, making this game special for her to play in.

It is the first meeting this season between the Warriors and the Huskies. After a seven-game losing streak put them in sixth place in the Hockey East standings, Merrimack won at the College of Holy Cross and Providence College, and look to find more momentum heading into Storrs today.

The matchup to look forward to is the battle of both teams' points leaders: Merrimack forward Celine Tedenby and Connecticut forward Jada Habisch. Tedenby is known for being more of a balanced offensive player, with seven goals and six assists for 13 points, while Habisch is more of a goal-scorer, with a team-high ten goals and four assists for 14 points. The closest player to the senior from Buffalo, Minnesota, on the Huskies' goal-scoring list is forward Brooke Campbell, who has scored six times this season.

Forward Ashley Allard and defenseman Claire Peterson were among the top performers

in the conference this past week. Allard had two assists at the Nutmeg Classic and performed well at the faceoff circle, especially as a freshman. Peterson did more than just defense as she scored one goal and one assist in the two games in New Haven.

The Huskies have a lot of momentum going into this weekend, winning nine of their last ten games. The team's eight-game winning streak ended last Friday as No. 7 Quinnipiac University beat them four goals to two.

However, head coach Chris MacKenzie's squad did not mourn too much over the team's fourth loss this season as Habisch, who was named the Hockey East Player of the Month on Thursday, netted two goals to help UConn take down Sacred Heart University and finish 1-1 at the Nutmeg Classic in New Haven.

MacKenzie has used a two-goaltender duo this season, with juniors Tia Chan and Megan Warrenner splitting time in the crease. Chan has played ten games and started in nine, with a 1.54 goals allowed per game and a save percentage of .946. Warrenner has allowed just three goals in the seven games she has appeared in, with a save percentage of .971. The Stoney Creek, Ontario native helped the Huskies bounce back last weekend with a win over Sacred Heart.

Merrimack has relied on sophomore Calli Hogarth in net this season. The Barrie, Ontario native has allowed 2.30 goals per game and has a save percentage of .914.

Since their first meeting in 2015, UConn has the upper hand against Merrimack with a 15-6-3 series lead. Despite winning five of their first six meetings in the series' history, the Warriors have punched back, even winning back-to-back games during the 2018-19 season. Last season saw the Huskies go 2-0-1 against Merrimack, with nine goals scored across three games.

Today's game has a puck drop set for 2 p.m. For those unable to attend, the game is available to stream on ESPN+.

On Saturday, the best two teams in the Hockey East face off in a big

## WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY: NO. 12 HUSKIES HOST MERRIMACK, NO. 15 BOSTON COLLEGE TO WRAP UP 2023



The UConn women's ice hockey team takes on the Holy Cross Crusaders on Nov. 17, 2023 at the Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn. The Huskies played hard throughout the game really bringing their fire during the third period which brought them to a 3-0 victory.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

battle, with the Huskies hosting No. 15 Boston College (8-7-1, 8-3-1 Hockey East). The Eagles have a quick stop in the Ocean State to take on Providence College before heading to Storrs.

Out of every team UConn has faced on their schedule so far, only Boston College has completed a series sweep on them. Back in mid-October, the Huskies were one goal shy both in Chestnut Hill and at home against the Eagles, losing 4-3 in the first game and 2-1 in the second.

Boston College is a prolific offensive team, with six players holding 10 points or more. Forwards Abby Newhook, Julia Pellerin, Sammy Smigliani and Sammy Taber each have 12 points heading into the weekend. Taber, the Pro Ambitions Hock-

ey East Rookie of the Month, leads the Eagles in assists with nine. Newhook and forward Gaby Roy are tied for the team's lead in goals with seven each this season, providing a test for the Huskies' defense.

The biggest surprise this season was the breakout of Warrenner, who earned the Stop It Goaltending Hockey East Goaltender of the Month honor after leading the NCAA with two shutouts in November. Expect her and Chan to both see the ice this weekend.

Boston College is similar to Merrimack in which the Eagles have put only one goaltender in for the most part this season, relying on sophomore Grace Campbell, who was named to the Hockey East Top Performers list after saving 26 of 29 shots against Northeastern University on Saturday. The Kens-

ington, Maryland native has a 2.76 goals-against average and has a save percentage of .910.

Joining Campbell on the conference's top performers list is defenseman Sidney Fess, who had the lone goal on the power play in a 3-1 loss against Northeastern on Saturday.

It has been a rollercoaster ride for Boston College in Hockey East play this season, but they remain a fringe-top-15 team according to the USCHO Division I Women's Poll.

Boston College is currently on a three-game winning streak against the Huskies and holds a 47-25-10 record overall.

The Holidays with the Huskies game, the final one of 2023, will begin on Saturday at 3 p.m. on NESN.



# Sports

# WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: No. 11 HUSKIES PREPARE FOR TEXAS-SIZED TANGO WITH No. 10 LONGHORNS

by Cole Stefan  
SENIOR COLUMNIST  
HE/HIM/HIS  
cole.stefan@uconn.edu

They say that everything is bigger in Texas. That certainly is the case for the No. 11 UConn women's basketball team following their 1-1 performance in the Cayman Islands Classic, which resulted in them falling out of the Top 10 for the second time in three seasons on Monday. Sitting at

11th in the latest Associated Press poll, the Huskies face their second tough road test in four weeks against the team ranked one spot ahead of them, the No. 10 Texas Longhorns.

Beginning the season as the No. 2 team in the country behind the defending champion LSU Tigers, UConn has once again been stung multiple times by the injury bug. It started when redshirt freshman Jana El Alfy suf-

fered a torn Achilles during the FIBA U19 Women's Basketball World Cup in July, but since then, three more Huskies have joined the injury report.

The list includes guard Azzi Fudd, who dropped 32 points when Connecticut downed Texas in a top-five duel last year at Gampel Pavilion. Fudd suffered a torn ACL and medial meniscal tear in her right knee during practice on Nov. 14, prematurely ending her junior campaign after just two games. Junior guard Caroline Ducharme missed both of the Huskies' Cayman Islands Classic contests with neck stiffness while sophomore forward Ayanna Patterson has not played since undergoing offseason knee surgery.

UConn's "next man up" mentality put the spotlight on Aubrey Griffin, the team's main X-factor. Although she did not earn a spot on the Cayman Islands Classic All-Tournament Team, the graduate forward dropped 31 points, grabbed 15 rebounds and forced five steals across the two-day gauntlet. Showcasing her talents on both ends of the floor, Griffin leads the team with 6.8 boards a night (3.2 on offense) and seven blocks.

Only redshirt junior guard Paige Bueckers finished with more points than the New York native in the Cayman Islands Classic at 53. Third in the Big East Conference and 28th in the nation at 20.7 points per game, Bueckers has stepped up as a leader in the 28.5 minutes she spends on the court on average. Senior guard Nika Mühl's 28 assists and 10 offensive rebounds, meanwhile, complicate any defense that focuses their attention toward swiping the rock, especially from the Minnesota native's hands.

An accidental elbow to the face in the third quarter of Saturday's win over the Kan-

sas Jayhawks contributed toward it, but senior forward Aaliyah Edwards had a less than ideal time in the Cayman Islands with 14 points on 6-19 shooting and 12 rebounds between both games. For the Huskies to be successful in their second consecutive bout with Big 12 competition, Edwards needs to rediscover the interior aggression and mid-range jumper from her first four games this season.

With all the uncertainty heading into Connecticut's sixth straight matchup against Power Five opponents, expect one of freshman guard Ashlynn Shade or Big East Freshman of the Week KK Arnold to make their first start on United States soil should Ducharme miss her third consecutive game.

At 8-0, Texas is experiencing their best start to the season since 2015-16, when they did not lose a non-conference contest until the Elite Eight. Seven out of the Longhorns' eight wins have been by 30 plus points, albeit while playing mostly Quad Three and Quad Four teams. Texas' lone victory by less than that mark came in their second game of the year on Nov. 12, when the Liberty Flames were down six at halftime and ultimately lost by 18.

Not even the South Florida Bulls, who are 35th in Warren Nolan's NET rankings, could muster much versus the Longhorns as they scored in single digits in all but one quarter during a 76-44 loss in the Virgin Islands last Saturday. Junior guard Rori Harmon took home Paradise Jam Reef Tournament MVP honors along the way, guiding a Texas offense averaging 91.8 points. Second on the team with 11.8 points per game, Harmon also thrives as a fluid floor facilitator with a conference-leading 60 assists and an assist/turnover ratio of 7.5.

Dropping buckets versus the Longhorns becomes harder when dealing with their taut

defense, especially when they have outrebounded their opponent by 20-plus, four times. Texas collects 45.3 boards a night, with senior forward Taylor Jones being the most prevalent presence on the glass. Jones ranks third in the Big 12 Conference with 60 rebounds, almost half of which came in two different games, partially supporting her team-leading 17.5 points per game at a conference-best 73.2% clip.

The fifth-year senior does not get it all done in the interior by herself, however. Sophomore forward Amina Muhammad has created the most second-chance opportunities for the Longhorns with a Big 12-leading 26 offensive rebounds, complementing her 6.6 boards per contest and 13 steals. Senior forward Khadija Faye (20 offensive rebounds, 12 steals) rounds out a three-person frontcourt that makes it a struggle for the opposition to find any open spot on the court.

Graduate guard Shaylee Gonzales flies under the radar with how intimidating Texas is on the inside. Because of how little attention she may receive in any foe's schematics, do not be surprised if Gonzales goes off for her sixth double-figure performance in her last seven games. Forward Madison Booker, ESPN's No. 12 recruit in the 2023 class, also gives other teams fits via her 10.8 PPG and 28 assists.

Heading into the 11th all-time meeting between the two state flagship institutions, the Huskies are 0-2 when Bueckers drops 25-plus points and 4-0 when she scores 24 or less this year. With the multi-faceted style of play the Longhorns facilitate, UConn needs significant contributions from its entire starting five and most of its bench in its first-ever trip to the Moody Center in Austin, Texas.

Tip-off in the Huskies' 14th appearance in the Jimmy V Women's Classic commences on Sunday at 3 p.m. EST on ABC.



UConn women's basketball plays their first Hartford game of the season against Dayton. UConn swept Dayton with a final score of 102-58.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GONNOR SHARP, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP PAPER SALE REOPENING!



### WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

#### UPCOMING GAMES



vs.



Women's Ice Hockey,  
2 p.m., Friday  
Storrs, Conn.



Men's Basketball,  
9 p.m. Friday  
Lawrence, Kan.



vs.



Women's Ice Hockey,  
3 p.m. Saturday  
Storrs, Conn.

### INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconnmbb @ditristen was flirting with another triple-double last game

### TWEETS OF THE DAY



**Oliver Finn**  
@ollie\_finn35815  
Do not fear UConn being great. UConn is great

**Wes Ball-o-suknia**  
@walkrightier  
Car rental lady "What are you doing here"  
Me "UConn-Kansas Basketball"  
Lady "who you rooting for"  
Me "UConn"  
Lady "Everyone today".

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