



THOMISTIC INSTITUTE DEBUTS UCONN LECTURE SERIES



Exterior profile and entry point of St. Aquinas Chapel located in Storrs, CT on Oct. 10, 2023. St. Aquinas Chapel is home to the University of Connecticut's Catholic Student Center.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SEBASTIAN LOCASCIO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by John Haslun

STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
John.haslun@uconn.edu

On Tuesday, Dec. 5 from 6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Gentry Building, the University of Connecticut's chapter of the Thomistic Institute held their first visiting speaker lecture of the academic year. The talk, "The Virtues: Moral, Intellectual, and Theological," was presented by Dr. Adam Eitel of the University of Dallas, an expert on the works of St. Thomas Aquinas and former assistant professor at Yale University's Divinity School.

"We hope to share the Catholic intellectual tradition because we've noticed a lack of formation around the intellectual side of religion"

EMMA WINSTON

UConn's Thomistic Institute is one of many cam-

pus chapters of the national Thomistic Institute, founded in 2009 under the domain of the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. With over 80 chapters across colleges in the United States, the TI aims to "organize lectures, seminars, and reading groups to explore the riches of the Christian intellectual tradition," with a specific focus on the theology and philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas.

"In 2015, the TI began offering campus chapters that allow for students to bring the Catholic intellectual tradition to their campus..." said Emma Winston, president of the UConn Chapter. "To offer their fellow students the chance to bring questions about the Catholic faith to us and to create an open dialogue."

The TI chapter at UConn comes from humble origins. Following a discussion with a high school theology teacher, Winston reached out to the National Institute about forming a chapter and discovered another student, now-vice president Sean Murphy, had already begun to do the same. By the fall semester of 2023, the TI was officially enshrined as a registered student organization aiming

to provide those interested in philosophy, theology and questions of morality and faith with an avenue for discussion at UConn.

"open for any students no matter where you're coming from, no matter how much knowledge you have on these topics and the works of Aquinas"

EMMA WINSTON

"We hope to share the Catholic intellectual tradition because we've noticed a lack of formation around the intellectual side of religion," said Winston. "Our goal is to cultivate a community that aims to strengthen that amongst students."

Eitel's lecture is the first of many for the Thomistic Institute at UConn. Three future speakers are already planned to come to UConn during the spring semester and give

talks on topics ranging from the problem of evil, to the existence of God to love, friendship, and happiness and its connection with faith.

"We have a speaker menu made by the TI that they give to all the student leaders of these chapters," explained Winston. "These are qualified speakers who have studied these topics in-depth and went to school for them."

The Thomistic Institute's next speaker, presenting on Feb. 12, 2024 on the rationality of belief in God, will be Dr. Joshua Hochschild, the director of the Philosophy, Politics and Economics program at Mount St. Mary's University and former President of the American Catholic Philosophical Association.

In addition to hosting speakers from the Catholic philosophical and theological traditions, the TI also hosts bi-weekly reading groups on campus.

"The reading groups are the core of the TI at UConn," said Winston. "We have a few speakers each semester, but the reading groups are where we get together and really have a conversation."

The reading groups are an opportunity for anyone to bring questions, but they are also an opportunity for the TI to educate students on the rich

intellectual tradition of the Catholic Church embodied by Aquinas. His relationship to other philosophers is explored as well; Aquinas often addressed the work of his Greek antecedents, frequently citing Aristotle as "the Philosopher."

Club reading groups, for example, have addressed the Thomist response to Socrates' "Euthyphro Dilemma" regarding the nature of piety and justice. Other topics of discussion have included explorations of friendship and love, the existence of God and the meanings of virtue and evil.

"The reading groups are the core of the TI at UConn"

EMMA WINSTON

The reading groups are "open for any students no matter where you're coming from, no matter how much knowledge you have on these topics and the works of Aquinas," said Winston. "We're students who really care about sharing this tradition with fellow students at UConn."

For more...

dailycampus.com

[The_DailyCampus](https://www.instagram.com/The_DailyCampus)

[The_DailyCampus](https://www.twitter.com/The_DailyCampus)

[The Daily Campus](https://www.facebook.com/The_DailyCampus)

Tweet of the Day

Daily **ROUNDTABLE | PAGE 4**
Are socks a good Christmas gift?

Daily **EDITORIAL | PAGE 7**
Don't live under a spirit rock: Why we criticize UConn

Daily **HUSKIES IN THE PROS | PAGE 12**
Where did the 2004 UConn men's basketball team go after winning the national championship?

UConn Women's Basketball
@UConnWBB
There's nothing like being home!

News

Police say 3 dead, fourth wounded and shooter also dead in University of Nevada, Las Vegas attack

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A gunman killed three people and critically wounded a fourth Wednesday at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas before being killed in a shootout with police, authorities said. The attack sent shock waves through a city still scarred by the deaths of 60 people in a 2017 mass shooting only a few miles away on the famous Strip.

Reports of shots fired at about 11:45 a.m. sent police swarming onto the campus while students and professors barricaded themselves inside classrooms and dorm rooms.

UNLV Police Chief Adam Garcia said at an evening news conference that campus and local police rushed to the scene, a building housing UNLV's Lee Business School, where two university detectives killed the suspect during a shootout.

Authorities gave the all-clear about 40 minutes after the first report of an active shooter.

Sheriff Kevin McMahon said students had gathered outside the building to eat and play games. If police hadn't killed the attacker, "it could have been countless additional lives taken," he said.

"No student should have to fear pursuing their dreams on a college campus," said the sheriff.

Authorities didn't immediately release any additional details about the shootings, the victims, the suspect or a possible motive.

Professor Kevaney Martin took cover under a desk in her classroom, where another faculty member and three students took shelter with her.

"It was terrifying, I can't even begin to explain," said Martin. "I was trying to hold it together for my students, and trying not to cry, but the emotions are something I never want to experience again."

Martin said she was texting friends and loved ones, hoping to receive word a suspect had been detained. When another professor came to the room and told everyone to evacuate, they joined dozens of others rushing out of the building. Martin had her students pile into her car and drove them off campus.

"Once we got away from UNLV, we parked and sat in si-



Amanda Perez, left, is comforted by fellow student Alejandro Barron following a shooting on the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, campus, Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023, in Las Vegas.

PHOTOGRAPH BY K. M. CANNON/AP



Police work the scene of a shooting on the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, campus on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023, in Las Vegas.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MADELINE CARTER/AP

lence," she said. "Nobody said a word. We were in utter shock."

Students and the community were alerted to the emergency by a university post on X that warned: "This is not a test. RUN-HIDE-FIGHT."

The university said the shooter was at the Beam Hall, Frank and Estella Building, and that police responded to an additional report of shots fired at the nearby student union.

Student Matthew Felsenfeld said he and about 12 classmates barricaded their door in a building near the student union.

"It's the moment you call your parents and tell them you love them," said Felsenfeld, a 21-year-old journalism student.

Jordan Eckermann, 25, said he was in his business law class in a second-floor classroom when he heard a loud bang that he thought came from a neighboring music class.

But then a piercing alarm went off, sending students to their feet. Some ran from the room in panic while others heeded the professor's urging to stay calm, said Eckermann, who walked out and was directed to an exit by a law enforcement officer in a bullet-proof vest holding a long gun.

UNLV's 332-acre (135-hectare) campus is less than 2 miles east of the Las Vegas Strip. It wasn't immediately clear how many of the 30,000 students were on campus.

The shooting occurred in a city still scarred by one of the worst mass killings in U.S. history, the Oct. 1, 2017, massacre by a gunman in which 60 people attending a music festival were killed and hundreds more were wounded. The gunman opened fire from a high-rise suite at the Mandalay Bay casino. The UNLV campus is just over 3 miles (5 kilometers) from that location.

In response to the campus shootings, the Federal Aviation Administration issued a ground stop of all flights coming into Harry Reid International Airport. The university is roughly 2 miles (3 kilometers) north of the airport.

Classes were canceled through Friday at the university, and UNLV's basketball game at the University of Dayton, Ohio, was canceled Wednesday night because of the Las Vegas shootings.

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.

Want to advertise in print or online?
businessmanager@dailycampus.com

Corrections and Clarifications:
Send Corrections to EIC@DailyCampus.com

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Copy Editors: Desirae Sin, Dan Stark, Simran Jain and Jacqueline Flaherty

News Designer: Catherine Duffy

Life Designer: Karla Perez

Sports Designer: Colbi Loranger

Opinion Designer: Emily O'Bannon

Photo Producer: Jess Tusa

Madeline Papcun, Editor-in-Chief
Raquel Montelindo, Managing Editor
Naiya Patel, Business Manager
Charlotte Chen, Digital Editor
Emily O'Bannon, Associate Managing Editor
Shannon Hong, Associate Managing Editor
Ky'lynn Monts, Associate Digital Editor

Colin Piteo
News Editor
Aiza Shaikh
Associate News Editor
Stratton Stave
Sports Editor
Evan Rodriguez
Associate Sports Editor
Skyler Kim
Photo Editor
Jordan Arnold
Associate Photo Editor
Benjamin Lassy
Life Editor
Karla Perez
Associate Life Editor

Nell Srinath
Opinion Editor
Dan Stark
Associate Opinion Editor
Van Nguyen
Artist Editor
Haleigh Schmidt
Associate Artist Editor
Joanna Giano
Outreach/Social Media Coordinator
Nell Komorowski
Associate SMOG
Maddie Archambeau
Circulation Manager

The Daily Campus

For more information about getting involved as an editorial, business or digital employee:

Editorial · managingeditor@dailycampus.com

Business · businessmanager@dailycampus.com

Digital · digital@dailycampus.com

Prefer to read our content online?

Check out our newly redesigned website at dailycampus.com and follow us on social media.

Instagram · The_DailyCampus

Facebook · The Daily Campus

Twitter · The_DailyCampus

Want to write or photograph for The Daily Campus?

The Daily Campus welcomes writers and photographers of all backgrounds, interests, majors and levels of experience. To get involved, it's as easy as attending section meetings on Sunday nights, all at the Daily Campus building, (1266 Storrs Road) or reaching out to an email below:

News (Meetings at 6 p.m.)

news@dailycampus.com

Opinion (Meetings at 5 p.m.)

opinion@dailycampus.com

Life (Meetings at 7 p.m.)

life@dailycampus.com

Sports (Meetings at 8 p.m.)

sports@dailycampus.com

Photo (Meetings at 10 p.m.)

photo@dailycampus.com

Artists (Meetings at 10 p.m. on discord)

artists@dailycampus.com

The Daily Campus Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 See 57-Across
- 5 Hilton heiress
- 10 African snake
- 15 Actor Alan
- 16 Do more than just apologize
- 17 ___ Sports Bureau: statistics giant
- 18 Some travelers won't tour the Corn Palace for fear that ...
- 21 Unattached
- 22 Promotion cost
- 23 First Burmese prime minister
- 25 Fort Collins sch.
- 26 Digital water tester?
- 29 Some travelers won't go to the top of the Eiffel Tower because they never ...
- 34 Mail in a box
- 36 "No Ordinary Love" singer
- 37 Gift list addressee
- 38 Lightbulb unit
- 39 Protect
- 42 Squabble
- 43 Actor Elba
- 45 Eyelid affliction
- 46 Pajama parts
- 47 Some travelers won't visit the La Brea Tar Pits for fear of being ...
- 51 "Help!" letters
- 52 Anger
- 53 Liberal arts maj.
- 54 Pub ___
- 57 With 1-Across, bun topper
- 62 Some travelers won't get on the London Eye because they would just ...
- 66 Kitchen cover
- 67 Underway
- 68 "Stat!"
- 69 Fringe benefits
- 70 Obligations
- 71 Scrawny

DOWN

- 1 College Board exams
- 2 K thru 12
- 3 Genesis spot
- 4 Dippy ___: original name of Disney's Goofy
- 5 Lack of color

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					71				

By Norman M. Aaronson

12/7/23

- 6 Scoreboard abbr. for the 2023 NL East champions
- 7 Congressional Gold Medal honoree Parks
- 8 Sharp, as a TV broadcast
- 9 Google
- 10 Informal gatherings
- 11 Not aweather
- 12 Soccer great Hamm
- 13 Snack or salad follower
- 14 Beast of burden
- 19 Last year's sr.
- 20 Bouquet holder
- 24 Locale of Snowbird and Alta
- 26 Two-bit
- 27 Ready to flow
- 28 Les ___-Unis
- 29 Kumquat, for one
- 30 Vision-related
- 31 Lyric poet
- 32 Saw things?
- 33 Brewery ovens
- 34 Gruyère, e.g.
- 35 Couldn't say no
- 40 Caustic agents
- 41 Money in the bank

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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

©2023 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

12/7/23

- 44 Locales at Snowbird and Alta
- 48 Country of 2023 Nobel Peace Prize winner Narges Mohammadi
- 49 First-time father
- 50 Tech giant that purchased Gateway
- 54 Diner employee
- 55 Quaker cereal
- 56 ___ appeal
- 58 Strike underminer
- 59 In addition
- 60 Nasty
- 61 Best Play, for one
- 62 Empty space
- 63 Reveal, to a poet
- 64 2022 Telugu-language film directed by S.S. Rajamouli
- 65 Tent bed

CLASSIFIEDS

Policy: Classifieds are non-refundable. Credit will be given if an error materially affects the meaning of the ad and only for the first incorrect insertion. Ads will only be printed if they are accompanied by both first and last name as well as telephone number. Names and numbers may be subject to verification. All advertising is subject to acceptance by The Daily Campus, which reserves the right to reject any ad copy at its sole discretion. The Daily Campus does not knowingly accept ads of a fraudulent nature.

Life

ROUNDTABLE: ARE SOCKS A GOOD CHRISTMAS GIFT?

As the gift-giving season quickly approaches, many are scrambling to find the perfect presents for all the special people in their lives. Some people are ahead of the game and completed their Christmas shopping even before Black Friday occurred. On the flip side, there are those who have yet to give this quest a single thought. By the time they do set off for their Christmas shopping, they may only have things like gift cards, candles or holiday-themed candy to pick from. While all these items have their own level of controversy on whether they should be considered “giftable,” there is one item that trumps them all: socks. To some, gifting a pair of socks represents laziness and poor planning. To others, it is a symbol of reaching the peak of a best friendship. What are your thoughts on socks? Read on to find out those of the Life Section!



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

by Naiiya Patel
BUSINESS MANAGER
SHE/HER/HERS
naiiya.patel@uconn.edu

Yes, but this answer is dependent on three very important factors:

1. Who is the gift for? Socks are a person-dependent gift. Socks make a perfect gift for a random work Secret Santa exchange or for your best friend who loves cozy things. But, I feel like your mom deserves something more extravagant.
2. Is it the only thing you are giving them? If you have a gift limit of \$50 and you only give socks, I mean come on. If you are giving a gift basket full of gifts though, socks make a great addition.
3. Are they good quality socks? I would rather receive nothing at all than a sh*tty pair of socks. Do not buy a pair of socks that will just shed all over my feet and shoes: Invest in a good-quality pair that will last for years to come. If all the factors are right, I would 100% agree that socks are a good Christmas gift!

by Desirae Sin
STAFF WRITER
SHE/HER/HERS
desirae.sin@uconn.edu

As you get older, you start to realize what material possessions you really want in life. Personally, I would be happy to get socks or other seemingly mundane gifts. Socks have a purpose at least, they wear down over time and you always find yourself needing more. The gift-giver shouldn't be shamed for what they bought, but the receiver needs to lower their expectations. This isn't the roaring 20s; Most of us are broke college students who have to choose between paying for gas or eating dinner.

Socks are much more versatile than you might think. If they're closer to slippers or have fun designs, then it's perfect for children who are prone to falling constantly. I actually bought my sister cute slipper socks with the black cat from “Kiki's Delivery Service” on it for Christmas, don't tell her! Also, if you are the type of person where nobody knows what to buy you besides socks, then that's all you deserve. Your personality is as bland as a pair of plain white socks.

by James Fitzpatrick
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
james.fitzpatrick@uconn.edu

Back in the good old days of childhood, Christmas was an otherworldly event. Watching Santa trackers online and putting out milk and cookies for the big man showed how much we cared about him. So, when he reciprocated this respect by giving us socks under the tree, it was a slap to the face. However, all these years later, maybe they're not as bad as coal in the stocking after all — of course, that's only when they're supplemented with other goodies.

I've had an interesting arc with my appreciation for socks on Christmas over the years. The amount of gifts under the tree has dwindled year after year, so I understand that something as simple as socks takes up the empty space and consistently tricks my brain into thinking there are more actual gifts. To be fair, I do consider socks to be real gifts now, especially when the stitching on my current pairs begins to bother me or when one sock rips, deeming the whole pair useless. If my younger self was reading all this, he would be so shocked that he would ask me, “Oh sure, what are you gonna say next, that Santa isn't real?”

But now, since the mystique of Christmas is gone, my mom and I have actually been deciding the specific type of socks I will be receiving on the big day. Plain white athletic socks from Costco are a bit too drab, but six pairs of Nike Everyday Plus socks are \$28!? The sock market is in shambles; thankfully, we settled on some wool-blend crew socks in assorted colors. As long as the stitching is good, I'll be content on Christmas morning. That's if I also get that TV I wanted. Hopefully, we didn't go too over budget with those socks...

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

Socks are an epic gift.

Would you be upset if someone gave you a nice pair of gloves for Christmas? Like the genuinely nice ones — the kind that are nice and warm and maybe even have a little rubber nub so you can still use your phone. Those gloves are the best. But, they're like \$15.99 or more. So, I'm hoping that you, like me, would be financially reasonable and acknowledge that they're a little bit out of the comfortable price range. It'd be great to get them as a gift, but what if you need gloves now? You're probably going to pick the cheap ones that will barely keep you warm.

And now, the question of socks. If I go shopping, the glove process applies. The good socks are way out of the budget; I am not spending over \$10 on socks, and the good ones are \$30 or more. So, the question of socks is quickly answered by grabbing the usual bulk pack of thin socks. I know they're going to get holey in about a week or two, but hey, they get the job done, right? NO. That is where I, and I think many, are wrong.

Good socks are incredible. You'd be a fool to settle with some cheap, torn-to-thread pair when you have the possibility of a thick, fluffy and warm alternative. When you see them in the drawer you'll want to fit your whole leg in them, they're that nice. Slippers would become totally redundant.

I'll end on this: One of the most impactful gifts I've ever received is a pair of flannel socks. Look into them, but don't buy a pair for yourself — they're way too expensive — my hope is that this year they'll turn up under the tree for you. Have a safe and happy holiday!

by Kaily Martinez
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
kaily.martinez@uconn.edu

As a child, the last gift you'd hope to receive when opening presents on Christmas day was socks. When I received them I wasn't overjoyed, but I would still try to be grateful for receiving something in the end. However, as I got older, socks became one of the best gifts to receive and give for Christmas.

Considering Christmas is during the winter, you can never go wrong with giving socks as a gift because the thermal pairs are perfect for keeping warm. Also, socks come in different designs, colors and fabrics, making them unique in their own way. When buying socks for someone, a good hint is to keep their interests in mind, as there are socks for anything!

There are never-ending choices when it comes to picking what type of socks would be a perfect gift. They could reflect the personality of the person you are gifting them to or they could have a witty joke written on them. The gift doesn't have to be an expensive pair of socks, but as long as you put the effort in, socks are always a perfect gift for Christmas!

by Karla Perez
ASSOCIATE LIFE EDITOR
SHE/HER/HERS
karla.perez@uconn.edu

Some believe that this question is controversial, and others may believe that the answer to it is obvious. To me, I think that to find your answer you need to know your audience.

Before I get into anything worth getting, certain socks need to be automatically eliminated from the running of “giftable socks”: any athletic-brand socks, socks from Amazon and even the themed pairs from Target just to name a few. If you plan on getting socks for anyone this holiday season, you have to rack up as many points for creativity and humor as possible; otherwise, you'll create an extreme let-down and possibly create a new enemy.

Now that you have a smaller pool to choose from, let's go over where you should get socks for specific people in your life. For the friend who's young at heart, I recommend looking at Happy Socks. Their products come in a wide range of bright colors and feature fun but not chaotic designs. For the holidays, you can buy a pack of socks which come packed in a milk carton, a beer mug and even a pizza box. For the clown of your friend group, you can find a plethora of options at Sockologie. Themes for the socks range from politics and the pandemic to expletives and food. The designs are so unique that I might just be making a purchase there myself.

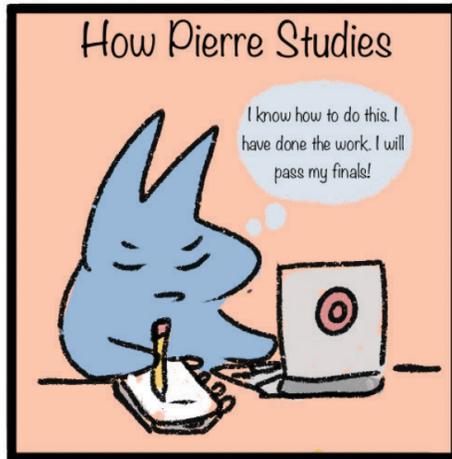
Unfortunately, a funny pair of socks can't win everyone over. Use your best judgment when deciding who to get these gifts for rather than making a blanket decision. If you're on the fence about it, I say stray away from the socks, but if you're confident in your recipient's sense of humor, then go for it. Hopefully, this roundtable gives you some guidance this holiday season!

COMICS

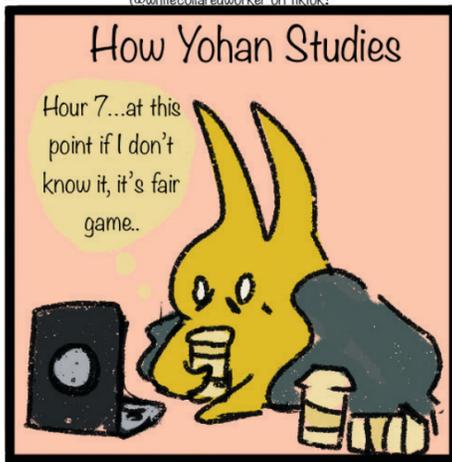


COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The White Collared Worker



Follow me
@whitecollaredworker on tiktok!



Jason J. Sampson

COMIC BY JASON J. SAMPSON, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Life

@dailycampuslife



1998

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)*



2023



Opinion

The Daily Campus

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Madeline Papcun..... EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Nell Srinath..... OPINION EDITOR

Dan Stark..... ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

Luke Feeney

Tomas Hinckley..... WEEKLY COLUMNISTS

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed by individual writers in the opinion section do not reflect the views and opinions of The Daily Campus or other staff members. Only articles labeled "Editorial" are the official opinions of The Daily Campus.



COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

DON'T LIVE UNDER A SPIRIT ROCK: WHY WE CRITICIZE UCONN

► Editorial

Administrators at the University of Connecticut discussed removing one of the iconic spirit rocks numerous times after it became an outlet for student expression about Israel and Palestine following Oct. 7, according to The Daily Campus.

The spirit rock, located opposite North Garage at UConn Storrs, was painted numerous times with statements of support for Israel and Palestine "often in quick succession," in the early days of Israel's bombardment of Gaza. UConn President Radenka Maric, Provost Anne D'Alleva, Vice President for Student Life & Enrollment Nathan Fuerst and other administrators initially felt that "it would be in the University's best interest to remove the rock entirely as we do not want to initiate any further tension amongst the UConn community."

Another proposal from Maric included "retiring" the rock in the Dodd Center for Human Rights or Student Union. Others suggested moving the rock away from the campus entrance and to a "less visible, more student-centric" location. The final proposal, which stipulated the creation of a sign-up sheet and sign with guidelines for organizations painting the rock. As of Dec. 6, no changes have been implemented in the rock painting policy.

The Daily Campus Editorial Board's stance on the scramble to remove and regulate the spirit rock is simple: This is administrative cowardice. In considering the removal of one of UConn's most notable avenues for student speech, the administration subtly sought to curtail it. Additionally, the notion that student groups cannot handle tension and controversy is utterly infantilizing and demonstrates that the university's preferred form of political discourse is highly policed and moderated.

Although their discussions were hidden behind an email exchange, the administration has made it overtly clear that when faced with controversy — especially one with the potential to impact the reputation of the university — their first instinct is to bury it. Should this prove difficult, logistically or ethically, the next best option is to impose more bureaucracy. This schematic is UConn's typical response to controversy. The Editorial Board has recognized this pattern in UConn's handling of campus sexual assault, which initially left students with rushed and inadequate investigations before students mobilized around the issue in February of 2022, and has now been consigned to ineffective reforms from a shelved task force.

The UConn administration's tendency towards covering its missteps with technocratic reforms lays bare the importance of criticizing it — hence why the bulk of the Editorial Board's work attempts to hold the university's leadership to account. Without creating institutional memory for current students and those who come after, the UConn community will lack the much needed context to recognize and organize against harmful university policies. Being critical of UConn is not the product of a vindictive feud, nor is it testimony that other universities are better or worse. Our desire to highlight UConn's shortcomings stem from our commitment to serve the community and not let oppressive systems from patriarchy to neoliberal austerity dominate the academy in silence. As the Fall 2023 semester comes to a close, we are fully committed to making noise in the next one.

FEENEY'S FOCUS REST IN PISS KISS

by Luke Feeney
WEEKLY COLUMNIST
HE/HIM/HIS
luke.feeney@uconn.edu

The topics I have written about seem to have gotten darker and darker over the course of the semester. It's been a rough few weeks. War, misery and general ineptitude from various governing institutions both domestically and internationally have led to a lot of the subjects I write about being sad ones.

Given that this is my final column of the semester, I wanted to take a break from the bleakness of what I write about and focus on something a little more positive. Luckily for me, my hopes of a positive story were answered emphatically last week. So with that being said, let's talk about the death of one of the worst war criminals of the 20th century.

Last Thursday, Henry Kissinger died. Few men in American history rose to the echelons of power that Kissinger was able to rise to over his life. He is the only person in history to be the White House national security advisor and secretary of state at the same time. From this position, he was able to elevate himself to become one of the most prominent American diplomats in history.

In his own words, his foreign policy goals were simple: Kissinger wanted to establish "a culture of peace, a set of conditions that could reduce the prospect of nuclear war." When looking at his career and the policies he himself supported, it was clear that he was committed to peace, no matter how many innocent men, women and children he had to kill to get it.

There is no greater example of his psychopathic view of peace than the American military actions towards the end of the Vietnam War. Even before he was in elected office, Kissinger was meddling in the war. In a shrewd attempt to win election, he deliberately sabotaged peace talks between the United States and Vietnam. While he was advising President Lyndon B. Johnson during the Paris Peace Talks of 1968, he gave confidential intelligence to the South Vietnamese government.

The U.S. was at war with Vietnam, but the neighboring

country of Cambodia was on Kissinger's mind. Their fear was the ability of the northern Vietnamese to resupply their army across the Ho Chi Minh Trail — which cut across eastern Cambodia.

With this reality, Kissinger and President Nixon came to the only reasonable conclusion: enact a brutal bombing campaign over all of Cambodia. Kissinger was the architect of Operation Menu, a secret bombing campaign that saw over 500,000 tons of bombs dropped over 113,716 different targets over a four year span. It's unclear the exact amount of people who were killed in this campaign, but experts agree it ranges from

abandoning the Kurds.

But here's the thing about Kissinger. As evil and deplorable as he was and his policies were, he was not some lone actor. His actions were encouraged — and routinely awarded — by not only the American elite political establishment, but by international institutions as well.

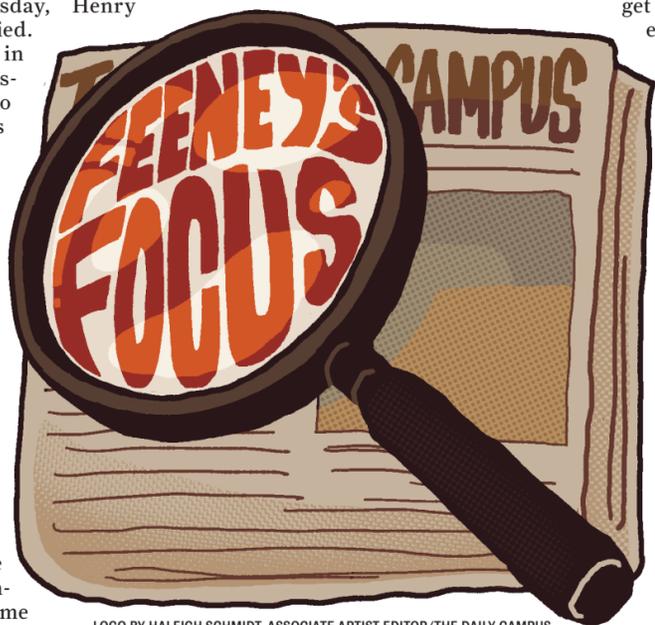
Despite all the violence he inflicted on Vietnam and Cambodia, Kissinger was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize. Despite the fact that the Nobel panel knew that his agreed-upon ceasefire was unlikely to bring peace to Vietnam, they still gave it to him anyway.

Kissinger's crimes have been known for decades; yet despite this, he was able to get in the ear of every single presidential administration after he served Nixon and Ford in one capacity or another. The first administration that did not invite him back to the White House was the Biden administration.

Despite his brutality, despite the millions of lives he has ruined, that didn't stop the bipartisan heaping of effusive praise for him in his death. Current Secretary of State Antony Blinken said "He was extraordinarily generous with his wisdom, with his advice. Few people were better students of history. Even fewer people did more to shape history than Henry Kissinger."

Here is what is the most depressing fact when analyzing Kissinger: As evil as he was, he won. He ascended to levels of power and influence that most of us will never reach in our lives. Despite the countless fields of bodies he created, he was able to enjoy celebrity status.

He approved horror over countless regions in the world and was never meaningfully held accountable for those actions. This is a man who should've spent the last five decades of his life in a cell. Yet, he got to die peacefully being surrounded by his family, after living a long full life. How many victims of his policies can say the same?



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

Opinion

Huskytalk | What do you plan on doing as soon as finals are done?



"I'm planning on having a movie marathon with my friends."

Megan Sicotte
Psychology
First Semester



"I'm going home and getting a Dunkin' coffee and seeing my family."

Hannah Grimes
Digital Media and Design
First Semester



"I'm going to work and then go home and see my friends and family."

Olivia Orris
Exercise Science
First Semester



"I'm going to go get Dunkin' with my friends from home."

Anne Roth
Pre-Teaching
First Semester

"THE HUNGER GAMES": SOCIAL COMMENTARY GONE WRONG

by Evelyn Pazan
CONTRIBUTOR
SHE/HER/HERS
evelyn.pazan@uconn.edu

As people living in a society that glorifies consumerism, we are all used to our fair share of media franchises that are drawn out far too long. When this happens, it gives the impression that the creators are trying to milk the franchise for its every last coin. From "Fast & Furious" to "Grey's Anatomy," we all know those series.

I cannot stand to say it, but "The Hunger Games" is one of those franchises. Though inevitable, it does not make it hurt any less that a "classic" for the younger generations is being corrupted by Lionsgate.

Despite its low production cost, "The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes" has fared quite well in the box office. "Hunger Games" fans flocked to theaters to learn about the backstory of the most hated character, President Coriolanus Snow. The film naturally begets mixed reviews. Some are pleased to learn more about their favorite realm, while others are disappointed because it lacks the familiar structure of the Games that they were used to in the first two movies.

What is particularly disheartening about the continuation of the series, though, is the fact that it undoes exactly what author Suzanne Collins originally set out to

do. While its main purpose is entertainment, "The Hunger Games" acts as a commentary on American society. Particularly, it points out what happens when capitalism backfires, causing injustice and shifts toward fascism.

The first book in the series came out in 2008, the year after a record-breaking wealth gap. In 2007, the top 1% of earners nationally held 18.3% of the total national wealth. This was the highest since right before the Great Depression. It makes sense that the book would reflect this.

Throughout "The Hunger Games" books and movies, Collins highlights the wealth gap between the citizens of the Capitol and those of the districts. While the Capitol enjoys gaudy fashion and abundant, extravagant food, the districts scavenge in the forests and must work dangerous manual labor jobs.

The districts are exploited by the Capitol to feed their appetite for luxury, but they are never fairly compensated for their labor. In fact, those in the districts are punished through the Games and face violence from the government appointed "Peacekeepers." Any kind of uprising is immediately squashed through public executions and by the fear of the Games themselves. The militarization of Panem also draws connections to the United States. At the end of

2022, President Biden signed a National Defense Authorization Act that allotted \$816.7 billion to the Department of Defense, a significant portion of the federal budget.

Though she has never aligned with a particular political stance in interviews, Collins wrote "The Hunger Games" with a criticism of American society in mind. In an interview about her newest book, she explained her hope that young readers "question how elements of the books might be relevant to their own lives... questions like: How do you feel about the fact that some people take their next meal for granted when so many other people are starving in the world?"

Some of the actors share her ideas about the impact of the series. Following the release of the second installment, "Catching Fire," Donald Sutherland (President Snow) expressed his hope that viewers "stand up. They might create a third party. They might change the electoral process, they might be able to take over the government, change the tax system."

So why did Collins pump out an extra book a decade after the last installment in the series to be made into a movie and marketed for hundreds of millions of dollars? Not even her relatively anti-capitalist series could avoid

being turned into work that perpetuates consumerism.

Collins' series is not the first example of revolutionary media to be commodified. We see the same problem with the "Avatar" series, where imperialist capitalism on an interstellar scale is the primary antagonist. Despite this, "Avatar" has been turned into a heavily marketed product on TV, in advertisements and at Disney World — one of the finest examples of American capitalism.

This effect has roots dating back to the Industrial Revolution when Upton Sinclair released his immensely popular novel, "The Jungle," with the intent to expose the horrifying conditions in workplaces and encourage a shift toward socialism. His true intentions went unnoticed and instead, he sparked the pure food movement. Sinclair responded to this misinterpretation by saying, "I aimed at the public's heart, and by accident I hit it in the stomach."

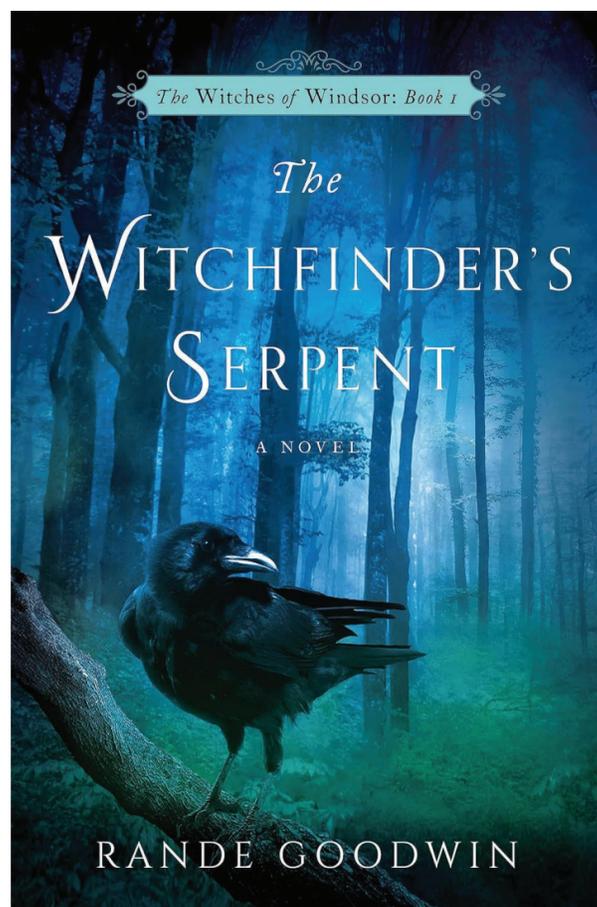
Stories like these once acted as an easily understood criticism of American society, but now, they are losing their efficacy to consumerism. In order to maintain the integrity of works like these, I implore viewers to look deeper into the meanings of their favorite media. That way, they can be enjoyed and understood at their full value.

Stories like these once acted as an easily understood criticism of American society, but now, they are losing their efficacy to consumerism.

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 for more information on this exciting new book series!



Sargeant's Orders:

While the Champions League Group stage is almost over, the drama is far from done

by Connor Sargeant

HE/HIM/HIS
STAFF WRITER
connor.sargeant@uconn.edu

As hard as it is to believe, the UEFA Champions League group stage approaches its final match week. However, the drama is far from over. There is an exciting storyline in Group H, as two clubs will duke it out in hopes of advancing to the knockout stage and sending their opponent home. After the initial draw, many predicted Group F to be the most competitive grouping in the entire tournament, and right now, it's anyone's guess who will advance. Of course, the biggest question of the UCL is which club will be crowned champions of Europe? We will discuss this and more in this week's edition of Sargeant's Orders.

Group H: A win and you're in FC Porto and Shakhtar Donetsk

If you're a fan of last-day drama, look no further than Group H. As it stands, FC Barcelona is in first place with 12 points; behind them are FC Porto and Shakhtar Donetsk with nine points. Only two can advance, and what better way to decide than to have the

two sides scrap it out? With the way the round-robin schedule was originally made, these two clubs will fight to keep their play-off hopes alive on Dec. 13. In their last matchup, Porto fell short 3-1, although it's anyone's guess who will come on top. Both teams have gotten off to a solid start in their respective leagues, enjoying a top five position on their tables. A draw is no good for Shakhtar, as Porto has a five-goal differential advantage, meaning they will advance based on a draw, although there's no reason to think that the Portuguese top-flight's will settle for anything less than a win. This is must-watch soccer. One side will leave Portugal elated, the other devastated. The fate of these clubs' UCL season is on the line, and we should expect nothing short of a dramatic 90-minute battle to the very end.

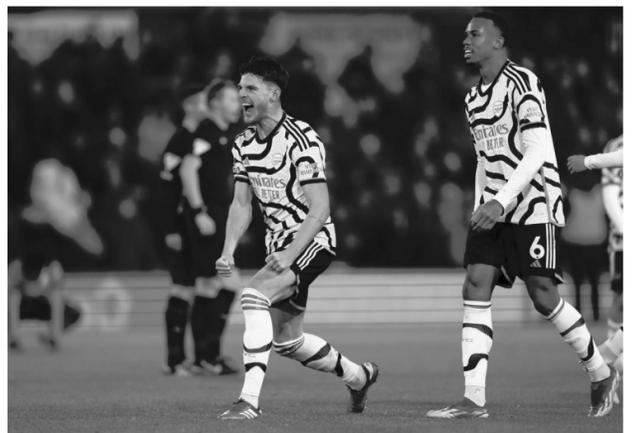
Group F: A three-way race for second?

Immediately after the UEFA held its annual draw to decide the groupings, Group F was picked to be the most dicey one. These four clubs are all the most evenly matched, and it was essentially throwing darts, guessing who would advance to the knockout stage. Borussia Dortmund is in first place with a three-goal differential advantage. Three points behind them is Paris Saint-Germain with seven points. Newcastle United and AC Milan trail by two, so it's anyone's guess who will be the second team to qualify. BVB will play PSG on the final day of

the group stage, and this is a fixture the German giants will try to win. A BVB loss would give PSG three points and a tie with them for first place. Trailing by two goals by goal differential, PSG needs to win by three goals or more for a top-seed. However, a PSG loss would almost guarantee their elimination from the UCL, as well as spell major questions as to what the future holds for Kylian Mbappé. Newcastle United and AC Milan are tied with five points each, meaning a win would give that side eight and a spot in the knockout round, only if PSG fails to upset the German top-flight.

Which club will stand above all come June 1st?

As it sits, Manchester City is the betting favorite to win back-to-back UCL titles, and it makes sense. City has been red-hot in their 2023-2024 English Premier League campaign, boasting a 9-2-3 record. If you aren't convinced of their ability to win, just take their latest UCL win over RB Leipzig. Down 2-0 in the second half, many fans counted the Sky Blues out. However, in the 54th minute, Erling Haaland got his side on the board, scoring his 40th goal in 35 UCL matches. The Norwegian catalyzed what would be one of the best comebacks we have seen, as City scored three straight unanswered goals, giving them the 3-2 win and the top seed in Group G. Despite the defending champion's success, they have been vulnerable as of late, failing to record a win in their last four EPL appearances. The Treble winners could run into trouble with the other clubs in this tournament, as the



Arsenal FC plays a close game against Luton Town on Dec. 5 2023. Arsenal won by a single goal and overall had the ball 67% of the time.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @MISTAREMI ON TWITTER

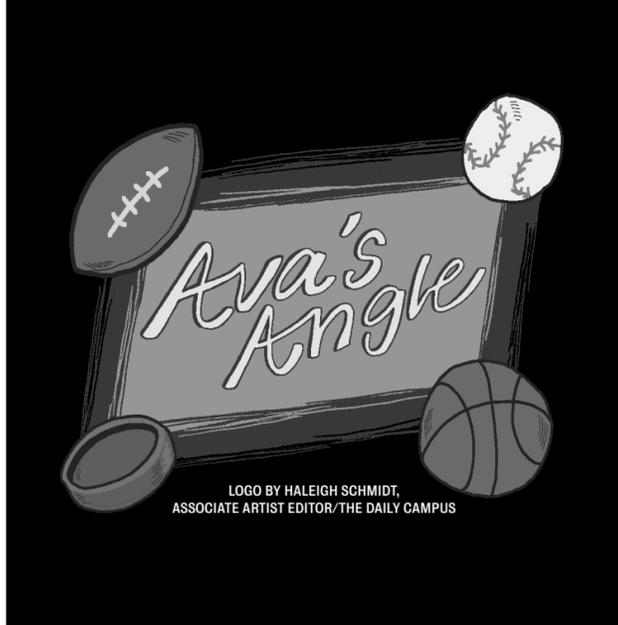
talent level we have seen so far is palpable. The Harry Kane-led Bayern Munich has been on fire this soccer season, holding a UCL record of 4-0-1. Not to mention, they are in second place in the competitive German Bundesliga, poised to win the league for a whopping 12th season in a row. Another team that will look to make some noise is Arsenal. The Gunners are off to an excellent UCL start, and an even better EPL one. In fact, they are six points ahead of City for the English crown. The Arsenal captain, Bukayo Saka, has looked incredible, setting up goals left and right for his side. The 22-year-old has five goals and five assists in 14 matches of play. Perhaps the most impressive part of his play is his ability to know exactly where he is at all

times on the pitch, as you will rarely catch him offside, and he has made some incredible runs. A team that is not as heavily favored as the rest, yet I see making a deep run, is the talented Borussia Dortmund. BVM was tested early on, placing into the most competitive group stage. They have done an excellent job warding off the three other European giants. While they have not gotten off to the hottest start for their 2023-2024 Bundesliga campaign, the pieces are there, as they were only a win away last season from being crowned kings of Germany. The only sure bet right now is that for two days straight, there will be hard-fought soccer that football fans worldwide will want to tune in for.



The UConn Huskies rematch the UMass Lowell River Hawks on Dec. 1 at the Toscano Family Ice Forum. Goalie Ethan Haider gets a shutout, beating the River Hawks 2-0.

PHOTO BY SHELAGH LAVERTY, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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

Ava's Angle: Recapping the first half of the UConn men's hockey season

by Ava Inesta

SHE/HER/HERS
STAFF WRITER
ava.inesta@uconn.edu

The UConn men's hockey team just wrapped up their first half of the season with games against UMass Lowell and Maine this past weekend. The Huskies finished the first slate of their 2023-24 schedule with a 7-9-1 overall record and 4-6-0 in Hockey East action.

Looking back at their non-conference opponents to start the season, the Huskies started slow, going 2-3-1 in non-conference play. Once they began Hockey East action, they split multiple series with UMass Lowell, Vermont and Merrimack. All of their wins were on the road and they did not get a win at the Toscano Family Ice Forum until this past Friday against UMass Lowell, to seal the season series against the River Hawks. Their first official home win came two weekends ago, in a non-conference matchup against Dartmouth at the XL Center, where they had an offensive explosion and earned the 6-1 win in Hartford.

Midway through the season, sophomore forward Matthew Wood leads the team with 12 points, seven goals and five assists. Additionally, he's taken 65 shots which tied for fifth-most in the nation. Junior Chase Bradley trails behind him with 11 points, six goals and five assists. Based on the team's statistics, some of the other key players have been senior captain Hudson Schandor (one goal, 10 assists for 11 points), sophomore Jake Percival (five goals, three assists for eight points), senior Andrew Lucas (four goals, four assists, for eight points) sophomore Samu Salminen (four goals, three assists, for seven points) and senior Nick Capone (two goals, two assists, for four points).

Another huge part of the team has been goaltender Ethan Haider. He has completed two shutout games this season for Connecticut, one at the start of the season against Union and the second against UMass Lowell. He has 290 saves (.915%) on the season so far, with a 5-5-1 record at the net. The Minnesota native has become the staple goaltender for the Huskies as a senior and his first season with the Ice Bus.

Ever since the team's matchup against Boston College on Nov. 17, where the Huskies took the Eagles to overtime at Chestnut Hill, Ryan Tattle, Joey Muldowney and Tristan Fraser have been an essential trio for head coach Mike Cavanaugh.

"They all just skate really well and they compete and they get their sticks on pucks," said Cavanaugh following the Huskies 2-0 win over UMass Lowell last Friday. "They're just a hard line to play against and if you turn the puck over on them, they're coming at you pretty quick. The last four games they've played, they've been fantastic."

Of the freshman class, Jake Richard has stood out. Having three goals and six assists for nine points, the UConn forward has been a solid playmaker on the ice for his squad. The freshman is a well-versed skater who has had a solid amount of action in UConn's offense with 33 shots taken so far this season.

On Tuesday, the team announced that Wood is one of 30 players invited to Hockey Canada's World Juniors camp. It will run from Dec. 10 to Dec. 13 in Oakville, Ontario. The star sophomore is one of two college players included on this roster, alongside Boston University's Macklin Celebrini. Among all the invited players already selected, Wood is the sixth-highest draft pick after going 15th

overall to the Nashville Predators this past June. That selection made Wood the top pick in UConn men's hockey program history.

The Ice Bus's schedule in the second half is filled with more home games than what they had in the first half. UConn will have 11 home games between the XL Center and Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, rather than the six home games they played in the first stretch of the year. The Huskies could definitely use this as an advantage, even though a majority of the wins they earned in the first half were on the road. Toscano Family Ice Forum has added a new culture of student fans, which could be huge for Connecticut's second-half slate.

Even if the Huskies record isn't picture perfect, the Ice Bus is starting to heat up and their ceiling is high. Getting the season series and the home win at Toscano against Lowell gave the team a boost, as well as their six-goal performance against Dartmouth two weekends ago. The program has a lot of leadership behind captains Jake Flynn, Harrison Rees and Schandor. Graduate student transfer Ryan Mahshie has also been a massive veteran piece for this squad with two goals and two assists for four total points. There is still so much season left for Connecticut. They have a lot to look forward to in this second half with a lot more Hockey East action, a nationally televised New Year's Eve matchup against Harvard and the annual CT Ice Tournament at the end of January.

That about wraps up the first half of the season for the UConn men's hockey team. The Ice Bus will be back in action from their holiday break on Dec. 31 to face off against Harvard at Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs. The game will be broadcast on ESPN for the team's last game of 2023.

Sports

Photo of the Day | Women's hockey



The UConn women's hockey team takes on the Boston College Eagles on Dec. 2, 2023 at the Toscano Family Ice Forum. The Huskies came back with two goals in the third period tying up the score 2-2.

PHOTO BY ANGELINA LARRACUENTE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The Column: Overcoming the January rut

by Cole Stefan

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

Months before bringing home national title No. 5 last season, the UConn men's basketball team had an eight-game stretch in the regular season where they went 2-6 and did not win a single contest outside of the Nutmeg State. Five out of those six losses came in the month of January (the other came on Dec. 31, 2022); half of them were against unranked opponents.

After starting the 2022-23 campaign 14-0 with 13 double-digit wins and a Phil Knight Invitational Championship, the Huskies suddenly slowed down and got outplayed in several facets of their game. UConn's opponents went from having two contests where they shot better than exactly 43% from the field to four in an eight-game window, all of which involved the opposition converting over half of their attempts.

By the end of the month, fans questioned if head coach Dan Hurley was the right hire and believed they would miss the NCAA Tournament altogether. Yet the Huskies turned their season around. Across their final 17 games, regular season and postseason, Connecticut was outshot just three times and outrebounded every opponent by at least six.

So, with a January slate that includes road trips to the hostile Wells Fargo Center and Cintas Center, how do the Huskies overcome the rut they experienced during the first month of the calendar year last season?

Every team experiences ups and downs throughout the college basketball season, but for the Huskies to grab one of the top seeds in March Madness, they will need to play almost perfect basketball in January. Looking at the current roster, which features a top five recruiting class, UConn has the pieces in place to make it through the first month of 2024 without experiencing significant turbulence for one key reason.

The Big East has historically been a physical conference since its inception in 1979. From the days of Basketball Hall of Famers Patrick Ewing and Chris Mullin duking it out to the time the conference had 16 teams, Big East basketball has required aggression day in and day out. That vicious style of play can lead to several fouls being called throughout the game, and when that happens, the teams with the strongest depth are the ones who start breaking away from the pack.

Donovan Clingan rotated at the five with Adama Sanogo last season, but with the NCAA Tournament Most Outstanding Player now playing in the Chicago Bulls organization, junior Samson Johnson has become the No. 2 center on the depth chart. Johnson has stepped up significantly, throwing down the hammer often while flying across the court with the speed that made him a Top 100 recruit in the Class of 2021. Both Hassan Diarra and Solomon Ball serve as the first guards off the bench (when Top 10 recruit Stephon Castle is healthy) and bring a style of play that might cause opposing head coaches to quickly adjust their rotation.

Cam Spencer is Jordan Hawkins and Joey Calcaterra combined into one person, continuing a trend of strong additions from the transfer portal. A graduate student who previously played at Loyola Maryland and Rutgers, Spencer can be a leading scorer that no one can prepare for because of how lethal he is from beyond the arc at a 42% clip. While that compares to Hawkins in several ways, the graduate guard's experience and spirited passion for the game make him nearly a clone copy of Calcaterra.

The Huskies as a team need to continue shooting the ball efficiently, something that they struggled with during their January rut. Through their first nine games this season, Connecticut has made 50.4% of their

shots from the field with 8.4 triples per game. While they lead the conference in scoring offense, letting the ball fly will go a long way against teams that post a field goal defense under 40%, such as the Providence Friars and Xavier Musketeers.

Secondly, the team needs to improve their free-throw shooting. I understand the impact a hostile crowd can have at the charity stripe — see Friday's loss at Kansas as an example — but the key to improving the team's 72.3% free throw rate requires remaining calm amidst the noise. It is hard to imagine this not being a point of emphasis for Hurley in practice going forward.

Above all else, defense wins championships. The Huskies do a remarkable job of swatting shots and grabbing defensive rebounds (both top two in the conference). With Clingan not yet back at full strength, Johnson has picked up some of the slack and been a disruptor against other bigs such as UNC's Armando Bacot. Getting to where Hurley wants the team to be when March rolls around, however, requires protecting the area beyond the arc.

Opponents are shooting 36.9% from downtown versus UConn this season, and only the Rick Pitino-led St. John's Red Storm have allowed teams to shoot better from those spots on the court. Perhaps this is luck. A nine-game sample size leaves ample room for error, but it is an important issue to address whether it is a blip or not.

College basketball teams consistently find a way to improve, even if it occurs months after winning a national title. What I have suggested is not meant to knock the Huskies down in any regard but to serve as a way of highlighting some critical areas that other Big East foes could capitalize on if they are not addressed. Connecticut has the pieces to win consecutive national titles. Their double-digit win over the No. 9 North Carolina Tar Heels at Madison Square Garden on Tuesday further proved that.

I cannot predict that the Huskies will go undefeated in January, let alone conference play, given the chaos the Big East Conference consistently brings. That being said, if the team meets all of these requirements and continues playing at a high level, UConn will not struggle in January like they did last season.



The UConn men's basketball team goes up against the UNH Wildcats at Gampel Pavillion 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 digits win.

PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

THE
COLUMN

LOGO BY ANNA IORFINO, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



The UConn Huskies score 20 more points than the New Hampshire Wildcats on Nov. 27, 2023. Donovan Clingan of the Huskies scored approximately a third of the teams final score of 84 points.

PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Chris's Patriots plan for the Column: offseason

by **Chris Charbonneau**
HE/HIM/HIS
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
christopher.charbonneau@uconn.edu

The New England Patriots are set for one of their biggest offseason rebuilds in three decades.

Head coach Bill Belichick was spoiled his whole career with future Hall of Fame quarterback Tom Brady, and has seemingly forgotten how to manage and run a team since 2020.

The rebuild needs to focus on the offense that has struggled mightily this season. For reference, they've managed 16 points in their last three contests. Whether it is Mac Jones or Bailey Zappe taking snaps behind a mediocre offensive line, the offensive unit and receivers need to be completely replenished.

To get things started, it's in Robert Kraft's best interest to sit down with Belichick in the offseason and relieve him of his general manager duties. Unless the pair can find a way to settle their differences, it is time for a divorce after a 23-year run.

Jones has simply been ruined. His days as the starting quarterback are most likely over and Zappe did not show much on Sunday or last week against the Giants. The quarterback play is not good enough regardless of if they finish with a 2-15 record and secure the first or second overall draft pick. The offense needs to be the priority in the draft.

With one year left of Jones' rookie contract, cutting him would not cost much with a \$2.7 million salary. By extension, it would also not cost much to keep him as a backup and draft a quarterback in the first or second round.

Since 2018, quarterbacks that have been taken in the top 10 of the draft have mostly been misses. Zach Wilson, Trey Lance, Daniel Jones, Baker Mayfield, Sam Darnold and Josh Rosen fill the negative side of the list. But there were a couple of slam dunk picks like Joe Burrow, Tua

a receiver either. Ohio State prospect Marvin Harrison Jr. would be a slam dunk pick for them, but who's going to be throwing to him? Not only that, what offensive linemen will be upfront giving the quarterback enough time to throw the ball?

Now entering Week 14 of the NFL season, the Patriots may not be in the position to draft USC quarterback Caleb Williams or UNC quarterback Drake Maye. Depending on the Chicago Bears, Carolina Panthers or Arizona Cardinals' draft needs, the Patriots may need to weigh the

ferred a high ankle sprain, aren't sustainable options.

Option A

The Patriots could consider hiring an offensive-minded coach and conduct a complete rebuild around Jones one last time. Detroit Lions offensive coordinator Ben Johnson or Washington Commanders offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy are potential appealing candidates for the head coach position.

Option B

If the Patriots do not come away with USC quarterback Williams or UNC quarterback Maye in the top three picks of the draft, they could do like they always do and roll the dice on the draft board. LSU's Jayden Daniels, Oregon's Bo Nix, Washington's Michael Penix Jr., or Michigan's J.J. McCarthy strike as potential options if they fall in the draft.

Option C

If the Patriots go forward and draft a quarterback in the first round, they need to seriously consider moving on from Belichick and allow a new offensive-minded coach or defensive coordinator Jerod Mayo to develop the new quarterback. The last thing the Patriots want to see is a repeat of a Jones/Zappe situation.



The Patriots have been training in preparation for their game against the Steelers on Dec 7, 2023. The game will be held at Acrisure Stadium in Pittsburgh, PA.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @PATRIOTSDOTCOM ON TWITTER

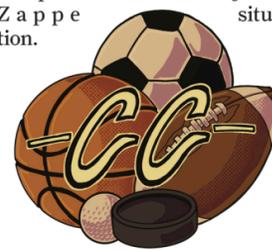
Tagovailoa, Justin Herbert, Josh Allen, Trevor Lawrence and rookie C.J. Stroud. That equates to roughly one franchise QB in each top 10. If they can figure out who that is, then it's well worth it. However, it's high risk.

It would not make a ton of sense for the Patriots to draft

Most people are ready for Jones to be cut or traded from the team. The Belichick-led Patriots team has failed him tremendously this and last season. He's had three offensive coordinators in the first three campaigns of his career and a laughingstock at the wide receiver position.

option of signing a veteran quarterback already in the league.

Signing a quarterback like Minnesota Vikings QB Kirk Cousins or Tennessee Titans QB Ryan Tannehill aren't appealing choices either for Patriots fans. Cousins, who tore his Achilles tendon, and Tannehill, who suf-



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

Spin Cycle:

A review of "Shaq Diesel"

by **Nick Spinalli**

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

When you think of Shaquille O'Neal, the first thing that comes to mind is likely his storied career in the National Basketball Association. Beyond that, if Shaq's name is mentioned, you may think of him as a colorful analyst for the highly successful television program "Inside the NBA", or even as an actor whose distinct build and popularity has made him one of the most recognizable figures on screen.

But people often forget that O'Neal began to dabble with music production during the 1990s and continues to release music to this day. It may not be his calling card, but in 1993, Jive Records released his first studio album "Shaq Diesel." The album was released to mixed reviews, but reached as high as no. 25 on the US Billboard 200 top albums list, eventually becoming platinum-certified for selling over 1 million copies.

I recently gave "Shaq Diesel" a listen and to my surprise and satisfaction, it holds up pretty well. In fact, I would be inclined to say that I actually enjoyed the time that I spent listening to "Diesel." No, it's not an earth-shattering album and O'Neal really doesn't do much that strays too far away from the book, but that doesn't mean the album doesn't have its highlights.

The main theme that I came to take away from Shaq's first studio album is that his lyr-

ics aren't groundbreaking, but he throws his beats over catchy riffs in what amounts to a still-appealing barrage of music. Many songs on this album resemble the West Coast-style of rap that became popular in the 1990s, implementing electronic sounds that add funk to each song's rhythm. I wouldn't quite say the album is quite stylistic enough to fall under the G-funk genre, though there is some resemblance between O'Neal's tracks and ones that would become popular in the future, such as the tracks that make up Dr. Dre's immensely popular second studio album "2001" (1999).

The album kicks off with an intro that will pull you in before O'Neal drops his first bar on the song "I Know I Got Skillz" featuring Def Jef. It's a catchy riff that lays out the West Coast-style that the rest of the album has to offer. If you had any questions of whether O'Neal's skills would translate from the court to the recording studio, he quickly squashes them with this first track. He and Def Jef combine for two gravelly voices over a head-bumping bassline that keeps the song engaging from start to finish. The next song, "I'm Outstanding," is when it becomes clear O'Neal may not possess the lyrical prowess of the best rappers of the time, but he definitely knows how to throw together a catchy hook. It's this album's version of a self-confidence anthem, as he declares how outstanding he is while the funky beat strings together verses seamlessly. You can tell O'Neal is just having a good time in the recording studio.

Both of his collaborations with Phife Dawg are successes on this album. The first one, "Where Ya at," features a simple saxophone riff that creates a surprisingly engaging hook. O'Neal and Phife Dawg exchange verses

with a smooth transition occurring as the other artist picks up the mic and will leave you wondering "where are they at?" The other, "Giggin' on 'Em," is another example of O'Neal not possessing the most impressive lyrical skills but still managing to put together a catchy beat. O'Neal sings about the various people that he's "gigged on" over a unique riff that resembles a screaming noise. While I'm not exactly sure what he means here and I'm sure you're not, either, the point remains that O'Neal's beats can be engaging even if the lyrics lack any deep meaning. Unlike the first song the two collabed on, O'Neal does most of the heavy lifting on this track and proves that he's capable of anchoring the mic.

"I Hate 2 Brag" is perhaps the most surprising stylistic track on the album. O'Neal incorporates an organ to establish the hook in proper East Coast-style, while his vocals in the chorus sound similar to those of the highly influential Notorious B.I.G. It's a smooth track above all else with his deep vocal and the high pitch of the organ complimenting each other in a satisfying blend of sound. O'Neal ends the album with a bang for his final song. On "What's Up Doc? (Can We Rock)" featuring FU-Schnickens, O'Neal puts together his fastest-paced track on the album. Sure, FU-Schnickens does most of the heavy lifting on the song with his quick and seamless rhymes, but it's still O'Neal who is the first on the mic and holding together the chorus. The mesmerizing drums and bass make the song a win.

Thirty years after it was initially released, "Shaq Diesel" manages to hold up surprisingly well. I would be lying if I said that I didn't begin the album without my skepticism; with his other-worldly personality

who prioritized basketball above anything else, I just couldn't imagine O'Neal's musical work being anything more than an attempt to keep himself in the public eye.

It turns out that

O'Neal may have been on to something. Maybe if that whole basketball thing didn't work out, we'd be celebrating him for his work in the recording studio instead.



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

CLIPART COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL



Sports

Huskies in the Pros:

Where did the 2004 UConn men's basketball team go after winning the national championship?

by **CJ Dexter**

HE/HIM/HIS
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
christopher.dexter@uconn.edu

On Tuesday, UConn announced that the school will honor the 2004 men's basketball team before their game against Xavier on Jan. 28. A ceremony will be held to celebrate the team on the court as they get inducted into the Huskies of Honor.

The 2003-2004 Huskies went 33-6, won the Big East Championship and won the program's second-ever National Championship under head coach Jim Calhoun. Four players from the team became lottery picks in the NBA Draft, including Emeka Okafor, Ben Gordon, Charlie Villanueva and Hilton Armstrong.

With the team's induction to the Huskies of Honor just one month away, let's look at where some of the most prominent members of the 2003-2004 UConn men's basketball team went following their banner season.

Ben Gordon

Drafted one selection after Okafor, the Huskies leading scorer was selected by the Chicago Bulls in the 2004 NBA Draft. The two-time all-Big East selection spent his first five seasons in the windy city, earning first team All-Rookie and Sixth Man of the Year honors in his first season in the league. In 10 NBA seasons, Gordon played for the Bulls, Pistons, Bobcats and Magic, finishing with career marks of 14.9 points and shooting over 40% from beyond the arc.

Charlie Villanueva

After two successful seasons at UConn, Villanueva was selected seventh overall by the Toronto Raptors in the 2005 NBA Draft. The Queens, New York native was selected to the NBA's All-Rookie team, but was shipped off to Milwaukee the next season. There, he would average 13.5 points and 6.5 rebounds per game over three years. Villanueva made stops at Detroit and Dallas before his retirement in 2016.



UConn beats Ball State 90 to 63 at Gampel Pavilion on Dec. 6, 2023. This win brings UConn's record to 5-3.

PHOTO BY JORDAN ARNOLD, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:

MÜHL SISTERS REUNITE AT GAMPEL AS NO. 17 UCONN BLOWS OUT BALL STATE

by **Cole Stefan**

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

Since they last played at Gampel Pavilion three weeks ago, the No. 17 UConn women's basketball team lost junior guard Azzi Fudd for the season and fell to their lowest spot in the AP Top 25 in 30 years. All four of the Huskies' matchups in that span came against Power Five competition, but Wednesday's battle versus senior guard Nika Mühl's younger sister, Hana, and the Ball State Cardinals refreshed the team.

Well, it was supposed to be a smooth lull in a tough nonconference schedule. Connecticut comfortably beat down the Cardinals 90-63, but several of the team's shortcomings reared their ugly heads throughout the bumpy contest. Even though they shot 59% from the field and outrebounded Ball State 38-21, the Huskies turned the ball over 17 times and had multiple stretches where they could not buy a bucket.

"We have so many deficiencies that have to be addressed," head coach Geno Auriemma stated after the game. "The things that are within our control, we are not controlling."

Despite all the negatives that plagued UConn in their second 90-point game of the season, N. Mühl had the time of her life coming out on top against her younger sister. For the Croatian guard, battling her sibling felt like senior night.

"This moment was so special for so many reasons," said N. Mühl after the game. "Just seeing my family out there in the stands and how emotional they were...It was a dream for me."

Freshman guard Ashlynn Shade thrived under Gampel's lights out of the gate, burying two three-pointers and a deuce for eight points as redshirt junior Paige Bueckers picked up two early fouls. Ball State's only answer for Shade came in the form of junior guard Madelyn Bischoff, who buried three triples and accounted for all but

three of her team's 12 points in the game's first five minutes.

H. Mühl checked in for the first time after the U-5 media timeout, and while she did not defend against her older sister, her four points in the final 65 seconds sparked the Cardinals. In between both of the younger Mühl's baskets, Bischoff went down and required assistance going to the locker room, with what appeared to be a severe knee injury.

Aaliyah Edwards beat the first quarter buzzer with a second-chance layup, doing the exact same thing over two minutes into the second for the Huskies' first points of the frame. The senior forward accounted for all of Connecticut's offense in the first five minutes, a complete 180 from a 37-point first quarter.

Once the U-5 media timeout hit, however, the Huskies put their foot on the gas. Graduate forward Aubrey Griffin ignited a 10-0 UConn run that put the team ahead by 20 as the defense clamped down on Ball State. Even though the Cardinals' first timeout of the game halted the offense, the Huskies kept their opponent off the board across the final 5:58 of the first half for a 52-30 advantage.

Bueckers' floater gave Connecticut first blood in the second half, but Ball State played like the better team early on in the third quarter. Edwards and the redshirt junior guard scored the Huskies' first 11 points of the frame, turning the ball over three times as the Cardinals again got hot from downtown. Despite having the same number of boards as their counterparts, Shade kicked her offense into second gear as UConn went into the final frame up 23.

Ball State pulled within 20 once in the fourth quarter when senior Annie Rauch converted two free throws, but the Huskies did enough where their five turnovers had no impact on the game. Freshman guard Qadence Samuels became the fifth Connecticut player in double figures, with six points on two triples, matching the efficiency Edwards showed despite being on the verge of fouling out. With sophomore guard Ines

Bettencourt and junior forward Amari DeBerry checking in late in regulation, the Huskies' offense finished off the 27-point win and secured the team's first all-time series lead over the Cardinals.

Outside of Bischoff's 12 first-quarter points, H. Mühl finished with nine points and two dimes off the bench for Ball State. Among the other four starters, junior forwards Marie Kiefer and Alex Richard combined for 14 points and six boards, while junior guard Nyla Hampton dropped nine in the second half. The Cardinals scored 63 points, 23 of which came from their bench, despite shooting at a 38% clip with 13 steals and 13 assists.

Going up against her sister, N. Mühl dropped four points with three boards, three steals and two assists in 31 minutes. Making her first start on United States soil, Shade picked up a career-high 17 points at a 3-9 clip from downtown, while KK Arnold scored seven with four assists. Four different players finished with exactly four rebounds, but Edwards did the heavy lifting with 12 rebounds and 18 points for her first double-double of the year.

UConn has run with six starting lineups through their first eight games of the season, including a different one in each of their last five contests. While Auriemma has not crafted the perfect formula with the resources he has available, he has started putting the puzzle pieces together with tougher competition on the horizon.

"We have got to mix and match and find our way," Auriemma noted about the lineup adjustments he has made. "They [the freshmen] are getting more opportunities to play, more opportunities to learn and that is going to pay dividends, as ugly as it looks at times."

The Huskies' (5-3) fierce opposition in their nonconference slate continues with an upcoming duel against the No. 24 North Carolina Tar Heels (6-3) at Mohegan Sun Arena on Sunday. Tip-off in the finale of the Basketball Hall of Fame Women's showcase tripleheader gets underway at 5 p.m. on ESPN.



Ben Gordon and the rest of the Charlotte Hornets played a rough game against the Washington Wizards on Mar. 9, 2015. They lost by 34 points, with the final score coming out to 87-104.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

Jim Calhoun

Following the 2004 season, Calhoun went on to coach the team until the conclusion of the 2011-2012 season, finishing with a 629-245 record at UConn (877-382 overall) and three national championships. The four-time Big East coach of the year was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2005 and currently sits sixth all-time in Division I men's basketball wins. In 2017, Calhoun un-retired from coaching to jumpstart the basketball program at Division III St. Joseph (West Hartford, Connecticut), leading the program to a 47-17 record and a trip to the Div. III NCAA Tournament before retiring from coaching for good in 2021.

Emeka Okafor

After his dominant 2004 collegiate season, Okafor was selected No. 2 overall by the Charlotte Bobcats in the NBA Draft. The All-American big man went on to win the 2005 NBA Rookie of the Year award and averaged 12 points and 9.7 rebounds per game across 10 seasons in the NBA.

Rashad Anderson

A starter for the 2004 national champions, guard Rashad Anderson went undrafted and pursued a career overseas following his four years at UConn. The Lakeland, Florida native averaged 11 points per game over four years in Storrs.

Josh Boone

Pairing with Okafor in the starting frontcourt for the Huskies '04 team, big man Josh Boone would go on to play three seasons with the Huskies before earning a first-round draft selection in 2006 to the New Jersey Nets. The glass king from Mount Airy, Maryland played in New Jersey for four seasons before pursuing the rest of his basketball career overseas.

Taliek Brown

The leading facilitator for the Huskies in '04, point guard Taliek Brown played four seasons at UConn but went undrafted following the conclusion of the season. Brown has recently pursued a career in coaching and is currently an assistant coach in the Big East with St. John's.

WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconn
Feeling festive along Fairfield way

TWEETS OF THE DAY



#firegeno
@firegeno
UConn scored over 50 points in a half. I never thought I'd see this again.

PGC Basketball
@PGCBasketball
UConn Offense is a Joy to watch!

Sam Calhoun
@samcalhoun
I love Emeka Okafor. One of UConn's most likeable players ever.

Follow The Daily Campus @dcsportsdept

Want to read Husky History and the UConn Track & Field preview?
Visit DailyCampus.com