



## Mansfield restaurants pass food service health inspections

**Rachel Philipson**  
STAFF WRITER

Restaurants located near the University of Connecticut tend to have high ratings, according to the state of Connecticut's Department of Public Health food service inspection reports.

The Daily Campus analyzed the most recent food service inspection reports from nine restaurants in Mansfield: Ted's Restaurant, Blaze Pizza, Chang's Garden, D.P. Dough, Eat Joy, Geno's Grille, Moe's Southwest Grill, Oriental Cafe and Mooyah Burgers. Within these restaurants, the highest score was a 98 and the lowest score was an 84.

The official scores are listed below:

Moe's Southwest Grill received a 98 on their Oct. 12, 2019 inspection.

Blaze Pizza received a 97 on their Oct. 26, 2019 inspection.

Mooyah Burgers received a 96 on their Oct. 12, 2019 inspection.

Geno's Grille received a 95 on their Oct. 26, 2019 inspection.

D.P. Dough received a 93 on their May 23, 2019 inspection.

Oriental Cafe received a 93 on their Aug. 24, 2019 inspection.

Chang's Garden received a 92 on their Sept. 28, 2019 inspection.

Eat Joy received an 87 on their Oct. 5, 2019 inspection.

Ted's Restaurant received an 84 on their Sept. 15, 2019 inspection.

Connecticut's Department of Public Health uses a 100-point scale system for restaurant inspections, according to the Milford Mirror. A failing grade is a score under 80 or if a restaurant receives one or more four-point violations, which include, but are not limited to, improper source of food, hazardous food temperatures and inadequate toilet facilities.

Under the state guidelines, the nine restaurants all passed.

According to the New Haven Register, Connecticut began changing its restaurant inspection system in early 2019. The new system focuses on specific violations instead of pass or fail grades.

Connecticut has 66 health agencies, which conduct inspections three times per year, according to NBC Connecticut. The nine restaurants were inspected by Eastern Highlands Health District,

which inspect all restaurants in Andover, Ashford, Bolton, Chaplin, Columbia, Coventry, Mansfield, Scotland, Tolland and Willington.

Moe's Southwest Grill general manager, Marilyn Gonzalez, said that it was "pretty easy" for Moe's to get a passing health inspection.

"It is pretty much standard for us to have good sanitary skills and to train employees properly," Gonzalez said. "We don't have to worry about it that much."

D.P. Dough's owner and manager, Cory Hill, said that he takes annual classes and exams to make sure he is up-to-date on how to keep his restaurant up to code. He tries to integrate what he has learned into the daily routine of D.P. Dough.

Hill said that passing health inspections helps make sure that they are doing everything they can to keep customers safe.

"We are protecting the people in the community that we see as peers, coworkers and students of the University of Connecticut," Hill said. "It isn't about making money. It is about feeding the community and keeping everyone safe."

Kelsey Silverio, Mooyah's manager, said that they always aim to pass their health inspections in order to "uphold the brand standards."

"At Mooyah, we do everything in our training and daily operations to ensure that we are upholding all state standards when it comes to the health department," Silverio said.

Blaze Pizza, Chang's Garden, Geno's Grille, Eat Joy, Ted's Restaurant and Oriental Cafe did not provide a comment to The Daily Campus before article publication.

With these nine restaurants, six restaurants, Eat Joy, Ted's restaurant, Chang's Garden, Blaze Pizza, Moe's Southwest Grill and Oriental Cafe, received notes in the remarks section of the inspection reports about unclean areas. While the areas varied from each restaurant, the common ones were unclean floors and unclean ice machine interior.

After receiving their inspection reports, the restaurants will have until their next routine inspection to address the remarks, according to the reports.



FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS



PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE LAO, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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**Connecticut's Department of Public Health uses a 100-point scale system for restaurant inspection**



FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS



PHOTO COURTESY OF USARESTaurants.INFO

## PRESIDENT'S SUSTAINABILITY GROUP MEMBERS ANNOUNCED

**Grace Mcfadden**  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

The members of the University of Connecticut's recently-formed President's working group on sustainability and the environment were announced on Tuesday, Nov. 26. The group was announced earlier in the semester in the wake of climate protests on campus as a means of exploring a more sustainable future for the university.

The group has 15 members who will represent various groups and colleges across campus, including six under-

graduate students, one graduate student and eight faculty members. There are also four ex-officio members, all of whom are staff from various departments around campus.

The chairperson for the group is Scott Jordan, Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer at UConn. Jordan said that his intentions with the group were to increase transparency in the UConn community with regards to environmental initiatives.

"Well, I think the purpose of the group is that the university has choices to make going forward. We would like to make

those choices in a way that's inclusive of the university community," Jordan said. "I think at this moment in time with the level of interest students and faculty all have in our path, it makes sense to convene a group to consider the choices."

President Katsouleas announced his intention to create a working group for environmental concerns on Oct. 2. This announcement came on the heels of the Global Climate Strike on Sept. 20 and the subsequent weekly sit-ins in President Katsouleas's office.

While UConn already had an environmental policy advisory

council prior to this, the purpose of this group is to identify goals for the university that consider all perspectives on the issues.

"The working group's charge will be to determine what future goals with respect to carbon emissions and related issues are realistic and feasible for us and to make recommendations as to how they can be achieved," Katsouleas wrote. "It must balance our desire to achieve these policy goals with our need to operate the university and address other key priorities within our budget."

See GROUP, p.3

**"The purpose of the group is that the university has choices to make going forward. We would like to make those choices in a way that's inclusive of the university community."**

-Scott Jordan

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### Tweets of the Day

**Gabriella DeBenedictis** @gabbydeben  
UConn really did bless me with a snow day in my last week of classes ever

**Baby Thriver** @ByJudah  
Thought I got a "you up?" text but it was just a UConn message saying classes are delayed 🙄



## News

# 4 UConn students to begin work with Teach for America next fall

**Amanda Kilyk**

CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

Four University of Connecticut students, Kunal Kataria, Daniel Rider, Martin Villanueva and Mary DiMartino, have confirmed their offers to the corps to begin work with Teach for America in fall 2020.

“Teach For America is a diverse network of leaders who confront educational inequity by teaching for at least two years and then working with unwavering commitment from every sector of society to create a nation free from this injustice,” according to the Teach for America website.

This is a very selective program, and all four students have prepared to become educators through different majors and backgrounds, Andrea Beltran Vega, Teach for America campus recruiter, said.

Mary DiMartino, one of the recruits, is a seventh-semester psychology major. Having always been passionate about working with children, she describes her background in the educational field as being mainly formal educational settings.

“I have worked a lot with both children and adolescents, but I think the most teaching related experiences I’ve had are assistant teaching in a first grade classroom and being a Jumpstart Corps member,” DiMartino said. “These two positions have given me the opportunity to interact with children in a formal educational setting where I’m impacting their learning.”

The majors and backgrounds of the other recruits vary, as Kataria is a seventh-semester management major in the business school, Rider is a seventh-semester biology major and an EMT and Villanueva is a finance major, said Beltran Vega.

Kataria said their motivation to work with Teach for America was the social growth and learning environment offered by a classroom setting with young students.

“The biggest thing was that I want to be around children, I want to be around teachers, I want to be around people that think like that, it’s also what energized me in the morning,” Kataria said. “It gives me the best space to make a difference in my environment. If I’m around a lot of business people, I’m not growing in the best way possible for myself, if I’m growing around children that are pushing me to be better, I feel like I will grow a lot better.”

All four students have different plans to teach in the next year. Martin and Daniel will be teaching math and general sciences at the secondary education level, respectively. Three of the students will be traveling to different states to participate in the program, said Beltran Vega.

DiMartino says teaching English abroad in non-English speaking countries is a goal she is interested in pursuing in the future.

Kataria also hopes to teach through traveling abroad.

“I would love to teach not just where I’m going [Houston] but in different parts of the world and different parts of the country, and use teaching as a way for me to travel, so I just want to be around children my entire life, and make an impact,” Kataria said. “And while I’m teaching kids, they are teaching me, we are spreading love, and I can do that anywhere in the world, I want to travel with it and spread it to everyone.”

Teach for America has rolling admissions, and their next deadline is Dec. 6, with other deadlines on Jan. 31 and Feb. 28. There is also an extra deadline for juniors interested in applying early, said Beltran Vega.



**Above: Kunal Kataria is a seventh-semester management major in the business school. Kataria said they wanted to work with Teach for America because of the social growth and learning environment offered by a classroom setting with young students.**

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF KUNAL KATARIA

**Right: Mary DiMartino is a seventh-semester psychology major. She has always been passionate about working with children and has had experience in formal education settings, as an assistant teacher in a first grade classroom and a JumpStart Corps member.**

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF MARY DIMARTINO



## Kamala Harris ends White House bid, citing lack of funding

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Sen. Kamala Harris told supporters on Tuesday that she was ending her bid for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination, an abrupt close to a candidacy that held historic potential.

“I’ve taken stock and looked at this from every angle, and over the last few days have come to one of the hardest decisions of my life,” the California Democrat said. “My campaign for president simply doesn’t have the financial resources we need to continue.”

A senior campaign aide said

Harris made the decision Monday after discussing the path forward with family and other top officials over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Her withdrawal marked a dramatic fall for a candidate who showed extraordinary promise in her bid to become the first black female president. Harris launched her campaign in front of 20,000 people on a chilly January day in Oakland, California. The first woman and first black attorney general and U.S. senator in California’s history, she was widely viewed as a candi-

date poised to excite the multiracial coalition of voters that sent Barack Obama to the White House.

Her departure erodes the diversity of the Democratic field, which is dominated at the moment by a top tier that is white and mostly male.

“She was an important voice in the race, out before others who raised less and were less electable. It’s a loss not to have her voice in the race,” said Aimee Allison, who leads She the People, a group that promotes women of color.

Harris ultimately could not craft a message that resonated with voters or secure the money to continue her run.

She raised an impressive \$12 million in the first three months of her campaign and quickly locked down major endorsements meant to show her dominance in her home state, which offers the biggest delegate haul in the Democratic primary contest.

But as the field grew, Harris’ fundraising remained flat; she was unable to attract the type of attention being showered on Pete Buttigieg by traditional donors

or the grassroots firepower that drove tens of millions of dollars to Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders.

In her note to supporters, Harris lamented the role of money in politics and, without naming them, took a shot at billionaires Tom Steyer and Michael Bloomberg, who are funding their own presidential bids.

“I’m not a billionaire,” she said. “I can’t fund my own campaign. And as the campaign has gone on, it’s become harder and harder to raise the money we need to compete.”

## 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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# GROUP AIMS TO REDUCE UCONN'S CARBON FOOTPRINT

GROUP, cont. from p. 1

Among the faculty members, there are three representatives from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, two from the School of Engineering, one from the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, one from UConn administration and one who represents both the Graduate School and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Brandon Hermoza-Ricci, third-semester civil engineering major, said that he joined the board because he wanted to be a leader in reducing UConn's carbon footprint.

"By participating on the sustainability working group, I am eager to be a voice representative of the student community looking to make the University of Connecticut a leader in policy initiatives of continued progress towards being a carbon free campus while protecting our local environment," Hermoza-Ricci said.

Michael Willig, UConn Board of Trustees distinguished professor of ecology & evolutionary biology and executive director of the Institute of the Environment, is a representative for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. He said that being part of the group was important to him because UConn has the opportunity to lead the nation in environmental justice.

"By being part of a multidisciplinary group of faculty members and students, who work with staff members in the area of operations and planning, we can help to clarify and articulate institutional values and use them to guide strategic invest in alternative energy sources that meet the university's needs and do so while reducing our carbon emissions in a substantive manner," said Willig. "Hopefully, by acting now and enacting decisions based on shared values, we can become a model for others to follow."

# House Report: Trump misused power, obstructed Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump seriously misused the power of his office for personal political gain by seeking foreign intervention in the American election process and obstructed Congress by stonewalling efforts to investigate, a House report released Tuesday concluded in findings that form the basis for possible impeachment.

The 300-page report from Democrats on the House Intelligence Committee does not render a judgment on whether Trump's actions stemming from a July 25 phone call with Ukraine rise to the level of "high crimes and misdemeanors" warranting impeachment. That is for Congress to decide. But it details "significant misconduct" by the president that the House Judiciary Committee will begin to assess Wednesday.

"The evidence that we have found is really quite overwhelming that the president used the power of his office to secure political favors and abuse the trust American people put in him and jeopardize our security," Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., told The Associated Press.

"It was a difficult decision to go down this road, because it's so consequential for the country," he

said. But "the president was the author of his own impeachment inquiry by repeatedly seeking foreign help in his election campaigns."

Schiff added: "Americans need to understand that this president is putting his personal political interests above theirs. And that it's endangering the country."

In a statement, White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham said, "Chairman Schiff and the Democrats utterly failed to produce any evidence of wrongdoing by President Trump." She said the report "reads like the ramblings of a basement blogger straining to prove something when there is evidence of nothing."

The president, at a NATO meeting in London, called the impeachment effort by rival Democrats "unpatriotic," and said he wouldn't be watching Wednesday's hearing.

The "Trump-Ukraine Impeachment Inquiry Report" provides a detailed, stunning, account of a shadow diplomacy run by Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani, resulting in layers of allegations that can be distilled into specific acts, like bribery or obstruction, and the more amorphous allegation that Trump abused his power by putting his interests above the nation.

# CONNECTICUT NEWS

## Police disclose name of victim in Vernon crash

VERNON, Conn. (AP) — Police in Connecticut have released the identities of the drivers involved in a fatal crash involving a sedan and a box truck earlier this week.

Vernon police say a BMW and the truck collided on

Route 30 on Monday morning.

The driver of the BMW, identified Tuesday as 22-year-old Marcellus Davis, was taken to Rockville General Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The driver of the box truck,

61-year-old Victor Zetterstrom, of Rocky Hill, was transported to St. Francis Hospital for treatment of serious injuries.

The crash remains under investigation and no charges have been filed.

## Police in Connecticut search for missing 1-year-old girl

ANSONIA, Conn. (AP) — Police in Connecticut are looking for an "endangered" 1-year-old girl who went missing from a home where they are investigating a suspicious death.

Ansonia police say they conducted a welfare check at home in town on Mon-

day after a relative said they hadn't talked to the woman who lives there in a while.

Police said the girl's mother was found dead in what is believed to be a domestic homicide. The little girl, identified by police as Vanessa Morales, should have been at the home but was

not there.

State police issued a Silver Alert for the girl Tuesday.

Police Chief Andy Cota III says the girl's father is at his parents' house in New Haven and is cooperating.

The girl's parents' names were not released.

## Civil trial begins for estranged husband of missing mother

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — The estranged husband of a missing Connecticut mother of five has gone on trial in a civil lawsuit filed by his wife's mother, who claims he owes her about \$3 million in unpaid loans.

The trial began Tuesday in Hartford Superior Court. Gloria Farber is suing Fotis

Dulos and his home building company.

Farber's daughter, Jennifer Dulos, of New Canaan, has been missing since May 24. Farber alleges Fotis Dulos hasn't fully repaid loans her late husband gave him to develop homes.

Fotis Dulos says the money was a gift. He testi-

fied Tuesday that Farber's husband was like a second father to him.

Fotis Dulos and his former girlfriend, Michelle Troconis, have pleaded not guilty to criminal charges of evidence tampering and hindering prosecution in connection with Jennifer Dulos' disappearance.

## Euro Championship on US network for 1st time since '08

BRISTOL, Conn. (AP) — The European Championship is returning to U.S. network television for the first time since 2008.

ESPN said Tuesday that five of the 51 matches will be televised on ABC. In 2008, ABC carried two of 31 games: a quarterfinal and Spain's victory over Germa-

ny in the final.

All of ABC's telecasts will be on weekends: Belgium-Russia on June 13, Spain-Poland on June 20, round of 16 matches on June 27 and June 28 and a quarterfinal on July 4.

Ian Darke will be ESPN's lead commentator and will broadcast the opener be-

tween Italy and Turkey at Rome on June 12 and the final in London on July 12, paired with analyst Taylor Twellman.

Thirty-nine games will be on ESPN, including the opener and the final, and seven on ESPN2.

Univision has U.S. Spanish-language rights.

## Fire captain fired after larceny charge dismissed

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (AP) — A Connecticut fire captain who had been accused of misusing a minority firefighters' organization's bank account and credit card has been fired, two months after the case was dismissed.

The Connecticut Post reports that Bridgeport officials confirmed Monday that

Darrien Penix was fired.

Penix was accused of stealing more than \$15,000 from the organization for vacations, trips to a casino and expensive dining. He was president of the organization, known as the Firebirds.

He was arrested and charged with second-degree larceny in August.

The criminal charge against Penix was dismissed in October.

His lawyer, Frank Riccio II, says his client repaid the funds.

The firefighters' union is appealing the decision to fire Penix. Riccio says he believes his client will be allowed to return to his job.

This week tune in to **UConnversations:**  
A new Daily Campus podcast

This week's episode introduces the podcast, which will host in-depth conversations on various issues and topics at the University of Connecticut.

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A memorial service for former UConn Director of Admissions, John Vlandis, will be held Sunday, Dec. 8 at Three Heirarchs Greek Orthodox Chapel, 28 Dog Lane, Storrs, Connecticut. All who attend are invited to sit for a complimentary light lunch afterwards.

## Teen injured in 2015 bus crash awarded \$23 million in damages

WATERBURY, Conn. (AP) — A Connecticut jury has awarded more than \$23 million in damages to an autistic teenager who suffered severe head injuries when his school bus crashed into a tree.

Gabriel Goncalves, of Wolcott, was a sixth-grader at the time of the June 2015

crash. The bus driver told investigators he swerved to avoid a car that had veered into his lane.

Lawyers for his family argued that the injuries robbed the boy of a future, changed his personality and reversed any progress he had made learning to function with autism.

Lawyers for the defendants, including the bus driver and the bus company, said the boy's symptoms after the crash, including aggression and behavioral decline, were caused by autism and not his injuries. They either declined comment or couldn't be reached.

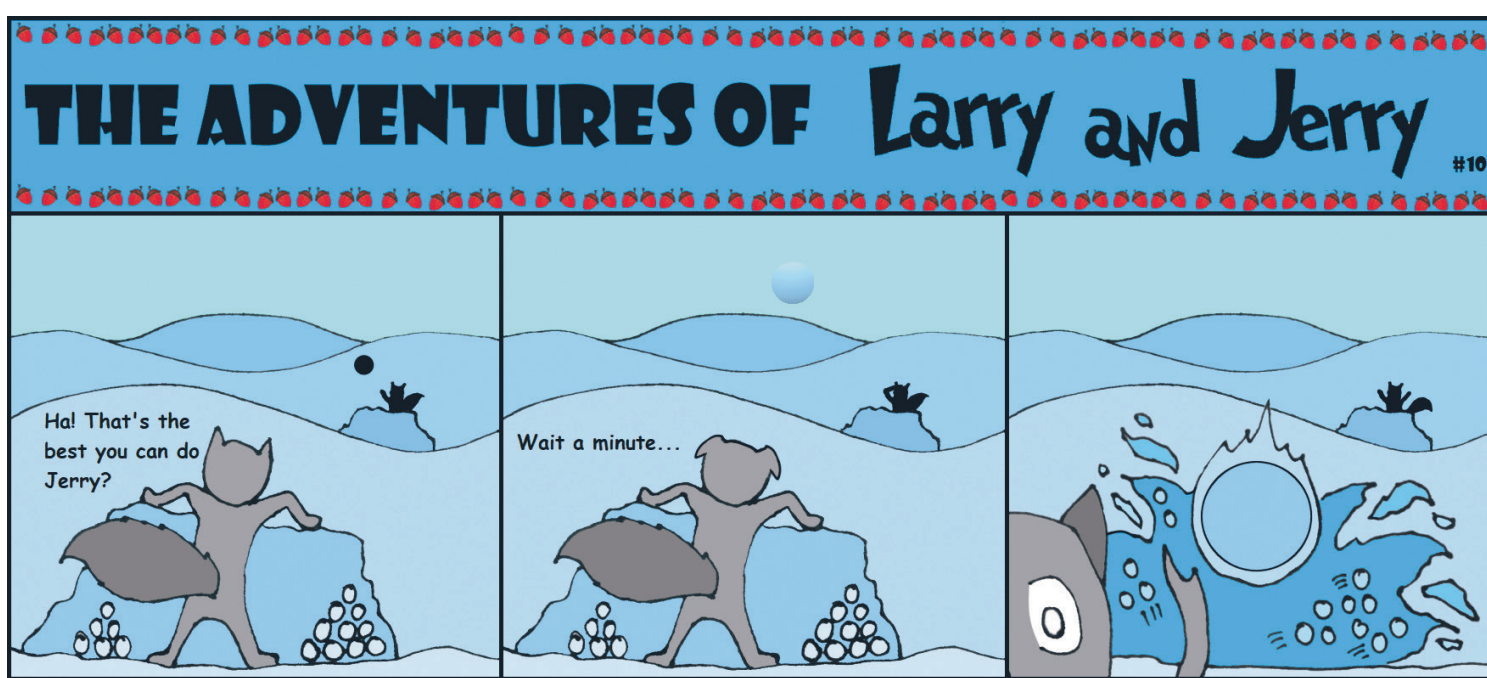


Daily

## Opinion

## The Daily Campus

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## It's our planet — we should take care of it

**Anika Veeraraghav**  
WEEKLY COLUMNIST

There are many problems plaguing our world. Some of these problems selectively impact certain areas or certain groups of people, whereas some are universal. One of these universal problems that we all must work to combat is climate change.

Climate change is a worldwide phenomenon with global implications that are becoming more obvious every day. However, some people still do not recognize that it is actually happening, and is severely threatening the planet.

Climate change encompasses the effects of the changing weather and climate systems due to global warming. It includes weather shifts, changing wildlife populations, rising seas, rising temperatures and a multitude of other impacts. Currently, the effects of climate change are very visible all over the world, and it is affecting people, the environment and animals — essentially everything.

An example of this is in Australia, where wildfires are raging across the eastern part of the country. These wildfires are destroying ecosystems, which is especially harming the koala population of Australia. The population has been declining for years due to deforestation forcing koalas to seek new homes, and often being killed by cars or other animals while doing so. These wildfires are forcing the popula-

tion to decline even more rapidly. Since the koala populations are endemic only to Australia, it puts them at a very great risk.

The reason for these wildfires are because of the immensely long dry periods and rises in temperature, which fall under the umbrella of climate change. Koalas are reported as being susceptible to heat stress and dehydration, so the rising temperatures are even more detrimental to their population.

Although koalas are not currently classified as endangered, their population is declining because of climate change, which puts them in danger of going extinct. The effects of climate change on their population are clear.

There are still many people that do not believe in climate change, despite the clear evidence that it is occurring and putting our planet in danger. The plain fact is that it is our planet, and if we don't take care of it, we will end up destroying it and everything that inhabits it, including ourselves.

The effects of climate change are not only evident in Australia; they are also apparent in Europe, namely in Venice, Italy. Venice, a city built on water, is especially threatened by the rising water levels because it is becoming increasingly difficult for people to live there and for the architecture to be preserved. Despite all of the flooding, the local authorities are not doing anything about it.

Climate change is not something that can be ignored. There are numerous negative effects all around the world, but people still are not giving it the attention that it should have.

In the U.S., climate change has been evident with the sheer number of natural disasters that have occurred recently, such as hurricanes Maria and Harvey that have wreaked havoc especially in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, as well as the wildfires in California. These natural disasters have been sparked by climate change, yet people do not recognize this fact.

Instead of working to combat climate change, President Donald Trump constantly denies it, going so far as to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, which helps fight against climate change, concentrating on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

It's plain and simple — climate change exists. There is a plethora of evidence to prove it, but some people, such as Trump, do not seem to understand.

People all around the world should come together to fight climate change. Although there are already numerous people working to fight climate change, it is not enough. Climate change is an imminent threat that will destroy the planet if we do not do something about it.

In order to combat climate change, we should educate more people about it, then draft legislation that will help the planet. It is our planet, and our duty to take care of it.

Climate change is not something that can be ignored.

## Splitting final exams makes everyone a winner

**Carson Swick**  
CONTRIBUTOR

For students at the University of Connecticut, the dreaded second week of December marks the culmination of over three months of hard work. "Finals week," as it is often called, serves as the last opportunity for students to make or break their grades. With such an important academic stretch nestled between Thanksgiving and Christmas, students must demonstrate superb concentration to succeed on all of their final exams.

A few weeks ago, I (like thousands of other UConn students) logged into my Student Admin account to check my final exam schedule. Sure enough, the three exams I must take are spread in quite a disorderly fashion. Though the locations in which my exams will be given are the same as their corresponding classes, I cannot help but feel frustrated about their timing.

After my classes conclude this week, I have nearly five days before my first exam on Wednesday evening. The other exams I must take are both on Friday: One in the morning and one in the afternoon. Additionally, I know several students with Saturday morning exams, and I am fairly sure they are not taking the SAT. The state of UConn's final exam schedule is clearly discommodulated, which is why I propose that we treat finals week just like a normal week of classes and call upon professors and administrators to construct an exam schedule better equipped to accommodate the needs of our busy lives.

Most obvious of all, this plan creates a degree of consistency. As I have stated, final exams present a formidable challenge to the well-being of university students. When we have been attending classes for over three months and following the same schedule every week, coming up with an entirely new arrangement seems like a bunch of red tape. Following a similar schedule from week to week should be a student's habit at this point, and the unnecessary shuffling of exam schedules only leads to schedule conflicts.

One such schedule conflict is the principle of "bunched" final exams, which the UConn Dean of Students' Office defines as either two simultaneous exams, three exams on the same day, three finals in consecutive time blocks or four finals over the course of two days.

The unfortunate students who end up with bunched exams must work out any schedule conflicts, thus making more unnecessary work for university administrators. But permitting students to change the time of their exams to reduce stress actually does them a long-term disservice. After college graduation, the pace of life will not slow down for working people. The only way to prepare students for the upcoming inconveniences of life is to allow them to construct their own schedule, a process students complete well before the beginning of any semester. If students take on too many challenging courses or become unhappy with the timing of their exams, they must understand that the only blame rests on themselves.

While consistent habitual schedules and a student's individual freedom are both critical to final exam success, I have neglected the most obvious barrier to improving the schedule: The sheer length of exams. Most final exams are designed to take students well over an hour to complete, so the 50 and 75-minute time blocks of regular classes do not suffice. However, there is a way around this.

Instead of randomly creating two-hour blocks for exams throughout the week, longer exams should be split into multiple parts. For example, the professor of a class that normally runs on Tuesday and Thursday can create a two-part exam for students to complete within the time allotted. The same thing goes for Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes, for which professors have the ability to create three-part exams.

If implemented correctly, the splitting of final exams has great potential to reduce stress and increase performance. In the scenario I described above, say a student in a Monday/Wednesday/Friday class fails the first part of their exam. That student now has two more opportunities to raise their grade. Essentially, splitting final exams into multiple parts assures that a student's grade is not made or broken on one day, all while avoiding schedule confusion.

No matter what students' exam schedules look like, there will always be some degree of worry centered around finals week. But any university that wishes to commit to the performance of its students must consider making exam schedules a little more accessible by adopting the "splitting" format.

CULTURE SHOCK

## EMPOWER YOURSELF THROUGH SELF-DEFINITION

I grew up in a mainly white school fifteen minutes from the Connecticut shoreline, in sleepy towns whose grocery stores only recently started selling "ethnic food" (meaning only plantains). I was mainly defined by the people around me, and the labels I used were their best guess at identifying me—not my own way of identifying myself. However, I just don't fit those labels. The boxes are too cramped; they're too isolating in their definitions.

That realization took me so much time to understand. If a label's main effect on your life is isolating, you need to throw it out. Look for boxes that were made by and for people like you, and if it seems like they don't exist yet please look harder. Better yet, create that box yourself. In this process of self-labeling you will find that the old labels that were given to you are completely wrong. You will find that those labels come from an obscenely white, American perspective.

When a constricting label is put on you by others, it's an act meant to disempower you. All societally-imposed labels come with the implicit assumption that you lack the agency or cognition to understand yourself. Many terms, like lazy, have deeply racist, ableist, and misogynistic histories. What do you imagine when you hear the word lazy? Was it a homeless person? Were they white? or black? or brown? Whatever they were in your mind is a point of bias. This is an aspect of labels themselves: they reinforce an idealized/demonized version of whatever they're trying to define.

Given this, I assume some people will think "well we should just stop labeling people, because we're all the same, right?" That thought is very cowardly, and I'm almost certain that if this is your thought process, you're a combination of privileged labels yourself and these conversations make you queasy. Nonetheless, the title of this article is "Empower Yourself Through Self-Definition," so let's do that.

I would describe myself as Andean, bisexual, and non-binary. These define me, they work for me, and they're still not complete but I'm so excited to share and write them. That's what labels should feel like, they should make you happy to say them, they should relax that weight that has always been on top of you. Sometimes you don't know the weight is there until you play around with definitions and look for your community.

Let's be clear though, this didn't happen in a vacuum. My definitions broadcast my beliefs and I definitely wouldn't feel safe exploring them if I was trapped in a friend group that wasn't quite so friendly to people like me. This was the case for long stretches of my life, but I am fortunate to have met some of the most accepting and wonderful people I have ever known, both through a housing switch and via on campus activism. These are people who intuitively understand what Audre Lorde meant by "divide and conquer must become define and empower."

*Culture Shock is an anonymous space for underrepresented and marginalized groups at UConn to share their stories.*

When a constricting label is put on you by others, it's an act meant to disempower you.





# Daily Life

@dailycampuslife

## Clubs of UConn: UConn Wushu



Wushu is a Chinese martial art that is similar to kung fu but less for combat and more for performance. The UConn Wushu club now has about 10-15 regular members who meet two times a week to practice basic movements, kicks, punches and jumps. PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN WUSHU ON FACEBOOK

**Stephanie Santillo**  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

You may have heard of karate and taekwondo, but have you ever heard of wushu?

Kevin Yang, president and head coach of UConn Wushu, is dedicated to learning the sport and teaching others what he already knows to increase wushu's popularity. Yang and other interested students started UConn Wushu in the fall of 2017. The club now has about 10-15 regular members who meet two times a week to practice basic movements, kicks, punches and jumps.

Wushu is a Chinese martial art that is similar to kung fu but less for combat and more for performance.

Combat moves are used alongside acrobatic moves in routines. Yang described the sport as "routine-based with the combat aspect."

Although the club practices together, Yang says that going to the gym and working out on one's own is very helpful. Workouts allow club members to gain strength that they need for certain moves.

"Wushu is a full-body sport, so it's not just like legs or arms," Yang said. "Forearms and stuff like that would help, and of course, having a lot of leg strength would help with jumping. Jumps are pretty big nowadays in more modern wushu. Definitely the gym has helped I would say."

Some of the most difficult yet most show-stopping moves are jumps. These can include aerials,

aerial twists and butterfly kicks. Also impressive is the amount of degrees that a performer can spin after a kick. Yang himself says that he enjoys performing 720 degree kicks. Additionally, performers can incorporate weapons like broadswords, staffs and spears into routines.

UConn Wushu performs in showcases around campus. Some of Wushu's biggest performances include International Night, Asian Nite and various events for the Japanese Student Association. These routines are often group performances, but they can sometimes be solo performances or choreographed combat.

Outside of Storrs, Wushu competes in various competitions. They attend the annual Collegiate Wushu

Tournament and the University of Maryland's University Wushu Games. Competition routines are typically performed solo and can earn a score of up to 10 points: four for technique, four for performance and two for jumps. These routines are usually only one minute to one minute and 40 seconds long.

"It's pretty explosive," Yang said. "So we typically keep it pretty short."

While it's more popular in Southeast Asia and Europe, the sport of wushu is growing in America. There's about 20 universities with substantial wushu teams, mainly concentrated on the west and east coasts. Yang says that one of the difficulties wushu is facing as it grows is how to judge performances, since

there are so many variations within the sport.

"It's just kind of hard to judge because of all the different types of forms that we have," Yang said. "There's so many ways that you can do something that it's kind of hard to judge. It's getting more standardized worldwide with the organizations that are making the standard for everything."

No matter what the worldwide wushu standards end up being, UConn Wushu has definitely set its own standards for excellence. Under the direction of Yang, club members strive to amaze their audience in each of their performances.

Students can contact UConn Wushu at [uconnwushu@gmail.com](mailto:uconnwushu@gmail.com).

## COP-THRILLER '21 BRIDGES' FAILS TO LIVE UP TO POTENTIAL

**Melissa Scrivani**  
ASSOCIATE LIFE EDITOR

"21 Bridges," a cop-thriller starring Chadwick Boseman, has incredible performances from an all-star cast, but fails to let a seemingly good plot reach its full potential.

Boseman plays Andre Davis, a weary but extremely smart New York detective with a reputation for shooting first and thinking second, who is hired by the NYPD to find two men involved in a heist that resulted in eight cops dead and several kilograms of cocaine stolen. Davis is given one night to find the two suspects and calls for the 21 bridges leading out of Manhattan to be shut down - giving the cop-killers nowhere to escape.

Davis and another detective, played by Sienna Miller, manage to find the two suspects in record time, only to discover the crime is more complicated than it originally seemed. Without giving too much away, it turns out the cops may have been involved in selling the cocaine found by the two criminals. Detective Davis decides not to kill the criminal, intrigued by this accusation, but it takes a lot of running around (literally) and determination for him to uncover the full truth.

Irish director Brian Kirk, best known for directing episodes of "Game of Thrones" and "Brotherhood," directs the film, and Anthony and Joe Russo, directors of "Avengers: Endgame," are producers of the film along

with Boseman. With such accredited people involved creating this film, expectations from critics were high.

While the movie certainly has its fair share of action and thrills - there were more murders, car chases and shooting than I can even count - the general plot falls short. It's predictable and fails to go into enough detail about, well, anything. Characters that have so much potential are left underdeveloped, the controversies that should've been a shock to the audience are made far too predictable and there is more killing and chasing than actual substance.

Another issue with the film is the lack of context the audience is given. Instead of motivations behind certain actions, people's roles in the crime being revealed naturally or certain details of the film being explained in depth, they are glossed over or just ignored completely. We only briefly learn about characters' backstories and motives, which could have been a really interesting aspect of the film but fell short.

The film offers some commentary on injustice in the police system and is able to do a good job of showing both sides to every story. We can see the reasons behind the NYPD's, the cop-killers' and the detective's actions. If the true criminals weren't so obvious from the beginning, and if their stories were examined more in-depth, this aspect of the film could have been much more thought-provoking than it actually was.

Each actor brought a lot of emotion to their roles and I was blown away by the incredible acting, particularly from Boseman and Stephan James (from Academy Award-winning "If Beale Street Could Talk"). James plays Michael, one of the two criminals Detective Davis is searching for, and you can feel his distrust in others and fear through the screen. He does an impeccable job portraying someone who is in a difficult situation and has complicated emotions about what he is doing. He carries so much emotion with him throughout his performance, and his acting is one of the best parts of the film.

Boseman was convincing as a jaded detective who will stop at nothing to solve a crime. His values are rooted in fearlessness and integrity, and while he is known for killing, it's clear that he means well.

"Justice is at the heart and essence of who he is. He's a person who can be misunderstood," Boseman said of his character in an interview for YouTube channel HeyUGuys. "Throughout the film, there's this idea that he must be doing something that is wrong or illegal. In fact, it's because he is willing to get so close to things that are unjust."

Supporting actors such as Taylor Kitsch and JK Simmons also give amazing performances.

My verdict is that if you like action films or the starring actors, go see "21 Bridges." Just keep your expectations low and focus more on the thrills than the plot itself.

Rating: 2/5



"21 Bridges," a cop-thriller starring Chadwick Boseman, has incredible performances from an all-star cast, but fails to let a seemingly good plot reach its full potential. PHOTO COURTESY OF IMPAWARDS.COM.



# 'HIS DARK MATERIALS' FINALLY DOES JUSTICE TO PHILIP PULLMAN'S WORK

**Julia Mancini**  
LIFE EDITOR

HBO premiered their new series based on the classic young adult fantasy trilogy of the same name in early November. The series comes 12 years after "The Golden Compass" movie, which focused on the first installment of the trilogy. The movie, featuring big names like Nicole Kidman and Daniel Craig, was surprisingly a huge flop. According to critics, the main reason for the film's failure was its treatment of religion. While the book series did fairly blatantly critique the Catholic church, the movie tried to water down the religious content to not offend anyone, which ironically ended up offending everyone. There were a number of other issues, but the long and short of it is this fascinating, classic story was told poorly through film.

So when HBO announced their own attempt at retelling "His Dark Materials," fans were skeptical. This wasn't a series that had to be botched on-screen again. Luckily, HBO seems to have gotten it right. Each weekly episode brings viewers deeper into Pullman's world of dust, daemons and other dimensions.

Starring "Dafne Keen" ("Logan") as Lyra Belacqua, the story focuses on a fantastical world, not unlike our own, where everyone's spirit lives outside their body and takes the shape of an animal. In this world, sinister forces are at work. The governing and religious body, the Magisterium, are trying to find the root of sin and maintain innocence. Meanwhile, the young heroine Lyra is on a mission to rescue her missing best friend and reconnect with her uncle, Lord Asriel (played by James McAvoy). Along the way, she acquires the mystical alethiometer (the golden compass) and discovers plenty of secrets and hidden dangers.

The cast is star-studded, and the writing is certainly more true to the novels than the previous film adaptation. The audience is

fairly immersed in the fantasy world of the story, and weekly installments keep the suspense alive. The producers of the series decided to use puppets during filming to create a more realistic relationship between actor and animal. When they edited in CGI animals after, it made for a more natural scene.

Ruth Wilson stunned as the monstrous but beautiful Mrs. Coulter. Her character is truly evil, and does the unthinkable to Lyra and other children. Wilson tackled some very emotional scenes with ease, making for a truly scary viewing experience at times. Her heartbreak and simultaneous brutality are hard to look away from.

While each episode has been enjoyable so far, there are still some flaws. Keen seems older than Lyra's character is supposed to be, and I personally found it hard to remove her from her role in the X-Men franchise, especially with those stone-cold stares. Lin Manuel Miranda was not a good fit for the part of Lee Scoresby, the adventurous aeronaut with the Southern drawl. His acting seemed forced and clumsy in the episodes he has been in thus far. This first season seems to include some material from beyond the first novel, which makes some plotlines seem a little jumpy, but time will tell if they manage to make this more cohesive.

"His Dark Materials" is a daunting task to take on, and HBO was brave in doing so. For fans of the books, any adaptation is going to leave a lot to be desired. These were dense books. There is no way any on-screen version of this epic trilogy can encompass all of the minutiae. But HBO is certainly as close to perfect as audiences have seen thus far. It's not a perfect adaptation, but the production team clearly have a good understanding of the novels. They remain true to Pullman's original books, while creating some new fans of the series along the way. Episodes air every Monday night on HBO.

**Rating: 4/5**



When HBO announced their own attempt at retelling "His Dark Materials," fans were skeptical. Luckily, HBO seems to have gotten it right. PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB.

# A 'HAPPY HOLIDAYS' PLAYLIST

**Hollianne Lao**  
STAFF WRITER

It's everybody's favorite part of the year: Finals season! Just kidding. However, as soon as you finish your last exam, you'll be free to enjoy your winter vacation and the upcoming holidays. Whether you're in the camp of people who have been blasting holiday music since Halloween, people who can only stomach the songs one day of the year or anyone else in between, you have to admit holiday music's infectious nature has an uncanny way of setting the festive mood. Here are some selections from my own curated "Happy Hollidays" playlist chock full of holiday music, and you can access the complete playlist on Spotify. It might seem pretty pop-heavy, but it's got a range from fun bops to sentimental classics for all scenarios. (I also would like to apologize for the dominance of Christmas songs – I tried to steer away from anything overly religious.)

## "ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS YOU" BY MARIAH CAREY

Basic, I know, but if I were to mention any must-have on a holiday playlist, it's this song. People act like they're sick of it, but come on. Carey's powerful vocals coupled with the lyrics that everyone no doubt knows makes this an immediate mood booster, whether you're in charge of the holiday party music or are bumping to some music on the way home.

## "HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS" BY SAM SMITH

Smith's flawless voice makes this simple Christmas song, which sometimes plays as boring, nostalgic and calming. The song is perfect for a cozy night in when you're doing some holiday decorating or baking some cookies. When you feel like you've had your fill of sickly sweet pop tunes, this is the perfect palate cleanser as a heartwarming update of a classic.

## "IF IT BE YOUR WILL" BY HAIM

This glittering cover plays beautiful homage to Leonard Cohen's 1984 classic and is featured on the artist-collaborated "Hanukkah+" album. The sister trio that normally releases alternative rock music combine ethereal synths, guitar and airy vocals that doesn't bring down the mood, but instead sets a serene tone.

## "IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS" BY MICHAEL BUBLE

Michael Buble has become almost synonymous with holiday music, and for good reason. His dulcet tones are immediately recognizable and their warm quality is perfect for the cozy qualities that the holidays should bring.

## "BELIEVE" BY JOSH GROBAN

This song has a special place in my heart, from playing at the end of the classic holiday movie, "The Polar Express" to being the song that was chosen for my fifth-grade class to sing. Groban's unmistakable baritone will make you want to believe in anything – the magic of the holidays, As on your exams, that you won't get asked about your love life during the annual family party.

## "SANTA TELL ME" BY ARIANA GRANDE

Grande's fun bop has aged well as the singer has rocketed to superstardom in the past few years, and for good reason. If you're looking for a pop holiday song that everyone will enjoy but perhaps have not heard over 100 times, Grande can most certainly deliver.

## "LAST CHRISTMAS" BY WHAM!

This song almost doesn't sound like a holiday song at first listen (until you get to the mentioned Christmas, of course), and that, coupled with its sentimental lyrics and timelessness only add to its playability. It's been covered by a lot of artists, but this is one classic that I believe is best in its original form.

## "WINTER WONDERLAND" BY PENTATONIX (FEAT. TORI KELLY)

Pentatonix has dominated the holiday genre since they rose to popularity, and I'm not mad about it. Their creative and masterful compositions elevate holiday music from just something that retail stores may play during shopping season to a soundtrack treat that people will take the time to appreciate in their listening queues. Kelly's wholesome voice is a welcome addition to this fun collaboration that will make you wish it was snowing outside.

## "I GOT MY LOVE TO KEEP ME WARM" BY IDINA MENZEL & BILLY PORTER

There's a quintessential warm quality that certain artists' voices have that is perfectly suited for heartwarming holiday music, as I have mentioned, and Idina Menzel definitely has it. Even before she became known as Disney's ice queen Elsa, Menzel's Broadway prowess has always awed me. Coupled with other Broadway powerhouse Billy Porter, this cheeky duet is a treat to the ears.



# Husky on the Road

## THE HOLIDAYS IN NYC

**Kate Luongo**

CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

For many years now, I have had the tradition to spend a day in NYC with my dad during the holiday season. Though somewhat of a tourist destination throughout the month of December, it is hard to find a more festive place to visit this time of year.

Arriving at Grand Central is always an awe-inspiring experience, even after seeing it for the 100th time. During the holidays, the famous train station is transformed into a winter wonderland decorated with wreaths and red ribbons. Before you leave, check out the miniature train exhibit and holiday market featuring homemade gifts and gourmet food.

Our first stop each year is to grab breakfast at Pershing Square. Tucked underneath the bridge right outside of Grand Central, Pershing Square is the perfect place for a nice warm meal to start off the day. The inside of this cafe is decorated with Christmas trees and candy cane striped lanterns. I always order the pancakes and a cup of rich hot cocoa. The cakes are light and fluffy, dusted with powdered sugar that melts like snow in your mouth.

Rockefeller Center is a popular destination in the city this time of year, and though the lit-up tree is mesmerizing, I suggest making this one of the first stops of the day. You will avoid the crazy (and I mean crazy) crowds that come at nightfall, and be able to get some great views of the decorations and skaters on the rink.

I also recommend checking out the festive shop windows early on in the day to avoid long lines. The windows at department stores such as Macy's and Bloomingdales are uniquely decorated each year with mechanical moving parts and fun displays.

Take a break from the bustling scene in the Manhattan streets and head over to Battery Park. The Winter Garden in Brookfield Place features palm trees and interactive colored lights. The French Food Hall "Le District" is perfect for a quick sandwich or bowl of soup. Be sure to check out the great views of the water and the Statue of Liberty!

As dusk starts to fall, take a stroll through Greenwich Village. You will pass a number of quaint lit-up doorways and small Christmas tree farms, reminders of the small joys of the holidays. You might get lucky and come across a group of carolers, taking to the streets to spread Christmas cheer the old fashioned way.

Before taking the train back home, stop at Bryant Park to see the holiday shops. Taking a look at the wide array of unique gifts is a great way to end the day and do a little Christmas shopping. Be sure to stop at No Chewing Allowed for a cup of the most decadent hot chocolate and Waffles and Dinges for an out-of-this-world crispy sweet treat. The menu outside will remind visitors of the company's winning waffle that beat Bobby Flay, featuring a gooey speculaas spread.

Take one more look at the crowd of friends and families, holding hands and sharing smiles before heading back to Grand Central. After all, this is what the holidays are all about.



Though somewhat of a tourist destination throughout the month of December, it is hard to find a more festive place to visit this time of year.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY AUTHOR





# Life StudyBreak

## Photo of the Day | Periodic Table



Students receive free t-shirts and buttons at a table in the Student Union as part of Tampon Time. Tampon Time is a USG initiative offering free menstrual products in various locations around campus. PHOTO BY JULIE SPILLANE, GRABS PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



## Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hint
  - 6 Insincere flattery
  - 11 Town in a Hersey title
  - 12 Book before Joel
  - 13 Roadie's burden
  - 16 Like some ALS Ice Bucket Challenge videos
  - 17 Home of the bush ballad
  - 19 Greek letter
  - 20 Take in
  - 22 Hardest to get close to
  - 23 Rocky pinnacle
  - 24 Brit who might lose a stone?
  - 26 \_\_\_ tape
  - 27 Cicero, for one
  - 29 From the top
  - 31 Half a drink
  - 32 CV component
  - 33 Three sheets to the wind
  - 34 Selassie of Ethiopia
  - 36 Stew base
  - 38 Snake eye?
  - 39 Doctoral candidate's hurdle
  - 40 Seventh-century pope
  - 41 Blu-ray player ancestor
  - 42 Swindle
  - 43 Sturdy tree
  - 44 Astra or Insignia
  - 46 Salad vegetable
  - 49 DWI-fighting gp.
  - 51 Genesis
  - 53 "\_\_\_ Cried": 1962 hit for Jay and the Americans
  - 54 Prepares (oneself), as for combat
  - 56 Pooch sans papers
  - 57 Diminutive, diminutively
  - 58 Fated
  - 60 Send, in a way
  - 62 Ice cream maker
  - 63 Bars with character, to some
  - 64 Slower than adagio

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10				
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16												18		
19														
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27														
36	37													
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58														
62														

By Jeffrey Wechsler

- 65 Act surprised
- 66 Puts on cargo
- DOWN**
- 1 Donated for the benefit of
  - 2 One checking stories
  - 3 Classic music hall song that lent its melody to the "Howdy Doody" theme
  - 4 Santa \_\_\_ Mountains
  - 5 Lake Erie city
  - 6 Trading unit
  - 7 Apt challenger of this puzzle's circled locations
  - 8 Long-eared beast
  - 9 Hit the hay
  - 10 Painter Chagall
  - 12 Unalaska, e.g.
  - 14 Name incorrectly
  - 15 McDonald's supply
  - 18 Succor
  - 21 Service station offering
  - 25 Wide key

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

- 28 Small South American monkey
- 30 "No one knows" Enthusiast
- 35 Yankee suspended for the 2014 season
- 36 Start of a confession
- 37 Like family
- 45 Reminder of a kind
- 46 Slowing, in scores
- 47 Certain Muslim
- 48 Greetings
- 50 Room with a remote, often
- 52 Letterman interviewee, say
- 55 Old Fords
- 59 Reproductive cells
- 61 \_\_\_ culpa

## Letter to the Editor

A pack of cigarettes comes with a warning from the surgeon general. The van from Eastern Connecticut's Women's Center provides, as advertised, pregnancy tests and ultrasounds. However, there is no warning on the van that it is funded and sent by anti-choice organizations. We stand outside the van with signs and flyers to provide the disclaimer that Students For Life and Caring Families Corporation refuses to include with their services.

The van that appears on campus monthly is funded by Caring Families CT, a pro-life group that runs various anti-abortion programs throughout the state. The organization runs the Women's Center of Eastern Connecticut, a fake pregnancy center that misleads pregnant people in order to keep them from seeking abortions. Caring Families themselves are funded by Care Net, a nationwide pro-life group that runs over 1,100 fake pregnancy centers around North America.

Several of our members have, in fact, had the displeasure of interacting at length with the employees of the van and members of Students For Life. During the October 25th protest, two of our members argued for over an hour with one of the van employees, and received two pieces of the van's literature, including a pamphlet that falsely painted abortion as a dangerous procedure. The same member had a conversation with two members of students for life, one of which was actually the author of a clumsy op-ed defending the van that was recently printed in the Daily Campus. The same employees and club members that we interacted with extensively then complained, only hours later, that our members refused to engage. Frankly, this kind of deception is unsurprising from an organization that will lie about the dangers of abortion, conceal their true motives, and create thousands of clinics attempting to steal patients from comprehensive healthcare providers.

This organization targets a vulnerable demographic, low income people who may be pregnant, and does not disclose, unless pushed, that they are a pro-life organization. They do not disclose, unless pushed, that during their "options counseling" they try to talk people out of getting abortions, do not inform people that they have a legal right to an abortion, and refuse to tell them where they can get an abortion if the patient desires one. The information they provide about abortion procedures are cherry-picked or fully falsified information about how the procedure is dangerous. During a conversation with the employee of the van, she actually told us that Planned Parenthood forces or pressures people into abortions and does not provide other options. Whether she believes this to be true or is purposefully misleading people, this is dangerous and false information. Students are busy and stressed, and if pregnant they could be afraid and desperate for options. They may not know or have the time to deeply question the employees or research the Women's Center of Eastern Connecticut or Caring Families. That is why YDSA, with other organizations, stands outside the van. We have information verified by reputable comprehensive healthcare providers. We are here to provide information, so that students can make their choices without deception.

We agree that there is a void in access to reproductive health on campus, but rather than interacting with an anti-choice organization, we are in the process of organizing a ride-share program to Planned Parenthood. A choice based on misinformation is not a choice, no matter what Cade Buckheit tells you. Students can use the van if they choose, we can not and will not stop them. We have not even attempted to get the van barred from campus, despite the risk to public health they pose. Instead, we simply provide students with information so they can make a fully informed decision about where to seek care. We encourage students to engage with Students For Life and the employees and see what they have to say. By all means, question them, receive their services, and take their free stuff. Anyone with any questions should visit [exposepcscet.org](http://exposepcscet.org). Or, if deceptive Crisis Pregnancy Centers make you angry too, join us on December 6th from 1-5, standing outside the van on Fairfield Way to provide a disclaimer



# Column: Madden 20 is a shameless cash grab and EA should be ashamed

**Jorge Eckardt**  
STAFF WRITER

Sports video games are one of the more controversial genres in the video game industry. With new versions being released every year, the companies that produce them are oftentimes criticized for releasing what is essentially the same game but with updated rosters.

However, most of their customers don't care. If you're a fan of 2K, The Show, FIFA, NHL or Madden, the roster update and surface changes are usually enough for you to spend \$60 on a game every year. Usually, it's enough.

But this year's iteration of Madden takes the cake of laziness, greed and general disregard to their customers.

Let's start with the major gameplay updates. The big update was a gameplay feature called Superstar X-Factor, which gave a special ability to 100 of the best players in the NFL. With it came a multitude of lower-level abilities that were applied to plenty of other players, and all of which improved how they played. Was it cool? Yes, but it feels like the minimum that they could do to update the game. Instead of making any major changes, they simply made the best players in the league play like the best – something they already should have been doing.

There were a couple of other changes that they made, like adding RPOs to playbooks and a new game mode centered around the new X-Factors, but overall the game is very similar to Madden 19.

But, like I said before, that's usually fine. That's not what the problem is with this game, be-

cause frankly, these gameplay updates are larger than ones they have made in the past. No, the problem is with their most popular mode, Madden Ultimate Team.

Madden Ultimate Team is a mode where you collect cards of players in the NFL to build your own custom NFL roster. These include players both past and present, and it grants you the most creativity and customization of any mode in the game. You could have Lamar Jackson at quarterback throwing to a combination of Jerry Rice, Tony Gonzalez and Deandre Hopkins while you're going up against Lawrence Taylor, Bobby Wagner and Jamal Adams on the other side of the ball. There is a countless number of combinations that can be made, allowing every player to put together their own, personalized football team. While the cards don't start off at a very high overall, they gradually release better versions of them throughout the year.

These cards can be acquired in three distinct ways. The first of which is through challenges, which are offline games versus the computer where once you complete enough of them, you get a player. So far this season, they've released sets of challenges where once you complete them all, you can get players like Michael Thomas, Byron Jones, Baker Mayfield and Deacon Jones. Sure, it will take a couple of hours before you can add them to your team, but usually, the grind is worth it for a card that, at the time of its release, is one of the best in the game.

Then there's the auction house, which allows players to sell the cards they have to other players in exchange for the in-game currency coins. It very much operates like a sort

of stock market, with the prices of the cards being completely determined by how much the community values it. Once better cards are released, some cards start to get phased out and therefore become cheaper.

And the third is through packs, and this is the most egregious part about the game. Here, players can purchase packs with either coins or actual, real-life money for the CHANCE of getting a really good card. Boiled down, it's essentially gambling, and it's a system that the developer, Electronic Arts, has become famous for. In most of their games they offer an opportunity to spend real money in return for the chance at an in-game prize, while controlling the odds to make sure that very few people win.

It is widely accepted in the Madden community that buying packs with coins is almost never a good idea, because EA makes sure that the odds you actually get equal or greater value out of it are slim to none. That makes actual money the most popular way to purchase these packs, as their customers endlessly pour their hard-earned money into a game that has proven time and again to not care about their customers.

Well wait, how can you say they don't care? Well, there's one simple but very telling example. In the game, there is something called "limited time" cards, which are exactly what it sounds like. Essentially, EA will release a new card but the only way that it can be acquired is by opening packs, and the odds of it coming out of the packs are next to nil. Therefore, those that are pulled go for a premium on the auction house, much more than the average player can even come close to affording.

Last year in Madden, I opened well over 1,000 packs. How many of these did I pull? One. My friend, who probably opened around the same amount as me, got none. I will clarify that I just kept gambling coins, never real money, because I couldn't stand to give them any more of my cash. I almost never won, but the few times I did kept me coming back for more. Sound familiar?

So what's the big deal, it's just a few cards that are hard to get, but that's not the end of the world, right? Well, it's plenty more than just a few cards. Name a big name star in the NFL, both past and present, and there's a good chance that they got a limited time card. Aaron Donald? Limited. George Kittle? Limited. Christian McCaffery? Limited.

There are at this point probably over 100 limited-time cards that have come into the game, and they are almost always a big-name player. That means that players like Michael Vick, Deion Sanders, Randy Moss, Troy Polamalu, Travis Kelce, Ezekiel Elliott, Joe Thomas, Calvin Johnson and plenty of others are all essentially stuck behind a paywall. If you want these cards, EA makes sure that you're gonna have to give them money so you can get them.

You had to have been expecting this though, right? Isn't it the same every year? Not like this.

In previous years, you could essentially (it's slightly more complicated but I'm not going to get into it) purchase the card with a different form of in-game currency. That way, if you weren't fortunate enough to get a real version of it, you could still have that player on your team.

This year, that option is off the table. Instead, they decided to just release that card back

into packs sometimes over a whole month later than it originally came into the game. Does it make it cheaper? Slightly, but as is the case with many of the cards, the odds the new versions are pulled from packs are still very small. By the time their values are low enough for average players to be able to afford them, it's for a reason. By that time, they are no longer nearly as good as they were when they were released, having being overtaken by newer, higher rated cards.

This epitomizes their pay to win model. Want the good players? You better be willing to pay, otherwise, you can have them when they're no longer good.

Michael Vick was released almost three months ago, except he was behind a paywall. I only just could afford to add him to my team three days ago. Why? Well, EA released a new promo, one that in previous years you could participate in if you had coins and played enough, but this year was strictly real money based. It flooded the market with new Vick cards, finally driving his price down to one the average player could afford. Three whole months after those who were willing to pay for him were able to use him in competitive play.

Only those willing to spend hundreds of dollars can afford to compete, and sometimes, that's not even enough. This year's edition is unabashedly a straight-up cash grab. They're not even trying to hide it.

Then just go play another football game you say? Can't. They've monopolized the market. You want football? It has to be Madden. You want to compete? EA is going to need an arm and a leg before they decide to even give you a chance.

# Biggest winners and losers from Feast Week

**Tamir March**  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

The week of Thanksgiving is quite arguably the best sports week of the year. We have college football, basketball, NBA, NHL and soccer at the same time; who can ask for anything more? Feast Week is the highlight, as the best college basketball teams play in tournaments from the Bahamas to Hawaii to Cancun. These Feast Week tournaments are often the first chance we get to see the top teams in the country tested, while being introduced to some of college basketball's emerging talents (hi Obi Toppin). Here are the most notable winners and losers from my favorite sports week of the year.

**Winner: The Michigan Wolverines and Juwan Howard**

I did everything I could to avoid this, but Michigan was so impressive last week that I'm forced to put my anti-Michigan sentiment away for a painful few minutes. The Battle 4 Atlantis was the best Feast Week tournament, hosting the likes of Seton Hall, Oregon, North Carolina, Gonzaga and the team that dons that awful shade of yellow. Coming into the week Michigan was unranked and only three-point favorites to Iowa State in their opening matchup. After scraping by Iowa State, they beat two top 10 teams in North Carolina and Gonzaga. Following a slow start in the first five minutes against UNC, Michigan dominated for the next 75 on their way to the Atlantis title. In my estimation, the Wolverines was a team with an inexperienced head coach and one real player (Zavier Simpson). Isaiah Livers, Jon Teske and Eli Brooks showed that they're far more than just Simpson's side-kicks. What shocked me most was rookie head coach Juwan

Howard beating two of the best college coaches ever back to back in Roy Williams and Mark Few. Road doesn't get easier, as by the time you read this, they will have traveled to Louisville to play the No. 1 Cardinals. Good week for Michigan, we get it, moving on.

**Losers: Duke**

After writing that I need some Duke slander to feel clean again. Duke played their tournament two weeks ago winning the 2K Classic in NYC, but they didn't really have any notable wins. Duke came into the week ranked as the No. 1 team in the country. Stephen F. Austin came into Cameron Indoor to change that. To much of the country's delight, the Lumberjacks broke Duke's 150-game non-conference home win streak. Duke was 27.5 point favorites, making Tuesday's upset one of the biggest in years. Literally adding injury to insult, the Blue Devils lost freshman stud Cassius Stanley to injury for a couple weeks. For a team that already doesn't have much guard depth, that's a huge loss. Duke has a chance to bounce back in East Lansing Tuesday night. Too bad they won't.

**Winner: Obi Toppin and the Dayton Flyers**

If you watched a Dayton game last year you knew that forward Obi Toppin was an absolute force to be reckoned with. Understandably, the casual fan had not heard of Toppin until this year, but boy did he burst onto the scene this week. The stands in Maui were littered with NBA scouts, many of whom project Toppin as a lottery pick following his performance on the island. In his three games, all against legitimate teams, he combined for 67 and 21 rebounds. Obi was awesome, but Dayton proved they're an extremely well-balanced team around him. Jalen Crutcher and Ryan Mike-

sell made a ton of huge shots as the Flyers dominated their way to the Maui final. They pushed Kansas to the brink, as the Jayhawks needed overtime to overcome the team out of the A-10. Dayton is ranked as the fifth most offensively efficient team in the country according to KenPom and will be a bonafide contender come March.

**Losers: Wisconsin and Michigan State**

These two Big Ten teams came into the season with a lot of returners and high expectations. Opening day losses to Saint Mary's and Kentucky made Feast Week a big opportunity for them to get some quality resume wins. Starting with the disaster Wisconsin had: They got upset twice in a row at the Barclays Center for an 0-2 record in the Legends Classic. Greg Gard's team just could not seem to score. Sharpshooting junior guard Brad Davidson, who appears to be the reincarnation of Aaron Craft, was held to a combined seven points in Brooklyn. The Badgers look lost without the option of just feeding Ethan Happ on the block every play. As for my Spartans, the opening game loss to Virginia Tech was so disappointing for several reasons. The first being that the Hokies are very much rebuilding and should not be a team that MSU struggles against. What Tom Izzo is more upset about is that the loss took away the opportunity to play Dayton and Kansas, two quality opponents that Izzo would have loved to challenge his team. Instead they played Georgia and UCLA, neither of whom will be playing in March. The Spartans always peak around the NCAA tournament, but man that Virginia Tech loss was a real step back.

**For more of the story, visit DAILYCAMPUS.COM**

# MLB Offseason Outlook: AL Central

**Jorge Eckardt**  
STAFF WRITER

The American League Central was possibly the worst division in the MLB last season, despite being home to one of the four 100-plus win teams in the league and another 90-plus win team. It was the other three teams that really brought the division down. The White Sox finished in third, and while their 72-89 record was bad, it was World Series caliber when compared to what places 4 and 5 did. The Royals went 59-103, and they came in fourth. Not only that, but they were a whopping 11.5 games ahead of the Tigers. ELEVEN AND A HALF (the White Sox and Tigers had one of their games canceled that they never played, both finishing the season playing only a 161 game schedule). Their record of 47-114 was the 16th worst in the modern era and the third-worst in the last 50 years!

Anyway, enough about how pathetic the AL Central was last season (the Twins also put up approximately zero fight in the Divisional round against the Yankees). It's a new year, so let's predict what these teams are going to do or have already done.

**Minnesota Twins**

The Twins offense was one of the best in the league last season, and they are retaining a lot of their lineup in 2020. However, what they are not retaining is their starting pitching staff. Kyle Gibson, who, after a strong 2018, regressed in 2019, is finishing the year with a 4.84 ERA. He still did throw 160 innings for the team though, and he has already signed with the Texas Rangers. Michael "Pine Tar" Pineda is also a free agent, who had a 4.01 ERA in 146 innings last season. That's over 300 innings they have to replace, and if they don't bring back Pineda, they're going to need to sign at least two solid starters if they want to avoid a serious regression. While they probably won't be

in the running for a top-tier arm in their market, Ivan Nova could eat up some innings and Alex Wood is a prime bounce-back candidate after having an ERA of nearly six in just 35.2 innings but also averaging an ERA of 3.29 in the previous three years. If they want to spend even more, Zack Wheeler could land in Minnesota if they throw him enough money. They're not going to get Cole or Strasburg, but they need to get somebody.

**Cleveland Indians**

The Indians are in a weird spot. They missed the playoffs last season despite winning 93 games, and on top of that there's a boatload of speculation about trading star shortstop Francisco Lindor. With two more seasons left before he hits free agency, they could hit a "soft-reset" on the team and not make any serious additions while bolstering their farm system, aiming to seriously compete again in the next two or three years. Should they? I don't think so, because I don't believe in the Twins. I don't think they're going to be nearly as good as they were last season, and if the Indians can just plug a few holes, they could be in good shape to take the division back. If I'm them, I'm doing everything I can to bring back Yasiel Puig, who they traded for last season and hit .297/.377/.423 in 49 games for Cleveland. They also could use a second baseman, and while bringing back Kipnis is an option, he's not the player he once was, so it might just be best to move on. They could go for one of the big names in a relatively thin second base class and pick up Ben Zobrist or Brian Dozier, or they could look at someone like Jonathan Schoop, who is significantly younger and actually had a better OPS than both of them. Mainly, they should just bolster their depth, maybe add some bullpen arms, trust that their core will improve and hope the Twins fall back down to earth.

**For more of the story, visit DAILYCAMPUS.COM**



## Sports

Photo of the Day | WHITE OUT, BABY!!



Fans cheer on the Huskies against Florida at Gampel Pavilion on Nov. 13, 2019. PHOTO BY MAGGIE CHAFOULEAS, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Men's Basketball: Gaels visit Gampel for midweek matchup

**Kevin Arnold**

ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The last time the Huskies played a midweek game at Gampel Pavilion, they left with their heads hung low and a 96-87 blemish on their record. With the Iona Gaels coming to town this Wednesday, the UConn men will look to not let history repeat itself.

A main contributor to that loss was a lethargic start out of the gate. The Huskies shot 30.6% from the floor and entered the locker room trailing by 16. Slow starts have been a common theme in the early going, but head coach Dan Hurley isn't worried just yet.

"We're still trying to become a good team," Hurley said. "I don't think we're at the point as a program where like you start looking into bad starts to a half. Trying to go from being a bad team the last couple of years to a good team. In order to do that you have to be consistent ... Just as a program we're still immature. We're better. We're more talented. We're trending in the right direction, but it takes time to be consistently good."

Akok Akok has found himself in the center of that upward trend. The redshirt-freshman has started every game for the Huskies (5-2) this season and is averaging nearly six rebounds a game. His 20 blocks are the most in the conference and ranks 22nd in the nation.

"[Akok's] helped change our whole defensive identity," Hurley said. "Of all the new guys, Akok is the main reason we're trending in the right direction because of the energy level he plays with, how he's allowed our defense to get better just with his length. He's a game changer on the court."

Akok, along with fellow first-year players Jalen Gaffney and James Bouknight, have found themselves in the mix of Hurley's 10-man rotation. With depth as a strength, Hurley's squad has been able to attack teams defensively and play a fast-paced style on offense. Christian Vital, the team's leading scorer (14.6) and rebounder (8.1), is tied for seventh in the country in total steals (23) and is on pace to shatter his career-high of 50.

"When you feel like you have 10 guys that you're confident you can put in the game, it allows you to really get after people defensively," Hurley said. "Force more turnovers, apply more pressure, push the ball up the court quicker."

With Sidney Wilson expected to return from a knee injury he suffered against Miami, that rotation only becomes deeper.

As for the Gaels (2-2), they haven't played since a Nov. 23 75-52 win over Kennesaw State. They were voted as the preseason favorites to win the MAAC and go to the NCAA tournament for the sixth time in eight years. For that reason, Hurley sees a similarity to a previous UConn opponent: Buffalo.

Iona plays a 2-3 zone defense, but has shown the ability to play a matchup zone as well as man-to-man. UConn scored a quick 11 points when Maine opened the game in a 2-3 zone, but was held to 64 points overall, 12 below its season average. Iona is averaging 64.5 points allowed per game this year.

E.J. Crawford, a Hartford native, will make a return home Wednesday night. Standing at 6-foot-6 and 210 pounds, Hurley called Crawford a "matchup nightmare," as he can play a number of positions, primarily the three and the four. Through four games he is averaging 15.3 points per contest and five rebounds for the Gaels.

On the perimeter, Iona features a talented junior guard tandem in Asante Gist and Isaiah Washington. They combine for 15 points a game and are the top-two playmakers on the team with 17 assists and 14 assists respectively.

Tajuan Agee will test the UConn big men who were mostly quiet in the win over Maine. At 6-foot-9 and with the ability to shoot the 3-ball (4-for-5 on the year), he draws similarities to Akok, but carries a 30-pound weight advantage. Agee, a senior, leads the Gaels in scoring (17) and rebounds (nine) but Akok said he's ready for the challenge.

"They're a scrappy team," Akok said. "They play down to the wire. It's going to be a dogfight. We just got to come in with the right mindset."

Tip-off is set for 7 p.m. at Gampel Pavilion and the game will be televised by SNY.



Tyler Polley pulls up for a jump shot against Florida on Nov. 13, 2019. PHOTO BY MAGGIE CHAFOULEAS, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# Carli Cutler: Positivity through tragedy

**CUTLER, cont. from p. 12**

On Feb. 8 of this year, Carli and her family lost her uncle, Scott Cutler, unexpectedly at the age of 53. He died while the team was playing in the Florida International Softball Tournament between UConn, Michigan State, Bryant and FIU. The day he died, UConn swept a double-header against Bryant and Michigan State and Cutler played in both games. She drove in four runs on four hits that day and struck out just one time the whole weekend.

Since it was the very beginning of the season, Cutler had little time to grieve, using softball as her outlet.

"It was really tough to see her go through that because she is normally one of the more upbeat, energetic ones and for it to happen in the beginning of the season when we were away, it was heartbreaking because you could see how much she was in pain," Olson said.

It changed her perception of relationships and experiences, she said, but has allowed her to take a step back and re-evaluate what's important in her life.

"Now she realizes how precious life is, how precious time is," Sappington said. Cutler doesn't put as much weight on small things and better understands the big picture, she said as well.

While they are very different situations, this wasn't the

first time the two of Sappington and Cutler have dealt with tough times together. In 2016, when they were both freshmen at UConn, Sappington found out she needed ACL surgery. Despite having spent just a month or so together as teammates at this point, Cutler came over to Sappington, hugged her and cried with her.

"I really have a passion for serving others and supporting other people, in the process of softball and life," Cutler said.

It was at this point where Sappington knew she was going to have a special bond with her teammate.

"That was the starting moment with her where I knew, she's not just going to be a teammate for the next four years, she's going to be a bridesmaid at my wedding, she's going to be a best friend for the rest of my life," Sappington said.

Sappington hasn't been the only receiver of Cutler's support, she spreads it around to her other teammates as well. When Olson was a freshman, Cutler was the first person to reach out to her and make her feel welcome, inviting her to train with her for the team's running test.

"I spend a lot of time reflecting on situations, how I handled it, how I could have been better," Cutler said. "The most important thing to me is having relationships and having people know that I care about them, I think that is one of the most important parts of leading."



Whether she's singing or speaking, UConn softball captain Carli Cutler's voice fills the room — and people listen. PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE LAO, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# UConn in the NBA: Walker and Lamb thriving in new roles



On 10/18/2019, Gamble Pavilion was filled with students to partake in First Night and the Fall Concert. Kemba Walker was in attendance to see the new teams and T-Pain performed for the night. PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE LAO, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

**Sebastian Garay-Ortega**  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

The early part of the NBA season has seen former Huskies find themselves in various predicaments, with some continuing to establish themselves on their respective teams, and others proving they have what it takes to contend in the playoffs.

Kemba Walker has demonstrated to the Boston faithful that he can fill the void left by Kyrie Irving, averaging 21.6 points and five assists per game and playing a major part in the Celtics' current form. Fluidity of the ball has been at an all-time high, with players such as Jason Tatum, Marcus Smart and Jaylen Brown all benefiting from

Kemba's unselfishness. This willingness to distribute the ball has played a major part in victories for the team throughout the season, with Walker putting up 16 points and 10 assists in a win over the Knicks on Sunday, while dropping 39 points and four assists in a victory against the Nets last Wednesday. Walker's offensive versatility will be crucial on Wednesday night, as the Celtics welcome the Miami Heat. Boston currently stands fourth in the Eastern Conference at 14-5.

Walker, however, isn't the only Husky learning to play and co-exist with new teammates. Summer signing Jeremy Lamb has proven to be a major asset for the Pacers, averaging 17.1 points, 5.6 rebounds and 2.9 as-

sists per game. Over the last ten games he has had a field goal percentage of 51.5, putting up 19, 18 and 20 points, respectively, against the Grizzlies, Jazz and Hawks, all in winning efforts. Lamb is crucial to the offense, and the subsequent return of Victor Oladipo will only make them that much more dangerous. The Pacers stand sixth in the Eastern Conference at 13-7, and travel to Oklahoma Wednesday night to face the Thunder.

Andre Drummond and Rudy Gay went at it on Sunday as the Detroit Pistons faced the San Antonio Spurs. Gay had a big impact on both ends of the court and finished with 12 points, three boards and two blocks. Drummond had less than a stel-

lar night on offense, but made up for it with 16 rebounds to ultimately beat his former college teammate, 132-98.

Gay has proved to be a vital asset for a Spurs team that is continuing to form a new identity behind the likes of DeRozan and Aldridge, averaging 11.3 points and 6.0 rebounds per game, while shooting just under 50% from the field. At a little under 23 minutes per game, he will continue to impact the game with his shooting and defensive versatility. Drummond's dominance in the rebound department has not changed, averaging 16 over the last ten games, along with 12.9 points per game. As a result, it should come as no surprise that he is a top priority for Detroit management. San

Antonio sits 12th in the Western Conference at 7-14, while Detroit is 10th in the Eastern Conference at 7-13.

Shabazz Napier is still looking to make a name for himself in Minnesota, averaging only nine minutes in the past 10 games for the Timberwolves, alongside four points and one assist. Overall, he is putting up 7.3 points and 3.9 assists per game, while shooting just over 30% from the field. Napier will look to show flashes of the brilliance he displayed in Portland and Brooklyn as the season progresses. Minnesota currently sits seventh in the Western Conference at 10-9, as they get set to face Luka Doncic and the Mavericks Wednesday night.





# Sports

## Carli Cutler: Positivity through tragedy



Softball Captian Carli Cutler tosses a softball PHOTOGRAPH BY CHARLOTTE LAO, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

**Mike Mavredakis**  
STAFF WRITER

Whether she's singing or speaking, UConn softball captain Carli Cutler's voice fills the room - and people listen.

"Her confidence, she's one of those people that when you talk to her you can just tell right away that she's a very confident person," co-captain Olivia Sappington said on what stands out to her about Cutler. "It really helps her in life, being able to command a room, not just being able to command a team on the field, but being able to have a presence within a classroom she's in and everything she goes into."

Cutler, is a beacon of positive energy and confidence for the rest of the team to build off. Her presence was learned in part from her family, parents Todd

and Deanna and sister Camille, who instilled positivity in her from a young age. Projecting good vibes and being a leader runs in her veins.

"She is an energy-giver," head coach Laura Valentino said. "She truly electrifies a room and really spreads the energy. She is so positive with the tone that she sets every practice."

Todd, who played tight end for New Mexico State in the '80s, was elected mayor in Fernley, Nevada where the Cutlers spent Carli's single-digit years. Now, they live in Rocklin, California where he is the superintendent for the Winters Joint Unified School District there.

"She has a vision and she knows what she wants, and is going to go for it," pitcher Marybeth Olson said. "At the same time, she is very caring and just wants everyone to succeed, on

the field obviously, but off the field too and I think is a big reason why we are starting to see the program turn around a bit. She just has that vision and she goes and attacks it."

Part of that vision is to get the team to be closer knit and bring the family values she holds so close to her, to the rest of the team. This includes "rippin' lips" on the team's fishing trip and playing a starring role in Olson's vlog series - found under @justbeanthings on Instagram.

Cutler is a table-setter, or a "thermometer" in the words of Valentino; when she goes, so does the rest of the team.

"She is definitely one of those people that brings it every single day, and some days it is really hard to bring that high intensity, especially when life is just draining you in every direction," Sappington said. "Her

energy, people feed off of it and I feed off of it."

The senior is always moving on the field, picking up dirt at her home at the hot corner or shouting, so when she doesn't have it someone else must pick up the slack - that's where the look comes in.

When Cutler or Sappington don't have their usual stash of energy, they have a look that lets the other know to step up in their place. Unfortunately, no look or pick-me-up could possibly have satisfied the void that comes with the tragedy Cutler experienced at the very start of last season.

**See Cutler, p.11**

**"She has a vision and she knows what she wants, and is going to go for it."**

**MARYBETH OLSON**

**TWEETS OF THE DAY**



**Tom Breen**  
@TJBreen  
Looking good, UConn



**INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY**



@jonathanhusky14  
Mmmmm snow.  
#snowday #snowyay #yummy  
#snowfun #happyhuskies #moreplease  
#uconn #uconnhuskies

**THIS WEEKEND IN UCONN SPORTS**



Women's Basketball  
Tomorrow at 6:30 p.m.  
South Orange, N.J.



Men's Basketball  
Today at 7 p.m.  
Gampel Pavilion



Women's Ice Hockey  
Tomorrow at 6 p.m.  
Providence, RI