



Flip to the back for the Valentine's Day Issue!

BANNER BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## UConn student is making connections between the university and The Nature Conservancy

by **Hallie LeTendre**  
STAFF WRITER  
SHE/HER/HERS  
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A University of Connecticut student has become a fellow for Connecticut's Nature Conservancy's board of trustees.

Tessa Hospod is an eighth-semester student studying environmental science and Spanish. Through her interest in sustainable systems, Hospod wanted to see how she could become more involved with the state's nature conservancy.

"Last summer I reached out to The Nature Conservancy

and inquired about getting involved with their organization. They said they were looking for students to become board fellow members as part of their internship program," said Hospod. "I decided that I wanted to pursue something outside of my comfort zone so I went through the interview process and later joined their team in September 2024."

Hospod wanted to work beyond UConn to expand her knowledge and research in the field, leading her to initially reach out to The Nature Conservancy.

"My current research proj-

ect, which involves a native sedge grass species, inspired me to join an organization outside of UConn and share my ideas with the greater scientific community," said Hospod. "I wanted to incorporate what I was learning in the classroom as well as out in the field in a larger context."

At UConn, Hospod has worked at UConn's Plant Science Farm for the past few years.

Additionally, she has taken on a research project through UConn's Honors Program that focuses on carex species and native lawn alternatives,

a press release said. She does this on top of working as a research assistant for UConn's Plant Science and Landscape Architecture Department.

"Being a student at UConn has provided me with the resources I needed to achieve my outside goals," said Hospod. "I have used the university's resources to branch outside of my plan of study and to form connections with individuals and groups of people that are involved in the industry to which I would like to start my future career in."

While The Nature Conser-

vancy is a global organization, as a fellow for the Connecticut location, Hospod will be able to converse about governmental efforts and act as a connection between UConn and The Nature Conservancy, opening a door for possible partnerships, the press release said.

For students interested in environmental science, Hospod encourages them to get involved with The Nature Conservancy.

"If students are looking for a way to get involved with the environmental community, The Nature Conservancy is a great place to start," said Hospod.

## Sexual abuse harassment allegations filed against UConn faculty

by **Hallie LeTendre**  
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A sexual abuse and harassment lawsuit has been filed against the director of the University of Connecticut's Championship Labs program.

Bryan Roberts previously worked as an associate dean at the Roy H. Park School of Communications at Ithaca College.

An Ithaca student filed the Title IX lawsuit this past November against both Ithaca College and the former associate dean, an Ithacan article stated.

UConn has not released a statement or publicly acknowledged the allegations

against the defendant. Roberts himself has not publicly spoken to UConn sources about the matter.

The Ithaca student, who chose to not be named, filed the lawsuit on the grounds that they were involved "in an unwelcome, unsafe, threatening and/or nonconsensual sexual relationship."

The student stated that this relationship lasted for roughly two years from the fall of 2021 until the spring of 2023, and involved just under 10 nonconsensual sexual encounters.

The complaint also states that along with knowledge of sexual abuse, Roberts used Grindr, a popular LGBTQ+ dating app,

to virtually meet other Ithaca students.

The case states that in December 2021, Roberts met the student on Grindr. Additionally, the lawsuit claims that Roberts' history of sexual abuse was known amongst other students, staff and faculty at Ithaca College.

Roberts told the Ithacan, "I have spoken with my attorneys and we have filed a motion to have the complaint completely dismissed. A large part of the case already has been."

However the Ithacan reported that since Jan. 19 there has been no action taken or filed to dismiss the case based on court records.

"UConn doesn't comment on personnel matters," said UConn Spokesperson Stephanie Reitz.

Earlier this week, Ithaca College's Intercom resource published a letter to the community regarding the lawsuit and the college's actions in response to the allegations, along with student resources.

"As you may be aware, Ithaca College has been included in a lawsuit recently filed by a student claiming violations of Title IX and other statutes by the college and other individuals," the letter said. "We first want to acknowledge the impact these allegations may have on members of our

community and remind you of resources that are available to you."

Along with being the director of Championship Labs, Roberts currently teaches in UConn's communications department.

Roberts obtained his position at UConn five months ago, according to his LinkedIn page.

"Students who have questions about any areas of their academic or on-campus experience are encouraged to contact the Dean of Students Office, which can work with them on those issues or direct them to other areas of the University for assistance," said Reitz.



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THE DAILY CAMPUS NEWSLETTER

News

# TINDER, HINGE AND OTHER DATING APPS ENCOURAGE ‘COMPULSIVE’ USE, LAWSUIT CLAIMS

(AP) — Stuck in a dating app loop with no date in sight? A lawsuit filed Wednesday against Match Group claims that is by design.

Tinder, Hinge and other Match dating apps are filled with addictive features that encourage “compulsive” use, the proposed class-action lawsuit claims.

The lawsuit filed in federal court in the Northern District of California on Wednesday — Valentine’s Day — says Match intentionally designs its dating platforms with game-like features that “lock users into a perpetual pay-to-play loop” prioritizing profit over promises to help users find relationships.

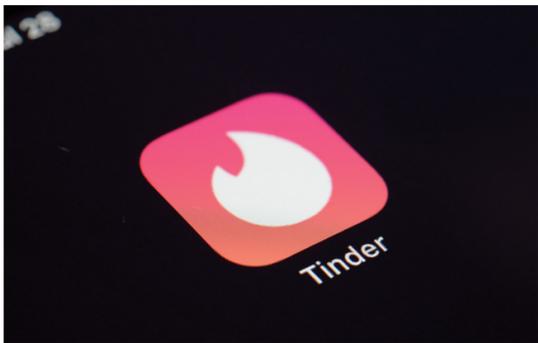
This, the suit claims, turns users into “addicts” who purchase ever-more-expensive subscriptions to access special features that promise romance and matches.

“Match’s business model depends on generating returns through the monopolization of users’ attention, and Match has guaranteed its market success by fomenting dating app addiction that drives expensive subscriptions and perpetual use,” the lawsuit says. It was filed by six dating app users and seeks class action status.

Representatives for Dallas-based Match did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

Though it focuses on adults, the lawsuit comes as tech companies face increasing scrutiny over addictive features that harm young people’s mental health. Meta Platforms, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, for instance, faces a lawsuit by dozens of states accusing it of contributing to the youth mental health crisis by designing features on Instagram and Facebook that addict children to its platforms.

Match’s apps, according to the lawsuit against the company, “employs recognized dopamine-manipulating product features” to turn users into “gamblers locked in a search for psychological rewards that Match makes elusive on purpose.”



The icon for the dating app Tinder appears on a device, July 28, 2020, in New York. Tinder, Hinge and other dating apps are designed with addictive features that encourage “compulsive” use, a proposed class action lawsuit against parent company Match Group claims. The lawsuit filed Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024, says Match intentionally designs its dating platforms with game-like features that “lock users into a perpetual pay-to-play loop” prioritizing profit over promises to help users find relationships. PHOTO BY PATRICK SISON/AP

# Susana Ulloa

BELOVED MEMBER OF THE UCONN COMMUNITY AND DEDICATED ADVOCATE FOR LOW-INCOME, FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS



Susana Ulloa poses for a photo. During her time at the Center for Academic Programs at the University of Connecticut, Ulloa supported many low-income, first-generation students. Ulloa tragically passed away on Feb. 9, 2024, and a wake to celebrate her contributions to the UConn community will be held on Friday, Feb. 16, at the Tolland Memorial Funeral Home.

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Susana Ulloa, a beloved member of the University of Connecticut community and a dedicated advocate for low-income, first-generation college students. Ulloa departed from this world on Friday, Feb. 9, 2024, leaving behind a legacy of compassion, resilience, and unwavering commitment to empowering others. Ulloa left behind her husband Joe Caruso, her lovely daughter Elisha Beal— who is a 2022 graduate of UConn— and her stepdaughter Amber Caruso, who is a first-year student at UConn.

For the past 27 years, Ulloa served as a beacon of hope and guidance in the Center for Academic Programs at UConn, where she tirelessly devoted herself to supporting students from underprivileged backgrounds. She started her time working in the admissions office and was later the director of the Upward Bound programs in 1997. Her work was not merely a job, but a calling—one driven by her deep-seated belief in the transformative power of education. Through her mentorship, advocacy and tireless efforts, Ulloa touched the lives of countless individuals, instilling in them the confidence and determination to pursue their dreams, despite the odds stacked against them. She also taught courses in the political science department and was a contributor to the book “The Latinization of U.S. Schools: Successful Teaching and Learning in Shifting Cultural Contexts.”

Beyond her role at UConn, Ulloa was an active and engaged member of her community, serving on various boards and committees aimed at addressing social inequalities and expanding access to educational opportunities for all. She was an executive board member of the CT Association of Educational Opportunity Programs (CAEOP), CT Association for Latinos in Higher Education (CALAHE), past president of Association for Lati-

nos Faculty and Staff, Windham Regional Attendance Office and Youth Services, and the Windham Area Interfaith Ministry (WAIM). She also received many accolades such as the 100 Women of Color, graduate of the Harvard School of Education Executive Leadership Academy, PRLACC Outstanding Staff of the Year and the Women’s Center Women of Color Recognition Award. Ulloa earned her B.A. degree in political science at the University of Massachusetts, an M.A. in political science and her Ph.D. in educational leadership from UConn. Ulloa truly believed in the power of education, and she always considered herself a lifelong learner. Her passion for social justice and equity was evident in every aspect of her life, as she worked tirelessly to break down barriers for her students.

Ulloa will be remembered not only for her professional achievements, but also for the warmth of her spirit, the kindness of her heart and the genuine concern she showed for those around her. She leaves behind a void that cannot be filled, but her legacy will continue to inspire and uplift us all.

Ulloa’s impact on the lives of others will endure for generations to come, and though she may no longer be with us in body, her spirit will live on in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing her.

To honor Ulloa and her beautiful life, services will be held for family and friends to share the stories, joy, and laughter that she brought into their lives. Flowers and gifts can be sent to the funeral home or you can donate to the Susana M. Ulloa Memorial Scholarship fund by sending a check to CALAHE, P.O. Box 605, Tolland, Connecticut 06084. Please put on the memo line: Susana M. Ulloa Memorial Scholarship. The wake service will be held on Friday, Feb. 16 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Tolland Memorial Funeral Home, 375 Merrow Rd. (Rte. 195), Tolland. A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 17th at the Tolland Memorial Funeral Home.

## 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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# The Daily Campus Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 Surge of adrenaline
- 5 Regent's order
- 10 Mil. branch with wings
- 14 Tactical political research, for short
- 15 Birthplace of pesto
- 16 Issue at the ATM
- 17 \*Critical juncture
- 20 [New paragraph]
- 21 "Handling that now!"
- 22 Take to the sky
- 25 Friend \_\_\_ friend
- 26 Midnight to midnight
- 27 \*Record
- 32 Not just some
- 33 Kitchen scale button
- 34 Frangipani garlands
- 36 Water taxi
- 38 Longtime "One Life to Live" actress Renée \_\_\_ Goldsberry
- 40 Red sign above a door
- 42 Mantis quintet
- 44 Literary magazine contributor, perhaps
- 45 Status update fig.
- 46 \*Online discussion site
- 50 Fellow
- 52 Tres menos dos
- 53 As appropriate
- 54 Garden container?
- 56 Isaac of "Dune"
- 60 Reversal in luck, and what can be found in the answers to the starred clues
- 65 Show up
- 66 Record company
- 67 God who took a bow
- 68 Half of all blackjacks
- 69 Did half of a biathlon
- 70 "Seasons of Love" musical

**DOWN**

- 1 Tire swing line

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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50	51			52				53						
54			55							56		57	58	59
60						61	62	63	64					
65					66						67			
68					69						70			

By Billy Ouska

2/15/24

- 2 Right after
- 3 Doner kebab rod
- 4 "No fooling!"
- 5 Boosting target
- 6 Dict. entry
- 7 Airbnb alternative
- 8 Soft murmur
- 9 Trade hindrance
- 10 Biblical preposition
- 11 Audio engineer's equipment
- 12 Heart duo
- 13 Rihanna's fashion brand
- 18 Slangy britches
- 19 "Inbox zero" killer
- 23 Collezione della galleria
- 24 Expert
- 25 Top rank in a tournament
- 27 \_\_\_ franc
- 28 Plant with lace and soap varieties
- 29 Qualifying contest, perhaps
- 30 Star-studded hunter
- 31 Name sewn onto some jeans pockets
- 35 In \_\_\_: unmoved

**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**

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

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2/15/24

- 37 Number of Canadian provinces
- 39 Caesar's rebuke
- 41 Edinburgh topper
- 43 Wounded by a jellyfish
- 47 Marx collaborator
- 48 \_\_\_ de Mayo: Christmas orchid
- 49 Raw bar offering
- 50 Muslim holy site
- 51 \_\_\_ committee
- 55 Spanish model Sastre
- 57 Medical research objective
- 58 Quote book abbr.
- 59 Have a nap
- 61 Tree on the Connecticut quarter
- 62 CBS crime drama
- 63 Service charge
- 64 Played out

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# Opinion

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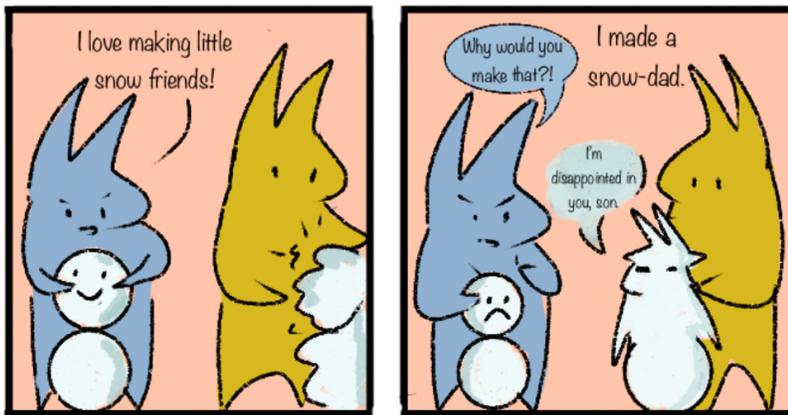
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The White Collared Worker



Jason J Sampson

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

# WHAT VALENTINE'S DAY MEANS TO ME



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

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

Yesterday was Valentine's Day. So first and foremost: Happy Valentine's Day Huskies! I hope you all spent it with someone you love, but for those who didn't, don't worry! I've spent the majority of my Valentine's Days single and I've turned out just fantastic!

I always used to dread Feb. 14; I was a very nervous kid growing up, especially when it came to romantic relationships. As a teenager who was a late bloomer, I felt like I never knew how to talk to girls. I felt like a boy amongst men; I was a skinny, awkward kid who struggled with making eye contact, had a high-pitched voice that had a knack for cracking at the worst times and felt generally anxious in most social situations.

In high school, a lot of my friends had girlfriends, so every Valentine's Day I was bombarded with reminders of how they had something that I felt I was simply unable to have. It made me feel angry and inadequate.

Over time, my luck with girls began to improve, but I still hated Valentine's Day. All the social media posts, hearts and mushy feelings were just too much. Regardless of what I did during the day, however productive or healthy, I still ended it angry.

In college that had been no different, until Valentine's Day 2022. It was a cold February day in Storrs and I woke up feeling awful, yet I dragged my miserable single self out of bed and to classes. I went to the gym, gave a presentation on the

movie "Cinderella Man" and even bought a plane ticket to see my cousin in San Francisco.

But in classic Valentine's Day fashion for me, something went wrong. My dad and I had decided that we wanted to run the B.A.A. Distance Medley, so I went to the gym again to get a simple training run in. I hopped on the treadmill and tried to start running, and exactly five minutes later, I had to stop to throw up. I was dizzy, tired and, most of all, angry — so another typical Valentine's Day.

After a long and disappointing day, I walked back to the dorms of North — where I was living at the time. As I trudged through the cold night, I sat down on the stairs outside of Jorgensen and looked up at the stars. I remember thinking to myself "whoever has been using me as a personal punching bag, if you could maybe stop? Just for a little while? Thanks."

Well, whoever was using me as a punching bag clearly had a few more good hits left. Forty-eight hours after my request, I was being rushed to Hartford Healthcare; it was there that I was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes, a condition that occurs when your blood glucose levels are too high and inhibits your body's production of insulin, impacting around 1.3 million Americans.

For a non-diabetic human, their average blood sugar is anywhere from 80mg/dL to 180mg/dL. Any blood sugar level above 200 mg/dL is considered pre-diabetic and warrants

medical treatment. I found out that before I was rushed to the hospital, I had been living with an average blood sugar of 450 mg/dL for 12 weeks. "If you had waited another day, you may not be awake right now" a doctor told me.

After all of that, my hatred for Valentine's Day reached an all time high. Going into Valentine's Day 2023, I was miserable. Leading up to Valentine's Day, I would have nightmares, seeing myself in that same hospital bed I was in just a year ago. I would be so worried about the next thing trying to kill me that I was having near daily panic attacks. I barely went to my classes at this time and was making stupid, careless mistakes in my work.

But then, the funniest thing happened — Valentine's Day 2023 — and I didn't die! It was just a normal day. For the first time in my life, Valentine's Day came to an end and I wasn't angry; I was relieved.

For this Valentine's Day morning, as I was walking over to the Legislative Office Building in Hartford for work, blasting "Come and Get Your Love" by Redbone I could not stop thinking about how grateful I am to be here. For the rest of my life, regardless of relationship status, I will look forward to Valentine's Day.

Even if I have no one to spend it with, I don't care. I am just happy to be here with you all. Being single may suck on Valentine's Day, but you know what's a lot worse? Dying.

# Opinion StudyBreak

Huskytalk | What is the best way to cook a potato and why?

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



“Fried because it makes it crispy.”

Alexis Rosenthal  
Marketing  
Eighth-semester



“Portuguese potato vegetable salad because it’s really good.”

Justin Quinta  
Psychology and Criminal Behavior  
Sixth-semester



“Oven roasted potatoes because it’s a good side and I like to season them.”

Chloe Miller  
Marketing  
Eighth-semester



“Mini cut potatoes because they’re easy to smash up and because you can add cheese and bacon to them.”

Julia Iacampo  
Undecided  
Second-semester

## The ‘simplified’ FAFSA form just made financial aid more complicated

by Evelyn Pazan  
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As the price of college goes up and enrollment levels decrease, all eyes are on universities and the Department of Education to make college more accessible and desirable for American students. Many students are choosing alternate routes out of high school, mostly because they see college as too expensive and not worth the years of debt repayments. The total outstanding student debt reached over \$1.7 trillion in 2023, with the majority being federal loan debt.

To help make college more accessible, Congress enacted the

FAFSA Simplification Act in 2021. At that time, the FAFSA form, a federal student loan eligibility form, was a long, detailed document that was not user-friendly. The goal of the act was to simplify the process so that anyone could complete the FAFSA and know their aid eligibility.

This past New Year’s Eve, the new FAFSA form was released, though FAFSA claimed it was a “soft launch.” The form was to be open for certain periods of time over the next few weeks as FAFSA fixed any bugs or errors. Simply accessing the form proved to be a struggle. For many, including my family, it took multiple days to find a time when the FAFSA form would let us log in and begin.

information they need and the action items they needed to complete.

It was not all bad, though; the old FAFSA form had hundreds of questions and required lots of documentation to answer them. This new FAFSA was shorter — when it worked — and took significantly less time. The changes to the questionnaire, though, gave rise to a whole new host of problems.

One of the most significant issues was an incredibly confusing question for the student. In the section titled “Apply for a Direct Unsubsidized Loan Only,” it asks “Are the student’s parents unwilling to provide their information, but the student doesn’t have

an unusual circumstance that prevents them from contacting or obtaining their parents’ information?” Apart from being vague and wordy, this question created an additional problem. Students were prompted to select “yes” to indicate that the parents were unwilling or “no” to indicate that they could obtain the information. Some students misinterpreted the answer choices and switched them around. Either way, if the student checked “yes,” they would not be available for subsidized loans, only unsubsidized.

Due to all of the issues with the form, the FAFSA deadline has been pushed back to mid-March. This delay will cause problems for students and colleges this application season. Due to the processing time and the time needed for schools to dole out financial aid offers, students may not get financial aid decisions until right before they must commit to college. This creates issues for students who need financial aid the most.

Some colleges have made adjustments to their commitment dates to give students more time to consider their options. The Cal-State system and the University of California school system both pushed back reply dates to give students, and themselves, more time to consider financial aid offers. At least 60 other colleges have followed suit to try

to give low-income students a better opportunity. The worry is that some students will be so frustrated with the new format that they may fail to complete the FAFSA all together. There is already evidence of this, as submission rates were down about half in late January.

This latest debacle is just another example of the ways that the government has failed American students. In 2023, President Joe Biden’s loan forgiveness plan was struck down by the Supreme Court right before loan repayments were set to begin after a hiatus. The government has left borrowers scrambling to repay their loans, or even get them in the first place.

Hopefully by next year, the FAFSA will actually be simpler and clearer for students, and aid more readily accessible for the students who depend on it. It is one of the most important factors that helps make college more equitable. For many students, if they cannot fill out the FAFSA, attending college is not even an option.

As our leaders preach inclusion and accessibility in education, it is important to hold them accountable in making actions toward those goals. American students deserve to be able to attend college regardless of their family’s financial situation, and they deserve leaders who will fight for them and follow through on their promises.

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## THE DAILY CAMPUS SUDOKU

FLIP THE PAPER FOR THE SOLUTION!

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

## Sports

# Men's Golf: Huskies finish eighth at Palmas del Mar Intercollegiate

by Christopher Dexter  
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Humacao, P.R. — On Tuesday, the UConn men's golf team wrapped up their second spring season match in the Palmas del Mar Intercollegiate in Humacao, Puerto Rico.

The Huskies delivered their best showing on day three, shooting a 277, settling for eighth place out of 16 teams. Senior Tommy Dallahan finished third place overall, shooting under par in all three rounds with a final score of 205 (69-69-67).

**“The emerging freshman continues to impress after leading the Huskies with 15 birdies in their previous meet and is looking like the face of the future.”**

Freshman Alex Heard was the next-highest finisher for Connecticut, coming in at 21st with a 214 (71-75-68). Heard, who tallied five birdies on the day, carded a 68 in Tuesday's final round, his lowest of the year. The emerging freshman continues to impress after leading the Huskies with 15 birdies in their previous meet, and is looking like the face of the program's future.

The third UConn finisher was senior Jimmy Paradise, who shot a 218 (74-75-69) to finish tied for 44th in the field. Paradise, a native of Tampa, Florida, mirrored Heard's day three success with five birdies as well. The senior standout, who made his season debut after battling an injury during the fall, led the Husky contingent with a 3-0-0 mark in their previous meet. A three-under performance on day three is a good sign of things to come after missing the fall.

Sophomore Connor Goode and junior Ray Dennehy rounded out UConn's five as Goode clubbed a 220 (74-73-73) for 57th, and Dennehy shot a 231 (75-77-79), good for 91st. Local freshman Bradley Sawka of Ellington, Connecticut, played as an individual, tied for 80th in the field,

**“Mercer's Tobias Jackson took second place, clubbing a 203 (69-67-67) while earning seven birdies and eight pars on Monday.”**

shooting 226 (77-72-77).

As a team, the Huskies shot a total of 857 (288-292-277) which tied Mercer for eighth place. Arkansas secured first place with an impressive 837 score and UNC Greensboro (844), Kennesaw State (845), Michigan (848) and Rutgers (850) rounded out the top five.

Michigan's Hunter Thompson finished first individually with a 201 (68-69-64) and used his day three score of 64 (-8) to tie U-M's second-lowest single round total in program history. Mercer's Tobias Jackson took second place, clubbing a 203 (69-67-67) while earning seven birdies and eight pars on Monday. Dallahan took



UConn men's golf hosted at Greathorse Country Club in Hampton, Massachusetts, on Oct. 1, 2023. The invitational played out for the next two days.

FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

third place, Claes Borregaard (Kennesaw State) and Matthew Larkin (Wofford) rounded out the rest of the top five.

The Huskies will be off until March 11, when they will compete in the Surf Club Invitational in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

## Spin Cycle: Hook C season set to kick off

by Nick Spinali  
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The snow that lays peacefully over a windy Storrs wouldn't suggest that baseball is going to be played anytime soon, but on Friday, the UConn baseball team will begin their season with the USF Baseball Tournament in Tampa, Florida.

It's an exciting time to be a Hook C fan as experts predict that UConn will be amongst the top Big East teams once more. In this year's Preseason Coaches' Poll, Connecticut's 48 points are the most in the conference, indicating that they are currently the favorite to top the conference standings.

After head coach Jim Penders led the team to 44 wins and secured an at-large bid in the NCAA Tournament last season, three Huskies landed on the Preseason All-Big East Team: graduate right-handed pitcher Stephen Quigley, graduate outfielder Jake Studley and senior left-handed pitcher Garrett Coe. Quigley was named the Preseason Pitcher of the Year and Studley the Preseason Player of the Year for the Big East.

Last season was Quigley's first in Storrs after transferring over from Wheaton College. In 15 games, including 14 starts, he was 4-3 with a 4.83 ERA. He led the Huskies with

76.1 innings pitched and tied a team-high with 74 strikeouts. Although he may be viewed as the leader of UConn's pitching staff, along with Coe, Quigley will receive tons of aid this season from their pool of arms that includes established players such as Brady Afthim, Ian Cooke, Braden Quinn, and Jack Sullivan. Developing the young arms will also be a point of emphasis this campaign, as the pitching staff has nine true freshmen currently listed heading into the season.

Wheaton may just serve as a pipeline to play for UConn; aside from Quigley, Studley also transferred from Wheaton for his first season in Storrs last year. He made the First Team All-Big East, as well as the Second Team All-New England, after posting a .321/.416/.492 slash line in 60 games. Overall, he ranks at or near the top of his team in most major offensive statistics. He had 75 hits on the season while whacking 12 doubles, two triples and eight home runs. He also had 57 RBIs, six stolen bases and 30 walks. Studley and fellow grad student Luke Broadhurst look to form perhaps the most formidable lineup duo in the Big East. Aside from those two, players such as Drew Kron, Korey Morton and Paul Tammario all could see high-leverage at-bats this season for the Huskies.

The talent that Connecticut has acquired has led to a team that is constructed to have few flaws on either side of the ball entering a new campaign. With both proven honed and raw talent alike looking to prove themselves on the field, Penders should have no problem mixing-and-matching his lineups to give his team the best chance at victory every day. Now that they have the Preseason Pitcher and Player of the Year in addition to being the favorite to win the Big East, UConn has set the standard for what should be another exciting season of baseball.

The Hook C is set to play in three games in the USF Baseball Tournament: Game one will be Friday at 6 p.m. against South Florida, game two will be Saturday at 12 p.m. against Indiana State and game three will be Sunday at 9 a.m. against Louisville. Fans at home can catch the first game against USF on ESPN+.



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Jake Studley hypes up his fellow UConn teammates before their match up in the Big East tournament against Saint Johns on April 8, 2023. UConn would lose this game 7-9.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @BIGEASTCHAMPS ON X

## Sargeant's Orders: An honest review of Jalen Brunson and Josh Hart's podcast 'The Roommates Show'

by Connor Sargeant  
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From Snoop Dogg to Lindsay Lohan, it seems like every famous person ever hosts a podcast. Ranging from celebrity gossip, life advice or an hour of shooting the breeze, the podcast genre has taken over modern culture. Podcasts allow people to get closer to their favorite celebrities, including athletes, and gain an inside viewership into some of the niche details of their lives. In case you missed it, New York Knicks stars Jalen Brunson and Josh Hart just started a show of their own called “The Roommates Show,” and in this article, I will be giving an honest take on the first episode and what listeners can expect for the future.

Many in the basketball community did not see this show coming, especially with the business nature of the game. However, Brunson and Hart are fan favorites and are set to rep blue and orange for the foreseeable future. Before coming to the Big Apple, the duo were teammates on the Villanova Wildcats for a pair of seasons, including the Wildcats' 2016 March Madness run when they bested the UNC Tar Heels 77-74 in the championship. As the name of their podcast

indicates, they were also college roommates. After both went to the NBA, they ended up on different teams for most of their careers until last season, when Hart got dealt to New York right before the trade deadline. Regardless, the two friends stayed in touch and shared many moments, whether on Villanova or Team USA in the FIBA World Cup, and the first installment of this show talked about this and more.

Some people cannot stand certain professional athletes. With the evolution of around-the-clock sports coverage and toxic social media pages, hating a professional athlete has never been easier. In fact, most sports talk shows make a living off critiquing professional athletes, whether for their performance on the court or a 10-second out-of-context clip. With the exception of postgame interviews, we rarely get the athlete's perspective. It's not hard to glaze over that and form conclusions without watching the game either. This was a theme that the duo discussed and was a prominent reason why they wanted to start their podcast in the first place; Brunson and Hart want people to get to know the real them, not just

the version of them you see on TV.

“Only time you really ever see us is on the court or you see us, you know, doing postgame interviews. You never really see the people's side of it,” Hart mentioned in the first episode of “The Roommates Show.” “I think we got a great



LOGO BY VAN NYUGEN,  
ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

friendship, great vibe. We want people to get to know us for us.”

While these serious themes were discussed, lighthearted humor was always sprinkled in, making the show much more enjoyable. For the more die-hard Knicks fans, there were also niche stories that gave it an edge over other podcasts. Apparently, you want to avoid playing cards with former Knicks forward Obi Toppin, as he cheats

and will take all of your money. The duo also made it known that if you are ever in a fight, you should give 6-foot-7 Indiana Pacers power forward James Johnson a call. They also took time to respond to listeners' questions and social media posts, which were often unrelated to basketball. This segment helped me see Brunson and Hart as regular people with regular problems and interests, which often gets lost by only seeing these professional athletes in action.

It also wouldn't be a podcast without special guest appearances. Brooklyn Nets small forward Mikal Bridges came onto the show to reminisce with his former college and FIBA World Cup teammates, as well as poke fun at Pacers' Tyrese Haliburton's awful taste in fashion. While it may not occur every episode, I wouldn't be surprised if other athletes, not just basketball, were invited to the podcast for an episode.

Of course, a big storyline this season for New York was the front office's decision to part ways with RJ Barrett and Immanuel Quickley, which the duo took some time to address. Fans never consider the emotional aspect of the game. Imagine going to work for your

shift only to find out that your favorite coworker got transferred to another country — that would suck. Brunson and Hart talked about how this trade affected them, both feeling emotional toward seeing their teammates shipped to Toronto. Hart relates to his former teammates' situation in the sense that viewers don't realize that players have little to no say in the matter; players have to pick up and move their lives to another city almost immediately. As heartless as it sounds, no pun intended (Hartless), both men know that the ultimate goal is to win a championship, and unfortunately, deals like this are a part of the game.

Overall, my review of “The Roommates Show” is a largely positive one. I was pleasantly surprised with how professionally produced it was. It was an easy listen, and when it was over, I couldn't believe an hour had come and gone just like that. Brunson and Hart perfected the balance between seriousness and humor. “The Roommates Show” was relaxing to listen to, made me think about larger issues in sports and gave me a whole new perspective on my favorite players. I would recommend it to anyone who has the slightest interest in professional basketball or any sports fans seeking to get a quick laugh.

Photo of the Day | Go Huskies!



The Huskies face off against the Minute Men on Friday, Feb. 9 at the Toscano Family Ice Forum. Unfortunately, UConn got shutout with a score of 2-0. PHOTO BY SHELAGH LAVERTY, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# The Coleumn: How the Big East earned 11 March Madness bids in 2011

by Cole Stefan  
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In 2006, the Big East Conference sent a then-NCAA-record eight teams to March Madness. In 2011, they broke their own personal best with 11. Not once, but twice, the Big East sent at least half of their teams dancing for a shot at the national title.

Since 2011, no conference has had more than nine representatives in a single March Madness. This is not going to be a one-by-one breakdown of how each team did that year. Instead, what I hope to highlight is what made the Big East's record 11 NCAA Tournament bids special in college basketball history.

2006 was not the only year the Big East had half of its members in March Madness. The conference repeated the honor in 2008 and 2010, but making memorable history out of that seemed to be their kryptonite. Out of the 24 teams that went dancing in those three years, three of them reached the Elite Eight and only one of them, the 2010 West Virginia Mountaineers, reached the Final Four.

2011 is when the conference capitalized off their high number of bids and made memorable history.

Six Big East teams won a multiple-team event, with the UConn men's basketball team's Maui Invitational championship leading the

way. In that tournament, the Huskies took down the No. 2 Michigan State Spartans at the time and subsequently upset the No. 3 Duke Blue Devils at Madison Square Garden. The Georgetown Hoyas grabbed a neutral-site win over the No. 9 Missouri Tigers in Kansas City. The West Virginia Mountaineers bested the No. 8 Purdue Boilermakers at home. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Rick Pitino and the Louisville Cardinals, meanwhile, downed the No. 16 Butler Bulldogs and No. 20 UNLV Runnin' Rebels at the KFC Yum! Center.

As of yesterday, three games separate third place from ninth in conference play during the 2023-24 season. That was also the case in 2010-11, when three games separated third place from 11th. Every team won a game (including the 1-17 DePaul Blue Demons) and lost at least three in Big East action that year. Only the Notre Dame Fighting

Irish and the Cardinals remained undefeated at home in conference play. The 11 tournament teams all finished .500 or better in Big East competition and combined for just three losses to Big East teams who missed it. First-year head coach Kevin Willard and the Seton Hall Pirates delivered the upset in two of them.

Just one team that went dancing, the Villanova Wildcats, failed to make it to the second day of the

All but two of those teams had a top-six seed. Four programs went home after the Round of 64 with three of them being upset by a lower-seeded program. Another five fell out of the bracket following the Round of 32. Two of those teams, the Cincinnati Bearcats and the Mountaineers, lost to Big East foes.

That left two teams that reached the second weekend. Marquette's Cinderella run as an 11th-seed ended at the hands of the North Carolina Tar Heels. The third-seeded Huskies took down the second-seeded San Diego State Aztecs in the Sweet 16 then followed that up with a narrow victory over the fifth-seeded Arizona Wildcats in the Elite Eight. Once in Houston, Texas, Connecticut once again clawed their way past Kentucky and bested the Butler Bulldogs for their third national championship.

For the conference, the Huskies winning the title felt like revenge for 2006, when they were one of two Big East teams in the Elite Eight. UConn ended the season on an incredible 11-game winning streak. That winning stretch and a return to the top etched another chapter in the conference's rich basketball history.

Six total teams made the pre-season AP Top 25, with four of

them earning a ranking and two more receiving votes. By the time March Madness rolled around, seven teams had earned a spot in that season's last AP Top 25 poll. Three additional teams received votes.

Looking ahead to the future, four Power Five conferences will have 16+ teams next season. It opens up the possibility of a second conference getting 11+ bids in one NCAA Tournament, but it is not going to feel the same. For starters, there is a strong possibility that at least one team would have to play in the First Four in Dayton, Ohio, should a conference receive that many bids. It happened with the Big Ten Conference in 2021 and 2022.

With more teams in one conference, there is also a higher risk of several teams on the bubble screwing themselves over when they play against each other. Lastly, it is rare that a conference can get at least 10 teams to win all of their marquee nonconference games and avoid any Quad Three or Four losses. A conference team could afford one or even two quality non-conference defeats, but the more losses they collect, the more sternly the selection committee will look at their tournament resume.

Even if a conference makes it work and somehow avoids having a team in the First Four, what the Big East did in 2010-11 will remain the standard when it comes to competitive conference depth.



LOGO BY ANNA IORFINO, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Big East Tournament. The Marquette Golden Eagles benefited from the conference tournament the most because they reached the quarterfinals with an upset win over West Virginia and hit the 20-victory mark. UConn is a close second; their unprecedented five conference tournament wins in five days boosted their NCAA Tournament seeding.

On Selection Sunday, four teams were put in the East Regional, two went to both the Southeast and West Regionals and the other three made the Southwest Regional.

# Husky History: Jimmy Hervol

by Sean Ahern  
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Welcome back to another edition of Husky History, the column that highlights a former UConn athlete and their careers, both collegiate and professional.

As the weather starts to warm and the grass starts to show, let's take a look back and highlight arguably the best golfer in UConn history: Jimmy Hervol. From 2015 to 2019, he set several program records and garnered a handful of awards all on his way to playing professionally.

Hervol was born on Aug. 27, 1997, in

Hopkinton, Massachusetts, where he grew up playing golf. While at Hopkinton High School, the future Husky led as team captain for three seasons, with one of those teams finishing with an 18-0 record.

As a high schooler, he was no stranger to accolades; Hervol was named Tri-Valley League MVP two times, Tri-Valley League First Team four times and was honored to the Metrowest Daily New Golf Super Team.

Hervol came to Storrs in 2015 and had a very impressive freshman campaign. In the fall he played in all five events, averaging 74.6 strokes in 14 rounds. To highlight the fall, he finished a season-best eighth in the

Hartford Hawks Invitational, which was his first tournament as a Husky.

In his sophomore season, Hervol

stepped into the spotlight. He was named AAC September Golfer of the Month for winning the Doc Gimmler Invitational with three sub-70 stroke rounds. Later in the spring, Hervol turned in an eighth place finish at the AAC Championship, which was the best finish ever for a UConn player. For his efforts he was named to his first AAC All-Conference Team.

Hervol's junior season brought more of the same. After placing top-10 in three of five events in the fall, he came back in the spring to secure his second tournament win of his career at the 2018 FAU Spring Championship. At the close of the season, he set a UConn stroke average record with a stellar 71.6.

Before his senior season, Hervol had already established himself as a UConn great, but his final year elevated him to the highest level. After a 27-year drought, Hervol became the first individual in the program to qualify for the NCAA Championship Regional. Unfortunately, he came up one stroke shy of qualifying for the NCAA Golf Championship Finals, but it still was an incredible feat.

By the end of his collegiate



Jimmy Hervol is determined in the NCAA Louisville Regional tournament on May 13, 2019. Hervol would go into the next game only three strokes back. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNMGOLF ON X

career, Hervol finished as UConn's record holder for sub-70 rounds with 27 and rounds of par-or-better with 64. The three-time All-Conference selection undoubtedly had a professional future in his sights following graduation.

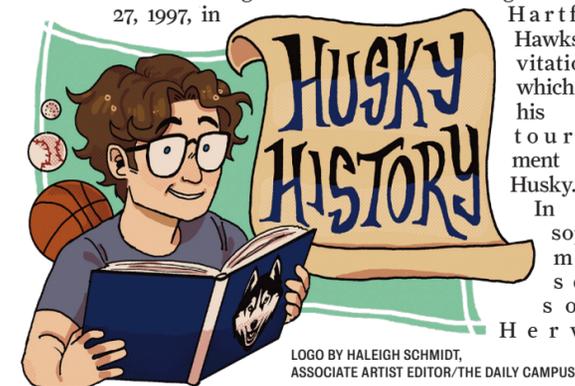
On Nov. 12, 2019, Hervol turned professional to play the game he loves, something that most athletes only wish to do. At most 26 years old, he has won a respectable sum of money and participated in some world-class tournaments.

In 2021, while playing on the Minor League Golf Tour, Hervol finished second out

of 79 competitors in the 121st U.S. Open. He was only 23 years old when he booked himself a trip to one of the most prestigious golf championships in the world.

After the first two days of competition, Hervol did not make the cut to advance further in the championship. Regardless, his presence there was a testament to his talent and work ethic at his young age.

The sky's the limit for this former Husky. As the golf season approaches, expect to see Hervol turn in impressive performances all UConn fans can root for.





# Sports

## Women's Basketball: No. 15 Huskies crash the glass in bounceback win over Xavier

by Cole Stefan  
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When they battled the No. 1 South Carolina Gamecocks in Columbia, South Carolina on Sunday, the No. 15 UConn women's basketball team saw more things go wrong than right. For every point redshirt junior Paige Bueckers scored or rebound senior forward Aaliyah Edwards grabbed, the Huskies had multiple missed layups.

Playing the Xavier Musketeers, the lone Big East team without a conference win, UConn got the get-right game they desperately needed.

Down 6-4 after three minutes, the Huskies erupted for a 32-0 run between the first and second quarters. It was the highlight of Connecticut's all-around performance in an 86-40 victory over the Musketeers. Punched in the mouth on Sunday, the Huskies retaliated with a powerful knockout blow.

"When you are coming off a tough game like that on Sunday, you never know what the response is going to be. Sometimes you are really aggressive, and you want to get that feeling out of your system. Sometimes you are pouting, and it carries over," said head coach Geno Auriemma said after the contest. "I thought we did the things that we wanted to work on, and we got a lot of kids in the game that we were hoping that we would be able to be in the game."

The key ingredient to UConn's success came on the boards. The Huskies grabbed a season-high 56 rebounds, 18 on the offensive glass, and bested Xavier in that regard by 36. Five players finished with 5+ boards; the two players who recorded double figures in that category each had a double-double.

Despite the high numbers, Connecticut collected just nine rebounds in the first quarter. As the offense — mostly Bueckers — started clicking, the Huskies' presence on the glass gradually increased. The redshirt junior scored 13 of her game-high 20 points in that frame, taking shots without hesitation and landing them all but twice. When halftime



KK Arnold dribbles the ball up the court in UConn's game against Xavier on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024. UConn won the game 86-40.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CONNOR SHARP, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

hit, Bueckers outscored the entire Musketeers roster 15-13.

Edwards also outscored Xavier by herself through 20 minutes with 14 points, additionally flirting with a first-half double-double by snatching nine rebounds. In the first 20 minutes of their last two conference battles, UConn surrendered just 25 points on seven field goals. Beyond forcing several misses from the Musketeers' injury-ridden lineup, the Huskies remained pesky in the transition game.

Connecticut's dangerous defense twice kept Xavier off the board for over six minutes. During the Huskies' 32-0 run, the Musketeers had 20 possessions between buckets; they recorded eight turnovers and attempted 12 shots without an offensive rebound.

Neither team could buy a bucket in the first three minutes of the second half. Once first-year guard Ashlynn Shade banked a floater, however, UConn put their foot back on the gas. The Huskies' three-point shooting took a massive step forward as the half progressed, and the rest of the offense naturally followed suit.

From that deuce until first-year guard KK Arnold checked out of the game, Connecticut made 12 of their 14 shot attempts. The Huskies made just one in the last 4:25 as Xavier went on their best offensive and ended the contest on a 14-2 run. By then, the Huskies had snagged their 13th Big East win and Auriemma's 1,201st.

Although her offensive efficiency declined in the third, Bueckers still finished at a 9-14 clip and found other ways to be impactful with seven rebounds and five assists. Edwards, meanwhile, racked up her sixth double-double in her last seven games and further strengthened her All-American resume.

"We try to get them going early," explained Auriemma about their production. "They pretty much responded [in] every game this season. If we are going to win the Big East Championship, then it is going to be because of those two."

Beyond the boards and their 52% clip from the field, UConn had a day in the transition game. The Huskies had 12 assists in their loss to South Carolina; they nearly tripled

that number with 31. Senior guard Nika Mühl stayed out of foul trouble for her first double-digit assist performance in two weeks. Her 11 dimes put her at 597 in her career, two shy of Crystal Dangerfield for fifth in program history. Connecticut also had 13 steals, with Arnold accounting for five of them to go with her eight points.

Other than Shade, no starter played for more than 30 minutes. That provided the chance for UConn's starters to get some much-needed rest.

It also gave the Huskies' bench some extremely valuable time on the court.

Redshirt freshman Ice Brady benefited the most from the increased opportunities. Brady broke out when she dropped 17 points against the St. John's Red Storm last month. This time around, the redshirt freshman collected her first-career double-double with 11 points at a perfect 5-5 clip and 14 rebounds in 24 minutes.

First-year guard Qadence Samuels nearly collected her first-career double-double in 23 minutes. Samuels shot often, resulting in a 4-12 clip

with two three-pointers and 10 points. In addition to letting it fly and wreaking havoc in transition and from the floor, the one-time Big East Freshman of the Week was scattered everywhere on the glass with eight rebounds.

Two Musketeers, Bridgeport native Aizhanique Mayo and first-year guard Daniela Lopez, scored in double figures on eight combined buckets. Mayo was the team's primary three-point threat with half of Xavier's eight threes. Lopez, meanwhile, captured four boards and dished out three assists on top of shooting 3-11 from the floor. Bronx native and leading scorer Mackayla Scarlett was the only other Musketeer with more than five points.

UConn's second two-game homestand of the month starts tomorrow with senior night against a tougher opponent in the Georgetown Hoyas (16-9, 6-8 Big East). Four of the team's 14 players will be recognized at Gampel Pavilion after the game, a break from previous years where it occurred beforehand. Tip-off is at 7 p.m. on SNY.



Aaliyah Edwards passes the ball out to the wing in UConn's game against Xavier on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024. UConn won the game 86-40.

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

### WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

#### UConn SCOREBOARD



9 11

Women's Lacrosse  
Wednesday

#### Upcoming Games



Women's Ice Hockey, 4 P.M., Friday, North Andover, Mass



WBB, 7 p.m., Friday, Storrs, Conn.

### INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconnmbb  
Checking in from Wintrust Arena

### TWEETS OF THE DAY



dupestah

@dupestah

UConn b-ball about to have a FIELD DAY today

UConn Men's Basketball

@UConnMBB

Happy Birthday, Rip!

UConn on SNY

@SNYUConn

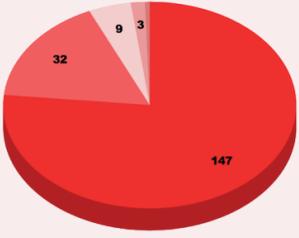
Paige Bueckers gets things started for UConn!

Follow The Daily Campus @dcsportsdept

# The Daily Campus' Valentine's Day Survey is back!

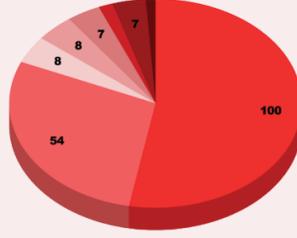
## Gender Identity

- Female
- Male
- Non-Binary
- Genderqueer
- Fluid



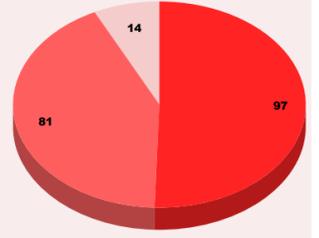
## Sexual Orientation

- Straight
- Bisexual
- Pansexual
- Lesbian
- Gay
- Asexual
- Queer
- Fluid



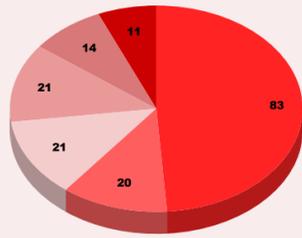
## Are You in a Relationship?

- Yes
- No
- It's Complicated



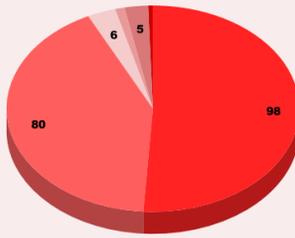
## How Did You Meet Your Partner?

- Not in a relationship
- Dating App
- High School
- Mutual Friend
- Extracurriculars
- Bar/Party



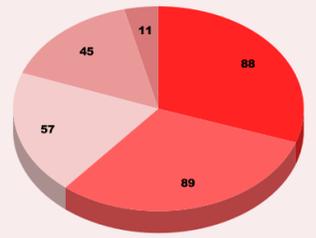
## What Kind of Relationship?

- Monogamous
- Not In a Relationship
- Casual
- Polyamorous
- Friends with Benefits
- Open Relationship



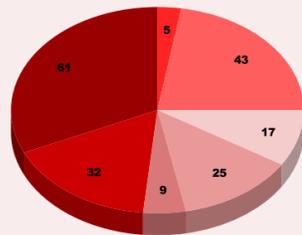
## What Dating Apps Do You Use?

- None
- Tinder
- Hinge
- Bumble
- Grindr



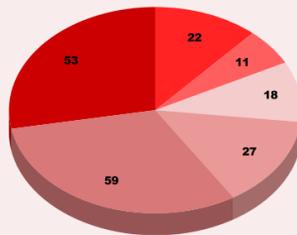
## How Often Do You Have Sex?

- Every Day
- Few Times a Week
- Once a Week
- A Few Times a Month
- Once a Month
- Few Times a Year
- Not Sexually Active



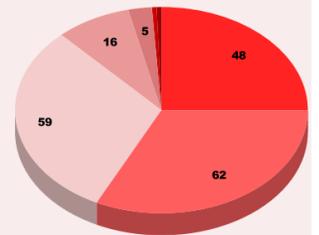
## How Often Do You Use Protection?

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Most of the Time
- Always
- Not Sexually Active



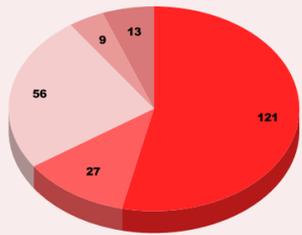
## How Many Sexual Partners Have You Had?

- Never had a Sexual Partner
- 1
- 2-5
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16-19
- 20+



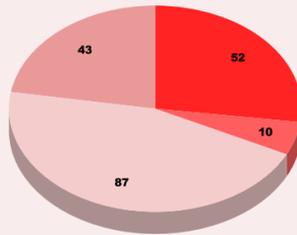
## Where Have You Had Sex?

- Dorm Room
- Bathroom
- Not Sexually Active
- Outside
- Academic Building



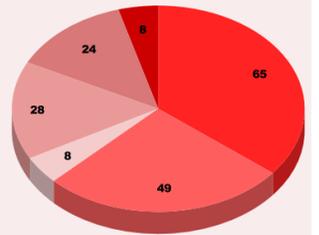
## Are you satisfied with the sex ed you recieved before college?

- Yes
- Did not Recieve Sex Education
- Somewhat
- No



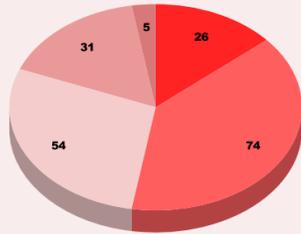
## Do you masturbate, and if so, how often?

- A Few Times a Week
- A Few Times a Month
- A Few Times a Year
- Rarely
- Never
- Every Day



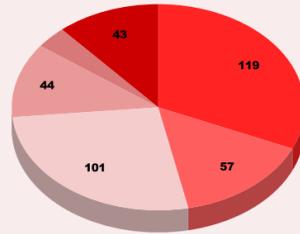
## What's Your Love Language?

- Words of Affirmation
- Quality Time
- Physical Touch
- Acts of Service
- Receiving Gifts

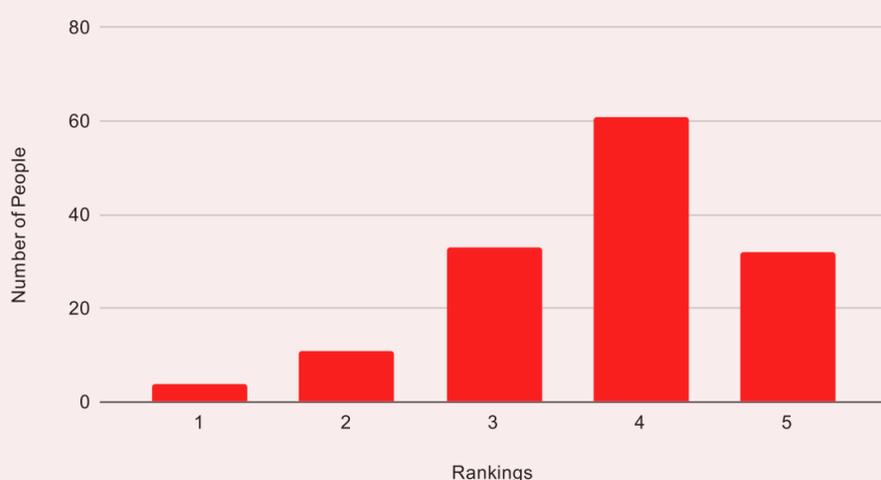


## Have You Ever...

- Sent Nudes
- Been Caught
- Ghosted Someone
- Been Set Up on a Date
- Academic Building
- Sex Video

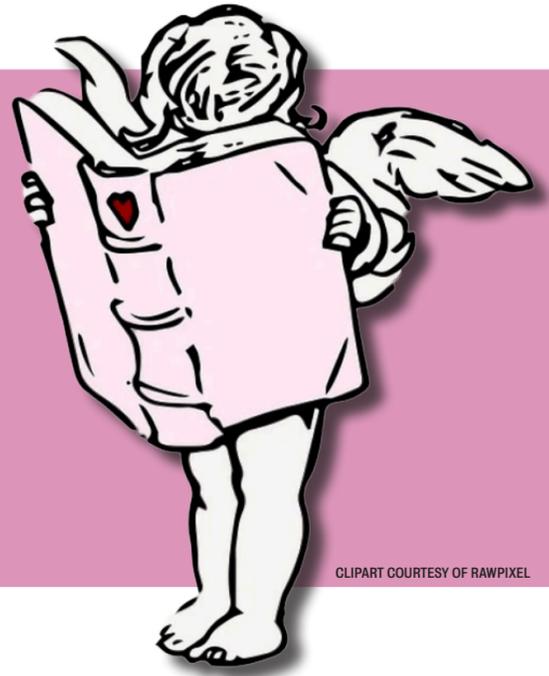


## How would you rank your sexual experiences?



# Let's talk:

**DATING, RELATIONSHIPS (AND SEX)  
WITH THE UCONN COMMUNITY!**



CLIPART COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL

Technically hooked up with someone on YikYak.



CLIPART COURTESY OF @YIKYAK ON INSTAGRAM

My boyfriend watched me eat chicken tenders on our first date at a restaurant because he was too nervous when the waitress came to take our order.

I think you have to be in the right headspace yourself to get into a relationship. The times I've felt the most satisfied with my dating life has been when I was/am content with myself. Whenever I've found myself frustrated with my dating life I've also realized I was unhappy with myself or the way I was leading my life in some aspect.

I think I accidentally fell asleep while having sex with someone new. I really liked him, but I was just really tired.

Having a partner to share hobbies with. I tell her about Magic lore while she crochets, she tells me about Fallout lore while I crochet.



CLIPARTS COURTESY OF OPENPIXEL

One of the best dates I have ever been on was last year. He (weirdly) took me to an abandoned hospital, which I admit was kinda sketchy, but it was actually really beautiful. Plants were overgrowing on the building, wrapping around it so beautifully.

And we ended up talking about everything under a huge tree while it was raining. I don't even know how to describe this other than it was literally straight out of a movie.

He turned to me, stared straight into my eyes and grabbed my hands while asking me, "have you ever danced in the rain?" He pulled me out into an open field, and we just danced to the sounds of raindrops hitting the grass. I have never felt or experienced anything like that in my life. But if you're wondering, no, it didn't end up working out.

People are too focused on just wanting a relationship and not actually building that connection or liking the person you're with. I think people just get into relationships without care or careful thought in knowing who that person is that they're getting with.

Getting to spend time with someone who makes you happy just by being there, especially after being apart for a while. also just getting to share your life with someone. They know all about your day and you know all about theirs so even if theres distance between you, your lives are still intertwined and its nice.

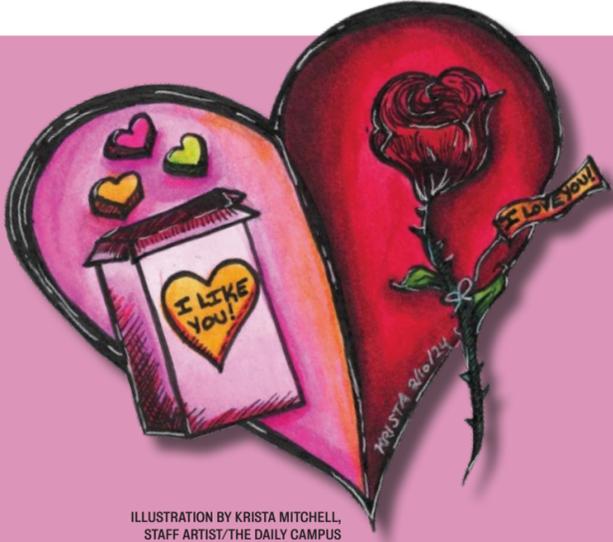


ILLUSTRATION BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Roundtable:

## WHAT COLOR REPRESENTS VALENTINE'S DAY BEST?

### RED OR PINK?

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

What is red if not dark pink? What is pink if not light red? I must admit, my color theory skills are nonexistent, so that's most likely incorrect; nevertheless — despite being relatively similar colors — red is the one true Valentine's Day color.

The color red is simply more vivid, impactful and exciting than pink. For example, over the past two weeks, The Daily Campus has featured an advertisement for the Life section's Valentine's Day survey — the background of the advertisement is pink while the text is red. Red text was at the forefront of the graphic, after all, that's what your eyes need to see.

Pink certainly looks pleasant, but is not usually the featured color. I'd dare any designer to use a vivid red as a background and then use a light pink as the font color. I'm sure it'd be difficult to pull off while keeping the text legible.

So, that's just one instance — among many — which has convinced me that red is the central color of Valentine's Day. While pink is present, it is far from being the star of the show.

by Patrick Boots | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM | patrick.boots@uconn.edu

Valentine's Day is hallmarked by a quantum of all things red and pink — and it's an interesting story why. In Ancient Greek and Roman legend, deep reds represented Aphrodite, goddess of love and beauty — and among many other things, the Dutch are to thank for pink in reference to their native Dianthus carnation which has fringed petals and a rosy hue.

There are a variety of tints and shades for both red and pink that could change the intention of your message, especially in connection to Valentine's Day. Pink is not just a light red — it stands on its own; and on the same note, crimson differs from hot pink. Of course, be thoughtful in your selection! Reds and pinks pair well with white and pastel colors, too.

In general, pink is the definitive color of Valentine's Day. (Plus, it's my girlfriend's favorite.)

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

Red and pink together are synonymous with love and Valentine's Day, yet the roundtable seeks to find if one stands on its own. To me, pink is the only correct answer. It's the only color that everyone recognizes as being related to concepts of love or romance. Red — on its own — is a strong color, but it doesn't immediately scream "Valentine's Day" when you see it. It could be referencing other holidays like Christmas or the Fourth of July. Of course in these cases, red would be paired with other colors as well, but the fact is that red alone cannot represent the spirit of Valentine's Day as well as pink does. Not to mention how good pink looks on flowers or clothes.

A good test to measure which color best suits the holiday is by pairing it with other colors. If you pair red and white together, you get Christmas. If you pair pink and white together, it's still Valentine's Day. While this may not apply for every color of the rainbow, I feel that white is a good standard to use for this test — it is a fairly neutral color. Overall, because of its ability to mix with other colors while still fitting Valentine's Day, pink wins out.

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

Realistically, both red and pink can accurately represent Valentine's Day based on the level of passion someone feels for their partner. Hot pink can be intense, but red is synonymous with the human heart and is more often associated with potent emotion than pink. Since pink has represented many gender identities in history — even infant boys at a time — it could be possible to tie these points together and reserve pink for the juvenile love of grade schoolers, while red can be in line for those lifelong relationships blooming during Valentine's Day. Some people stick to their middle or high school sweethearts, although the notes and candy passed around in earlier grades are mostly nice gestures perpetrated by tradition.

In a similar vein to gaining the legal ability to drink at 21, there could be an age threshold where your Valentine's gifts upgrade to red, or maybe red can replace pink once lovers reach their one-year anniversary. It would be hard to enforce, but this could be a way to distinguish between "I like you" and "I love you." There would be less confusion between kids trying to be kind to each other, like Lisa Simpson in "The Simpsons" episode "I Love Lisa." If her pity card for Ralph Wiggum had pink hearts instead of red ones, he could have gotten the memo to not simp over her the entire episode... probably not, though.

# The ideal Valentine's Day is off-script

by Thaomy Phung | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | SHE/HER | thaomy.phung@uconn.edu

If you've been to Price Chopper, Target, Walmart or any other retail store, you already know what time of year it is. The pink hearts, red-boxed chocolates and freshly-stocked roses might give you a hint. It's Valentine's Day!

What does your ideal Valentine's Day look like? Many might believe it to be the most idyllic date: Being taken out to a luxurious restaurant where charcuterie boards, lobster and a wine fancier than those in rural France itself is the norm, then going off to the beach to ride on white stallions and finally, to end the day, being dropped off with a kiss and a bouquet of flowers. However, it doesn't have to be this extravagant — even though the movies (looking at you, Hallmark) make it out to be.

Valentine's Day is different for everyone.

It may seem like the perfect time to express and admit your feelings for someone else — what an "Iris" by The Goo Goo Dolls gesture that is! — or simply to appreciate your significant other and everything they've done for you and everything they make you feel. But, alongside those feelings, the holiday might culminate into a dehumanizing spiral of pressure and stress to "do it right."

But what does "doing it right" really mean?

There's no correct answer. There are no guidebooks on how to do Valentine's Day 100% right — well, there are, but it's not absolutely necessary to follow them. As said before, each relationship is unique to those who are in it. But the only thing that

truly matters is the effort you put in; it's the thought that counts. And yes, it might sound cliché to say that, but it's true!

Don't totally scrap the luxuriousness of it all, either.

You could be as extravagant as you want. Although it isn't required, you could travel to new places, eat at a three-star Michelin restaurant — yes, the lobster included — or you could finally pop that important question.

Still, don't force yourself to make a grand gesture.

You can also keep it simple. You could write handwritten letters to one another, make heart-shaped pizzas together or just stay in and watch Valentine's Day movies.

An ideal Valentine's Day could look like it does in the picture books you've seen when you were younger, the movies that are incredibly unrealistic but still roam around in your mind when you think of Valentine's Day, or the dreams you have about meeting the love of your life. But, it could also look like a regular day with small tweaks.

With effort, time and intention, it shouldn't really matter what you do as long as it's done out of love for your significant other. Ideally, love isn't just in the air, but it's in your blood. It's consistent year-round. Valentine's Day isn't a holiday to win someone back or to start something new — although it can be — but it's a celebration of what is already there; it's a celebration and reinforcement of ro-

mance, intimacy and appreciation for one another. It consists of spending time with your significant other and putting in thought to share a special connection and shared experience

with the other person. Sometimes less is more. And with that in mind this Valentine's Day, the romance only found in books may readily illuminate off the page and into reality.



ILLUSTRATION BY LILLIAN LAFEMINA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST /THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Thinking outside the box (of chocolates): 3 lovable Valentine's Day gifts

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

Valentine's Day is a struggle for those who can't make up their minds while shopping. It is surprisingly stressful when several items bounce around in your head and you can't pick one gift that feels right. If you've felt similarly before, or are feeling that way right now, then this article is for you. The gifts compiled for this list do not make typical Valentine's Day shopping carts, yet because of that, they are all the more special. Let's investigate three gifts that are guaranteed to make your partner faint this Valentine's Day.

## Hand-powered butter churn

For most of human history, butter was a rare and hard-to-produce commodity. Nowadays, most grocery stores have it in abundance — but with a hand-operated mechanical butter churn, you're giving yourself and your partner the experience of a lifetime. Churners come in a variety of shapes and designs, but the easiest to operate are those that are essentially large jars with a hand crank located atop that operates a paddle within the jar.

For those who have never churned, it is a strenuous process. It takes about 10 minutes to fully churn the whipping cream, all powered by the strength of your elbows, into butter. However, the struggle is all the more enjoyable this Valentine's Day as you and your significant other can take turns churning the jar, or you can work cooperatively with one person holding the jar and another cranking — very romantic.

To top it all off, the possibilities are endless with butter churning. You could add spices, herbs, salts, chocolate powder, chili beans, bacon or just about anything to the churner and get some sort of butter combination as a result. A good gift provides an unforgettable experience, and I'm sure neither of you will forget the time you made bologna and cheese butter — aka bolochutter.

High-quality butter churns are available for purchase online through The Vermont Country Store, Lehman's and www.churncraft.com.

## "Vroom in the night sky"

While a butter churner is a very practical, hands-on gift, "Vroom in the night sky" is a video game for the Nintendo Switch that costs a reasonable \$9.99 on the Nintendo eShop.

First, if you are in the market for excellent games for Valentine's Day, I encourage you to read Desirae Sin's "Best video games to play with your Valentine" which is featured in this issue. However, while she covered the best games, "Vroom in the night sky" is actually one of the lowest-reviewed games on the Nintendo Switch, clocking in at an abysmal metacritic score of 17.

The mindset for Valentine's Day shopping traditionally involves making the best possible purchase for your partner. Whether that gift is high quality, practical — such as the butter churn — or endearing, it needs to be the best of

the best to warrant a purchase. I would like to present a case for why "Vroom in the night sky" possesses all three characteristics at the same time.

For starters, "Vroom in the night sky" is not bad. Gaming-Trend gave the game a score of 40, but admitted, "There's no denying that I had some fun with it for the short-lived time I spent with the title." Likewise, Nintendo Life left a similarly negative score of 30, yet admitted, "Technically the game works — there are no major bugs or glitches, levels and items unlock as you'd expect and pressing accelerate makes your bike go forwards — but that doesn't make it enjoyable."

The Nintendo Life review

you're playing it with, then you'll understand why this is a great gift purchase. Here's to many memories zooming on a scooter in the night sky.

## Bookstore mad dash

One of the best ways to form a lasting experience with someone you're close to this Valentine's Day is to get out and do something special together. Of course, many people are not fans of shopping, myself included, but what if there was a way to entertain the consumer desires of your Valentine's Day partner and mitigate the strain of shopping, all while adding fun to the experience?

It's inherent to the nature of a quiet bookstore that heading to one usually consumes an entire day. As shoppers determine the best-looking books they want to place on their shelves, they get trapped in an endless cycle of book scouring. They constantly loop

around in circles as they peruse the same section they have been through twice before.

Truthfully, the bookstore may be the last place you'd like to bring your Valentine, but there's hope. A new trend popularized by many TikTok and Instagram accounts lays out the concept of a race through the bookstore. According to the general rules of the race, participants have a 5-minute timer to go through an entire bookstore. They then have to pick up as many books as they can before the time is up, otherwise they won't bring any home. There are many variations to this process, including capping the number of books the participant can pick out, as well as adding more time to purchase the products to account for waiting time spent in line.

I propose that a great gift may come in the form of bringing your partner to a bookstore this Valentine's Day, and as a gift, giving them your wallet. Inform your partner that they're participating in a race, they'll pay using your wallet, I admit that's technically the gift here — and have five minutes to find and purchase them.

The best part is, if you're into reading and shopping, why not have your partner do the same? Swap wallets, and run through the store together in a mad dash to find good books. Maybe as you see them running around a corner to go put back a book that they changed their mind on, you can stick your foot out to spice things up. It's like playing Mario Kart in a bookstore, what's not to love?

## Conclusion

Whether you're churning butter, playing "Vroom in the night sky" or dashing through a Barnes & Noble, I hope you feel the joy of Valentine's Day in a way that makes the memories special for you — that's the bottom line. If you prefer a box of chocolates and a rose as gifts, by all means, go for it. After all, it's not the item alone that is the best gift, it's the love from the people who give them to you. Happy Valentine's Day!

by Patrick Boots  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
HE/HIM/HIS  
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This year, ditch the restaurant drama and embrace the unique challenges and opportunities of crafting your own Valentine's Day food fortune. Whether you're cooking with or for your partner — or simply making a nice meal for yourself to enjoy, in this guide you'll find inspiration to create a magical meal!

## Breakfast

When you imagine waking up on Valentine's Day, perhaps imagery of breakfast-in-bed comes to mind — or maybe the thought of breakfast is the only reason to get out of bed. In any case, fun pancakes with fresh raspberries are a great way to start the day. You can make the batter from scratch, or use a heart-healthy mix. Just add your batter to a squeeze bottle, which can be found at most big-box stores, and draw hearts or other fun shapes onto your pan or griddle. Adding chocolate chips or Connecticut maple syrup may sweeten the deal.

Or, perhaps a lumberjack-style breakfast is more your style. Toast and eggs (the way your partner likes) with strawberry yogurt is a tasty idea. Cookbook author Maegan Brown, known online as "The BakerMama" shows how to make heart-shaped bacon, too.

Plus, your partner's favorite breakfast cereal is always a good choice!

## Lunch

The quintessential nostalgic lunch food is the grilled cheese. Martin's Famous Potato Rolls Co. shares their "His and Hers" collection of grilled cheese recipes, which includes gourmet twists on the classic grilled cheese sandwich with brisket, chicken, bacon, berries and different cheeses and techniques. Even a classic grilled cheese and tomato soup, like the New York Times shares, hits the spot.

House of Nashville's recipe for baked brie in a puff pastry shell is designed for sharing, topped with apricot preserves makes for a sweet dish for two.

## Treats

No Valentine's Day list would be complete without chocolate-dipped strawberries. Have some fun and decorate with sprinkles

or candies and use a pretzel stick to create a strawberry lollipop.

A twist on the classic marshmallow treat comes from Stop and Shop's Savory Magazine with heart-shaped s'mores treats, using Cheerios (which even come heart-shaped too). These are a great sweet snack and even better when made from scratch.

## Dinner

A fun activity you can do with your partner is construct heart-shaped pizza. Each person takes a side and decorates with their favorite toppings or designs a picture; but there's always the option to work together on your pizza creation as well.

Maybe you'd like to prepare dinner ahead of time. One great dish is a baked chicken parmesan. Chef Alton Brown shares his recipe for the American-

# Simple and delicious snacks and recipe ideas for your Valentine's Day

born dish with a homemade tomato sauce, which he promises will impress anyone tasting it. Brown's recipe can be found on his website alongside many other potential dinners.

Savory Magazine also offers a gallery of easy to construct savory dinners, including chicken cordon bleu casserole, strip steaks with wild rice and green beans, gingery salmon, shrimp linguini alla vodka and a variety of vegetable sides.

## Complements

Roasted vegetables, like asparagus, brussels sprouts or colorful root vegetables can add vibrancy, flavor and essential nutrients to your dish. Paired with mashed potatoes infused with herbs, you can pump up your meal.

Perhaps a refreshing salad adorned with seasonal greens, crisp vegetables, sweet berries and a light vinaigrette will complete the plate. Maybe you can act like you're at a fancy restaurant and toss the salad for your partner.

## Sweet endings

Dessert could be considered the sweetest part of your Valentine's Day meal plan. Indulge in the melt-in-your-mouth decadence of a classic chocolate lava cake with its warm, gooey center.

Fresh fruit and ice cream is always encouraged — create a couple's trifle by layering the fruit, whipped cream and cake or cookies in individual glasses for a light and visually stunning dessert.

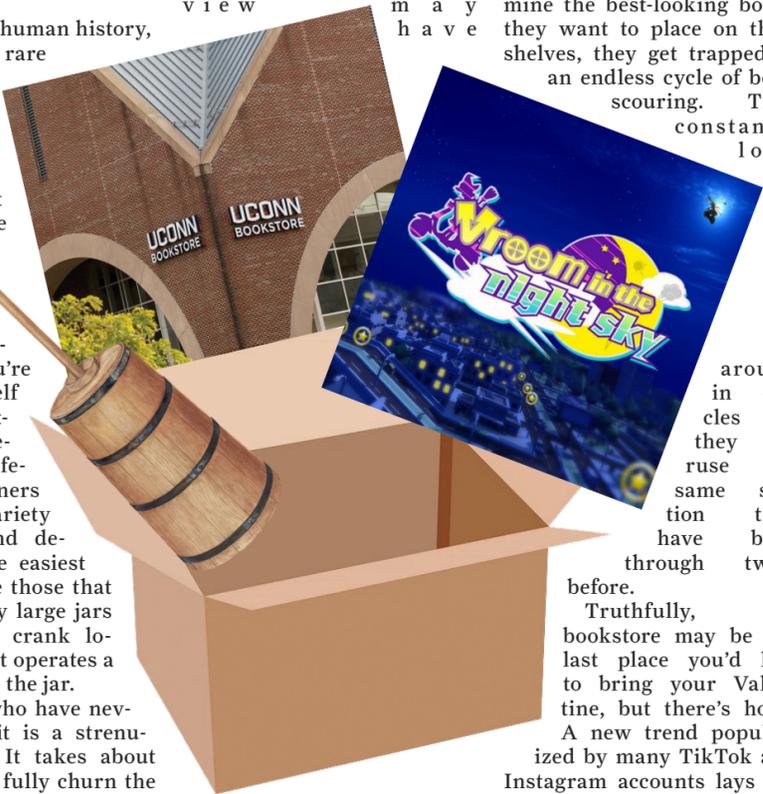
If you'd like a challenge, Food Network's DISH shows you how to master macarons — with these delicate and elegant French cookies, you can also decorate using icing.

**Remember, love is the secret ingredient**

For those looking to start cooking but do not know where to start, chef Alton Brown's TV series "Good Eats" chronicles at-home techniques and the "why" behind food, available on Food Network and on demand with a Discovery Plus subscription. If you prefer reading, Bon Appetit, Epicurious and Savory magazines all offer useful recipes, tips and tricks and perspectives from chefs from around the world. On the web, you can find numerous resources, such as



ILLUSTRATION BY SARA CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



BOX CARTOON COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL  
BUTTER CHURN CARTOON COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL  
VROOM LOGO COURTESY OF IMDB  
BOOKSTORE PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN

## Life

# V alentine's Day pickup lines:

by **Clyde D'Souza**  
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Kids these days don't typically turn to the local newspapers to source their pickup lines. In recent years, however, people have been tier-listing all sorts of items, from Weird Al songs with music videos to every Minecraft mob. In an effort to not kill the spirit of Cupid or land anyone in hot water, we'll be tier-listing popular Valentine's Day pickup lines, as opposed to disseminating them ourselves!

Rather than having an S tier over the A through F tiers, the ultimate level will be the V tier for obvious reasons.

First and foremost, we have: "Are you from Tennessee? 'Cause you're the only 10 I see." This one is a time-tested classic, and I'm certain that you can do no wrong with it. The American state "rizz" is sure to strike a chord in anyone who values those spacious skies and amber waves of grain. And then there's the great state of Tennessee, whose magnificence can only be likened to that of your intended audience. While this line may be old — possibly as old as the nation itself — its "puniness" has a distinct ring to it and it deserves the B tier.

For our STEM kings and queens out there, we've got the following: "Are you opposite over hypotenuse? Cos you are making me Sin." This one is sure to scream "intellectual" and "cerebral," to the lucky guy or girl that hears it. For the science, technology, engineering and math students in the audience, this is your time to shine. Few

people think of the trigonometric function "Sin" as being risqué, but it couldn't be more suitable for use as a double entendre. However, beware — this one could certainly be a swing and a miss. Careful calculations are required to ensure that this line doesn't land upon the wrong ears — like a history major with a head full of triangles that may leave them spinning in circles. While it's certainly witty, the risk that this line poses will earn it a spot in the C tier.

On the flip side, for our humanities majors, boy do we have the line for you: "I'm learning about important dates in history ... Do you want to be one of them?" Likening the Declaration of Independence, Emancipation Proclamation and conclusion of World War II to your soon-to-be date is a bold move — one that potential partners are sure to appreciate. It's smooth and seamless, all while letting the listener know that you're just as involved in the social sciences as you are in the social scene. Let's just hope you don't already have history together or this might end in another date for the books: the beginning of World War III! Definitely B tier material.

If your academic interests aren't included in either of the previous lines, perhaps your athleticism might be featured in this one: "You must be tired, 'cause you've been running through my mind all night." Letting the desperation show might just be the way to go if this pickup line is your last resort — not that it should be, by any means.

Just about every sport requires some type of running. Whether it's football, soccer, softball or cross country, this line is sure to remind them of their favorite (or least favorite) part of the game. Let's just hope your person of interest isn't a swimmer! The only con to this line is the image of your sweat-soaked love interest as they run through the signals of your nervous system. Perhaps there were better sports we could have chosen for this line: C tier for sure.

Fruity pickup lines are the best, and we've got something in that department today: "Want a raisin? No? Well how about a date?" "Quirky" and "insightful" are the only ways to describe this line. It isn't too dry and demonstrates that you're a person of taste — both in fruit and people. It's been said (by me) that no two raisins are alike, and this pickup line conveys that individuality of your soon-to-be date. The only difference between the fruit and the outing? Yours will have a seed if this pickup line has anything to do with it! Honestly, V tier material.

Regardless of your choice this Valentine's day, good luck! After all, those lines aren't going to pick themselves!

CARTOON COURTESY OF PXHERE



## How to appeal to all the love languages

by **Karla Perez**  
 ASSOCIATE LIFE EDITOR  
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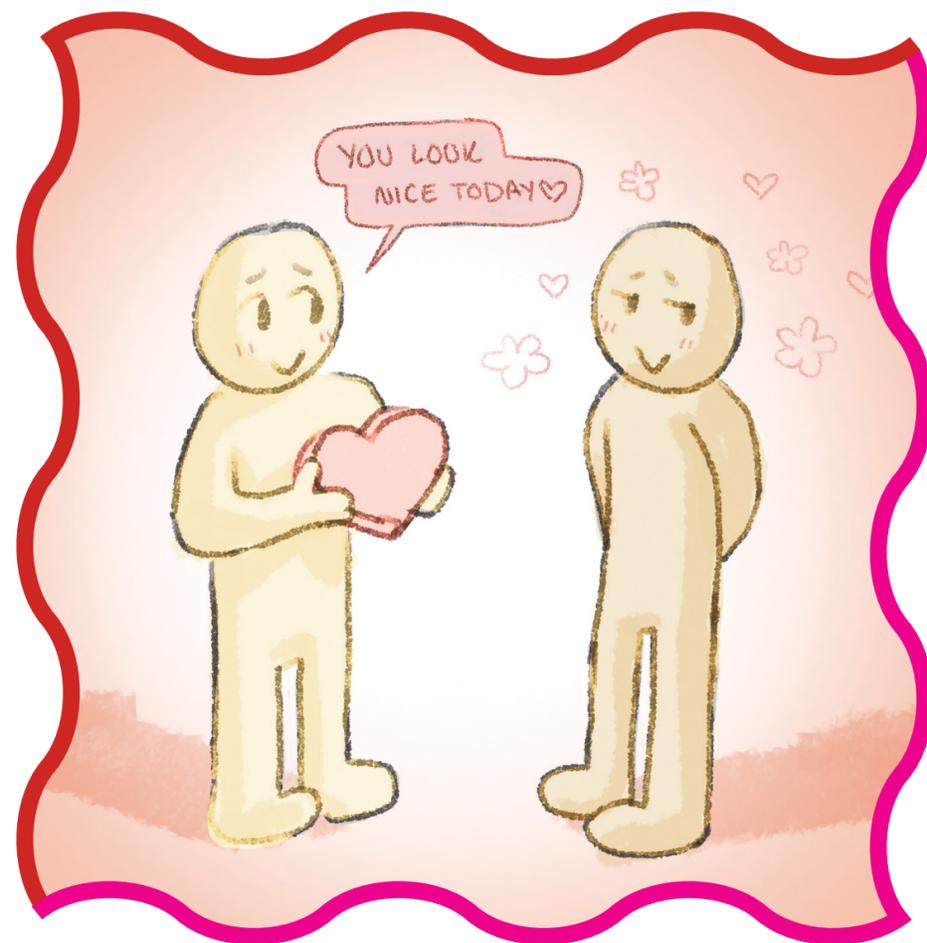
Happy Valentine's Day everyone! Today is a day people can celebrate their love with others in an extra special way. But hold on! Before you go showering your partner with presents or writing them a song, you need to know their love language.

The five primary love languages are words of affirmation, acts of service, receiving gifts, quality time and physical touch. To make your loved one feel special today, you need to show them affection according to their love language. Some codes are easier to crack than others, but don't worry! The Life section is here to help you find inspiration to make this Valentine's Day the best one yet.

Starting off with words of affirmation; there are plenty of non-cheesy and cheesy ways to accomplish this. The easiest way is to tell your partner about how nice they look. If you're going to dinner later, this is especially important. People put a lot of effort into looking nice, not necessarily just for their partner, but also for themselves. Make sure to let your partner know that their effort is seen and acknowledged.

Another thing your partner might like is hearing how much you appreciate them. This could be as simple as a "thank you." This may seem modest to you but for others, a "thank you" can turn someone's whole day around. Saying these phrases can be especially impactful if you and your partner are celebrating today apart. Call them or send them a text and tell them something that will make them smile.

If you and your partner are fortunate enough to be together today, let them know how excited you are to get that opportunity. College students' schedules are packed and that can sometimes cause personal lives to



CARTOON BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

take a backseat. Make sure you tell your partner how grateful you are for getting to spend time with them.

Regarding acts of service, do not confuse them with grand gestures. More often than not, people who align with this love language would much rather their partner offer to do the dishes than organize a flash mob. Things as minuscule as taking out the trash or tidying up their room or apartment will make them feel special.

If you want to go the extra mile, you could also bring their favorite food while they're at work or drive them to have lunch

at their favorite restaurant. Better yet, you can make them their favorite food or dessert. The extra love put into a homemade meal will definitely be appreciated by your partner.

If your partner's love language is receiving gifts, you might have the easiest job. However, you need to put some thought into whatever you plan to buy for them. For example, if your partner wears gold jewelry every day, a silver necklace with a heart pendant will mean nothing to them. Your gifts reflect the thoughtfulness behind them.

Another example: Let's say your partner's favorite candy

is Jolly Ranchers. Right now, a plethora of stores are stocked with all kinds of candy. If you show up with Skittles, that will send one of two messages to your partner, either that you don't listen or you don't care. Either way, neither one of you will have a good Valentine's Day.

Merely receiving the gift will not fulfill your partner. You need to let them know that you pay attention to what they say or do. This insight is what makes receiving the gift worthwhile.

Returning to words of affirmation, spending quality time may be more difficult. Since Valentine's Day falls on a Wednes-

day this year, both you and your partner might be busy with classes, work or extracurricular activities.

If you are both too busy to dedicate a proper amount of time together today, I suggest communicating with your partner and creating a plan for the weekend or another time when you are both available. Dedicate a whole day to spend together. You can fill the day with various activities like brunch, a walk or hike, the movies, cooking and so much more. Fill an itinerary with things you both enjoy doing together. Also be open to trying new things! I'm sure your partner would love to introduce you to some of their passions and vice versa.

This love language is also one of the more difficult ones to satisfy if you are in a long-distance relationship. My best advice to you is to dedicate a couple of hours to call your partner. Spending that extended amount of time hearing about their day and possibly planning what to do when you come back together will mean a lot.

Finally, we come to physical touch. Some people love it, others despise it. If you and your partner have polar opposite takes on this, fear not, there's still hope!

Physical touch does not automatically imply embracing each other 24/7. Usually, those who enjoy physical touch see it as a sign that their partner is proud to be in a relationship with them. You can demonstrate this by simply holding their hand in public or letting them rest their head on your shoulder.

Love is a two-way street, so don't neglect what your love language is. Have a conversation with your partner on what you can both do to make each other feel loved today. If you don't know your love language, you can take this quiz to find out. Hopefully this advice helps you to have a wonderful Valentine's Day this year!

# Emily Henry's romantic male leads, RANKED

by **Naiiya Patel**  
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If you are a fan of the cheesy romance tropes that have gained popularity, you most definitely have heard of Emily Henry. For those unfamiliar, Henry is the No. 1 New York Times bestselling author of “Book Lovers,” “People We Meet on Vacation,” “Beach Read” and “Happy Place.” These works of fiction all have one thing in common: dreamy romantic leads and smut.

Henry uses classic romance tropes in her novels that make the romantic leads even better. For example, “Book Lovers” is most well known for the “enemies to lovers” trope, that is, a pair of enemies who somehow manage to fall in love by the end of the novel, and overcome their sheer hatred of each other. The better the trope, the better the male lead seems to appear. I thought the best way to spend Valentine's Day was to reminisce about Henry's best male leads in all four of her novels and of course, ranking them. Maybe this can inspire you to read her novels this year!

#### 4. Wyn Connor from “Happy Place”

I cannot describe it but the entire book had a disappointing feeling to it. “Happy Place” follows Wyn Connor and Harriet Kilpatrick, the perfect couple since college. From a loud friend group, the couple emerged and became the definition of love for all, until Connor broke up with Kilpatrick over a four-minute phone call. Now they are stuck pretending like they are still together at their friend's yearly get-together. The fake-dating trope is evident throughout the entire novel. First off, a phone call break-up to end a year-long relationship is not what I need in my male lead. Although, spoiler, Connor's breakup has fair reasoning, it is bullshit to make a character suffer so much pain (which Henry barely shows in Kilpatrick) all over miscommunication. His unwillingness to communicate while clearly still being in love with Kilpatrick comes off as annoying and unnecessary. The entire time I was reading “Happy Place” I was begging for it to get better and make me fall in love with Connor, but it never happened.

#### 3. Alex Nilsen from “People We Meet on Vacation”

I cannot tell if this is an unpopular opinion, but Alex did nothing for me. For those who haven't read it, “People We Meet on Vacation” is about two best friends from college, Alex Nilsen and Poppy Wright. Nilsen presents as the polar opposite of Wright. Wright is the wild child who can't sit still and has an insatiable personality to Nilsen's quiet, simple and broody attitude. They personify the friends-to-lovers trope starting with their friendship in college and into traveling together during post-graduate life. After a falling out two years ago, Wright decides it's time to make up with one last trip together. However, something is just missing from the entire relationship. Nilsen did not swoon me with words or actions like I thought he would. His quiet and simple attitude comes off as boring and one-dimensional. I couldn't understand his depth or energy the entire novel. The character fell flat across all standards for romantic male leads.

#### 2. Charlie Lastra from “Book Lovers”

There is something about the enemies-to-lovers plot in “Book Lovers” that works for Charlie. “Book Lovers” is about Nora Ste-

phen and Charlie Lastra who are both rival literary agents working in the publishing industry. Despite being dedicated to her work, Stephen is forced on a trip to Sunshine Falls, North Carolina as a gift to her younger sister. However, she can't get away from Lastra and the two realize they are more similar than they thought. I read this book in one sitting, unable to stop, which is a clear indicator of a wonderful male lead that kept me on my toes. I am not lying when I say I was giggling the entire time. Lastra makes great banter throughout the entire novel and his conversations with Stephen were perfect. The way Lastra's character is written is perfect and it makes readers see he's not actually an asshole but just misunderstood and has his guard up. The book balanced the great level of a cheesy city boy and a country man.

#### 1. Augustus Everett from “Beach Read”

Augustus Everett. Nothing else needs to be said. There is a reason why “Beach Read” is so widely known. Everett is written like the guy you are dreaming of. “Beach Read” features January Andrews, a bestselling romance writer, and Everett, a serious literary

writer who find themselves living next door all summer long while both stuck in a literary rut. They decide to motivate each other to write and get closer than they ever could realize by the end of summer. Everett is written as a unique and multi-faceted character. He has some of the best lines throughout the entire book, for example, “You know that feeling, when you're watching someone sleep and you feel overwhelmed with joy that they exist?” He has a beautiful balance of a realistic romance but an unattainable feeling that reminds you it's a novel. I know I said Lastra made me giggle, but when I tell you I had to put the book down so many times for Everett, I mean it. I read “Beach Read” on the train and it was the only time that I wished a ride was longer. He is the classic misunderstood male lead and he owns the title of best romantic male lead.

Hopefully, this list encourages you to read Henry's work! However, if you're an old fan waiting for something new, make sure to watch the release of Henry's newest book “Funny Story” on April 23, 2024!

ILLUSTRATION BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



*Love, Loss and Lust:  
Here are 3 novels that should  
be featured on your bookshelf*

by **Thaomy Phung**  
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Love, one of the most prominent forces in literature and reality, has embedded itself in the air you breathe, in the people, nature and animals you see on your daily walk to class. Love is everywhere after all, it is Valentine's Day! What else is there to do on this holiday besides reminisce and dream about what is or could be? Likewise, what better way is there to do this than to read romance novels? Here are three of the best, most essential and classic stories you should read in lieu of your typical rotation.

#### 1: “The Notebook” by Nicholas Sparks

The timeless romance between two soulmates makes the theory of the invisible string — a concept which suggests that the universe is tied together in love, like every individual puzzle piece paired to another — making it a Valentine's Day classic. Featuring Noah, a man born into the working class, and Allie, born and raised in the higher reaches of society, the pair reflect on the obstacles they faced while intermingling across differing social statuses. Unfortunately, right as they indulge in a passionate love affair that turns the summer romance into one that would follow them through their

life, Allie moves away. Truly a representation of idealism, “The Notebook” reveals there is no separation, obstacle or heartbreak that is a match for unconditional love.

#### 2: “Jane Eyre” by Charlotte Brontë

Taught across the nation in middle and high school English classes, Jane Eyre makes the perfect book for lovers of “Beauty and the Beast.” Mr. Rochester, the brooding, mysterious and morally complex master of Thornfield Hall, falls into a deep infatuation with Jane Eyre, an orphaned young woman who gains an occupation at Thornfield Hall as a governess. With Mr. Rochester's complex past and secretive present, and Jane's compassionate, honest and introspective characterization, the two make for quite the interesting, but contradictory pair. Besides the pair's romance, a central theme for the book is Jane Eyre's illumination of feminism, independence and individuality.

#### 3: “The Time Traveler's Wife” by Audrey Niffenegger

For fans of fantasy, this one's for you! Henry DeTamble, a man who suffers from a genetic condition that causes him to involuntarily and randomly

time travel, and his wife, Clare Abshire, who experiences her life in a linear, direct pattern, navigate through the complexity of their relationship with Henry's constant absences. Ultimately, their unconventional relationship grows and the pair attempts to build a family. Just as “The Notebook” prevailed against the dehumanizing essence of distance, so does “The Time Traveler's Wife,” which dives deep into the concepts of fate,

free will and the overbearing yet rewarding nature of true love.

This book is recommended for college students especially, as it forces readers to reflect upon themselves in light of being in the present — in the moment. Younger people have a tendency to overlook the small but good details in their life and instead constantly work towards the future. However, we should all celebrate and bask in the glorious moments,

no matter how big or small, that accompany us during our time alive.

As I said, love is one of the most determined internal forces in the world, causing irrationality, immorality and confusion, but at the same time, it drives passion, clarity and purpose. The duality of it all! And, speaking of love, I can guarantee that reading these books will make you fall in love with them.

Happy reading, cupids!

ILLUSTRATION BY SAMANTHA HASS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Life



Unconventionally romantic action movies

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Removed from the cliches of the average romance movie, these three fictional plots exaggerate the lives of defiance led by the protagonists and their admirers. As we will see, even Brad Pitt can be brought down to size, as he played a supporting role in a film about two women whose feats are far more impressive than his. Taking place in the United States, France and South Korea, these films provide acute social commentary while being entertaining and developing their characters to make any romance simply a byproduct of their bonds with each other.

**“Pierrot le Fou”**  
French is a lovely language to listen to, but it is thrown into a deadly context following the crimes concocted and corpses created by Ferdinand and Marianne in this 1965 thriller. They are a couple traveling the vast expanses of the French countryside, except their journey is prefaced by the fact that Ferdinand has a wife, yet he chooses to rekindle with Marianne for a life less defined by money and house parties. This taboo relationship is the least of the pair’s worries though, as they spend their time either stationarily screwing around or escaping their enemies, including but not limited to the French authorities and anyone who is out of a car as a result of their adventure.

There is a jovial nature to their relationship that is somehow in line with their compulsion to commit very serious crimes. Nothing is planned, though they always find a way to execute evil and escape the scene. Their desire for each other wanes and peaks during the film, yet they always end up back in each other’s presence. Physical separation is no limit for these fiends, who have enough skill to independently triumph against three people wanting their heads, or maybe it is just not real. That is how their feats are possible. Nonetheless, it is a fun watch; just do not watch the dubbed version for optimal immersion.

**“Thelma and Louise”**  
Featuring Brad Pitt in his first widely-recognized film role, “Thelma and Louise” is a tumultuous tale of two friends who want an excursion from their mundane lives, in turn bringing out repressed urges to rebel. Directed by Ridley Scott and released in 1991, the film is a diversion from his recognizable style of science fiction, although he has done many more romance-centric films since. Both Thelma and Louise remain platonic friends despite growing inseparable, yet they give each other space to pursue men throughout the film, whether they be past lovers or strangers they spot on the side of the road. Seriously, Brad Pitt was portrayed as a bad boy bandit that irresistibly

charms Thelma, only to steal her much-needed money. Roughly set in the American southwest, there are plenty of outlaws, diners and payphone booths to talk to the sheriff abundantly in the plotline. Additionally, the large landscapes of the desert produce a level of isolation where the partners must get along, regardless of the growing grievances between them. As with “Pierrot le Fou,” the adventure is mostly supplied by stolen cars and is exacerbated by violence, but you will have to watch to see the intensity of the police chases that make your traffic stop look like a walk in the park.

**“Castaway on the Moon”**  
Less action-packed than the previous two, the 2009 rom-com “Castaway on the Moon” follows the life of Kim Seong-geun, a man who washed up on a Korean island and is observed and driven mad by his secret admirer, Kim Jung-Yeon. She is confined to her room in her parents’ apartment of her own accord, and upon discovering Seong-geun through distant observation, she assists him during his struggles with self-sustainability on the island.

Although there are no explosions and escapades like in the previous films, “Castaway on the Moon” and its focus on nature itself as the action makes for an enthralling and beautiful film. The sense of anonymity felt in the loose relationship between Seong-geun and Jung-Yeon is also a characteristic of many distant relationships in this day of age, though they never speak face-to-face, because Seong-geun’s cell phone stops working at the beginning of the film. Despite this, the sentiment rings true that one does not truly know who they are talking to on the other side of the monitor, as Jung-Yeon is chronically online too.

Love is a wondrous concept even to those most experienced, and the methods in which people pursue others are hard to empirically explain, especially when people’s lines of communication are advancing in the digital age. All things considered, “Castaway on the Moon” is ahead of its time in taking an absurd situation to emphasize people’s ability to exist on their own these days while placing importance on human connection.

Exploring both life and death, these films tend to show why the audience should make the most of their lives. Daily life is not as exciting as the brief snippets of these character’s lives portray it to be, but a good slice-of-life film will put the audience in a reflective state about how they are spending their time and who they spend time with. Do not con people out of their cars like in “Pierrot le Fou” and “Thelma and Louise.” Save that for when “Grand Theft Auto 6” comes out. Rather, look outside like Jung-Yeon did in “Castaway on the Moon” to see who is out there in the world. You may be surprised at what you find.

The ultimate Valentine's Day playlist



CLIPART COURTESY OF FLICKR

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Valentine’s Day wouldn’t be complete without a great music selection. Love songs are easily the most common type of song in the realm of popular music, and there’s no shortage of these great songs. To take your Valentine’s Day from good to great, I’ve assembled some of the essentials for the perfect playlist for getting in the mood for the day and a romantic candlelit dinner that will be sure to fill your day with love!

**The Beatles - “Something”**  
I could’ve filled up this whole article with Beatles songs to be honest, but I’ll limit myself to two - though going with an all-Beatles playlist would be a wonderful option. Written by lead guitarist George Harrison, “Something” is not only one of the best Beatles songs but one of the greatest love songs ever written. Its beautiful lyrics, combined with a lush arrangement and smooth guitar solo make this a Valentine’s Day essential.

**Billy Joel - “Just The Way You Are”**  
Billy Joel’s 1977 Grammy Award-winning hit “Just The Way You Are” is the perfect moodsetter for a Valentine’s dinner cooked with love. Joel sings of wanting his lover for her natural beauty and wants nothing more than that. The song features a soft rock arrangement featuring soothing electric piano and Phil Woods’ heartfelt sax solo, while Joel’s vocals are smooth and heartfelt.

Bonus points if you can play piano and sing this to your lover!  
**Frankie Valli - “Can’t Take My Eyes off You”**

Though it may not be everybody’s taste, the 1960s doo-wop and pop offers some great selections for Valentine’s Day music. This Frankie Valli hit from 1967 may be simple in its lyrics, but it’s easy to hear the passion that Valli brings in his delivery. This is especially apparent in the song’s iconic chorus, where Valli triumphantly declares his love with powerful, melodic lines. Combined with the iconic horn line leading into the chorus, this is a classic that holds up perfectly for Valentine’s Day.

**The Police - “Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic”**  
Some would be inclined to put “Every Breath You Take” in this spot, but that song is more of a stalker anthem, so it’s best to avoid that one. Instead, opt for their 1981 hit “Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic.” The song’s rolling piano part, the understated blend of synthesizers and energetic drumming from Stewart Copeland combine for an upbeat pop arrangement that will make you want to get up and dance with your lover, especially during the song’s lively outro as Sting’s voice raises to express his love.

**The Beatles - “All My Loving”**  
I had a hard time trying to figure out what other Beatles song to include on this list, but I settled on “All My Loving” from 1963’s “With The Beatles.” Paul McCartney sings of missing his lover while he’s away and pledges his love to her from afar. The

song’s bouncy shuffle, rockabilly-inspired guitar solo and simple, yet effective vocal harmonies that kick in halfway through the song combine for a great song for any long-distance couples to celebrate their love to - or any couples who are away from each other that day.

**The Beach Boys - “God Only Knows”**  
Like The Beatles, I could have filled this whole list with Beach Boys songs. But there’s no better song from the iconic 60s surf group for this list than “God Only Knows” from their 1966 magnum opus “Pet Sounds.” Lead guitarist and singer Carl Wilson delivers his finest vocal performance as he sings of his lover’s importance to him and ponders “God only knows what I’d be without you.” The track’s baroque-inspired Wall of Sound featuring accordion, french horn, flutes and a string section pulls the heartstrings of the listener and is a perfect devotion of love for Valentine’s Day.

**The Cure - “Just Like Heaven”**  
This 1987 hit from the iconic goth rock band perfectly encapsulates the dizzying energy of falling in love with someone. Robert Smith delivers a passionate vocal performance that any listener in love can relate to. Its upbeat arrangement of acoustic and electric guitars, combined with an iconic synthesizer line, make this another great one for you and your lover to dance the night away to.

Best video games to play with your Valentine

by Desirae Sin  
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Happy Valentine’s Day to all students at the University of Connecticut. With how cold and unpredictable the weather has been, it’s difficult to think of something to do with your loved one for the holiday. Luckily, there is a perfectly acceptable alternative for those who enjoy spending time indoors: playing video games. In this list we will go through a few recommendations for games that are perfect for the holiday; however, be warned that some of these can make or break your relationship.

**“It Takes Two”**  
During November 2023, The Backlog went over “It Takes Two” for the category of coop-

erative games. This two-player experience can be played locally or online, so if you have a long-distance relationship and both have a copy of the game, you can enjoy the constant banter between the two characters, Cody and May. Cody and May are a married couple who have decided to have a divorce and get turned into their daughter’s dolls by a talking book. If you think that sounds silly, it’s because it is. Throughout the game you have to work together to complete puzzles and traverse the world. Along the way you come across minigames where you can compete with your loved one. Despite the tense relationship between Cody and May, players may find that witnessing the pair’s journey can strengthen their own, that is, if you are patient with each other and don’t get frustrated if your

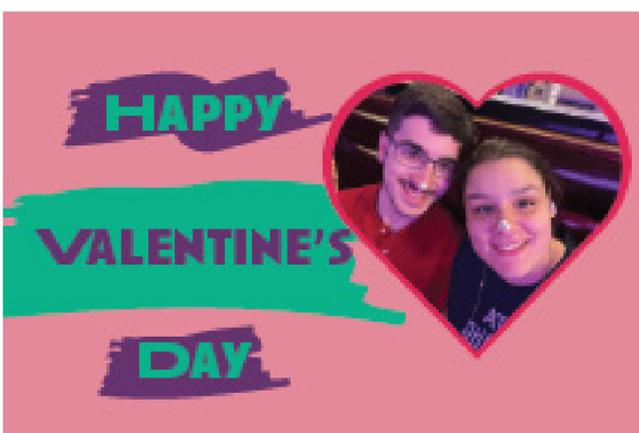
partner struggles with a certain task.

**“Heavenly Bodies”**  
If you like to stargaze with your partner and wonder about space, then “Heavenly Bodies” might be the best pick for you. Released in 2021 and available on Steam alongside a number of consoles, “Heavenly Bodies” is a shorter game that involves two astronauts who must complete tasks on a space station. These range from growing plants to aligning satellites. The twist is that there is no gravity and each player must rely on the lack of air resistance and their strong grip to traverse the stages. If the normal controls are too difficult to use, you can set them so that your character is able to kick and push themselves through space. While challenging, “Heavenly Bodies” captures how beautiful and frightening space can be. It’s very easy to float away into space and try desperately to generate enough force to propel yourself back to safety. Be wary of how easy it is to get in each other’s way, this might create tension and anger, but if you are able to laugh off the funny physics, then “Heavenly Bodies” is a space-worthy experience.



ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTIAN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

For more of the story visit [DAILYCAMPUS.COM](http://DAILYCAMPUS.COM)





# Life

@dailycampuslife

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



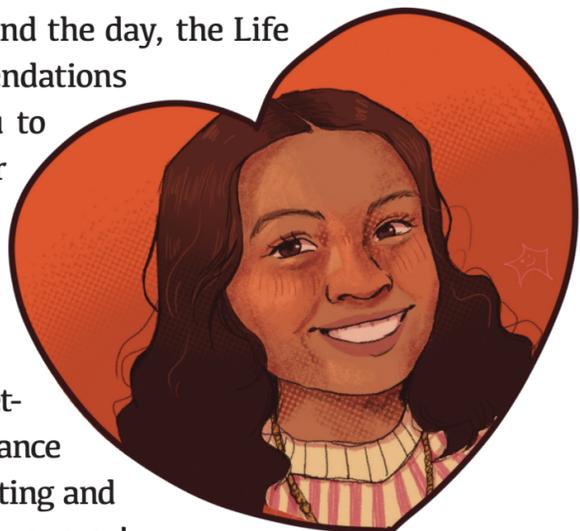
## WELCOME TO THE ANNUAL VALENTINE'S DAY ISSUE!



For the eighth year in a row, The Daily Campus Life Section has put together an array of stories that are sure to make you smile. Now let's be clear, Valentine's Day itself is complicated. Whether you're spending the day enjoying the company of a loved one, or staying inside and enjoying the company of your favorite cheesy rom-com, hoping that one day you'll find true love — no one way to celebrate Valentine's Day is more valid than another.

No matter how you choose to spend the day, the Life Section has guides, media recommendations and even a pickup line tierlist for you to make the best of the holiday. It's the one day of the year when those gushy feelings can surface publicly without anyone batting an eye, so why not embrace them?

Keeping to tradition, you'll also find the results of our Valentine's Day survey. Get to know the Husky community better by reading their accounts of the ups and downs of romance and a few entertaining — maybe even concerning — dating and sex stories. Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey!



### HAVE A LOVELY VALENTINE'S DAY!



**BENJAMIN LASSY, LIFE EDITOR**  
**KARLA PEREZ, ASSOCIATE LIFE EDITOR**

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