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## University Senate meeting includes concerns and protest over budget cuts

by Jenna Outcalt  
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SHE/HER  
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The University of Connecticut Senate meeting on Monday involved questions and discussions about the budget cuts imposed on various academic departments.

A group of professors and students sat in on the meeting with shirts and signs to protest the budget cuts. UNiversity and student senators raised concerns and questions about the cuts, particularly during the university president's report and the report of the Senate Executive Committee.

Jeffrey McCutcheon, a university senator and professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering, said that the answers given during the meeting seemed unsatisfactory.

"I felt there was a lot of unhappiness in the room and a lot of distrust, a lot of frustration, and I don't believe anything that was said today alleviated any of it. That's unfortunate," McCutcheon said. "That's upsetting to me, because when I became a faculty member, the mood was very different, and there's just a lot of distrust and unhappiness amongst the staff and faculty right now that I don't think is being recognized by the administration."

When questions were being taken after the president's report, university senator Elizabeth Jockusch, an ecology and evolutionary biology professor, asked why athletics were being asked to increase revenue rather than prepare for budget cuts like other departments. UConn

President Radenka Maric responded by explaining that cutting athletic staff and programs would not make sense since they are part of a union, so increasing revenue and improving efficiency were their best option. Jeffrey Geoghegan, the executive vice president for finance and chief financial officer, said that he will be meeting with the athletic department to discuss their strategies for revenue increases.

Jon Heiden, the president of Undergraduate Student Government in Storrs and a student senator, said after the meeting that people needed more clarity on how the budget cuts would relate to the athletic department.

"I think a lot of questions around athletics still need to be answered," Heiden said. "That's the place people often ask questions about, and I think people are asking good questions and I think they are still yet to be answered."

Maric joined the meeting virtually from a car because she was called into a legislative meeting in Hartford. She was present for roughly 30 minutes, after which she left to join the legislative meeting.

While asking questions to Senate Executive Committee Chair Laura Burton, university senator Gustavo Nanclores, a professor of literature, culture and languages, said that "faculty are losing their trust" and he was "really disappointed" that Maric was not physically there to present her report and take questions. He asked why department funds were being cut before the budget was finalized.

Burton called upon Provost and

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Anne D'Alleva to respond to parts of the question. D'Alleva stressed that Maric valued being with staff and student representatives in person, but that the meeting in Hartford was "not the kind of meeting she could say no to."

"We've had a number of very positive and honest discussions with the Senate Executive Committee, with your budget committee, your other committees," D'Alleva said.

D'Alleva also said she understood the challenge in managing issues like these and departments still had the opportunity to communicate the issues they were having with the budget so that the administration could mitigate the problems.

"The budget is a process. It's a process, and because we are a state university, it is a long process. So even those funds that have been, as we're saying, swept in CLAS, they have been encumbered, and that may sound like a distinction without a difference, but it's not," D'Alleva said. "It means those have been earmarked as funds that could be used to take the rescission in CLAS. But through the process that we're now going through, departments have a chance to make clear what the impact of that sweep would be."

After the meeting, student senator Ben Keilty, the comptroller of USG Storrs, said that he hoped the university would continue to include students in the conversation as questions and clarifications about

the budget are discussed.

"The students believe it is absolutely necessary to continue investing in both a world-class education and the student services necessary to make sure students can learn, live and thrive on this campus. We call on the governor and state legislators and administration to continue prioritizing the things that students care about," Keilty said.

Burton said that the Senate Executive Committee was

looking forward to both supporting the administration and ensuring that concerns from constituents are heard.

"We're going to continue to advocate on behalf of our constituents and enhance communication as much as we can. We value that sincerely," Burton said. "We really value the importance of constituents coming to us and for us to be able to share those concerns with the administration, and they are listening to those concerns."



Participants in the 2024 University Senate Meeting ranging from public protestors to senators with membership offer questions and provide their statements on topics involving budget cuts, USG across regional campuses and the effectiveness of the hybrid meeting format. Laura Burton, SEC chair, presented many of the topics and Thomas Bontly acted as moderator. President Radenka Maric was present only briefly via WebEx.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CRISTIAN WELCOME, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## GOV. NED LAMONT HOPES TO CANCEL MEDICAL DEBT FOR CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS

by Hallie LeTendre  
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Gov. Ned Lamont hopes to cancel medical debt for Connecticut residents

University of Connecticut students who reside in the state may soon have the chance to rid themselves or their relatives of medical debt.

Gov. Ned Lamont proposed the elimination of about \$650 million in medical debt, an

article from CNN reported. If the proposed legislature is approved, it would make Connecticut the first state ever to have canceled medical debt.

The governor's proposal would be applied to roughly 250,000 residents. Lamont spoke on CNN stating who would be covered.

"Mainly, it's working families, folks earning up to about \$125,000 a year who are paying 5% of their income in bad debt or medical debt expenses," Lamont said on CNN. "Trying to liberate them a little bit. We're now contracting with the not-for-profit. They'll be going to the hospitals, seeing how much of this debt we're able to write down. We're doing this in association with the hospitals."

Compared to the CNN report, a Hartford Courant article stated that Lamont announced \$1 billion in medical debt being erased, after announcing the news on Good Morning America.

Thus far, some cities have canceled medical debt, but no entire state has done so, the Hartford Courant said.

Residents who would qualify for the exemption, if it goes through, would not need to apply to be considered.

"It's really important that people have a sense that they can start building wealth of their own. We're making that easier for people to do and the best way to start is by eliminating the debt that you've

got," Lamont said, according to the Hartford Courant.

The proposal was announced late last week. Lamont's office stated that if approved, those who qualify could be altered as soon as the summer of their eligibility, a Connecticut Public article reported.

For more information and updates, the official Connecticut state website has an overview of the legislation outline.

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**Daily** CHANGE OF MIND | PAGE 4  
Conversations with Karla: It's okay to change your mind!

**Daily** THE STARK TANK | PAGE 7  
The Taylor Swift hate has gone too far

**Daily** WOMENS BASKETBALL | PAGE 12  
Auriemma looks for 1,200th win as No. 11 Huskies face Seton Hall

**THE DAILY CAMPUS**  
8 AM BLAST  
NEWSLETTER

## News

# National Parks Requiring Entry Permits Grows in 2024

In mid-January, Mount Rainier National Park in Washington State announced it would be the 11th National Park in the United States to require visitors to obtain a permit to access public land.

This is a direct result of the most popular parks needing more infrastructure, mainly parking, to handle the influx of visitors during the peak hours of the day. Many attribute this growth to social media and post-COVID nature allure, with several locations seeing visitation growth of over 25% over the last decade.

"In recent years, it's been too common for visitors to sit in idling cars for a couple of hours at the entrance stations and then make laps through the parking lots hoping for an empty parking space," says Mt. Rainier National Park Superintendent Greg Dudgeon.

Controlling the number of people in a park can make visiting much more enjoyable. With less time stressing about parking and more time in nature, it's a win-win for everyone.

## What Happens if You Don't Get a Permit?

Luckily, there are ways around the timed entry policies — but not for hiking permits. If you enter any of the destinations before 6 a.m. or 7 a.m., as specified for each individual park, or after 3 p.m. and 4 p.m., you can access the entirety of the area.

Furthermore, you do not need a timed entry permit if you hold a campsite, hotel, or other applicable reservation.

The main reason behind timed entry permits is to control the number of visitors during peak hours when trails and parking lots get filled up.

## National Parks That Require Timed Entry Permits for the Entire Park

Note: make sure you have your America the Beautiful Pass before visiting.

### Arches National Park

Arches National Park is chaotic because there's one way in and one way out. Due to this, all the popular areas get crowded extremely quickly and become a madhouse.

If you plan to visit Arches National Park between April 1 and Oct. 31, 2024, you are required to have a timed entry permit. If you enter the park before 7 a.m. and after 4 p.m., you can adventure as you please.

### Glacier National Park

The rules around Glacier are slightly confusing because different parts of the park become snow-free at different times.

From May 24 through Sept. 8, all vehicles require reservations for the West side of Going to the Sun Road and the North Fork. This applies to all entrances between 6 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Then, on the east side of Glacier National Park, you need a permit to visit the Many Glacier area from July 1 through Sept. 6. The same time applies.

A change from 2023 is that you do not need a permit to drive the Going to the Sun Road up to Logan Pass from St.

— Carbon River and Mowich Lake — do not require any permits during the summer months. This area offers terrific hiking opportunities with far fewer crowds.

### Rocky Mountain National Park

In Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP), they have a two-pronged approach due to the popularity of one particular area.

Visitors can get permits for the Bear Lake Road Corridor (and the rest of the park). This

are required 24 hours per day on Saturday, Sunday, and President's Day, Feb. 19.

This random time slot in the middle of winter is due to Yosemite's Firefall, which attracts photographers worldwide.

Then, the park opens back up from Feb. 26 through April 12.

From April 13 to June 30, reservations are required from 5 a.m. – 4 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

For the summer months — July 1 through Aug. 16 — a timed entry permit is required

tag if they plan to park anywhere in the National Park for longer than 15 minutes.

Daily tags cost \$5, weekly is \$15, and annual is \$40.

You can get these in person and online, which shows the lack of urgency.

## National Parks Requiring Reservations for Popular Hikes

The following parks are open 24/7 with no permits but have a specific hike or location where you need a permit.

### Redwood National Park – Fern Canyon

You must obtain a free permit from Redwood National Park to hike the Fern Canyon Loop Trail. This applies to all hikers from May 15 through Oct. 15.

### Zion National Park – Angels Landing

Angels Landing isn't just one of the most popular hikes in Zion National Park. It is one of the most popular hikes in America. Due to this and the danger of having so many people on a somewhat dangerous hike, a permitting process is in place to protect hikers and the environment.

### Shenandoah National Park – Old Rag Mountain

Between March 1 and Nov. 30, anyone who wishes to hike to the top of Old Rag Mountain and soak in the stunning views needs a day-use permit. Eight hundred tickets will be issued daily, with 400 available 30 days in advance and the other 400 released five days in advance.

### Haleakala National Park – Sunrise

Do you want to watch the sunrise from the top of the Haleakala volcano? If so, you need to get a permit year-round. This only applies to those entering the park between 3 a.m. and 7 a.m. Anyone wishing to visit the park can do so outside of those hours.

### Acadia National Park – Cadillac Mountain Summit

One of the most popular spots in Acadia, Cadillac Mountain, sees the most visitors. Due to this, they've now limited who can drive up to the summit. This permit is required from May 22 through Oct. 27.

## How Does One Get a Permit?

All permits can be reserved online at Recreation.gov for a small application fee. You cannot get one at the entrance booth of the national parks. To learn more, look up the policies of the individual destination that you wish to visit.



The USA National Parks are full of nature and wildlife that attract tourists from all over the world. With current visitation at a peak, parks have begun restricting access to those with permits to ensure a calmer, more enjoyable experience for all visitors.

WEALTH OF GEEKS/AP

Mary's (east side) or to visit the Two Medicine area.

### Mt. Rainier National Park

Up in Washington, Mount Rainier is the latest park to adopt entry regulations to stem the flow of tourists. The park is now regulating who enters the park from the Paradise Corridor (south side) and the Sunrise Corridor (northeast side).

Paradise Corridor: May 24 – Sept. 2

Sunrise Corridor: July 3 – Sept. 2

These requirements are active between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. Thankfully, Washington's long summer days (daylight after 9 p.m.) will allow people who enter the park in the afternoon to enjoy their trip still.

Visitors should note that the northwest side of the park

begins on May 24 and will go through Oct. 20. The reservation is in effect from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For those who wish to visit the rest of this stunning national park, you can apply for non-Bear Lake Road access, too. Those reservations go from May 24 until Oct. 15. The reservation is in effect from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

If you want to visit RMNP, park passes become available on the first day of the month.

### Yosemite National Park

This year, entrance reservations in Yosemite will be complicated, so bear with me here.

No reservation is needed to visit Yosemite from the start of the year until Feb. 9th. Then, from Feb. 10–25, reservations

every day of the week between 5 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Finally, From Aug. 17 through Oct. 27, a reservation is only required on the weekends and holidays between 5 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Also of note, if you want to hike Half Dome, permits are required. You can get those in advance or by daily lottery two days before you want to hike.

Help yourself and print this out — almost no one remembers all the details.

### Great Smoky Mountains National Park

The policies for Great Smoky Mountain are more relaxed than the others in this list.

The park does not limit who drives through, but they instruct people to buy a parking

# The Daily Campus

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

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Study Break

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**ACROSS**

- 1 Crowd-sourced review site
- 5 "Or \_\_\_ what?"
- 9 Tennis star Naomi
- 14 See 62-Down
- 15 Capital of Qatar
- 16 Henry VIII's house
- 17 Place that takes care of bad Apples
- 19 Asparagus piece
- 20 Treats wrinkles
- 21 Upscale hotel chain
- 23 47-Across, in Spanish
- 24 Agency that conducts a decennial count
- 27 Contemporary of Julius Caesar
- 30 "Singin' in the Rain" studio
- 31 Hubbub
- 32 Like paper clips
- 36 Hawaii's sixth-largest island
- 40 No joke
- 44 NORAD tracking target
- 45 Cab
- 46 Chowd down
- 47 Personal pronoun
- 49 Raucous bird
- 52 Congressional economic boost
- 58 NPR's Totenberg
- 59 "Thinking about it"
- 60 Word with dots or bands
- 64 Radiology study
- 66 Top-quality meat
- 68 Jeans fabric
- 69 Award-winning graphic novel about the Holocaust
- 70 Firmly declare
- 71 C-suite types
- 72 Metrical foot
- 73 Stitch's buddy

**DOWN**

- 1 Jellystone Park bear
- 2 Of all time
- 3 Fallon predecessor
- 4 Paisley Park Records founder
- 5 Mag honchos
- 6 University of New Mexico athletes
- 7 Former SeaWorld headliner

- 8 Comes by honestly
- 9 Tense sports periods, for short
- 10 Character who debuted in Action Comics #1
- 11 Singer known for numerically titled albums
- 12 \_\_\_ bear
- 13 Chilean pianist Claudio
- 18 \_\_\_-friendly
- 22 "Big Blue"
- 25 Asian fusion chain
- 26 Jamaican tangelo
- 27 Mama of pop
- 28 Notion
- 29 Biofuel source
- 33 Guessed-at fig.
- 34 Thunder's org.
- 35 Gala garb
- 37 Tide type
- 38 Province bordering Turin
- 39 "Makes sense"
- 41 Cheeky comeback to "How did you do that?"
- 42 Hawaii's third-largest island

- 43 California's \_\_\_ Valley
- 48 Yale
- 50 Range in Europe
- 51 Part of GPS
- 52 Dripping with sarcasm
- 53 Ironman Triathlon watchmaker
- 54 Silly
- 55 Fifth flavor
- 56 Largest city in Yemen

- 57 "For dang sure!"
- 61 Big name in 68-Across
- 62 With 14-Across, collapse
- 63 Curly coif
- 65 Ambulance letters
- 67 Connection port, and the connections found in 17-, 24-, 40-, 52-, and 66-Across

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

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By Alan Massengill & Doug Peterson  
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# CONVERSATIONS

## WITH KARLA:

by **Karla Perez** | ASSOCIATE LIFE EDITOR | SHE/HER/HERS | [karla.perez@uconn.edu](mailto:karla.perez@uconn.edu)

Hello and welcome back to another edition of Conversations with Karla! Last week, we talked about social media's depiction of athletes and the various pros and cons of being active on social media. This week, I met with Madison Veilleux, a fourth-semester pre-teaching major and human development and family sciences minor, to talk about the role social media played in her decision to switch her major.

Veilleux entered college as a pre-med student. She explained how she felt confused about what she wanted to pursue in college, but had always considered going into the medical field. She said these intentions were influenced by the media. She described how on social media, one sees other peoples' lives from only one perspective, giving the impression that they have their lives together. "You're not seeing the sense of reality — that they're confused too. They might be struggling just as much as you," she said.

Due to the way some content creators portray of student life on the medical track, Veilleux said she didn't consider the different factors of her life that would be impacted. The biggest consideration was that she felt her aspirations for starting a family would be pushed aside or delayed. She said, "I don't think I would have had the career path I wanted and the family life I also wanted, because that's important to me too."

That summer, Veilleux worked with Educational Resources for Children in Enfield, Connecticut. She worked with children who would enter kindergarten in the fall, and as part of the program, they structured each day like a school day. "I just loved it," she said. "I loved what I was doing and I was excited to go to work every day, and that made me realize that I could do this for the rest of my life." In addition to these positive first-hand experiences, Veilleux also explained how social media's portrayal of a pre-teaching student's life was more informative than what she'd seen of medical students.



IMAGE COURTESY OF ICONSCOUT

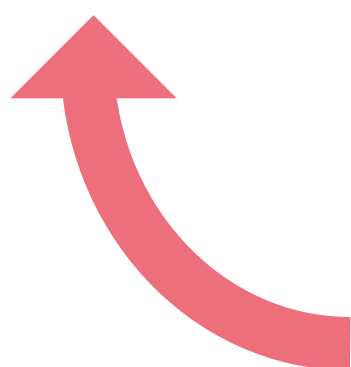


IMAGE COURTESY OF FREE-VECTORS.NET





LOGO BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

She talked about her interests in teacher-related content such as “day in my life as a teacher” or “here’s my after school routine as a teacher” videos on TikTok and how this content gave her a better understanding of a teacher’s reality. “I could see other people living a life that I could see myself living,” Veilleux added. However, the decision to switch majors was not an easy one to make. Veilleux expressed her greatest concern was what other people would think of her decision.

When she graduated high school, Veilleux’s initial intention of going into the medical field was amplified by social media posts from family members. She explained her mother’s affinity for posting on Facebook and how she will likely post when Veilleux graduates from UConn with a teaching degree or when she starts teaching in her first classroom. Veilleux said that she doesn’t want people to see that she switched majors as “an easy way out.”

Another thing that pushed Veilleux to change her major was other college students’ so-

cial media accounts. She explained how she had seen other students on the medical track enjoying what they were learning, causing her to reflect on how she was not getting that same experience. She then talked about how she would see other students who were not on the medical track but still enjoyed what they were learning. Ultimately, this was the kind of content that inspired her to make a change.

Veilleux explained how she’s noticed a trend on social media that reassures people that it’s okay to feel uncertain about their paths in life and that change isn’t a bad thing. She thinks that this kind of environment should be promoted and that high schoolers shouldn’t feel pressured to know exactly what they want to spend the rest of their lives doing. Veilleux encourages anyone reading this article to explore different paths and be open-minded about the future.

That’s all for this week’s Conversation with Karla! See you next week when we’ll meet a new student and discuss a new topic.

It’s okay to  
change your mind



# Life

@dailycampuslife

# SUDOKU

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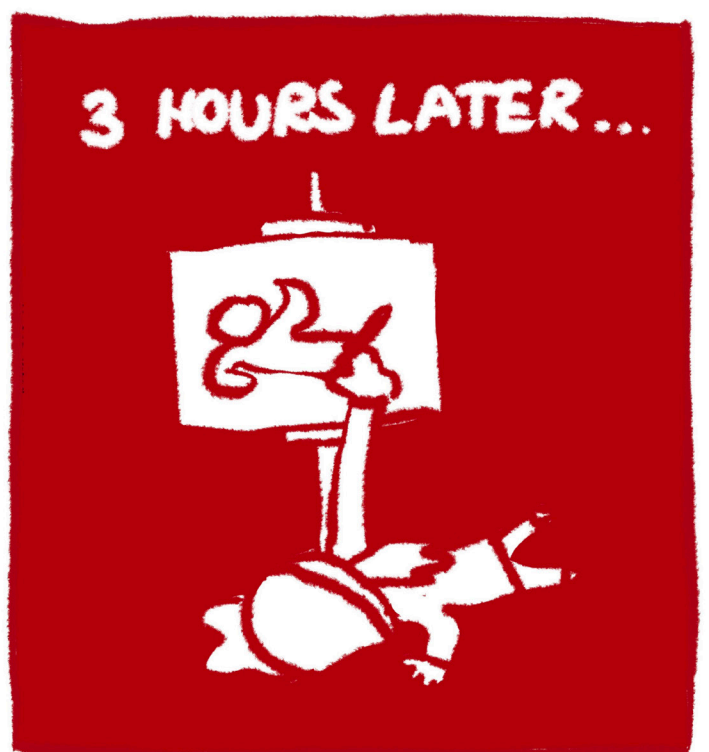
## FLIP UPSIDE DOWN FOR SUDOKU SOLUTION

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# RELIEF



CARTOON BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



CARTOON BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# Opinion

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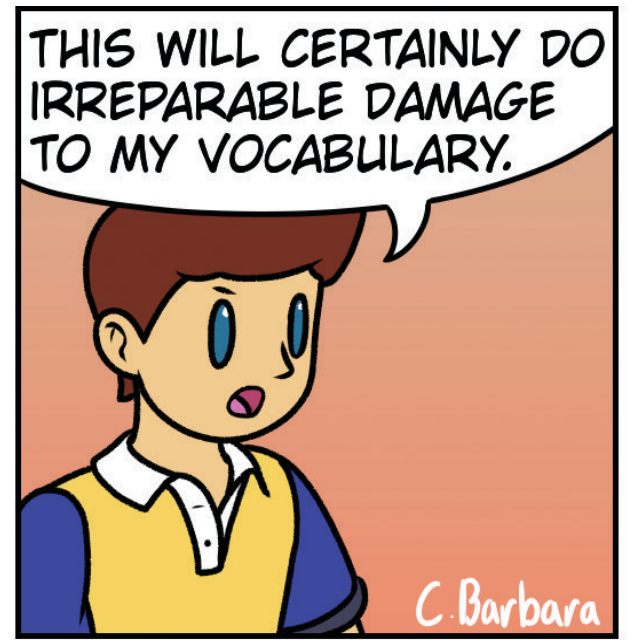
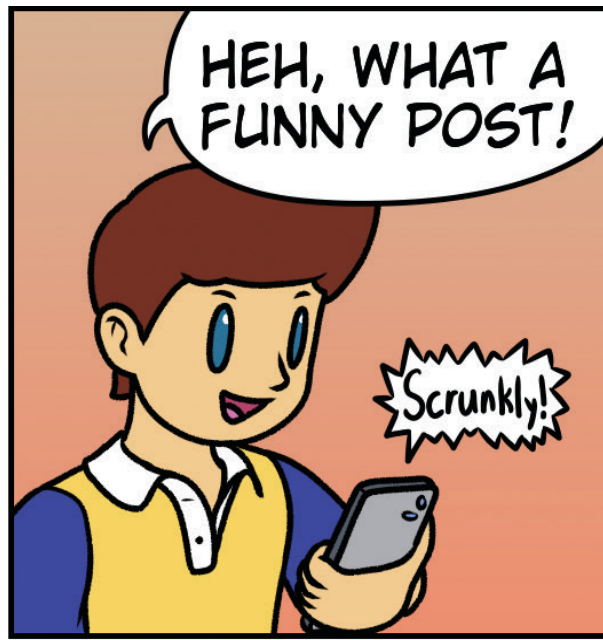
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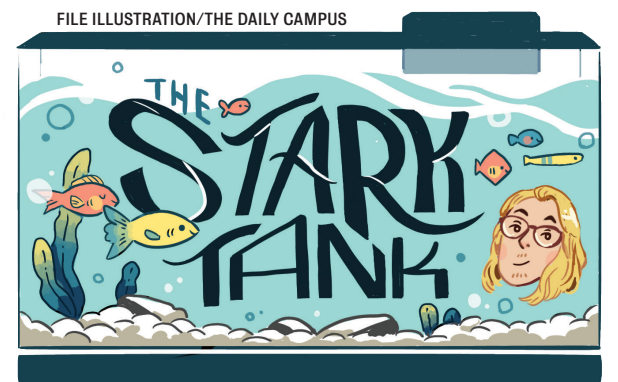
Tomas Hinckley .....WEEKLY COLUMNISTS

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CARTOON BY CHRISTIAN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# THE TAYLOR SWIFT HATE HAS GONE TOO FAR



by Dan Stark  
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Author's note: There are four Taylor Swift song puns located in this article, can you find them all?

What's to say about Taylor Swift that hasn't been said already? The 34-year-old is the biggest pop star on the planet and has achieved new heights of stardom and hysteria over the past year that's rivaled only by Beatlemania in the early 1960s. Her record-breaking Eras Tour and popular "Taylor's Versions" of her old albums have cemented her right in the center of American pop culture, but that doesn't mean that the haters aren't going to hate, hate, hate, as Swift has been subject to a barrage of irrational and petty hatred that has reached a grotesque and unwarranted level.

The hate that Swift has been receiving lately has come from two main groups, the first being NFL fans. As the NFL season started in September, Swift began dating Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce, a player who is both loved and hated by NFL fans. She began regularly attending Chiefs games, which prompted TV networks to frequently show her on camera during broadcasts and NFL

social media accounts to constantly post about her. This led to a growing contingent of football fans who became frustrated with the constant promotion of Swift. Though this bad blood was warranted at times, many football fans soon began claiming that Swift is ruining the NFL. However, there is absolutely no evidence or reason to believe that Swift is affecting the on-the-field play of the NFL. Fans can complain all they want about the AFC playoffs being rigged to get a Chiefs-Swift Super Bowl, but it's not her fault that the Dolphins were

frauds, the Bills couldn't get out of their own way in the divisional round and the Ravens refused to run the ball in the AFC Champion-



ship Game. Fans hate her because they hate how the Chiefs have become the next NFL dynasty and their own teams haven't been able to stop them, something that Swift has no control over. If anything, the only potential way she could impact the game itself would be if Kelce's performance was flagging, but his current performance in the playoffs proves otherwise. The hatred should be directed more towards the Chiefs and away from Swift, who is simply a fan having a good time watching her boyfriend play.

It's also important to note

that thanks to Swift's presence at Chiefs games, the NFL has seen a boost in viewership. Polls have found that more women and teenage girls are watching NFL games because of her, which brings in a wider, more diverse audience for the league. It has also given families, specifically fathers and daughters, something to bond over and watch together. Football is at its best when more people are watching, and there is nothing to hate about that.

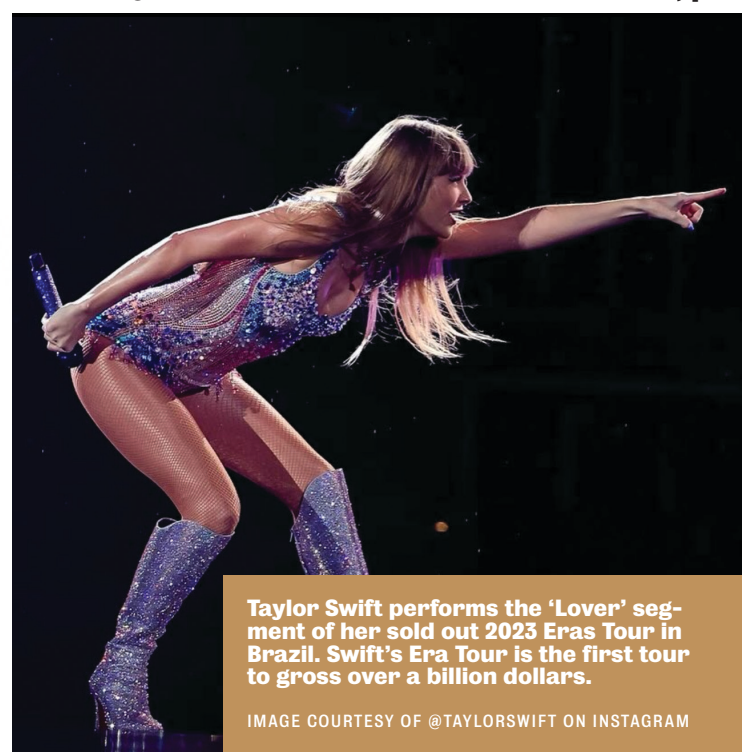
Besides Chiefs-wearily NFL fans, there's another group that has been riding the Swift hate train: MAGA World. Right-wingers and Trump fans have joined NFL fans in their hatred of Swift, but for different reasons. With the presidential election looming this year, Swift has become the target of conspiracy theories from right-wing figures that are ludicrous even by their own standards. One such theory came from Fox News host Jesse Watters, who claimed that "around four years ago, the Pentagon's psychological operations unit floated turning Taylor Swift into an asset." For Watters, he simply couldn't comprehend why Swift endorsed Biden in 2020 despite the obvious red flags of Trump, so he jumped into this bizarre theory that sounds like something Alex Jones would rant about on InfoWars. Another theory came from soon-to-be Republican vice presidential nominee Vivek Ramaswamy, who believes that the NFL will rig the Super Bowl for the Chiefs to set up a Biden endorsement from Swift. Here's a news-flash, Vivek: Swift is likely to endorse Biden regardless of what the Super Bowl outcome is and probably doesn't

See SWIFT, p. 8



Swift shows off a Kansas City Chief's Conference Champions baseball hat. Recently, she has received a large amount of media attention due to her relationship with Travis Kelce, the Chiefs tight-end.

IMAGE COURTESY OF @EXTRATV ON INSTAGRAM



Taylor Swift performs the 'Lover' segment of her sold out 2023 Eras Tour in Brazil. Swift's Eras Tour is the first tour to gross over a billion dollars.

IMAGE COURTESY OF @TAYLORSWIFT ON INSTAGRAM

IMAGE COURTESY OF @TAYLORSWIFT ON INSTAGRAM

# Opinion

Photo of the Day | Tuesday night (husky) blues



The Husky paw print is lit up blue in Storrs, Conn. on Feb. 6, 2024. While the UConn men's basketball team played an important game in Hartford, Conn. the students on the Storrs campus stayed in to enjoy a quiet Tuesday night.

PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## SWIFT, cont. from p. 07

even know who you are. The attacks from right-wing figures on Swift are a desperate attempt to start a new culture war issue out of absolutely nothing so they

can rally their hypnotized base of voters in November. They know all too well that their theories are baseless, but also realize their base isn't smart enough

to fact check them.

While I do agree that the NFL should just let Swift and Kelce live their private lives in peace and not show her so much dur-

ing game broadcasts, the hate that she has received from NFL fans and MAGA supporters has simply gone too far. If you're so triggered by a woman watching

her boyfriend at an NFL game, you need to calm down. Go find a new sport or celebrity to rant about instead of spewing this unnecessary hatred.

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**Marquez Valdes-Scantling**

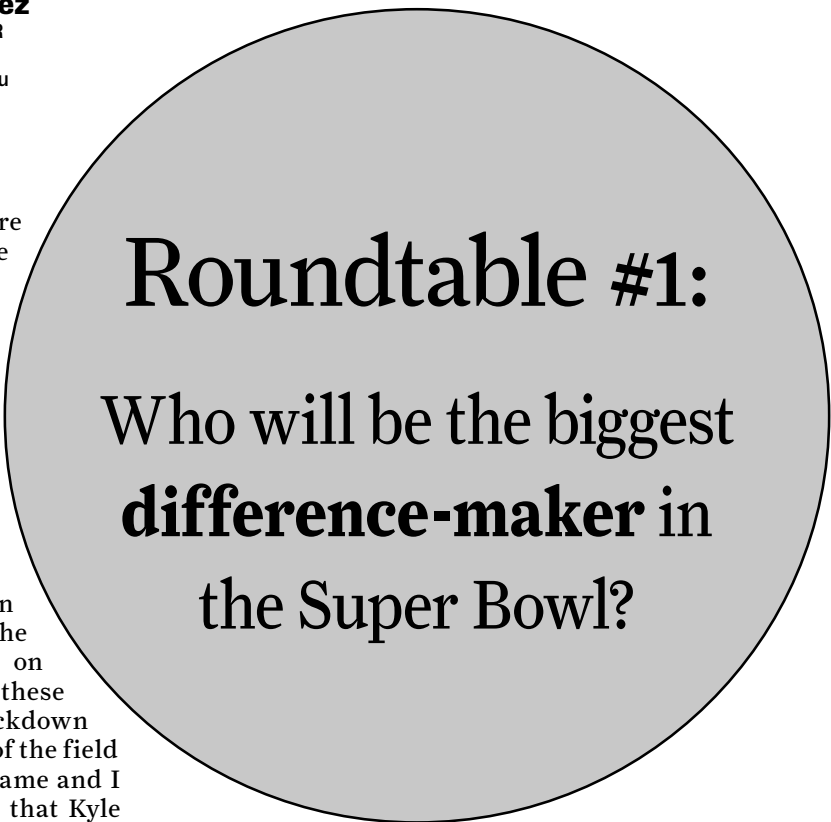
Two weeks in a row, both on the road against the top two seeds in the AFC, Valdes-Scantling hauled in the game-sealing catch. MVS picked up 100 receiving yards on four receptions in those contests, meaning that half of his catches have iced a Chiefs postseason victory. The sample size may be just two remarkable receptions, but the former Green Bay Packer has become Kansas City's best closer since the Kansas City Royals had Kelvin Herrera, Greg Holland and Wade Davis in their bullpen in the mid-2010s. That's game-changing in a big way, especially in a single-elimination tournament where every play matters. For San Francisco, leaving Valdes-Scantling all alone in crunch time may literally make the difference between a sixth Super Bowl win or a third straight appearance resulting in defeat. If I were a defensive coordinator going up against the Chiefs, I would put my top two secondary options on MVS in order to prevent him from breaking my team's heart. I would not be surprised if he delivered the dagger in Las Vegas.

**Christian McCaffrey**

San Francisco is fortunate to have arguably the best running back in the NFL with Christian McCaffrey. The 49ers will need a big game from him if they want to keep up with Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs. McCaffrey finished the regular season with 1,459 rushing yards, which led the NFL by a wide margin. He has also been crucial for the Niners in their two playoff games, scoring two touchdowns in both of them. Kansas City's defense has been slightly below average against the run this season, as they were ranked 18th in rushing yards allowed during the regular season. Meanwhile, the Chiefs were fourth in the league in passing yards allowed, meaning the 49ers will want to use McCaffrey to take advantage of Kansas City's weaker run defense. McCaffrey has been the focal point for the Niners' offense all season, and I expect this game to be no different.

**Nick Bosa**

When people are talking about the staples of a dynamic 49ers defense, Nick Bosa is naturally brought up and for good reason. He's one of the top defensive options in the NFL, and his impact on that side of the football is going to be massive in disrupting what the Chiefs want to do on offense. Both of these teams have had lockdown units on both ends of the field leading up to this game and I do have confidence that Kyle Shanahan and company can get it done on the offensive end of the field. I also can't doubt Patrick Mahomes, and if Bosa and the 49ers are able to at least minimize the impact of an already legendary quarterback, they're going to walk out of Las Vegas with the trophy.



**Roundtable #1:**  
**Who will be the biggest difference-maker in the Super Bowl?**

**by Stratton Stave**  
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**Taylor Swift**

Call me crazy here, but I don't see anyone making as big of an impact as the artist who just won two Grammy awards. Taylor Swift, Kansas City tight end Travis Kelce's significant other, has broadened the scope of the NFL in a dramatic fashion this year - and won't stop at the AFC

Championship. She's generated an additional \$330 million for the NFL per Yahoo! and figures to be a prominent on-screen appearance, assuming she is able to make it from a concert on the other side of the world taking place just a day prior. The number of tweets of NFL fans angrily wishing Swift off their screen or Swifties idolizing the singer could be in greater quantity than tweets about the game itself. If that's not a difference-maker, I don't know what is.



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

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**Morgan Wallen**

Country artists are not particularly the first choice for the Super Bowl halftime show, but Morgan Wallen would be the near perfect artist to keep people engaged. The biggest problem with Usher being the selection this year is how long ago he was a relevant artist. That's where Wallen separates himself: by having one of the most successful years of any artist across all genres in 2023. He was honored with the most streamed song and album on Spotify in the U.S. with "Last Night" and "One Thing at a Time." His more popular songs aren't the traditional tractor-driving country music either, so it wouldn't force Super Bowl viewers to walk away from the screen immediately. I'm all for making each year's performance someone who is relevant, and who is a better option than Morgan Wallen in 2024?

**Dua Lipa**

When you think about people who have several hits and could excite the crowd, there aren't too many options better than Dua Lipa. The pop star brings a great mix of novelty and sustained success, with top 100 hits dating back to 2017. She has five top 10 hits, which is a great number given that Super Bowl shows average 8.99 songs, per SportingNews. Dua Lipa could feature all her signature songs as recent as "Dance the Night," which was part of the "Barbie" movie soundtrack, or dating back to "New Rules," her first big hit. Even though she may not have the richest set of songs because she hasn't been around forever, her current popularity gives her a considerable edge over Usher, who hasn't been relevant lately.

**Fleetwood Mac/The Beach Boys**

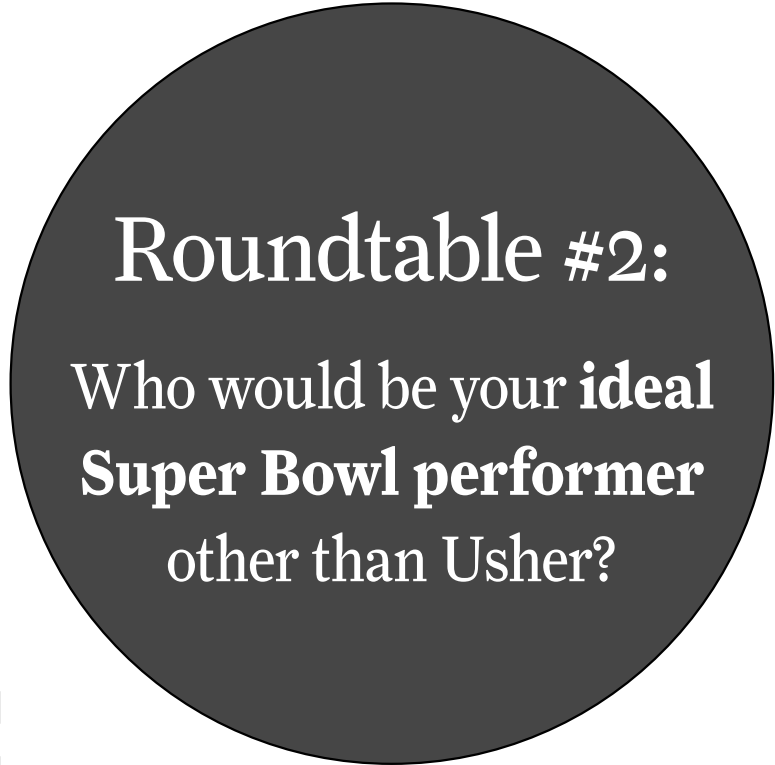
It's tough to say who the halftime performer of the Big Game should be, since there are so many different folks watching who all have different musical preferences. In recent years, the decision to host pop and other niche artists has been interesting, but I would like to see a group like Fleetwood Mac or maybe the Beach Boys in conjunction with some other well-known artists from the past. Classic rock would be a great morale booster, and I'm sure they'd be happy to get back on stage. I know many people wish the Band Geeks from SpongeBob will also make a halftime appearance, but I wouldn't hold my breath underwater for that. No matter who is chosen, the spectacular choreography and production of the show is a sight to behold.

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**A\$AP Rocky**

The NFL had the opportunity to book the best artist for its annual concert, and they missed it: A\$AP Rocky. In case you are living under a rock, Rihanna put on one of the greatest halftime shows ever last year, and as a result, her brand as an artist grew larger, if that was even possible. However, A\$AP Rocky fans have been left in the dark for the past eight years, yearning for new content,

settling for the occasional single and feature. However, with Rocky's popularity, the possible A-list features are endless. From Tyler, The Creator to Lana Del Rey, the NFL could have broken the internet for a week. With such a diverse platter of artists he has worked with over the years, fans of every genre could have been pleased with this show. Rocky is also married to Rihanna, and the duo doesn't have any songs released together. Imagine if they collaborated on the biggest stage. That would be earth-shattering, and people would talk about it for years.



**Roundtable #2:**  
**Who would be your ideal Super Bowl performer other than Usher?**

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**by Evan Rodriguez**  
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**Justin Bieber**

As a former "Belieber," this would be a childhood dream come true for me. When they announced that Usher would be performing at this year's Super Bowl, it didn't exactly go well among the fans, and rightfully so. If you look at Usher's discography, you will notice that many of the songs he's on aren't even his; he's only a featured artist. Just like Rihanna's concert last year, if Justin Bieber performed at the Super Bowl, he would put on quite the show, giving viewers the blast of nostalgia they need. With songs like "Baby," "Beauty and a Beat," and "Eenie Meenie," it would be a halftime show for the ages. There have been some rumors going around, though, that Justin Bieber will make an appearance in Usher's halftime show this year, so we'll keep our fingers crossed.

**Drake**

It's a typical answer, but the list of collaborators that Drake has in his catalog is incredibly numerous and iconic. That means that there could be plenty of potential surprise guests in this performance, which would add to the incredible list of possible tunes that the rap legend could perform. At the bare minimum, Drake is still dropping bangers to this day and while he certainly wouldn't need any publicity from the event, it's one of the few things he hasn't done in his career. If Drake headlined this year's show, the Super Bowl would return to what made the Super Bowl halftime show such a commercial success in the first place by getting one of the most popular artists to perform.

**by Nicholas D'Alessio**  
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**Metallica**

Similar to Sean's statement about country artists, rock bands that originated in the 1980s usually are not the most popular pick for a halftime show either. But Metallica is not any other rock band. Since their formation in 1981,

Metallica's track record includes over 1,600 shows, including a 1991 performance attended by 1.6 million people, being the only musical group in history to perform on all seven continents and some of the most iconic songs of all time, regardless of genre. They also don't seem to be stopping anytime soon. The band released their latest album, "72 Seasons," in April 2023, and kicked off a world

tour that wraps up in late 2024. They even won a Grammy this year! Unfortunately, the band has been continually passed on for the Big Game, even when it was played in their hometown of San Francisco, which surprised a lot of people at the time. This is disappointing because one of the biggest artists of all time has been essentially shut out from the world's biggest stage.

**by Cole Stefan**  
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**Fall Out Boy**

They performed at the Pro Bowl halftime show in 2014, but I would love to see the band named after Radioactive Man's sidekick light the Super Bowl crowd ablaze. It is not because they released a

modernized cover of Billy Joel's "We Didn't Start the Fire" last summer. Fall Out Boy has several hits they could play that would garner incredible reviews from the fans after seeing it all go down. From "My Songs Know What You Did in the Dark" to "Centuries," there are several "Irresistible" hits that would bring people who are around my age back to their middle school

years. As was the case in Super Bowls 50, LIV and LVI, however, I want more than just one halftime performer. Add Imagine Dragons to that halftime show as a special guest (a la Red Hot Chili Peppers at Super Bowl XLVIII), and I will not hesitate to spend a fortune on Super Bowl tickets. Should I end up watching the Super Bowl on TV, I will not want to leave my seat.

## Sports

## Photo of the Day | Think Pink!



UConn women's basketball defended their home court against St. John's at Gampel Pavilion on Feb. 4, 2024, winning the match with a score of 78-63. The Huskies stay undefeated in the Big East with a conference record of 10-0.

PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



UConn women's tennis faces off against Wesleyan, Bryant, Stony Brook, Army and Sacred Heart at the UConn Invite from Sept. 15 to Sept. 17, 2023.

PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Avery Becker**  
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After splitting their weekend set with a win against St. Bonaventure and a loss against Army, the UConn women's tennis team looks to improve on their 3-1 record as they are set to play the Quinnipiac Bobcats in a home match on Wednesday at 1 p.m.

The history between these two teams has been rather one-sided with the Huskies winning every single match since Oct. 1, 2013 for a 12-match winning streak. Their most recent win was last season on March 1, 2023, which saw a strong showing from the Huskies, especially in doubles play.

The second doubles pair of Isabel Petri Bere and Aleksandra Karamyshev won the first match with a triumph of 6-2. Then, the first doubles pair of Olivia Wright and Maria Constantinou continued the team's winning ways with a 6-3 victory.

This excellent play from Connecticut translated into singles competition as well. Petri Bere clinched a 6-1 win at the fourth singles and Karamyshev notched a win in straight sets, 6-3.

At the end of the match, coach Glenn Marshall touched on the intensity of this in-state rivalry.

"We always have close bat-

tles with Quinnipiac, and today we came out on top with a solid win," Marshall noted.

Coming into Wednesday's game, the Huskies will strive to use their recent impeccable singles play against St. Bonaventure and dominating doubles efforts against Army to their advantage.

On Friday, during their win against the Bonnies, Wright started to heat things up for the team as she went 6-2, 6-0 in first singles. Petri Bere won 6-2 in second doubles, freshman Caroline Hinshaw won 6-1 at fifth singles and Constantinou pulled through with a 6-4 victory, helping the Huskies take five out of the six points allotted in singles play against the Bonnies.

On Saturday, Hinshaw and Petri Bere teamed up in third doubles, ending up in a 7-4 victory. Constantinou and senior Nansi Toskova were also able to gain a 7-4 triumph, clinching the doubles point for the Huskies.

As Connecticut hopes to put the loss against the Black Knights on Saturday behind them, they'll hope to repeat history. That means coming back to Storrs with a win against the Bobcats and utilizing the strong singles and doubles play they showed in the matches this past weekend. If Huskies fans wish to keep up with the match, they can track it on iOnCourt Live Scoring, which is provided on the team's website.

## Huskies return to Connecticut for in-state bout

# WOMEN'S TENNIS



# Why Brock Purdy making the Super Bowl is bigger than football

by Evan Rodriguez | ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR | HE/HIM/HIS | [evanrodriguez@uconn.edu](mailto:evanrodriguez@uconn.edu)

their Christian faith in the past, it's reached a whole new level.

Last season, when Jalen Hurts and Patrick Mahomes were both asked about their faith and religion during that year's Super Bowl, each player responded with how much it meant to them and how it was bigger than the game of football itself. They weren't just on the field to play the game for a chance at a trophy at the end of the night. To be able to spread the word of God on a platform with millions of viewers and to have their story be a testimony to people across the globe is an incredible thing.

With all that being said, it's what makes Brock Purdy making the Super Bowl even more special. Notably, the current 49ers quarterback, dubbed Mr. Irrelevant after being selected with the last pick in the 2022 NFL Draft, shouldn't have been in this position. He wasn't a top pick like Stroud or Mahomes. You couldn't find his name in the second round like Hurts. Purdy was instead the very last selection in that year's draft. The odds certainly weren't in his favor, yet God had other plans for the Iowa State product.

His faith had helped him get through tough times before, even when things seemed bleak. His religion is more than just the Bible quotes he posts on social media or the words

that come from his mouth. Purdy has lived the teachings of the Bible throughout his time in the NFL and it's certainly shown to be a massive success. After both Jimmy Garapolo and Trey Lance were out with injury during the 2022-23 season, the Pro Bowl quarterback stepped into the starting role and surprised everyone with his ability to throw the football. He wouldn't be just a temporary replacement for the 49ers, but a true leader for his team.

Now, he's made it all the way to the big game and the testimonial of his journey is truly special. To have someone who was seen by many as having little to no chance of even seeing the field in his career to being the starter on one of the best teams in his sport is incredible. When you add the element that Purdy has trusted in God throughout his entire football journey, even when he tore his UCL in the 2022 NFC Championship, that makes it even more special.

"I believe that Jesus Christ did come down, and died for my sins and rose again, and He is living and sitting beside God (the Father) on the throne," Purdy told Sports Spectrum in February. "And so I believe that. It's not just some story fairytale thing. It's real. And it allows me to stay level-headed and real with life."

The teachings of the Bible have prepared him greatly for this very moment. He never went out to party in college. He's



San Francisco 49ers quarterback Brock Purdy to play in this year's Super Bowl LVIII. The 49ers will face the Kansas City Chiefs on Feb. 11, 2024 at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas, NV.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @BROCK.PURDY13/INSTAGRAM

never been boastful or egotistical in the way that he speaks. The 2023 NFL leader in passer rating has simply worked hard for his goals, trusted in the Lord for what He wanted for him and has demonstrated humility in his approach with everyone he talks to.

That's why this game that millions of people look forward to means more than just what actually happens when the fi-

nal whistle blows. To have an open believer step foot on the field should show everyone that they should trust in God to put them in a position to succeed. Even when there's many who may doubt Purdy's ability, the only thing that matters in the end is God. "My identity can't be in football, it can't be in the things of this world," he told Sports Spectrum. "It's got to be in Him."

Throughout these NFL Playoffs leading up to the Super Bowl, there's been many players who have expressed their faith in God. Notably, the Houston Texans' CJ Stroud gave praise to Jesus Christ on air following a win against the Cleveland Browns in the NFL divisional round. Despite NBC trying to cut this section of the interview on social media, much of the sports world stuck up for the Ohio State rookie and were appreciative of him showcasing his faith.

But Stroud is not the only player that has publicly displayed their faith in God. Baltimore Ravens coach John Harbaugh prayed in the locker room with his team to give thanks. He's given his favorite Bible verses during post-game press conferences because it was more than just the spreading of the word of the Lord. In his own words, it was "the right thing to do."

To have this faith movement on this platform from both of these men is incredibly moving and inspiring. While plenty of NFL players have expressed

# SAM'S SECTION: College basketball's midseason All-Americans

by Sam Calhoun  
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February has arrived, with most college basketball teams having about nine games left on their regular season schedule. Purdue center Zach Edey leads the way in the race for the Wooden Award, and the battle for a spot on the All-American First Team is heating up. My honorable mentions not listed below include the Kansas duo of center Hunter Dickinson and guard Kevin McCullar Jr., Marquette guard Tyler Kolek, Kentucky guard Antonio Reeves, Duke center Kyle Filipowski and UConn guard Tristen Newton.

Centers have ruled college basketball the past few seasons, but the guards have stepped up in a crucial way this year. My midseason All-American team will have two guards, two forwards and a center. What all five players have in common is that they are likely to win the Player of the Year award in their

respective conferences. Let's take a look at the best players in college basketball.

**G - RJ DAVIS, NORTH CAROLINA** (21.3 PPG, 3.6 RPG, 3.4 APG, 1.3 SPG, 44.5 FG%, 41.1 3P%, 91.6 FT%)

Before the 2022-2023 season, the backcourt duo of Davis and Caleb Love was arguably the best in the country, providing a good reason for the Tar Heels to be ranked No. 1 in last season's preseason AP Poll. With Love transferring to Arizona, the White Plains, New York native has become the best player on the AP Poll's No. 3 team. Davis leads the ACC in points, averages three 3-pointers per game (second-best in the ACC) and is top-10 in the KenPom Player of the Year standings. Davis has only failed to score double figures in one game this season (Nov. 17 vs. UC Riverside) and scored a career-high 36 points in a dominant win over Wake Forest in January.

**G - DALTON KNECHT, TENNESSEE** (19.9 PPG, 4.6 RPG, 1.8 APG, 48.2 FG%, 39.1 3P%, 79.1 FT%)

In his first year in Knoxville, the Northern Colorado transfer has become one of the best players in the country, leading the Volunteers as one of the top teams in the SEC. Knecht is second in the SEC in scoring (behind Alabama's Mark Sears) and has been on a rampage since conference play began. Since Tennessee's win over then-ranked Ole Miss on Jan. 6, the Thornton, Colorado native has averaged nearly 27 points per game, including a career-high 39 points in a rout over Florida.

**F - JAEDON LEDEE, SAN DIEGO STATE** (20.3 PPG, 8.6 RPG, 1.5 APG, 55.4 FG%, 38.7 3P%, 72.8 FT%)

LeDee became one of the nation's best players from the very beginning. His first five games of the season included performances of 20 points or more in each game. In the championship game at the Continental Tire Main Event, the former Ohio State and TCU transfer put up a career-high 34 points and 17 rebounds in an overtime victory over Washington. The Houston native has not scored fewer than 13 points

this season. He leads the Mountain West in points and is second in the league in rebounds. Even though last season's national championship runners-up don't have the same team as last March, LeDee makes them one of the best mid-major teams in the country.

**F - DARON HOLMES II, DAYTON** (20 PPG, 7.8 RPG, 2.6 APG, 2.3 BPG, 55.2 FG%, 40 3P%, 71.1 FT%)

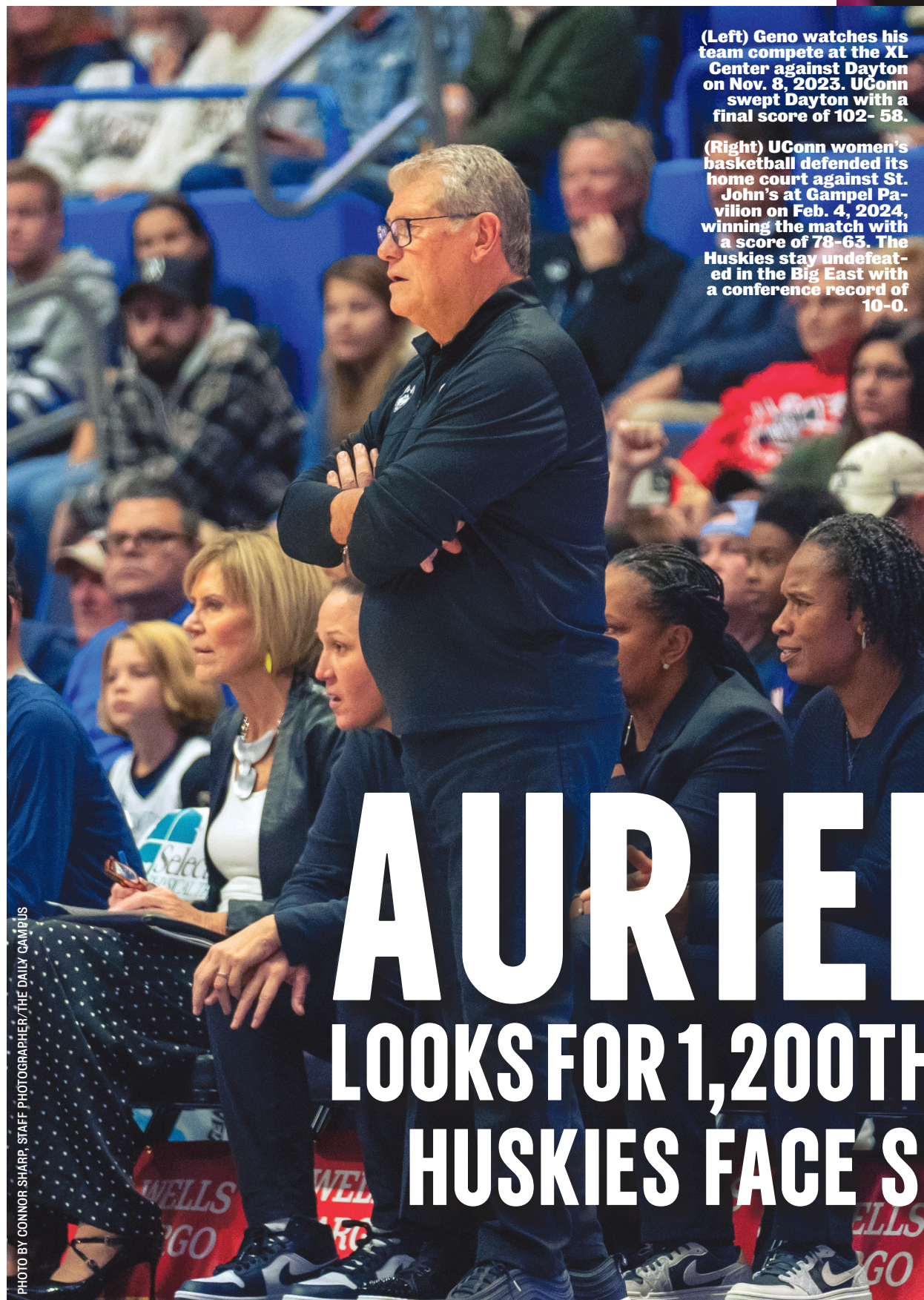
I have been a fan of Holmes since watching Dayton in the Shriners Children's Charleston Classic. Holmes leads the Atlantic-10 in points, is third in the league in rebounds and fourth in blocks per game. Unlike Davis and Knecht, the Goodyear, Arizona native has not faced the same level of competition. The only major-conference opponents Dayton has faced are Northwestern, LSU, St. John's, Houston and Cincinnati. The junior has five double-doubles this season, including a 23-point, 17-rebound performance in a 12-point win over Troy. Without Holmes, Dayton would be nowhere near the AP Poll.

**C - ZACH EDEY, PURDUE** (23.1 PPG, 11.7 RPG, 1.7 APG, 2.3 BPG, 63.1 FG%, 71.1 FT%)

The reigning Wooden Award recipient is the best in the nation once again, becoming one of the leading scorers and rebounders in college basketball. The 7-foot-4 senior has scored at least 10 points in every game this season and has come up massively in Purdue's most important battles. Edey has 16 double-doubles, with a streak of seven consecutive games. The Toronto native's best performance this season came against Penn State, during which he collected 30 points and 20 rebounds. Edey has left no doubt that he will sweep the national player of the year awards again. The best part about his season so far is that Purdue is much better than last year, with the guards improved. If Edey continues to dominate college basketball, there will be no doubt that the Boiler-makers will not lose in the first round of the NCAA Tournament again.



# Sports



(Left) Geno watches his team compete at the XL Center against Dayton on Nov. 8, 2023. UConn swept Dayton with a final score of 102-58.

(Right) UConn women's basketball defended its home court against St. John's at Gampel Pavilion on Feb. 4, 2024, winning the match with a score of 78-63. The Huskies stay undefeated in the Big East with a conference record of 10-0.



PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# AURIEMMA LOOKS FOR 1,200TH WIN AS NO. 11 HUSKIES FACE SETON HALL

by **Stratton Stave**  
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When thinking about coaching legends in the sport of college basketball, it's nearly impossible to leave out the man who turned things around in Connecticut. Once a lowly program, coach Geno Auriemma arrived and changed everything. A team with nine wins suddenly had 12. Then 14. Then 17. Then 24. By the time he was in his 10th year in Storrs, Auriemma captured the school's first national championship. In the 29 years since, he's tacked on 10 more.

While he stands alone with 11 championships, Auriemma is nearing another significant milestone: 1,200 wins. Only two other coaches in the sport (men's or women's) have reached that level of excellence. One is retired Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski who finished at 1,202. The other is Tara VanDerveer, who is currently at 1,206, but still going. If he does beat Seton Hall Wednesday, Auriemma will be the fastest coach to ever reach 1,200, doing so six years quicker than 'Coach K' and three years ahead of VanDerveer.

With all the buzz that surrounds it, Auriemma reflected on the accolade, discussing its uniqueness.

"You look at all the coaches who have had the kind of success that we're talking about, it involves either being around one place a

long time, or being in a bunch of places," Auriemma said after the team's win over St. John's. "I'm fortunate enough to have been here the entire time. The ability to keep recruiting the players that keep you at the level we've been at for 35 of those 39 years; if you look at the world today, I don't think you'll see this happening much going forward, so it's something to be proud of for our staff. It's a big deal to have won that many games and be in such company, but it's been really unusual. It's not something we take for granted."

Though it is unique in nature, Auriemma is more excited about other things he's accomplished.

"What actually does impact your life? If we show up in April and there's another national championship banner, how does that change things?" Auriemma continued. "[Even] if my career ends at 1,999 [wins], there's nothing that I could accomplish that can make me step back and say 'wow, that is really [disappointing]'. I'd like to think our program will be remembered more for the 11 national championships than the number of wins that I have when we get down the road. I do think in sports that the number of championships is what the great separator is."

Before he can celebrate it, though, he will have to defeat a Seton Hall squad that will be hungry for revenge. The two teams previously met in Walsh Gymnasium

on Jan. 17 for a matchup that was not as clean as Huskies fans might have hoped.

Connecticut hobbled out to a 23-21 deficit after a quarter, but turned things around in the second frame. They closed the half out on a 24-7 run, but had another stinker of a third quarter. The ultimate margin was a 24-point victory, but getting there wasn't a smooth process. The Huskies needed 32 points from star Paige Bueckers to seal the deal against a Pirates team that is under .500 in conference.

Seton Hall was able to overperform thanks to a big night from Azana Baines, who scored 17 points but needed 13 shots to get there. Brazil Harvey-Carr was a bigger surprise, coming in with an average of just south of four points per game. She delivered four threes in 12 minutes against UConn, which is the exact type of effort needed to try for an upset.

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- GENO AURIEMMA

However, the Huskies will be armed with the desire to get Auriemma to 1,200 wins, which could give them an extra boost. They haven't looked perfect lately, as it seems the injuries and fatigue are catching up to them. Though they outlasted St. John's by 15 on Sunday, that was nothing compared to their 43-point beating of the Red Storm a month earlier. Perhaps this will be the additional motivation they need to really pummel the Pirates.

While shots and buckets from Bueckers and Aaliyah Edwards

seem inevitable, Connecticut will be looking for a revitalized effort from Ashlynn Shade, who has hit a freshman slump. After scoring 13 points or better in eight of 10 games on 23-51 (45%), she's gone cold in the past three. The guard has totaled 21 points in that span and is an ice-cold 1-10 from downtown. She's shown the ability to be an elite shooter and a game like this will be a great opportunity to get back on track.

The contest will tip off at 7 p.m. in Hartford, Connecticut and can be viewed on SNY.

### WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK



Men's Basketball  
Saturday | 12 p.m.

### INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconn  
Three very good boys. No additional notes.

### TWEETS OF THE DAY

**Connor @brucewinless**  
I want to hangout with the UConn and Butler dogs so bad now

**Vickie Fulkerson @vickieattheday**  
A win Wednesday would mark the 1,200th of UConn women's basketball coach Geno Auriemma's career. UConn guard Paige Bueckers says the coach gets wiser with age. Said Bueckers: "He can keep going if he wants."

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