

## Horseback riding program registration open

by Sara Bedigian

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The University of Connecticut's Department of Animal Science horseback riding program is open for registration for the fall semester.

The non-credit Horse Practicum is an extracurricular open to all students enrolled at UConn, faculty, staff and the community. Although priority is given to animal science majors, all participants are welcome on a space available basis, according to an Aug. 14 press release by the UConn Department of Animal Science.

18 lesson options are offered across five riding disciplines including hunt seat, dressage, trail, polo and western at various levels, ranging from beginner to advanced.

Space is still available for session two practicum, a 12-week program from Sept. 9 to Dec. 6, totaling \$660, according to the Department of Animal Science website. Session one practicum has already begun, and spots are filled.

Single lessons, lesson packages, private lessons and semi-private lessons are available for those interested but unable to commit due to scheduling or availability. Jaran Smith, educational program assistant of the Department of Animal Science, said.

Single lesson rates vary and can be found on the department's website.

Riding teams are open to

UConn students only, Smith said. The riding teams offered are dressage, equestrian, varsity polo and western. The fall 2024 team tryout fee is \$55.

Alexa Norquist, a senior

chemical engineering major, began polo lessons two years ago through the lesson program and joined the polo team last year.

"I was able to find a new sport that I love," Norquist said. "I highly recommend trying something new with the lesson program, as the coaches and instructors are wonderful, and I have been able to meet a lot of new friends through the program."

For those interested, a mandatory fall practicum meeting is being held on Sept. 5 at 7 p.m. at the W.B. Young Building in room 100.

All students will be required to provide a properly fitted approved riding helmet within five years of the manufacturing date and two boots that have a heel with a rubber sole, according to the website.

Make-up lessons will not be offered, and refunds are only considered on a case-by-case basis.

Questions regarding the program can be directed to Alena Meacham at [horsepracticum@uconn.edu](mailto:horsepracticum@uconn.edu).



Cows milling around UConn's Horsebarn Hill. The hill is one of UConn's scenic locations on campus. FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Horsebarn Hill is home to UConn's agricultural facilities and great views overlooking the Storrs campus. The hill is a popular spot for students to go for walks and watch the sun set over campus. FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## NASA's Perseverance rover on Mars begins steep climb to rim of a crater

NEW YORK (AP) — NASA's Perseverance rover is tackling a steep new challenge on Mars.

The six-wheeled rover has spent the last 3 1/2 years roaming around the bottom of a crater. On Tuesday, it began climbing to the top.

The rover will go up 1,000 feet (305 meters) to the rim of Jezero Crater to dig up rock samples. Since landing on the red planet in 2021, Perseverance has collected 22 rock core samples from the floor of the crater, which was once filled with water.

The rover's samples may help scientists piece together what the planet's climate looked like billions of years ago — and learn whether any ancient Martian life lurked. NASA is exploring ways to bring the rock samples to Earth.

The bedrock at the rim of the crater might yield clues as to how rocky planets like Mars and Earth came to be, said Steven Lee with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California.

But the road ahead won't be easy. Perseverance will

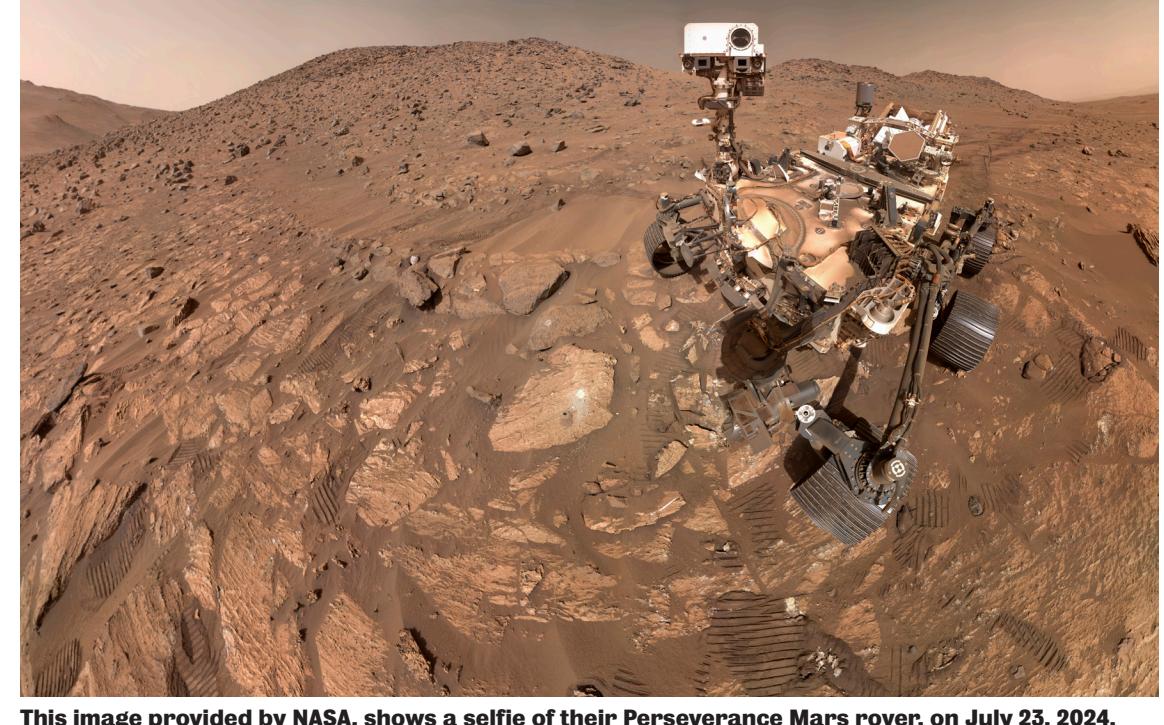
scale rocky terrain and slopes of up to 23 degrees on the monthslong journey.

"Perseverance has certainly been a real trooper," said Lee. The rover has logged around

18 miles (29 kilometers) during its exploration.

The rock at the top of the crater may have come from past hydrothermal vents — sites where heated water and

dissolved minerals spewed out after cycling underneath the planet's surface. On Earth, similar sites — like at Yellowstone National Park — are considered a cradle for life.



This image provided by NASA, shows a selfie of their Perseverance Mars rover, on July 23, 2024. The image is made up of 62 individual images that were stitched together. (NASA VIA AP)

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THE DAILY CAMPUS NEWSLETTER

## News

# A bald eagle was shot in the beak. A care team in Missouri is hopeful it can be saved

VALLEY PARK, Mo. (AP) — A bald eagle is slowly recovering after surgeries in Missouri, the victim of a shooting that experts say is far too common for America's national bird and other raptors.

The male eagle was found injured in central Missouri on July 11. A volunteer with the World Bird Sanctuary picked it up and brought the 7-pound (3.2-kilogram) adult back to

the sanctuary in suburban St. Louis.

Roger Holloway, the sanctuary's executive director, said the eagle's upper beak was nearly split in half by the bullet. It also had an injured left wing and suffered from lead poisoning.

The eagle, designated No. 24-390 because it is the 390th injured bird treated at the sanctuary this year, has undergone three surgeries. Holloway said



World Bird Sanctuary Executive Director Roger Holloway stands next to a sign at the sanctuary where a bald eagle that was found with a severe gunshot wound to the beak is being treated in Valley Park, Mo., Monday, Aug. 26, 2024. (AP PHOTO/JIM SALTER)

an operation last week was to further repair the severely damaged beak — a serious injury that would be life-ending if it doesn't heal.

The good news: Suture sites from earlier surgeries are heal-

ing well, and so are jaw fractures caused by the force of the bullet, Holloway said. Another procedure is likely in early September.

But even if all goes well, No. 24-390 will require months of



A radiograph provided by World Bird Sanctuary shows the beak injury to a bald eagle that is recuperating after surgeries at the World Bird Sanctuary in suburban St. Louis. The eagle was found in July with two gunshot wounds, including one that split his upper beak. (WORLD BIRD SANCTUARY VIA AP) ASA

care, perhaps even a year, before he could conceivably be released back into the wild.

"We're just being cautiously optimistic that he's otherwise healthy and has gained weight, is processing food well, and he's getting feistier and less cooperative, which we really like," Holloway said. "Because the bird is wild and it's got strength, and that's what it needs to have the ability grow the beak back to its functional size and length."

No. 24-390 is among six raptors treated for gunshot wounds this summer at the World Bird Sanctuary. About 600 birds are treated there each year, most of them hurt in various types of collisions.

Holloway and other experts say they're seeing an increase in shooting injuries to the majestic birds, which have served as the national symbol of the United States for nearly two-and-a-half centuries. Both bald and golden eagles also are widely considered sacred by Native Americans.

U.S. law prohibits anyone without a permit from killing, wounding or disturbing eagles, or taking their nests or eggs. Even taking feathers found in

the wild can be a crime.

In the late 1800s, America was home to around 100,000 nesting bald eagles. Habitat destruction and hunting nearly made the birds extinct, prompting Congress to pass the Bald Eagle Protection Act in 1940 that made it illegal to possess, kill or sell bald eagles.

Pesticides continued to kill bald eagles, and by 1960 only about 400 breeding pairs remained. The bald eagle was put on the endangered species list in 1978.

Federal protections and regulation of pesticides containing DDT prompted a comeback. In 1995 the bald eagle's status was changed from endangered to threatened, and it was removed from the threatened list in 2007.

Eighteen years ago, Missouri had 123 confirmed bald eagle nests, said Janet Haslerig, avian ecologist for the Missouri Department of Conservation. Today, there are 609.

But as the population has grown nationwide, so have the number of shootings.

"It's trending up and very disturbing," Haslerig said.

In March, a Washington state man accused of helping

kill thousands of birds pleaded guilty in federal court to shooting eagles on a Native American reservation in Montana and selling their feathers and body parts on the black market.

Many other shootings are due



A bald eagle that was found with gunshot wounds to the upper beak and left wing sits quietly as it recovers in a cage in a rehab center at the World Bird Sanctuary in Valley Park, Mo., Monday, Aug. 26, 2024. (AP PHOTO/JIM SALTER)

to a combination of "ignorance and boredom," Holloway said.

"Sometimes, it's just like, 'I have a gun. There's a target,'" he said. "They don't understand the laws and rules. They don't understand they're committing a felony."

"This is just indiscriminate shooting from irresponsible individuals."

# Chipotle may have violated workers' unionization rights, US labor board says

(AP) — Chipotle Mexican Grill may have violated federal labor law in its treatment of employees at its only unionized store, according to the National Labor Relations Board.

The board said late Monday that its Detroit regional director found merit to allegations filed against Chipotle by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. The union alleges that Chipotle unlawfully disciplined an employee in Lansing, Mich., for engaging in union activity and told employees the fast-food chain couldn't give them raises because they were unionized.

The regional director dismissed an allegation that Chipotle unlawfully withheld credit card tips from union-

ized workers. An allegation that Chipotle unlawfully used surveillance methods

the company that would be heard by the board's administrative law judge.



FILE - The Chipotle Mexican Grill logo hangs outside a restaurant location, Dec. 20, 2022, in Westwood, Mass. (AP PHOTO/STEVEN SENNE, FILE)

on its employees is still under investigation.

The NLRB said if Chipotle and the Teamsters don't reach a settlement, its general counsel could file charges against

Workers at the Lansing Chipotle voted to unionize two years ago, becoming the first of the company's 3,500 locations to do so amid a broader unionization push

across the country.

Chief Corporate Affairs Officer Laurie Schalow said in a statement that Chipotle respects workers' right to organize and has been bargaining in good faith with the Lansing store. Schalow blamed the union for long delays in scheduling bargaining sessions.

But the Teamsters accused Chipotle in a statement of dragging its feet and retaliating against workers to prevent the union from reaching a fair labor agreement.

"The NLRB made the right call by determining our claims have merit," the union said.

Chipotle has violated labor laws before. Last year, the chain agreed to pay \$240,000

to former employees in Augusta, Maine. Chipotle closed the Augusta restaurant after workers there filed a petition for a union election; an action the NLRB ruled was illegal.

Chipotle's labor record could come under increased scrutiny now that its chairman and CEO, Brian Niccol, has been hired by Starbucks. Niccol is set to start work at Starbucks on Sept. 9.

Starbucks also opposed unionization when its workers first voted to unionize at a Buffalo, N.Y., store in 2022. But, since then, more than 460 Starbucks stores have voted to unionize. Starbucks and its union, Workers United, agreed earlier this year to restart talks and try to reach a labor agreement.

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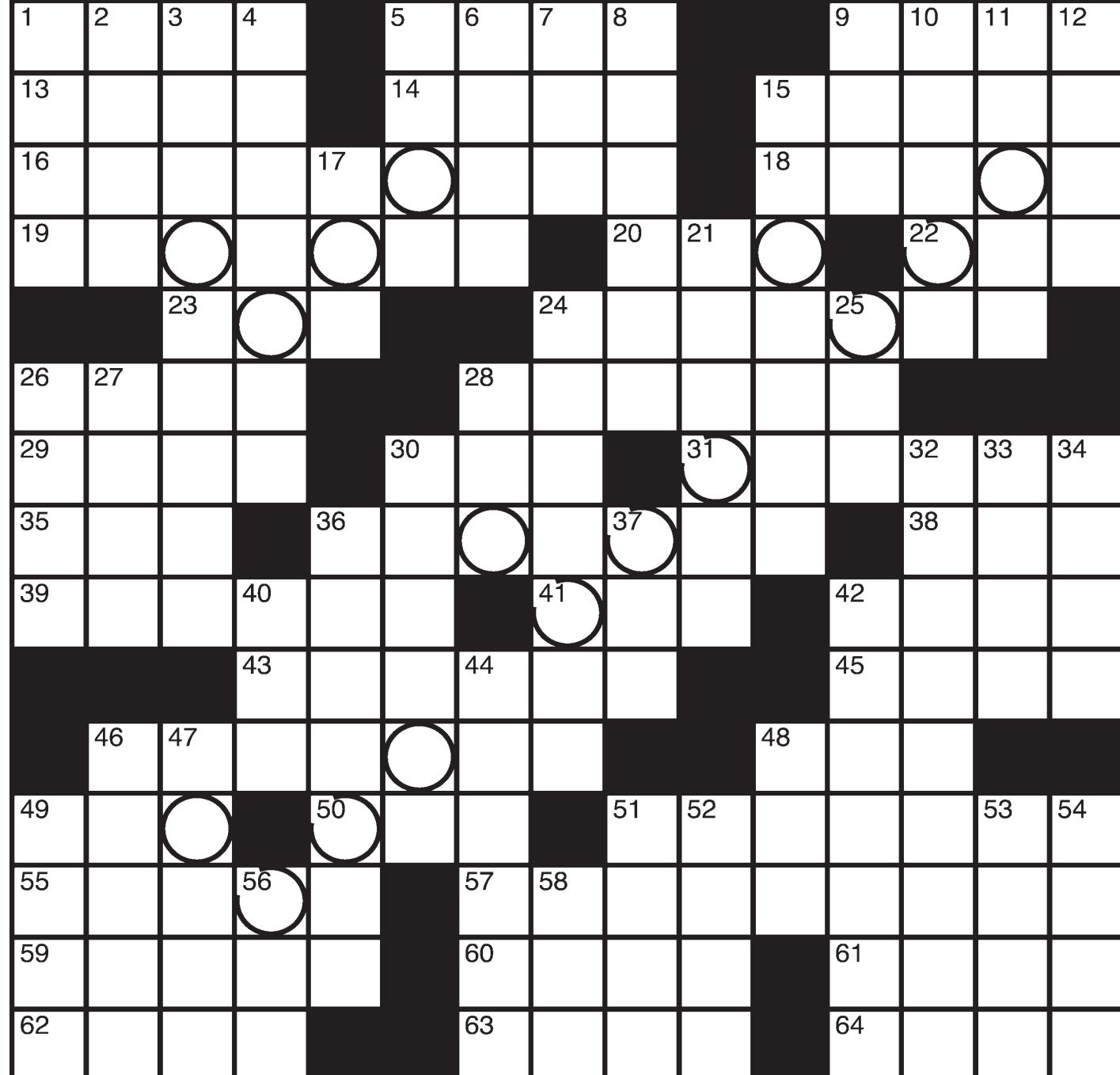
## Study Break

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By Rebecca Goldstein &amp; Rafael Musa

8/28/24

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8/28/24

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# BASKETBALL ISN'T THE ONLY GAME AT UCONN: A GUIDE TO GAMING IN STORRS

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

With the move-in weekend behind us, the Storrs campus is bustling with students going to their classes for the first time, seeking the thrill of meeting a professor for the first time or finding a new building. But, once the day is done and the adventuring is finished, is there any time for gaming?

It may seem like a trivial question. After all, the University of Connecticut is first and foremost an academic institution. However, considering that a survey by Vorhaus Advisors found that nearly 76 percent of adults in the United States play video games, there must be an underlying interest on the Storrs campus. Likewise, although potentially biased, the Entertainment Software Association released a report in 2023 finding that games can reduce stress and anxiety.

Putting the pieces together, I realized that for first-year and returning students alike, gaming is a core component of unwinding and entertainment. If you're living with a roommate or in a crowded dorm room, you may be worried about the noise or feel you're unable to play with friends. In this guide, I'll introduce the world of gaming on the Storrs campus and show ways you can fit it into your schedule.

Let's begin with the place where you may be most likely to play games: the dorm room. Depending on your set-up and location, the cramped and often shared space may not seem like a great place to game. But consider asking your roommate if they play, and maybe that can kindle

some nostalgia and interest in similar games. And just like that, you're gaming. Keep in mind, that's an ideal case. I remember my first year at Storrs and it felt a little awkward keeping a screen on while my roommate tried to sleep. So, how can that be avoided?

It all depends on what games you play, and how you play them. For instance, the Nintendo Switch, awaiting a successor to be released in 2025, is a hybrid system that can be used portably and on a TV. In my estimation, it's the best option for gaming in Storrs. Plus, if you're worried about the screen keeping your roommate up, why not play under the blankets? You can also get products such as screen covers which help keep your late-night gaming experience enclosed.

However, the Nintendo Switch isn't for everyone, and it's seven years old. What other options are there?

Well, PC gamers may be hesitant to make the switch to a laptop, especially for more demanding titles. However, options like the Steam Deck, or the ASUS ROG Rally can help provide that portable, lightweight PC gaming experience.

All that said, if you have space for monitors or a TV, there's no reason not to have some game nights or tournaments with roommates and friends. Not only is it a great way to break the ice, but it's also a shared interest for so many students that it should be easy to find people interested in joining in.

Options for game nights may be simple, like play-

ing some split-screen Call of Duty — keep an eye out for Treyarch's zombies returning in "Black Ops 6" this October — or it may be setting up VR and taking turns in "Beat Saber."

However, some have found an even better way to have a great game night. Let the nostalgia win over and bring up your family Nintendo Wii (with 100 million units sold, you're likely to have one, or know somebody that has one), or Sony PlayStation 2. Older systems like these have plenty of games out. They're also cheap and easy to find online. Best of all, if you played them as a kid, that fun comes right back when playing them now.

Despite this, after years of experience and the advice of some friends, perhaps the best console to take up to Storrs is the Nintendo Wii U. It features a tablet-like gamepad that serves as a Nintendo Switch alternative, and it allows for multiplayer games, including Nintendo Land — an excellent minigame selection — as well as full backward compatibility with the Nintendo Wii. That means mid-2000s classics such as Wii Sports are playable on the Wii U.

If you have one or are looking to get a new console, the Wii U is a solid choice. However, this just addresses the best way to play alone, or with some friends. If you're looking to get involved with gaming in a new way at UConn, you have a whole world of options.

Next Wednesday, Sept. 4, is UConn's Fall Involvement Fair. It'll host all sorts of clubs and events, but gam-

ers should keep an eye out for The UConn Gaming Club, Nintendo Club, Pokémon Go Club, Super Smash Bros. Club and many others.

In an interview with Daily Campus contributor and Vice President of the Super Smash Bros. Club Hayden Cromer, a fifth-semester communications major with a psychology minor, the question of finding clubs raised an interesting point. "Either just wait until Involvement Fair comes around, or you could Google what you want by name," he said. "That's what me and a few of my friends in the club did to find it in the first place."

When commenting on the role that executive board members play in their clubs, Cromer added, "As an e-board member where you are kind of constantly searching for new club members, you learn they just kind of gravitate naturally to your club, especially running something gaming/e-sports related." He noted, "If you want to find it, it usually won't be that hard to find."

He concluded, "Speaking from the perspective of someone who runs tournaments, everybody is pretty welcoming and easy to talk to because we're all nerds, respectfully. We're all there for one thing and love when people share the same passion/interests."

More info about the clubs can be found on UConntrac, but no matter how you choose to game this semester, make some time to unwind and have some much-needed fun.



Most of UConn's clubs and organizations gathered in Gampel Pavilion on February 7. Students walked through the Involvement Fair to explore new interests and opportunities on campus.

# 'As the World Caves In': Preparing for the end of the world with UConn Late Night

by Bonnibel Lilith

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On Aug. 23, 2024, the University of Connecticut's Student Union had its first Late Night of the school year, usually held on Fridays. Many students, particularly freshmen who had just attended the class of 2028 convocation ceremony, had the choice of participating in a scavenger hunt. This involved arts and crafts activities, board games, bingo, free pina coladas, strawberry smoothies and popcorn. Attendees were also able to visit Tier III clubs for the chance to win a prize. Additionally, the movie "Top Gun: Maverick" played in the theater, and a live DJ played music outside. However, the highlight of it all was the stellar rendition of Matt Maltese's hit song, "As the World Caves In."

"As the World Caves In" is a song that tells the post-apocalyptic romance between two people at the end of the world due to nuclear warfare. It is super romantic and beautiful, but also quite depressing and solemn. There has been some speculation by fans that the singer is supposed to be former President of the United States Donald Trump and the love interest is supposed to be former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Theresa May. This would transform the song into a tongue-in-cheek critique of 2017's political climate, where doomsday was constantly looming around us due to the governments' failings.

Some fans of "As the World Caves In" choose to ignore the theory about Trump and May and simply appreciate the melodramatic (in a good way) but also all too real nuclear imagery, while embracing the people who they love whether they currently exist or not.

The lyric, "You put your finest suit on, I paint my finger-

nails" in the second verse is notably striking, because it shows how gender roles are being defied at the end of the world.

Hypothetically, a way of looking at the lyrics is that the structure of the world has gone to ruin thanks to nuclear violence, and that includes gender roles. A more optimistic way of putting it is that the protagonist and their love interest can escape social obligations and peer pressure in terms of stifling gender roles and can express themselves in ways they appreciate more, maybe to the point of it being cathartic. Maltese sings: "We're going out of style, babe," after all.

All that being said, the UConn student's rendition of the Matt Maltese song was genuinely one of the most memorable and striking things I've seen on-campus so far and was an excellent way to kick off the upcoming semester. The vocalist had such a unique grasp on the way they sang the song

compared to the original, especially at the chorus, yet it worked incredibly well and made the song even more special, which was previously unexpected.

The Late Night karaoke audience applauded and cheered every single time the student hit the notes in the chorus. It felt like the karaoke program facilitated not only Friday night entertainment, but a genuinely supportive community within UConn where people will let others express themselves, boosting their confidence to continue being themselves.

It was obvious that the vocalist was immersed in the music, amazing so many people and bringing them all together. Arguably, not enough people were there to witness that greatness. It was one of those things where you had to be there to feel how great it was, though it's now just a memory, and I will probably never see that person again. If you're reading this, thank you for covering a song so incredibly special. You are indicative of how common talent can be at UConn.

## RATING:



## COMICS OF THE DAY





# Life

@dailycampuslife

# From Sweet to Seductive: Sabrina Carpenter's risqué reinvention on "Short n' Sweet"



**Short n' Sweet** by Sabrina Carpenter is the sixth studio album by the American singer. It was released on Aug. 23, 2024 by Island Records, and explores Carpenter's love life, along with her perspective on 2020s dating.

IMAGE COURTESY OF @SABRINACARPENTER ON INSTAGRAM

by Grace Jos  
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Unveiling a new pop princess, Sabrina Carpenter's album "Short n' Sweet" has Gen Z turning heads. She was mostly known for her teenage years spent acting in the spin-off of the sitcom "Boy Meets World," and she released her first four records under the Disney umbrella. Like many before her, she eventually ditched the mouse ears and sparkling wand to drop her first studio album, "emails i can't send" in 2022. Her newest album has raised record popularity in the mere five days since its release.

The album title "Short n' Sweet" isn't just a joke about her own under-five-foot stature. It comes in at 12 songs lasting just over 36 minutes in total, with no features and no missteps. The most striking ambiguity of "Short n' Sweet" is its casually goofy sex positivity. The album is filled with Carpenter's irresistible wit while flaunting her knack for turning romantic roadkill into flippantly brilliant pop.

The blonde ball of brilliance and charm first released the album's lead single, "Espresso,"

which received extremely positive feedback and became the song of the summer. She later released the adjacent "Please Please Please," which can be described as the former's younger sister song. Carpenter mostly smiles and winks her way through songs that recognize the irrational power of lust, but deftly twist the knife on cheaters and hypocrites.

"Taste" is a delectably vicious opener, as she tells her ex's ex-girlfriend: "You'll just have to taste me when he's kissing you." Her affirmative, straightforward action brings a hit and punch to the album that only immerses you further into Carpenter's raunchy stories of love and loss.

She proves that heartbreak isn't enough to shatter her in the next track, "Good Graces," a personal favorite on the album that's light, cheeky and clever. She warns future romantic prospects to stay on her good side in this shimmering throwback R&B tune. It sparkles with confidence, streaked through with the jadedness of one who's seen a few trials and tribulations.

A big jarring side to "Short n' Sweet" is Carpenter's use of sex as equal parts revenge and rebound. The effervescent hooks of the album's lead singles have led fans to

expect even more of the: "Did she just say what I think she said?" moments splattered across the album.

"Bed Chem" is entirely a ballad full of sexual innuendos, as she simply deadpans this line over sexy honeymoon synths such as "Come right on me, I mean camaderie." Carpenter has been known for her sensual sense of humor, and with sass, sex and swagger, she exudes confidence despite her past emotional turmoil. Overall, with "Short n' Sweet," Carpenter has made one thing clear: She is not fearful of a few sensual jokes here and there.

There's more banjo and acoustic guitar in this album than anyone would have guessed, mostly used for its percussive snap, as in the finger-picking rhythm hooks of "Slim Pickins" and "Sharpest Tool." Her sense of humor is diamond sharp as she showcases her impressive soprano range. The prominent banjo line throughout the song holds a glimmer of Dolly Parton-inspired twang. These sides of the album are equal parts playful, vulnerable, amorous and calculating.

Though "Short n' Sweet" is raunchy and humorous, Carpenter chooses to insert a downcast ballad in "Dumb & Poetic." She excoriates a familiar type of guy who thinks

that a meditation practice absolves him from fuck-boy tendencies.

Carpenter takes her romantic ambivalence a step further in "Juno," where she reimagines the teen pregnancy plot of the 2007 indie film of the same name as seductive shorthand: "I might let you make me Juno." She reflects on a love that's so potent and lustful that she can't help but want to have the guy's kids. Carpenter's tone is perky and smug, as if she's over it but just wants to have her say. She's mocking, not suffering.

Many artists are so hyper-focused on reaching for a hit that the resulting songs are devoid of personality. Car-

penter makes hit-making look effortless, the mark of someone whose songs are crafted with so much intention that they feel simple. Carpenter's flirty, fun songs, which coincide with her seriously un-serious counterparts, highlight her duality as an artist. The album's soundscape is homogenous without being overly repetitive, and its lyrics are genuinely laugh-out-loud funny. "Short n' Sweet" is indeed a very sweet start for Carpenter to prove she's not only a multifaceted singer, but a multidimensional superstar.



**RATING:**  
**5/5**



Daily

# Opinion

## The Daily Campus

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REDISTRIBUTE HONORS RESOURCES

### ► Editorial

This August marked the grand opening of UConn's newest living and dining space, Connecticut Hall. Primarily home to returning students, Connecticut Hall is home to the Nursing Learning Community, Wellness Community and most notably the upper-division honors students, who already have a presence in the convenient and spacious Snow Hall and Shippee Hall.

Connecticut Hall boasts a state-of-the-art dining hall, group study areas and multiple meeting areas to create a sense of community within the building. It also has a unique layout with many rooms offering two bedrooms and two bathrooms, as well as traditional doubles and singles with a bathroom.

The addition of Connecticut Hall to the list of honors housing options contributes further to a host of resources that come with the honors distinction including spacious and convenient housing, specialized career programs, smaller class sizes, scholarships and additional academic and community programs. These resources are meant to help honors students realize their full potential at UConn through research, entrepreneurship and guidance from faculty and mentors. Many of these resources are only accessible to honors students, who make up just under 13% of the total UConn undergraduate population. Meanwhile, first-generation students and other less privileged groups lack the same resources. The Daily Campus Editorial Board asks: Is this distribution equitable?

Despite UConn's statement that they are "dedicated to supporting and serving anyone

who identifies as First Generation." First-gen students are offered few resources that are unique from any other student even though they historically have struggled more in college. 1 in 4 students at UConn are first-generation students, yet they lack a specific housing community and the plethora of exclusive benefits that honors students have access to such as the rigorous, small and engaging courses offered every semester.

One would expect that UConn would aim to use resources to lift up students who might require more support and engagement to reach their full potential, but UConn is failing to address the needs of these students. Instead, the university is focusing on providing more resources and benefits to groups of around 2,300 students who have been given the Honors distinction.

UConn's resources should not only be allocated to groups like honors students and first-generation students based off their size, but also according to their need. First-generation and less privileged students deserve the same opportunity to take rigorous and unique coursework as well as benefit from career-specific programs that can help them apply their university education upon graduation. Data from the Pew Research Center shows first-generation college students are more likely to come from low-income households and need the individualized support as they come from working-class families and communities who have limited college experience. Of-

times, they may have to work alongside their studies to afford their college education and face other burdens that can harm their grades and interrupt the search for job and internship opportunities. Fewer first-generation students hold formal leadership roles, conduct research, complete paid internships and study abroad than other students, according to the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. Increasing the breadth and depth of academic opportunities for these students may empower them to further involve themselves in research and pursue their academic passions.

Students also deserve the same sense of community that honors living and honors-specific classes provide for those students. Making the transition to college is challenging for every student but for first-generation students, it can be more daunting when your family may be unfamiliar with it. Having a living community of students who are going through the same challenges would create an opportunity for these students to support each other and work together for a smoother transition.

The Editorial Board calls upon UConn to hold true to its promises and support first-generation and less privileged students by redistributing the resources given to the Honors Program in a more equitable manner. It is imperative that these students are given the same opportunity to excel in their studies and future careers upon graduation.

## Photo of the Day | Morning stroll



**Students walking to class early in the morning on Aug. 27, 2024 alongside Mirror Lake. The warm morning was a change of pace from the rainy first day of classes.**

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## RAPID FIRE: WHERE TO SIT IN CLASS?

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

As the new school year starts, students young and old are confronted with one eternal question at the beginning of each class: Where do I sit in the lecture hall? Right in the front? As far away from the professor as possible? Right in the middle to blend in with the crowd? Who knows? This week's rapid fire will be answering the question: What is the best location to sit in your classes and why?

**TOMAS HINCKLEY, OPINION EDITOR, HE/HIM/HIS, TOMAS.HINCKLEY@UCONN.EDU:**

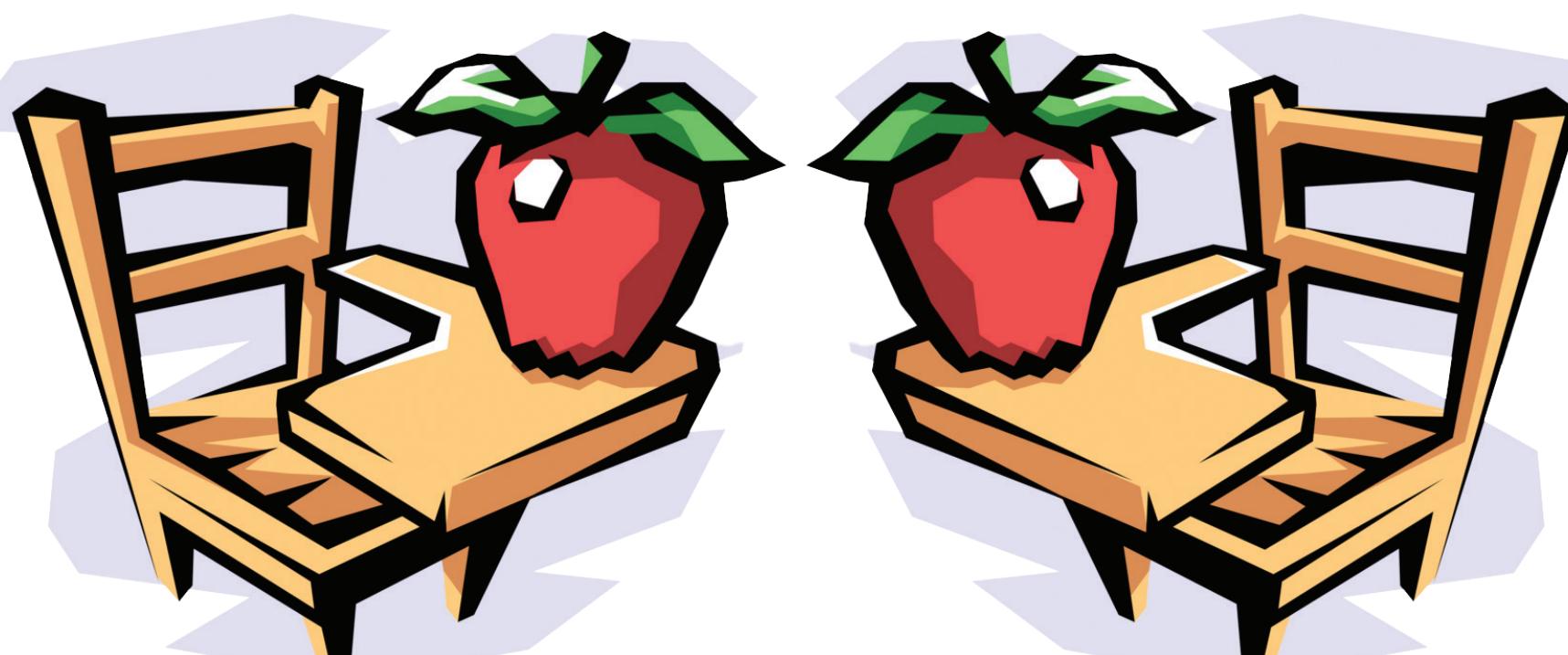
I try in most, if not all my classes to sit in the front row and I stand by that. When I walk into class it's lock in city, and sitting in front keeps me engaged and prevents me from literally falling asleep. Plus, professors see you and they know you're locked-in, and that comes in clutch sometimes. Only problem is it makes it harder to skip class unnoticed...

**EVELYN PAZAN, ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR, SHE/HER/HERS, EVELYN.PAZAN@UCONN.EDU:**

I am a big proponent of the middle of the class, but close to an aisle seat. This is prime "assigned-unassigned seat" territory. You can excuse yourself quietly, but you also make an impression on the professor who sees how locked-in you are. Plus, when class ends, you'll be the first person out because you don't have to climb over everyone's book bags and legs.

**DAN STARK, CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT, HE/HIM/HIS, DANIEL.STARK@UCONN.EDU:**

For me, it depends on the class. If it's a class for my major or something that I'm particularly passionate about, I'll typically be somewhere in the middle so I can take it all in. But if it's a generic gen-ed course that I'm just taking to fulfill a credit, I gravitate towards the back so I can chill and coast through.



CLIPART COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL

# BRIDGET'S BULLETIN: TEAM USA'S MOST MEMORABLE MOMENTS IN THE 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES

by Bridget Bronsdon | SPORTS EDITOR | SHE/HER/HERS | [bridget.bronsdon@uconn.edu](mailto:bridget.bronsdon@uconn.edu)

Katie Ledecky poses with her record number of Olympic medals. She became the most decorated female Olympian as a result of her performance in the 2024 Paris Olympics. PHOTO COURTESY OF @RALPHLAUREN ON INSTAGRAM

Simone Biles stands with her four medals from the 2024 Paris Olympics. She earned three gold medals and one silver. PHOTO COURTESY OF @SIMONEBILES ON INSTAGRAM

Bobby Finke is a gold medal winner for his performance in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. At the 2024 Paris Olympics, he won one gold and one silver medal. PHOTO COURTESY OF @TEAMUSA ON INSTAGRAM

There's nothing quite like the thrill of the Olympics: the best of the best from all over the world competing in some of the most challenging, hardcore and physically taxing athletics of all time.

What's not to love? This year was no different as the world's favorites met in Paris for a battle of the ages. From Katie Ledecky to Simone Biles and Noah Lyles, this year was jam-packed with world records and heart-stopping moments.

Viewers rarely left the edge of their seats as every event was a nail-biter.

In the pool, all eyes were on 14-time Olympic medalist Katie Ledecky and Bobby Finke, a 2023 University of Florida graduate and four-time Olympic medalist. Unfortunately for the rest of the world, no swimmer stood a chance in the 1500m freestyle against these two.

For Ledecky, who is often pictured so far ahead of her competitors they can't even be seen on the screen, everyone else was competing for second place.

Ledecky not only holds the 19 fastest times for the event, but she added another gold to her resume this summer and broke her Olympic record with a near-impossible time of 15:30.02.

The closest the others could get to Ledecky was 10 seconds in her wake. France's Anastasiia Kirpichnikova earned silver in the event and finished in 15:40.35.

For Finke, he earned a spot with the greats. Freestyle was his claim to fame as he earned gold in the 1500m free and silver in the 800m free.

The young star also followed in the footsteps of Ledecky to secure a world record in the 1500m free, just as Ledecky had done a few days prior. For the

train- ing partners, they left their competitors fighting for silver and playing a game of catch-up as they both led the entirety of their races.

There wasn't a dull moment on the track. From world records to blunders and everything in between, the events forced the athletes to perform to perfection.

Unfortunately, the men's 4x100m relay will have to wait another four years for a chance at global glory as they continue what some call a "medal drought."

The devastation came early as first leg Christian Coleman slammed into teammate Kenny Bednarek on the first exchange.

Bednarek left too early for the handoff and was forced to slow down as Coleman then caught up and immediately collided with his teammate. Not only was Team USA playing a game of catch-up as they fell far behind their opponents, but their exchange was a cause of concern.

While the relay runners didn't break the cardinal rule, — don't drop the baton — they did commit another grave mistake: leaving the handoff zone.

Due to this error, the relay was promptly disqualified after the race due to the illegal handoff.

Although the men's 4x100m relay hasn't seen the podium since their silver finish in the 2004 Athens Games, they'll have to wait another four years.

Despite a relay blunder, Team USA made up for the mistake tenfold.

That same day, the women's 4x100m had a gold medal photo finish.

In the 2020 Tokyo Games, Team USA finished second to Jamaica's all-star squad, but with many of their internationally recognized talent out due to injuries, all eyes fell to the US.

With global superstar Sha'Carri Richardson as the anchor leg, many knew it would be a finish to remember before the race began.

Although Richardson received the baton from third leg Gabby Thomas in the middle of the group, she shot past Great Britain and Germany to lead the pack with just meters left in the race.

In a classic photo finish, Richardson is captured glancing over at her opponents just meters before crossing the finish line to secure a gold medal.

With everything from gold medals to devastating mishaps on the track, the intensity was felt from every arena, especially gymnastics.

While Simone Biles was unquestionably the golden girl, she wasn't exempt from mistakes. Although many refer to her as the greatest gymnast of all time, the beam was a cause of concern this year as Biles herself took a fall.

Biles wasn't alone however, as her star teammate Sunisa Lee also took a serious fall and several others wobbled as well.

Despite errors, both Biles and Lee were well acquainted with the podium by the end of the Games as they earned seven medals between the two of them.

Not only did the gymnastics athletes reach new heights, but so did every member of Team USA as the group left the games with a combined 40 golds, 44 silvers and 42 bronzes.

## Photo of the Day | It's a Greek life



**Greek Life groups recruiting new members on Fairfield Way. Combined, all Greek Life organizations at UConn contain over 2,300 members.** PHOTO BY NATHAN GALICINAO, GRAB

PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# BIG EAST RATIFIES NEW TELEVISION DEAL: WHAT UCONN FANS NEED TO KNOW

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

In June, Big East Conference officials announced a new media rights agreement that introduces changes to how University of Connecticut athletic contests are broadcast on television. The six-year deal goes into partial effect this fall with coverage on a variety of new channels. “Our new agreement that provides coverage by Fox Sports, NBC Sports and Turner Sports will allow the Big East to maintain our already high level of national broadcast and cable exposure,” Daniel Hendrickson, Big East conference director and president of Creighton University, said in a press statement. “The arrangement will provide enhanced revenue and long-term stability for the conference, create benefits for our student-athletes and allow us to remain nationally competitive in our marquee sport — basketball,” he added.

Fans looking to enjoy Big East basketball games can keep their TV sets tuned to Fox Sports networks this season, and for at least 80 regular season and postseason contests next season on Fox affiliates (locals WTIC channel 61 and EGGB channel 40.2 - HuskyVision channel 9) and cable channels FS1 and FS2 (HuskyVision channels 39.1 and 39.2). Fox will also broadcast the Big East men’s basketball tournament final game.

NBC Sports and Turner Sports will also air Big East

games for the first time as part of the agreement. Starting this fall, 25 regular season men’s basketball dates will be livestreamed on Peacock, NBC’s paid platform. For the 2025-26 season, NBC will present over 60 men’s and women’s games and tournament semifinals. Depending on the schedule, viewers can watch these games on NBC stations (locals WVIT channel 30 and WWLP channel 22 - HuskyVision channel 4) and cable channel Comcast Sportsnet Boston (HuskyVision channel 13).

“Big East basketball is among the most prestigious in all of college sports, and we’re proud to be able to feature the men’s and women’s teams across NBC platforms,” said NBC Sports President Rick Cordella on the deal.

Turner’s cable channels, TNT (HuskyVision channel 26), TBS (HuskyVision channel 20) and Tru TV (HuskyVision channel 66) will also show more than 65 regular season basketball games, in addition to their current NCAA March Madness and Final Four presentation shared with CBS.

Other UConn sports will be broadcast on various platforms. Men’s and women’s soccer, volleyball, field hockey, men’s and women’s lacrosse, softball and baseball will be presented on Big East FloSports, a paid streaming service. Non-conference

and exhibition games will be aired on Connecticut TV network, the Wax (locals WWAX channel 27 and GFSD channel 3.4) and livestreamed on the UConn Plus webpage for free.

UConn home football games will be broadcast primarily on cable channel CBS Sports Network (HuskyVision channel 67) this season, with one game on WFSB (local channel 3).

A variety of stations and bygone networks have presented UConn sports and content over the years. Connecticut Public Television produced the first TV broadcasts of UConn women’s basketball and continued for over 20 years until 2012 when the rights were sold to New York-based cable channel SNY, a move that sparked controversy from fans and media leaders. Sometimes, disputes between networks and cable systems result in blackouts, and other times channels may not be available locally or on the same tier as other packages.

Students should consult their local cable operator for package deals and channel lineups. Many offer out-of-home streaming and a la carte channel selections. In the Storrs-Mansfield and Willimantic region, contact Charter-Spectrum for more details.

To compare streaming services, visit [suppose.tv](http://suppose.tv). For schedules and listings, visit [titantv.com](http://titantv.com) and [wwax.tv](http://wwax.tv).

INTRODUCING

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Daily

# Sports

# POINT COUNTERPOINT: EVALUATING UCONN'S POSSIBLE MOVE TO THE BIG 12

by Tyler Pruneau  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
HE/HIM/HIS  
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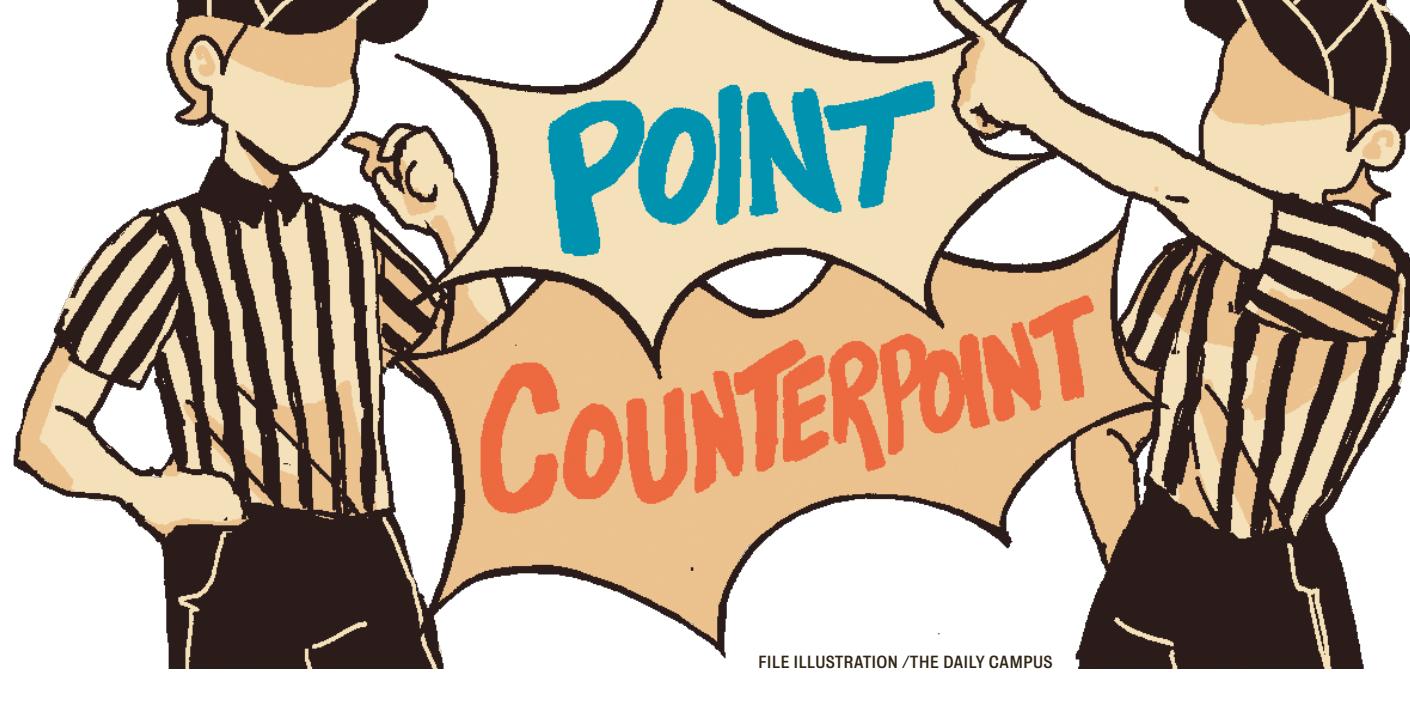
Over the last few weeks, massive talks have taken place in the college sports world about the University of Connecticut possibly moving on from the Big East conference to the Big 12 conference. There are many opinions about what UConn should do, but I am here to tell you that they should not join the Big 12 Conference. For starters, let's go back to 2013 when UConn moved to the American Athletic Conference. In 2014, the men's basketball team won their fourth national championship in program history. After that magical season, the team had a rough time getting back to where they would like to be. Come 2020, and the team returned

to the Big East, after a seven-year stint in the AAC. Connecticut owned a 142-98 record in that span.

Now, I am not saying that the 2024 UConn men's basketball team could not compete with Big 12 teams like the University of Kansas, because their recent tournament runs have proven that beyond a shadow of a doubt. More goes into deciding to move conferences than just switching overnight. This is a process that has long-term implications.

In 2020, when UConn decided to leave the AAC, Connecticut also had to pay an exit fee of \$17 million, \$10 million as the exit fee and \$7 million to leave the conference early. During UConn's time in the AAC, the football team had a hard time adjusting too. Football was a big reason for leaving, as they struggled to find success going 20-65 in the AAC. After leaving the AAC, the foot-

ball team became independent, and UConn focused solely on basketball. With that said, odds are that UConn football would have a difficult time in the Big 12 in their present state. There have been talks about the football team staying independent, getting better and joining the Big 12, but I do not think UConn should take the risk of moving to the Big 12 and possibly having to pay \$100 million to leave the conference if things do not go their way. Another reason UConn should not leave the Big East is the culture they bring to the conference. For years, UConn has been seen as the powerhouse in men's and women's basketball. The Huskies have played top-ranked teams, like Kansas, several times while in the Big East, so why leave the conference when they are already playing at a highly competitive level?



FILE ILLUSTRATION / THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Thaddeus Sawyer  
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For UConn, a move to the Big 12 would be centered on the possibility of gains in revenue sharing. Based on tax filings shared by USA Today, the Big 12 brought in \$510.7 million in 2023, distributing a total of \$470 million to its members. While they brought in the least revenue of any power conference and only beat out the now debilitated Pacific-12 conference in revenue sharing, those numbers still blow the Big East out of the water.

According to tax filings the Big East shared with the Marquette fan site Paint Touches, the Big East only brought in \$87.2 million in 2023, a slight decrease from 2022. UConn received the most in the Big East from revenue, sharing around \$6.3 million, which is still significantly less than the \$18 million that first-year members of the Big 12 received. While UConn would

have to pay an exit fee to the Big East and possibly a Big 12 entrance fee, if the Big 12 is truly motivated to add UConn basketball, they may be willing to waive this entry fee and/or help to pay out some of that exit fee.

Some may be worried that this move will have the same troubled fate of UConn's 2013 American Athletic Conference move. The women's basketball team suffered from an extreme lack of competition after the move, as they didn't lose a single conference game during the seven seasons they were part of the conference. However, five programs from the Big 12 made the final AP Top 25 in women's basketball last season. Creighton was the only other Big East team to be ranked, showing how UConn would actually face an uptick in conference competition. The men would see similar gains, as both 2023 and 2024 saw nine teams from the Big 12 (including those programs in a different conference at the time)

make it to March, while the Big East saw five in 2023 and only three in 2024. While Marquette and Creighton are also at the top of the Big East and Villanova has been one of the most successful teams in the last decade, the Big 12 is easily the more well-rounded conference. They too, have a slate of premier teams on top, including blue blood Kansas as well as Houston and Arizona.

Other sports would also benefit from this increased competition. For example, four Big 12 teams made the final baseball rankings from ESPN in 2024, while UConn was the only Big East team. Teams such as the field hockey team and both ice hockey teams would not be sponsored by the Big 12, meaning that they would most likely be able to continue as associate members in their existing conferences.

For the football program, the move would give them time to build up in increments. While UConn would join the Big 12 in all sponsored sports, the football

team would not start competing until the 2031 season, provided that certain benchmarks are met. An article written by Eric Olson for the Associated Press talks about Houston's home attendance of 74,000 for its first two games as a Big 12 member and was the highest attendance they'd ever reached. Ticket sales were up by almost 8,000 from the year before and donations increased by 45%. Higher attendance would not only help to fill the stadium, but also justify renovating the aging Rentschler Field. Donations would help with both this cause and raising NIL for improved recruits. It is also hypothetically possible that UConn could see two separate surges in donors: one when they initially join the Big 12 and another once they begin to play in the conference. Overall, a move to the Big 12 would not only benefit UConn basketball and other sports competitively, but potentially help out football financially.

## WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

### UCONN SCOREBOARD



1      0  
Women's Soccer  
Sunday

### Upcoming Games



Men's Soccer, 7 p.m. Thursday  
Storrs, Conn.



Women's Volleyball,  
7 p.m. Friday  
Storrs, Conn.

### INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconn  
First day of school!

### TWEETS OF THE DAY



Matthew Leb  
@Leb\_Zepelins

The Big 12 in 7 years when they have to carry UConn's football program and the basketball program has been ran into the ground by Bill Murray's kid while Hurley coaches the Knicks