

The Daily Campus

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Friday, August 30, 2024

From Stamford to Storrs, UConn students are back on campus



Students and parents move in to the many residence halls around campus at the start of the 2024-2025 academic year. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONN INSTAGRAM



Student moving in to the new Connecticut Hall residence hall. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONN INSTAGRAM

by Gabriel Duffany
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Across all campuses, the University of Connecticut has begun the 2024-2025 academic year in earnest, opening dormitories, dining halls and lecture halls alike to a record-setting population of new and returning students.

Of the nearly 60,000 applications received this year, 6,500 students were accepted for admission, composing the largest freshman class of UConn's 143-year history.

With the induction of the class of 2028, the total population of UConn has ascended to a collective 24,900 undergraduate students, with 19,800 on the Storrs campus alone. For historical comparison, the undergraduate student body is roughly equivalent to the population of New York City circa 1776, marking a similarly revolutionary period for the University of Connecticut as an institution.

How is the undergraduate community reacting to the end

of the summer months? The prevailing emotions from many are excitement underscored by the stressful reminders of impending scholastic rigor.

Voicing the sentiments of many undergraduates, third-semester student Giresun Cakrak stated that the pressures of living at home have now shifted to those of a difficult course load.

"Coming here was moving from one stress to another stress," said Cakrak.

Not all changes have been negative, however, for those returning to campus. A sense of opportunity for the future and fond memories from the past have informed the excitement of those eager for the beginning of a new semester.

"I was a lot more excited to move in than I was my first year since I knew the campus better," said Cakrak. "As you keep moving in, you grow your space and your community, not just in your major but your friends, professors, and the spaces around campus you have to relax. And having a nicer room definitely helps."

For the incoming class of first-year students making their introductory acquaintance to UConn living, navigating the college process is an endeavor of heightened nervousness and boundless potential.

First-semester student Youchen Zhou summarized his experience of coming not only to a new school, but to a new country, as a prospect of personal growth.

"I was a little bit scared for what to expect in a new life," said Zhou. "One day, I knew, I must live away from my parents and be myself. The greatest emotion I had was expectation."

Although feelings may be mixed for students adapting to the new school year, the future of the university and of the individuals who call it home are unprecedented.

To the advice of Daily Campus writer Clyde D'Souza, "Moving in is only the first part of settling in; the process is not complete until you build a community within your dorm, your floor and throughout campus."

UConn College Democrats launch a new coalition in preparation for the upcoming election

by Karla Perez
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The executive team of UConn College Democrats has launched a coalition called UConn Students for Harris with a goal to mobilize support for the candidate and encourage voter registration.

Thomas Craig, the president of Stamford College Democrats, collaborated with the Storrs campus team to create this coalition. Their plans primarily consist of outreach to the University of Connecticut community and local areas via phone calls and social media.

According to Emily Grayson, a fifth-semester political science major on the pre-law

track and the president of UConn College Democrats, the coalition will host organizing calls and do virtual phone banking to gather voter data and get information on how they can help people vote. This will help ensure that as many people are familiar and comfortable with the voting process as possible.

One goal for the coalition is to "show people a more personalized background" of Kamala Harris and Tim Walz, said Grayson. The team aims to remind people that Harris and Walz come from humble backgrounds. The coalition will also highlight the major issues Harris and Walz plan to tackle and outline how those plans will affect regular people and students.

Ryan Rosario, a fifth-semester political science and Latin American studies major and the vice president of UConn College Democrats, said that another long-term goal of the coalition is to keep young voices in policy discussions.

"If we can build energy around getting [Harris] elected, I want to keep that energy around lowering tuition costs in the state and building affordable housing - things that are really important to people that are young," he said.

UConn College Democrats is an organization that focuses on garnering support for local and national elections. They host various events such as voter registration drives, phone banking and speaker series. Some of the guests the organization is expecting this year include Senator Chris

Murphy and Congressman Joe Courtney.

For students interested in joining UConn College Democrats or want to get involved in the UConn Students for Harris coalition, the executives will be tabling at the Involvement Fair on Wednesday, Sept. 4 from 2-6 p.m. There is also a GroupMe linked in their Instagram bio that students can request to join.

When people are added to the GroupMe, they are joining UConn College Democrats. Involvement in UConn Students for Harris is accessible but not required to be in the organization, according to Grayson.

Further information on special events can also be found on their Instagram, @uconnndems.



Kamala Harris steps off her campaign bus in Savannah, GA. PHOTO BY JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP PHOTO

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THE DAILY CAMPUS
8 AM BLAST
NEWSLETTER

News

Boar's Head plant linked to deadly outbreak broke food safety rules dozens of times, records show



The entrance sign to the Boar's Head processing plant. PHOTO BY STEVE HELBER/AP PHOTO



The entrance to the Boar's Head processing plant. PHOTO BY STEVE HELBER/AP PHOTO

A Boar's Head deli meat plant in Virginia tied to a deadly food poisoning outbreak repeatedly violated federal regulations, including instances of mold, insects, liquid dripping from ceilings, and meat and fat residue on walls, floors and equipment, as newly released records show.

Government inspectors logged 69 instances of "non-compliance" with federal rules in the past year, including several in recent weeks, according to documents released through federal Freedom of Information Act requests.

Inspections at the plant have been suspended and it will remain closed "until the establishment is able to demonstrate it can produce safe product," U.S. Department of Agriculture officials said in a statement Thursday. Boar's Head officials halted production at the Jarratt, Virginia, plant in late July.

The plant has been linked to the deaths of at least nine

people and hospitalizations of about 50 others in 18 states. All were sickened with listeria after eating Boar's Head Provisions Co. Inc. deli meats. The company recalled more than 7 million pounds of products last month after tests confirmed that listeria bacteria in Boar's Head products were making people sick.

Between Aug. 1, 2023, and Aug. 2, 2024, inspectors found "heavy discolored meat buildup, meat overspray on walls and large pieces of meat on the floor." They also documented flies "going in and out" of pickle vats and "black patches of mold" on a ceiling. One inspector detailed blood puddled on the floor and "a rancid smell in the cooler." Plant staff were repeatedly notified that they had failed to meet requirements, the documents showed.

"I think it is disgusting and shameful," said Garshon Morgenstein, whose 88-year-old father died July 18 from a listeria

infection traced to Boar's Head liverwurst. "I'm just even more in shock that this was allowed to happen."

The plant was inspected by Virginia officials through a partnership with the U.S. Food Safety and Inspection Service. When problems were found, Boar's Head took "corrective actions in keeping with FSIS regulations," officials said. Federal reports show no enforcement actions against Boar's Head between January and March, based on the latest records available.

The documents, first reported by CBS News, didn't contain any test results that confirmed listeria in the factory. The bacteria thrive on floors, walls and drains, in cracks and crevices and hard-to-clean parts of food processing equipment. Pests such as flies can easily spread the bacteria through a plant and the germ can survive in biofilms — thin, slimy collections of bacteria that are diffi-

cult to eradicate.

Officials with Boar's Head did not respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press, but a spokesperson told CBS that the company regrets the impact of the recall and prioritizes food safety. On its website, the company said all the issues raised by government inspectors were addressed immediately.

Barbara Kowalczyk, director of the Institute for Food Safety and Nutrition Security at George Washington University, said the records raise a lot of red flags.

"It makes me wonder why additional actions weren't taken by management of that company and the regulators," she said.

Donald Schaffner, a Rutgers food science and safety expert who reviewed the inspection documents, said reports of condensation throughout the plant are concerning because that's a known risk factor for listeria.

"The fact that they are having the same problems over and over again weeks apart is an indication that they're really struggling to keep up with sanitation," Schaffner said.

Listeria infections cause about 1,600 illnesses and about 260 deaths per year, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. People older than 65, those who are pregnant or who have weakened immune systems are most vulnerable.

Bill Marler, a Seattle lawyer who has sued companies over food poisoning outbreaks, said the conditions described in the inspections reports were the worst he's seen in three decades.

Garshon Morgenstein said his father bought Boar's Head products because of the company's reputation.

"For the rest of my life, I have to remember my father's death every time I see or hear the name Boar's Head," he said.

The Daily Campus

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Photo (Meetings at 10 p.m.)

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

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The Daily Campus Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Unflattering press for a celeb
- 6 Fries, e.g.
- 10 Owned
- 13 On a cruise
- 14 Ridicule
- 16 2019 March Madness champs
- 17 “Call Me Maybe” or “Operator (That’s Not the Way It Feels)”?
- 20 BTS genre
- 21 Done deal
- 22 Tony winner Hagen
- 25 NFL three-pointers, for short
- 27 “Popular” or “Fashion!”?
- 28 “Sound of da Police” or “The Artist in the Ambulance”?
- 32 Figure, briefly
- 33 Lebanese capital
- 34 Art stand
- 38 “Midnight Train to Georgia” or “Chattanooga Choo Choo”?
- 42 Griswold of the “National Lampoon’s Vacation” films
- 43 Adidas addition
- 45 Undecided initials
- 48 “Sittin’ in the Sun (Countin’ My Money)” or “Can’t Buy Me Love”?
- 50 “I’m Too Sexy” or “Summer in the City”?
- 54 Antioxidant juice brand
- 55 Some mantras
- 56 Puzzles
- 58 “Success!”
- 61 “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” or “Talkin’ Baseball”?
- 66 Actress Ryan
- 67 Watch rim
- 68 Wood finish
- 69 Equal
- 70 Actor’s compilation
- 71 Explored a national park, perhaps

DOWN

- 1 Item used at home
- 2 Used (up)
- 3 Fiber alternative

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12
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61							62				63	64	65
66				67						68			
69						70					71		

By Ella Dershowitz

8/30/24

- 4 Cheat at cards, say
- 5 Reneé of the “Mean Girls” musical
- 6 Like bumper-to-bumper traffic
- 7 “Amsterdam” novelist McEwan
- 8 Union ___
- 9 The blahs
- 10 Commotion
- 11 Maker of Healthy Start Newborn skin products
- 12 Moved unpredictably
- 15 Spoil
- 18 Long Island university that has hosted several presidential debates
- 19 Ran into
- 22 Common port type
- 23 Cake part
- 24 Opera solo
- 26 Arrive quietly
- 29 Actor Stoltz
- 30 Void’s partner
- 31 Roam (about)
- 35 Bad marks
- 36 Sea eagle
- 37 Not followed
- 39 Crystal ball, e.g.

Thursday’s Puzzle Solved

M	O	S	S		F	A	C	T		S	K	I	T		
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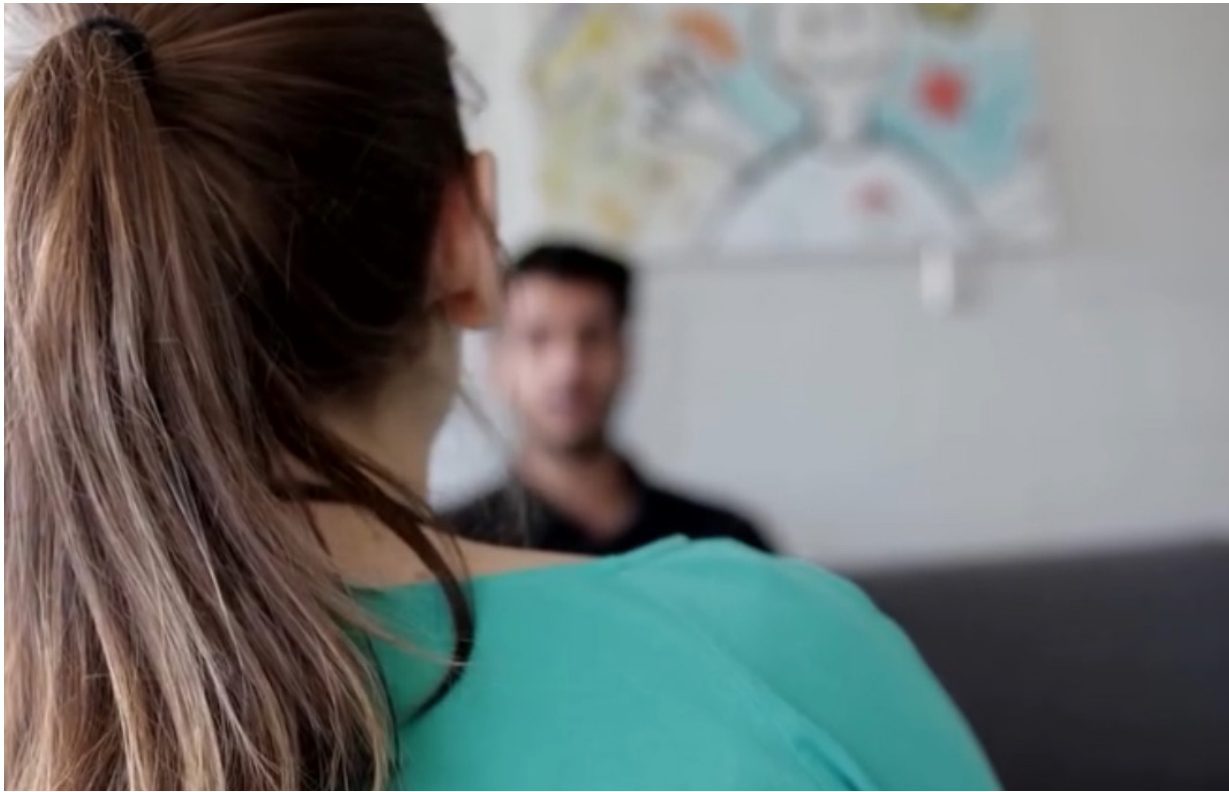
8/30/24

- 40 Pixar film set on the Day of the Dead
- 41 Longtime “Project Runway” host Heidi
- 44 GRE org.
- 45 Title role for Geena Davis
- 46 Tougher to fillet, perhaps
- 47 Not much, colorwise
- 49 “Spill!”
- 51 Period
- 52 Film trivia site
- 53 More red
- 57 Coffee specification
- 59 “Spill!”
- 60 Averse to
- 62 Neckline shape
- 63 Nickelodeon slime
- 64 Fabrication
- 65 Sew up

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SHaW offers mental health office hours with “Let’s Talk” program



A woman at SHaW, the Student Health and Wellness center at UConn, talking to a counselor.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNSTUDENTHEALTH ON INSTAGRAM

by Dan Stark
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The University of Connecticut’s Student Health and Wellness (SHaW) offers numerous resources and services for the health and wellness of UConn students, including mental health resources. One of the options available for students is the free “Let’s Talk” mental health office-hours program.

With the program, students can meet with a registered clinician at any time for a quick session, usually about 15 to 20 minutes in length to discuss what’s on their mind and get support.

These informal consultations are conducted on a drop-in, first-come-first serve basis, similar to how professors’ office hours operate. Unlike the individual therapy sessions offered by SHaW, no appointment is necessary and is not a regularly scheduled meeting.

Sessions are held five days a week and feature a weekly rotation of different providers. For the fall semester, sessions are being held at the Jamie Homero Arjona Building, the Hilda May Williams Building (SHaW’s main building), the Student Union and the Wilbur Cross Building. Information about locations and clinicians available each day are updated weekly on SHaW’s website.

The program has been run

by SHaW for the last decade and took inspiration from a program of the same name offered at Cornell University. The program provides a quick resource for non-crisis concerns and serves as an introduction to therapy for students new to it and other more formal mental health treatment methods.

“Let’s Talk creates space for students to seek immediate support for non-crisis concerns,” said Kristina Stevens, director of mental health at SHaW. “Clinicians support students in need before they reach the level of crisis. In addition, Let’s Talk contributes to our social justice mission by reducing barriers to mental health services for students who may be less likely to seek formal mental health treatment.”

Stevens noted that mental health and well-being “has not always been viewed as a priority, or even a need” among college students, but Let’s Talk and other programs exist to increase awareness of taking care of mental health.

“It may be something that students haven’t had access to or had the opportunity to talk about. In addition, navigating our own healthcare can be overwhelming or confusing,” Stevens added. “The entire SHaW team is there to help and there are a lot of ways to engage and access care and support.”

Stevens said that students

looking for advice on a specific problem, looking to connect with other mental health resources or are seeking advice about how to support their friend’s mental health could benefit from attending a Let’s Talk.

Stevens further emphasized the importance of students using the multitude of resources made available through SHaW to take proper care of their mental health, citing the stressors and challenges that come from college life and navigating through unfamiliar obstacles.

“College can be both exciting and stressful,” she said. “It comes with new opportunities and increased demands. With all that students have going on, prioritizing their health and well-being is incredibly important.”

Stevens also said that while students should attend Let’s Talk sessions, they are still encouraged to explore the formal counseling offered by SHaW as well.

For more information about Let’s Talk and the mental health resources offered by SHaW, visit studenthealth.uconn.edu/lets-talk/.

HOW TO SPEND TIME BETWEEN CLASSES



Photo Courtesy of UConn Instagram

by Desirae Sin
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After experiencing your first week at the University of Connecticut, you might have a schedule where your classes have large gaps of time between them each day. Going back to your dorm might not be an option if it's far from your classes, so here are some recommendations and things to do on campus while waiting for your next class.

Eat!

One thing that every student must do is eat. A rumbling stomach can be embarrassing in the middle of class. To avoid this scenario, students should turn to the many dining halls around campus.

The closest ones to the middle of campus are South, Connecticut and McMahon. Of course, each one varies in quality and accessibility. South is usually a safe option, as their international section is the highlight of anybody's lunch. McMahon's menu is fancier and on pre-made plates, so while the dishes are nicer, the portions are smaller than what people prefer. Connecticut Dining Hall is the newest addition, so students can enjoy the latest furniture, cuisine and environment.

The Student Union's food court is very crowded in the

middle of the day, as everyone already knows they're going to be trying to get a snack before their next class. Be familiar with your professor's office and what hours are available.

Each of the academic buildings houses the various departments at UConn. For example, Susan V. Herbst Hall is the busiest shops ample, Susan V. Herbst Hall on any given day.

Study/Homework
It can be difficult to wind down on days with classes. The Henry Ruthven Monteith To maintain momentum and building consists of mostly of adrenaline, students can find the math department and any various study rooms around campus to work in. The Utilize your professors' Homer Babbidge Library open periods to ask them and Wilbur Cross Building questions. It could be on are popular destinations for homework, long term assignments searching for sements or for any way to boost lence. The study rooms in the your grade. Most are accom-

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and take their time to admire the scenery and catch up. The Great Lawn — located along Storrs Road and by the Phillip E. Austin Building — is a prime sun-tanning spot for those lacking in vitamin D. The weather in Storrs is not always cooperative, so buildings like the Student Union or the UConn Bookstore have chairs and tables to relax inside.

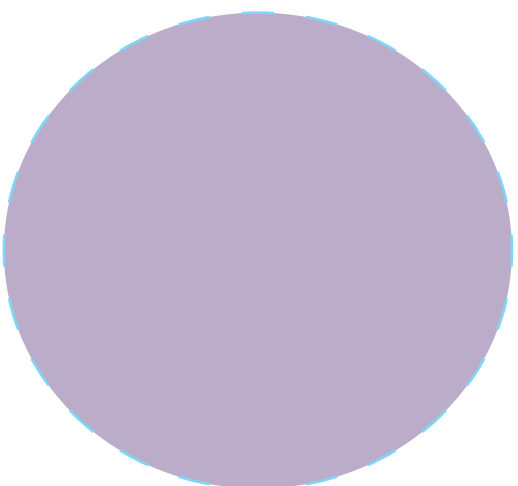
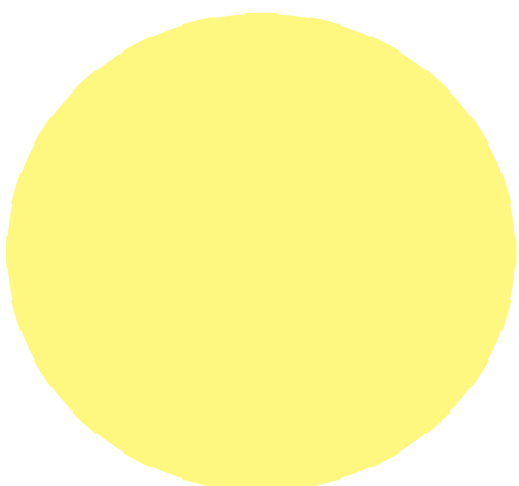
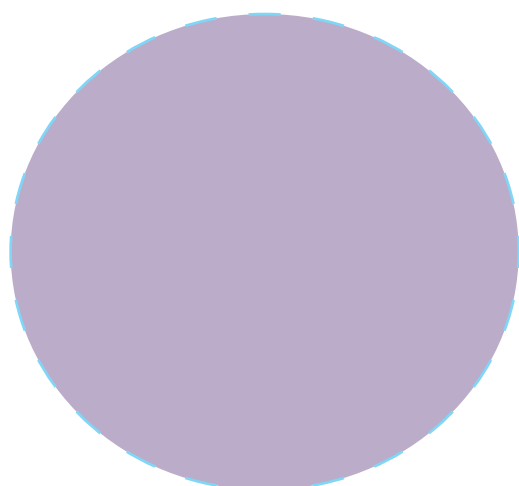
Use the Recreation Center

For some, group projects are the worst part about college. Screaming your lungs out at them isn't an option, so use one of the main attractions on campus, the Rec Center.

Depending on how much time you have between classes, you might have the chance to work up a sweat at the Rec Center. Each floor offers various types of workouts. The first and second floors offer cardio and other types of machines, each one exercising a specific muscle or area of the body. Timing is key at the Rec, with some hours of the day having more people than others.

The Rec Center app shows the building's capacity at any given time; aiming for 20 percent to 40 percent capacity will usually have enough open machines for everyone. Anything about 50 percent or 60 percent is a risk as you'll have to wait for machines to open, or will be asked by other students how many reps you have left.

The track is on the top floor and the climbing center can be accessed on the first floor. Both are great options if there aren't enough machines or if you just want a light workout.

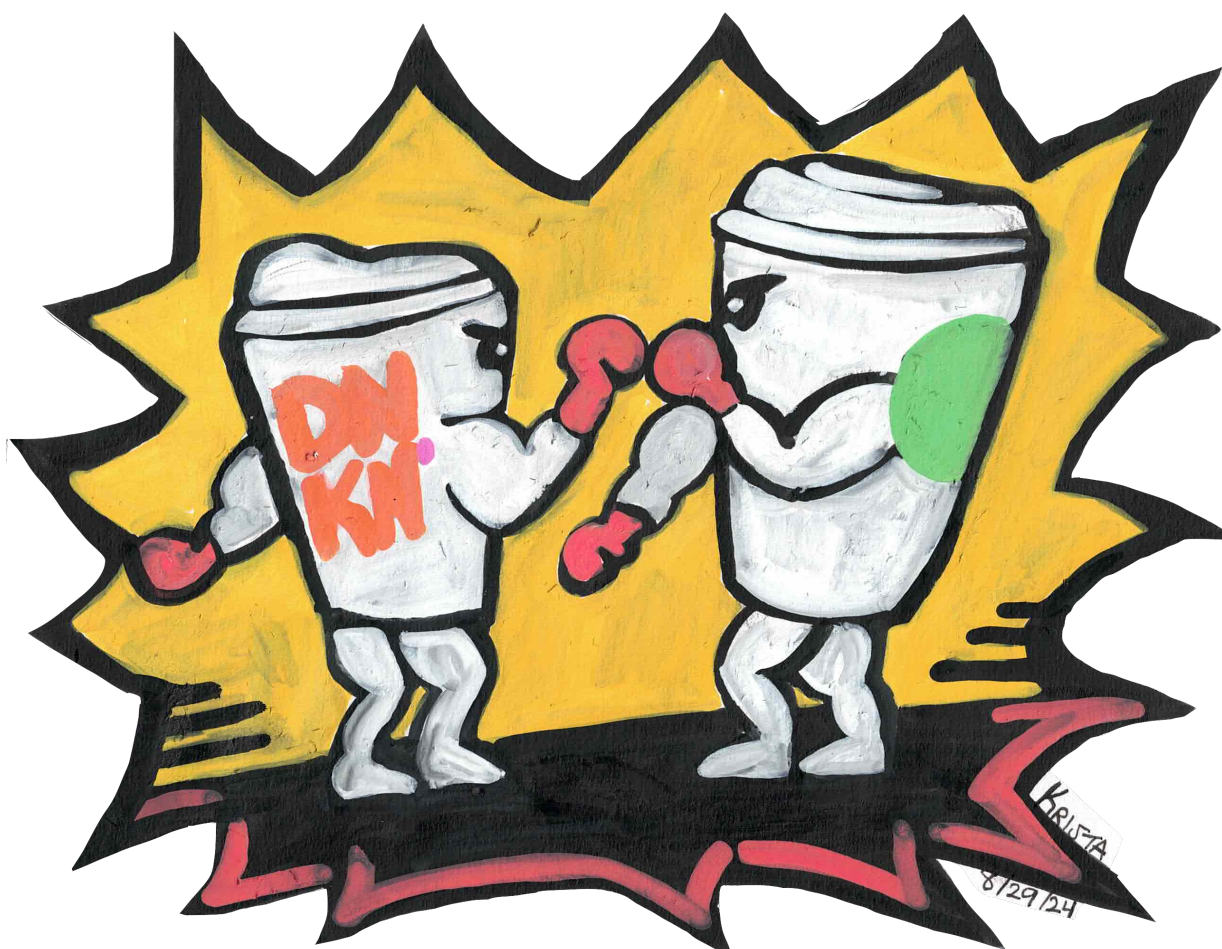




Life

@dailycampuslife

Life Section Roundtable: Starbucks or Dunkin'?



CARTOON BY KRISTA MITCHELLE, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Patrick Boots

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There are a couple of reasons to join in on this debate, but the truth is they're in different leagues.

Dunkin' offers a wide selection of sandwiches, snacks and bakery items, in addition to their doughnuts. There are many hot and iced choices, brews of different styles, specialty drinks and the crown jewel of cocoa — the Dunkaccino (which was sadly discontinued in 2023).

Starbucks locations are not licensed the same way, making their food prepackaged. The selections are non-customizable but can be tasty. I liked the black and white cookies, but they discontinued them — please bring them back, Starbucks Siren!

When it comes to drinks, Starbucks subscribes to their own size naming scheme — with

“Short,” “Tall,” “Grande” and so on. What happened to “Small,” “Medium” and “Large”? It's not too bad, but a learning curve for me. At least I can share an anecdote: When I visited Seattle, I could see Starbucks branch locations in every cardinal direction as far as the eye can see (each had a line out the door — we decided to patronize a local java shop that day). But, I guess you could say the same for Dunkin' if Boston was on the horizon. Maybe it's due to the proximity that Connecticut has a lot more Dunkin' locations.

All the same, I enjoy a Summer Berry Refresher and a lemon pound cake from Starbucks, but Dunkin' is a New England staple and is the clear winner for any cafe needs. It's time to make the doughnuts!

by Henry St. Pierre

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As a full-blooded New Englander, it would be blasphemous to suggest anything but Dunkin' as the go-to for breakfast and coffee. While Starbucks may have the fancier drinks (which is, of course, entirely dependent on one's definition of “fancy”), Dunkin' will remain on top for its simplicity.

Aside from the restaurant itself, the location on campus is another thing that I favor.

As someone who spends most of their waking hours in and around the Student Union, having a Dunkin' always within arm's reach is fantastic. Being able to satisfy my growing caffeine addiction or simply impulsively spend a few dollars on a sweet treat late at night is a gift like no other.

To any non-New Englanders who will read this with mild concern at the borderline obsession with Dunkin' evident here, I simply offer five words: you don't get it, man.

by Dan Stark

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Maybe this is me channeling my time as an opinion columnist and being a hater, but I've never understood the hype around either of these places. While the coffee and beverage options at both locations are plentiful, they are mediocre at best half the time and simply not worth the ever-increasing prices. I also find the hot breakfast options at both places simply not worth the cost for a small breakfast sandwich, leaving any college student looking for fuel in the morning still searching.

The one positive I will offer is that the donuts at Dunkin' are still immaculate, which makes sense since they were known as Dunkin' Donuts for a long time. And that doesn't even include the fan-favorite Munchkins, arguably the best thing that has come out of either franchise.

If you want a better coffee option, buy a Keurig and make it yourself. You'll save a ton of money by not having to buy coffee every day and you won't have to wait in the ridiculous lines that form in the mornings. With that said, I would still recommend going to get a donut or some Munchkins as a sweet treat.

by Desirae Sin

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The backbone of both restaurants is their coffee, or array of iced and hot beverages. As someone who is extremely lactose intolerant and can't handle caffeine, my judgement stems from their food. The breakfast items from Starbucks might be a bit fancier than Dunkin', but my wallet thanks me for my frugal nature.

For those who are willing to choose quantity over quality, Dunkin' is your best bet. Running from class-to-class leaves students starving and needing to eat something quickly. With

how simple the dishes from Dunkin' are, it's easy to stop by the Union and order a few wake-up wraps or donuts. Personally, I either get the bacon or sausage wake-up wraps with a chocolate covered donut as a treat.

But what really sets Dunkin' apart from Starbucks for me is their Munchkins. To this day, a box of Munchkins is the only thing that can pull me out of my slumps. After attending classes and dealing with Hartford traffic, Dunkin's Munchkins are the highlight of my day. Yes, my day is very sad.

by James Fitzpatrick

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The quality disparity between these two brands is undeniable. Say what you will — and I know multiple people who will stand by Dunkin' — but I am part of “Team Starbies.” The interior flair and overall image of Dunkin' is instantly recognizable, though it has remained largely the same over the years. The same can be said for Starbucks, as evidenced by a 20-year-old photo of myself as a baby taken at a table with my father and grandfather, which proves something else.

Dunkin's operation is all about speed: getting customers their coffee and treats so they can get on with their day essentially summarizes their slogan. Locations weasel their way into anywhere franchisees see fit,

and there's rarely the 20-minute wait often seen at a Starbucks drive-thru. Contrary to Dunkin', Starbucks wants their customers to stay within their property as long as possible, even offering free Wi-Fi like the equally upscale Panera Bread.

That segues into my final point: price. Hot coffee boils down to be similar across both brands, but Starbucks takes the edge on iced and premium drinks. Considering their price gap is thinning, why not go for a refresher with real berries or a cold brew without a whole cup of ice? I'm also salty towards Dunkin' for recently substituting my \$2 donut with a measly three Munchkins; I may as well have bought a Starbucks cake pop. Therefore, Dunkin' gets the job done, but Starbucks takes the cake... pop!

by Thatcher Slocum

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Such an important question deserves serious consideration. Each establishment has different things going for it — Dunkin' is cheaper, opens earlier (great for my early-morning hikes) and, unsurprisingly, has a wider selection of donuts. Starbucks has a larger variety of better-tasting drinks and sandwiches that aren't floppy, unlike Dunkin's.

Dunkin' has sentimental appeal, being so ubiquitous in New England and almost redeeming the hour-long boredom of church with post-church doughnuts when I was young-

er. Images of angry doughnut monsters that were out to eat the kids who don't clean their mouths after devouring a delectable post-church donut were implanted straight from the imagination of my dad into the reality of my gullible five-year-old mind. Over the years, that terror transformed into deep nostalgia for Dunkin's doughnuts. It's still tragic to me that they did away with their alliterative Dunkin' Donuts brand — a rather terrible blow to Dunkin's prospects in this battle.

Yet, as sentimental as I am about New England pride and fond childhood memories, I like the taste and texture of Starbucks more. So, Starbucks it is.



Opinion

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COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Can a Harris-led Democratic Party withstand criticism?

by Tomas Hinckley | HE/HIM/HIS | OPINION EDITOR | tomas.hinckley@uconn.edu

Last week in Chicago was the fated Democratic National Convention where Vice President Kamala Harris was officially given the nomination to be the Democratic Party's candidate for the 2024 presidential election.

Throughout the four-day event hung an air of anticipation and curiosity, focusing on historical comparisons and judging whether this year would be a repeat of 1968 or 2008. Specifically, would this nomination of a young, moderate candidate divide the party or unite it? Others saw a resemblance to former Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton's campaign, with her focus on co-opting traditional Republican themes throughout the DNC. Still, there is one aspect that all these comparisons are missing that is best summed up with a reference to another political figure and their campaign: the 2016 Republican presidential nominee, Donald Trump.

There is a lot to unpack in such a statement, but the question primarily boils down to the similarities in the cultural phenomena between Harris' campaign and Trump's first campaign. In 2016, the American public witnessed an almost unprecedented rise to political power accompanied with the growth of his personality cult that has dominated the American political sphere ever since.

There was originally much contestation to his rise at the time, but once Trump took control of the party, there was no looking back and no questioning the direction he wanted to take. Now, Harris has come into power in a much different way, but fundamentally, the focus is still on her personality and there seems to be no room for dissent within the platform she has made.

This is due to the incredible campaign tactics and marketing of the Harris campaign. It was no secret that many people weren't exactly happy with President Joe Biden's decision to stay in the race during the first half of the year, which led to an extreme outburst of excitement when he finally withdrew and Harris, a younger mixed-race woman, was chosen to take the lead instead. In expert fashion, this was only compounded by the usage of pop culture by the Harris campaign through the strong image ties with Charli XCX's "Brat" album, Beyonce's hit song "Freedom" and finally, the Chappell Roan single "Feminomenon". It is no understatement to say that the overwhelming number of memes and clicks that came from these marketing rollouts genuinely overtook serious policy discussion and caused people to fall in love with Harris without real debate of her merits. Young people especially became extremely excited to see this new candidate in a way that aligned with their tastes and sense of humor. Plus, this movement was only supported by the continual floundering of the Republican Party, which took major hits from Vice Presidential nominee JD Vance's oddities, an association with Project 2025 and in general by the word "weird."

Now, this excitement has reached the point of a fever, one that pushes out all those who are hesitant to get on board. Although it has not yet reached the levels of MAGA obsession, it is stifling how much people, as well as the party structure itself, are willing to silence dissent to the rise of the new leader. In a rally just weeks ago, protesters were calling out Harris for the current administration's actions supporting the Israeli onslaught of Palestine and after a few minutes, she told them to stop talking unless "you want Donald Trump to win." The roars of the crowd which followed made clear that the people there unequivocally

took her side and did not care what these activists had to say. The DNC carried on in similar fashion as leaders of the pro-Palestinian Uncommitted movement were outright denied an opportunity to speak, and other media personalities, like Hasan Piker, were kicked out for choosing to platform criticisms of the party. Although this is clearly an issue that stands out as important to Americans and especially Democrats, among others which have also seen little policy talk, the fact is that it is not in her vision and that seems to be all that matters right now.

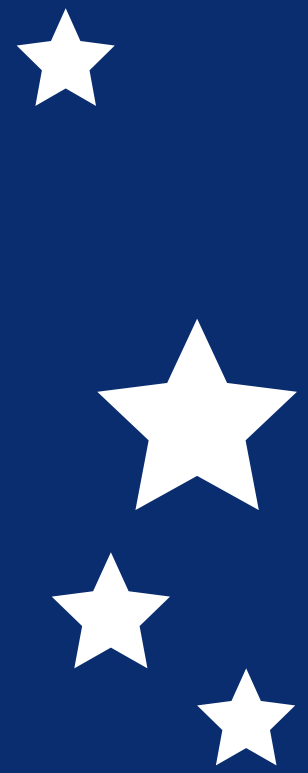
Now, all of this is not to say that Harris is a horrible person, an unqualified candidate, that I want to see Trump win and that people should not vote for Harris, or any other misconstruction of the point. Those things are simply not the focus right now. A lot of conservatives have also made similar criticisms recently that should not at all be related to my point here, since they too have followed their leader for the past eight years with a religious fervor that most Democrats right now could not dream of.

Instead, the focus should be on the hypocrisy of the Democratic Party, who at one point lambasted Republicans for the same things they are doing right now. The focus should be on the fact that there are genuine questions about Harris's past political career that deserve answers, but she has hesitated to speak in front of people and let them see who she actually is. The focus should be on the fact that she has the opportunity to put forth real policy that could help many Americans and prevent the slaughter of thousands of Palestinians, but she has chosen to take conservative positions on several of the most prominent issues in this election cycle and refuses to listen to anybody about it.

This is what is simply unacceptable and what is genuinely frightening about the choice in front of Americans this coming November.



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Opinion

Photo of the Day | Campus escapades



UConn Storrs, Connecticut Hall Aug. 27, 2024. Connecticut Hall is the newest residential hall and dining addition to the Storrs campus. PHOTO BY MERGER FERGUSON, PHOTO PRODUCER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

You don't have to share it, but you should have one:



by Grace Sim
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I feel like it is important to address the most controversial opinion I have grown to hold, and what better time to write about it than after contributing to the Opinion section for over two years? Looking back at my past articles, if you were ever interested in what I have been writing over the past two years, you might have noticed that I rarely write about politics or bring up sensitive topics that are likely to push someone's buttons. In fact, the most controversial and debatable article I have written is probably the one about enforcing leashes on dogs, which I still strongly stand by. However, I would like to argue that just because I do not write about certain topics does not mean that I do not hold any opinions or thoughts about them. In fact, for people like myself, if we were in a more private setting, we would probably be able to share some of our opinions, whether they are polarizing or more neutral.

Personally, writing strong opinions about a certain topic is difficult for many reasons. One of them is that a lot of our opin-

ions are not irreversible. Depending on the new information we acquire over time or a turn of events, there is a high chance that our views on certain topics may change. Even if we think it might not be likely to happen, as many of us firmly believe that people don't tend to change, life can be very unpredictable. Personally, thinking that your viewpoint is a permanent aspect of your character is a bold assumption. Especially with a written source like The Daily Campus, whatever you choose to publish can remain and follow you for the rest of your life. Another reason why it is sometimes better to hold off on giving your opinions is that there is a lot of fake news circulating on the internet. Many journalists focus on writing the most clickbait, juicy articles in a suspiciously short amount of time, only for the public to find out they were exaggerated and far from the truth days later. Unfortunately, with the massive help of social media platforms, anyone with an account can produce heavily forged content for the world to see and share. As someone who has fallen for this tactic, sharing an article that is later proven to be false on your social media is probably the

most embarrassing thing I have done with my account.

However, just because I prefer not to share does not mean I do not hold any thoughts on the matter. Constantly avoiding even the slightest opinion on the issues currently happening around the world is not, in my view, ideal. Simultaneously, you can be careful and still be a quiet opinionator. If you are not sure which stance to take, gathering enough information by staying updated on recent articles can help. Discussing with close people in your life and sharing each other's thoughts can also help build a solid, well-

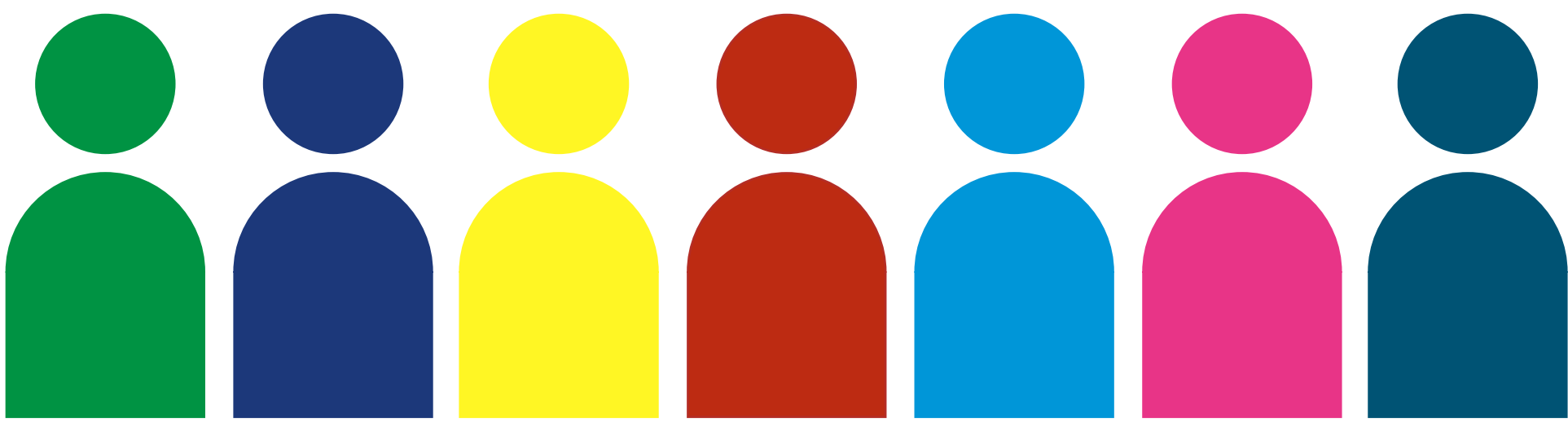
thought-out argument.

Keep in mind there are many resources to consult for controversial topics and there is no reason to pick just one side. Many global social conflicts are not black and white. It's not like in hero movies where only a certain group of people can be good while others are purely evil. It's far too many people and too long a history for those

to be just fragmentary issues.

While we have the freedom to express ourselves, we must also accept the responsibility that comes with it. Moreover, continuing the behavior of the "three wise monkeys"—or the practice of "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil"—will ultimately disadvantage your conscience and your understanding of the world.

GRAPHIC BY COLBI LORANGER, ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS





The excitement of the NFL's return

by **Ava Inesta**
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The 2024 NFL Season is just one week away. This fall starts off with the defending champions the Kansas City Chiefs at home, facing off against the Baltimore Ravens at 8:20 p.m. ET on NBC in a highly anticipated AFC Championship Game rematch. Apart from the opening games, there are so many reasons to be excited for this season of the NFL, so let's take a deep dive into all the reasons why.

1. Super Bowl Sunday

At this point, Super Bowl Sunday should be considered a national holiday. It is the most watched sports program in the United States, as it averages 123.4 million viewers across all platforms. Viewing is up seven percent versus last year's Super Bowl, which held the previous record of 115.1 million.

2. Jim Harbaugh

After nine years spent as the head coach of the University of Michigan and leading the Wolverines to a national championship this past season, Harbaugh is back in the NFL. He is a one-of-a-kind coach who is now leading the Los Angeles Chargers.

3. Jordan Love and the Packers

In the second half of last year's season, Jordan Love went from an unknown quarterback to a player who could be a star for Green Bay. This season, we will see if the Packers have found another franchise quarterback after Aaron Rodgers. It will be very interesting to see how Love makes his come back after last year.

4. Christian McCaffrey

One of, if not the most, iconic running back in the league has returned. Not to mention, he is also a fantasy football king that probably carries all of your teams, if you're lucky enough to draft him. McCaffrey is the usual first overall pick in most of the leagues and he can easily have another historic season for the San Francisco 49ers.

5. New York Football

The Jets and the Giants. Daniel Jones is back and the Giants added Malik Nabers from the draft this season. The Giants made a huge move in unretiring legend Ray Flaherty's number, so that Nabers can wear number one. If that doesn't tell you how special Nabers is, I don't know what will in short Giants fans should be excited. Flaherty's

number was the first to be retired in Pro Football History. As for the Jets, Aaron Rodgers seems to be good to go which makes the Jets all in for this season. With how good Sauce Gardner and Breece Hall are for the Jets and with Rodgers at the helm, is this season Super Bowl or bust for them?

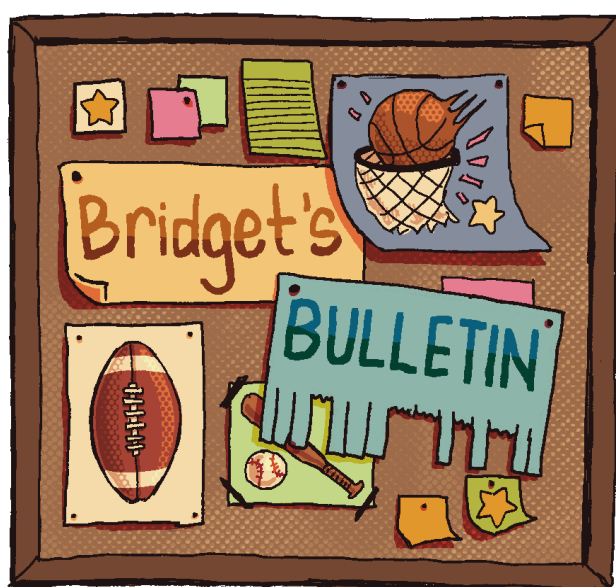
6. The dominant T.J. Watt

Watt of the Pittsburgh Steelers has won the sack title three of the past four years. This season, he should pass 100 career sacks. Watt will continue to be one of the must-watch defensive players in the league and the anchor of the Steelers.

8. Another season of Taylor Swift in Kansas City

The worldwide popstar has brought an entire new fanbase to the NFL, which is incredible for both sides. Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce's love story is still alive, and they are back for season two!

There are so many more notable players and teams making this upcoming NFL season so exciting. Will the Chiefs win their third Super Bowl in a row or will there be new champions crowned? All of the action will start next week, football is officially back!



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Football: UConn kicks off 2024 campaign in College Park

by **Bridget Bronsdon**
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UConn football is back and resilience is the name of the game. After a trying 2023 campaign resulting in a 3-9 finish, the Huskies are looking to reclaim their success.

Maryland will be the place to do so as Connecticut will aim for their first win of the season in College Park, and what better way to begin the year than with a fresh start? The last time the Terps and Huskies came face-to-face was in 2013 when UConn fell 21-32. Eleven years later, both teams have a dramatically different makeup, especially Connecticut.

Fresh out of training camp, the Huskies are looking sharp with new faces on the field and the coaching staff. Most notably, head coach Jim Mora has named Wisconsin transfer Nick Evers the starting quarterback in Saturday's matchup.

Evers made the switch to UConn last spring after spending the 2023 season at Wisconsin and the 2022 season with the University of Oklahoma. Though fans have yet to see Evers' arm talent and skill set on the field, Connecticut will hope to change last season's challenging narrative.

Evers will be joined on offense by a familiar face, Wisconsin's Skyler Bell. In 2023, the wide receiver nailed 38 receptions, 296 yards and one touchdown in his 12-game run at Wisconsin.

Alongside new talent, the Huskies will welcome familiar faces.

Running back Cam Edwards will also enter the spotlight. Last year, the redshirt sophomore led Connecticut in rushing with 618 yards, secured four touchdowns and averaged five yards per carry. In addition to Edwards, running back Victor Rosa was another essential leader and paired well with his colleagues' skills. In 2022, Rosa led the team with 11 touchdowns and had a team-best of 15 kick-off returns, earn-

ing 283 yards.

As for UConn's defensive line, they have their work cut out for them. Linebacker Jackson Mitchell, now with the Carolina Panthers, left behind big shoes to fill in his absence. Though there is some rebuilding to be done, UConn can begin with the 10 transfers joining the squad.

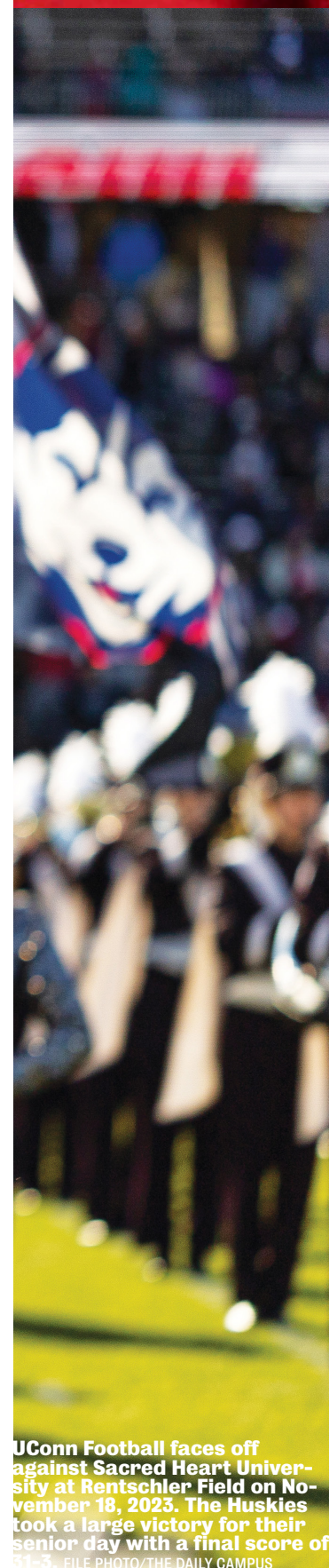
As for the Terps, they fell in the middle last fall, finishing 8-5 overall and 4-5 in the Big Ten conference. By the numbers of last season, UConn might give Maryland a run for their money, especially with so much unknown regarding Evers and the offensive line.

Although UConn fans will have to wait another week before heading to Rentschler Field, this weekend's season opener might be one to remember. Until then, the stage is set for the Huskies to earn their first victory on the road.

Kickoff is set for Saturday at noon in College Park, Md.

UConn Football faces off against Sacred Heart University at Rentschler Field on November 18, 2023. The Huskies took a large victory for their senior day with a final score of 31-3. FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Patrick Mahomes holding the Super Bowl trophy over his head after claiming the championship title. Mahomes has now won three separate Super Bowl trophies in his career. Photo courtesy of @Superbowl on Twitter



Sports

Photo of the Day |



UConn's very own Jonathan showing off at the men's soccer game at the Morrone stadium in Storrs, Conn. on Aug. 29, 2024. The mascot showed off its energy on the field as they announced all of the D1 sports teams. PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/DAILY CAMPUS

FANTASY FOOTBALL: FIVE BREAKOUT CANDIDATES FOR THE 2024 SEASON

by **Gavin Friedman**

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The kickoff to the NFL season is less than a week away, meaning fantasy football drafts are happening all over the country. There are many important strategies that go into a good fantasy football draft, but one of the most important ones is trying to find value in the middle and late rounds of the draft. Being able to find a diamond in the rough can help you win fantasy football championships; therefore, it is good to go into your draft with a few players in mind to target who could outperform their average draft position (ADP). Breakout candidates can be identified in several ways. Typically, a breakout candidate is a young player with lots of potential, someone with a great roster to support them or a combination of the two. With that in mind, here are five players who have a strong chance of having a breakout season in 2024.

Jayden Daniels, Washington Commanders

Daniels likely has the best chance among this year's rookie quarterbacks to succeed in fantasy in 2024. Daniels is a dual-threat talent, which is a valuable asset in fantasy football. With a similar playing style to Kyler Murray, Daniels should fit nicely into Kliff Kingsbury's offense. Murray was successful with Kingsbury as his head coach from 2019 to 2022, and hopefully Daniels can find the same success. Daniels can be drafted as a high-end QB2 in most leagues and could make it to your starting lineup later in

the season, especially in deep-el, he's ready for a career-best season.

Drake London, Atlanta Falcons

London has shown signs of being a great wide receiver in his first two seasons, but there were a few things in his way from making that a reality until now. London will finally be free from Arthur Smith's run-heavy offense. Plays will now be called by offensive coordinator Zac Robinson, a former staff member of the Los Angeles Rams from 2019-2023. During that period, the Rams ranked second in wide receiver target share. Additionally, London has dealt with mediocre quarterback play from the likes of Marcus Mariota, Desmond Ridder and Taylor Heinicke. This season will feature Kirk Cousins under center for Atlanta which will be a huge step up. Cousins was able to help bring Justin Jefferson to the elite status that he has now. While London may not be on Jefferson's level,

Zay Flowers, Baltimore Ravens

Flowers had a solid rookie season in 2023, but you can expect him to have an even better sophomore campaign. Flowers showed lots of potential, especially at the end of the season when he

scored more than 19 points in four of his final five games of the season. He should get plenty of passes thrown his way and should be one of the top pass catchers for Baltimore. Flowers also proved to be capable of producing after the catch with 45.6 percent of his receiving yards coming after the catch. When you add that to his potential increase in target share, it makes Flowers a low-end WR2 to high-end WR3 to start the season, but he could very well outperform these expectations. With an ADP of 61.5 on ESPN, he is a great pick in the fifth or sixth round with a ton of upside.

Dalton Kincaid, Buffalo Bills

Kincaid averaged 9.4 PPR points per game in his rookie season with the Bills. In year two, his team will be counting on him to take on a much bigger role in the offense after the departure of wide receivers Stefon Diggs and Gabe Davis.

vis. With Buffalo's wide receiver corps being led by Curtis Samuel, Keon Coleman and Khalil Shakir, Kincaid may become Josh Allen's top pass catcher this season. The former 2023 first round draft pick should be one of the most reliable players at the tight end position and has the potential to be one of the elite players at his position. With an ADP of 62.4, he is well worth taking at this point in the draft, even over George Kittle and Evan Engram, who have a similar ADP.

Jameson Williams, Detroit Lions

Williams has had a slow start to his NFL career after being one of the top wide receiver prospects in the 2022 NFL draft. He was sidelined for more than half of his rookie season due to the torn ACL he suffered in his final college football game. Last season, he was suspended for violating the NFL's gambling policy, which caused him to miss the first four games of the season. Williams did not have a huge role in the Lions offense in his first two seasons, but he appears to be ready to take on a bigger role in 2024. Williams has been a standout in training camp according to multiple reports and seems to be on a mission to show why he was such a high valued prospect coming into the NFL. He will face more competition for targets as Amon-Ra St. Brown and Sam LaPorta will get their share of passes. However, given the improvements that Williams has made, Detroit will hopefully try to get the ball to him more often. Williams is well worth one of your late round picks.



PHOTO COURTESY OF @RAVENS ON X

INTRODUCING

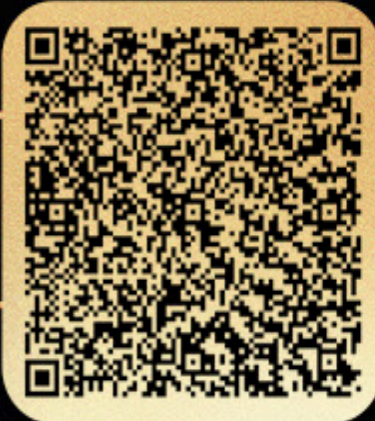
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Sports

Field Hockey:

Huskies kick off season against No. 13 Hawks

by Jackson Crainich
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Going into Paul Caddy's fifth season as the head coach of the field hockey team, the Huskies are looking for a bounce back season after a disappointing 2023 campaign, where they finished with a 2-5 record in conference and 5-13 overall. The expectations for Connecticut are high going into this

season, as the five-time national champions find themselves third in the Big East preseason coaches' poll, only behind nationally ranked Liberty and Old Dominion. While Liberty received four of the eight first-place votes, both UConn and Old Dominion received two first place votes, making the path to a Big East championship as competitive as ever.

The Huskies are led by junior midfielder Sol Simone, who was selected to the Big East First Team both her freshman and sophomore year and was a unanimous preseason Big East team selection.

Connecticut opens their 2024 campaign with a home matchup against the No. 13 Saint Joseph's Hawks. The Hawks are looking to build off their momentum from last season, where they finished with a 16-5 record and made it to the NCAA Tournament, falling in the first round to fifth ranked Virginia by a score of 2-1.

The Huskies and Hawks have only met one time previously, which came in last year's season opener.

Connecticut traveled to Philadelphia to open their season in

what was a, highly anticipated matchup. The Huskies opened the season as the No. 15 team in the country, and the Hawks came in at No. 11. UConn came up short, losing 2-0.

Connecticut is looking to make their mark and get back into the national rankings. If they want a shot at another national championship, this is a very important matchup and a win that would bring the Huskies right back into the national conversation. The program will have other moments throughout the course of

the season to prove themselves, with other nationally ranked opponents such as Harvard, Liberty and Old Dominion, but opening the

season with a win over the No. 13 team in the country is the perfect way to kick off the 2024 fall season.



UConn field hockey loses a close match against Rutgers with a score of 1-2 in double over-time on Sept 1, 2023. Their season record is now 1-2. FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Volleyball:

UConn looks to start the season strong as they head into weekend tournament

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After a difficult 2023 season that ended with an 8-22 record, the UConn women's volleyball team is looking to start the season strong as they head into the weekend. The Huskies are set to face Long Island University, Youngstown State University and Sacred Heart University.

Connecticut will bring a variety of new and returning players to this upcoming season. A key returning player is graduate student Taylor Pannell, who led the team with 81 blocks last season. She also ended the season with 218 kills and 13 service aces.

This season will also see the return of junior Emma Werkmeister. In the previous season,

she led the team in both total points scored and kills, with 340 kills and 392.5 points scored throughout the season.

The team will also introduce five new freshman players: McKenna Brand from Lucas, Texas, Dajah Williams from Williamstown, N.J., Anna Herman from Vincennes, Ind., Loren Winn from Dallas, Texas, Ashley Ballou from Eden N.Y. and transfer student Hanna Tylska from Navarro College in Corsica, Texas.

The Huskies will start the weekend by facing the Long Island Sharks for the second time in history on Friday, Aug. 30. The last time the Huskies faced LIU was in September 2007, where they won 3-1 at home. The Sharks ended last season with a 13-19 record and are looking to continue the momentum into

this season.

Next, the Huskies will take on Youngstown State for the first time ever. After a strenuous 2023 season where the Penguins finished with a 9-20 overall record, they will be looking to make improvements and start their season strong. They will be bringing back junior Abbie Householder, who led the team in 292 kills, 36 service aces and 350 total points. Lastly, UConn will face Sacred Heart. The two teams have a lengthy history compared to the others and have faced each other five times since 2008. UConn has often come out victorious in these encounters, holding a record of 4-1 with three of these wins being at home. The two last faced one another in the beginning of last season, where the Huskies won in three straight sets.

All games will take place at the UConn Volleyball Center. The LIU match will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, followed by Youngstown at 5 p.m. on Saturday and finishing with Sacred Heart at 2 p.m. on Sunday. All games will also be streamed via UConn Plus.



UConn womens volleyball players celebrating a win after a hard-fought point. The team had a total of 164 aces in their 2023 season. COURTESY OF UCONN WOMENS CLUB VOLLEYBALL INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT