



## Delta Dental sponsors improvements to veterans' programs at UConn Health

by Patrick Boots  
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Veterans across Connecticut face significant barriers to essential services, including dental care. To address this critical gap, the Delta Dental Foundation awarded a \$35,000 grant to the University of Connecticut Foundation to expand the "Open Wide for Veterans" program, an initiative led by the UConn School of Dental Medicine.

Delta Dental, a dental insurance company, has partnered with UConn's dental service programs in the past, previously donating \$250,000 and supporting related veteran clinics, according to UConn Today. The grant

funding was gifted as part of a \$921,000 package earmarked for services to improve the oral health of at-risk populations.

"Our Foundation focuses on supporting programs that address oral health care challenges, which help improve access to dental care and education for Connecticut residents," said Dennis G. Wilson, president and CEO of Delta Dental of New Jersey and Connecticut in a press release on the grant.

The grant aims to improve

dental health services for veterans, as well as seniors, developmentally disabled adults, disadvantaged children and others. It will also address the severe shortage of dental assistants by supporting workforce development programs. Ten Connecticut-based organizations, including The University of Connecticut, The University of Bridgeport, Community Centers of Connecticut and

Special Olympics of Connecticut, received funding as part of the package to improve their dental-related programs.

UConn's "Open Wide for Veterans" program has already made a difference through its participation in the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs' annual "Stand Down" event, a one-stop shop for veterans to access social, health, and financial services — it's an initiative that has been successfully presented annually

"One of our primary goals was to ensure that the veterans knew they had a welcoming dental home at UConn, conveniently located not too far away," said Max Einbinder, the site lead for a "Stand Down" event in 2023 in UConn Today.

The UConn School of Dental Medicine is the school of dentistry component of UConn Health, and is based at the John Dempsey Teaching Hospital in Farmington, Conn. Their mission statement reads, "we will continuously pursue excellence and innovation in our endeavors while embracing the qualities of diversity, collegiality, integrity and leadership through individual and group effort."

For more information about "Open Wide for Veterans", visit [dentalmedicine.uconn.edu](http://dentalmedicine.uconn.edu).

ART COURTESY OF FREEPIK

## UConn students gear up for finals week

by Lilliana French  
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It's December, and that means that students at the University of Connecticut are getting ready for finals week with exams from Monday, Dec. 9 to Saturday, Dec. 14.

"I'm just mainly using flashcards and Quizlet," said fifth-semester economics major Raj Dhage. "I have a free membership, so I've been using that lately. I've been studying with my friends using not only flashcards, but I've been using Pearson, you know, the website that helps with economics."

Third-semester engineering

major Emily Sevigny has one final exam during finals week, but a total of five exams this week and next.

"I'm not feeling great, honestly, just because I'm taking classes that are so content heavy, so it's a lot of memorization that I'm not used to," Sevigny said.

Kawtar Nadama, a fifth-semester mechanical engineering major, has mostly cumulative finals.

"I'm a little nervous, especially because my finals tend to be cumulative, so you just have to know so much content," Nadama said. "It gets a little overwhelming, especially when you didn't understand a

concept fully earlier in the semester and now it's really time to understand."

Nadama has been meeting up with and studying with friends to help deal with stress.

"It can be very overwhelming, I am a little overwhelmed, especially because I also had two exams today, so that doesn't give me much time to really focus on studying for finals," Nadama said. "I also have projects and stuff due, so it's definitely a lot. It's definitely the most overwhelming time of the year."

First-year mechanical engineering Ph.D. candidate Ismael Morales has two exams during finals week.

"It's just time management, so right now, I'm just trying to finish projects," Morales said. "My main strategy to get ready for finals is first to do a one or two page cheat sheet and then use that cheat sheet to practice homework problems and book problems."

Morales discussed his strategies for dealing with stress.

"Just taking time off; I like playing video games. It's a nice way to destress," Morales said. "And here and there, taking 20-minute breaks to just do something fun on my laptop, or just completely forget about assignments for a while."

Fifth-semester biology major Stephanie Ruby was

feeling stressed but hopeful about finals.

"The upcoming finals are very stressful, very, very stressful but I'm hopeful that it will be a good outcome," Ruby said. "I have to put in the work for what I want."

Fourth-semester molecular and cell biology major Jackson Alward was feeling anxious about his upcoming exams.

"Even though I've been in school all year, I feel like I don't really know what I'm doing," Alward said. "It feels like I've forgotten a lot or that I never really learned everything. It feels that way, even though it's probably not. It's a lot of pressure."

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8 AM BLAST

## News

# Winter Weekend arrives in Downtown Storrs

by **Gianna Salisbury**

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The Mansfield Downtown Partnership is hosting its annual Winter Welcome this Saturday, Dec. 7, from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on the Betsy Paterson Square in Downtown Storrs, according to the Downtown Storrs website.

The partnership has many activities in store for the local community, including a Trim-A-Tree contest, winter themed games, a meet and greet with Santa and seasoned treats.

The Mansfield Downtown Partnership will provide trees for families to compete in the Trim-A-Tree contest, in which they will decorate Christmas trees to a theme, according to the website. The trees will be

around six feet tall, and all participants are expected to bring their own decorations and lights. The trees will then be displayed on the square during the event, and visitors will be able to vote for their favorite tree. The top three winners will win prizes, according to the website.

After the event, participants can either bring their trees home or donate them to the Mansfield Human Services Department.

The website states that many winter-themed games and activities will be open to children and families, including a puzzle swap, in which participants can bring a puzzle they have completed and exchange it for a new one, and a martial arts display put on by Villari's Martial Arts of Mansfield.

The Eastern Highlands Health District will be provid-

ing flu vaccines and blood pressure readings at the event. The UConn Woodmen will also be displaying different aspects of their sport.

The full list of activities can be found under "Winter Activities" on the Downtown Storrs website.

For those interested in meeting Santa and Mrs. Claus, they will be at the Barnes and Noble located on the outskirts of the Square. They will be arriving on foot, escorted by the UConn marching band's tuba section.

The Mansfield Resident State Troopers' Office will also be holding a toy drive at the event for Mansfield families in need. Visitors are encouraged to bring new, unwrapped gifts and toys. Some items the trooper's office suggests are gift cards for local business, winter coats and snowsuits, toys and stocking

stuffers.

Local businesses around downtown will also be holding holiday specials, according to the website. The comic store, Action Packed, will be giving away free gifts to customers. Dog Lane Café will be giving out free hot chocolates with a purchase. Nautical Bowls and Playa Bowls will be featuring a 20 percent discount winter special for customers.

More information about the event can be found on the Downtown Storrs website.

# Students report mental health struggles, SHaW offers support services

by **Erika Avellino**

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When Emily arrived at the University of Connecticut as a freshman, her mental health was at a low point. She didn't attend most of her classes, but when she did, she couldn't pay attention or focus on the material. She said that as the weeks went on, it got worse.

"There was a good three weeks where I didn't even leave the dorm, my roommate would bring me food so I would eat something," Emily said.

Emily, who asked that only her first name be used due to privacy concerns, said she was diagnosed with major depressive and anxiety disorder. Her therapist at the time advised her to seek out group therapy for additional support.

However, when Emily sought out group therapy through Student Health and Wellness at UConn, she was turned away, she said.

"She said because you're not suicidal and because you already have a therapist there's nothing we can do for you," Emily said, regarding her intake video with SHaW.

According to Kristina Stevens, director of Student Health and Wellness, participation in group therapy is determined in

partnership with the student and what would be the most helpful intervention based on their needs.

"I do think the university, from my perspective, has been very supportive of our work and ensuring that we've got those resources so that we can meet the needs of our students," said Stevens. According to Stevens, SHaW constantly assesses the needs of its students and tries to change according to the landscape.

Stevens said UConn fulfills this through its multidisciplinary and holistic approach to student wellness, including by offering various group therapy options, such as one for students with chronic health conditions and another for pregnant or parenting students.

Emily said that after being denied access to group therapy, she waited two months to get into an outpatient program in Hartford.

Due to her struggle to perform daily tasks, Emily's mother contacted multiple locations for outpatient therapy, the fifth being the only one with availability.

The following two months while she was waiting for treatment were extremely difficult.

"I was like, I don't know if I have two months, you know," Emily said. "And so that was hard," Emily said.

Students that have experiences similar to Emily's are not alone. According to the National College Health Assessment, 21% of college students reported experiencing serious psychological distress.

Stevens added that there has been a rising trend in reports of anxiety and depression nationally since 2007.

She said the pandemic has left many with a sense of uncertainty and exacerbated feelings of depression and anxiety.

According to a 2022-23 report from the Healthy Minds Network, 22% of college students felt that emotional or mental difficulties have hurt their academic performance six or more days within the past month.

At UConn, the percentage of students that seek out mental health service at SHaW tends to stay around 12-15% each year, Stevens said.

This percentage comprises students in long-term treatment, seeing one therapist long-term and using same-day services.

Stevens said that recently, even within the Fall 2024 semester, more students have been accessing same-day services.

"We're seeing a higher increase in students who are saying, I kind of need to see somebody now," said Stevens.

Stevens said multiple factors could contribute to the

rise in mental health challenges, including academic pressures, loneliness, finances, social media and troubling international events.

She also shared her observation that people have deemphasized personal health and wellbeing.

"I think people are often focused on 'I gotta press through, I gotta press through, I gotta press through,'" said Stevens. "And the idea of taking care of myself feels like an afterthought," said Stevens.

She added that students should prioritize their health by being proactive in self-care. This could include prioritizing sleep or having a meal with a friend.

She mentioned that many programs and resources are in place to help students.

The Suicide Prevention Committee, of which Stevens is co-chair, shares information, trains first responders and plans events such as Fresh Check Day, a mental health promotion event held each spring offering interactive booths and support.

The Student Union Board of Governors (SUBOG) has also hosted speakers and events for students in relation to mental health.

However, Stevens said the main challenge has been in ef-

fectively communicating with students about these different programs, given that many events simply do not draw the number of participants expected. This pertains to student activities outside of SHaW as well.

On Sept. 10, a mental health workshop with comedian Patrick McIntyre had a turnout of around 15 students, despite the program being advertised through a variety of methods and on social media.

Emily emphasized that while she does not think SHaW is all bad, she does not think they provide adequate information for students to access therapy outside of SHaW, "especially not for students with severe mental health issues."

She also said that last year she found all-recovery meetings at Cordial Storrs House, which is located at 1332 Storrs Rd., after a break from group therapy.

These meetings, held on Fridays, are for students that are in recovery from substance use and/or mental health disorders. Meetings are facilitated by a recovery coach, and they are held both in person and online.

"The people there are very accepting, all you have to do is walk in," Emily said.

24/7 Support on all UConn campuses - 833-308-3040

National Suicide Prevention hotline - 988

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## The Daily Campus

Printing since 1896, The Daily Campus is the oldest and largest independent student publication at the University of Connecticut. The Daily Campus circulates 1,500 newspapers daily and strives to serve the student body by delivering accurate, relevant and timely news and content, both in print and online at DailyCampus.com. Our staff is comprised entirely of students, with roughly 200 undergraduates gaining professional development while contributing to the daily production of the paper, with positions including writers, photographers, copy editors, page layout designers, graphic designers, advertisement representatives, receptionists, delivery drivers and digital producers. Thanks for reading.

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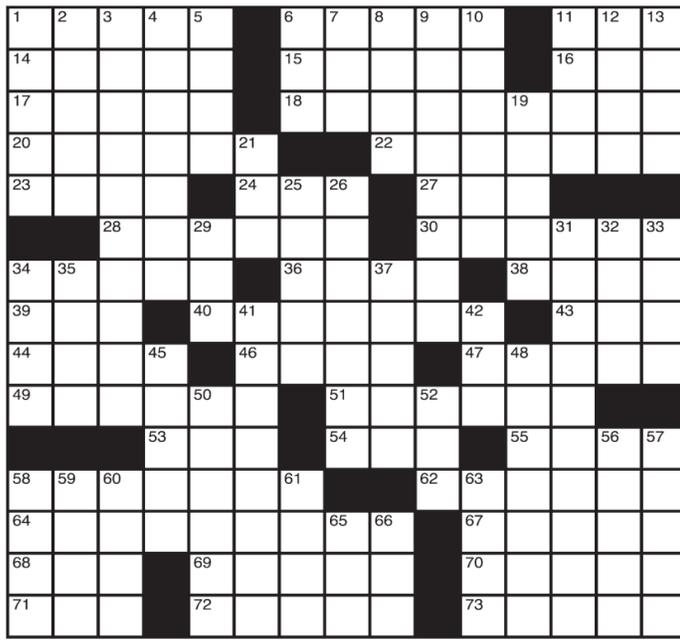
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**ACROSS**

- 1 2023 title role for Chalamet
- 6 Mournful sounds
- 11 \_\_\_ of the land
- 14 How zeppole are fried
- 15 Classified charge
- 16 Fútbol cheer
- 17 Small brawl
- 18 Folded fare
- 20 Glib pitch
- 22 Rare-earth element whose atomic number is 39
- 23 Blackthorn
- 24 Run out of power
- 27 Tree with serrated leaves
- 28 "To victory!"
- 30 Activate again, as a tab
- 34 Western band?
- 36 French friar
- 38 Try again
- 39 Part of a valedictorian's address
- 40 Drafting tool, and a feature found four times in this puzzle
- 43 Clear (of)
- 44 Average
- 46 Like a schnauzer's coat
- 47 Casual eateries
- 49 Cactus bump
- 51 Small lump
- 53 Federation in OPEC
- 54 \_\_\_-dried tomatoes
- 55 Clicked pic
- 58 Web-integrated den fixture
- 62 Intermission follower, perhaps
- 64 Destined
- 67 Swimming mammal in Native American totems
- 68 "This is the worst!"
- 69 "\_\_\_ Meenie": 2010 pop single
- 70 Narrow valleys
- 71 Natural \_\_\_
- 72 Kept going, as a sentence
- 73 Impression



By Joseph A. Gangi

12/6/24

**DOWN**

- 1 Strands of smoke
- 2 Oscar winner Tatum
- 3 On the fence
- 4 Mini mewlers
- 5 Lotion additive
- 6 Once cost
- 7 Hustle and bustle
- 8 Questionable
- 9 Comic book writer?
- 10 Wrap up
- 11 Centers of activity
- 12 Outfielder Matty who played 15 seasons in the MLB
- 13 Quaint affirmative
- 19 Strong suit?
- 21 Nutrition fig.
- 25 Najaf native
- 26 Writer/producer who frequently collaborates with David Simon
- 29 Sauced up, to a pitmaster
- 31 Score for Comaneci and Retton
- 32 Actress Falco
- 33 Dozes (off)
- 34 "Ant-Man" actor Michael

**Thursday's Puzzle Solved**

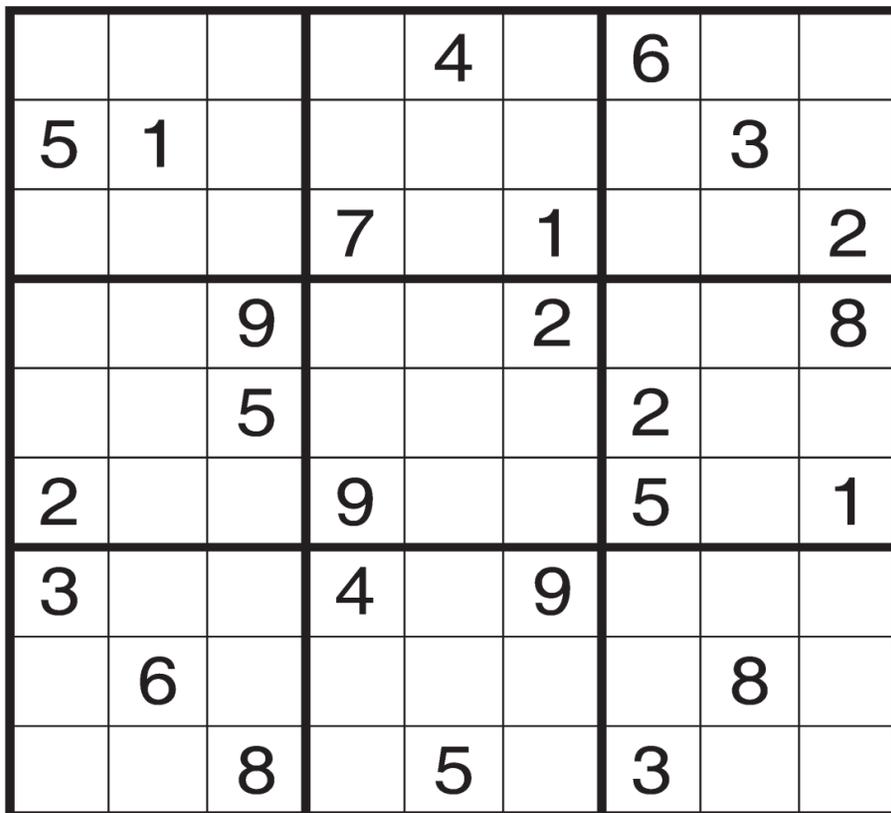


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12/6/24

- 35 Distinctive feature of a corpse flower
- 37 Ecosystem susceptible to eutrophication
- 41 Sugary Southern brew
- 42 Old French coin
- 45 Grieve
- 48 Somewhat
- 50 Second of a pair
- 52 23andMe stuff
- 56 Dana Elaine \_\_\_: Queen Latifah's given name
- 57 Like some gods
- 58 Like some gods
- 59 Huge
- 60 Massage sighs
- 61 Olympic gold medal skier Lindsey
- 63 Machine parts
- 65 Short life story?
- 66 Poetic dusk

Level **1** **2** **3** **4**



Solution to Thursday's puzzle

12/6/24

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

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [sudoku.org.uk](http://sudoku.org.uk).

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## Life

# Split Record Review: Our 2024 albums of the year



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Henry St. Pierre**  
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Here it is: the final Split Record Review of the fall semester! To change things up, Henry and James are reviewing each other's albums of the year to keep the glazing to a minimum. "Harm's Way" by Ducks Ltd. was chosen as Henry's favorite album of 2024. For James, despite contenders including Knocked Loose's "You Won't Go Before You're Supposed To" and JPEGMafia's record — which was covered in the first Split Record Review — he settled on Beth Gibbons' "Lives Outgrown," of Portishead fame. What will the writers think of these records in this "Swap Record Review" format?



## James' Review

Henry's pick for album of the year, "Harm's Way" by Ducks Ltd., is intriguing because of the non-descript structure on the cover and the duo's name. My main experience with jangle pop is from the Smiths, and considering Ducks Ltd. is working in the same style with half the manpower (most of the time) is immediately admirable.

Before the record ramps up, the calm "Hollowed Out" begins the record with the lines "All we ever do is need / Eat, fuck, and sleep / And then repeat forever," which is easy to resonate with after watching Larry Clark's "Kids" the other night. I was worried about vocalist Tom McGreevy's deadpan vocals in the verses at first, but he locks into a strong melody in the chorus. "Cathedral City," on the other hand, is too chorus-heavy for me to justify its three-and-a-half-minute length, though it's an acceptable track heading into my favorite stretch of the record.

"The Main Thing" was a standout from the start with Marcus Nuccio's fast drumming and McGreevy's bass lines. I interpret the lyrics "Showing up and doing what I get paid for / Yeah, we're all just playing out the string" as a reflection of the sentiment that we need to keep putting in the work because life doesn't stop for hard times, a message the student body should take going into finals week.

"Train Full of Gasoline" is another highlight for its lyrical richness and McGreevy's confidence in the chorus. I'm a sucker for choruses with ever-changing vocal inflections, as he emphasizes nearly every syllable in "A way to get yourself set." The Southern twang on the guitars and nostalgic feel are excellent as well. "Deleted Scenes" is nothing to write home about on its own, though the theme of the track separates the duo from the 1980s and '90s groups who have influenced their sound, since I doubt many bands were discussing deleted scenes in their music back in the day.

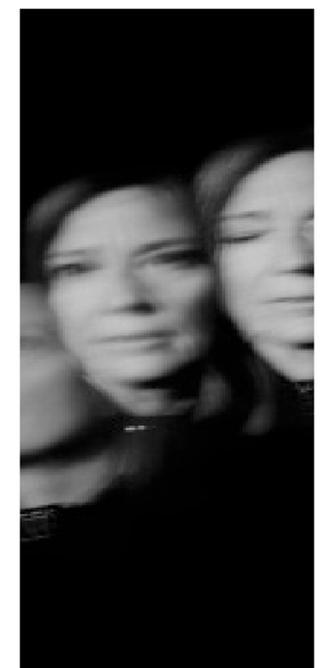
"On Our Way to the Rave" somehow fits the title sonically

with 30 seconds of instrumental excitement in the beginning before McGreevy presumably comments on the event they're headed to with the phrase "lights dimmed to dull disarray." It's a weird thing to complain about but there's not enough articulation in McGreevy's voice on this one and the track is overall too dreamy for my liking. In the final seconds, he also has another vocalist, Lindsey-Paige McCloy, finish singing the song's title over and over, except she's too buried in the mix to really hear her singing "rave."

Even with the roughly 20 minutes that have elapsed so far, each of the songs on "Harm's Way" started to get too similar, and "A Girl, Running" is no exception. I don't mind it, but the elongated "running" in the chorus gets a bit stale. The title track, however, is infectious. I vibe with McGreevy's vocals on this one especially, and while it features the common inclusion of a song title-heavy chorus, all the elements of this track enmesh in a very fulfilling way.

"Heavy Bag" is like a song by Conor Oberst's group Bright Eyes or one by the Mountain Goats, at least in the beginning. It's a surprising showing at this point in the record when I thought I had them figured out, and as with Feeble Little Horse, I wish these bands would draw out their albums more like the duo does in "Heavy Bag." They give fans just enough to chew on until the next release but it's hard for me to treat these sub-half-hour records with the same appreciation as more substantial releases.

Nevertheless, the brevity of "Harm's Way" is one of my favorite aspects since the jangle pop sound is easy to overdo. Sitting at a comfortable 27 minutes, records such as this prove that half-LP length can hold its own if each song offers variety. While I don't believe every song on here was necessary, and this likely could've worked better as an EP, the consistency is undeniable. I hope the duo has a duck-tastic future with some more successful business ventures like this one!



## Henry's Review:

Prepare for an entire month of album roundups. It's that time of year when everyone and their mother posts their favorite albums that dropped in 2024. I will be no exception and will constantly be parading around my favorite records for the next few weeks. This week, we'll be doing something a bit different. I'll be reviewing James' favorite release of 2024, "Lives Outgrown" by Beth Gibbons.

As someone who loves Portishead, I'm more than excited to listen to this. As her debut release, this record can go anywhere, but as someone who fell in love with her voice through albums like "Dummy," I have high expectations.

The opener, "Tell Me Who You Are Today," is haunting. The track is intimate and muddy, and Gibbons' vocals glide through the ominous orchestral backing with grace and reservation. The entire song drones, with occasional swells and shrinks that accentuate the angsty and depressive attitude.

"Floating On a Moment" is centered around a weary acoustic guitar riff, introducing mandolins and reverberated backing vocals throughout its runtime. The song's slow and melancholic feel is almost reminiscent of many Elephant Six bands and records from the late 1990s and early 2000s, with a healthy dose of "Pet Sounds" by The Beach Boys mixed in there.

This record is really a perfect study album. It's slow, droning and reflects the depressing atmosphere of campus leading up to finals week. In the best way possible, it's dull enough to throw on in the background while focusing on something else, and interesting enough to enjoy on its own. While that may sound backhanded, that's a delicate balance that eludes most artists.

"Rewind" kicks things up a little bit and is one of the most ominous tracks of the album. It's built around a discordant guitar lick and thunderous drums. For fans of Portishead, this song just might be your

favorite, sharing the dark atmosphere that many of their albums had while being completely separated from trip-hop.

"For Sale" emphasizes Gibbons' vocal performance, in between sly and anxious string passages and a violin solo. This track is the greatest example of the record's chamber pop influence, taking just as much influence from Chopin as folk heroes like Nick Drake. The dense vocal harmonies are as rich as the strings, blending to create an ethereal experience that is a definite highlight of the entire album.

"Beyond the Sun" is as discordant as the album gets, introducing woodwinds into the orchestra. Saxophones blare and blast without much rhythm or intonation, adding to the visceral and unnerving atmosphere. The percussion, like the rest of the album, centers around giant thunderous rack toms and the occasional tambourine. The wild and primal drums make every song sound urgent, like a boss battle in a video game.

"Whispering Love" is the longest track on the album, at just over six minutes. Featuring a quaint and melancholic flute solo, it's my favorite track on the record. Gibbons' vocals are on point, contrasting the soft acoustic guitar perfectly. The first two minutes sound straight of a lost Joni Mitchell album from the early 1970s. The back half builds more of the droning that's found elsewhere on the record. Drum rolls hiding underneath everything give the pleasant-sounding song an uneasy feel, while the soft strings and birds chirping comfort the listener. The song fades out to just acoustic guitar over nature sounds, before disappearing into the songbirds and chickens.

"Lives Outgrown" is an experience to listen to, and not all too surprising given Gibbons' musical resume. Portishead's debut album, "Dummy," turned 30 this year, and this album just goes to show that in all that time, Gibbons hasn't lost her edge with age.



# Life Section Roundtable: “Jingle BOOM!” or “Jingle DOOM!?”

**Ben Lassy, Life Editor (he/him/his):**

Have you ever been moved to tears by music? Have you ever wept as a chorus breaks in? Have you ever made “an antipasto / With the seven fish?” Well, for the latter, I have mentally while listening to this song (and especially when A.J. sings that).

I want to preface, that yes, the rumors are true: I gave the last Costco Guys release a rating in the negative millions. However, like Winston in “1984,” my thoughts have been corrected with this song. It is shockingly pleasant and an exceptional cross-section of what makes this odd American duo so appealing.

First off, it is “Jingle Bells” musically. But the lyrics are fun and totally within the holiday spirit. I mean, come on, isn’t it a good message to: “In the new year, keep on bringin’ the boom the whole year round”? Yeah, the Rizzler and the Costco Guys family will undoubtedly keep their marketing schtick going into 2025 (and probably the next century when I’m a pile of dust), but get me in a van with the lads, and we’ll be shouting the chorus with the spirit of the Rizzler imbued within us.

You know, I don’t even know what the seven fish are ... but what I do know is this: I will be a boomer for the rest of my days.

**Rating: 5/5 Booms**

**Noa Climor, Campus Correspondent (she/her/hers):**

Oh man, I am feeling the jingle doom in these tough times (finals season) so I hoped that the new song would raise my spirits and bring joy and peace to my heart. How wrong I was... how mistaken. I am flabbergasted; what on Earth is this song?

The boom should be brought far, far away. Somehow, the Costco Guys missed. They flew too close to the sun, and their wings are being melted by the rays of the booming sun. I honestly don’t know how many puns I can get away with, but this was just absurd. The best time of the year? Holiday cheer? Where’s the cheer, I say, where’s the best time of the year? Not in this song.

Now it is difficult to write a good holiday song, and even more so to not repeat your other music, especially when it comes to something that originated as a hit on TikTok. If you want real, beautiful holiday music, I would like to kindly direct you to Laufey’s “A Very Laufey Holiday!” which has lovely, gentle music that lulls you right into the holidays.

I think I know who’s on Santa’s naughty list, and their own doom was brought upon them by the boom.

**Rating: 0/5 Booms**

**Maleena Muzio, Staff Writer (she/her/hers):**

Dear Costco Guys, please stop making music! This song made “Dominick the Donkey” sound like a decent Christmas song — which is a horrifying statement. “Jingle BOOM!” is a song that children would not even want to annoy their parents with. The autotune is godawful and the voice of the screaming dad, or whoever he is, filled me with rage! But if you are looking for something dumb to laugh at with your friends at 3 a.m., this might be the song (and music video) for you.

One of the lyrics is “Santa’s coming to town / Some of you are getting missed / ‘Cuz he read the comments / (Now you’re on the naughty list),” and to be honest, I think after this song, the Costco Guys should be the ones on the naughty list. Though, this review might unfortunately land me a spot with those nasty commenters.

The Costco Guys somehow managed to make me feel even more agony than I already do during finals time. Thanks guys! I think I will stick to blasting “Last Christmas” every chance I get and avoid “Jingle BOOM!” at all costs this holiday season.

**Rating: 0.5/5 Booms (they tried ... and I want to stay on the nice list)**

**Abby Krim, Campus Correspondent (she/her/hers):**

I don’t even know where to start with this song, I’m going to be honest. When I heard that the Costco Guys released a Christmas song, I laughed out loud because in what world would that happen? Turns out, it would happen in this world! A few days ago, I gathered some friends to witness this momentous occasion. We pulled up the music video on the big screen in a classroom, and with tears already forming in our eyes, hit play.

What followed was two minutes and forty-six seconds of horrified screams, numerous cries of “When does it end?” and probably more tears than is socially acceptable. If you aren’t an eight-year-old, or have the sense of humor of one, this song (and music video) probably isn’t your cup of tea. My conclusion is that while “Jingle BOOM!” is probably going to haunt your nightmares and TikTok algorithm for a few weeks, it’s better to just laugh at it so it doesn’t hurt as bad!

**Rating: 0/5 Booms**

**Nick Sorokobi, Campus Correspondent (he/him/his):**

Earlier this past month, like many people my age, I was curled up in bed watching TikTok, munching away at a Costco-produced chicken bake and double chunk chocolate cookie, excited to listen to the new holiday singles released by one of my favorite social media personalities, A.J. and Big Justice.

After discovering their previous song, “We Bring the BOOM!,” and watching many of their past videos online, I became almost glued to their channel, viewing some of their most popular clips over and over again. So, as one could imagine, when I heard they had a new holiday themed song out, I was looking forward to a catchy and rhythmic tune to jam to as I headed into the hustle and bustle of the last two weeks of school.

But to be honest, I was thoroughly disappointed. In fact, I would rather go skiing with Gwyneth Paltrow this holiday season than be forced to listen to one more second of “Jingle BOOM!”

I mean, what is this world coming to?

Now, don’t get me wrong, I like A.J. and Big Justice a lot, but I felt that this was REALLY unnecessary. And sad. And cringey. And any other negative adjective you can think of. For one, A.J. simply belts out the lyrics like he’s some kind of angry truck driver careening down the New Jersey Turnpike. Mama Justice sings (sort of), but even she is just a tad bit off-key. Ashley has a decent voice, but some of the lyrics coming out of her mouth are just straight-up odd (i.e. “from the North Pole to Boca Raton”). And poor Big Justice, who can’t even manage to deliver just one single lyric and ACTUALLY SING IT at the same time. And whoever was cast as Santa in the background, I’m sorry you were hired to shoot a video that was not worth your while. Best of luck with your career.

I’m no songster myself, but I know a bad tune when I hear one. And “Jingle BOOM!” certainly brought out the “Jingle Doom” in me during one of my favorite times of the year. For those who do choose to watch this video, feel free, but I’m warning you, it might set a downcast on your holiday season.

**Rating: 0/5 Booms :(**

**Dan Stark, Staff Writer (he/him/his):**

I’ve been a huge fan of A.J., Big Justice and the rest of the “Costco Cinematic Universe” since they took over my TikTok feed this past summer. They’ve curated an incredible brand and have even expanded into the musical world with bangers like “We Bring The BOOM!” and “Still Bringin’ It.” When I heard the news that they put out a Christmas song, I was excited to hear the song I would be blasting this holiday season.

But man, it’s fucking awful.

Maybe it’s because they set the bar too high with their first two releases, but “Jingle BOOM!” is a massive disappointment. It’s almost as much of a letdown as “The Godfather Part III” was to its counterparts. Unlike the creative melodies and danceable rhythms of their first two singles, “Jingle BOOM!” is merely a spoof of “Jingle Bells” set over a backing track that I’m pretty sure I heard in a Honda commercial.

The music just plugs along aimlessly, unlike the funky, driving beats that have defined their music. And then there’s the issue of the vocals. Ashley and Mama Justice are fine, but Big Justice simply sounds terrible. Even the outrageous amount of autotune used can’t fix his delivery. But at least he tried. A.J. didn’t even attempt to sing any of his lines, instead opting to just yell them.

The Boca Beach Boys tried venturing to the North Pole, but sadly got lost along the way, resulting in this disaster of a track. The only thing that can save it is if they put out a remix that features the Rizzler.

**Rating: [with tears in my eyes]: 0/5 Big Booms**

## Show Scanner: Where to catch live music 12/6-7

by Dan Stark  
STAFF WRITER  
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We’ve made it to the final push of the semester, Huskies! Classes are wrapping up today as students at the University of Connecticut buckle down to study for final exams and work on those dreaded research papers that we all hold near and dear to our hearts. Many students are feeling stressed at this last onslaught of work before heading home for a long month off and in dire need of a break. What better way to do so than by getting tossed around in the best mosh pits the Connecticut music scene has to offer? For those wanting for a break, look no further than these shows happening in the Nutmeg State this weekend.

### Friday, 12/6: Holding Cell “Emo Night” at Howard’s Bookstore - Torrington

For all the emo fans out there looking for some stress relief from finals, DIY booking agency Holding Cell has exactly what you’re looking for with their “Emo Night” show on Friday, Dec. 6 at Howard’s Bookstore in Torrington, Conn. The show features a stacked five-band lineup of some of the best and most energetic emo bands Connecticut has to offer, highlighted by Jaded in Paradise, a four-piece punk band that has made regular appearances in the basements of Storrs. The rest of the bill features Noiseman and The Squids, No Clue, Girlsona and Shed Life. Doors open at 6 p.m., music starts at 7 p.m. and admission is \$10. All ages are welcome to attend.

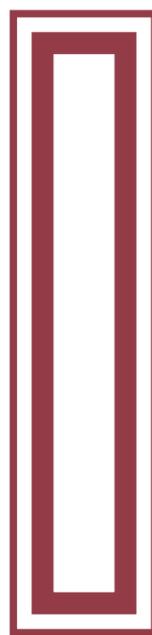
### Friday, 12/6: 10selden “Women’s Music Showcase” - Woodbridge

There’s no shortage of talented female artists in the Connecticut music scene, and some of the best voices in the scene will be on display at the “Women’s Music Showcase” hosted at 10selden in Woodbridge, Conn., on Friday, Dec. 6. The bill features a lineup of seven female singer-songwriters from across the state, including some up-and-coming names. The show will feature performances from Abigail Rickevicius, Nada But Vibes, Sage Lynn, Sweetie Belle, Vanity Grime, Erin Rocc and Aly West. This is a great chance to check out some great new artists as well as a fantastic showcase of the diverse music scene. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., music starts at 6 p.m. and tickets are \$15.

### Saturday, 12/7: 10selden “Blizzard Bash!” - Woodbridge

After a stacked lineup the night before, 10selden is jumping back into action the next afternoon with its “Blizzard Bash!” show. The show is being hosted by the Live Concert and Promotion Team of the University of New Haven as a benefit show for The Animal Haven shelter in North Haven, Conn. The four-band lineup features Scrt Agnt, No Rush, Shell Games and Cat Crash, the latter of which has made multiple appearances in Storrs this semester. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., music starts at 1 p.m. and tickets are \$15. All proceeds will go to The Animal Haven. Additionally, a canned food and toy drive will be held at the show.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @A.J. & BIG JUSTICE ON YOUTUBE





# Life

@dailycampuslife



## Healthy Huskies: My story as a student in recovery

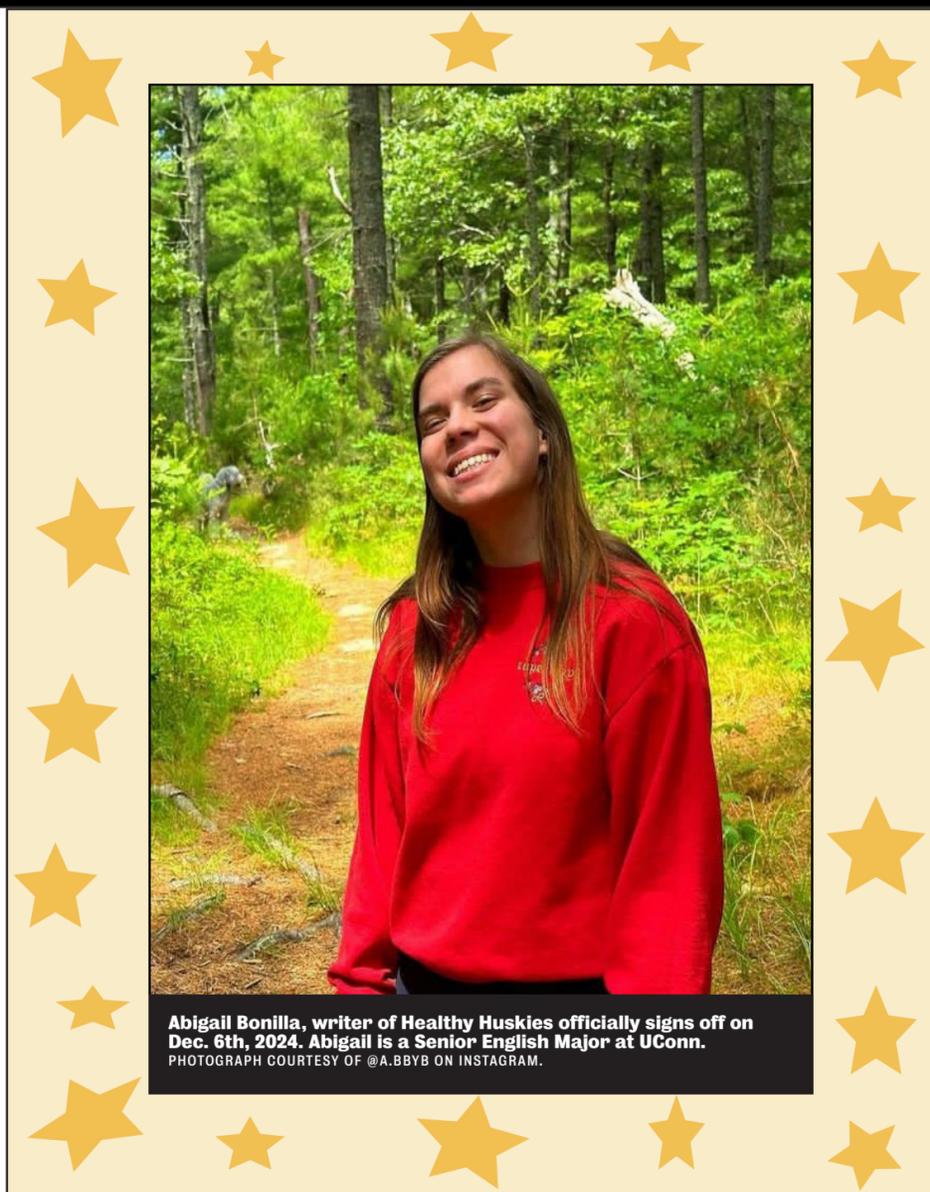
by **Abigail Bonilla**  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
SHE/HER/HERS  
abigail.bonilla@uconn.edu

My four years at the University of Connecticut have been some of the most joyous and challenging years of my life. I came to campus in the middle of a global pandemic, attending my first classes online in my dorm room. It was possibly the worst start to college, but I'm grateful that the experience happened the way it did.

As my freshman year continued, I struggled more and more with my mental health. I began to forgo homework and essays for television and self-destructive behaviors. I would isolate myself for days, not speaking to the few friends I had managed to make on my residence hall floor. I had always struggled with mental health throughout my life, but the stress of starting college (not to mention during the worst time ever) was beginning to get to me. I felt scared and alone, worried that I would be isolated for the rest of my college experience.

On a walk around campus one day, I came across a sign for the UConn Recovery Community (URC). I had no idea what the organization was, but I knew that I needed connection and support. Bearing the semester alone was getting to be too much, and I was swiftly failing my classes. Something needed to be done if I wanted to be a student by the springtime.

Joining the URC turned out to be the best possible decision I could have made for myself. There, I found friendship and connection. I was surrounded by other students who knew how difficult it could be to manage those conditions while being a full-time student. Most importantly, I was finally hav-



Abigail Bonilla, writer of Healthy Huskies officially signs off on Dec. 6th, 2024. Abigail is a Senior English Major at UConn. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @A.BBYB ON INSTAGRAM.

ing fun in college. At a time when it seemed like nobody was able to connect with each other, I found my community.

Throughout my time at school, I continued to struggle, cycling in and out of programs

and treatment centers. No matter how many times I fell, my community was there to pick me back up again. I will be forever grateful for that and for all the people at the URC who helped me along my journey.

You know who you are!

As I grew into myself on campus, I found a writing career calling my name. I always had an interest in writing since I was young, but being on campus allowed me to fully explore

that passion. I joined The Daily Campus and soon began writing this column, Healthy Huskies.

Bringing information about mental health and wellness to the larger UConn community has been an incredibly rewarding experience for me. I've loved using this platform to raise awareness of different issues and communities on campus, and to explore the stigma surrounding mental health. Writing at The Daily Campus has allowed me to hone in on what makes writing exciting for me: helping others.

I will be sad to let this column and the paper go, but I am so thankful for the opportunity I had to write. Whether I was on campus, at home, in another country or in my head — writing was always there for me. With my community behind me, I know I will continue to write and hopefully bring more awareness surrounding mental health and wellness.

To the URC and my community, you are the reason I started writing this column and your bravery helps me and my recovery more than you know. To my editors past and present, thank you so much for taking a chance on me and fostering my creativity. You are the best team ever!

To the UConn community, thank you for reading and listening to what I have to say. I hope my writing was able to help you in some way. I will miss writing for you all and know that there are resources available on campus should you need help with your mental health. Reaching out for help is one of the best things you can do for yourself. Thank you so much, Huskies!

## Gift giving guide for college students

by **Maleena Muzio**  
STAFF WRITER  
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The holiday season is finally here! Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza or anything in between, giving gifts is a huge activity this time of year. Although we all want to buy our loved ones everything on their lists, as college students that is simply not realistic. Most of us are flat broke at this point in the semester. Thankfully, here is the perfect gift giving guide for your friends, family and significant others. From great deals to homemade crafts, I am going to be giving you the best ways to save money this holiday season, while still getting something for the people you care about most!

Amazon Prime is a lifesaver for college students. Providing two-day delivery and free shipping, this is by far the best option for you last-minute people! Assuming you already missed out on the Black Friday and Cyber Monday deals, there are still many options to save with Prime. There is a section dedicated to gifts, titled "Holiday Deals," offering large discounts. Under this tag, you can find curated items, ranging from toys to stocking stuffers to kitchen tools. There is something that everyone will like here, and you can even filter these gifts to

your price limits!

On a similar note, many other popular stores offer a similar feature on their websites, specifically picking out popular items in different price ranges to use as gifts. For example, both Urban Outfitters and Pacsun have holiday sections with popular gifts under \$15 (or less) labeled.

Consider doing a "Secret Santa" event with your friends or family. If you have many siblings or a large friend group, this can save immense amounts of money. Rather than buying a few cheap gifts for everyone, you can get someone something that they actually want. This way everyone's money will go to good use! Try the old-fashioned way of drawing names with a hat, this can be a fun get together in itself. If you are separated from your loved ones by distance, there are online services, such as Elfster.com, which can draw the names for you. This website allows participants to display their wishlists discreetly to their "Santa" and ensures that no two people are given the same person.

Homemade gifts or DIYs are also something to consider. Knitted blankets and hats are common presents, as well as creating your own Christmas decorations, such as decorating an ornament. However, while everyone might not be

crafty enough to construct an extravagant gift, like furniture, you may be more willing to try something like baking. Baking is technically a DIY, and everyone loves a good sweet treat this time of year. It is also fairly inexpensive and will be greatly appreciated by most. Now, if even this sounds like a challenge, throw a gift basket together with some candy and a card, and that's all you need.

Do not forget what we have right here on campus: the bookstore! There are many options for gifts here, though some can be a little pricey. Sweatshirts are always a safe option (if you are willing to pay), but other gift items include mugs, hats or car decals. Your parents would be more than happy to receive a "a UConn Dad" or "UConn Mom" mug to drink their coffee in while you are away at school. Hopefully now you can give your loved ones the perfect gifts this year (if you have not bought them already) without breaking the bank. I am sure that everyone will love whatever you choose. After all, it is really the thought that counts. Spending some time with the people you care about most over the break will be the best gift of all.



PHOTO COURTESY OF @COTTAGERENOVATIONCWMRHYS ON INSTAGRAM.



# Opinion

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# The party is nearly over: The precarious fate of the Democratic Party

by James Watson | HE/HIM/HIS | CONTRIBUTOR | mip24003@uconn.edu

On Nov. 6, 2024, the Democratic Party lost the presidential election by 86 electoral college votes. This was a landmark election for the Republican Party, one that has often been described as reminiscent of the 1968 election. This was a landmark election in which Nixon won the electoral college vote by over 110 votes, despite only having a 0.7 percent (500,000 vote) advantage over the Democratic candidate.

Following this loss, the Democratic Party was in a state of disarray, and it would need a period of self-reflection to overcome that. Foreign policy escalation in Vietnam was marked as the reason for Johnson's decline in popularity following a soaring election victory in 1964. This can be paralleled with

some of President Joe Biden's foreign policy decisions around the Israel-Gaza conflict.

All this is to say, almost 60 years later, the Democrats still have not learned the lessons of the past. Former President Donald Trump increased his support across almost every demographic, while Vice President Kamala Harris notably trailed a lot of President Joe Biden's numbers from the 2020 election. This was especially true among minority voters, who voted for the former president in record numbers.

Now, the Democratic Party has lost its footing in the face of the Republican Party's victory. The party will need to go through an intense period of introspection in order to find itself again.

The American people want their voices heard and represented in a tangible way, with policies whose effects go beyond rhetoric and into practical change. Pramila Jayapal, chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, stated that "we have become a party of elites." This sheds light on the harsh reality that there is stark partisan misalignment in the country. For the first time in decades, the Republican Party is seen by many Americans from ethnic minority backgrounds as a champion of their rights and freedoms.

The results of the election provided concrete evidence of a lack of trust in the Democratic Party. This has caused many Democratic Party members and supporters to be up in arms about

where the party goes from here. On Nov. 6, Harris stated that both the party and public should "never give up the fight for our democracy." This was met with much adulation from the crowd.

The feelings of resignation across the Democratic Party after Harris' loss were also an acknowledgment that the party needed a new brand and a coherent message.

Throughout Harris' media campaign in the presidential race, the most notable gap in her knowledge across interviews, debates and town hall meetings was her inability to effectively articulate how her economic plan would be primed to help people. In an interview with CNN's Anderson Cooper in October, she struggled to effectively argue how her economic policy would

in any way be different to Biden's current initiatives around the economy. The lack of coherence here hindered Harris' campaign as voters had an acute sense of Harris being out of touch with their needs and concerns.

The vast majority of Americans knew what Trump's positions and policies were on Election Day. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said about the Democrats. The result of the election backs up this disconnect between public perception of Democrats and their positive reform agenda. It is clear though, that Democratic Party has a long road ahead if they want to earn back public trust by 2028.

For more of the story visit DAILYCAMPUS.COM

# 'The Lego Batman Movie' is the best Batman movie

by Isaac Grad | HE/HIM/HIS | STAFF WRITER | isaac.grad@uconn.edu

Before you read on, I feel obligated to mention that I've only watched the other Batman films once or twice, whereas I've watched "The Lego Batman Movie" about 20 times. This means two things: 1) yes, this movie is just that good, and 2) I don't know that much about the other Batman films, so don't come at me because it will hurt my feelings.

That being said, "The Lego Batman Movie" is not only the best Lego movie, but also, the best Batman movie. The film captures the essence of the character, focusing on his immense trauma and how it ties in not only to his crime-fighting, but also his personal life as 100 percent not Bruce Wayne.

This movie was a refreshing take on a classic character. Through other films, his character progressively became darker and edgier, which is important. But it's nice to see an adaptation that balances that with lightheartedness and doesn't make it his sole trait.

I've never been able to truly feel sympathy for Batman, but this film put his vulnerabilities and relationship dynamics on full display. It explores the dynamic with the Joker in a way that hadn't been seen before, and it was a really neat way of approaching vil-

lain and hero dynamics. They were able to portray a crucial element of Bruce Wayne as character, his loneliness and emptiness, all in a humanized fashion. This balance isn't easy, but I think they did a great job.

It's also necessary to mention that this movie works so well on its own because of the movies that came before. You wouldn't expect it because this film seems like it wouldn't take the character seriously, but the movie is actually a lot of fan service. This is a strong reason why this opinion isn't necessarily unpopular. The movie was loved by just about everyone, long time Batman fans, critics, Lego fans, parents of Lego or Batman fans and so on. There are also countless references in the film that longtime fans of Batman can pick up on while balancing plenty of entertainment for viewers.

The movie also balances comedy and seriousness perfectly. At no point do I feel overwhelmed by jokes, nor do any jokes fail to land. In this respect, this film stands out miles above the other Batman films, which are not funny. This is not to say superhero films have to be funny, however, the seriousness that we often see in the other superhero films, for me personally, can feel tiresome and overdone.

This film is sort of like "Deadpool," but rated PG. You may be thinking, "who would want that?" and that's a fair response. I would urge you to then consider the film "The Cat and the Hat" from 2003, which is also rated PG but has questionable jokes for a children's movie. My point is, "The Lego Batman Movie" is the perfect family movie as it's actually funny and enjoyable for the adults and shares some characteristics with the "Deadpool" movies such as the meta-style commentary and poking fun at their respective franchises and universes.

I also think after so many portrayals of Batman as this stone-cold character, who doesn't ever open up or admit the layers beneath his actions, it's cool to see him do just that in a film for kids. Without getting too deep into explanation, hopefully we can all agree that it's better for kids to idolize a character that's still cool while also showing growth and expression. In subtle ways, this film pushes the idea that one should look deeper into your own and others' motives as we see with Batman learning that him pushing people away wasn't to protect them but rather to protect himself.

It isn't just a good Batman movie; it is well done overall. The plot works really well and we care about the characters introduced and their development. Everything that happens in the story makes sense, and none of it feels out of place. They truly made this film with a very solid understanding of each character and their motives and outlooks on life and themselves, which makes all the difference.

One of my favorite aspects of the film is that it has high levels of detail in every aspect. There is thought put into everything, including the background visuals and sounds. There are numerous background jokes and references that I didn't pick up on during my first watch. It shows the immense amount of time and energy everyone working on the film put into it to make it so great. This is a huge reason as to why I've watched this film so many times, as each time I discover something I hadn't noticed previously, which makes it even more fun.

For more of the story visit DAILYCAMPUS.COM



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# The solo poly hijabi and Twitter's commodification of humor

by Tomas Hinckley

HE/HIM/HIS  
OPINION EDITOR  
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If you've been on the same parts of the internet as me in the past few weeks, you may have noticed a certain meme going around about a "solo poly amputee hijabi." This joke's original posts received many millions of views on X, formerly known as Twitter, and endless references on other apps. It is based on an Instagram infographic from deep in 2020. The original poster, @MarjaniLane, hoped to educate people on what it means to be "solo polyamorous" alongside a drawing of a black disabled hijabi woman. The reason people are talking so heavily about a random obscure post from four years ago has mostly been to ridicule it as an example of the absurdity of "wokeness." The merits of these jokes aren't the point.

What's really interesting about this story is how it has developed over time. At one point, jokes and references to this post were real commentary on perceived trends in society. But they eventually devolved into self-satisfying meta references meant for an increasingly small audience. This isn't just the case with one meme, but it has become the final destination for many jokes on the internet. Humor has changed on the internet recently, and the reasons why show us something very important about the nature of our culture.

To take a step back, it's important to look at the entire timeline of this meme's popularity from beginning to end through a few key posts. First, the resurgence and repurposing of the image into what it is now came from X user @QuetzalPhoenix, a right-wing content creator, making fun of the original post. Five layers of diversity was too much for this page's fanbase, who went into a frenzy comment-

ing how these types of people were invading white nations and giving the post over 33.5 million views. At that point, the meaning of the joke rapidly dispersed, with more left-leaning viewers using the opportunity to take jabs at the shallow and forced nature of "woke" internet discourse from the 2020 era. At this point, the joke is still about perceived trends in society with substance.

However, this quickly changed as it started to become combined with other popular memes to create an amalgamation of jokes, which one viral TikTok showcased with the text: "When I'm in a queen never cry lookalike competition at Charli XCX epilepsy square and my opponent is a solo poly hijabi amputee who's holding space for Defying Gravity." If you read that and didn't understand a word, that's okay, because that's the whole point. In this one absurd sentence, it is possible to discern exactly five distinct memes that exist on related parts of the internet right now, and the entire "joke" is simply in recognizing them.

What this means is that people are instantly separated into two groups upon seeing something like that: those who get it and those who don't. The humor is only for those who get it, and the joke is that they do. It is commentary simply on the nature of being so "chronically online" that one is able to decipher the meaning of a sentence with such seemingly disparate parts. As one X user commented, "you can't miss a week on this website bro wtf are we talking about anymore." This whole bit is meant to leave some people confused and others feeling gratified at their esoteric internet knowledge. It is self-satisfying and purposefully exclusive with the sole purpose being that it communicates that one is part of a certain in-group.

For more of the story visit DAILYCAMPUS.COM



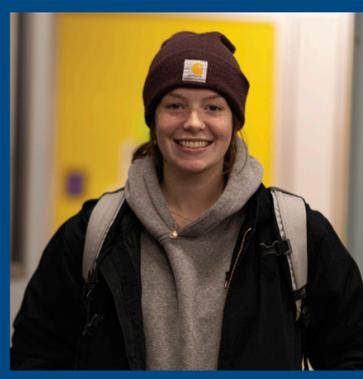
ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Opinion

## Huskytalk | What's the best Christmas gift you've ever given?



**"I drew a picture of my brother and I as Rick and Morty."**  
Charlotte Wight  
Graphic Design  
Fifth semester



**"I gave my dad a pair of Liverpool futbol Converse."**  
Regan Moran  
Graphic Design  
Third semester



**"A dog bone for my mutt."**  
Will Cote  
Graphic Design  
Sixth semester



**"I gave my boyfriend the full series of cowboy bebop on DVD."**  
Caitlin Fabish  
Fine Arts  
Fifth semester

## Roundtable: Defend (or refute) your Spotify Wrapped results

Anxiously awaited by people who love to brag about how niche their music taste is, Spotify Wrapped was released on Wednesday, Dec. 3. This resulted in countless Instagram stories where people boasted about their top five artists and songs, so that they could show the world how unique they are. Looking back on a year of listening, the Daily Campus Opinion section answers:  
**Who was your top artist this year and what does that say about you?**

**by Tomas Hinckley**  
OPINION EDITOR

My top artist was Radiohead, and this is second time in three years they've been at the top of my list. Now, "society" (Twitter) tells me I should be embarrassed by this, but I refuse the notion. "Society" (my friend Luis) tells me that it's "male manipulator music" and a "red flag," and to this I say it is quite possible! Still, the appropriation and bastardization of Radiohead by people with evil intentions (poor emotional maturity) has caused irreparable harm to the reputation of one of the greatest and most revolutionary bands of all time. Although I do subscribe to the idea that some people should feel shame for their musical choices, this is not an example. I am prepared to die on this hill and in this essay I will...

**by Dan Stark**  
STAFF WRITER

A Deadhead whose top artist is the Grateful Dead for the fifth year in a row, need I say more? My top five artists reflected my status as a jam band fan. But the less said about my top five songs, the better.

**by Noa Climor**  
CONTRIBUTOR

To the surprise of absolutely no one, Olivia Rodrigo is my top artist for the third year in a row. She is joined by great names such as Billie Eilish and Lizzy McAlpine. Eilish released my top streamed song, "BLUE," which I highly recommend everyone listen to. My second most streamed song was Rodrigo's "Obsessed" which I fell in love with from the moment I heard it. I am surprised DJO didn't make it to my top five since I genuinely couldn't stop listening to his music this year. Alas, I digress; the real top five might just be the friends we made along the way.

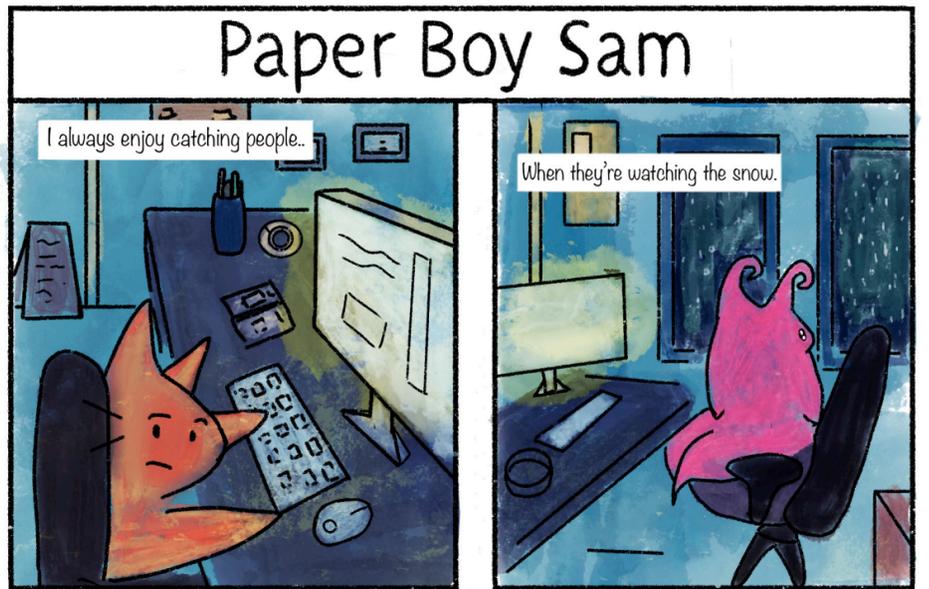
**by Patrick Minnerly**  
WEEKLY COLUMNIST

Laufey was my top artist this year and also swept my top five songs, so I wasn't very surprised - I may or may not have listened to one of her songs 151 times. Plus, she was number four in 2023, even though I had just discovered her in August of that year, so the progression was natural. The artists that rounded out my top five also made sense to me, although Florence + the Machine at No. 5 was a little surprising since I mainly listened to them earlier in the year. Overall, I do wish that Spotify Wrapped gave me my top genres, and a couple of other bells and whistles could have been kept from last year's edition. I did take a listen to Spotify's "Wrapped AI Podcast" expecting to hate everything about it, but I was unfortunately disappointed as it was actually not the worst.

**by Raegan Skelly**  
CONTRIBUTOR

For the sixth year in a row, Taylor Swift is my top artist. I am not surprised in the slightest, as I am the biggest defender of her most recent album, "The Tortured Poets Department." I do, however, have some questions for the month segment of Spotify Wrapped, as my fifth most streamed song was "Massachusetts" by indie artist Jensen McRae. I'm not shocked at its placement, as I eagerly waited for the song to be released and had been listening to a TikTok demo for at least six months beforehand. The song however was released in June 2024, but Spotify listed that I was "really into artists like Jensen McRae" in February, even though "Massachusetts" was the first song of hers I got into. I trust its placement and inclusion in my Spotify Wrapped, but I think they may be getting sloppy.

# comics



**Jason J Sampson**  
Contributing Artist



**Alexa Pappas**  
Contributing Artist



**Krista Mitchell**  
Staff Artist

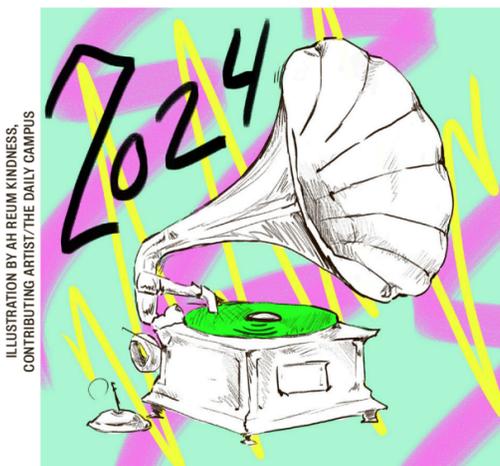


ILLUSTRATION BY AH REUM KINDNESS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## UConn women's sports spotlight

by **Ava Inesta**

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The University of Connecticut is known across the country for its sports programs, having countless numbers of national championships in multiple sports and were even ranked in the top 10 "Best College Athletics in America" in 2023 by Niche, with the Huskies taking the No. 8 spot.

That credits to UConn men's basketball, baseball, track and field and other various sports. However, the women's sports at UConn have been having themselves a year this fall season. As they've been dominating numbers across all boards and all sports, let's take a look into their accomplishments thus far.

### Women's Basketball

Starting off with the big one, UConn women's basketball is one of the most prestigious programs in the country, possibly even of all time, led by legendary coach Geno Auriemma. Chasing their 12th national championship trophy this season, they are off to a hot start. Beginning the season with a current undefeated 7-0 record, the Huskies have beaten teams of all levels and will start their slate of Big East games soon. UConn is led by graduate student Paige Bueckers, who averages 20 points per game, 4.9 rebounds, and 4.6 assists with a 60-field goal percentage. Next up, the Huskies will travel to Brooklyn to face Louisville at the Barclays Center in the Women's Champion Classic.

### Women's Soccer

The UConn women's soccer team had themselves quite a season, finishing with a 14-5-4 overall record, winning the Big East Championship for the first time since 2004 and making an appearance in the second round of the NCAA Tournament. Junior Chioma Okafor was the MVP all season for the Huskies. Okafor led the Big East Conference and the Huskies on the season with 13

goals and 30 points.

### Women's Field Hockey

The UConn field hockey team was also at the top of the conference, ending the season with a 17-4 overall record, winning the Big East Championship and making an appearance in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Freshman Sophie Perschk and Juul Sauer led the Huskies offense all season long. Perschk finished with 13 goals, eight assists and 34 points, while Juul finished with 13 goals, six assists and 32 points. The Huskies capped off their year by hosting a NCAA Tournament game in Storrs, but unfortunately fell to UMass 1-0, which ended their season.

### Women's Ice Hockey

After winning the Hockey East Championship last season, the UConn women's hockey team has a high standard that they are carrying over to this year. The Huskies have started their season with a 10-8-0 overall record and 8-3-0 in conference action. Freshman Claire Murdoch and sophomore Ashley Allard are currently leading the team on offense, with each of them logging six goals. Murdoch has seven assists, which combines for 13 total points, and Allard has four assists, which tallies to 10 points. Next up for the Huskies is a road trip up north to face off against two Hockey East foes. On Friday, Dec. 6, UConn will face New Hampshire in Durham and on Saturday, Dec. 7, they will play Maine in Orono which are the final two games of the first half of their season.

### Women's Volleyball

With a 14-1 record at home in

the UConn Volleyball Center, the UConn volleyball team was on fire all season long. They have a current overall record of 25-7 and they finished 3rd place in the Big East Conference while also making a first-round appearance in the Big East Tournament. The Huskies are currently in Greenville, N.C., competing in the National Invitational Volleyball Championship (NIVC) and about to play in their second-round game. Throughout the season, the Huskies were led by graduate student Taylor Pannell and junior Emma Werkmeister. Werkmeister is the team leader in kills with 299 and Pannell is close behind with 286 kills. UConn is still on a roll and will face the winner of East Carolina/Winthrop on Friday, Dec. 6 at 6:00 p.m. at Minges Coliseum.

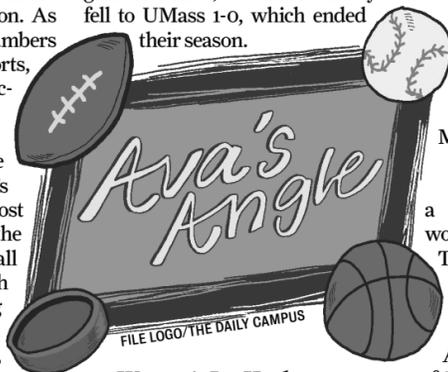
### Women's Cross Country

It's safe to say that it was a great season for UConn women's cross country. Chloe Thomas had led the squad with her impressive list of accomplishments that includes being named an NCAA All-American, a NCAA Athlete of The Week and the Big East Athlete of The Year.

### Women's Swimming and Diving

The UConn women's swimming and diving team is off to a 4-2 start to their season, and they are breaking records as they're doing it. Sophomore Bella Hoffman broke UConn's school record, pool record and qualifies for the NCAA B Cut in the 200-meter backstroke with a time of 1:55.82.

Those are just a few examples of the strongest women's sports representing the UConn Huskies. Women's sports are growing astronomically year after year and the UConn Huskies have some of the best female athletes in the country to prove why the women's sports will continue to stay on top. Keep watching and staying tuned in with women's sports at UConn because it's not something you want to miss out on!



## College Football: Previewing conference championship week

by **Matthew Chmura**

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The college football regular season has wrapped up and it was unlike any other season with the unveiling of the 12-team playoff and even more conference realignment. With these changes and the growth of NIL and the transfer portal, this season has been less predictable than any in recent memory. This weekend is one of the biggest of the year as it is conference championship week. This column will preview the most significant championship games with the biggest implications.

### Mountain West

#### UNLV vs. Boise State

The Boise State Broncos have been one of the best teams in college football all season. They are led by Heisman-candidate running back Ashton Jeanty, who has looked unstoppable in one of the best seasons for running backs since Derrick Henry's 2015 season. UNLV, on the other hand, had an unexpected season as midway through, their starting quarterback, Matthew Sluka, left the program due to NIL concerns. The Rebels turned to Hajj-Malik Williams to fill the quarterback spot, and he performed exceptionally, leading them to the Mountain West title game. These two teams last met on Oct. 25 and the Broncos won 29-24. The rematch can't get any bigger as the winner will punch their ticket to the college football playoffs.

### Big 12

#### Iowa State vs. Arizona State

Iowa State started the year 7-0, but the Cyclones dropped two straight games to unranked opponents. The once-promising season started to look bleak for head coach Matt Campbell's program, but they have since bounced back and added three straight wins to

the win columns. They are led by quarterback Rocco Becht, one of the best quarterbacks in the conference. Arizona State has had a season for ages; after being picked last in the conference, they found themselves in a title game. Head coach Kenny Dillingham is one of the quickest risers in the sport, and winning the conference title in the school's first year in the Big 12 may lead him to win National Coach of the Year. The Big 12 has been chaotic this season, and it will all come to an end Saturday with the winner of this contest going to the playoffs.

### SEC

#### Georgia vs. Texas

Georgia and Texas find themselves in a rematch of the Oct. 19 contest, where Georgia dominated on the road 30-15. Texas, however, has not lost since then and is coming off a thrashing of rival Texas A&M last Saturday. The Longhorns' defense is amongst the top in the country, and their offense is flooded with talent. Since defeating Texas, Georgia lost to Ole Miss but has had some big wins on their schedule since then. They are coming off a comeback victory against rival Georgia Tech, where they won after eight overtimes. With the win, Georgia all but secured their spot in the college football playoffs, regardless of the outcome on Saturday. The winner of this game will not only rule the SEC, but have a first-round bye in the college football playoffs.

regardless of the outcome on Saturday. The winner of this game will not only rule the SEC, but have a first-round bye in the college football playoffs.

### Big Ten

#### Oregon vs. Penn State

The Oregon Ducks are the lone undefeated team in college football and are playing their best football of the season. In the school's first season in the Big 10 conference, Dan Lanning's Ducks have lived up to, and exceeded, expectations. Penn State has reached the Big Ten title game for the first time since 2016 when they won. Penn State's head coach James Franklin and his squad have yet to record a big win this season and are hoping to do so this weekend against the top team in the country. This game would be a monumental win for each program as it would mean clinching a Big Ten title in Oregon's first year, and for Penn State, it would be the biggest win of the Franklin era. The winner will also get a first-round bye from the college football playoffs, and a win by Oregon would earn them the one seed.

### ACC

#### SMU vs. Clemson

Rhett Lashlee's SMU Mustangs are in their first year in the ACC and have exceeded all expectations. Despite a change in the quarterback position from Preston Stone to Kevin Jennings, the team has not lost a step but gained one. Clemson, on the other hand, has spent their season beating up on bad opponents and struggling against good ones. They have nine wins under their belt, but only one of which being against a team with a winning record. None of this will matter if the Tigers can knock off the Mustangs on Saturday night. A loss for SMU may knock them out of the playoffs. The ACC title game has more on the line than any other Power 4 championship game.

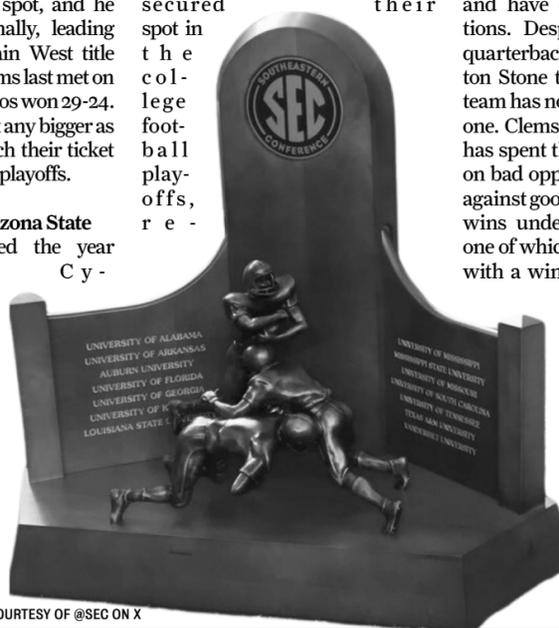
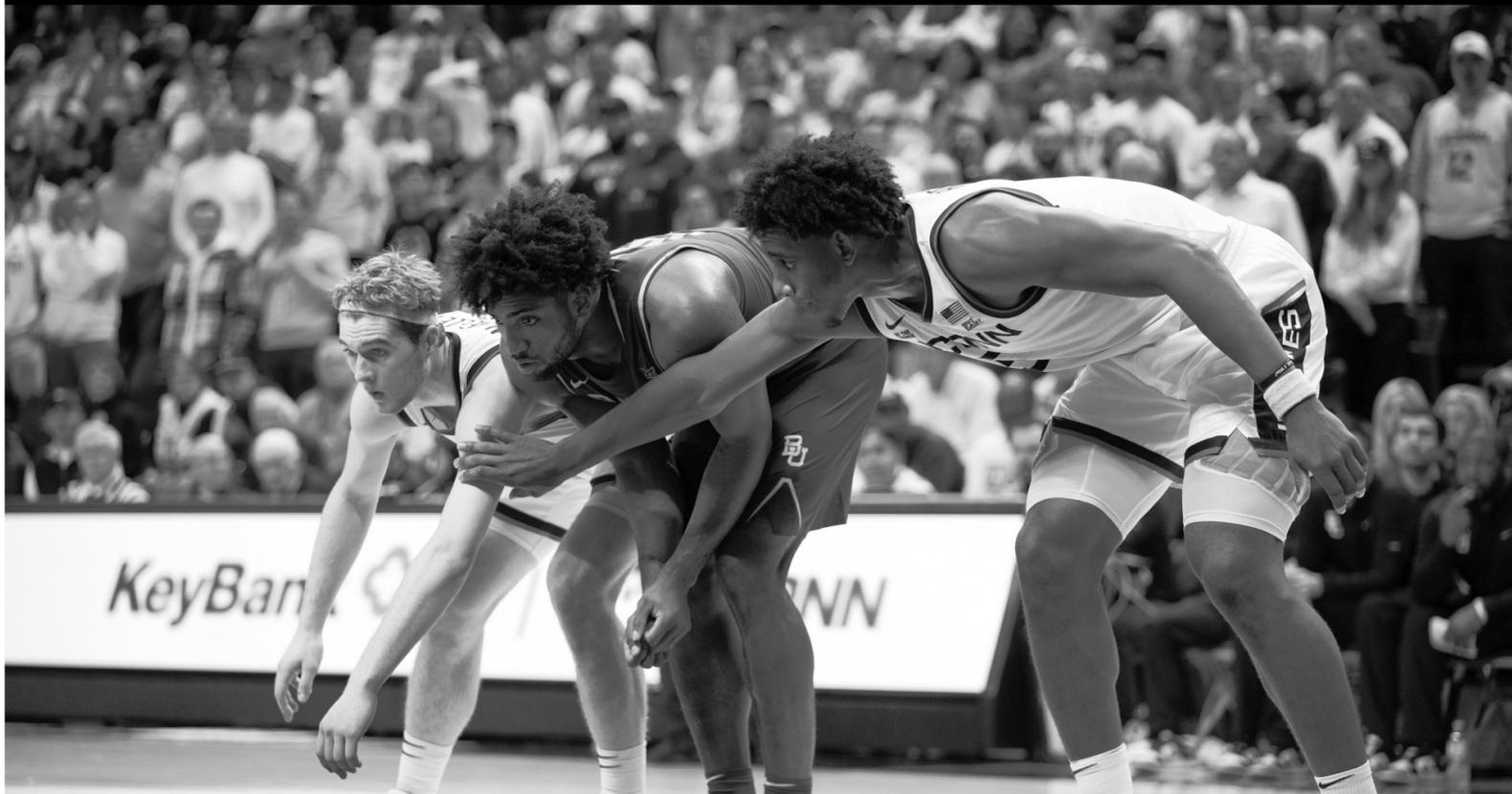


PHOTO COURTESY OF @SEC ON X

## Sports

## Photo of the Day |



UConn men's basketball takes on Baylor University at Gampel Pavilion on Dec. 4, 2024. The Huskies secured a 76-72 win.  
PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Women's Swim and Dive:

### HUSKIES LOOK TO MAINTAIN THEIR DOMINANCE AGAINST VERMONT

by Collete Doyle  
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On Saturday, Dec. 7, the UConn women's swim and dive team will have their third home meet of the season, against Vermont at 10 a.m.

The Huskies are coming off of a dominant performance in the Bucknell Invitational, held at Bucknell University from Friday, Nov. 22 to Sunday, Nov. 24. The invitational included swimmers from Delaware, Seton Hall, Bucknell, Fordham, Davidson, UMBC and UConn. The Huskies took first place with a score of 1428.5. Delaware and Fordham trailed behind with scores of 1182 and 858.5, respectively.

The Huskies' recent win and their array of records set in recent meets demonstrate that they are a force to be reckoned with. In their last home meet against Rhode Island, records were set in three events. A pool record was set in the 400-yard medley relay by Senior Maggie Donlevy in

backstroke, freshman Sydney Perkins in breaststroke, freshman Stella McCardie in butterfly and freshman Jessica Sheng in freestyle. This relay team will provide immense competition for the Catamounts.

Another pool record was set by junior Alexis Martino in the 400-yard individual medley with a time of 4:23.09. Lastly, a pool and school record was set by sophomore Bella Hoffman in the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 1:55.82. These two swimmers will be key assets to the Huskies in their attempt to defeat the Catamounts.

The Catamounts are also coming off of a win at the University of Rhode Island Invitational. The team finished first with a score of 877, followed by the Rhode Island and Holy Cross.

The Catamounts' currently have a record of 4-3, while the Huskies have a record of 4-2. However, the Catamounts last win displayed their strength, highlighted by record breaking performances from key swimmers. Vermont domi-

nated in the 200-freestyle relay, where they set a meet and a pool record with a time of 1:34.79. The race was swum by junior Ellie Fazio, senior Jackie House, sophomore Havana Layton and senior Haley Laney. This relay team will look to continue to dominate against the Huskies.

Laney continued to be a key swimmer for the Catamounts throughout the meet, setting records in both the 100-butterfly and 200-butterfly. Laney set a new meet record in the 100-butterfly with a time of 55.56. She also set a Vermont varsity record, pool record and meet record in the 200-butterfly with a time of 2:00.91. Laney will provide competition for the Huskies in these two events.

The Huskies' last matchup against the Catamounts was last season, where they defeated the Catamounts 188.5 to 111.5 in their last meet of the fall season. Their overall win was accompanied by wins in 10 out of 15 of the events. The Huskies will hope to bring the same energy against the Catamounts this season.



UConn Swim and Dive takes on Sacred Heart University and Central Connecticut State University on Oct 3, 2024, in Storrs, CT. UConn fans showed up and cheered on the team and watched as they had an impressive performance. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Men's Ice Hockey:

## TUNG, HUSKIES DROP OVERTIME CONTEST TO NO. 3 BOSTON COLLEGE

by **Tyler Lato**  
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On Wednesday, Dec. 4, the UConn men's ice hockey team traveled to Chesnut Hill, Mass. to take on Hockey East foes, the No. 3-ranked Boston College Eagles. The Eagles got the best of the Huskies in overtime by a score of 2-1 in a tightly contested defensive slugfest. This was UConn's first loss to the Eagles this season after previously defeating them at home 5-4 earlier in mid-November.

Early in the first period, Connecticut forward Tabor Heaslip found himself in the penalty box due to cross-checking. However, the Huskies defense stood strong and kept the Eagles off the scoreboard for the entirety of the power play. After multiple BC scoring attempts were smothered by the Huskies' defense, Boston College freshman forward Teddy Stiga, assisted by Gabe Perreault and Drew Fortescue, wiped the zero off of the scoreboard to give the Eagles a 1-0 lead. Despite the early score, the UConn defense, led by freshman goaltender Callum Tung, remained stout for the rest of the first period.

It was the second period when the Huskies finally broke into the scoring column. British Columbia native Ryan Tattle took advantage of

an untimely Boston College turnover to sneak the puck past All-American goal tender Jacob Fowler. Tattle knotted the score up at 1-1 with 13 minutes left in the period. Despite several scoring opportunities, the Huskies were unable to capitalize as BC's Fowler ultimately lived up to his impressive accolades.

The final period was yet again highlighted by the defensive prowess of UConn's Tung. While being outshot by the Eagles 17-7, Tung was able to withstand the opposing barrage by recording an impressive 17 saves in the third period. With four seconds left in the period, Eagles forward Ryan Leonard had his chance to win the game but was blocked by John Spetz to send the game into an overtime period.

Fowler, once again, delivered for the Eagles by not letting anything pass him for the entirety of the overtime period. With a little over a minute into overtime, Boston College's James Hagens was finally able to find the back of the net to score the game-winner, defeating the Huskies in 2-1 overtime fashion.

After a couple of weeks off, the Huskies (7-7-1) will return to action at the 2024 Kwik Trip Holiday Faceoff against Alaska in late December. The match will be played at Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee.



Huskies take on the University of Vermont at Toscano Family Ice Forum on Nov. 3, 2024. The team won 6-5 in an overtime thriller.

PHOTOGRAPH BY VON LINDENTHAL, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Women's Ice Hockey:

## UConn TAKES ON NEW HAMPSHIRE IN FINAL MEETING OF THE SEASON



UConn women's ice hockey (#14) defeated Boston College (#11) 2-1 at Toscano Family Ice Forum on Nov. 23, 2024. The game remained tied until the first intermission, where they regained the lead late in the second period, and secured another Hockey East win.

PHOTOGRAPH BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Tyler Pruneau**  
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The UConn women's ice hockey team heads to New Hampshire on Friday, Dec. 5 at 6 p.m. in hopes of improving their one-game winning streak.

Every season, the Hockey East rivals face off three times, and this year is no different. The Huskies own a dominating 8-3 conference record with a 10-8 overall mark. When it comes to conference play, New Hampshire stands even at .500 and is 6-6 in the conference.

Coming into their third and final meeting, UConn has a solid shot at sweeping the Wildcats. The two teams played back-to-back matches at the start of the season, where the Huskies came out on top, 5-1 and 2-0. In both contests, Connecticut put on a defensive show, only allowing New Hampshire to score one goal.

Looking back on the 2023-2024 campaign, this is not UConn's first rodeo. After taking the first meeting on the chin, the Huskies struck back and held them to zero points. In addition, UConn has historically dominated UNH, and from 2020-2022, the Huskies notched a six-game winning streak. In all, Connecticut has gone 12-5 since 2019.

Diving into Connecticut's roster, Claire Murdoch is someone to watch out for come puck drop. With 13 goals, the leading scorer has controlled the ice. In the previous two encounters

against UNH, the freshman put up two points, three assists and seven shots. Seeing the team player continue to pressure the keeper in Friday's contest is a no-brainer.

On the defensive side, UConn has continuously switched between Tia Chan and Megan Warrenner to guard the net. Despite the changes, the goalkeeper duo has helped keep the team in games and kept the scoring to a minimum. In the last two matchups against the Wildcats, the keepers blocked a combined total of 45 shots. By the looks of it, Chan will take the ice as Warrenner participated against Sacred Heart. In the first clash, the senior let up one netter, but played a key role in getting the victory.

For New Hampshire, striving for the win should come as no surprise. In the past five showings, the Wildcats went on a four-game surge before falling to Mercyhurst and Northeastern. In both setbacks, the team put only one in the bin. A player to watch will be Chavonne Truter, who is making opportunities happen with eight assists so far this year. Even though Connecticut combined for seven goals in both contests, goaltenders Sedona Blair and Noemi Martinez saved 72 attempts. In the second clash, Blair contributed a lot as she decreased the deficit to two points, giving New Hampshire a better shot to win.

As New Hampshire tries to get back on track, UConn is looking to take the last piece of the pie.



# Sports

## WOMEN'S AND MEN'S BASKETBALL:

### HUSKIES TO FACE NO. 22 LOUISVILLE IN BROOKLYN AS PART OF CHAMPIONS CLASSIC

by Jake McCreven

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The No. 2 UConn women's basketball team will travel to Brooklyn on Saturday night to face off against the No. 22 Louisville Cardinals.

The 9:00 p.m. tip-off is the Huskies' latest of the season, as both teams will have to watch No. 17 Iowa (8-0) and Tennessee (6-0) square off at 7 p.m. Both games will be streamed on FOX.

The Huskies, fresh off of their return from The Bahamas, defeated Holy Cross 88-52 on Tuesday night at Gampel Pavilion. The Cardinals, 5-3 in the season, lost to No. 11 Oklahoma 78-72 on Wednesday evening as a part of the SEC/ACC Challenge.

The Cardinals opened their season against now-top ranked UCLA in France, sticking with the Bruins for three quarters before a late 7-0 run gave Lauren Betts and company the 66-59 victory.

Wins against Southern Indiana, Tennessee-Martin, Morehead State, South Florida and Colorado were sandwiched between a rivalry game loss to then-No. 20 Kentucky, 71-61 to complete the November slate. The Cardinals again found themselves in a close game with the Wildcats before Kentucky ended the game on a 10-3 run to seal the ten-point victory.

Connecticut's seven opponents thus far have a combined record of 33-22 (.600), whereas Louisville's eight opponents have racked up a collective record of 46-21 (.687). The only common opponent on both teams' schedules is South Florida - who both teams defeated.

The Cardinals are led by a

tandem of guards both averaging 12 ppg in Jayda Curry (12-2-3.5) and Tajianna Roberts (12-2.4-1.6). The two combined for 24 points and five assists in the Cardinals' loss to Oklahoma.

Curry and Roberts are the only Cardinals to average double-digits this season, but head coach Jeff Walz's 11-player rotation presents a multi-faced offensive attack that is a headache for opposing defenses to manage. Freshman Imari Berry is a name to watch off of the bench, frequently in the double-double neighborhood in points and rebounds.

Louisville's most volatile scoring option, forward Olivia Cochran, exploded for 17 points and nine rebounds in the loss to Oklahoma, nearly doubling her season averages of 9.6 ppg and 6.3 rpg, respectively. The fifth-year veteran has scored 13 points or more in four contests, demanding opposing defense's respect, but consistency has yet to find Cochran, who has scored two times or less in three games.

Both teams have found success, albeit fleeting, from behind the arc, as evident from Connecticut's back-to-back showings of 3/14 (21.4 percent) and 14/31 (45.2 percent) against Mississippi and Holy Cross, as well as Louisville's 16/27 (59.3 percent) performance against Morehead State and 6/29 (20.7 percent) outing against UCLA.

Both offenses are at their best when operating through sets, with Connecticut ranking No. 2 in effective field goal percentage nationally (58.4%) and Louisville 77th (49.6%).

Creating space through movement, which allowed Kaitlyn Chen and Sarah Strong to combine for 36 points last Tuesday against the Crusaders, is what



UConn women's basketball takes on Holy Cross on December 3rd. The team dominated, winning by 36 points. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

the Husky offense is built to do.

The Cardinals are a tough defensive outfit when defending the three, allowing only 33.8 percent of opposing threes to go in (top 100 in the country), but allow an average of 10.5 offensive rebounds per night and 34.1 boards per night overall. Establishing an identity under the basket will be crucial for both teams early, especially if Louisville wants to guide its scoring through the explosive Cochran.

### NO. 25 UCONN TRAVELS TO TEXAS FOR FIRST ROAD GAME

by Sam Calhoun

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The final three games of the non-conference schedule for the No. 25 UConn men's basketball team (6-3) are essential to reach their ceiling of a third consecutive national championship this season.

Amid a four-game stretch against opponents who were ranked in the AP Poll at some point this season, the Huskies travel to Austin to take on the Texas Longhorns on Sunday, Dec. 8.

UConn began its four-game stretch on the right note with a redeeming win over No. 15 Baylor at Harry A. Gampel Pavilion.

No one stepped up more than Liam McNeely, who made his presence known on Wednesday night on both ends of the court with 17 points, eight rebounds and three blocks.

It will be a homecoming game for the freshman phenom, who grew up four hours away from Texas' capital city in Richardson, a suburb of Dallas.

Whether Alex Karaban will play is yet to be determined, as head coach Dan Hurley said that he is "not sure about the weekend."

Texas will be the toughest defense the Huskies will face to date. According to KenPom, the Longhorns rank No. 19 in defensive efficiency and have shaken off their opening-season loss to

Ohio State with a seven-game winning streak, including wins over Syracuse and N.C. State. They rank second in the Southeastern Conference (SEC) in points allowed per game with 61.4.

What has contributed to their top 20 defense is their ability to defend inside the arc. Texas ranks No. 3 in the country in opponent two-point percentage at 39.4 percent. The only teams better in that category are San Diego State and Texas. UConn ranks No. 3 in the country in shots from inside 3-point range, shooting 63.7 percent.

Offensively, Texas takes care of the ball well, only turning over the ball 13.7 percent of the time. They rely on defense-to-offense, but the Huskies can make use of being one of the best shot-blocking teams in the country by chasing down whoever is trying to make a play off a fast break. It is inside the paint where Connecticut's big men, Samson Johnson and Tarris Reed Jr., can come into play. Texas ranks last in the SEC in 3-point attempts, averaging 19.8 per game, and is much more efficient scoring in the paint than settling for midrange attempts. They are a sneaky team from the corner, making 42.4 percent of their shots from there. That is 7.7 percent above average among Division I teams, according to CBB Analytics.

There will be a familiar face on the floor as former Creighton Bluejay Arthur Kaluma serves as the primary power forward for Texas. The 6-foot-7 senior from Glendale, Ariz. is one of the most important players for head coach Rodney Terry's team. Kaluma averages 13.6 points, eight rebounds and one steal per game, while shooting 54.2 percent from the floor, 38.9 percent from deep and 72.7 percent from the free-throw line. He has only failed to score 10 points or more once this season, in the Longhorns' most recent game against

N.C. State. Even though he only scored eight points in that game, he served as a glass cleaner with 15 rebounds. He has two double doubles already this season and is more than capable of a third if the Huskies are not careful.

The main threat for Texas is freshman Tre Johnson, who is expected to be a first-round pick in the 2025 NBA Draft. He is the best scorer in the SEC, averaging 20.8 points per game.

Texas is in their first season in the SEC, which is loaded with national contenders. The Longhorns are no exception.

It will be Connecticut's first visit to the newly built Moody Center, previously visiting the old Frank Erwin Center whenever they had a road game against Texas. One of the most memorable games of the 2010-11 run to the national championship was at Texas, as Kemba Walker scored 22 points, including the game-winning basket, to beat the Longhorns in overtime by one point. The Huskies are 3-1 in Austin all-time and 7-3 overall in the series.

The last time the Huskies visited the Lone Star State's capital was on Dec. 29, 2015, when Rodney Purvis scored 18 points to help snap Texas' six-game winning streak.

Fans do not have to look too far back for the most recent meeting between the two programs. In the 2023 Empire Classic title game at Madison Square Garden, Karaban had 20 points, while Johnson had his best outing with 15 points and eight rebounds. UConn ended up on top by a score of 81-71.

Connecticut has been more battle-tested, but their first road game of the season means there are learning experiences ahead, especially with a young team.

They will take on the Longhorns on Sunday, Dec. 6, at 5 p.m. (4 p.m. local time). The game will be televised on ESPN.



UConn men's basketball takes on Baylor University at Gampel Pavilion on Dec. 4, 2024. The Huskies secured a 76-72 win. PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER CHANDLER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS