



UConn works on developing a Strategic Enrollment Management Plan



A view of the Convocation ceremony on Aug. 23, 2019. Incoming freshmen lit up the Student Union Mall to signify the beginning of their years at UConn.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF UCONN TODAY.

by **Liliana French**

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The University of Connecticut is creating a new Strategic Enrollment Management Plan (SEM), which is designed to increase enrollment and promote student retention according to UConn President Radenka Maric via UConn Today.

Vice President of Student Life and Enrollment Nathan Fuerst explained SEM in a Dec. 5 presentation to the Student Life Committee of the board of trustees, according to an online recording.

"A number of priorities were articulated through the university strategic plan as well as, we have identified Key Performance Indicators," Fuerst said. "Improving student success rates, getting our graduation rates to increase,

reducing indebtedness, reducing the amount of financial stress [and] increasing the sense of belonging on the part of our students."

He said that while UConn administrators had to monitor those priorities, they needed to include additional details on enrollment. He mentioned the importance of "recognizing in both the mission and the strategic plan that we're working in a time of constrained resources."

Fuerst said the plan would encompass all student groups with the exception of dental, medical and law schools, which have specific enrollment objectives that they have already spelled out.

"We are going to be looking across all students, including graduate and undergraduate students, as well as all of our academic programs, all of our campuses and Storrs and the

regional campuses, as well as all modalities, so in person and online included," Fuerst said.

Philip Hunt, the Deputy Chief of Staff to the President, explained enrollment and retention in the meeting.

"In its true sense, enrollment isn't just about recruitment; it's recruitment and retention, with the purpose of retaining students year to year, making sure they earn their degrees," Hunt said. "And then we're also defining the success by what they do once they graduate. The SEM planning process then, is about the how."

According to a presentation explaining SEM, the plan is designed to focus on the entirety of a student's college experience, including a focus on the classroom experience, academic support and student retention.

A 2024 Retention and Graduation Report showed that over the past ten years, UConn had an average time to degree of 4.1 years and a 92%-94% first year retention rate.

The presentation focused on how an SEM plan should be intertwined with other university plans, such as the overarching strategic plan and academic plans.

According to a university website, the SEM planning process will be supported by a steering committee and three advisory committees. Fuerst will chair the Steering Committee, and AACRAO consultant Jody Gordon will be on the committee. AACRAO Consulting focuses on SEM planning. Two students, USG Vice President Arunima Chaturvedi and Stamford Student Government Association President Karima Hamada, will be on the committee.

The Recruitment Advisory Committee will focus on improving student recruitment strategies, according to a university website. The Retention Advisory Committee will examine strategies to retain students and barriers to retention, such as academic or financial difficulties. The Workforce Advisory Committee will work to improve career readiness and meet Connecticut's workforce needs.

UConn Today stated that students, faculty and staff will be engaged in the process.

"Opportunities for community engagement in this process will be announced at the start of the Spring 2025 semester," the article said.

According to a Dec. 11 presentation to the Board of Trustees, the SEM planning framework should be complete by March 28.

New sculpture installed outside of Jorgensen

by **Pierce Colfer**

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A new sculpture, titled "Rouge et Noir", was installed outside of the University of Connecticut's Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts in October 2024. The 1985 sculpture was designed by the late David V. Hayes and was gifted to the university by Elliot Taubman, a friend of Hayes and an alumnus from UConn's undergraduate program and the UConn School of Law.

"Rouge et Noir," which translates to red and black in English, is composed of a series of welded steel panels, a style Hayes was known across his 60 years as a full-time sculptor, according to his website. David M. Hayes, the sculptor's son, explained why Taubman gifted this sculpture to the university.

"It's a nice gesture on the part of my late father's best friend gifting one of my dad's sculptures to the university," Hayes said. "[Rouge et Noir] was on Block Island, [Taubman's] residence, for several

decades... The gift was made by Elliot several years ago, but it was only installed recently. I believe it had long been Elliot's intention to give that piece to the university."

Hayes talked about how his father would get inspiration for his sculptures.

"Wherever he went he always had a large sketchbook with him, so if he was walking outdoors... he would just sketch contours or outlines of shapes you would see in nature, which could be anything," Hayes said.

"It could be shapes of leaves, it could be hills coming together, it could be animals that he would see out

in the wild. He would grab these sketches of glimpses that he would catch in his environment and take those back to his studio."

This isn't Hayes' only sculpture at the UConn Storrs campus. He also has a sculpture outside of St. Thomas

lobby of William Benton Museum of Art, according to Hayes' son. Additionally, Hayes has sculptures across the U.S.A. and in many major museums, including the Museum of Modern Art and the Guggenheim Museum.

"My father spent a lifetime doing this," he said.

"He raised a family doing this, he put four of us through college doing the art and just the art. He was commercially successful... and he had just a great life, a 60-year career just making sculptures."

Since his death in 2013, Hayes'

residence

was converted into the

David Hayes Sculpture Fields,

an area to display his artwork.

The fields, located in Coven-

try, span over 50 acres and are completely open to the public.

Hayes talked about how he's felt "really proud" to see his father's artwork displayed and honored over a decade after his death.

"My dad was a kind, dear, decent man, and I love my father.... What I've been able to do over the last decade is sublimate my sadness into advancing his legacy and I believe I've done that successfully," he said. "That's the task for any artist, it's critical to keep the name out there and keep the name relevant... I do that personally by a fair amount of travel, I visit museum directors and museum curators, I do gallery exhibitions, I do publications."

"I'm just deeply proud that that connection between my father and his best friend Elliot is represented in the gift that Elliot made to UConn," Hayes said.

More information about Hayes and his sculptures can be found on his website, www.davidhayes.com.

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THE DAILY CAMPUS NEWSLETTER

8 AM BLAST

Fires scorched campuses across Los Angeles. Many schools are seeking places to hold classes

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Days after losing her home in the same fire that destroyed her Los Angeles elementary school, third-grader Gabriela Chevez-Muñoz resumed classes this week at another campus temporarily hosting children from her school. She arrived wearing a t-shirt that read "Pali" — the nickname for her Pacific Palisades neighborhood — as signs and balloons of dolphins, her school's mascot, welcomed hundreds of displaced students.

"It feels kind of like the first day of school," Gabriela said. She said she had been scared by the fires but that she was excited to reunite with her best friend and give her hamburger-themed friendship bracelets.

Gabriela is among thousands of students whose schooling was turned upside down by wildfires that ravaged the city, destroying several schools and leaving many others in off-limits evacuation zones.

Educators across the city are scrambling to find new locations for their students, develop ways to keep up learning, and return a sense of normalcy as the city grieves at least 27 deaths and thousands of destroyed homes from blazes that scorched 63 square miles (163 square kilometers) of land.

Gabriela and 400 other students from her school, Palisades Charter Elementary School, started classes temporarily Wednesday at Brentwood Science Magnet, about 5 miles (8 kilometers) away. Her school and another decimated Palisades elementary campus may take more than two years to rebuild, Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent Alberto

Carvalho said.

Students from seven other LAUSD campuses in evacuation zones are also temporarily relocating to other schools.

As Layla Glassman dropped her daughter off at Brentwood, she said her priority after her family's home burned down was making sure her three children feel safe and secure.

"We have a roof over our heads. We have them back in school. So, you know, I am happy," she said, her voice cracking. "But of course, there's a lot of grief."

Many schools have held off on resuming instruction, saying their focus for now has been healing, and trying to restore a sense of community. Some are organizing get-togethers and field trips to keep kids engaged in activities and with each other as they look for new space.

The Pasadena Unified School District kept all schools closed this week for its 14,000 students. It offered self-directed online activities but said the work was optional.

Between 1,200 and 2,000 students in Pasadena Unified School District are known to be displaced but the number could be as high as 10,000 based on heat maps of where families lived, district Superintendent Elizabeth Blanco said Thursday. The district aims to reopen some schools by the end of next week and have all students back in classrooms by the end of the month.

Schools that did not burn down were damaged by falling trees, debris, ash and smoke that requires extensive cleaning and environmental testing, she said. Hundreds of school staff members citywide lost their homes or had to relocate,

compounding the challenges.

Some schools are passing on online learning altogether.

"We all did COVID. We did online instruction. We saw the negative impacts," said Bonnie Brimecombe, principal of Odyssey Charter School-South, which burned to the ground. Families have been dropping their children off at the local Boys and Girls Club so students can be with each other, she said.

A total of 850 students attend her school and a sister school in Altadena, Odyssey Charter School-North, which emerged undamaged but is still expected to remain closed for months. At least 40% of the students lost their homes in the fire, she said, making it especially urgent for their well-being to find new space and resume school as soon as possible. "At this point we are trying to reopen in-person the very first day that we can," she said.

Over the long term, disruptions can have profound effects on students' learning and emotional stability.

Children who experience natural disasters are more prone to acute illness and symptoms of depression and anxiety, research shows.

Keeping students together as the two LAUSD elementary schools are doing is the best approach, said Douglas Harris, a Tulane professor who studied the effects of Hurricane Katrina on schools and academic outcomes. But given how many people are relocating because of the fires, he said it's unlikely all classes will look the same.

"I wonder how many kids are showing up to the new school buildings based on how dispersed

they might be," Harris said. "It's going to be difficult and it's going to take a long time."

Among the schools seeking space for temporary classrooms is Palisades Charter High School, which has 3,000 students. Nestled between Sunset Boulevard and the Pacific Coast Highway, "Pali High" is the kind of California school that Hollywood puts on the big screen and has been featured in productions including the 1976 horror movie "Carrie" and the TV series "Teen Wolf."

Most of the buildings are still standing, but about 40% of the campus was damaged, officials said. The school is looking into other campuses, nearby universities and commercial real estate spaces that would allow all its students to stay together until it's safe to return, said principal and executive director Pamela Magee. The school delayed the start of the second semester until Tuesday and will temporarily revert to online learning.

Axel Forrest, 18, a junior on the lacrosse team, is planning to gather with friends for online school. His family home is gone and for now they are at a hotel near the Los Angeles airport.

"I feel so out of it, every day. Do I cry? Do I mourn the loss of my home and school? I am trying not to think about it," he said. The longer school is out, the more idle time his mind has to wander.

"As time is passing I'm realizing this is going to be my reality for the next year or two. I am not going to have anywhere to live permanently for a while," he said. "And what am I going to do for school now? It's go-

ing to be online but for how long? Where will the temporary campus be? How far away is it?"

At Oak Knoll Montessori, educators have been holding meetups for its 150 students at locations including museums, parks, and a library in an effort for students to find some joy. The fire destroyed the school and several dozen students lost their homes.

The only thing that survived the fire was the school's chicken coop, and its five chickens.

"The chickens have been a nice beacon of hope," said Allwyn Fitzpatrick, the head of school. "All the buildings blew up. We have nothing. Not one chair."

Fitzpatrick has found a potential new location for the school and hopes to reopen before the end of the month.

"We have been trying to focus all our attention on the children and how we can temporarily help them normalize all this. Which is an insurmountable task," Fitzpatrick said.

Gecker reported from San Francisco and Rush reported from Portland, Oregon.

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Palisades Charter High School campus in the Pacific Palisades neighborhood of Los Angeles on Jan. 9, 2025.

PHOTO BY RAFAEL NEGROE/AP PHOTO

The Daily Campus

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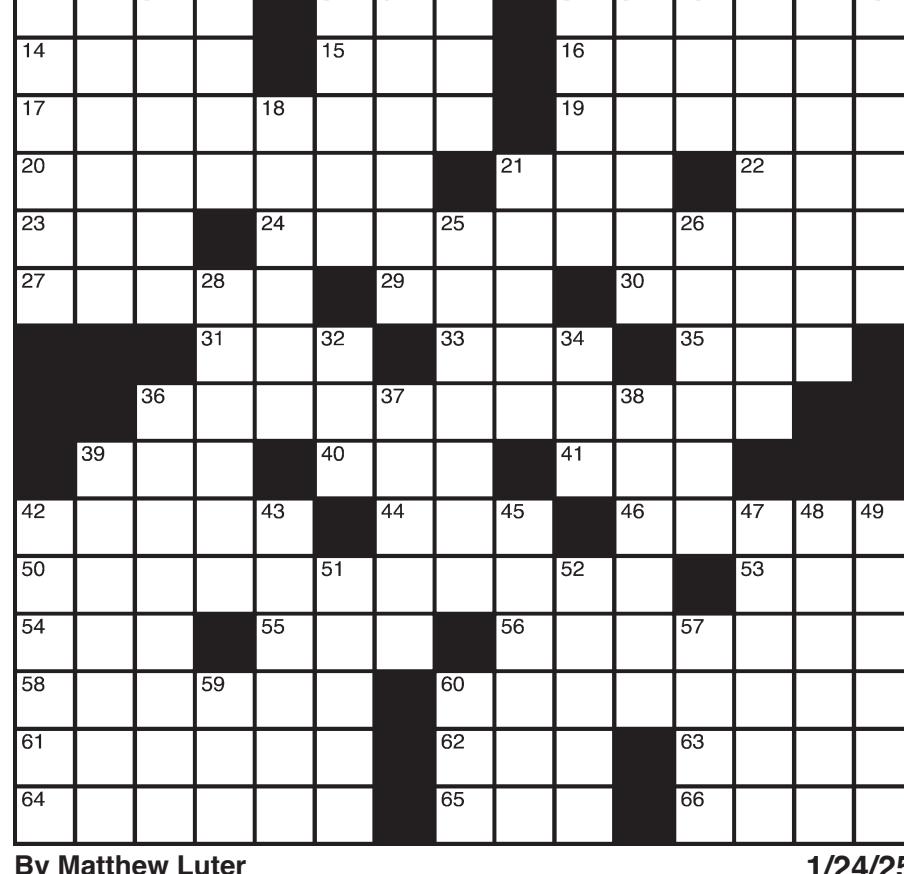
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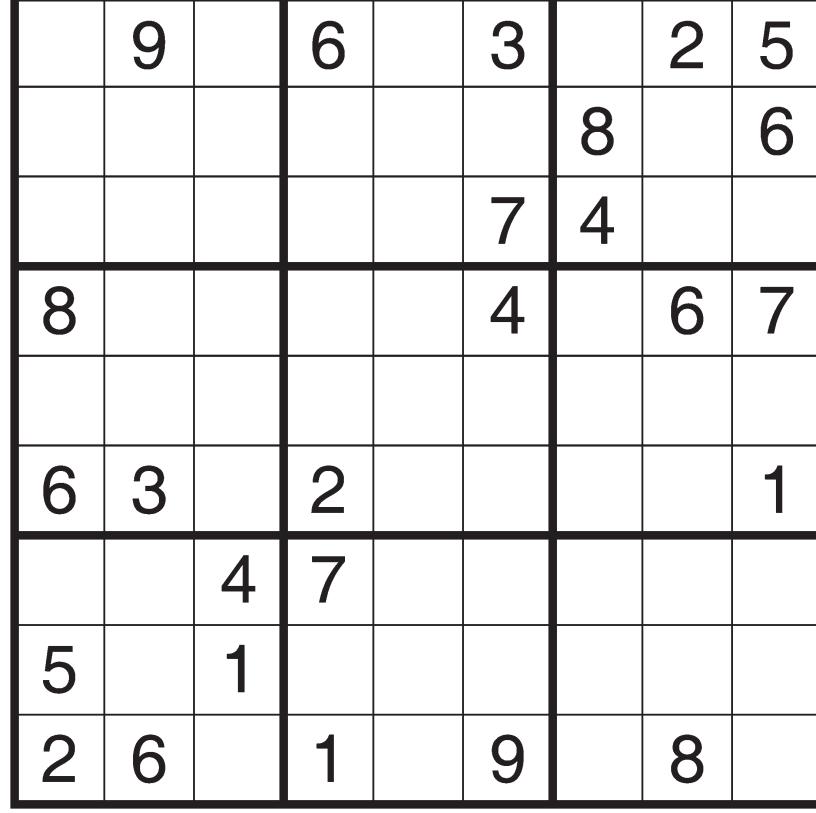
ACROSS

1 Billiard table accessory
 5 Natl. Pizza Mo.
 8 Stay behind
 14 Sultanate on the Arabian peninsula
 15 Massage
 16 Ford model named for a city
 17 *Evil eyes
 19 Less prosperous
 20 "Whenever you're done talking ..."
 21 Word with cat or power
 22 Course for intl. students
 23 Driving aid
 24 *Stuffy nose
 27 Story that might be dark and creepy
 29 Unrefined resource
 30 Pays to play
 31 Closest pals
 33 Channel that often airs films in letterbox format
 35 HS proficiency test
 36 *Smart mouth
 39 Cleveland pro
 40 Sketch on a dust jacket
 41 Semisolid hair product
 42 Render unreadable, in a way
 44 Grasped
 46 Yogurt-based dip
 50 *Double chin
 53 Flash
 54 __ whim
 55 After expenses
 56 Party bites
 58 Ride for a few days
 60 Suffer disgrace, or what the starred clues must do as a set to match their answers?
 61 __ planning
 62 Electric guitarist's need
 63 Mathematician Turing
 64 Insect's legs, e.g.
 65 "As I __ saying ..."



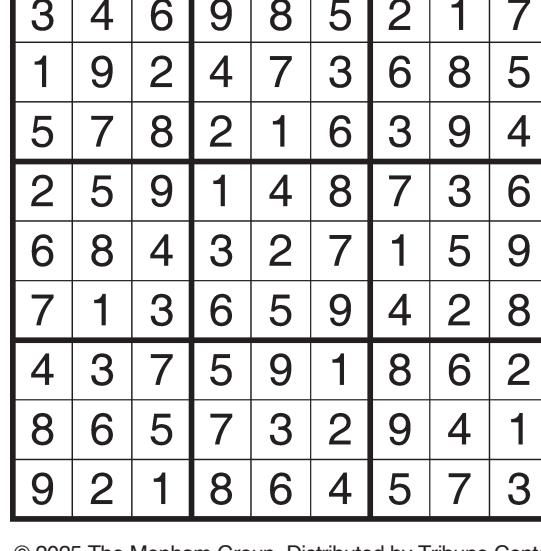
By Matthew Luter

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



Solution to Thursday's puzzle

1/24/25



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.

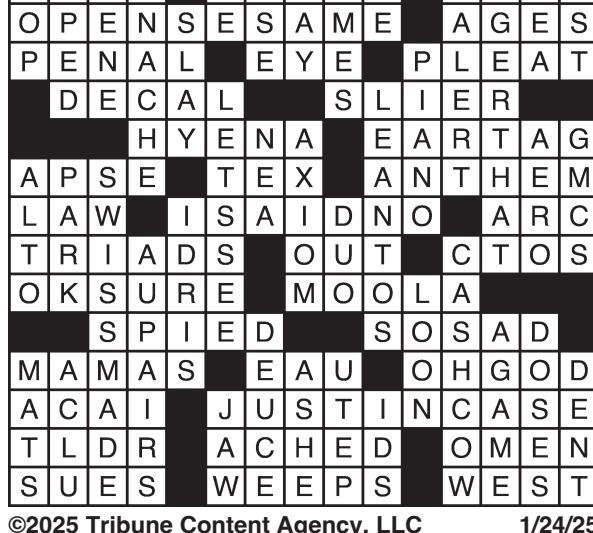
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66 Riveted

DOWN

1 Guitar-playing "Sesame Street" Muppet
 2 Protective talisman
 3 Coated pill
 4 "Who __?"
 5 Go around
 6 Dos y dos
 7 Short "We'll announce this later"
 8 Parade VIP
 9 Brouhaha
 10 Person who prefers platonic relationships, for short
 11 Led
 12 Bracket favorite
 13 Best of both __
 18 Mischievous type
 21 Female kin
 25 School space that's full of drawers
 26 Actress Bassett
 28 "In the event that ..."
 32 Org. with a summer All-Star break

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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34 Umami source, briefly
 36 Calls for
 37 Numeral
 38 Pleasantly calm
 39 One official language of the U.N.
 42 Gooey sandwiches
 43 Act charitably
 45 Seattle's airport-sharing neighbor
 47 Chevy model named for an animal
 48 Steel part of a work boot
 49 __-minded
 51 Sublease
 52 Shocked sounds
 57 Nowhere near
 59 Ink spot?
 60 Grisham's field

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The UConn student's ultimate guide to staying warm during the spring semester

by Samantha Brody

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Winter firmly settled in at the University of Connecticut after Winter Storm Albatross blew through the state, forcing students to trudge to class over patches of snow and ice. As temperatures plummet into the teens and single digits this week, it's time to consider the various ways the average UConn student can remain comfortable and warm while out and about campus.

As a Massachusetts resident and a long-time skier, the biggest tip I can give to anyone trying to stay warm in this weather is to layer, layer, layer! Ideally, you'll want a large winter coat, big enough to fit a sweatshirt underneath. The body keeps as much heat as it can near your heart, so if your torso gets cold, you're going to start shivering. Wear long sleeves and sweatshirts under a large jacket when you can — and make sure that jacket protects against the wind.

Layering is important for every other aspect of your winter-proof outfit. On particularly cold days, try and fit a pair of long underwear under your pants (and try to wear warm sweatpants instead of jeans). If you don't have long underwear, a pair of leggings will work just fine.

In addition to long underwear, also called thermal underwear, it's worth taking a look at ski and snowboard gear online. Base layers are warm, tight-fitting, long-sleeved shirts that can be worn under other layers, and they'll trap the heat to your chest. If you struggle with your hands getting too cold, take a look at ski gloves. If you need even more help, glove liners act as a base layer for your



UConn Storrs campus covered in snow on Jan. 20, 2025. Students will continue to experience below freezing temperatures in the coming weeks. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

hands, worn under larger gloves to keep the heat inside. If you have trouble with the wind getting into your gloves, do your best to tuck them into your sleeves to block it.

In terms of footwear, ski socks are also designed to keep feet warm and comfortable. However, these socks are on the bulkier side, so you might want to skip buying them if your shoes are too snug. You can also always layer your socks to keep warm instead. Additionally, if you don't have snow boots on campus, consider getting a pair if possible. If all you're doing is walking between classes throughout the day, there's no need to worry about the warmth of your feet, but the ice melt salt throughout campus

can ruin a good pair of shoes.

The last part of the body we must cover is the head. This isn't an issue for everyone, but keep in mind that a hat or hood can keep your ears warm. If you don't like how cold your face or neck get, consider a scarf or even a neck gaiter. Neck gaiters look a lot like the conventional pop-culture bandit mask, protecting both the neck and the lower half of the face. Personally, I swear by my neck gaiter; without it, wind scoops down through the top of my jacket and sweatshirt, which is incredibly uncomfortable.

When selecting garments to keep your head warm, also keep in mind any jewelry that you may be wearing. Earlobe piercings are generally fine, but other ear and

face piercings can cause issues. When it's particularly cold out, piercings will become very cold, enough to cause a painful, burn-like sensation in the area it's in contact with. Personally, I cover my cartilage piercing with a hat, which serves me just fine, but consider taking out any jewelry that is too painful in the cold.

Once you've appropriately dressed yourself for the weather, all you must do now is remain mindful of the outdoor temperature, the windchill and the temperature of your own body. Keep in mind the change in temperature and wind throughout the day so you don't end up freezing as you walk back to your dorm. Remain considerate of which parts of your body are cold as

well; cold fingers and toes can act as an early warning sign that your body is getting a bit chilly, but a cold torso means the weather has made its way through your clothing. At that point, it's best to head inside for a break.

Although cold weather can be uncomfortable, it's always manageable. Every season has something to offer, and winter is no exception. If you find joy in winter activities such as sledding, skiing, or snowman-making, get out there and do it! There will also always be time to enjoy a hot beverage with friends in a dining hall or the Union, safe from the perils of the outside world. Relax, enjoy the beauty of the snow, and get ready for your spring semester at UConn!

'The Night Agent' Season 2: A good reason to pick up the phone

by Noa Climor

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An FBI agent working nights in the basement of the White House and a phone that never rings doesn't sound too exciting, but you'd be surprised at how intense things get once a call goes through. "The Night Agent," a series based on Matthew Quirk's hit novel of the same name first dropped on Netflix in 2023 — and had viewers on the edge of their seats from the first second of the show. The first season was 2023's most watched series and the seventh most popular English show of all time.

Enter Peter Sutherland, an FBI agent who has only one job: sit in a dark, and frankly, sad looking basement in the White House and wait for the off chance that the phone in front of him will ring. The phone, by the way, is an emergency line for undercover spies who are in serious trouble, and lo and behold, it rings! And let's be real: it wouldn't be much of a show if it

didn't. Could you imagine watching 10 hours of some guy sitting in front of the phone? Sutherland picks up the call and answers the one and only Rose Larkin, whose aunt and uncle were spies and were murdered by intruders.

Sutherland goes above and beyond his job description (do TV FBI agents in basements make minimum wage?) and risks his life and career to protect Larkin from the assassins, and bam! A plot unveils in the form of an insane conspiracy involving the president, the chief of staff and so much more. In the end, Sutherland saves the president, becomes a night agent and gets handed his first case.

But you already know that, since you're here for the season two review, and if you don't know that, you should watch before reading the rest of this, so let's go ahead and unveil the plot of the first two episodes — with minimal spoilers. Scout's honor.

The first episode immediately kicks things into gear. In "Call Tracking," our agent is in Bang-

kok, Thailand with Brittany Snow, who plays a new character, who is unnamed at this point, as another agent. She and Sutherland are tracking someone when things go south. By south, I mean they both need an extraction. The new guy on the night agent phone picks up the call, Alice (Snow's character) gives him the code and off we go.

Never mind! Alice gets shot and Sutherland books it across the streets of Bangkok, also to call the night agent phone. He says "Hummingbird," referencing Alice by her code name, is dead and that he has three guys tailing him. He calls "Reindeer" and reveals that someone betrayed them as these guys knew everything.

An unnamed man in a car uses a flash drive to view a classified file and Sutherland gets shot. Mind you, we are not even 15 minutes into the first episode and things are going by at the speed of light. Larkin, fumbling a presentation due to an international call, finally answers it and finds out from a mystery voice that Sutherland is in trouble. She

calls "Reindeer," Catherine, and they meet up. Catherine shuts her out, but Larkin does her own work to try and find Sutherland.

Sutherland is in some sort of hideout and plays basketball with a kid who reveals his father has been texting him on signal. It seems important, but we're unsure of why yet. Something is deeply wrong, but I won't go too deeply into it for spoiler's sake — I need to keep the mystery alive somehow. The show is moving fast, and the plot is unraveling even faster. Who's the mystery phone man? Why has Sutherland not made his way back?

And what are the consequences of Larkin using her security app to search a secret agent up? At the end of episode one, everyone's in trouble, and although Larkin and Sutherland are reunited, at what cost does that come with?

Let's find out. Episode two, "Disconnected," starts with Sutherland flying in on a helicopter and meeting Catherine, who reveals herself as his case officer. This seems to be some sort of flashback to provide

context for the previous episode, which is a nice way to both cool off from all the action and understand everything that occurred. Catherine is not Sutherland's biggest fan and even offers him an out, which he does not take.

Alice, "Hummingbird," is introduced more formally as well. She warns him against continuing a relationship with Larkin and advises against calling her like he promised. And back to the action we go. Sutherland is obviously distressed at how Larkin found him, which is fair, since he is a secret agent after all, and Larkin catches him up on everything that occurred to get her there.

Sutherland reveals more about his mission and talks about how things went poorly and what it means that someone knew about their plans and was able to both kill Alice and ruin the mission. The rest of the episode is packed with action and filled with information that just keeps you wanting more.

I wish I had the time to binge watch the entire season, but for now I'll settle for an episode or two whenever I have free time. "The Night Agent" is an intense and action-packed show, but one thing it has going for it is that the plot is just as good and able to stand up on its own. As a thriller spy show, it's hard for "The Night Agent" to pop out when there are so many other shows with similar premises, but with interesting characters and a story line that immediately pulls you in, it finds a way.

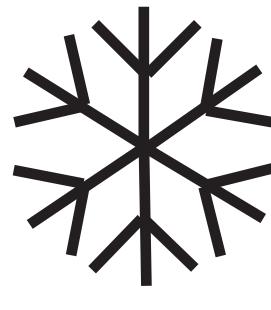
I highly recommend tuning into this show, and if you're worried about a cancellation, because I know I always am, just know that "The Night Agent" was renewed for a third season, so we will be back in action in no time, or should I say, "The Night Action?"

Rating: 4.5/5, would pick up the call

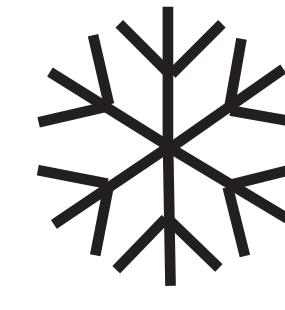


Two characters from the show 'The Night Agent' camping out with binoculars. The series is available for streaming on Netflix.

PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB



Song suggestions for the winter vibes



by Elijah Polance | HE/HIM/HIS | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | elijah.polance@uconn.edu

With the low temperatures and respectable snow this past week, winter has wrapped its cold grip around the University of Connecticut. And what better way to celebrate—or cope—than by making a playlist to match the icy landscape? Here are some song recommendations to help reinforce or subsist the freezing weather.

Bon Iver — “Flume”

To me, no album is a better match for winter than Bon Iver's “For Emma, Forever Ago.” “Flume,” the opening track, sets the mood perfectly, with deliberate acoustic guitar strumming and Justin Vernon's poignant crooning. The spare nature imagery, lyrics of love and feelings of loneliness shines strongly, but it comes off more melancholic than depressing. Add in the buzzing and creaks from the backing guitar as well as the fragile ambience created by the sparse piano, and you have the feeling of winter in just under four minutes.

TwinSisterMoon — “The Spears of the Wolf”

This song appears on “The Snowbringer Cult,” an ambitious album containing tracks from experimental duo Natural Snow Buildings and solo work from both members. Many songs bring to mind desolate winter landscapes with the powerful ambience created by droning noise. But “The Spears of the Wolf” is different. Mehdi Ameziane, as TwinSisterMoon, takes a bare-bones folk approach, using only acoustic guitar and his high register vocals to set the scene. It brings a feeling of wonder as you try to decipher Ameziane's words while the syllables blend together in hypnotic fashion.

Elliott Smith — “Angel in the Snow”

Elliott Smith has plenty of songs that fit the winter vibe, but none as overt as this one, recorded during sessions for his self-titled album. Much like the rest of his older work, it's entirely acoustic, with just his whispered vocals and unique fingerstyle strumming. The longing feeling is apparent, as Smith ties making angels in the snow with other cold imagery in a few short verses to profess unreciprocated affection towards someone.

Armand Hammer — “Doves”

“Doves,” first released as a single by Armand Hammer, a hip-hop duo consisting of Billy Woods and Elucid, is hard to nail down to a single genre. Over the course of nine minutes, there's an underlying ambient portion made up of static, piano and infrequent vocals bellowing. The first three minutes feature whispered vocals from Benjamin Booker, singing about time's inevitable march forward. Then, Woods briefly takes the stage, rapping in a slow cadence about death and hunkering down in a ragged building, with the cold invading through open windows. Elucid closes it out with his deep singing, building on the themes of loss, with his vocals getting more distorted until they fade into the background static. It's a heavy and ambitious song where Woods' lyricism and the delicate balance of loud and quiet make it a worthy fit for the winter season.

Phoebe Bridgers — “Punisher”

Funnily enough, “Punisher,” the title track from Phoebe Bridgers' sophomore album, is about her extreme admiration for Smith, who was a huge inspiration for her. So, it's no surprise that this also works as a great sonic companion for the coming months. While it's an indie folk song, the fading in and out of pianos, synths and strings create a dreamy atmosphere, strengthened by Bridgers' soft singing. It makes you feel like you're walking through a nearly vacant city street, with only some small snowflakes for company, feeling tired and ready to get home.

The Microphones — “The Mansion”

“The Mansion” may be the coldest-sounding song out there. It opens with 15 seconds of near silence before the sound of a creaking chair becomes audible, followed by an even eerier minute of panned guitar and ambient noises. By the time Phil Elverum's measured vocals begin, you don't even need the lyrics, with frequent references to lacking heat and aimlessness, to bring the current weather to mind. If you like spending your winter days huddled under blankets or by a fireplace, cursing the cold, this song could be your perfect match or your worst enemy.

Show Scanner: Where to catch live music 1/24-1/25

by Dan Stark | HE/HIM/HIS | STAFF WRITER | daniel.stark@uconn.edu

Welcome to the spring semester, Huskies! Syllabus week is coming to an end here at the University of Connecticut. Students across campus are getting back into their daily routines, starting their classes and trekking through the brutal cold to get anywhere. But just because the easiest week of the year is over doesn't mean you can't still have fun by catching some live music and dancing the cold away. For those ready to get sweaty in a mosh pit again, here are the top spots to catch a show this weekend in Storrs and across Connecticut.

Friday 1/24: Best Video “(Not Just A Grrrl” - Hamden

BubbleTeaGrunge, the indie collective run by Cecil Yang of Connecticut band Cat Crash, kicks things off this weekend with the “(Not) Just A Grrrl” show at Best Video Film and Cultural Center in Hamden, Conn., on Friday, Jan. 24. The four-band lineup consists of indie punk influenced by the sound and ethos of the riot grrrl movement. Fans from Storrs should be excited by this lineup, which features Girlysona, Melovictoria and Trouble Girl, all of which have made appearances in the UConn music scene recently, as well as New Haven-based punk group Psycho Brat. Music starts at 7 p.m., admission is \$10-15 on a sliding scale and all ages are welcome.

Friday 1/24: Antoinette's - Sandy Hook

Though Sandy Hook is quite the hike from Storrs, the lineup at Antoinette's bar on Friday, Jan. 24 is well worth the drive for music fans. The lineup features five bands, highlighted by Lootbug and Tweed Sugar, two of the most well-known and busiest bands from the Storrs scene. Joining them on the bill is Arcalyde, Cadmium and 2/14. It may be far, but it certainly stands as one of the best lineups of the young year. Music starts at 8 p.m. and goes until 1 a.m., admission is \$10 and showgoers must be at least 21 to attend.

Saturday 1/25: The Dog Pound “Year of the Snake” - Storrs

After an active schedule with shows every weekend during the fall semester, The Dog Pound, Storrs' preeminent basement show venue, is starting off this semester's slate of shows with a bang. The first show at the venue this semester will be the “Year of the Snake” show on Saturday, Jan. 25. The four-band lineup features Cabin Fever, Lootbug and Neanderthal Petting Zoo, all of which brought their talents to the pound in the fall. Joining them on the bill is Done Right, who will be making their Storrs debut. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., music starts at 7:30 p.m. and admission is \$7. Guests are also encouraged to wear black and gold. No parking is available on site. For the address, message @thedogpound on Instagram.

Saturday 1/25: Telegraph Autonomous Zone “Rock Fix” - New London

Telegraph Autonomous Zone, the indie record and book shop located in the heart of downtown New London, is making sure coastal Connecticut showgoers get their live music fix on Saturday, Jan. 25. The eight-band lineup is easily the biggest and most expansive bill of 2025 so far, making it a perfect show for those looking to see as many bands as possible. With a mix of punk, noise rock and even disco, there's something for everyone at “Rock Fix.” The bill consists of Dirt Pile, Mitch Kramer, Pencils Down, Perennial, Pretty Graves, Slyne & The Family Stoned, Strega Dada and Xenos. Music starts at the bright and early time of 3 p.m., donations are encouraged for the performers and all ages are welcome.

Daily

Life

@dailycampuslife

REVIEW OF THE NEW COSTCO GUYS SONG "BREAK THE BOOM! METER"

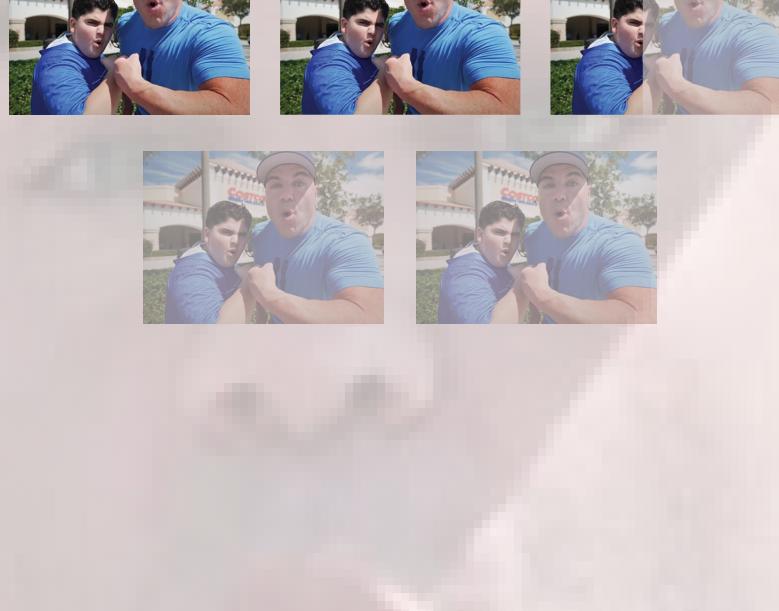
When you think of the Costco Guys, the frequently covered duo in the Life section featuring father-and-son duo A.J. and Big Justice, their tongue-in-cheek short form content and songs come to mind. While their new song, "Break the BOOM! Meter" can't be fully isolated from their other antics, it sees them experimenting with a real metal group, the AMH Band, for an enlightening song that is more or less about the same material as their other tracks. Regardless, these takes by the Life section may surprise you.

by Ben Lassy
LIFE EDITOR
HE/HIM/HIS

My boom meter is shattered. Utterly demolished. All this, and I gave the boys' last song a perfect score out of a gesture of festive kindness. This song feels like getting into the shower in the morning, expecting the water to be nice and hot; but no, it's freezing, and two walking advertisements are singing in your ears.

It goes without saying that after an experience like that your day is ruined. That series of events is this song. The first few seconds of metal (not tarnished by the guys' singing) is the hot water, everything else is the cold water.

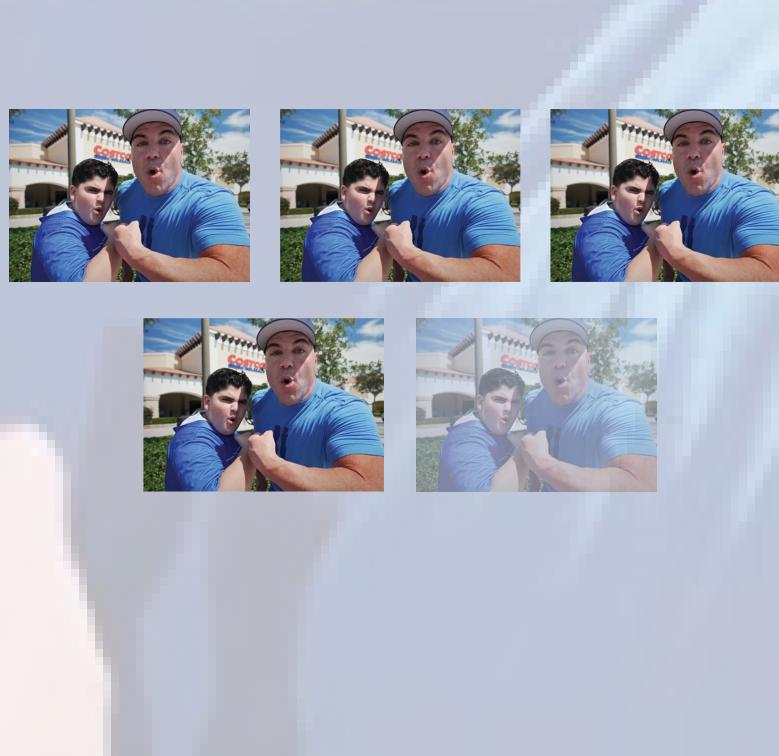
I think for a truly perfect Costco Guys song, they need to get an outside band (like AMH) and then not sing on the track. Maybe they can be on the cover, but for the sake of good music, I think there have been enough novelty tracks from America's favorite duo.



by James Fitzpatrick
ASSOCIATE LIFE EDITOR
HE/HIM/HIS

This is incredible. I like to think my opinion holds some weight as an avid fan of metal, so the bass drops when the boys say "Boom" tickle my brain in the same way as slam death metal. The Costco Guys bring the boom more than they ever have before, and I fear they're approaching dangerous power levels. The reference to double-chunk chocolate cookies and chicken bakes proves they haven't forgotten their roots, yet the explosive chorus is largely performed by the frontman of the AMH Band. Although the band as a whole is a bit cookie-cutter, they give the Costco Guys a solid foundation to create their most impactful song yet.

I've also heard rumors that The Rizzler's rap verse has Zack de la Rocha sweating in his boots because his throne is in jeopardy. And let's discuss the cinematography for a second. The ellipsoidal stage lights that shine on these musicians throughout much of the song help enhance the anthemic nature of this track as if I'm attending their eventual tour. Along with the copious automobiles shown throughout the video, the listener is reminded that A.J. and Big Justice are one-half of the greatest American family of all time. I will make sure to dedicate a section to this song in particular in my academic research paper about the positive correlation between content from the Costco Guys and increased sales at Costco.



by Maleena Muzio
STAFF WRITER
SHE/HER/HERS

"Break the BOOM! Meter" sadly might be the Costco Guys' best song yet. Coming back from their Christmas song, "Jingle BOOM!," it's definitely an improvement, which could not have been that hard to do. The Costco Guys decided to veer away from their pop/hip-hop sound — if you could call it that — and delve into metal, adding the AMH Band and The Rizzler to the mix.

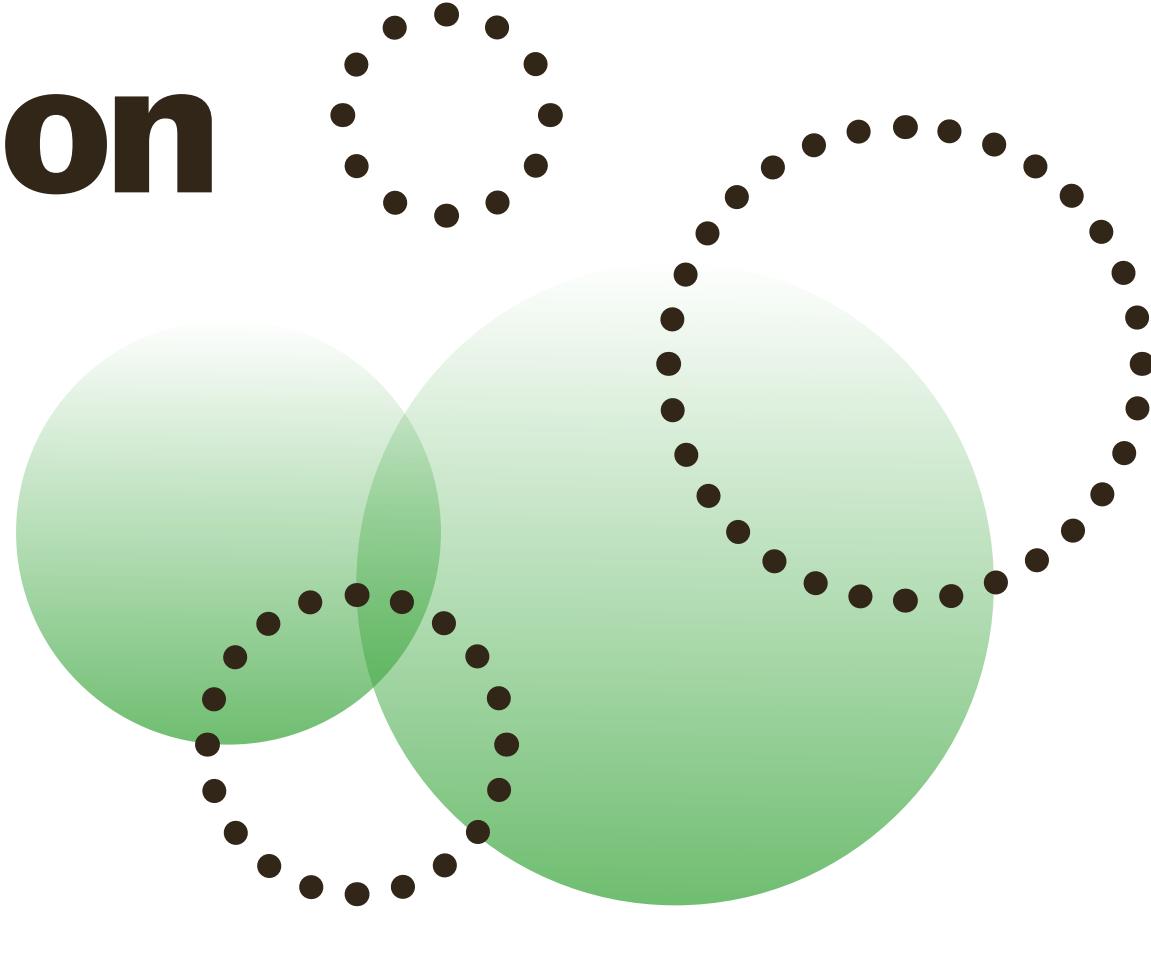
Yes, The Rizzler is on the song and oddly enough, shreds the guitar. If you are into Imagine Dragons, I can imagine that you might actually like this song. Though, if you like literally anything else, you will probably hate it! All I can say is thank you to the Costco Guys for putting out a song that somewhat resembles music, instead of synthesized elf chants.

by Noa Climor
SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR
SHE/HER/HERS

Team ... we might have a winner. The Costco Guys pulled this song off with none other than The Rizzler himself and a fascinating music video that really pulls you in. "Break the BOOM! Meter" is truly one of a kind, and what can I say — I've grown rather fond of these reviews with the rest of the Life team. While I can't say that I will be listening to this again, I can say that I am more than happy to listen to other songs released by our dear pals, A.J. and Big Justice. This had a tune and wild lyrics and served as a fun distraction from classes.

Daily

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OP ED: ISLAMIC HERITAGE MONTH

by Ayah Abdallah

SHE/HER/HERS

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The Graduate Muslim Student Association (GradMSA) and the Islamic Center of the University of Connecticut (ICUC) would like to share an exciting and significant proclamation made by Governor Ned Lamont of the great state of Connecticut. Starting in 2025, January will be officially recognized each year as Muslim Heritage Month. This is a historic moment, honoring the longstanding contributions of the Muslim community to the United States and its diverse cultural heritage.

Muslim scientists and innovators have made groundbreaking advancements that have helped to the United States for generations. For example, Ahmed Zewail, a Nobel laureate in chemistry, advanced femtochemistry, and Ayub Ommaya, who invented the Ommaya Reservoir for brain cancer treatment. Business leaders like Shahid Khan and Hamdi Ulukaya have driven economic growth and supported philanthropic causes. These contributions highlight the enduring impact of Muslims in shaping science, technology and industry worldwide and within the U.S.

Islamic history and culture embody a wealth of individual and collective experiences and significant advancements in literature, mathematics, science, art and history. From the development of algebra to the invention of surgical tools, Muslims have played a pivotal role in shaping the modern world. Muslims have made remarkable advancements in fields such as astronomy, geography, navigation and architecture. Early Islamic libraries and mosques served as centers for intellectual discourse, paving the way for modern innovations in medicine, physics and much more. Recognizing this heritage not only honors the past but also inspires a more inclusive and informed future.

Governor Lamont's proclamation is a testament to the vibrant role Muslims play in the social, economic, political and cultural fabric of Connecticut and the United States as a whole. This recognition is not only an honor for the Muslim community but also an affirmation of the shared values and contributions that unite us all.

Designating January as Muslim Heritage Month provides an invaluable opportunity for the people of Connecticut—both today and for generations to come—to reflect on, celebrate and learn about Islamic history. Understanding the diverse roles and contributions of Muslim communities fosters greater appreciation for their rich heritage and helps combat anti-Islamic sentiment and Islamophobia.

We commend the State of Connecticut for this progressive step and invite all residents to join in celebrating Muslim Heritage Month in January. Together, we can continue to build a society that values diversity and mutual respect.

The Evie-dence New Year, Same Industry: stocks, stimulants and self-medication

by Evelyn Pazan | SHE/HER/HERS | ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR | evelyn.pazan@uconn.edu

I've referenced "The Wolf of Wall Street" in my articles before, but this time, I find it particularly fitting. In one of the opening scenes of the movie, Jordan Belfort, played by Leonardo DiCaprio, takes us through a typical day of drug use in banking. From Quaaludes and cocaine to Adderall and Xanax, it seems like everyone's favorite financial criminal is singlehandedly keeping pharmacies in business.

While movies often overstate or glamorize drug use, "The Wolf of Wall Street" seems to get it right. In a podcast interview, Jordan Belfort breaks down drug use, partying and infidelity in high finance. He claims that for young bankers, drugs are a slippery slope and almost unavoidable. In fact, in high finance they are normal—too normal.

While the physical detriments of drug use take a toll on bankers, nothing compares to the profitability of this practice. High power analysts are often rewarded with six-figure salaries and promotions if they play the game right. For a student fresh out of college, this seems like striking gold.

From 2006 to 2016, American amphetamine usage increased 2.5 fold, and seems to have beat out cocaine for the most popular drug of choice for bankers. Forced to work 100-hour weeks and complete tedious financial models, many young bankers turn to stimulants like Adderall and Vyvanse to stay focused and energized into the wee hours of the night.

Only exacerbating the drug

problem, new drug formats like Zyn, Snus and ultra-caffeinated energy drinks are taking over the financial industry. From 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024, Celsius' sales increased by over 100%, showing a dramatic increase in popularity. Gone are the days where a simple cup of coffee with 96 mg of caffeine is enough to survive a day in the office. Now, young people are consuming multiple cans of Celsius a day, with each can containing 200 mg of caffeine.

The maximum recommended daily intake of caffeine is only 400 mg, but no one will say anything because after all, it is just caffeine.

Zyn usage is also over the top and too normalized. In an Instagram post by @overheardonwallstreet, a user that posts memes for primarily young bankers, they include photos of Adderall capsules, a Celsius and Zyns, claiming that they are just a part of "maximizing shareholder value." This isn't the only post with the same messaging on that account.

The problem with these trends is that unlike the cocaine that dominated high finance in past decades, Adderall, nicotine and caffeine are completely legal, convenient and equally as addictive. No one blinks an eye as young people consume nicotine in high amounts and doctors have even inadvertently encouraged Adderall and Vyvanse usage.

While we can ban and discourage drug use in the office, this does not address the root of the problem. Bankers aren't

using drugs because they want to. It is because they have to. During deals, young bankers can work upwards of 100 hours per week, forcing them to sleep at their desk or rely on stimulants to stay awake, both practices that can have negative effects on the body, particularly the heart. In 2024, a banker died of cardiovascular issues sparking an outcry and an investigation into working hours, though there has been no direct tie between these and the death.

Since then, and only after criticism, bulge bracket banks have made moves to cap working hours for young employees, but this still does not solve the problem. The problem is not the rules, but the culture of investment banking. No matter how many restrictions are put in place, young employees will work themselves to the bone to win the political game in the office. Their actions go past trying to prove that they are a hard worker, because they are trying to prove that they are better than everyone else.

If that means submitting to "grind culture," doing drugs and giving up relationships, then that is what they will do.

In our education system and as a society, we need to put more value on wellbeing and remind young people that no salary is worth giving up their health.

Despite how good the numbers on the paycheck might look, it is worthless when the money is going to drugs and the time

is spent slaving away over a model, rather than enjoying your relationships and young adulthood.

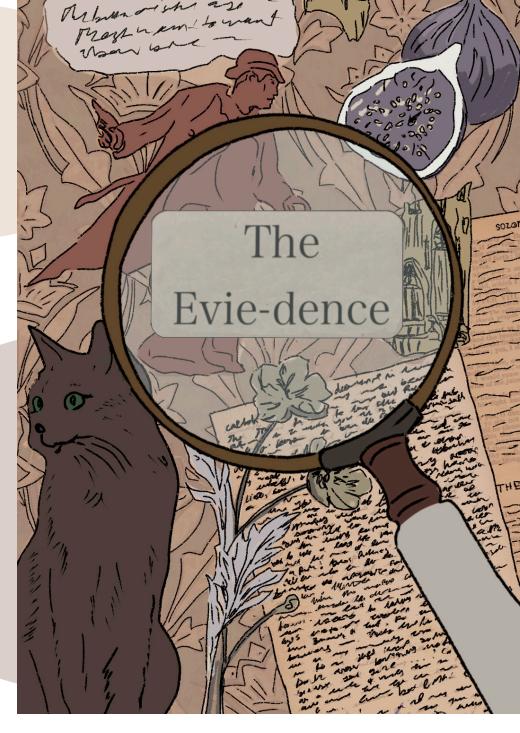
LOGO BY LILLIAN LAFEMINA,
ASSOCIATE ARTIST EDITOR/
THE DAILY CAMPUS

Photo of the Day | Winter weather

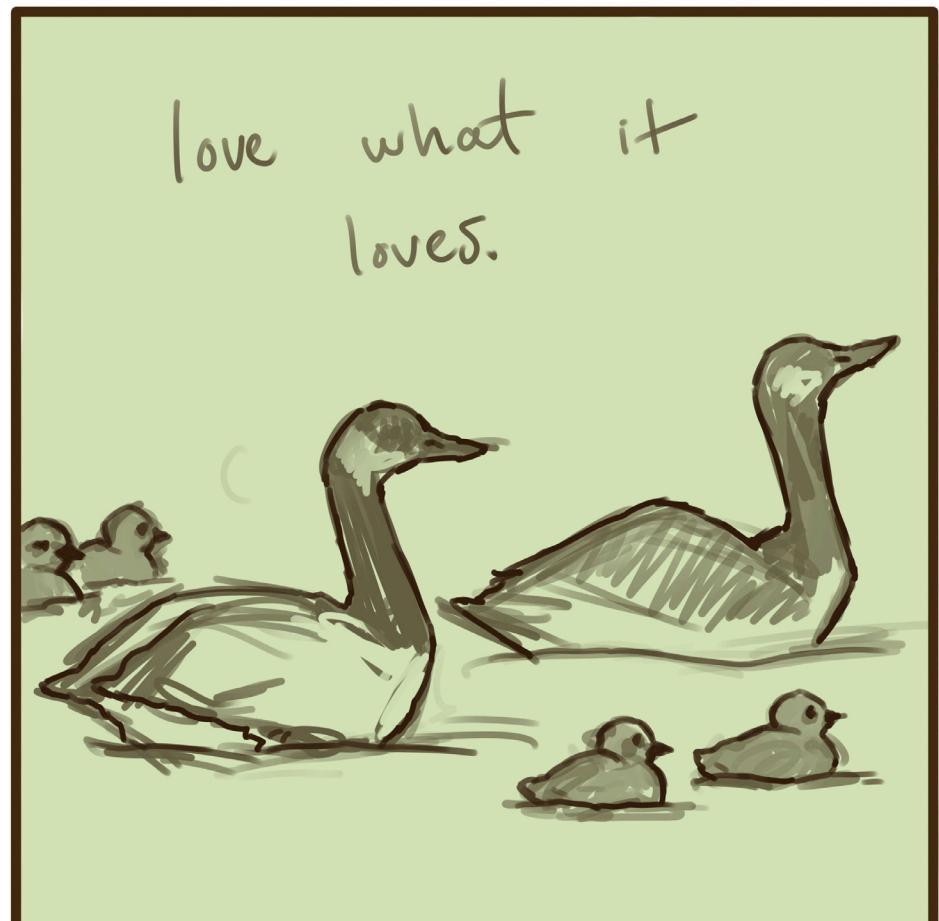
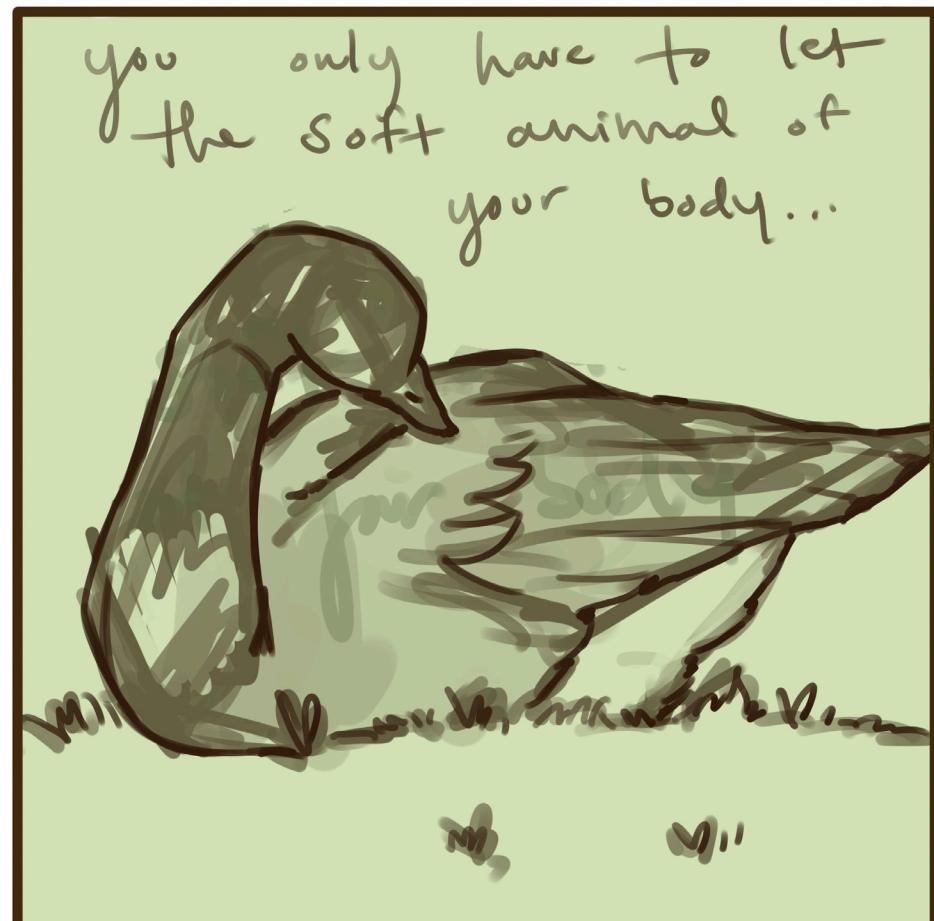


The UConn campus is covered in snow in Storrs, Conn. on Jan. 19, 2025. Students have braved the below freezing temperatures for the first few days of the semester.

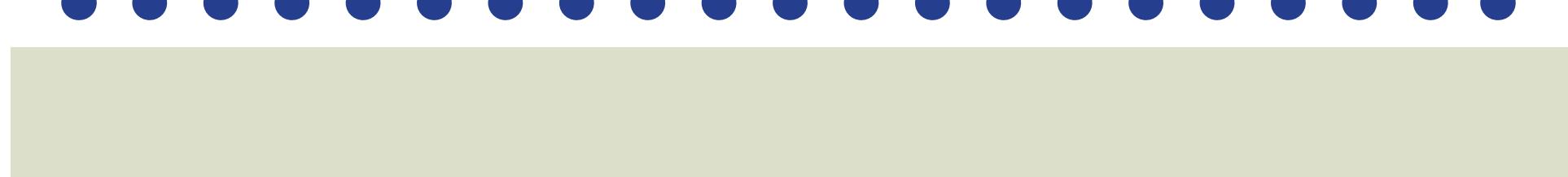
PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



The Daily Campus — Comics —



by Ah Reum Kindness
Contributing Artist



LOGO BY LILIAN LAFEMINA, ASSOCIATE ARTIST
EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Tyler Pruneau
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The 2024-2025 NFL season is approaching its final three weeks, with the AFC and NFC Championship matchups kicking off on Sunday, Jan. 26. With four teams remaining in the playoffs, this is the last stop before Super Bowl LIX. Everyone wants to get to the promised land, but only two teams can advance.

Taking the stage first, the Washington Commanders head into Lincoln Financial Field to clash with the Philadelphia Eagles at 3 p.m. The in-division rivals are meeting for the third time this year with a win over each other from the regular season.

Philadelphia gained home-field advantage as the No. 2 seed and look to take their second NFC title in the last three years. Philly has dominated their opponents, earning them a 14-3 record. Looking back on week 16's loss against Washington, the biggest thing to note

TYLER'S TAKE: BREAKING DOWN THE AFC AND NFC CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHUPS

is that Jalen Hurts suffered a concussion and left in the first quarter. Backup quarterback Kenny Pickett took over, but failed to secure the victory. Even though Pickett performed well, it is always tough to lose a starting quarterback. With Hurts starting on Sunday, this changes how their offense performs.

A key player to watch out for is the first-year Eagle Saquon Barkley. When on the field, odds are he's running into the endzone. Combining the stats from both regular season face-offs, Barkley ran for 296 yards and scored four touchdowns. According to the NFL, this comes as a surprise, as Dan Quinn's defense is ranked No. 12 in rushing defense.

Unlike the Eagles, who understand what's at stake, this is the first time since 1991 that Washington is competing in the NFC Championship. In addition, the team is led by a rookie quarterback, Jayden Daniels, and first-year head coach, Quinn. This is not the first time a rookie quarterback started in a Championship game, as five others attempted

but failed to win. According to NBC Sports, history could change on Sunday with a win over Philadelphia, as no rookie quarterback has ever started in a Super Bowl. The No. 2 overall pick had a fantastic rookie campaign with a 12-5 record and does not plan to end the season now.

Moving on to the 6:30 p.m. matchup, the Buffalo Bills head into Arrowhead Stadium to take on the Kansas City Chiefs to write a new chapter to their rivalry. Dating back to the 2021 NFL playoffs, the teams saw each other in the postseason three times and did not disappoint. Kansas City's quarterback, Patrick Mahomes, holds a 3-0 record against Buffalo quarterback Josh Allen in the playoffs. The story flips in the regular season as Allen has earned a 4-1 record.

Despite going 15-2, Kansas City has struggled to match their momentum, as fans have seen in past seasons. Overall, the team won 12 one-possession matches on what some would consider luck. One of the biggest hot topics going around is the referees calling more penal

ties for the defending champs. In their divisional matchup against the Houston Texans, weak roughing the passer and unnecessary roughness fouls were called in Mahomes' favor. This brings up the discussion of whether the advantage the star quarterback has affects the outcome of the games and if it will come into play on Sunday.

Looking at the Bills, something that could hurt their shot at the Super Bowl is their defense. According to Fox Sports, the team finished at No. 9 in the league in 2023 but currently sits at No. 17 this season. On the other side of the ball, their top-five rushing quarterback depletes defenses. In the regular season, Allen rushed for a combined total of 531 yards and 12 touchdowns, per ESPN. To come up on top against the Bills, stopping the run game is a must. Considering these two teams' past experiences, a thrilling, competitive close contest is expected to happen.

With everything on the line, neither of the four teams want to go home, but only two teams will continue onto the road to glory.

Ava's Angle: The Juan Soto effect

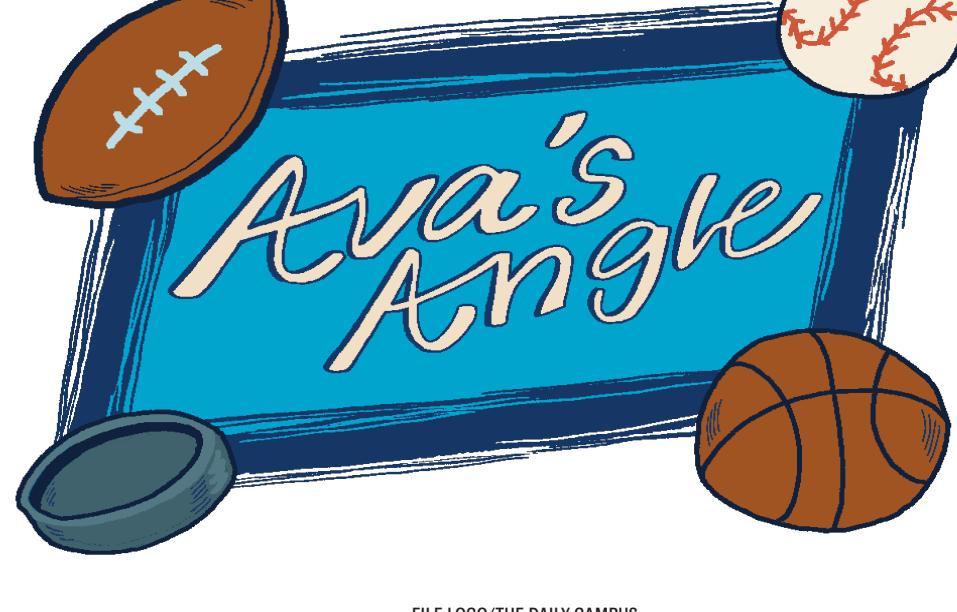
by Ava Inesta
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In December, the New York Mets made the biggest splash of the Major League Baseball offseason, signing 26-year-old phenomenon Juan Soto to a record breaking 15-year, \$765 million contract. The contract is the largest and longest in the entirety of the sports world, surpassing Shohei Ohtani's \$700 million dollar contract he signed in December of 2023.

"This is a sentimental moment in franchise history," said Mets Owners Steve and Alex Cohen. "Juan Soto is a generational talent. He is not only bringing staggering historical statistics with him but also a championship pedigree. Our Amazin' fan base is very excited to welcome Juan to Queens."

Soto made his major league debut six years ago in 2018 with the Washington Nationals. Fast forward to now, he just completed his season at age 25 with the New York Yankees. In that six-year period, Soto has arguably made himself one of the best players in the league with 201 home runs, five Silver Slugger Awards and a batting title in 2020. In 4,088 career plate appearances, Soto holds a .285/.421/.532 slash line, and his on-base percentage is the best among active major league players.

In 2024, Soto was an MVP finalist for the second time in his career. He finished third in the American League MVP voting three years after he was runner-up in the NL MVP voting while with the Nationals. This past season, he hit a career-high 41 home runs with 128 runs scored and owned an 8.1 fWAR,



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

which was the fourth best in MLB. One of Soto's strengths is clutch moments. He made one of the highlights of the postseason when he launched a three-run go-ahead home run in the 10th inning of the ALCS Game 5 to help take the Yankees to their first World Series appearance since 2009. These statistics and these moments are exactly what the Mets hope Soto will bring across town to Queens.

Since Steve Cohen officially bought the Mets in 2020, he has worked tirelessly to change the camaraderie of the team and take them to the top of the baseball world. He wants the team to be highly competitive on the field and include the most prestigious players in the game on their roster. Cohen's first major move as owner was signing Francisco Lindor to a 10-year,

\$341 million dollar contract in 2021 and he has continuously proved his ability to do so by signing Soto this offseason.

Ohtani was the significant signing of last year's offseason, however Soto becoming a free agent after the conclusion of this past season has always been on team's radar, especially the Mets. New York had many things to offer, including Cohen's seemingly unlimited amounts of money along with his willingness to spend it on Soto and additional players to ensure a dynamic roster for years to come. Cohen had made his vision clear of bringing a World Series to Queens as soon as possible, and he has no intention to stop spending money or producing record payrolls until he achieves that goal.

"Today's signing further solidifies our organizational commitment to consistent championship competitiveness," Mets President of Baseball Operations David Stearns said. "Not only does Juan provide historic levels of on field production, but his joy, intensity, and passion for the game mirror our budding culture. We are thrilled to add him to our team and look forward to watching his excellence for years to come."

With Soto to the Mets, he is expected to play right field, which will push Tyrone Taylor to center field and Brandon Nimmo to left field. Where Soto will place in the lineup is still yet to be known, but he is figured to be in the top third of the Mets' lineup with Lindor and Nimmo. The Mets don't seem to be done with their free agency spending this offseason. It re-

mains to be seen if the team will bring back first baseman Pete Alonso in free agency. Even though the two sides don't look to be anywhere close to a deal, you can never count out Cohen. However, New York did bring back starting pitcher Sean Manaea which adds to their rotation currently led by Kodai Senga, David Peterson and Frankie Montas. New York also just brought back outfielder Jesse Winker who was a large part of the 2024 Mets season.

Soto's impact has already been felt at Citi Field even though he has yet to play a game in Queens. Single-game tickets went on sale on Dec. 9, which was less than 24 hours after Jon Heyman reported the record-breaking deal that sent Soto to the Mets. New York announced they established a new-high for first day ticket sales and it ended up tripling the amount that was sold on the first day of the last offseason in December 2023. Additionally, the jersey and merchandise sales skyrocketed for the soon-to-be Mets slugger. According to eBay, on Dec. 9 searches for "Juan Soto" on the site increased by 380 percent compared to the week prior Dec. 1-7. The items searched and bought included Soto cards in his new Mets threads.

There is about a month until all major league teams report to spring training and there is so much anticipation from fans to see Soto in a Mets uniform for the first time ever. The Soto effect is real in Queens, and it will only continue to benefit the Mets when Soto steps on the diamond for years to come.



Sports

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: HUSKIES TRAVEL TO CREIGHTON FOR BATTLE OF TOP SPOT

by Avery Becker

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After notching a 57-point win against the Villanova Wildcats on Wednesday night, the UConn women's basketball team (18-2, 9-0 Big East) is set to take on the Creighton Bluejays (16-3, 8-0 Big East) on Saturday, Jan. 23.

Wednesday's matchup was pivotal for the program, as multiple players contributed to the win on both sides of the ball. This includes Kaitlyn Chen, Paige Bueckers and Sarah Strong.

Chen, a graduate student and transfer from Princeton, hit a season-high milestone of 17 points, along with two assists.

"She had a little too much respect for our guys," said head coach of the program, Geno Auriemma, said to the media when asked about how the California native has acclimated to the program.

As the season has progressed, Chen has started to become more aggressive in her starting role for the Huskies, that Bueckers says brings a different element to the team.

Feisty defense in Connecticut's upcoming matchup versus the Bluejays will be crucial, as Morgan Maly from Creighton leads the Big East in three-point field goal percentage with 47.6.

Maly, a 6-foot-1 senior guard, is a player on Creighton's squad that the Huskies will have to keep an eye out for. In addition to leading her respective conference in three-point field goal percentage, the Nebraska native is also third in the Big East for field goal percentage with 50.4, right behind Connecticut's Bueckers and Strong.

A player who has the potential to aid the Huskies in their defense against Creighton on Sunday is graduate student Aubrey Griffin, who will play her third game back after not playing 351 days due to injury.

Bueckers said to the media on Wednesday night that the best element of Griffin's game is her defensive versatility.

"I think she can guard one through five," she said. "I think just getting more reps, getting more comfortable and finding her way back. It's tough coming back from injury, let alone in the mid-season in the middle of conference play, but we know we have full confidence in her."

With Griffin returning to the lineup and having 12 healthy players on the bench, it brings up the question of whether players will have to sacrifice minutes during the game, but Bueckers states that this is not the program's main focus. "I think that's just what this team is about, everybody being selfless," she said.

Auriemma said that he's very satisfied with the way his team has been playing so far, even with some players having to sacrifice their minutes, because of his squad's quick and smart decision making.

"We're making a lot of good decisions right now and that's going to pay off," he said, further commenting that those decisions lead to open shots.

Tip-off between these two Big East foes as the fight for the No. 1 spot is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. from the Ryan Athletics Center and D.J. Sokol Arena in Omaha, Neb. Husky fans can tune into this matchup on FOX.



UConn women's basketball takes on Villanova at Gampel Pavilion on Jan 22, 2025. UConn is currently ranked number 6 nationally and enters the game with a 17-2 record. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

