

The Daily Campus

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EPA gives UConn facility superintendent award

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The Environmental Protection Agency awarded the University of Connecticut's superintendent of the Water Resource Recovery Facility a prestigious award for 2024. Rian Savage was named the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator of the year. He spoke about how this can help permit renewals in an interview on Tuesday.

"I think any type of recognition on operations of the plant will help facilitate decisions in a positive way," he responded when asked about the impacts of such an exclusive reward.

There were only four other recipients of this award in 2024. There are over 90 sewage treatment facilities in Connecticut alone, to put the award covering the entire New England region into scale.

Awards for Savage's talent with UConn's wastewater treatment aren't new to him. The New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA) gave him an operator award back in 2016, according to its website. NEWEA grants the operator award to someone with "a high interest and performance in wastewater operations," given they've contributed to the field. Rian Savage earned this acclaim as assistant superintendent when he wasn't involved in the hands-on work and instead was obtaining knowledge of process control, a role he said which prepared him for operating the facility at an award-winning level.

In 2019, Savage was promoted to superintendent. The Plant Operator of the Year he received on Jan. 30, 2025, is in a completely different realm of acknowledgment than the previous. Whereas the NEWEA award was local with multiple recipients, the EPA was regional with limited recipients.

"I was surprised," Savage said. This shock underlines how he said he feels the work he accomplishes goes "out of sight, out of mind," a feeling that could be attributed to the taboo nature of working with waste.

Part of that taboo nature is notable in misconceptions. When classes are taken for tours of the WRRF, Savage says some are perplexed about why this wastewater doesn't smell. While some facilities may smell, Savage brought up how the Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) is state recognized as a grade four plant



Rian Savage holding his award from the EPA in front of UConn's Water Resource Recovery Facility. Savage was promoted to superintendent in 2019.

PHOTO BY KEVIN GUINAN, CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT/THE DAILY CAMPUS

level. Grades one through four are assigned by the EPA and based on how the plant operates, four being the highest. Higher graded wastewater facilities rarely have a stench, and state regulations mean Connecticut doesn't allow low graded wastewater plants which smell more. Nevertheless, that assumption plagues wastewater treatment efforts and propels that out of sight, out of mind narrative.

Assumptions about odor can accumulate into uncertainty about what the WRRF actually does. For example, Savage said that the discharge of treated wastewater known as effluent garners misguided criticism. The effluent, monitored by wastewater technicians, may sometimes negatively impact the river. However, arguments that blame the facility for polluting the Willimantic River with discharge don't account for where our wastewater would go otherwise.

Associating the WRRF with traditional septic tanks minimizes the profound distinction between the two and spreads the confusion on odor control, according to Savage. Septic tanks use anaerobic treatment to form a sludge layer preventing oxygen from reaching the waste. Comparatively, an aerobic treatment of wastewater continually mixes oxygen into the water and keeps bacteria alive according to Alicat Scientific. Incorporating oxygen in the wastewater reduces odorous production of gas like hydrogen sulfide and methane, all without the use of chemical odor control.

Public perception on wastewater actively leads to operational changes exemplified by the WRRF's change in name. The Water Resource Recovery Facility was previously the Wastewater Pollution Control Facility (WPCF), but the Water Environment Federation ordered a rebrand to make the facility seem more palatable and avoid pollution's negative connotation according to the California Water Environment Association.

The reality is that the WRRF exists to clean the existing pollution that would otherwise end up in waterways, a purpose mandated by the Clean Water Act of 1972 which regulated water pollution in the country to protect public health and the environment, according to the EPA.

Even if pollution has a negative connotation, proper education about what happens after we're done using our water is one alternative method to name changes that one staff member at the WRRF prefers. Assistant Superintendent Megan Ambrose advocates for this because changing the WPCF to the WRRF doesn't solve the underlying issue that the "utility is misunderstood."

Savage said he sees an ethical obligation to his work at the WRRF. Within that calling, his drive is "cutting plant cost operations, being a good steward to the environment, and fiscal responsibility to UConn and the taxpayer." The recognition from the EPA indicates that his effort is noticeable. However, he said community support can still aid his initiative.

According to the WRRF's website, the treatment of our water pipes is one area where the community can improve its support. Flushing cloth wipes and menstrual products or pouring fats, oil, and grease down drains are all actions that can create pump failures, a costly fix which detracts from the effort to reduce our waterways of pollution and ultimately ends up being paid by the taxpayer.

Last month's award establishes a trust between the WRRF and EPA that can have a myriad of positive implications in the future, according to UConn Today. One could possibly be UConn's Reclaimed Water Facility (RWF) obtaining a permit to use recycled water for crop irrigation, a plan which relies on the WRRF to provide wastewater during its last steps of treatment to be recycled through the RWF.



UConn's Water Resource Recovery Facility in the winter time. The superintendent of the facility is Rian Savage.

PHOTO BY KEVIN GUINAN, CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT/THE DAILY CAMPUS

UConn alum secures deal on SHARK TANK

by Donte Mills
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Hayley Segar, who graduated in 2017 from the University of Connecticut's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, appeared on ABC's "Shark Tank" to pitch her swimwear startup. Segar presented her company, Onewith, which according to the website, is "swimwear that fits like no-show underwear."

Two of the show's judges, Barbara Corcoran and Jamie Kern Lima, offered Segar \$200,000 in exchange for a 20% stake in Onewith. Segar accepted their offer.

Since its founding in late 2021, Onewith has generated \$2.3 million in sales according to Segar. After the "Shark Tank" episode aired, the company's website saw a surge in traffic, at one point, hosting 20,000 visitors simultaneously according to a UConn Today article.

Segar said in the UConn Today article that her experience on "Shark Tank" had an emotional impact.

"That was the craziest moment for me. I left the tank feeling so proud and so happy," Segar said, referring to a compliment from Kevin O'Leary, one of the judges.

"Very impressive presentation. I usually find something to rip you to pieces on, but not here. You did a great job," O'Leary told her.

Segar credited UConn with helping her take her idea to market. After struggling to find a flattering swimsuit for a vacation to Miami, Segar created the product herself. She returned to UConn's entrepreneurial community to present the idea and was invited to the Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation's 2020 Summer Fellowship Accelerator, which is part of UConn's School of Business. Through the program, Segar received mentoring and \$15,000 in non-dilutive start-



Hayley Segar, an alum of UConn, pitching her startup on Shark Tank. Segar produces swimwear clothing.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER WILLARD/DISNEY AND HAYLEY SEGAR

up funding according to the UConn Today article.

"I don't know where I'd be without you guys, you solidified my belief in me," Segar said, addressing the UConn supporters who attended her "Shark Tank" celebration event. "So much of what I learned in Summer Fellowship stays with me today."

Segar said she had always been interested in starting her own business. In an interview with WTNH News8 Segar shared an anecdote of her grandfather constantly telling her to go on "Shark Tank" years before she even had a product in mind.

"He used to say to me that I should be on 'Shark Tank.' That I could walk the walk and talk the talk on that show," Segar said. In the final days of her grandfather's life, she shared the idea for Onewith with him. "He never got to see me go on the show, but he was the one that planted the seed."

She also acknowledged the rest of her family's support in her journey. At the celebration of her "Shark Tank" deal, Segar credited her mother, Dawn, for packing swimsuit orders, her grandmother for processing returns, and her father, Chip, for showing her the value of hard work.

"My dad went to law school while serving as a deputy police chief. He showed me how much can be accomplished in a day," Segar said.

Dawn Segar, who graduated from UConn's School of Business in 1989, expressed pride in her daughter's success.

"All of this just feels surreal," Dawn Segar said in the UConn Today article. "It's going to take a while to sink in. It's a really big deal and we are incredibly proud of her."

For more details about Hayley Segar's product, visit the official website onewith-swim.com



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Solution to Tuesday's puzzle

2/12/25

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

- 1 Random ___ of kindness
- 5 Range for a yodeler
- 9 Instrument in Hindi cinema
- 14 Engage in costumed gaming, slangily
- 15 The Big Easy, for short
- 16 Start with a clean slate?
- 17 Omnia vincit ___
- 18 Morose
- 19 Solemn recitations
- 20 Olsen twins teen comedy set in the Big Apple
- 23 Wrath
- 24 Apply crudely
- 25 Some phone notifications
- 28 Common part of a lunch combo
- 30 Inca Trail to Machu Picchu locale
- 32 Cal. column
- 33 Grab a chair
- 35 Jackie Chan/Chris Tucker buddy cop film with two sequels
- 38 Ice hockey gear
- 41 Absolute gems
- 42 Amy Adams rom-com about a February 29 tradition
- 44 Syst. in which "A" is a closed fist
- 45 Ga. capital
- 46 Has a debt
- 48 Hard ___ to break
- 52 "Just suppose ..."
- 55 Attention to detail
- 57 Single
- 58 Highlights of many bowl games, and an apt description of 20-, 35-, and 42-Across?
- 61 Animal also called the zebra giraffe
- 63 Resting on
- 64 Word said while pointing
- 65 Concur
- 66 Astronauts' org.
- 67 Additional
- 68 "Fun, Fun, Fun" car

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68						69					70			

By Hoang-Kim Vu

2/12/25

- 69 Kill it on the runway, say
- 70 Ore deposit

DOWN

- 1 "Jagged Little Pill" singer Morissette
- 2 Kodak innovation
- 3 Garden tool
- 4 Agile
- 5 "The United States vs. Billie Holiday" Oscar nominee Day
- 6 "It's right above your head!"
- 7 Expert at handling snakes?
- 8 Dress in Hindi cinema
- 9 South Korean capital
- 10 Apoplectic
- 11 Curly fry alternative
- 12 Some barbecue remains
- 13 Low-___
- 21 Quirky thing
- 22 Queasy feeling
- 26 Ergo
- 27 ___ La Table: cookware retailer
- 29 "Now!" letters
- 31 Massage

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

B	A	L	D		E	L	M			A	F	L	A	C
A	L	I	A		M	O	E	T		S	L	O	T	H
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E	N	T	R	E			Y	R	S			N	D	A

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2/12/25

- 34 Begin a round of golf
- 36 Figures (out)
- 37 Polynesian dance
- 38 MacFarlane of "Family Guy"
- 39 Desert that covers much of Botswana
- 40 Adage
- 42 Murphy's ___
- 43 Solo performance
- 47 Appetizer before a curry, maybe
- 49 "Cry me a river!"
- 50 To the middle
- 51 Proctor's charge
- 53 Dwindle (down)
- 54 "OK, that was untrue"
- 56 Settle a debt
- 59 Basks in the sun
- 60 Webpage medium
- 61 Muesli morsel
- 62 Old CIA foe

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Life

THE BEST AND WORST SUPER BOWL ADS OF 2025

by **Molly Moriarty**
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On Sunday night, the 59th Super Bowl took place at Caesars Superdome in New Orleans, La. between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Philadelphia Eagles. While millions found themselves glued to the television to watch these men throw around a football, I watched for a different reason — the ads.

Many companies came to play this year, from Dunkin' and Hellmann's, to HexClad and Salesforce, but very few were able to score touchdowns amongst consumers. So, without further ado, here are the best and worst ads from Super Bowl LIX, ranked by a chronically online marketing major at the University of Connecticut.

Let's start off with what worked.

Coors Light

Coors Light is making Mondays a little less painful for anyone 21 years old and over. Their ad features sloths going about their regular Mondays doing everything from sitting at their corporate jobs, shopping through grocery stores, cycling in spin classes and

even taking part in a “slow speed chase.” The famous song “Monday Monday” by The Mamas and the Papas plays in the background. At the end of the commercial, a voice says, “Get a case of the Mondays.”

At certain retail locations, on Monday following the Super Bowl, Coors Light released a limited edition 12-pack of beer called “Mondays Light.” They've put out sweat sets, blankets and hats all covered in their new slogan “I have a case of the Mondays.” Altogether, this was a funny lighthearted commercial that perfectly accompanies their new campaign.

Angel Soft

Angel Soft got my award for best creativity. Their commercial aired right before Kendrick Lamar took the stage for the Apple Music Halftime Performance, and it featured a thirty-second timer, or as Angel Soft called it, a “Potty-tunity.” They used their airtime to allow those watching to take a quick bathroom break before the performance. Overall, it was a clever commercial for this toilet paper brand!

Duracell

Tom Brady made cameos in many Super Bowl com-

mercials, but his greatest appearance was in Duracell's. The commercial featured him and Kevin Burkhardt commenting on the game, and suddenly, Brady “turns off.” Out of nowhere a “Duracell Scientist” steps on the scene and “replaces Brady's batteries.” Once Brady is turned back on, Burkhardt asks if he is okay, to which he replies, “Why does everyone keep asking me that since the roast?” This references “The Roast of Tom Brady” which was released by Netflix last year. All in all, Duracell did a fantastic job with their ad featuring great pop culture references and the successful use of celebrities.

Jeep

The award for most cinematic commercial of the night goes to Jeep. This commercial featured Harrison Ford in a picturesque log cabin speaking about how life doesn't give you an owner's manual; you have to create your own. Inspirational, right? The best part of his commentary is towards the very end when he says, “This Jeep makes me happy... even though my name is Ford.”

Uber Eats

Uber Eats explored the myth that football was cre-

ated in order to eat more food. This commercial featured a star-studded cast of celebrities led by the one and only Matthew McConaughey. It included tons of pop culture references from Charli XCX eating a green apple, a nod to her hit song “Apple” off her Grammy-nominated album “Brat.” Sean Evans was also seen eating wings with McConaughey, a reference to Evans' show “Hot Wings,” which recently sold for \$82.5 million. The commercial ended with the director of “Barbie,” Greta Gerwig, confused about how to turn McConaughey's conspiracy theory into a movie. Out of all the ads, this one had the best celebrity cameos!

Honorable Mentions:

Budweiser, Pringles, Dove and Hellmann's.

Even though companies will spend anywhere between \$4-\$10 million producing a Super Bowl ad, many of them continue to fall short. So, here's what didn't work.

Mountain Dew

Mountain Dew's Super Bowl commercial featured British singer-songwriter Seal's face on an actual seal. This was too random and did not tie back to Mountain Dew

as a brand in any particular way, but it did get a lot of people talking!

Coffee Mate

Coffee Mate made their Super Bowl commercial debut this year, and let's just say it was not good at all. The commercial zoomed in on a man's tongue dancing and doing flips after taking a sip of Coffee Mate creamer. The idea was there but the execution was way off.

Stand Up to Hate

This “Stand Up to Hate” commercial showed us how putting random celebrities together does not always equal success. In this ad, Tom Brady and Snoop Dogg shared different reasons why they “hated” each other, but none of the dialogue made sense or left any meaningful impact on the listeners. It was definitely one of the worst of the night.

Tubi

Tubi may have taken the cake for having the weirdest ad of the night. Everyone in this commercial seemed to have a head that included a hat. It's hard to explain so you should give it a watch — or not. You might be wondering why you wasted your time on something so disturbing.

THE BATTLE OF LUCK IN SUBOG'S 'SQUISHMALLOW BINGO'

by **Samantha Brody**
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The University of Connecticut's Student Union Board of Governor's (SUBOG) held a game of Squishmallow bingo on Monday, Feb. 10. UConn students gathered in the Student Union Ballroom to play a series of bingo rounds to win one of many different stuffed animals, known as Squishmallows.

Although the event was hosted by SUBOG, the bingo games were run and announced by Conor Geary, also known as “GameDay Conor.” Outside of his work as a Squishmallow bingo announcer, Geary also announces for UConn basketball and football.

Geary announced the numbers for bingo in addition to acting as the judge of the games and determined who won in case of ties. Popcorn was served throughout the event.

The event included five rounds of bingo. Each round had three or four winners. Each round of bingo had three or four Squishmallows as prizes, which increased in size as the games continued. The first winner of each round of bingo had the first choice of Squishmallows, and any subsequent winners could choose a Squishmallow from the remaining pool.

The event opened at 5 p.m., but the games didn't start until about 5:15 p.m. Unfortunately, SUBOG quickly ran out of chairs — by the time 5 p.m. arrived, most of the room was already filled and mem-

bers of SUBOG soon had to turn people away from the event.

Although the first round of bingo was relatively tame, round two was much more eventful. The first winner of the game turned in an unfinished card, not having realized that they were meant to make an X shape as opposed to the standard bingo line. Shortly after Geary turned them away, two students sprinted to Geary's stage to secure a prize.

Geary had established a tiebreaker rule at the beginning of the event: A bingo winner had to high-five him before turning in their bingo card. As a result, any winner of bingo was rocketing across the room to make sure they got a prize, including these two students, one of whom fell onto the stage after losing the race.

The most intense round of the night was easily the fifth and final, organized in a blackout game — to win, a participant had to cover every square on their five-by-five bingo card. Not only did this suspenseful game take much longer, but it also had a much greater prize in the form of four extra-large Squishmallows. To the Squishmallow fans, each individual stuffed animal was their white whale.

The first winner of the final round was Jolie Atwood, an eighth-semester student double majoring in molecular and cellular biology and pathobiology.

“I thought the event was really fun,” Atwood said. “I really liked the addition of GameDay Conor as the announcer. He always makes things better! I also just love bingo, but the Squishmallow

prizes were a plus.” Atwood had won a giant purple stingray Squishmallow, which was the first of four to be won.

The second and third Squishmallows were soon won by other participants, until there was just one left: Pierogi the Banana Monkey.

After Geary called what would be the final number of the night, two participants leapt out of their seats, with the second having sprinted across the room, but only to be just a second too late to Geary's hand. Geary acknowledged the effort the second student had expended and decided the tie would be settled with a best-out-of-three game of rock-paper-scissors.

The second student ultimately won the game, securing Pierogi for herself. However, the first student still went home with a compensation prize of a teddy bear and a crewneck.

“I would definitely recommend events like this to other students,” Atwood said. “It's an easy and low-commitment activity, and it gave me a chance to talk to some people I might not have before!”

The event ended at around 6:25 p.m. The organizers of the event briefly played “Closing Time” by Semisonic as the participants left the room.

“Squishmallow Bingo” was the first of five events for SUBOG's “Winter Week” of activities. As outlined on the SUBOG Instagram, the event is followed by Tuesday's Frosty Fest, Wednesday's Sweetest Studio, Thursday's Comedy Show (featuring Daniel Franzese, who played Damien in the movie “Mean Girls”) and finally One Ton Sundae on Friday.

EAR 2 DA SKY: PORTISHEAD DEBUT WITH “DUMMY”

by **Hayden Cromer** | HE/HIM/HIS | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | hayden.cromer@uconn.edu

Welcome to Ear 2 Da Sky! Each week, I will be going over topics within music culture and reviewing albums and EPs across genres, eras and artists that are submitted by readers and listeners of my radio show, ear 2 da ground, every Wednesday at 11 p.m. on WHUS 91.7 FM! For this week’s submission, I rotted in my bed a little bit and threw on Portishead’s “Dummy.”

Released at the dawn of the new year in 1994, the album runs in at a solid 49 minutes. “Dummy” was their debut studio album, setting the groundwork for the rest of the England-based band’s career.

The first track off the project is “Mysterons,” which opens with the hip-hop production technique “scratching” before lead singer Beth Gibbons joins in with a voice like stained glass — delicate and beautiful. This song sets a great precedent for the rest of the album, acting as a marriage of varying techniques and sounds: scratching, sampling, Beth Gibbons’ vocals and lastly — but certainly not least — a theremin.

“Sour Times” is song two on the album. With the help of sampling Lalo Schifrin’s “Danube Incident” for the

bassline, it sounds like it’s something you would hear in a spy movie. Gibbons slowly dances around the international-super-spy-esque instrumental with her vocals, speaking on the endless cycle that is love. She sings about the fallacy of love, but how she still desires to be wanted. She sings in the chorus: “Cause nobody loves me, it’s true / Not like you do.”

“Strangers” is track three and sounds like a beat you would hear in an album from The Pharcyde. I think that can be attributed mainly to the sample heavy production — thanks to Geoff Barrow and Adrian Utley — borrowing sounds from the likes of Weather Report, Eddie Harris and Donny Hathaway. Gibbons stresses the importance of living life through your own lens and living for yourself rather than others. She sings: “Did you realize no one can see inside your view? / Did you realize for why this sight belongs to you?”

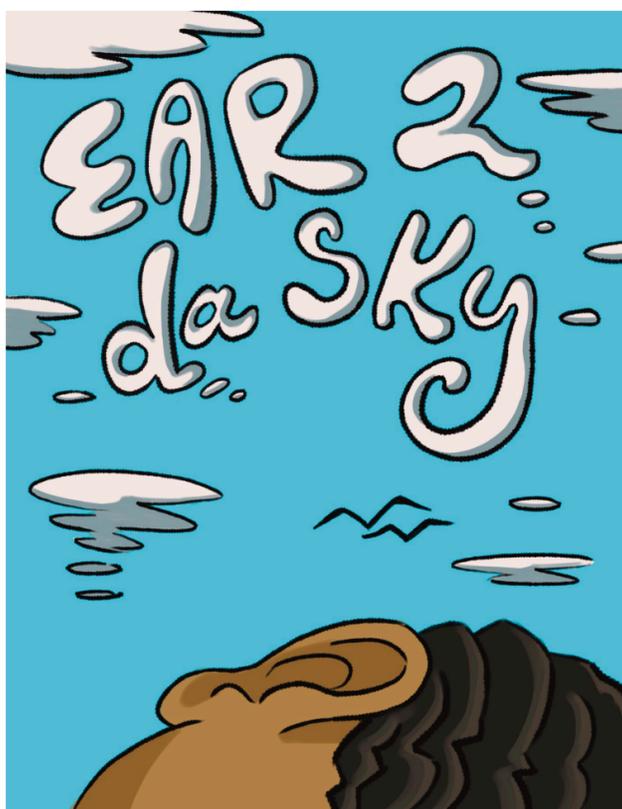
The most popular and last song on the album is track 11, “Glory Box.” Following the sonic theme of international super spy, Portishead samples Isaac Hayes’ “Ike’s Rap II.” Hearing that sample anywhere is like unwrapping

presents on Christmas to me every time. It’s genuinely such a timeless sample; I’ll never get sick of hearing it. They supplement this already great production by throwing a few electric guitar riffs on it.

Over the instrumental, Gibbons finds the ability to live with herself and the ability to let go throughout the song. Each delivery of the chorus grows with confidence, before leaving the listener without any doubt that she has finally broken free from the cycle of unhealthy romantic desire. “Give me a reason to love you / Give me a reason to be a woman I just wanna be a woman,” she sings.

Portishead’s “Dummy” is an incredibly interesting listen. They utilize different musical ideas and techniques from different genres, countries and regions. The group puts all of it together to create an experience that is uniquely their own.

If you want to submit something to my radio show, ask for advice, hear your music on the radio and possibly even see an album or EPs you submitted get reviewed in the paper, submit it here: <https://bit.ly/ear2dasky>



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

RATING:



PORTISHEAD



DUMMY

“Dummy” is the studio album by electronic music band Portishead. It was released on Aug. 22, 1994, by Go! Beat Records.

IMAGE COURTESY OF @PORTISHEADOFFICIAL ON INSTAGRAM



Life

@dailycampuslife

THE MUSIC NEVER STOPS: MATTHEW QUIRK



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Matthew Quirk performing with Cabin Fever. The band, based in New York, has their next show on Feb. 12, 2025 in New Haven, Connecticut.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF MAKENA RAE WARD

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

New York, New York: it's a hell of a town. It's also one of the toughest and most competitive music scenes to break into, especially as a young band. But that hasn't stopped Matthew Quirk from making a name for himself.

Quirk is a New York City-based singer-songwriter and guitarist who is the frontman of Cabin Fever, a four-piece rock band that has taken the Big Apple and the East Coast by storm with their energetic sound and consistent gig schedule, including frequent shows in Connecticut.

Quirk grew up in a musical family: his older brother Anthony is a drummer in the Nashville music scene. Inspired by him, Quirk started playing drums in the fourth grade, having his brother show him the ropes. But he dropped it quickly, saying "it's not fun when your brother tells you what to do." A year later, he picked up guitar thanks to his school's new music teacher who used a guitar in class instead of a piano.

Growing up, Quirk continued to play guitar when he wasn't doing musical theater and acting. He also began dabbling in songwriting in middle school, though he called these early attempts "very few and far between." It was a busy lifestyle, Quirk said, noting that "I didn't have the time do anything

else except acting, school and trying to live a somewhat normal life."

His life was changed forever when the pandemic hit in March 2020. With the world shut down and no stages to perform on, he had more time than he knew what to do with. And to fill that void, he started writing songs more consistently.

"It was kind of the first time in my life where I had free time to do almost whatever I wanted," he said. "So, I started picking up the guitar from there, writing and taking it more seriously."

He soon established a standard for himself where he vowed to write three songs every night. Quirk did this for over a year to help sharpen his writing chops and push him more. This was a demanding and challenging regiment that took its toll, as he recalled many nights where he would be struggling to find that third idea.

"I think then I didn't really believe in myself, so if I didn't come up with a good enough song that night, I would almost break down and get really stressed," he said. "And it was just a really dark spot, which it shouldn't have been because I was writing three songs a night."

Quirk cited Ed Sheeran as one of his biggest inspirations for taking on this challenge, explaining that seeing

Sheeran's extensive writing credits on songs by other artists fueled his drive to write as much as possible.

"Everybody knows a lot of Ed Sheeran songs, but if you look at him, for a while he was writing every hit song out there, you just didn't realize it was written by him," he said. "So, I was like 'well that's what I gotta do,' and I just kept going and going."

Now, Quirk still tries to write one song every night. He said that as he's written more, his lyrics have evolved, moving from more teenage angst-style material to broader and more introspective reflections of life. One of the songs that shows this best is his song "Changes," which he wrote about a friend of his who committed suicide, noting that "I don't think I could have written that at 16."

As he continued to develop as a songwriter, the seeds of a new project were planted during his senior year of high school when his friend Alex LoPinto, a guitarist, invited him to a jam session. The jam featured seven people, including two guitarists and two saxophonists. These sessions continued and a core group soon formed of Quirk, LoPinto and bassist Luke Uppenbrink. Bonded by their music, they founded Cabin Fever and have been together ever since. For Quirk, this was the first time being involved in a se-

rious band, as he had previously been in a band earlier in high school that only played at a school talent show.

Quirk and the band got right to work, releasing their first single "M.I.A." in March 2022 and the extended play "All For Nothing" in 2023. It was Quirk's first experience working in a recording studio, and while he would do things differently now, he said "we were just so unbelievably excited to be in a studio recording our own music."

He credits the band's growth in the studio to their producer Ethan Gueldenzopf. "We had a producer before this who didn't exactly challenge us, he looked at us like we were young kids and kind of let us do whatever we wanted to do," he said.

"But Ethan was like 'no, we're going to make this the best song we can and if I have to hurt your feelings to do it I will.' It sounds weird, but it was tough love," he said, which took the band to new heights.

As Quirk and the band grew in the studio, they also began making a name for themselves on stage. Their big break came when they performed at the Mercury Lounge, the legendary venue in downtown Manhattan, a show that Quirk said "opened the doors for every other venue in the city."

But Cabin Fever isn't just a New York City band, as Quirk

and his bandmates have performed up and down the East Coast. Some of Quirk's favorite places he's performed include The Coach Room in Philadelphia and the Middle East Club in Boston. Cabin Fever even made a trek north of the border for a show in Toronto, Canada on Jan. 29.

The band has also made a name for themselves in the Connecticut music scene with appearances at venues like Cafe Nine in New Haven and 10selden in Woodbridge. Quirk emphasized his good experiences sharing bills with bands in the Nutmeg State.

"Sometimes we play in certain cities and the bands are maybe not that nice, but every band we've ever played with in Connecticut has been the most friendly band in the world," he said.

Quirk and Cabin Fever also recently performed at The Dog Pound in Storrs, saying that "I haven't had that much fun at a show in a while" thanks to the energy of the Storrs crowd and their interest in his band's music.

"It's a super fun venue to play at," he said. "Everyone was really interested in hearing what we had to play. Sometimes, we play house venues and maybe they just want to hear covers or mosh. Here, it felt like they want to mosh, but also hear what the music was and have a good time."

Daily

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Will UConn stand for human rights and reject ICE deportations?

by Grace Donahue

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What would you do if U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents showed up at your lecture looking for you? While this might seem like an unthinkable situation, due to recent executive orders from President Donald Trump, ICE now has the authority to enter schools, churches and other previously "private" places to enforce these federal immigration searches. There have yet to be any confirmed reports at schools, but with raised concerns and a subsequent drop in classroom attendance, it has been questioned if universities should be taking more precautions to protect their students. At UConn, administrators have taken steps to protect students, but is it enough? It has been seen throughout history that neutrality is rarely enough to stop injustice. Thus, the question is: how will we respond?

Under the Trump administration ICE has drastically increased its focus on mass deportations. Trump has pledged to remove over 11 million undocumented immigrants and "stem the flow of more migrants coming to the southern border." As a result, ICE has begun conducting aggressive raids, going door to door and detaining individuals with little oversight. These tactics have led to wrongful deportations, family separations and fear within immigrant communities.

This aggressive enforcement raises serious concerns, not just

about immigration policies but also about human rights. These rights have been protected, not just on a national level with the U.S. Constitution but also on an international level with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The 14th Article of the UDHR guarantees the right to seek asylum from persecution while the 9th Article protects against arbitrary detention. Meanwhile its 26th Article protects against discrimination and its 13th Article protects against arbitrary detention. The ICCPR's 14th Article prohibits detention without a fair trial. The Constitution's 14th Amendment guarantees due process and equal protection. Ignoring these protects, Trump's administration is acting in direct violation of both U.S. and international human rights law. With this, it is crucial for institutions like UConn to act and protect the rights of those who are at risk of being deported.

This is not the first time that the United States has violated human rights to such an extent. Laws have been repeatedly used to justify the mass targeting, detention, and removal of certain groups. It is not acknowledged until later that actions are unjust. One such reminder that neutrality is rarely enough to stop injustice is Operation Wetback. This was a U.S. immigration law enforcement campaign that resulted in the mass deportation of Mexican nationals and was inspired by the American

public's anger at the "widespread corruption among employers of sharecroppers and growers along the Mexican border" and at the Border Patrol's inability to slow the influx of illegal workers. This event was a violation of Due Process and Equal Protection which are protected by the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and the UDHR due to the occurrence of racial profiling and denial of fair hearings. Employers, landlords and schools refused to protect the people connected to them who were getting deported. Similarly, ICE is detaining individuals without proper judicial oversight and disproportionately targeting Latinx communities. Thus, in reflecting this event's relevance to what is currently occurring this event shows us that if no active protections are taken for members of UConn's community, then UConn could unintentionally facilitate ICE's ability to track, detain and deport these individuals.

Another reminder of how neutrality is not enough to stop injustice is the Japanese American Internment. This was the forced relocation and incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWI which was inspired by the fear that was created by the attack on Pearl Harbor. Japanese Americans were held in camps with inhuman conditions like that of the conditions of the current ICE detention center immigrants are being held in. The United States acknowledged and apologized for the internment camps through the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, an apology from President Bill Clinton that same year.

Even so, ICE continues to detain immigrants in a comparable manner to this day thus continuing to violate Article 9 of the UDHR which protects against arbitrary detention. During the time of which this event was occurring, some institutions decided to stand against the actions of the federal government such as the University of California who tried to help relocate Japanese American students instead of allowing them to be sent to the camps. However, most institutions followed the federal orders allowing for this clear violation of human rights. Again, the remaining quiet institutions allowed for the clear violation of human rights that harmed many for years surrounding this event.

With these examples it is noted that UConn is currently in a position to be able to uphold human rights and prevent history from repeating itself only if they decide to take an active stance against ICE. They are relying on local institutions to facilitate detentions and deportations but if UConn takes this active stance, then they will be able to protect potential victims in our community from having their human rights be violated. Currently, UConn is responding by protecting student information and refusing to detain individuals without a warrant as well as respecting everyone's right to due process. However, more should be done. Our university should be adopting sanctuary style policies.

While UConn is unable to fully declare itself a sanctuary campus due to being a public university, it can implement policies that will



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limit ICE's ability to operate on our campus and protect undocumented students. For instance, UConn currently says that they will not detain a person based on ICE detainers. UConn can further its protection by implementing a policy that will bar campus police from cooperating with ICE, unless there is a judicial warrant, just as some sanctuary cities have done. Along with this, UConn should ensure that campus police are trained on student's legal rights to prevent them from voluntarily complying with non-mandatory ICE detention requests. By adopting these policies, UConn can effectively act as a shield for its students from unjust enforcement and ensure that our university remains a place for everyone to learn and be safe.

Thus, in ensuring that UConn does not simply turn a blind eye towards what is occurring like those who did with the internment camps and past immigration crackdowns, our university can prevent history from repeating itself and stand against ICE's violation of human rights before it is too late.

Response: One person's messiness, another's complexity - dating in your 20s

by Liam Power

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When I first read the article published in this paper arguing to "stay single in your 20s," my immediate response was to take pen and paper to flesh out my idea a little further. Writing serves as a useful tool for the creative thinking process, the result of writing, produces insights and ideas that may not have emerged simply through thinking alone.

I'll add, I appreciate the writing of a subject so difficult to tame, to admire and to simplify. This is in no way to be taken as an attack on someone's view, but I just merely wanted to offer an alternative perspective- to help, add to the salon of idée fixe and to contribute to the general sense that writing about relationships in your 20s did in fact strike a nerve.

The truth is, we choose to include people in our lives not because they add to the messiness, or worse, our perception that they may feel burdened by this mess, but because they may help us stray from it. The thing is, as evolution has

proved it, we are fundamentally social beings. Our lives are only as good the way we are capable of seeing them, and the people we choose to include in them. The article is right in assessing current social data to objectively conclude that relationships may be a point of social exile, or a proverbial turning-off of our social GPS. And honestly, there is a lot to justify this analysis as it is hardly the case to be a stranger to the words, "plans were canceled and parties were ditched." However, I'd like to argue the contrary.

It is essential and maybe even of a certain moral responsibility to include those in the world we choose to build for ourselves. In this sense, we should value people as our greatest resources. Friends, family, girlfriend, boyfriend or whichever term you find appropriate to describe fundamentally similar things - companions. And how do you suppose we find those people? We date, we make friends and we get drunk to chip away at those introverted qualities to make ourselves more acceptable to our future company. Now, I pity

this "prepubescent Brian" that was mentioned and do urge the consideration that men, as I'd hoped a background in physiology and neurobiology would've taught, age and mature slower than women. But that minor criticism isn't constructive to the central point of this response; I'd simply like to suggest a more pragmatic view of relationships. All of which are more alike than otherwise. Most of the relationships that I've found to be "serious," in the previous text's words, are those which promote each other's individual evolution and respect one another's interests and curiosities, not inhibit them. This, of course, follows some serious trial-and-error periods of which the previous text spoke of humorously - where you soul-search, your interests begin to broaden and personality begins to approximate a truer average. A little bit about me, I'm an engineering major in my senior year who appreciates the value of a social or intellectual challenge, more than I'd care to openly admit. Much of the work and projects I'm involved with include plenty of testing and ex-



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perimentation. Needless to say, I'm no stranger to the testing of a hypothesis or the reevaluation of prior beliefs with the introduction of new information. Readiness is a term with which I'm becoming more and more unfamiliar as a result. Just so, I believe "ourselves" aren't

things we should be ready to become.

So, I'll end with this: if we ever waited until we were exactly ready to try or explore something we haven't yet faced, then we'd never really experience anything at all, would we?

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Studyin'



Wilber Cross on a cold Tuesday afternoon on Feb. 11, 2025. The building was priorly a library, but is now used by students and faculty for various purposes.

PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

'Dragon New Warm Mountain I Believe in You' reminds us to notice the beauty in life

by **Rosie Megyola**
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Put on "Change" by Big Thief and give it a listen. It is the first song on the album "Dragon New Warm Mountain I Believe in You," which has rapidly become one of my favorite albums of this year. I was introduced to Big Thief by my boyfriend, and since then, I couldn't stop listening to the album even if I tried. We bonded over indie music and "Dragon New Warm Mountain I Believe in You" quickly became something special to us both. I learned "Change" on guitar for him, tying the music to a poignant moment for us both.

To begin, the album itself is certainly intriguing. Hearing "Change" for the first time, I asked, "So what's the album?" and then was caught off guard by this mouthful of a name. Similarly, the songs on this al-

bum are jam-packed and off-beat, much like the title. My two favorite songs are "Spud Infinity" and "Change," and I love these masterpieces because they remind me to notice the beauty in life.

The song "Change" begins with an aloof acoustic guitar and drum combo. It rises into the first verse like the sun finally peaking over the horizon line. Adrienne Lenker sings about changing like the different elements. Her gentle voice carries those similes to us like a helping hand. She is trying to aid our understanding of living in the moment.

Her conversational tone asks if you would "Live forever, never die? / While everything around you passes," and you feel as though you must answer. The drums persist, and suddenly a short guitar solo commences, adding a twangy flare to the consistent verses. Like Big Thief planned, the solo adds change.

Lenker charms us listeners like snakes, then in the next verse another vocalist harmonizes. This produces a personal effect, as if now two people are urging you to answer: Is the pursuit of novelty worth forgetting to enjoy the moment? So, please, reflect on the intuitive answer this music entrusts to you.

If "Change" invites us to slow down and embrace life's impermanence, "Spud Infinity" takes that idea and flips it on its head with a playful and surreal twist. As soon as you hear that sharp, ringing violin, you are in another world. It is coupled with... wait... are those frogs ribbiting the beat? This musical choice waves a finger in our face disapprovingly, forewarning, "You know, don't take this so seriously," and "Spud Infinity" does that by shocking us with unconventional instrumentation.

We're always asking ourselves, "What's it gonna take?"

which Lenker chants in desperation, "To free the celestial body?" Lenker sings the word "celestial" in three beats. It sounds like "Sea-les-tial". This is intentional, because she references a body of water and a body of people. By breaking the word in this way, she reminds us that just as water blends seamlessly into the ocean, we too, are interconnected—a small part of something vast and beautiful.

One of my favorite lines is "From way up there it looks so small / From way down here it looks so small / One peculiar organism aren't we all together?" Then, as Adrienne Lenker suggests, realizing the unimportance of stressful details allows us to appreciate life more. Everyone knows how to make beauty and how "All of us know how to dance, even with just one finger."

And then she asks, "What's it gonna take?" hoping that the listener realizes how beauti-

ful it is that we all are in this together. She points out in a semi-insulting manner, "A dime a dozen aren't we just." The intention is to poke fun at the listener, being subjected to unexpected vocals and amphibious croaking. It brings light to the heavy message that we also need to let go of the baggage we carry in our pasts and "[accept] the alien [we]ve rejected in [our] own heart[s]"

"Spud Infinity" focuses on letting go of the past, and "Change" focuses on letting go of the future, making them beautiful complements to each other. They give us the same advice for different areas of our lives, both urging us to slow down and appreciate the beauty of life.

Big Thief asks us to embrace both change and stillness, the past and present. Maybe the real question isn't just "What's it gonna take?" but rather—are we ready to listen?

COMIC OF THE DAY

BY CONNOR LAFFERTY, MANAGING EDITOR



PATRIOT PLACE:

WHAT DEFENSIVE FREE AGENTS SHOULD THE PATRIOTS RETAIN AND LET WALK?

by **Graham Wilker**
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For the 2025-2026 season, the New England Patriots will sport a new coaching staff headlined by Mike Vrabel. This new staff also includes a new defensive coordinator, Terrell Williams. The long-time defensive line coach worked in Detroit last season and was previously one of Vrabel's favorites in Tennessee. The defense lost a few key pieces over the last calendar year: star Matt Judon traded, the ascending Christian Barmore sidelined with health concerns and Jabrill Peppers in legal trouble mid-season. While it does appear that Barmore and Peppers will return to being key facets of the unit next season, several potential key pieces are not under contract for next season. That being said, who should they bring back to the 21st-ranked defensive unit from last year?

Retain: DB Jonathan Jones
 Jonathon Jones had a subpar season by his standards but at 31 years old, it wasn't unexpected. Despite the return of Christian Gonzalez this past season, Jones still played quite a bit of outside cornerback and moved back to safety at times during the absence of Peppers. These constant transitions hurt his ability to find a level of consistency, but a versatile veteran leader shouldn't be the type of player the team looks to move on from. The former undrafted free agent has come a long way since his introduction to the league in 2016. The team should look to add to the defensive backfield,

but that doesn't mean moving on from one of the better players already rostered.

Contract Prediction: Returns, 2 Years | \$17M

Retain: ED Deatrich Wise
 Deatrich Wise is another long-tenured Patriot; he's been on the roster since being drafted in 2017. During his eight years, he has had some solid production, with a career high of 7.5 sacks in 2022. Nonetheless, his age will be a factor, as he will be 31 at the beginning of the season. While I'd like to keep Wise around another season, there's some strong evidence that points to him not returning. The Patriots' struggle to stop the run may not have been solely due to his play, but the fact that he played less than 40% of the snaps on one of the league's worst run defenses suggests that last year's coaching staff may not have had much confidence in his ability to contribute in that area at this stage of his career.

Despite being a captain last year, I predict Vrabel will opt for new depth across the defensive line.

Contract Prediction: Departs, 2 Years | \$6-8M with a Playoff Team

Let Walk: DT Daniel Ekuale
 While some fans may disagree about my assessment of Daniel Ekuale, I think it's time to move on. The Patriots don't have much need for a 31-year-old rotational lineman. He did have a career year, recording 52 tackles compared to his previous season high of 14, and played 65% of snaps. However, given how poor the team was stopping the run, it's probably time to look elsewhere, specifically for younger players. Ekuale's mar-

ket will be niche but will likely garner him some decent money. Solid (though aging) pass rushing defensive tackles don't grow on trees. I like Ekuale, it's just not the right situation for now.

Prediction: Departs, 2 Years | \$4-6M elsewhere

Let Walk: SAF Jaylinn Hawkins

Jaylinn Hawkins was a bit of a surprise in camp prior to last season and with the absences of both Peppers and Kyle Dugger at different points he saw some solid action, playing more than half the snaps. Similar to Ekuale, I like Hawkins, although I don't think he's the player the team needs right now. He has looked a bit lost at times playing out of position as a deeper safety. Should he play in position, the team has man players vying for the box safety role: Peppers, Dugger and 2023 third round pick Marte Mapu have all played in that spot at a higher level than Hawkins. He'll have a market in free agency, and it isn't out of the question that the Patriots re-sign him, but I do feel they could use an upgrade at the free safety spot.

Contract Prediction: Departs, 2 Years | \$2-3M elsewhere

Retain: ED Oshane Ximines
 Oshane Ximines had an impressive pre-season in 2024 but played just fourteen snaps in Week 1 before being placed on season-ending injured reserve. With how much the team struggled rushing the passer, him returning wouldn't be the worst option. He won't have a lucrative market in Free Agency, and should he be given the opportunity to return to Foxborough it's not unreasonable to think he could make the team again.

An inexpensive pre-season performer seems to be a pretty solid bet to return, even with a new member of staff.

Contract Prediction: Returns, Veteran Minimum

Restricted Free Agents (RFAs)

RFAs are players with exactly three accrued seasons in the NFL. A team can choose to "tender" a player or offer them a one-year contract with one of three values: a first-round tender, a second-round tender or an original round tender. These tenders are of varying values, usually in the range of \$4M, \$2M and \$1M, respectively. The team has only one defensive player who fits this mold:

LB Christian Elliss

Christian Elliss played much more than anyone expected following an early season injury to Ja'Whaun Bentley and he struggled at times. In the end, Elliss managed a very respectable 72.6 PFF grade and was a solid run stopper, managing 80 total tackles along with an interception and 1.5 sacks. While he isn't starting caliber, there's little reason not to see Elliss return on the original round tender to be a rotational piece.

Exclusive Rights Free Agents (ERFAs)

ERFAs are players with an expired contract and fewer than three accrued seasons. These players must sign the ERFA tender (a one year, sub-million-dollar deal) if the team offers it to them. The Patriots have a pair player that fit this description:

DT Jeremiah Pharms and CB Alex Austin

DT Jeremiah Pharms signed a two-year contract with New England on Feb. 11, reported to

include \$250K in guarantees, including a \$100K signing bonus. Further conditions of the contract are currently unknown.

While I wasn't enamored with the ERFAs on the offensive side, both players had some very solid play at different points. Pharms managed 19 pressures on the year, while Alex Austin built on his solid play at the end of 2023. Given their minute price tags and solid play, Austin should similarly return to the team.

While the defensive unit did disappoint a bit last season, with HC Mike Vrabel and DC Terrell Williams at the helm, they should be able to quickly steer themselves back on track. The first step to returning to the great Patriots defenses will be building solid depth, and these in-house free agents should be able to do just that.



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Lato's Lens: Biggest upsets, top performances and must-see matchups in men's college basketball

by **Tyler Lato**
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This week's AP Top 25 rankings came with some huge surprises. While UConn left the rankings for the first time in two years, other teams have stepped up, making strong cases as some of the best in college basketball. Conferences like the Big 12 and the SEC have routinely hosted several upsets, resulting in an ultra-competitive, entertaining landscape for all to watch. Without further ado, here are some of the biggest upsets, top performances and must-see matchups for this week in men's college basketball.

Biggest Upsets

Clemson 77, No. 2 Duke 71
 Down goes number two! In front of a rowdy home crowd, the unranked Clemson Tigers shocked the nation by snapping the No. 2 Duke Blue Devils' 16-game winning streak. The Tigers' defense played phenomenally, holding Duke star guard Cooper Flagg at bay for a good portion of the game. It was center Viktor Lakhin who had a night of his own for the Tigers, shooting 9-16 from the field with a total of 22 points. With the win, Clemson moved into the 23rd spot in the rankings, while Duke fell to No. 3.

Creighton 77, No. 11 Marquette 67

Big East basketball is as ruthless as ever. On Friday night, the unranked Creighton Bluejays took the conference by storm in a comfortable home win over No. 11 Marquette. Bluejays guard Steven Ashworth continued his successful senior campaign with a solid 22 points and seven assists. This was Marquette's third loss in a row after losing to UConn and St. John's previously. The Golden Eagles really need to

lock in for the final stretch of the season if they want a higher seed come tournament time.

No. 6 Florida 90, No. 1 Auburn 81

After being down early, the No. 6 Florida Gators rallied back with the help of Walter Clayton Jr's 19 points to stun the top-ranked Auburn Tigers at their home court. Winning an away game in the SEC is extremely tough, and defeating Auburn at their place is a statement win for this Florida Gators team. With that being said, Auburn still remains the No. 1 team in the current AP Top 25 poll, which can easily change after a matchup with their archrival No. 2 Alabama this weekend.

Top Performances

Bruce Thornton, Ohio State
 The unranked Ohio State Buckeyes have sneakily been having a solid 2024-25 campaign thus far, which includes a 73-70 upset win over No. 18 Maryland last Thursday. With seven

seconds remaining in the game, star guard Bruce Thornton drained the game-winning three to take the lead over the Terrapins. Thornton, who recorded 31 points, five boards and five assists, had added much offensive firepower to the Buckeyes' offense this season, wreaking havoc on Big 10 defenses.

Kintavious Dozier, Grambling
 Oftentimes, players who don't compete in big-time conferences like the Big 10, Big East and SEC often go unnoticed, while serious talent has arisen from mid-major and smaller conferences to the NBA on multiple occasions. For instance, in last week's game between Grambling State and Alabama State, two small mid-major programs, Grambling senior guard Kintavious Dozier recorded a season-high 30 points. Not to mention, 21 of those 30 points came from beyond the three-point line, showcasing the kind of talent that some mid-major and small-

er schools have to offer.

Braden Smith, Purdue

In a 90-81 Purdue Boilermaker win over Big 10 rival Iowa, Braden Smith showcased why he's one of the best scorers in the conference. Smith shot an impressive 73.3% from the field, scoring 31 points, grabbing six rebounds and a solid four assists. Smith is currently averaging 16.6 points, 4.6 rebounds and 8.8 assists going into a critical matchup against star center Danny Wolf and the Michigan Wolverines.

Must-See Matchups

No. 1 Auburn at No. 2 Alabama: Saturday at 4 p.m.

This game has so much hype behind it for several reasons. For one, it's AP No. 1 versus No. 2. This is also a matchup consisting of two teams who have lit up the scoreboard nearly every game this season. Auburn's Johni Broome and Alabama's Mark Sears are potential national player of the year candi-

dates who have been nothing but incredible thus far, posting insane stat lines every game. The Alabama-Auburn rivalry is perhaps one of collegiate athletics' greatest rivalries, in which much of the bad blood comes between the in-state foes. The intensity of this game will be off the charts and the winner will likely claim college basketball's number one ranking.

No. 22 Mississippi State at No. 19 Ole Miss: Saturday at 6 p.m.

Another SEC heavyweight battle between two heated in-state rivals? You thought right! Though both teams haven't traditionally been known for their prowess in the college basketball world, No. 22 Mississippi State and No. 19 Ole Miss have certainly solidified themselves as two of the conference's best. Mississippi State sophomore guard Josh Hubbard is having a terrific season, putting up 17.5 points, 3.1 assists and 2.1 rebounds a game. His counterpart, Ole Miss guard Sean Pedulla, has also been producing for the Rebels, averaging 15 points, 3.4 rebounds and 3.8 assists a night. The whole state of Mississippi should be on the edge of their seats for this one.

No. 6 Houston at No. 13 Arizona: Saturday at 2 p.m.

After struggling earlier in the season, the No. 13 Arizona Wildcats have catapulted themselves up the rankings after a slew of impressive ranked and in-conference victories. Houston, however, has had quite the season of their own, hoisting a 20-4 record. What's intriguing about No. 6 Houston is that three of their four losses have come at the mercy of ranked teams and one from unranked San Diego State, proving that the Cougars are very susceptible of losing to strong competition. This should certainly be an interesting Big 12 battle to watch.



UConn men's basketball plays St. John's in Gampel Pavilion on Friday, Feb. 7, 2025. The Huskies came up short, losing to the Johnnies 68-62. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sports

Photo of the Day | Skating to victory



UConn women's ice hockey versus Holy Cross on Feb. 8, 2025, at the Toscano Family Ice Forum. It was National Girls and Women in Sports Celebration Night at Toscano, and the Huskies secured a 1-0 win. PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

THE DAYTONA 500: WHAT TO EXPECT

by Alex Klancko

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The Daytona 500 is the most historic and well-known race in NASCAR history. It's a race that has not only held the highest of highs with Dale Earnhardt Sr.'s only Daytona 500 win in 1998, but also the lowest of lows with Earnhardt's fatal crash at the 2001 Daytona 500. The race has seen winning margins of two laps in 1973 and hundredths of a second in 2016.

Here is a look into what you should expect leading up to the Daytona 500.

The weekend will start today at 8 p.m. when single-car qualifying takes place. Single-car qualifying features 45 cars taking one timed lap each around the 2.5-mile track. After all 45 cars go, the top 10 will advance to the second round where they fight for pole position. After the 10 drivers take another timed lap, the two fastest drivers take the first row of the race.

Tomorrow, Feb. 13, there are two Duel races, the first at 7 p.m. and the second at 8:45 p.m.

The Duel races are 60-lap, 150-mile races that decide the remaining 38 positions on the grid. The first Duel will determine the inside positions of the grid, third, fifth, and seventh, for example. The second Duel will decide the outside positions: fourth, sixth, eighth, and so on.

There are points for the regular season top 10 finishers in both Duel one and two, with the winner receiving 10 points, second with nine points, all the way down to 10th place with one point.

In between the Duels on Thursday and the race on Sunday, the Xfinity and the Trucks series will occur. On Friday, the Truck series has its qualifying race at 2 p.m. and its 100-lap, 250-mile race at Daytona at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday, the Xfinity series had its qualifying race at 10 a.m. and its 120-lap, 300-mile race at 5 p.m.

There is also an ARCA Menards (the fourth series of NASCAR) race at noon on Saturday. The ARCA race is 80 laps and 200 miles long.

On Sunday, there is the Daytona 500, which starts at 2:30 p.m. The race is 200 laps and 500 miles long, with last year's winner being William Byron, who is a part of Hendrick Motorsports. Byron is a part of Hendrick Motorsports. Alex Bowman came in second, closely followed by Christopher Bell, who rounded out the top three.

Some drivers you should look for in the Daytona 500 are No. 23 Bubba Wallace of 23XI Racing, No. 9 Chase Elliott and No. 5 Kyle Larson of Hendrick Motorsports, No. 12 Ryan Blaney and current Cup Champion No. 22 Joey Logano of Team Penske.

Wallace is one of the best su-

perspeedway drivers on the track, with a career average finish of 16th place on super speedways in 29 total races. One of Wallace's two wins came at superspeedway. In the past five years, his average has dropped to about 14th place. Elliott's average superspeedway finishes 18th in 36 races. Elliott has two career wins at superspeedways, both at Talladega Raceway's. Elliott was not as lucky last year with an average finishing place of over 23rd. However, this year, with Elliott eager for a championship title, is hoping to place well at Daytona.

Then there is Larson, who has not placed higher than fourth place at a superspeedway yet arguably has the best car on the track. He was lightning quick last season and is eager for his first podium or race win at a super speedway.

Blaney has four wins at super speedways and four second place finishes. He has an average finish of 17th at superspeedways. Since 2022, Blaney has had the best average finish at superspeedways with just above seventh place.

Logano also has four wins at superspeedways and 22 total top 10 finishes. Logano is ninth among current drivers at superspeedways since 2022 with an average finish of 13th. Additionally, he is the current Cup Series champion, so watch out for him on Sunday.

Women's Tennis: Huskies look to continue their winning streak in matchup against Quinnipiac



UConn women's tennis plays against Fordham during the 2024 UConn Invitational in Storrs, Conn. on Sept. 14, 2024. The Huskies won the match 4-3.

PHOTO BY SAHANA GANESH, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

UConn women's tennis team is currently on a two-game winning streak after a dominant Big East win against Seton Hall last Friday. On the other hand, the Quinnipiac Bobcats have not played since January, as their match against the University of Rhode Island last week was canceled due to inclement weather.

In their first Big East win of the season, the Huskies had strong performances in their doubles matches. The doubles team of seniors Olivia Wright and Maria Constantinou had yet another stellar performance, winning their match with a final score of 6-2. Senior Isabel Petri Bere and sophomore Victoria Matos are another dominating doubles pair that the Bobcats will need to look out for. The pair won their match 6-1 against Seton Hall last week.

Not only are the veterans on the team securing match wins for the Huskies, but so are the newcomers. Freshman Chloe Lomans and sophomore Isabella Asenov are proving to be quite the team to beat as they went on to win their most recent doubles match as well.

The Bobcats have had success in doubles with their pairing of graduate student Jordan Bradley and sophomore Caroline Schulson. The duo won their match back in January against NJIT with a final score of 6-4.

Another pairing the Huskies need to watch out for is junior Vera Sekerina and sophomore Anagha Shankar who consistently play well for

the Bobcats and are coming off a 6-1 victory.

UConn typically performs better in doubles matches than singles, but in their most recent meet the Huskies turned things around, winning all singles matches. Seniors Wright and Constantinou moved on from their win in the doubles match and went on to play individually in their singles matches. Both Wright and Constantinou won their respective singles matches 6-3.

Looking at the Bobcats' lineup, Sekerina and Shankar both won their singles matches in their latest meet as did fellow teammates freshman Willow Renton and sophomore Caitlin Flower.

Both the Huskies and the Bobcats have strong players who consistently perform well in both the singles and doubles matches.

This will be a must-see matchup as the Huskies are looking to continue their winning streak and keep their momentum going after their first Big East win of the season. It will be interesting to see how the Bobcats approach this game after not having played in several weeks.

The matchup between the two in-state schools will take place this Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 1 p.m. at the Magic Lincer Tennis Club in Manchester, Conn. Looking ahead, the Huskies will go on to play in yet another Big East matchup this Sunday against Georgetown, but before then, they must focus their attention on beating the Bobcats.



Photo courtesy of Creazilla

WOMENS BASKETBALL: HUSKIES TO HOST RED STORM FOR SECOND BATTLE OF 2025

by **Jake McCreven**

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The No. 7 UConn women's basketball team (22-3, 13-0) will play host to St. John's (13-10, 3-9) inside Gampel Pavilion this evening at 7:30 p.m.

Connecticut won the first meeting between the two Big East foes this season 71-45 on Jan. 15. The Huskies welcomed Paige Bueckers back to the lineup, who scored 12 points after missing the better part of two weeks with a knee injury.

UConn leads the all-time series against St. John's 48-5 dating back to 1988, never having won by less than two possessions and averaging 79.3 points per game against the Johnnies.

All three of Connecticut's losses have come from non-conference opponents (Notre Dame, USC and Tennessee). The Huskies head into Wednesday sporting a 33-game Big East regular season game win streak.

The last Husky Big East regular season loss? A five-point defeat in February 2023 to St. John's. The Red Storm held the Huskies to a 35% mark from the field, downing UConn 69-65 in the XL Center.

The blueprint to defeat the Johnnies is readily available this time around, however. St. John's ranks last in the Big East in effective field goal percentage allowed (53.2) and two-point defense (53.9), per Bart Torvik — perhaps a function of its small-ball lineup.

Conversely, the Huskies rank second nationally in EFG% (57.6) and two-point offense (58.2). Finding open shots

(much like Azzi Fudd did during the teams' first meeting) and cashing them in will open this game early.

The Johnnies' leading scorer, Lashae Dwyer, scored just two points when the Huskies visited Queens in January — tying her season low and marking just the third time she had not reached double figures up to that point.

Only one Johnny managed to score double-digit points that night: guard Ber'Nyah Mayo. The team shot a rocky 32.7% from the field and 20.8% from three in the 26-point loss.

The Red Storm prefer to slow the tempo offensively — running the Big East's slowest offense, per Bart Torvik — yet continuously attempted to push the pace against the Huskies back in January.

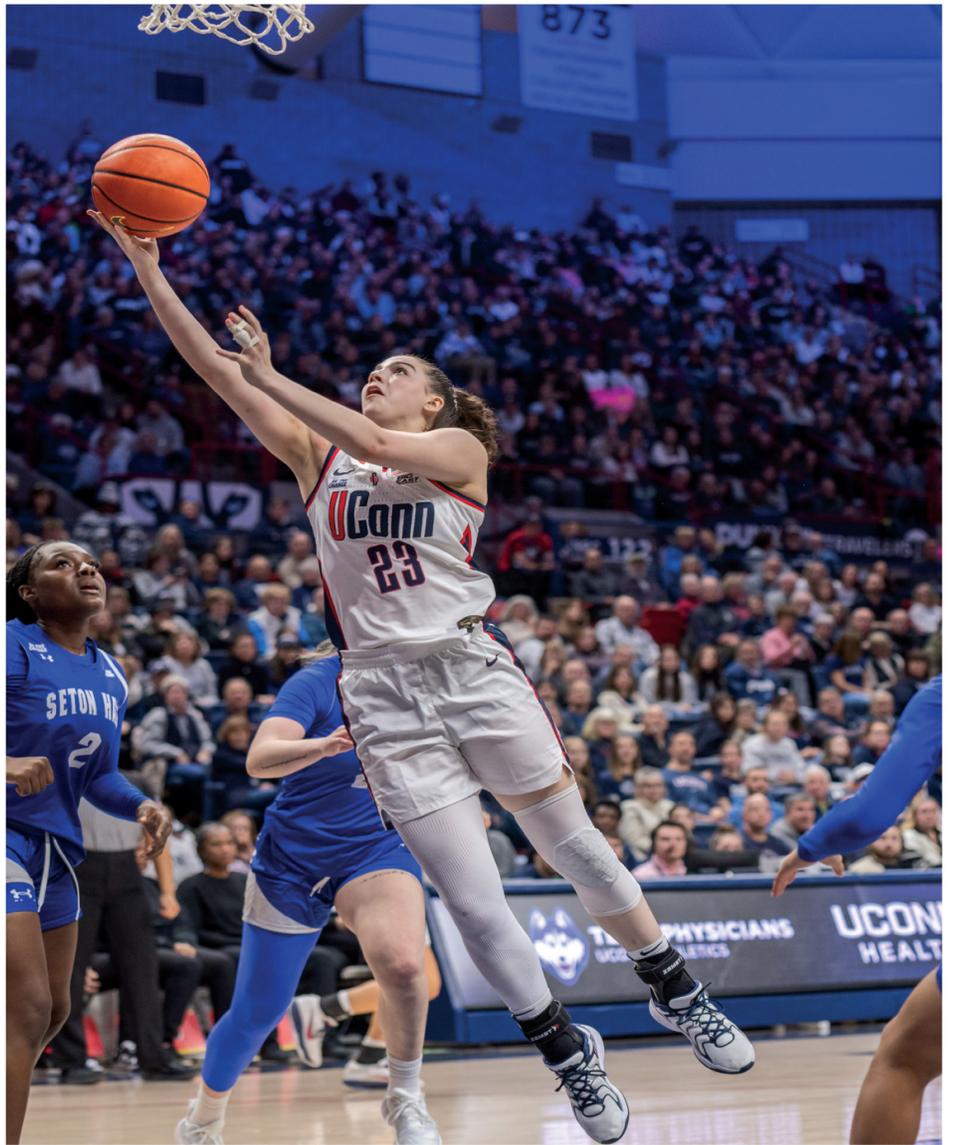
Which SJU offense will Geno Auriemma see? Considering the Johnnies are 3-9 in their last 12 and haven't scored above 70 points since Dec. 15 (Fairfield), it isn't completely off the table that the Red Storm will accelerate the tempo in hopes of an offensive renaissance.

Keys to Victory for No. 7 UConn:

Instituting the full court press will go a long way in making the Red Storm uncomfortable and make everything difficult for an offense in a clear slump and force turnovers.

Find the playmakers. Bueckers, Fudd, Sarah Strong and Kaitlyn Chen must all get premium looks early. Build an early lead and make the SJU offense play from behind.

Don't get ahead of Wednesday. Sunday is Sunday — focus on the Gamecocks then.



UConn women's basketball stays undefeated in conference play as they play Seton Hall in Storrs, Conn. on Jan. 19, 2025. The Huskies defeated the Pirates by 60 points in the Big East matchup. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

THE PUCK DROP: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE FOUR NATIONS FACEOFF

by **Avery Becker**

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An international hockey tournament that you do not have to wait every four years for? What could be better news than that?

In lieu of the annual All-Star game and skills contest, the National Hockey League is holding an international tournament titled "The Four Nations Faceoff," that is set to kick off this Wednesday, Feb. 12.

Various selected players from each NHL team will play for their respective countries, including the USA, Finland, Sweden and Canada. This tournament is set to take place at Montreal's Bell Centre and Boston's TD Garden.

In this edition of The Puck Drop, I'll be discussing everything you need to know about these games coming up.

How does it work?

Similar to the WNBA's Unrivaled League, the Four Nations Faceoff will be set in a round-robin format, with each team playing three games. The two teams with the greatest number of points will play in the championship game on Feb. 20.

How does the scoring system work?

For each win in regulation, the winning team will notch three points. They will win two points for a win in overtime or in a shootout.

For each loss in regulation, the losing team will earn zero



Photo courtesy of Creazilla

points; if they lose in overtime or a shootout, they earn one point.

Each game that the teams play will follow the traditional rules and gameplay of the NHL, except for overtime. For each of the round-robin games, overtime will last 10 minutes, instead of the usual five minutes. In the championship game, overtime will be sudden death, until there's a winner.

Who's involved?

Multiple players from the NHL, like Connor McDavid, Juuse Saros, Jack Hughes and William Nylander will be partaking for their respective

countries.

Sidney Crosby will be the captain for team Canada, Aleksander Barkov for Finland, Victor Hedman for Sweden and Auston Matthews for USA.

It was announced that Crosby would officially play for Canada earlier this week after suffering an injury to his left arm.

Crosby emphasized to ESPN how excited he was to have the chance to play with a bunch of talented players at the same time.

"A ton of talent, a ton of skill. [You have] to think and move quickly, be instinctive

and react to some of the plays they make. I think that's fun." Crosby said to ESPN on the Canadian team.

Hughes, one of the players for USA, is also excited for the chance to compete on the ice with his American teammates.

"I'm a young guy. I feel like I've got a lot of games with USA hockey still left to be played and that's exciting for me. Obviously, the Devils are my No. 1 focus, but to have the chance to come here and put the sweater back on means a lot," Hughes said to the media, per the New Jersey Devils' team reporter Amanda Stein.

Where can I watch it?

To suit the needs of the consumers of professional hockey, these games will be broadcasted on various different platforms including ABC, TNT and ESPN. For those without cable, it will be livestreamed on ESPN+, MAX and Disney+.

When are the games?

The tournament is set to kick off Wednesday night with Canada taking on Sweden at 8 p.m. from the Bell Centre in Montreal.

The rest of games are as follows:

Montreal games (Bell Centre):

Feb. 13: USA vs. Finland (8 p.m.)

Feb. 15: Finland vs. Sweden (1 p.m.), USA vs. Canada (8 p.m.)

Boston games (TD Garden):

Feb. 17: Canada vs. Finland (1 p.m.), Sweden vs. USA (8 p.m.)

Feb. 20: Championship game (8 p.m.)

All in all, this international tournament is proving to be the one to watch for all hockey fans. Not only will you be able to see these players showcase their all-star skills, but you will also be able to see these players compete with teammates who they normally would not play with for any other circumstance other than the Olympics.

For more information on the rosters and game times, see the NHL Instagram page: https://www.instagram.com/p/DF52nNjPzNQ/?img_index=4



Sports

MEN'S HOCKEY: NO. 11 UCONN EQUIPPED FOR MIDWEEK MATCHUP AGAINST ALASKA ANCHORAGE

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Coming off a 1-1-0 weekend against No. 18 Massachusetts and No. 10 UMass Lowell, the Huskies will get back in action against Alaska Anchorage for a midweek match on Wednesday night.

The last time UConn faced Alaska Anchorage was in 2023 at the recently opened Toscano Family Ice Forum. In that matchup, the Huskies sealed the victory after an OT winner from Hudson Schandor, who is now a fifth-year captain.

Sophomore Joey Muldowney has been on a hot streak for the Huskies' offense, scoring a point in 10 of the last 13 games. The forward is tied for most goals by a UConn player in the Hockey East era. Muldowney currently has 16 goals and 13 assists for 29 total points.

As for the captain, Schandor is coming off a six-point weekend and has reached the 30-point mark this season. The forward has eight goals, 22 assists and 30 total points.

Over the weekend, the Ice Bus broke records. Schandor and John Spetz both made UConn history. Schandor surpassed Jachym Kondelik in becoming the leader for total points in the Hockey East era and Spetz passed Joe Masonius for most points by a defenseman in the Hockey East era. Schandor has been on a roll,



UConn men's hockey plays Massachusetts on Feb. 7, 2025. The Huskies lost to the Minutemen with a final score of 5-4. PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

registering a point in 10 of 12 games for the Huskies.

Overall, UConn has been cruising on offense as they are currently leading the country with eight shorthanded goals and have been offensive machines.

Another accolade for the Huskies goes to the defense. Tyler Muszelik was undefeated in the month of January for the Ice Bus. After returning from an injury, the junior goaltender posted a 4-0-1 record while being the MVP in the Huskies first-ever victory in the CT Ice Tournament. Among goaltenders with more than two starts, Muszelik was third in the nation and paced Hockey East in both save percentage (9.51) and goals against average (1.38).

Alaska Anchorage will be making their last road trip of the season to the east coast. The Seawolves will enter this matchup with a 5-19-5 overall record. Most of their wins have come on the road. However, this is a crucial matchup for the Huskies in their potential bid into the national tournament in March.

This will be the only game of the week for the Huskies. Following the mid-week matchup against Alaska Anchorage, UConn will get back into Hockey East action with Maine on Friday, Feb. 21. Until then, puck drop for Wednesday is set for 7 p.m. and will be available to stream on ESPN+.

Women's Lacrosse: No. 24 UConn looks to stay undefeated in battle against Fairfield

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The UConn women's lacrosse team is set to stay in Storrs to take on the Fairfield Stags at 3 p.m. on Wednesday. The Huskies come into this match slipping in as the No. 24-ranked team, after defeating Drexel in their season opener. As for Fairfield, they are looking for their first win after falling to Holy Cross 22-13 on Saturday.

Both of these two programs go way back, having faced each other 13 times dating back to 2009. Throughout history, Connecticut has built a seven-game winning streak before taking their second loss in 2019. However, this did not affect the Huskies, as they came right back in 2020 and took three contests in a row. Nonetheless, Fairfield responded in the 2024 campaign with an 11-9 dub over UConn. This year, the Huskies have a solid shot at coming out on top as they have never lost to Fairfield at home. Although, the Huskies have a solid shot at coming out on top, as they have never lost to Fairfield at home.

Looking at Connecticut's roster, watching out for offensive players like Rayea Davis and Eve McGrogan is a must. The two attackers are coming off of a stellar performance, each earning a hat trick against Drexel. From 2024 to 2025, Fairfield went from starting their star keeper Claire Morris to switching between Keira Furey and

Ally Zamparelli. The Stags have had a significant problem protecting the net right now. This is something Davis could take advantage of, as she pressured Drexel's goalie the most with nine total shots. In addition to Davis, McGrogan won Attacker of the Week. The second-year player is coming alive quickly this season and stopping her dominance now is unlikely. The attacker finished right below Davis on Saturday with six shot attempts.

Defensively, beating Riley Daly to control the draw is not an easy task. The Defensive Player of the Week won a career-high of 11 faceoffs on Saturday. However, the team struggled to keep the ball with 18 botched plays. To add on, the Huskies need to make more caused turnovers, as they only forced six changes of possessions against the Dragons. These are some things to take into consideration come game time.

When looking at Fairfield's roster, Connecticut needs to focus on Kelly Haggerty, who led the team with three goals against Holy Cross, as well as Katelyn Greeley, who only fired two balls but found the net on both attempts. The biggest problem for Fairfield is keeping offenses out of their territory. Taking advantage of this right out of the gate will allow the Huskies to get in front quickly.

Connecticut looks to continue their 7-0 winning streak at home in this match, while Fairfield plans on getting back on track.



UConn women's lacrosse team defeats Drexel on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025. The final score was 10-9. PHOTO BY NATHAN GALICINAO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS