

NUTMEG

MAGAZINE

after
hours



Executive Board

Editor-in-Chief
Neal Krishna

Magazine Managing Editor
Caroline Strapp

Yearbook Managing Editor
Colin Sullivan

Business Manager
Will Miller

Creative Director
Addison Magrath

Editorial Director
Owen Silverman

Photography Director
Skyler Kim

Marketing Coordinator
Jailyn Murphy

03

Letter from
the Editor

05

Huskies to
Teds Pipeline

11

Matched and
Attached?

19

Rec Rats v.
Homer Bad
Bitches

21

Never Have
I Ever

23

Late Nights

27

Campus Fashion

35

Outside the
Stadium

39

Jonathan Profile

Writers

Abigail Bonilla

Amanda Rodrigues

Ash Maldonado

Ben Albee

Chloe Hummel

Defne Alpdogan

Jessica Malley

Sadie Gjonaj

Sky Cummings

Photographers

Brandon Chain

Chloe Parsell

Eli Jenkins

Erin Wu

Sadie Sanville

Taylor Giorgetti

Tyler Washington

Designers

Ainsley Kohli

Coral Aponte

Eimear McGowan

Gavin Vitale

Graham Armstrong

Haydn Kerr

Karli Vare

Mahelet Steinmetz

Willow Chau

Zach Elsass

letter from the editor

Hey Huskies!

I think we can all agree campus is finally starting to feel like real life again, and what better way to celebrate the return of true college chaos than diving head first into all the things that make it fun. With that spirit in mind, I present to you this semester's magazine, After Hours. Everything within these pages is about what we do once we close our laptops and throw our textbooks out the window, I mean close them gently... Nutmeg spent the semester documenting what we do best outside of the classroom. From Late Night to Teds, Rec Rats to Homer Bad Bitches, Jonathan's POV to a night at Huskies – we left as little to the imagination as possible.

I'm so proud of everyone who worked on this issue of the magazine. It's a tight timeline to pull this all together before the semester ends, but we didn't let the fast-paced nature of this publication lower the quality or ambition of our team.

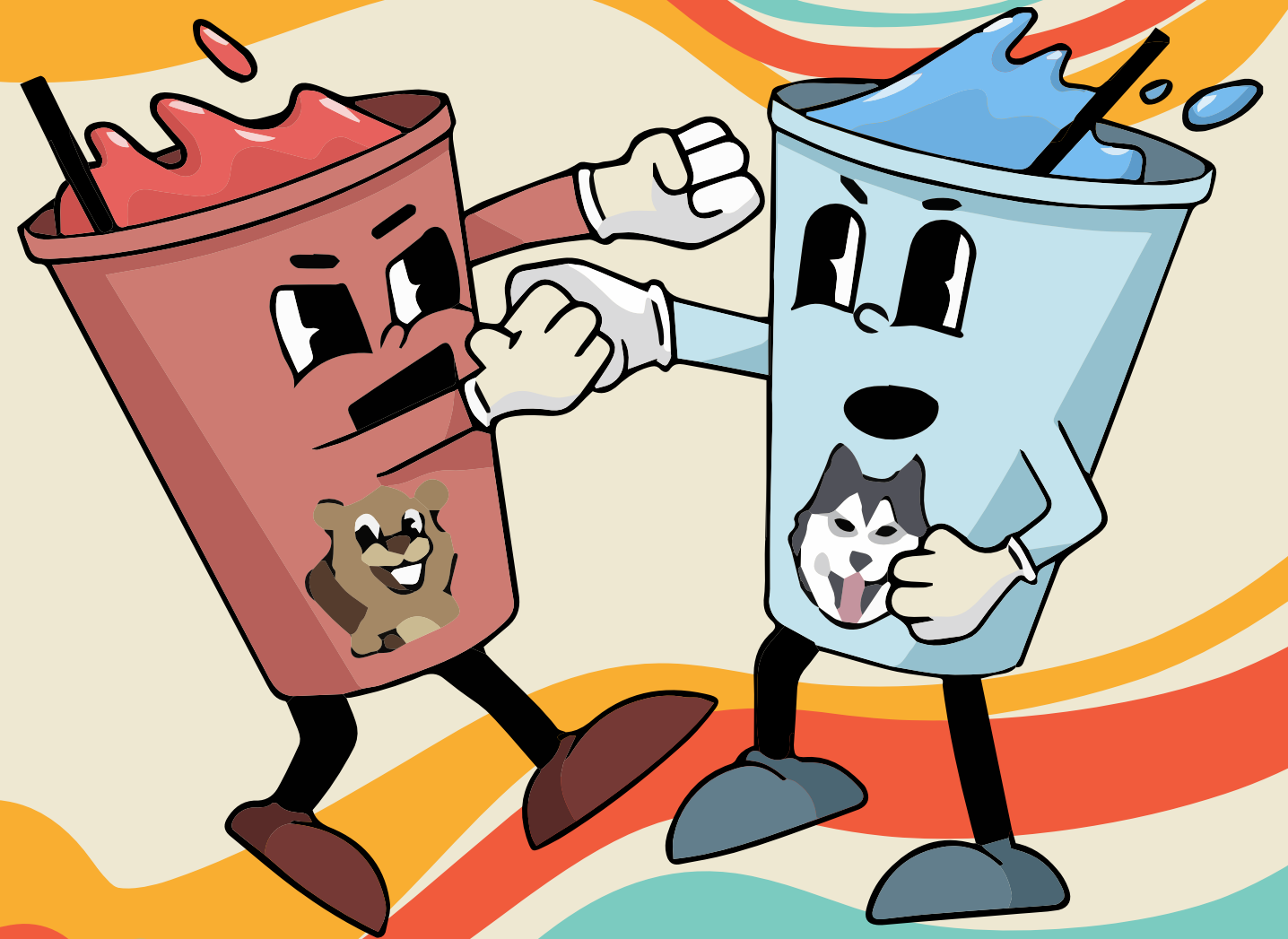
In the pages of this magazine, my hope is that you can relate to the stories and experiences documented by our staff. Maybe you'll find yourself remembering stories long forgotten that will have you laughing on the floor with your best friends or relating to dating experiences of other Huskies. You might spot your friends (or yourself!) in one of the stories, and keep an eye out for the incredibly creative and stunning artwork of our designers. At the very least, I hope you can't help but smile while reading about a day in the life of Jonathan, I know I couldn't resist. Have fun flipping through our work!

Yours in journalism,

Caroline Strapp
Caroline Strapp



HUSKIES TO TEDS PIPELINE





HUSKIES

by Jessica Malley



Huskies or Ted's? A question that reaches the lips of hundreds of students on a Saturday night. For those who have chosen Huskies, their reasons are clear, and the dance floor awaits. Huskies is the bar students find themselves at to edge their way into UConn bar culture; the first stop on the pipeline leading to Ted's. A final destination, Ted's is more laid back and suited for older students who have little to no dance left in them.

Walking into Huskies at 9:30 p.m. felt like the calm before the storm. As bouncers positioned themselves at their posts, bartenders ran frantically preparing lemons and limes. Around the corner, the DJ's face colored with passion and focus as he set up for the night ahead. Slowly, groups of 3-4 entered the bar, moving around aimlessly after ordering their drinks. It was as if there was one thing they came here to do - and that was dance. More students entered the door as girls greeted friends with hugs and guys took the dapping up approach to greet theirs.

Illustration by Addison Magrath & Graham Armstrong



By 10:30 p.m. bartenders moved in an organized fashion, acknowledging pleas for alcohol that would soon erupt in every direction on the other side of the bar. Students released a sigh of relief as they made it into the bar and received their stamps and wristbands. There was a momentary ease in the air - the most stressful part of the night now a success. The students entering transmitted a youthful energy, a paradox to the energy at Ted's. It was as if the experience was newer and more impressionable.

Soon after, a sea of crop tops and jeans overflowed from the bar and onto the now partially full floor in front of the DJ. Somewhere amid the crowd of students the desire to feel free floats around and pulls their bodies to the dance floor. Drinks grasped by one hand while voices sing and bodies groove to their favorite songs; the music, a sensorial stimulation that anchored students to the ground. The fluctuation of figures to the music was contagious as it soon felt like everyone in Huskies was engaged in rhythmic movement. Even the DJ was boogying as he continued to electrify the atmosphere with his music.

A flirtatious energy surfaced by 11 p.m. as the liquid courage sank in. The dispersal of friend groups into the main crowd allowed for mingling with new faces. Some students looking for love, others hiding from it. Still, the dancing ceased to end as new, young faces moved into the bar and bodies crammed even closer. Girls held their drinks closer as the distance between students grew smaller and smaller.

Conversation tried to reach ears over the music, but often failed as the melody roared. But no one cares, they are here to dance. If they wanted to converse, they would have made their way to Ted's. Bouncers stood above the outskirts of the crowd on raised structures, observing with blank faces, almost like statues. Occasionally, a few girls would lock eyes, give each other "the nod," and head for the bathroom. Other students would dance their way to the door and step out for some cool air as they glistened with sweat from all the movement. Wristbands allowed for an easy re-entry as the line outside radiated impatience while making no movement. The line to enter was the most still students would stand all night.

Well after midnight Ubers were being ordered and dancers made their way off the floor, out of breath but still enthused. Chatter about parties lofted through the air, as people packed into cars. The students in Huskies were alive and full of energy that could carry on from this dance floor to the next adventure.

Design by Haydn Kerr

Photos by Brandon Chain

A NIGHT AT TED'S

by Caroline Strapp



I think we can all agree a good night at Ted's starts way before the bouncer inspects your ID, and another makes you cough up \$10. A good night at Ted's starts with a solid pregame: cans cracking open, someone yelling about shots, the pong table set, and the DJ plays your favorite song... next thing you know you're three games and who knows how many drinks deep and you vaguely hear someone talking about an Uber. As your ride reaches the five minute mark, shots are downed and you scramble to find your shoes. Depending on how many

drinks you've had, the car ride is either two seconds before tumbling into line or a painful eternity. Either way you're crossing your fingers the whole drive hoping there's no line when you arrive.

Finally you push through the thick, red doors to the bar and are hit with a sweaty, human heatwave. You're immediately immersed in the crowd that gets denser as you approach the bar. With a Beaver secured, it's time for your first lap of the night – out to the patio. The drop in temperature is a momentary relief after the swamp inside.



But the best nights at Ted's are the sloppy drunk ones when the tent is popping and you completely surrender to the chaos and the music. It's inevitable that a drink gets spilled – Sunday scaries start with the state of your shoes – so it's best to accept that casualty now. You should also prepare for a bathroom trip so I hope you packed toilet paper in your back pocket. But let's be honest, bathroom adventures are some of the best parts of the night, they'll get you trippin', stumblin', clumsy cause you're having fun.

At some point in the night you are completely surprised and elated to see an unexpected friend. You both throw your arms out, yell, and turn to your friends and enthusiastically explain who this is to their confused faces. Then, something distracts you, and you're back to dancing, talking, vibing with your besties, and doing your best not to fall into anyone as the crowd continually ebbs and flows around you and your group.

Eventually, the night comes to a close in one of a few ways. Maybe your sober driver is ready to fall asleep, or you finally get to go home with your crush, or someone is looking just a little too drunk and it's time to get them back home safely, or the clock strikes 2 a.m. and it's a mad dash for the next available, cheap Uber (if that even exists). You'll know you had a good Ted's adventure if you're all tripping down the ramp towards your ride laughing and exhausted. You might feel your eyelids drooping uncontrollably on the drive home and vaguely hear your friends whispering about whether or not you're asleep. When you get home, the walk from the car to your room will wake you up just enough to have a delirious conversation with a roommate and when your face finally sinks into your soft, cool pillow you'll wonder how it's 3 a.m. and how the F you're going to do all your homework on Sunday... but that's a tomorrow problem. For now, you get to slip off into blissful sleep after an absolutely unpredictable night.

Photos by Chloe Parsell
Design by Haydn Kerr



Matched & Attached?

Couples

by Sky Cummings

Nutmeg Publishing interviewed three different couples asking them about their thoughts and experiences on being in a relationship in college. University students have a plenty on their plates with jobs, extracurriculars, social lives, and of course, academics taking up most of their days. With all of these things to balance, one often wonders if it is even possible to form and maintain a romantic relationship in college. Below, three couples comment on how they met their partner and sustain a healthy relationship on campus.



Photos by Josie Simon

Design by Haydn Kerr

Singles

by Chloe Hummel

Somewhere, on the other side of the quad perhaps, you'll find a different group of campus goers – those who prefer to go about their days independently. We had the opportunity to speak to a few of these students, asking them questions ranging from dating apps, meeting new people, and the benefits and drawbacks of the single life. In a relationship and ever wonder what life is like on the other side? Keep reading to find out. And if you yourself identify as single, then keep reading to see who's out there!





NP: Storrs is kind of in the middle of nowhere and college students tend to get very busy. What do you guys do to spend time together and go on dates?

Atilla Pall, Sophomore: We go downtown pretty frequently and get meals from Eatjoy or someplace there, and then we'd have nights in with food and music and cute couple things. A lot of it is just spending time with each other because it's so accessible, we live a walk away from each other. We even go squishmallow hunting and eat KFC in the pouring rain in a parking lot watching Gilmore Girls. We try to be spontaneous.

William Carello, Senior: We've gone out, we went to a Red Sox game. We traveled too. I took him to some restaurants in Willimantic. I do want to try to sneak into a lecture hall after hours and put on a movie or do karaoke or something, I think that could be fun. Also, there's a fire pit by

Mansfield Apartments and a lot of people don't know there's a hiking trail there. I've hosted a couple of fire pits there and I wanna bring him out to one.

NP: Are there any obstacles you've faced and overcome while being in a relationship at college? Were any of them totally unexpected?

Atilla Pall, Sophomore: Learning and realizing more things about yourself that you have to change. It helped me to grow as a person, being in a relationship. It allowed me to realize what loving a person meant.

NP: Do you have any advice for other couples on campus?

Emily Ocasio, Sophomore: Be patient, because especially for freshmen, everything is new and changing and you're not quite sure what you want. If you are patient with each other, and recognize that you are both growing, it's great for a relationship.

NP: How did you two meet?

Lulu Heublein, Sophomore: I was oblivious, actually. So, we first met at the Blue Line. We both lived at Busby. We met at the Blue Line because the Green came first, and the bus driver pointed to Wenhao and asked if he needed to get on the bus and I asked him and he said no so the bus left. Then Wenhao came up to me and we just started talking. And then, I got onto the bus and he sat across from me and kept on talking to me.

NP: Were any of the obstacles totally unexpected?

Wenhao Ruan, Junior: So, the thing is that Lulu was adopted by a white family, so she's very Americanized. I come from a Chinese family, right, so our cultures are very different even though people assume she's completely Chinese. It's just us trying to get together and see what we like about each other's backgrounds.

NP: Do you have any advice for other couples on campus?

Lulu Heublein, Sophomore: I think quality time and communication are important. It's nice to text and nice to call and have modern communication, but it's also really nice to wind down and do something in person, whether that be for a walk or go downtown or something.

NP: What are some UConn specific events that you've really enjoyed attending as a couple?

Grian Wizner, Sophomore: I bring him to

Revolution Against Rape and he brings me to The Philosophy Society.

NP: What are some qualities in each other that make you really want to fight for your relationship?

Grian Wizner, Sophomore: I like how he speaks his mind. I like that in a person. One of the things I really enjoy is when people actually have an opinion and voice it. I really, really like that about him.



Photos by Josie Simon

Design by Haydn Kerr

Illustration by Zach Elsass



S

I

N

G

L

E

S

NP: Does your sexuality/preferences affect your dating life at UConn?

Joey Rich, Junior: Last semester, when I was experimenting a bit with my sexuality, I actually found it a lot easier to meet guys because of dating apps. I think it's harder as a guy to meet girls, especially because I don't have a fake.

NP: Do you use any dating apps? Why or why not?

Marissa Forleo, Junior: Absolutely not! I don't like when things feel forced. I would rather meet someone organically in person. I have never used a dating app and don't plan on using one.

Julia Marcella, Senior: Yeah, I have. Mostly for fun – I think it's more about validation than anything else. I think a lot of people treat dating apps as a game.

NP: Where would you go on campus or near campus to find a potential partner?

Marissa Forleo, Junior: I prefer UConn bars, like Huskies, over going to frats. I think the bars are a better setting because they're not as sweaty and smelly. I also prefer dancing at Huskies over frat basements.

NP: What are your thoughts and opinions on ghosting?

Sadie Sanville, Sophomore: Ghosting sucks. It's immature, rude, and inconsiderate. It hurts people right where it hurts most, their ego. [It] leads so absolutely no closure and ... a relationship is left with so many unanswered questions. However, I think it's a natural response today. It would be hypocritical of me to say that anyone who ghosts is a bad person.

Photos by Josie Simon

Design by Haydn Kerr



NP: Does Greek Life play a role in finding a potential partner?

Lily Nagy-Leranth, Freshman: I would probably look into the values of the particular sorority or fraternity that they're in, but I don't think it would be a deal breaker.

NP: What are the cons of being single at UConn?

LeAndrae Dicks, Senior: If you do have that somebody that's special to you, they can help aid you or be your favorite study partner and favorite person. A lot of people are away from home, so having that closer person can bring comfort.

NP: What would an ideal date look like at UConn?

Quinn Baron, Senior: Going on a picnic date by Mirror Lake on a sunny day! Mirror Lake is so pretty, I would like to just hang out and listen to music.

NP: Can you think of any examples of hookup culture that are unique to UConn?

Marissa Birmingham, Junior: I think YikYak hookup culture is really interesting at UConn. I've seen a lot of anonymous flirting. I also think there is a lot of objectification and over-sexualization of the athletes – particularly the female athletes.

3 may be a crowd, but I'd like if you and I could make 2!

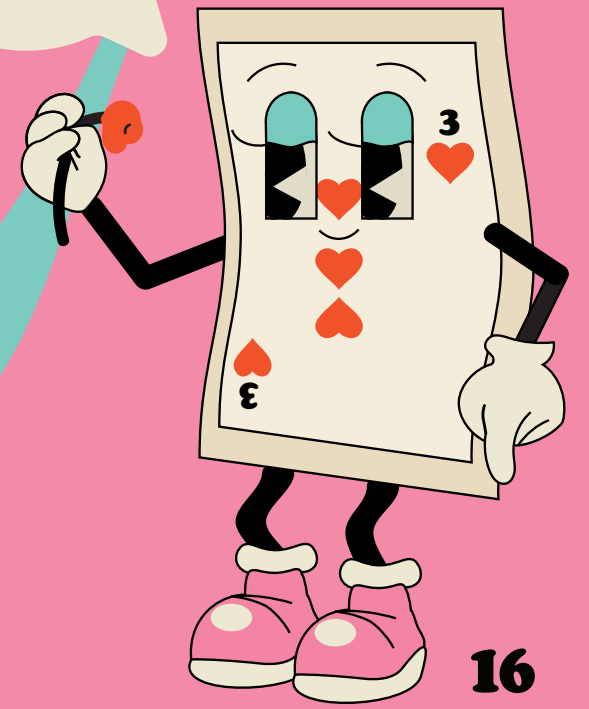
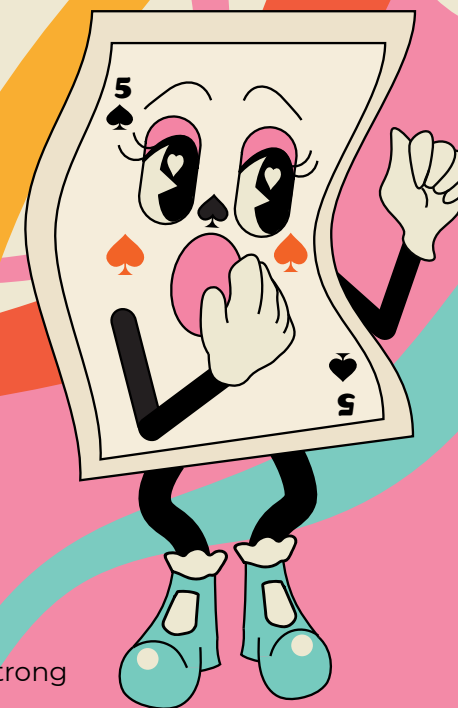


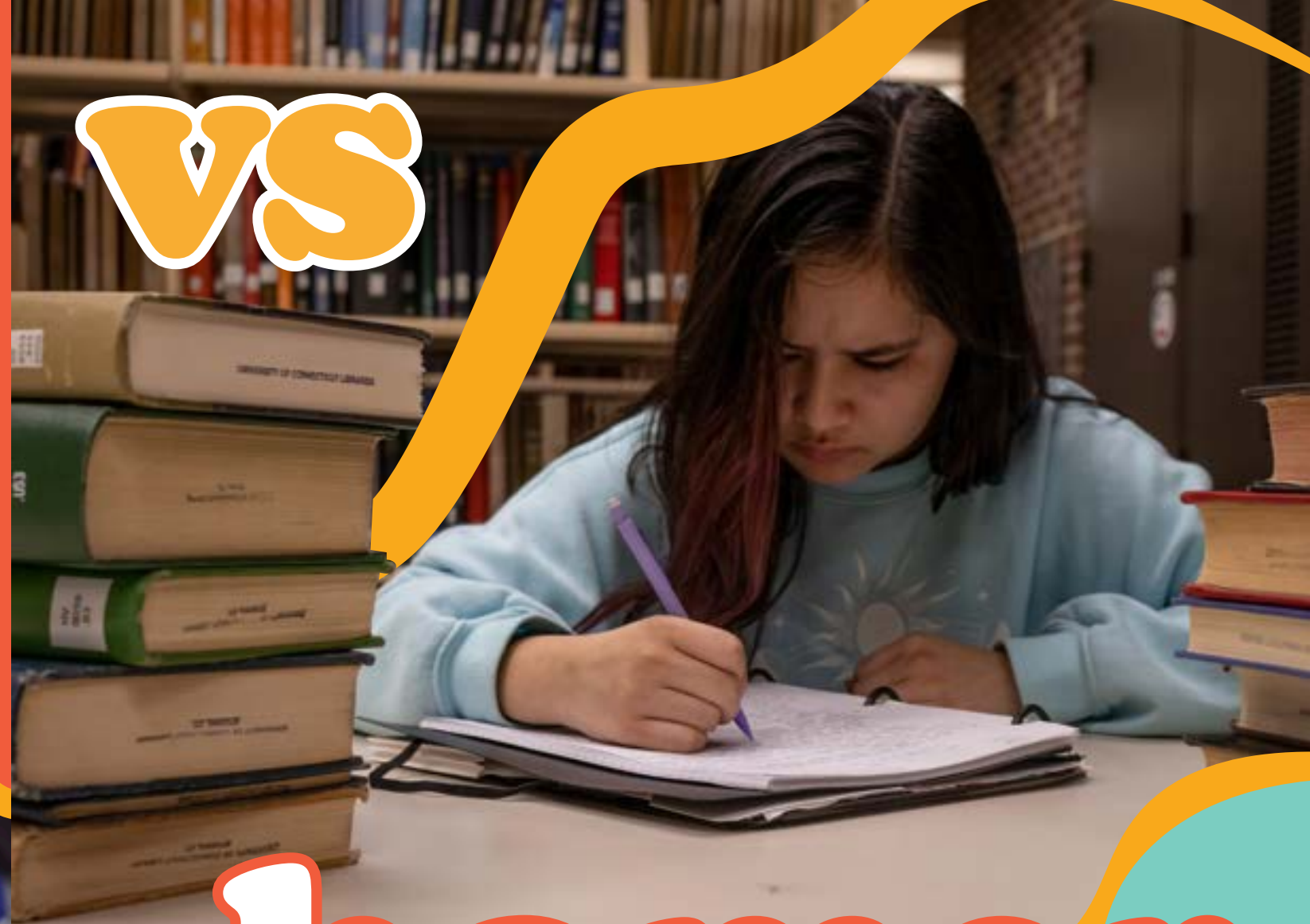
Illustration by Graham Armstrong

rec rats

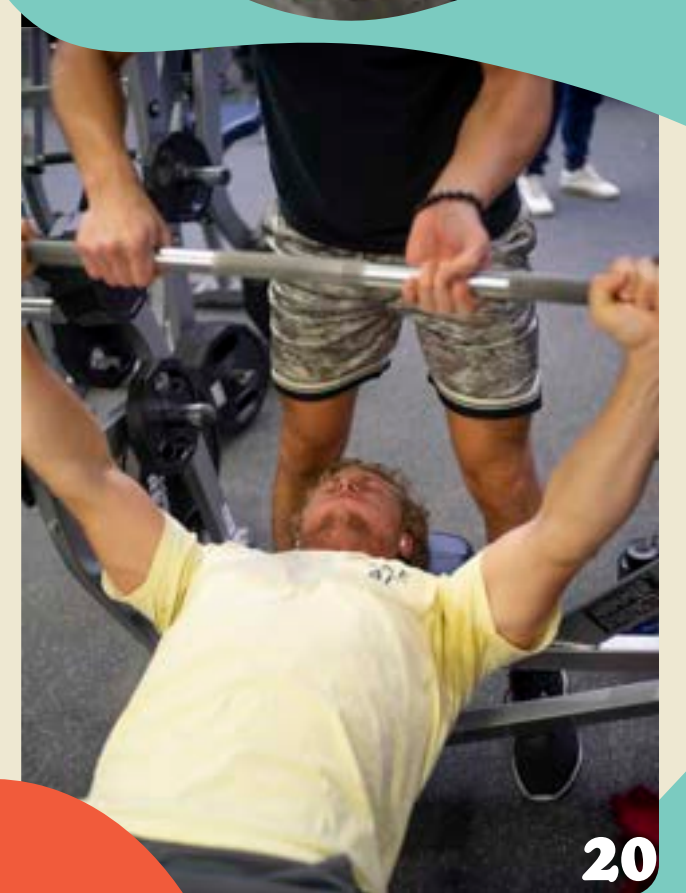
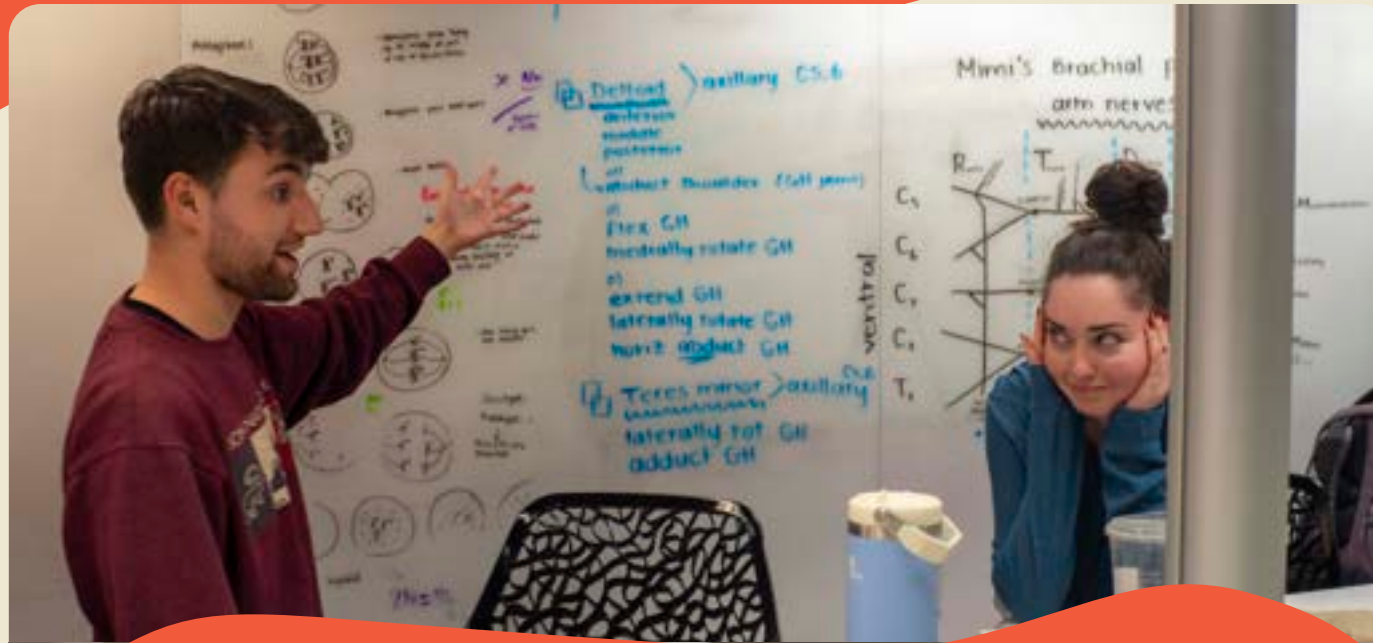
Students of UConn are no strangers to exercise; steep hills and rugged winds are part of our daily campus struggles. However, our destinations vary widely. For some, the place where the student body develops aka the temple of toughness aka the Rec Center is a sacred space. Others are engaged in a different type of grind. They rush to the library, embarking on the daily Hunger Games that is finding a free table with an outlet. For as long as time itself, the student body has always been divided into two categories: Rec Rats and Homer Bad Bitches. Which one are you?



vs



homer bad bitches



never have

Welcome to Never Have I Ever, the UConn edition. To play, cross off all the things you've done, each box is one point, but be careful...

0-10 Sad Jonathan, 11-20 Trendy Jonathan, 21-32 Elite Jonathan

Missed the bus (+1 if you were late to class and it wasn't your fault)	Studied in Homer Bad B (-1 if you've never been)	Slept through class	Skipped class for weather	Gotten an A or an F as a final grade
Waited in the Dunkin line in the U (+1 for a free donut)	Disappointed by dining hall food	Attended one-ton sundae	Gotten ice cream from the dairy bar (+1 for winning a free cone)	Are an academic weapon (+1 for 3.5+ GPA)
Played in the Oozeball tournament (+1 for placing)	Been to at least one late night	Seen the Cows (+1 for petting them)	Used the game room	Are an active member in at least one campus organization
Watched a sunset from Horsebarn Hill (+1 for a sunrise)	Worked out at the Rec (+1 for a class)	Been to UConnic or First Night	Heard the marching band playing (whether you intended to or not)	Attended a Jorgenson event
Know about the Yearbook and Magazine (aka Nutmeg Publishing)	Voted in a USG election (-1 if you never have)	Participated in HuskyTHON (+1 for leadership positions)	Pet, met, or taken a photo with Jonathan the Husky	Attended an event (sports or otherwise) in Gampel

i ever...

... there are notes in each box for bonus points or party fouls! Calculate your total to find out which type of UConn student you are... have fun ;)

0-10 Spilled Beaver, 11-20 Enrolled Student, 21-32 Certified Bad Bitch

Traveled off-campus for a sports game	Tailgated (+1 for pre-Covid era)	Been to more than 5 basketball games	Been to more than 3 types of sports games (+1 for more than 6 types)	Pre-gamed a sports event (-1 for throwing up or being kicked out)
Been to Huskies	Been to Teds (+1 for a 21st birthday shirt, -1 for more than 3 nights in a row)	Been to a frat party (+1 for a sorority event)	Been to a Darty	Smoked on campus (-1 for vaping)
Participated in karaoke	Played bar trivia (+1 for placing 1st-3rd)	Been drunk at UConn (+1 if you've never thrown up)	Slept in a dorm/house that wasn't yours (+1 for ;)...)	Dance Floor Make Out
Gotten a parking ticket	Avoided a parking ticket	Finished a Beaver or Dog Bowl - no barf	Hooked up outside on campus (+1 if the cows were watching)	Dropped Greek Life
Written up by your RA (+1 for extension cords, candles or bong)	Danced so hard your pants split	Fallen off an elevated surface	Been to BagelZone hangover	Morning after walk through a tour group (+1 for a themed party fit)

LATE NIGHT

by Defne Alpdogan



Design by Willow Chau
Photos by Andrew Kotait

Illustration by Addison Magrath & Graham Armstrong

Birthday cake has the unique ability to evoke memories of laughter, warmth, or maybe even a fifth-grade birthday party. Paired with a rich vanilla frosting and a vibrancy of sprinkles practically transports one back to a simpler, more whimsical time.

From the cupcakes to the sprinkles and the Dairy Bar ice cream, Late Night celebrated its birthday this semester. Not even prior to stepping into the room filled with “YMCA” chants and sugar-rushed students, the line out the door could help describe the atmosphere I was signing up for. Shouts down the student union hall of “that looks so fun,” Late Night remains a core part of the after-hours of students’ lives.



In hopes to bring together students from all classes and majors, Late Night remains an option for those that are willing to consider it.

“To provide students with an on-campus inclusive community latenight for when you do not have anything else to do and do not want to sit in your dorm and you can just come on out and have a good time,” said Michele Irachi, a third-semester Environmental Science major.

Bored? Late Night. Don’t feel like partying? Late Night. Chicken wings and a silent disco? Late Night. For some, it remains a weekly event; free food, games, and socializing sounds like a safe haven after a week of strenuous classes. The packed ballroom contains snippets of conversations from recent music drops to one’s most dreaded classes to just how strong the wind was that week. New and old friends sit together at tables and play games and partake in the activities provided, or simply elect to enjoy the lively ambience.

Morgan McBride, a third-semester student, sat with her friends, Gretl Josselyn, Maddie Germe, and Melissa Tian, all third-semester students, discussing the events of the week while making their bedazzled “birthday” inspired crowns. McBride and her friends, “started to come [their] first week on campus.” Reminiscing on their times together, the group laughs when discussing the events of “Potato Fest!” and the free things they were able to accumulate over weeks of Late Night. For them, it’s a weekly event to relax and spend meaningful time together.

Late Night remains an open environment for those that want to spend a night with friends or those who wish to make new ones. Late Night emulates the UConn community and the tight-knit friendships that are made, each one of the tables host to its own friend group chatting over anything and everything.

Team members and captains danced throughout the entire night. For them, it’s a way to provide something funky and fresh to the UConn student body. With ideas for weekly themes springing up from 2 a.m. conversations, Late Night ranges from last year’s potato fest – an entire night devoted to potatoes – Disney Night, barbeque throwback, and roller skating.

“We do random stuff, but we also did survive college one night and people got a lot out of it. So, when deciding themes it’s not only on making and bringing joy but also appreciating their time,” said Niasia Rivera, a fifth-semester Psychology major and team captain of Late Night.

Like Rivera states, these themes are just ideas that captains help make come to life. During this semester, we have seen the cooperation of not only SUBOG as a part of Late Night but also other cultural organizations like PRLACC in efforts to celebrate Hispanic and LatinX heritage month with a night. Promoting and exposing cultural organizations to student activities, Late Night navigates the medium between student life and social affairs.

Yet, if these themed events do not float your boat, then you can find movies,



karaoke, and subtle activities to help consume your Friday and Saturday nights. While some appreciate a night in the dorm or a night out on the town (Huskies or Teds), the community of Late Night remains ever-changing. With new events, new faces, and new friend groups on a weekly basis, the opportunity to interact with students presents itself at Late Night – an unchanging and consistent good time students can comfortably rely on as each week comes to an end.



CAMPUS FASHION

Designs by Gavin Vitale & Addison Magrath

Written by Caroline Strapp

Photos by Eli Jenkins, Romy Reichenberger, Josie Simon & Skyler Kim

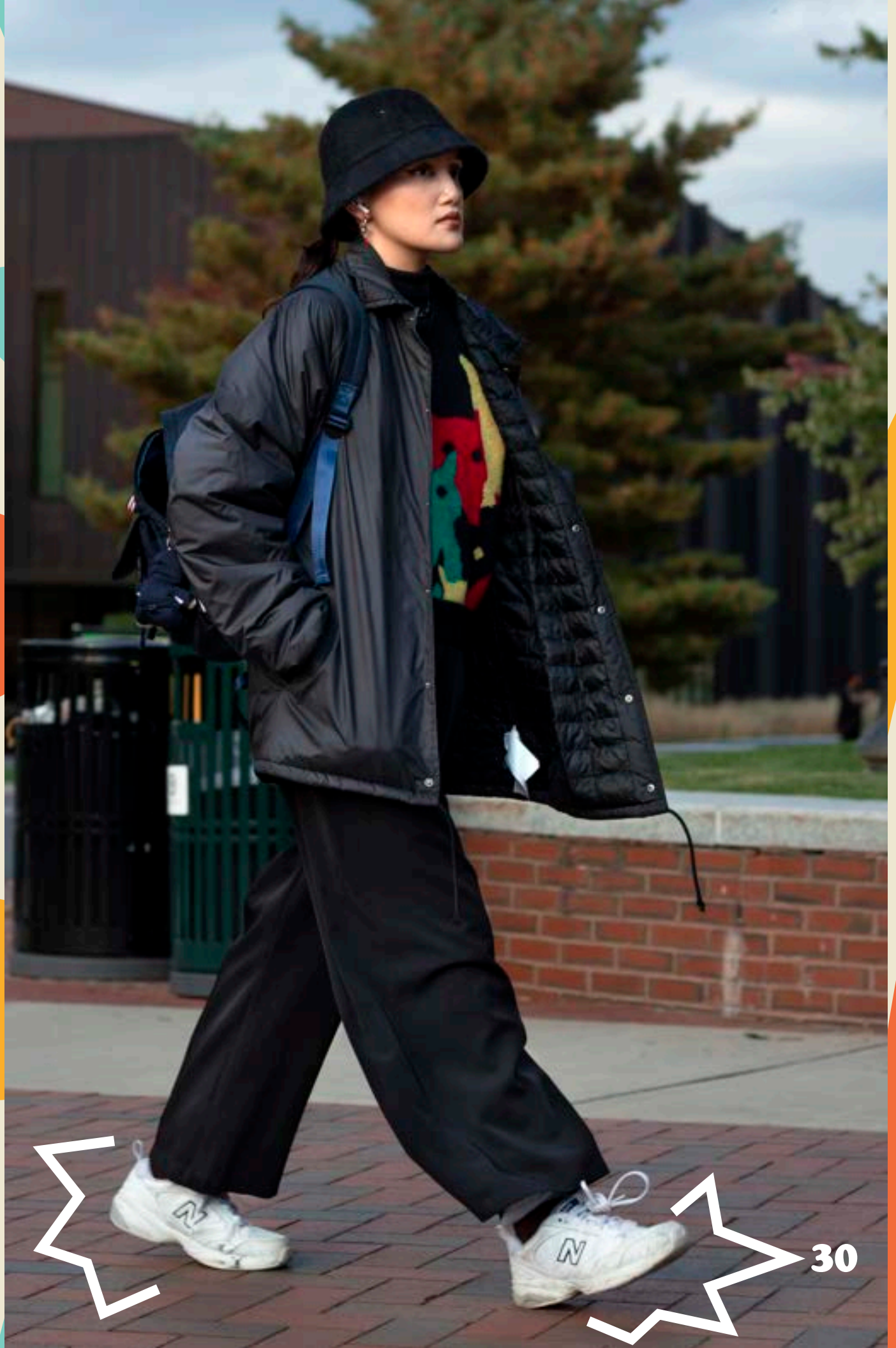


When I think about fashion at UConn, my first thought is “function over style:” then I spent six hours outside the Union photographing all of you. Although it takes many forms, the art of fashion is thriving here in Storrs – and Nutmeg is excited to share it in these pages.

The following photographs capture students in outfits chosen simply for a Monday or a Wednesday – rather than a styled photoshoot. Yet many of these student models look like they knew Nutmeg Publishing was on the hunt for the best fashion UConn has to offer. Each outfit is authentically natural and the surprise on their faces when we stopped them on Fairfield Way and asked to take their photo is a testament to their originality. These students truly live their lives in their unique, personally crafted, aesthetic and we are happy to spotlight them in these pages. If you find yourself loving any of the looks, I hope they inspire you to incorporate similar aesthetic choices into your life that will make you feel as fabulous and in vogue as these impromptu models. And finally, to our models – both pictured and not – thank you for sharing your style with us and making campus a prettier place!



Illustration by Addison Magrath & Graham Armstrong

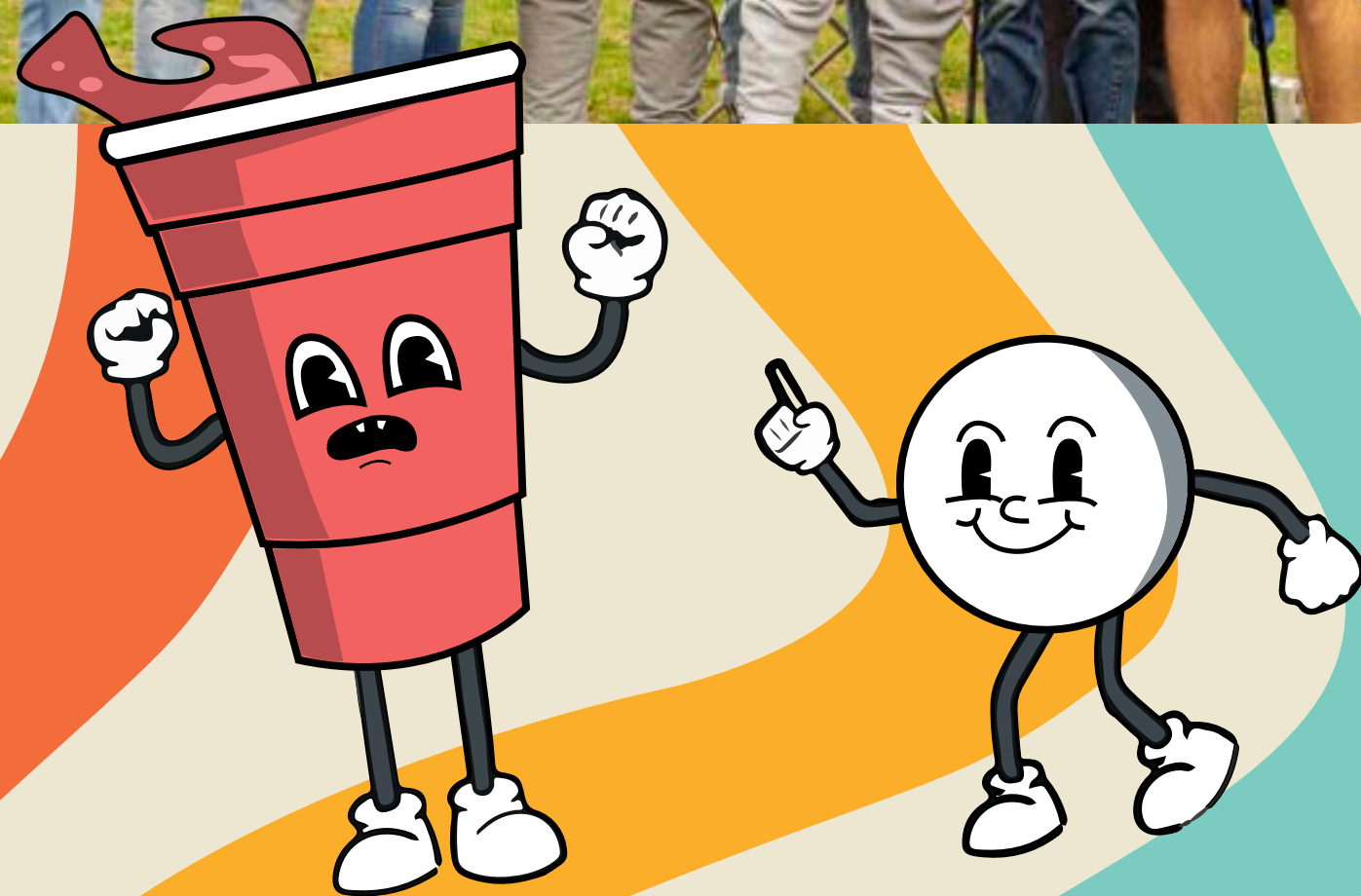






outside the stadium

by Jessica Malley





UConn Tailgates are a critical component to weekend plans in the fall. They are a special time to get lost in the moment with friends and celebrate identity outside of the classroom. For those at tailgates, their identity resides in sports culture, a community formed based on the love for an experience that is more than a contest. Somewhere amidst the rows of cars are students looking to defeat their friends at that game of pong or cornhole. Others, looking to beat each other at shotgunning beers, hoping there are no families nearby to witness greatness in the making. These moments are what pull students through the weekdays, in hopes they will arrive at the weekend, ready to reunite with freedom and bliss. The tailgates are symbolic of the communities formed at UConn, composed of students who live for the moment with the people that enhance every experience.

A playful love radiated from cluster to cluster of students. Most engrossed in some type of game as they clamored with determination on their faces and excitement in their eyes. It was as if the tailgate served merely as a venue for love and life to perform. The smell of burgers sizzling on grills, sound of cans cracking open, and the feeling of crisp autumn air crafted this unique yet familiar atmosphere.

Tailgates also serve as a place for testing friendships over a nail biting game of beersbee. No matter the outcome, laughter roared through the parking lots as the next can was cracked and a rematch initiated. These shared moments of freedom were so different from interactions on campus. This was a space where anyone could gather and walk away with a friend, a memory, or an itch for the next tailgate.

Alumni, too, were awarded the chance to celebrate as students again, returning to chase the endless fun they once longed and lived for. "It's kind of a rite of passage. This is where I went to college and still being in the area makes it all the more convenient to come and have fun with great people and root for UConn," said a 2020 graduate.

Tailgates are a ceremony that celebrate the place in which life-long friends and memories are sourced. And while the pandemic once stood in the way of this sacred time, many have come back ready to make these tailgates even better this time around. Tailgate goers showed that no obstacle is enough to stop them from showing up ready for a good time, mouth-watering food, and priceless relics (i.e. beer pong tournament trophies). With a gray, ominous sky above and the prediction of rain, tents were raised and raincoats were zipped. The essential experience of a fall weekend at UConn could not be complete without a tailgate and football. And obstacles like a pandemic or rain stood little chance at prohibiting students from cherishing this event. UConn students once again demonstrated that they are resilient.

“Why go to a tailgate? I guess why not go to a tailgate? Our friends are here and we just want to have a fun Saturday.”

-Kaylee Dolan, Senior

Design by Eimear McGowan

Photos by Brandon Chain

Illustration by Addison Magrath & Graham Armstrong





Jonathan: Profile

by Amanda Rodrigues

This fall at Nutmeg, we've set out to take a deep dive into student life and explore our favorite parts of UConn – because, let's be honest, it's usually not the classes. One furry friend in particular makes our time here especially memorable. We're talking about Jonathan XIV, of course, spotted frequently around campus on walks or showing his support for our athletics teams. As for what happens outside those brief glimpses, however, we know only so little. So we spent 24 hours with the face of Husky Nation to answer the question: what is a day in the life of Jonathan really like?

We started our noble quest to answer this question on October 5th, which, true fans will know, is no ordinary day for our loveable mascot: it's his birthday. With the help of the Student Alumni Association and community service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, Jonathan's ninth birthday was celebrated in endearing fashion. Held in the Student Union Ballroom, students lined up out the door and all the way down the third floor mezzanine to get into arguably the most exclusive party of the year in Storrs.

Guests were adorned with party hats featuring Jonathan's winning smile, and VIPs in attendance included some of his canine companions – Officers Carson and Tildy stood in as security for the event– as well as his human brother, Jonathan the Husky. Ever the gracious host, there were plenty of party favors, a birthday banner for guests to sign, and platters of cupcakes. The chocolate variety was delicious for us humans, and vanilla was on the menu for the dog of the hour and his friends. They were so good, he couldn't help but make a bit of a mess of the blue frosting when offered a taste.



After cake, Jonathan was serenaded by Rubyfruit, UConn's all-female a cappella group. They started out leading the party in a beautiful rendition of "Happy Birthday," followed by "You Know I'm No Good" by Amy Winehouse featuring a moving solo by the talented junior, Zoe Raposo. Jonathan looked so touched by the performance that I think I saw his eyes glisten with a few tears, though I can't be sure.

While the party was fun, Jonathan was busy and couldn't stay for long. Public appearances are taxing, and he needed to head home and nap to make sure he's well rested and rejuvenated for an upcoming day of work. Stars – they're just like us.

The next day, we met up around noon after his breakfast and morning walk to take a lap around campus. We started in front of the Field House and began down Fairfield Way, where the Student Health and Wellness fair was taking place. Going on a walk with Jonathan is what I imagine it feels like to be seen with a celebrity – which, in many ways, **41** he is. We were regularly stopped



by people asking to take pictures, and I can't blame them, Jonathan's a handsome fellow. However, while stopping for photo ops and pets are part of the job, he does still need to get in a proper walk. He's on a tight schedule. His handlers, graduate student Taylor Coonan and fifth-semester undergrad Gillian Fulton, were quick to change our

route and cut through the Union in order to avoid a forming crowd.

Even as we made this shortcut, we attracted stares. His dignified, purposeful prance captivated passerby time and time again, often accompanied by some form of the following exchange:

"Is that Jonathan?" Of course it's me. "Are we allowed to pet him?" I've got places to be, but alright, if you insist. "Can we get a picture with him?" I suppose one can't hurt...

We exited the Union by Glenbrook Road, and Jonathan looked more focused than I'd seen him yet. I was told by his handlers it's because we were nearing his favorite spot on campus: The Beanery. We stopped in to say hello to some of UConn's amazing student workers and for some more pets, pics, and treats. Cafe supervisor Lori Deptula showed ample affection to our big dog on campus, and though he certainly has a cool-guy persona to uphold, he seemed to enjoy every second of it.

Other dogs might get overwhelmed by all the attention that comes with his job description, but while he is like an ordinary dog in many ways – he lives at home with a family, gets excited by squirrels, and loves walks – he is very much extraordinary. To residents of Storrs past and present, Jonathan is the ultimate symbol of school spirit, and this has never been more apparent to me than after witnessing first hand the devotion and care that students

demonstrate toward him, whether as handlers or admirers from afar.

We finished up our walk circling back in front of the Field House by Gampel, where in a few short months it will be Jonathan's favorite time of year: winter weather and basketball season. After spending all this time with him, we couldn't leave without getting a photo ourselves. We said our goodbyes, thanked him for his time, and I left knowing it's Jonathan's world, we're just living in it.



Design by Karli Vare

Photos by Chloe Parsell





Nutmeg Magazine
Fall 2022