

FREE PRESS

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*Let's make this campus
BEAUTIFUL!*



YOU NOW ATTEND UCONN. DON'T FUCK UP.

Congratulations, you're in college. Unfortunately, unless you're swooping in on the wings of a sports scholarship or some other very specific and notable accolade, you'll be starting from ground zero in terms of connections, status, and familiarity with your surroundings. Think of it like the start of high school all over again! Except with more freedom (read: sex, drugs, and probably crime). So what should you do? Consider the following parable: you're now surrounded by a large number of professionals whose job is to teach undergraduates like yourself how to do just about anything that exists in the real world, and they like teaching anyone who reaches out to them to ask. Whoops--wait, no, that's not right. That's not a parable, but I think that's ok. We all make mistakes, and it's not bad advice anyway. Want to get black-out drunk and dance your heart out atop a big-ass speaker at a party? Cool. Your call. Kill your fears a little bit, it's good for a body. So long as you remember how much money you're paying to be here, and so long as you're getting something of equal worth in return, everything will go swimmingly.

Oh, and try to make some art while you're at it.



MOVING AROUND UCONN

UConn, you may or may not realize, has a lot of money. A whole lot of money. Take a moment to reflect on how much you're paying to attend this place--that money is going somewhere. One of those somewheres that you'll actually see is subsidized transportation! That's right, your two little legs aren't the only way to get around here on campus. No no. Given the sheer size of the Storrs campus alone, you'll more than likely wind up regularly looking for different ways to get your lost-as-hell-self from the middle of nowhere to that inevitably dimly lit street at the intersection of Storrs Road and "Oh fuck, one of them threw a bottle. Get your phone out, we might need to call the cops." In times like these, it helps to take one of the many University bus lines that are available free of charge to all UConn students and run to and from the most travelled to destinations on campus. The thing is...



We're #1 in women's basketball AND in faking enthusiasm!

These things can get a little full. Need some inspiration for other ways to get around? Look no further than the next page.

1. Mopeds

You'll see a surprising amount of these, actually. The short version is that some time ago, a student athlete got into the business of selling mopeds; business ventures are easiest to start amongst people you know, so student athletes were the ones who ended up doing most of the buying. What's important is that UConn is now one of the few places where you can watch two college football players awkwardly stuff themselves onto a single moped. Also, parking permits don't really apply to them, so they're actually really convenient to have on campus if you happen to come into ownership of one.

2. Bicycles

These are tricky. You might think that they're the most effective way to get yourself where you need to be, but this campus has a way of laughing in the face of sensible expectations. If you plan on taking your bike to class, realize that classes around campus are all fairly synchronized. This means that whenever you're trying to get from place to place, a good portion of those other 17,999 undergrads are too. Congratulations, you're now that asshole riding a bike through a crowded footpath. And when winter comes around? Even if you can ride without slipping on ice and skidding right into another human being, you either have to hope that your dorm has an indoor bike storage space or get ready for rusted and broken bike parts.

3. Motorized Bicycles

All the perks of mopeds, but with the added off-road capabilities of a bicycle! If you're still bitter that these are increasingly restricted in cities, you can pretend the mean world outside of Storrs doesn't exist and revel in your motorized fantasy land! Be aware that this mindset applies to a lot of things on this campus.

4. Longboards/Skateboards

These work pretty well. Let's be honest if you're going to ride one of these you already do, it doesn't really matter what I say here.

4. Unicycles

I really can't justify these! They're great for making friends and gaining notoriety around campus, but they're difficult to learn to ride and also one of the least efficient ways of getting yourself around campus. On the flip side, this just

means that you don't have to worry about locking it up if you have one--most people couldn't steal one of these even if they wanted.

5. Heeleys

"Didn't those die years ago?" If you're asking yourself this, then I have life changing information for you: they're still being made, they come in adult sizes (the sizes go up to men's 15, believe it or not), and their styles range from offensively garish to subtle and--dare I say it--maybe even somewhat fashionable. Seriously. Admittedly, no one actually wears these on campus, but they could. You could. You could be the first.

6. Razor Scooters

Ok I don't know what's up with these but they scare me on a fundamental level in ways that I can't explain. Just know that people ride these, and know that it confuses the hell out of myself and everyone I've ever talked to about the subject.

7. Inline Skates

You'll go fast, but you'll also skate the line between efficiency and utter hyper-prick. Yes, you want to get to class. Yes, you can get there faster if you skate. No, I don't enjoy you crashing into me and then skating away without a care in the world. I guess these are easy to store or something? But then you're taking them off every time you enter a building so really consider whether it's worth it. Your call. But everyone will hate you if you skate like the rest of us are targets.

8. Freelines

If you don't know what these are, I can't blame you. They're small platforms with wheels on the bottom that you don't strap yourself into, you just stand on and go. And by go I mean you make hip thrusting motions that propel you in a confused but controlled zig-zag. Easily portable, simple to store, but hard to learn, these are one of the more respectable methods of transport on campus. For some reason, they also seem to cause fewer collisions than just about anything other than unicycles and mopeds.

9. Wheelie Backpacks

Not technically a method of transportation, but you'll see them around. I really want to see one of these motorized. Someone make that happen.

UConn CANT BUILD 4 SHIT

a thought piece

Good news! That was a sensationalist headline that the editor wrote up top there. Now the bad news: UConn does have a bit of a consistent structural problem. On the whole it's a well built campus that puts many others to shame, especially when you consider that the campus is building its own town, but it doesn't take a person long to realize that there are some oddities about the buildings on campus.

A good example here is South, which to the casual observer seems permanently stuck in a purgatory of construction. Especially in a college setting in the middle of nowhere with little to do, a person might think that removing absurdly tall scaffolding from the sides of almost every building in South would be a priority. Despite expectations, there really isn't any sign of change: the scaffolding and temporary repairs holding South together right now have been up since early 2014. Much of Storrs Center, for comparison, only started construction a few months before the repairs of South's facade. What could delay relatively simple repairs on a campus that built itself a downtown in the same amount of time? The answer is reusable! You can use it just about anywhere and it'll probably be true! Iiiiiit's... the ADMINISTRATION!

Of course, there's more of a story to this one: the exterior of South is in need of repair as a result of shoddy building practices from the building's original contractors, and when UConn decided that these cut corners needed to be fixed, they started looking for a new construction company to do the job right. The scaffolding was put in place, and the UConn building committees began searching for a company to do the job right. When it looked like that new company had been found, the building began and South seemed like it would be fixed soon enough. Because of the structuring of this piece, however, and the blatant scaffolding still clinging to the buildings' exteriors, you know that this isn't the end of the story! Trust your hunches reader, because you're right: construction never properly began after it was discovered by some mysterious third party that the new contractor was, in a twist worthy of modern cinema, the very same company that had first built South, and had since rebranded under a new

name! Now, due to the levity of these fears, our third party investigator (whom I like to call the "Committee Against a Terrible South") is stuck in their own purgatory of collecting and organizing evidence in UConn's very own secret spy thriller. Which, given UConn, of course is about construction.

Thankfully for South, it is located in a relatively solitary part of campus that hides most of the scaffolding. Wouldn't it be embarrassing for a collapsing building to be ignored in a more prominent part of campus? Enter Gampel. No, really. Literally enter Gampel sometime and take a look at the ceiling. If the exterior of that massive dome doesn't look ugly and worn enough to you, go check out the decaying ceiling and see if you can spot where the water drips through. Yes, one of the most prominent buildings on campus looks tired and miserable, and it's all because it was designed by a dead man.



Above: Art made by a corpse.

Sadly, this dead man was alive when directing the construction of Gampel. This would be a much better story otherwise. As of now, however, he's dead, and no one actually understands how he built one of the most identifiable buildings on campus. The money to renovate the roof has been agreed upon; administration, faculty, and students alike agree that the roof requires updates; the engineering ability required to actually fix the problem, however, is nowhere to be found. The best and brightest crops of engineers are being recruited right off campus to try solving the problem, but until then one of the top basketball programs in the country will play under a dripping roof. Want to be the King Arthur our campus needs? If engineering is your thing, please. Your people need you. And when you're done can you do something about the wind please? It's comically horrible. Thanks.

END ISSUE #1 BEGIN FARWELL MESSAGE

Hello! We're the UConn Free Press, and this is our new student welcome issue. If you've picked this up but are not a new student, then that's ok! Some of my best friends are non-new students. I won't tell.

So what is the Free Press? We're students & world citizens who Give a Shit(c) and who try help others Give a Shit(c) as well. We're journalists. We're sand-art enthusiasts. Poets. Painters. Artists. And we're always looking for more people who want to get involved. Does that sound like you? Does that sound like it could be you? Do you want that to sound like you? Then get involved--with anything, really. Get involved with your life. And if you want to get involved with us, you have options:

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