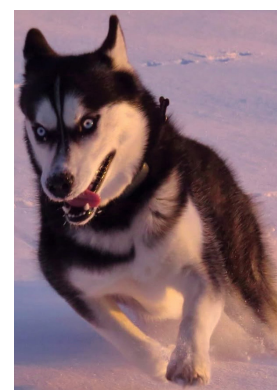


The Daily Campus



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Wednesday, January 22, 2025

TikTok shuts down in the U.S., only to return less than 24 hours later

by Samantha Brody

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Popular social media app TikTok recently shut down for American users on Jan. 19 in response to Congress' ban of the platform. However, the app resumed functionality in America just one day later after President Donald Trump promised to sign an executive order to delay the ban by 75 days.

The Congressional bill that called for the ban of TikTok is known as the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act. As described by Congress' official website, "this bill prohibits distributing, maintaining, or providing internet hosting services for a foreign adversary controlled application (e.g., TikTok)." The bill goes on to define these applications as controlled by ByteDance, Ltd. (the company that owns TikTok) or a social media company that is "controlled by a foreign adversary and has been determined by the President to present a significant threat to national security."

After the Supreme Court made the decision to uphold Congress' ban on Jan. 17, TikTok became unavailable two days after the Supreme Court upheld Congress' ban on Jan. 17 in what States two days lat-

er in what CBS described as "a temporary and voluntary shutdown." The app became available just a few hours later as Trump promised to sign an executive order upon his inauguration. "As a result of President Trump's efforts," read TikTok's announcement to American viewers once the app came back online, "TikTok is back in the U.S.! You can continue to create, share, and discover all the things you love on TikTok."

According to a White House official speaking to ABC, "Our position on this has been clear: TikTok should continue to operate under American ownership. Given the timing of when it goes into effect over a holiday weekend a day before inauguration, it will be up to the next administration to implement."

Another article from ABC documented the attendance of Trump's inauguration, which notably included the presence of Shou Chew, the CEO of TikTok.

Trump's Jan. 20 executive order calls for the attorney general to not "take any action to enforce the Act for a period of 75 days from today" Trump wrote that this delay in the ban is necessary to "to pursue a resolution that protects national security while saving a platform used by 170 million Americans."

It is unclear if TikTok will remain available for Americans after the 75-day window closes.

The current acting attorney general of the United States is James R. McHenry III, who was appointed on Jan. 20, as noted by the U.S. Department of Justice's website. Congress is still in the process of hearing Pam Bondi, Trump's current pick for attorney general, as documented by NPR. Bondi "served as Florida's attorney general for eight years, and later served as a personal attorney for then-President Trump during his first impeachment trial in the U.S. Senate," NPR writes.

President Trump's decision to restore the functionality of TikTok for Americans is a departure from his original stance on the issue. A 2020 article from AP News wrote that "President Donald Trump said his administration is considering banning the short video app TikTok in the U.S. as one possible way to retaliate against China over its handling of the coronavirus." In an executive order released in 2020, Trump called for action to "address the threat posed by one mobile application in particular, TikTok."

Before TikTok was officially reinstated, a social media app known as Xiaohongshu exploded in popularity as



PHOTO CREDITS BY UNSPLASH

American users searched for an alternative, as noted by CNN. Xiaohongshu translates to "Little Red Book" in English but is often shortened to "RedNote."

According to CNN, "Xiaohongshu is one of China's biggest social media platforms with 300 million users, according to research firm Qian Gua. Described as China's answer to Instagram, the app has become especially popular for sharing tips on travel, makeup and fashion."

Xiaohongshu also could become a new way for American and Chinese people interact

in a much larger scale than seen before. CNN wrote that "The sudden migration of US users to Xiaohongshu has created an unlikely platform for Chinese and American users to interact with each other," and "most Chinese users have warmly welcomed the newcomers."

Although TikTok is once again available to American users, it has not returned to the U.S. permanently. The executive branch will determine if TikTok can return permanently and, if so, in what capacity it can operate in America.

Winter weather is back in Connecticut. How does UConn decide when to cancel class?

by Patrick Boots

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For students at the University of Connecticut, flakes flying in the cold winter air inspires a distant hope. It's the type which glimmers the possibility of a short respite from the hustle and bustle of full-time coursework the next day. Maybe it was just in time that Winter Storm Albatross brought inches of snowfall across the state for the start of the Spring 2025 semester — but when will the next event be, and could it be a snow day?

According to the Academic Operations webpage, UConn's Office of Emergency Management issues the notification of cancellation or delay following a joint resolution with the offices of the President, Provost, Facilities Operations and Faculty-Staff Labor Relations. The detail also says that UConn complies with orders by the governor to close state agencies or restrict road travel.

"The Office of Emergency Management strives to notify the University community promptly if it becomes necessary to delay or cancel classes, close campuses, or alter business operations," reads the webpage.

Although there are no published criteria, the administration has historically cancelled classes when a significantly plowable amount of snow or dangerously slick ice conditions are forecast and expected to cause delays in road crew and cleanup operations.

The policy clarifies that any class with meeting times that overlap with the cancellation or delay timeframe will be fully cancelled — but in contrast to previous years, that catch-all provision only applies to in-person classes. For classes with an online or hybrid modality, the new clause implemented this year states that instructors may choose to cancel or may proceed as scheduled but cannot penalize students for not being present synchronously on a day with cancellations or delays.

Some students already feel that the new policy should reflect more consistency.

"I feel like if one [modality] is

cancelled, they all should be," said Nicholas Valentine, a second-year mechanical engineering student.

Any audio or video recordings and equivalent opportunities for students to complete "snow day coursework" must also be provided for at least 72 hours for online replacement classes no matter the original course modality. Assessments and exams are also prohibited from being required for any class on days when classes are cancelled, even if they are proctored online.

Other college-sponsored activities, like events at the Jorgensen Center for Performing Arts and athletic contests, are

also independently reviewed by the relevant departments and stakeholders on a case-by-case basis. This past weekend, Winter Storm Albatross narrowly avoided interfering with a scheduled women's basketball game against Seton Hall at 1 p.m. — choosing to remain as freezing rain through the game until we saw snowfall at sunset.

The storm only prompted a delay until 12 p.m. the following day, coinciding with Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The governing document jointly managed by the decision-makers also outlines that certain "essential" employees will be expected to report to work as scheduled even in the event of closure or delay in categories that include safety and health, residential and dining services, maintenance, information technology and transportation among other services. The document calls these employees "Emergency Support Services Staff."

The Office of University Safety webpage urges students and staff to be vigilant when

planning to work and travel with the potential for winter weather. "Always consider your safety first. Weather and road conditions may vary considerably across the state, so all members of the University community must evaluate the circumstances they face," their webpage reads.

UConn administration uses the "UConn Alert" computer system to distribute the closure notification. Students, staff and enrolled members of the public will receive the alert via email and text message in addition to being posted on the university's official webpage and social media accounts — and being sent to local radio and television stations. Anybody can learn UConn's status update by visiting alert.uconn.edu or by calling the 24-hour UConn Alert hotline at (860) 486-3768.

To stay updated with Connecticut weather, visit the National Weather Service's webpages for their New York and Boston stations, in addition to the forecasts provided by local radio and television stations.



The University of Connecticut Storrs campus sign covered in snow on Jan. 20, 2025. Winter Storm Albatross hit the state of Connecticut on Sunday night, bringing between three to six inches of snow.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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NEWSLETTER
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News

Fire crews in Southern California quickly extinguish brush fires amid extreme fire weather

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Firefighters quickly extinguished several brush fires that erupted Monday in Southern California amid windy and dry conditions. The extreme fire weather is raising the risk of new wildfires like the two major blazes that started two weeks ago and are still burning in the Los Angeles area.

Gusts could peak at 70 mph (113 kph) along the coast and 100 mph (160 kph) in the mountains and foothills during extreme fire weather that is expected to last through Tuesday.

The National Weather Service issued a warning of a “particularly dangerous situation” for parts of Los Angeles, Ventura and San Diego counties from Monday afternoon through Tuesday morning due to low humidity and damaging Santa Ana winds.

“The conditions are ripe for explosive fire growth should a fire start,” said Andrew Rorke, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Oxnard.

On Monday afternoon, Los Angeles fire crews quickly put out a small brush fire that broke out south of the iconic triple-domed Griffith Observatory. A man suspected of starting the fire was

taken into custody, said David Cuellar, a Los Angeles Police Department spokesman. Firefighters also quickly extinguished a brush fire along Interstate 405 in the Los Angeles neighborhood of Granada Hills that temporarily closed the northbound lanes.

Farther south, fire crews aggressively fought a blaze that also sparked Monday afternoon in the city of Poway, in San Diego County, and stopped its forward progress.

Former Vice President Kamala Harris, and her husband Doug Emhoff, flew to Los Angeles after attending President Donald Trump’s inauguration and met with firefighters, volunteers and victims of the Eaton Fire in Altadena.

“We just came out to thank (firefighters), to thank the community and just remind folks that we’re all in this together,” Harris said. She said their home in Pacific Palisades was still standing.

Trump, who criticized the response to the wildfires during his inaugural address, has said he will travel to Los Angeles on Friday.

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Monday said the devastation left by the blazes underscores the need



This photo taken by Pacific Palisades resident Darrin Hurwitz shows the Palisades Fire as it approaches homes in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025. (DARRIN W

for partnership between the state and federal governments.

“I look forward to President Trump’s visit to Los Angeles and his mobilization of the full weight of the federal government to help our fellow Americans recover and rebuild,” Newsom said in a statement.

A small amount of rain is forecast for the weekend in the Los Angeles area, though more gusty winds are expected to return Thursday, Rorke said.

Authorities urged people not to mow their lawns to prevent sparking a fire, nor start any fires that could get out of control. They also urged residents to review their evacuation plans and ready emergency kits and be on the lookout for any new blazes and report them quickly.

David Acuna, a spokesman with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, said the biggest concerns are the Palisades and Eaton Fires breaking their containment lines and a new blaze starting.

“Don’t do things to start another fire so we can focus on the mitigation of the current fires,” Acuna said.

The low humidity, bone-dry vegetation and strong Santa Ana winds come as firefighters continue to battle two major blazes in the Los Angeles area, the Palisades and Eaton fires, which have destroyed more than 14,000 structures since they broke out during fierce winds on Jan. 7. The Palisades fire was 59% contained on Monday and the Eaton fire 87% contained, according to fire officials.

More evacuation orders were lifted Monday for Pacific Palisades and authorities said only residents would be allowed to get back in after showing proof of residency at a checkpoint. Over the weekend, two men impersonating firefighters attempted to enter an evacuation zone for the Palisades Fire, according to the Los Angeles County sheriff’s department.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen

Bass said Monday the city was prepared for any possible new fires and warned the strong winds could disperse ash from existing fire zones across Southern California. She urged Angelenos to visit lacity.gov to learn about ways to protect themselves from toxic air during Santa Ana winds.

Cal Fire and local fire departments have positioned fire engines, water-dropping aircraft and hand crews across the region to enable a quick response should a new fire break out, Acuna said.

Acuna said Cal Fire had extra fire crews in Kern and Riverside counties.

Los Angeles fire officials said the department has all available engines ready and that 30 of them had been positioned in fire risk areas. The agency also ordered the outgoing shift of about 1,000 firefighters to remain on duty to staff the extra engines.

“The pre-deployment is very, very thoughtful and strategic,” Crowley said.

‘Once in a lifetime’ snow hits parts of the U.S. South

(AP) — A winter storm sweeping through the U.S. South on Tuesday was dumping snow at levels millions of residents haven’t seen before.

Moisture from the Gulf of Mexico was combining with a low-pressure system and chilly air to drop significant amounts of snow in some spots. That included 10.5 inches near Lafayette, Louisiana by Tuesday afternoon — within striking distance of the state record of 13 inches set in 1960.

The National Weather Service said 7 to 8 inches of snow had been reported in areas between New Orleans and Baton Rouge. New Orleans’ old record was 2.7 inches set in 1963. In Texas, the Houston-Galveston area had 2 to 4 inches before midday.

The National Weather Service’s Lake Charles, Louisiana, office issued its first-ever blizzard warning Tuesday. The NWS’ Mobile office reposted video on X of two people having a snowball fight in Orange Beach, Alabama, just steps from the Gulf of Mexico.



A person walks on a snow covered street Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025, in Houston. (AP PHOTO/ASHLEY LANDIS)

“This is a once-in-a-lifetime event for a lot of these folks down there. For kids that have never had snowball fights ... they’re going to have one,” said Tom Kines, a meteorologist at the private weather company AccuWeather.

The U.S. Gulf Coast is far better known for its hurricanes — Houston, for example, was rocked by Hurricane Beryl in July — and it’s a “fairly rare phenomenon” to see snow in the region, said Bradley Brokamp, meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Houston. That’s a combination seen a

little more often in the Northeast, which gets snowy winters and the occasional tropical storm.

In Houston, the Yale Street Grill was virtually the only business open in one inner-city neighborhood. A couple of the restaurant’s workers had time to venture outside and build a 3-foot tall snowman complete with carrot nose and scarf.

“I’ve seen all the storms. I’ve been through all the hurricanes. So, this has been really fun. I have a 4-year-old daughter at home who I’m ready to get back to so she can play in the snow,”

said Emma Kratky, a waitress and assistant manager.

It appeared Florida had broken its state snowfall record of 4 inches, set in Milton on March 6, 1954. The National Weather Service’s Mobile office said Pensacola had gotten 5 inches.

That office also said Mobile’s airport had gotten 6.2 inches, surpassing the old record of 5 inches set Jan. 24, 1881.

Even the double-digit snowfall near Lafayette was well short of the Valentine’s Day snowstorm that struck parts of the Gulf Coast in 1895. That storm

dumped 19 inches on Houston and 15.4 on Galveston.

Winter cold blasts and climate change

Meanwhile, cold is blanketing the majority of the continental U.S. thanks to a polar vortex disruption. The Arctic polar vortex is a band of strong winds above the North Pole that usually locks in extremely cold air, but right now is stretching south, allowing bone-chilling air to flow down. For example, parts of south central and southeast Texas are expected to see wind chills as low as 10 to 15 degrees into Wednesday, according to an extreme cold warning from the NWS.

Scientists say these stretching events are becoming more frequent and have been linked to the planet-warming emissions that humans are releasing. Studies report human-caused climate change is raising Arctic temperatures at an alarming rate and decreasing the pressure and temperature differences between cold Arctic air and warmer air underneath it, heightening the chance for polar vortex disruptions.

The Daily Campus

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The Daily Campus Crossword and Sudoku

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

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

Solution to Tuesday's puzzle

1/22/25

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

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 Sweetie songs
- 5 Japanese mat
- 11 Turf
- 14 Burn application
- 15 Preplanned, as some viral videos
- 16 Duo
- 17 "Another layer of wrapping before I'm cooked!?"
- 19 Gun, as an engine
- 20 "Fame" singer Cara
- 21 Designer Jacobs
- 22 Give over
- 23 Private convos
- 24 Trans- opposite
- 26 Queens stadium eponym
- 28 Corn core
- 29 Throbbled
- 33 "Another touch point for my opponent!?"
- 35 "Mamma Mia" group
- 37 Fish used as currency in medieval England
- 38 Soap unit
- 39 "Another literary figure whose qualities contrast my own!?"
- 44 Kids playing in the backyard?
- 45 Blue
- 46 Remain unsettled
- 47 Up to, briefly
- 48 "Stay With Me" singer Smith
- 51 Hefty alternative
- 53 Bangers partner
- 56 Computer expert, briefly
- 58 Untrustworthy paper
- 59 "Another plan thwarted!," or another way to phrase three clues in this puzzle?
- 61 Wide st.
- 62 Flowery, as prose
- 63 Frozen drink with a domed lid
- 64 Some degs.
- 65 Aquarium fighters
- 66 Muppet material

DOWN

- 1 Overzealous

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14					15							16		
17				18								19		
20						21						22		
23				24	25			26	27					
			28				29	30				31	32	
			33				34							
35	36					37					38			
39				40	41			42	43					
44								45						
			46					47				48	49	50
51	52				53	54	55			56	57			
58					59				60					
61					62							63		
64					65							66		

By Parker Higgins

1/22/25

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

A	B	A	C	K		A	L	E	C		M	U	L	L
C	R	U	E	L		D	E	M	O		A	R	E	A
L	A	D	L	E		P	A	I	N	T	I	N	G	S
U	N	I	T	E		D	A	R	T	I	S	T	S	
						N	O	G		F	A	A		
C	H	I	N	E		S	E	A	M		A	R	I	C
R	O	L	E	X		M	A	R	S		A	L	E	
O	P	U	S			N	A	I	L	S		H	I	L
S	U	V				L	O	G	S			S	I	N
S	P	U	R	O		F	T				H	E	M	O
						E	E	R			S	O	P	
						S	E	W	I	N	G	C	I	R
C	L	O	S	E		L	O	O	K			A	L	I
A	I	D	E			L	O	R	E			N	A	D
P	E	A	S			S	K	Y	Y			O	N	S

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1/22/25

- 34 Bog makeup
- 35 Source of feedback for a guitarist?
- 36 Hon
- 40 Mark against
- 41 Went for seconds
- 42 Forensic drama with regional spinoffs
- 43 Actress Shire
- 47 Eta follower
- 48 Elbow room
- 49 Mermaid played by Halle Bailey
- 50 "Water Lilies" painter
- 51 Snag
- 52 Floor material, in a children's game
- 54 Casual contraction
- 55 Thin strip
- 57 "Yay, the weekend!" letters
- 59 Car remote
- 60 ___ Plaines, Illinois

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Life

EAR 2 DA SKY: TRAVELING THE STARS TRYING TO FIND A LIGHT WITH DETAHJAE

by **Hayden Cromer**

HE/HIM/HIS
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Welcome back from break and to Ear 2 Da Sky! Like always, each week I'll be going over topics within music culture and reviewing albums and EPs across genres, eras and artists that are submitted by readers like you and listeners of my radio show every Wednesday at 11 p.m. on WHUS 91.7 FM! During winter break, I was blessed with the privilege of doing nothing. So, to fill up that empty space I sat with a lot of music, scrolling through old submissions, playing, pausing, skipping, and rewinding. Through this process, I stumbled upon detahjae's "Lone, Borealis."

Released in November 2024, this was his debut album, which had been in the making for about six years after releasing his first single in 2018. The Bay Area based artist has definitely been on the come up as of late with the help of this most recent project, garnering attention from the likes of artists such as Dreamer Isioma and Teezo Touchdown.

One of the main takeaways from the album on my first

listen was the word "angst." There's this deeply rooted feeling of angst weaved through the album as detahjae is lost in this identity crisis in the first track, "as i play the piano." He appears tired of having to succumb to the expectations of outside eyes rather than living up to his own expectations and even recognizes the growth in his style after taking a three-year hiatus from releasing music.

Another thing I've noticed listening back to this album a couple of times was the influence Tyler, the Creator and Earl Sweatshirt had on his style, especially their older works. It is definitely more pronounced within the production and flow/delivery, as well as some of the nonsensical and crass storytelling; you can hear a lot of it in track six, "Equinox, á le train" and track eight, "Beans." It feels like people tend to rag on artists for having similar sounds to others, especially larger and more established artists, but I think it's great, especially as he mentions in the first track how he's still growing into his sound and style. Influence will always be imminent, as it comes with traversing through all the different ideas that fly in and out of your head, trying to find your sound and what makes your

art uniquely your art.

The music isn't all that stuck with me; I was blown away by the types of visuals and storytelling he had for a debut album. Alongside the album, detahjae released music videos for "Janice," "Abyss" and "Girl-Friend." I feel as though he actually adds to the story of the album, making it truly feel like an experience rather than just a set of videos. While that may seem obvious, I do believe that a good music video is a lost art and detahjae went three-for-three.

With this only being his debut album, he has definitely set high expectations for future projects, but I've been convinced to sit and stay for a while to see how it pans out. After spending a good amount of time with "Lone, Borealis," it's evident that there is influence from artists sprinkled in here and there, but from the music to the videos, detahjae has definitely created something that is uniquely his. I think he just has to find a way to hold on to and harness it.

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>

RATING: 3.5/5



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The Benton Museum of Art opens new exhibit on the ceramics of UConn's Minnie Negoro

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab** | SHE/HER/HERS | STAFF WRITER | lilith.rampertab@uconn.edu

Content warning for depictions of human rights violations.

On Jan. 21, 2025, the University of Connecticut's William Benton Museum of Art opened two new displays: one showcasing the Digital Media and Design faculty's creations and another focusing on creations by Minnie Negoro, a professor of art with a specialization in ceramics who taught at different art schools before teaching at UConn until her retirement in 1989. QR codes were located around the exhibit for added insight into not only the art, but on Negoro, her family and others she influenced. This article will cover Negoro's exhibition.

Negoro was an American artist with Japanese ancestry and a variety of interests who founded the ceramics program at UConn. This exhibit is twofold, aiming not only to celebrate an influential figure in pottery and ceramics, but to also educate on the brutal conditions of American incarceration camps that Japanese and Japanese American

people were subjected to.

Negoro was wrapping up her senior year of her undergraduate degree at the University of California, Los Angeles when, due to rising racial tensions during World War II with the Japanese, United States President Franklin Delano Roosevelt created the War Relocation Authority (WRA) and incarcerated those of Japanese descent who were living on the West Coast. Around 126,000 people were held in these incarceration camps.

Negoro's family were among the incarcerated. "Negoro had never been to Japan and was a U.S. citizen," according to Dr. Hana Maruyama and Dr. Jason Chang, both professors of history & social and critical inquiry. They wrote the descriptions for the exhibit to help contextualize Negoro's art and the historical and political ramifications that it has.

A plaque shared the important detail that those who were incarcerated were given only a week or less to situate themselves, take care of personal belongings and be shipped off to an American concentration camp. "We

each could take only one suitcase plus eating utensils," Negoro remarked. Furthermore, families were oftentimes split apart and it was uncertain when they could be reunited. For example, Negoro's brother, Kaiji, was sent to a different camp.

There was a plaque dedicated to the usage of certain terms when discussing the era of Japanese incarceration in the United States. It warns against using the term "internment" to describe the incarceration because of how it reinforces racist connotations. In particular "The Roosevelt administration avoided it in 1942 because it refers to procedures for the imprisonment of enemy aliens [sic.] under the Geneva Convention."

Overly palatable terms such as "relocation" and "evacuation" sanitized the cruelty that Japanese Americans faced. The Japanese American National Museum, according to Maruyama and Chang, recommends using the term "American concentration camps" to distance it from Nazi death camps or "incarceration" to de-

scribe what had happened to Japanese Americans during World War II. Language plays an integral role in how human beings view the world and words can oftentimes have certain subtexts or connotations that can negatively affect people. This clarification on the plaque highlights this and does a great job of educating the museum's audience.

There was a plaque with photographs detailing the brutality that the WRA put Negoro, her family and other Japanese Americans through at the Pomona Assembly Center. "About a third of the internees lived in animal stalls," according to Maruyama and Chang. Furthermore, due to poor planning, there were food shortages and consistent food poisoning.

Negoro was eventually sent to the Heart Mountain Ceramics Plant, where they aimed to employ her and about 99 other internees to make 6,000 pieces of tableware each week. The WRA hired Daniel Rhodes, a potter who recently graduated with his Master's in ceramics, to teach Negoro and five

to seven others how to make pottery. The conditions in which they worked showed how little the WRA cared, as "The center's first potter's wheel was made from scrap lumber and an auto shaft that had been tossed in the junk pile." Despite this, Negoro formed a bond with Rhodes, her mentor, and they practiced pottery together in their expressions.

Eventually, the WRA cancelled the plans for the ceramics plant. The space was repurposed to have art classes, Negoro being one of the instructors.

In her dedication to ceramics and pottery, Negoro persevered through the racist incarceration that stole her time and freedom and made a career out of what she learned during that time. She is truly an inspiration who has influenced a generation of potters — as shown by the display — and deserves more attention for her art. She wasn't just a potter, but a seamstress and a general creative type who made things by hand.

Negoro's exhibit will be up at the Benton Museum of Art until July 27, 2025.

EIGHT YEARS, ONE CONSOLE: THE NINTENDO SWITCH

by Benjamin Lassy | HE/HIM/HIS | LIFE EDITOR | benjamin.lassy@uconn.edu

Nintendo announced the Nintendo Switch console while I was on a bus ride home from middle school. I was in eighth grade at the time and I had no idea just how enduring the next eight years of gaming on the new hybrid console would be. With the long-awaited Switch 2 reveal taking place days before my last semester at the University of Connecticut began, I thought: why not share some of the highs and lows about a console that has no doubt been enjoyed by many students on this campus?

The Daily Campus has recently explored the Switch 2's potential as a great gaming console for college students. This article, however, will focus on the original Switch.

With the abysmal sales of the Wii U, many call 2016 one of the "dark years of Nintendo." The company couldn't connect to consumers, and as games felt mediocre and rushed to the store shelves, even diehard Nintendo fans were losing faith in the Wii's successor. By the end of 2016, most were eagerly anticipating the next console, only known by its codename at the time: the Nintendo NX.

I never owned a Wii U until later in its life, but it remains one of Nintendo's most charming, yet least popular systems. Its failure revealed a confusing divide in Nintendo's console development: If there were a ton of sound effects, background themes, gimmicks, community hubs (like the quasi-social media platform MiiVerse) and bold design choices, then many consumers may be turned off by the clutter. Likewise, Nintendo's costly maintenance of its servers for services like

MiiVerse had to end as the console performed poorly, leaving those who used it with nothing.

The other side of this divide came with the Switch's launch. It was nothing more than a console. By that, I mean it had few bold choices except for where it needed them. It had bright red and blue Joy-Cons and an innovative hybrid handheld/home console format, yet Nintendo traditions for the last decade such as Miis, e-shop music and even simple functionality like game folders were missing from the console on launch.

I remember booting the console for the first time right around its launch. It felt empty, something uncharacteristic of Nintendo and any video game console.

Still, after seeing "Skyrim" gameplay on a handheld, the console really felt like the next big leap in gaming. That statement rings true, as the phenomenal game selection only grew over the next eight years and the hybrid-form-factor yielded a staggering 120 million units sold as of January 2025. Nevertheless, the console never felt like the next big leap for Nintendo itself.

There were no carefully crafted Nintendo flourishes on the user interface or UI — except for some funny sounds when you press a different button to open the console. You can pick from two UI themes on launch: "basic white" and "basic black," both of which remain the only themes on the console eight years later. The Mii Maker functionality has been hidden in system menus, the e-shop launched as a slow and

broken mess and remains one to this day. Furthermore, the initial four years of a lackluster online service meant that there was nothing to show for your in-game achievements and absolutely no way to communicate with friends on the system besides a redundant mobile phone app.

All these problems have been widely discussed for years now; in fact, many have been known for nearly a decade. For most college-aged students, that means almost half of their lives has seen Nintendo stuck in this rut, producing a console that has award-winning games but a sad user interface.

As record-breaking sales figures show, the success of the last eight years of the Switch comes from its games. Over 60 first-party games have launched on the system and almost all of them have been commercial and critical successes. There have been several releases and rereleases in the "Super Mario" franchise, new iterations in nearly all sports games, and refreshing new takes on franchises like "The Legend of Zelda" and "Super Smash Bros." I've picked up many of these releases over the years and truly it's the games that make the system; however, it's the charm that makes the company stand out from its competition and Nintendo has lost a lot of that in favor of corporatism and odd business decisions.

With Nintendo's refusal to acknowledge Joy-Con drift problems for quite a while after mass reports of users' controllers experiencing hardware failure, it took threats of lawsuits to push Nintendo towards repair-

ing and acknowledging the problem. At this point, all my Joy-Con are experiencing some sort of drift (most are severe). Although they have been tossed around and well used since the launch back in 2017, think of the Wii remotes. Many of them still function like normal with just a new pair of batteries, and they were tossed around for a decade longer. There is hardly any longevity with the Switch's hardware.

With that issue being at the top of a list of many other problems throughout the past eight years, the Switch has seen Nintendo shed its appeal to those familiar with its old design ethos, a sense of care that produced the long line of systems since the Nintendo Entertainment System — or in fact — since the company made toys and playing cards. It seems that pouring effort into games is the only care of the company now and while neither a bad nor unsuccessful choice, this direction makes consoles like the Wii U — which were loaded with an abundance of Nintendo flourishes — remain in a different league than the Switch.

My hope is that the Switch 2 gives Nintendo the chance to experiment and restore their spin on what a console can be, finally polishing up the bare-bones UI into something that is boldly Nintendo.

These past eight years have seen a lot of changes for most of us who use the Switch, but shockingly hardly any for the Switch itself. Me and my rickety old Joy-Cons and I are eagerly awaiting future announcements of the Switch 2. May the next eight years be refreshing.





Life

@dailycampuslife

SEASONAL DEPRESSION: WHY IS IT HARD TO RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR THE WINTER?

by Michelle Pawlos | SHE/HER/HERS | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | michelle.pawlos@uconn.edu

Winter: sparkling icicles forming on buildings, beautiful fresh snow falling onto the ground and celebrating the holiday season. All of this sounds positive, so why is returning to school for the winter so much more challenging than the fall, even after a six-week break?

Seasonal depression, scientifically known as seasonal affective disorder, impacts most during the winter for many reasons. For one, there aren't as many activities to do in the cold weather as there are in warm temperatures, especially for college students. Students could go outside in the fall and do something with their friends; for instance, people often stayed up at night and played a sport such as volleyball, and I even caught a few people sun tanning a couple of times. With it being so cold now, people can no longer do as many activities as they'd typically like, even if it's just going outside for a walk.

The beautiful winter weather also has some downsides: It is extremely cold, especially in January and February.

"The hardest part is getting yourself to class because it is freezing outside and you don't have the motivation to get yourself out of your dorm," said Taylor Lamothe, a second-semester psychology and political science major. As a few days this week will only reach highs of 17 degrees Fahrenheit, many of us are rushing back to our warm

dorms as soon as classes end. During this time, people are less likely to go to places such as the library or the recreation center, dreading the idea of having to leave afterward.

When asked why she thinks it's harder coming back to school during this time, Jagruti Tirunagari, a second-semester psychology major, said, "I think it's because the sun sets so early, so I feel like I need to be in bed by 5:00." The short winter days may cause one to feel tired quicker and then have less energy to go to classes and complete work. Additionally, since the days are shorter and nights are longer, we get less sunlight exposure. More sunlight exposure can lead to higher serotonin levels. One's productivity may heavily depend on the weather and what mood it puts them in.

So, what is the difference between returning to school for the winter and the fall? We just came back from a six-week break, so we should feel energized and ready to learn again, right? It is important to realize that summer and winter break are entirely different. During summer break, students make plans with their friends to hang out in the warm weather, go to the beach, adventure parks, picnics, etc.

I don't know how other students spent their winter break, but I spent most of my time at home and anytime I left the house, it was for a quick grocery trip or a lousy

gym session in the gloomy weather. I know that a few of my friends did the same but also went to work, which isn't relaxing. Our brain never feels relaxed as our opportunities for unwinding are so limited.

During these cold times, we

are less likely to make plans with our friends since there is less to do, but could this just be harming us more and increasing our chances of seasonal depression? Sure, there may be less to do outside, but that doesn't mean that you and your friends can't

do something inside. Have a movie night with snacks, bake something together or play board games. Remaining social during the winter season may be the key to pushing through the downsides of winter and staying motivated for your classes.

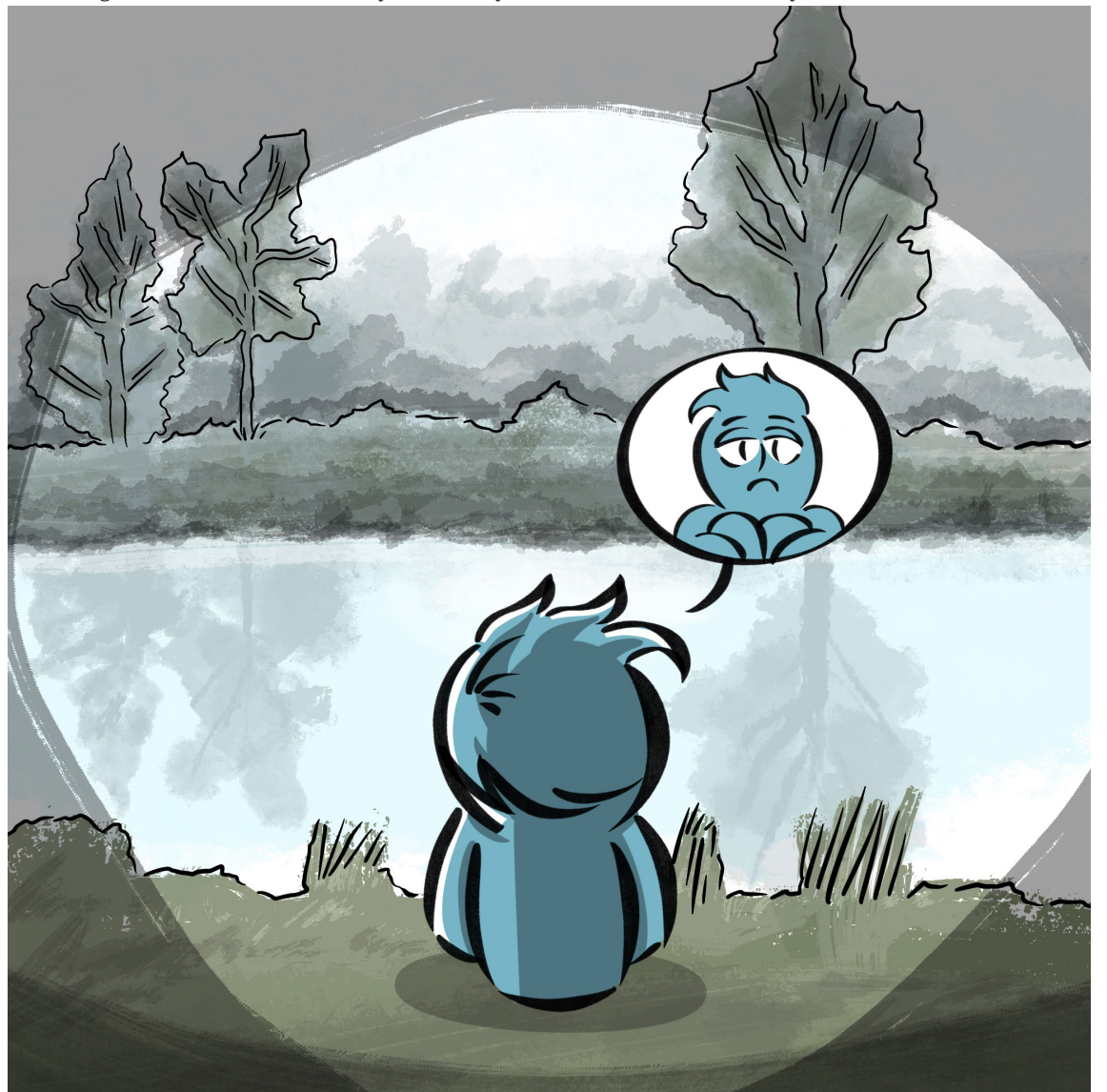


ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR SZREJNA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

SNOW DAY TIPS ON HOW TO NOT BRAIN ROT

by Maleena Muzio | SHE/HER/HERS | STAFF WRITER | maleena.muzio@uconn.edu

As TikTok quickly made its comeback after a brief ban, the ability to brain rot is as available as ever. Snow days make it easy to fall victim to mindless scrolling and lying in bed for hours. Before you know it, the day is over, and you are left wondering how you could have better spent your time. The first step to having a successful snow day is putting the phone down and taking a break from social media. Of course, rest is ideal on snow days, but why watch reels for hours when you could have been taking a nap?

Although a productive snow day would be ideal, it is not always practical. Many of us

students feel burnt out in the winter months and it is nice to receive an unexpected break once in a while. This is the perfect time to catch up on sleep and practice self-care. Whether it be mindfulness or a 10-step skincare routine, set some time aside on your day off to do something that is relaxing for you. Hop in the shower, put on a face mask and simply close your eyes for 30 minutes to disconnect yourself from the stress of the outside world.

For those who prefer to stay busy, distracting yourself by completing much-needed to-do list items is the perfect way to avoid brain rot. A couple of options include cleaning your

room, doing the laundry or organizing your desk drawers. Even if you think there is nothing to do, take a look around and I am sure you will find something that needs a little upkeep. There is no need to spend the entire day deep cleaning your living space, but some polishing could feel very rewarding while still allowing for ample amounts of rest.

This is also the perfect time to catch up on work or get ahead. Time and effort spent now will equal more rest later. Even a simple half-hour stretch of work can ease up some of your stress later on.

If you are still looking for ways to entertain yourself,

try the old-fashioned approach of watching a movie or a marathon of a particular series. Calling and catching up with a friend or family member is also something to consider adding to your day. Though, if you would like to disconnect even more and have others around you, try bringing out the old board and card games. These games can make time fly and bring a pleasant sense of nostalgia.

Staying cozy inside all day can be very tempting, but do not forget to take advantage of what is all around you: snow! If you find yourself succumbing to reels, maybe it is time to put on snowpants and venture

into the cold. There are countless snowy activities that you can take part in, including but not limited to: sledding, building a snowman, having a snowball fight or shoveling (if you live in a space other than a dorm). Yes, shoveling. Maybe not the most fun activity, but definitely an essential one!

Brain rot is often inevitable on a day off with seemingly nothing to do. The simplest solution is choosing something different to engage in that you are actually interested in or excited about. So go ahead: Pick your favorite activity and be left satisfied with how you spent your newfound free time!



Opinion

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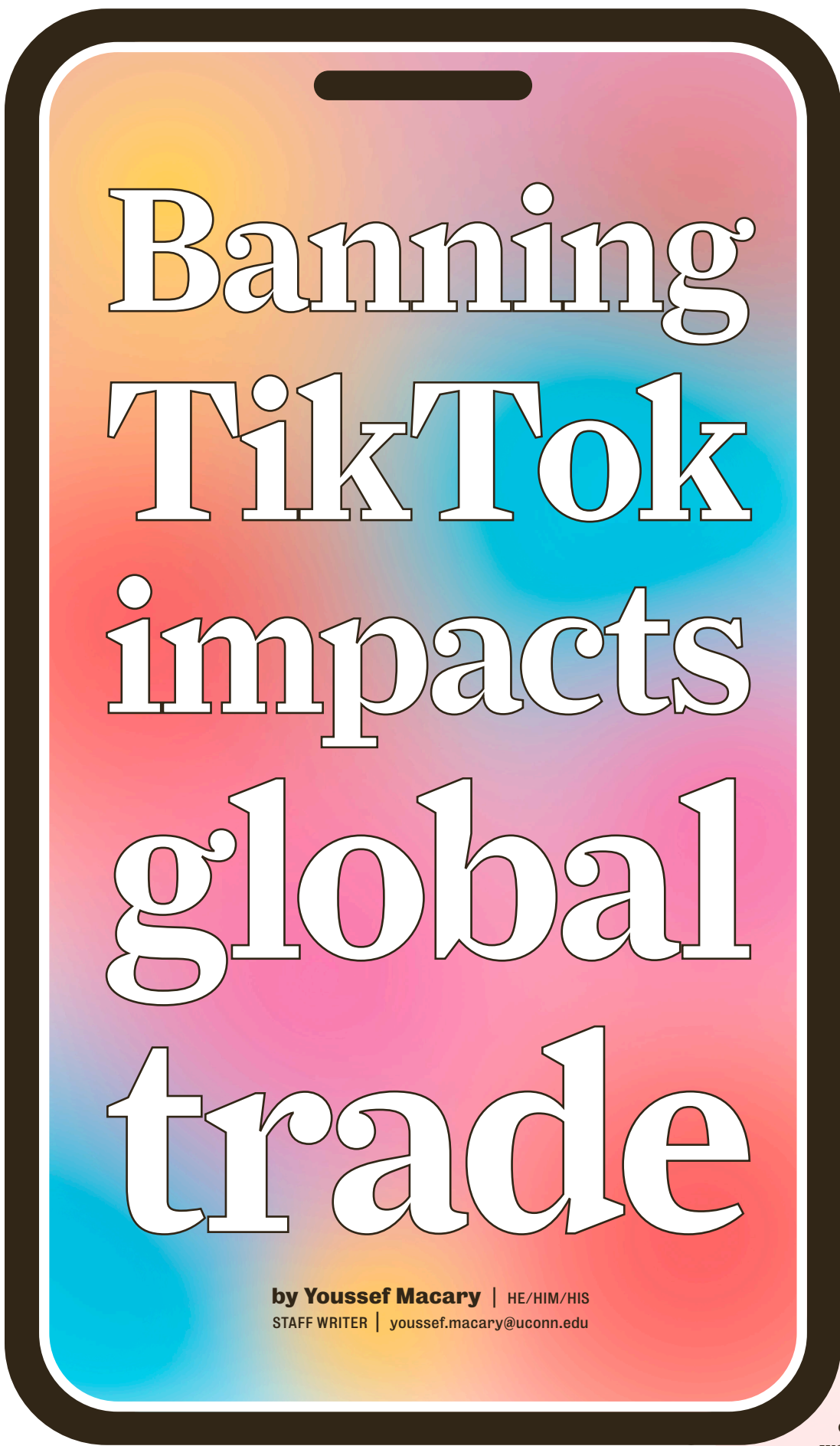
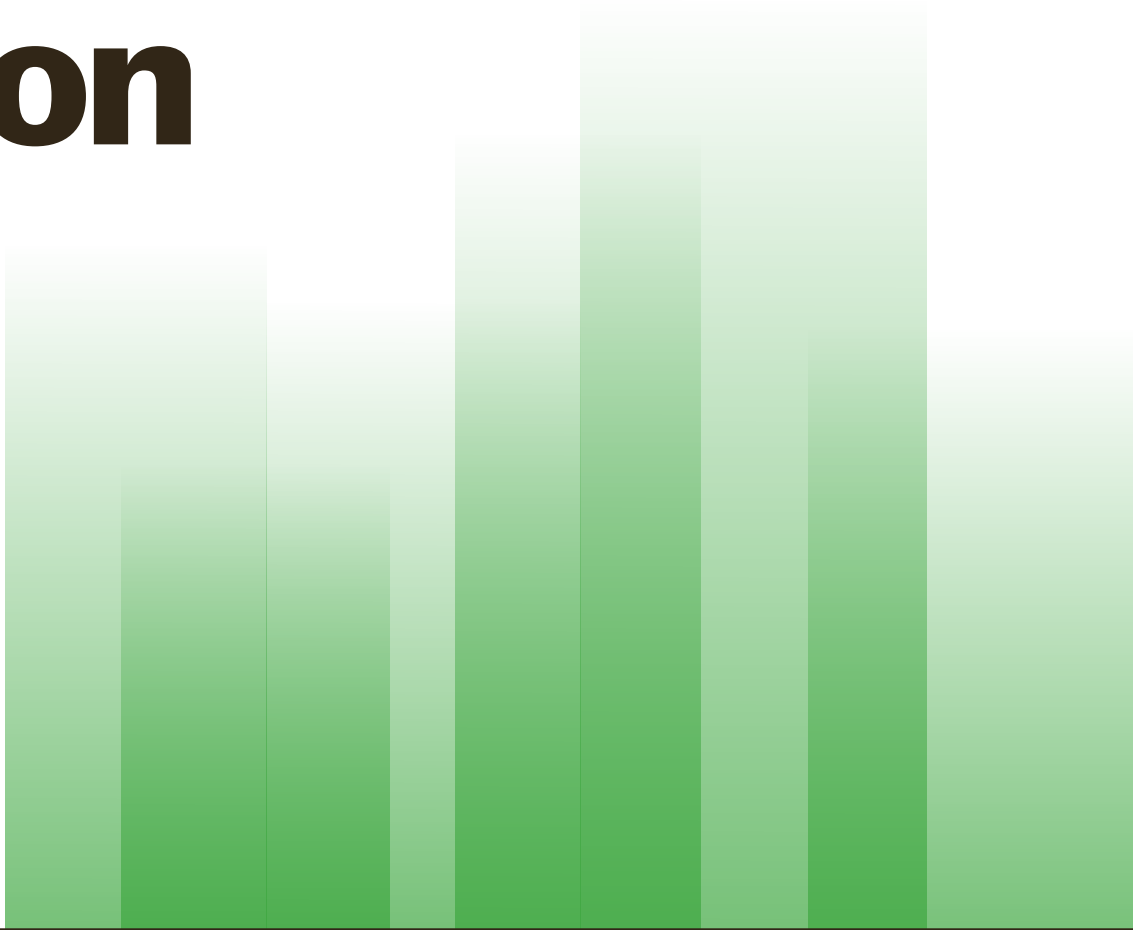
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Banning TikTok impacts global trade

by Youssef Macary | HE/HIM/HIS
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GRAPHIC BY COLBI LORANGER, ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Recently, the popular app TikTok "became inaccessible because of a law passed by a bipartisan majority in Congress last year." This ban caused the app to become unavailable to users due to the supposed national security issues that it poses because of the app's ties to China. For the app to continue to exist, ByteDance, "TikTok's Chinese parent company," had to sell its stake in the app. When ByteDance did not do so, the app was no longer accessible to United States users. This was a decision that was met with a large amount of criticism due to the app's popularity.

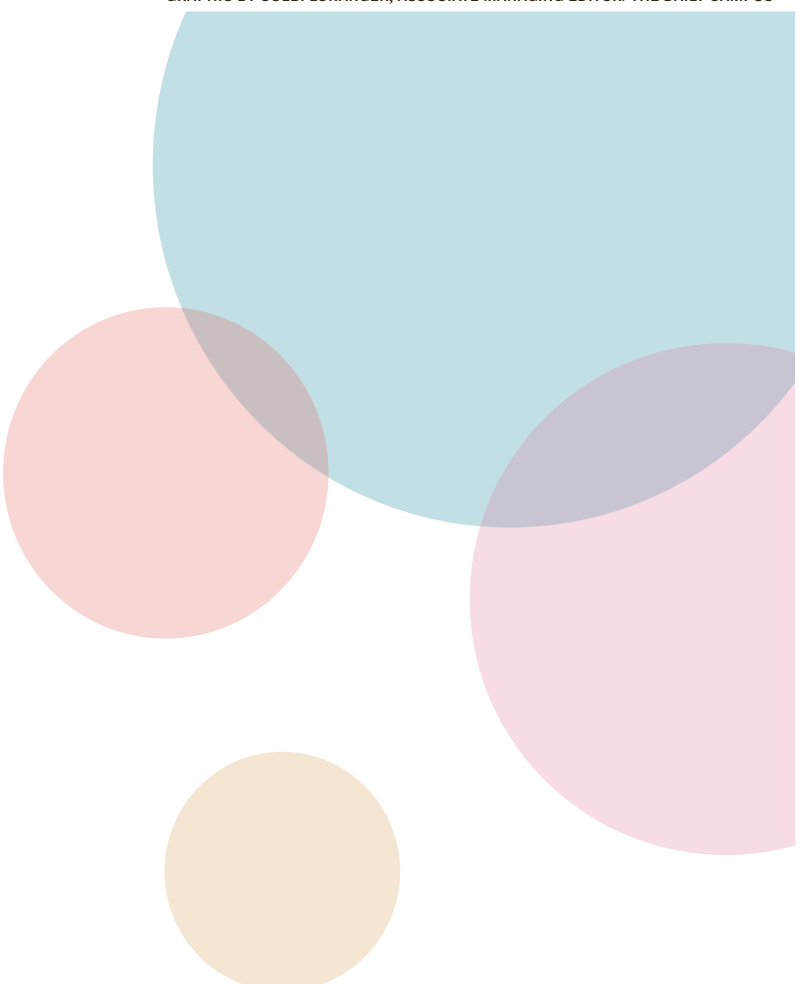
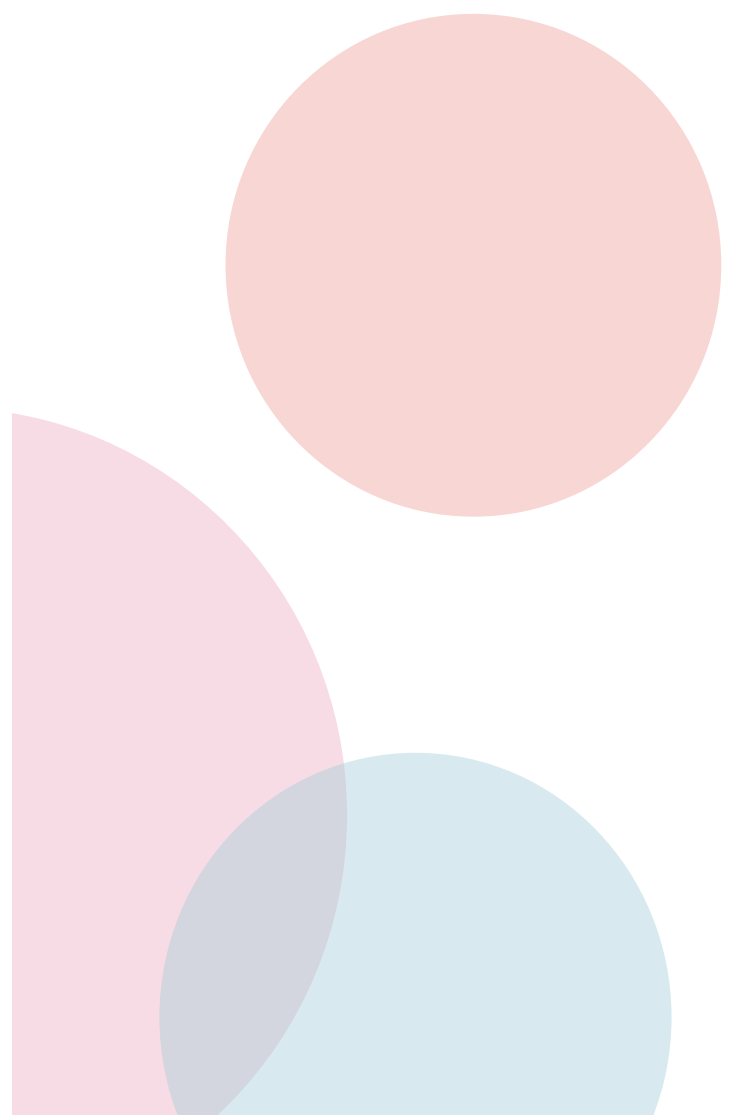
While many see the banning of TikTok as a national security issue, which is attributed as the primary reason for the decision, when you look closely at TikTok being banned it also heavily involves free trade. The concept of free trade means that "goods and services can be bought and sold across international borders with little or no government tariffs, quotas, subsidies, or prohibitions to inhibit their exchange." This is something that banning TikTok inherently violates. The U.S. government is banning the use of a service because it is owned by China.

The concept of using protectionism to punish a nation, especially an adversary, is not uncommon. One example is the Russian invasion

of Ukraine. Since this event took place, "the scope and severity of U.S. sanctions and export controls imposed on Russia have expanded significantly." Trade barriers, tariffs and sanctions are commonly used for a country that the U.S. is not on good terms with. In the case of Russia, this makes a lot of sense.

However, China is currently a top trade partner with the U.S. In 2022, "China was the top supplier of goods to the U.S., accounting for 16.5 percent of total goods imports." This shows that the U.S. has a large reliance on China. This fact also shows how significant the move for the U.S. to ban TikTok is. For our government to deem it as such a threat for the people of the United States to use an app that collects data and is owned by China, then it shows that our reliance on them for trade is problematic. If China is such a threat, it does not bode well that the country is so reliant on them.

While many people are angry at the decision to ban TikTok, we should also consider what it says about the relationship between the U.S. and China. Assuming this was an informed and smart decision by our government, it shows that there are growing tensions between our two countries. It also introduces the idea of stopping more forms of trade with China. Regardless of if TikTok gets banned or not, we should all consider the larger picture of what it says about the relationship our country has with China.



Opinion

Photo of the Day | Horsebarn Hill

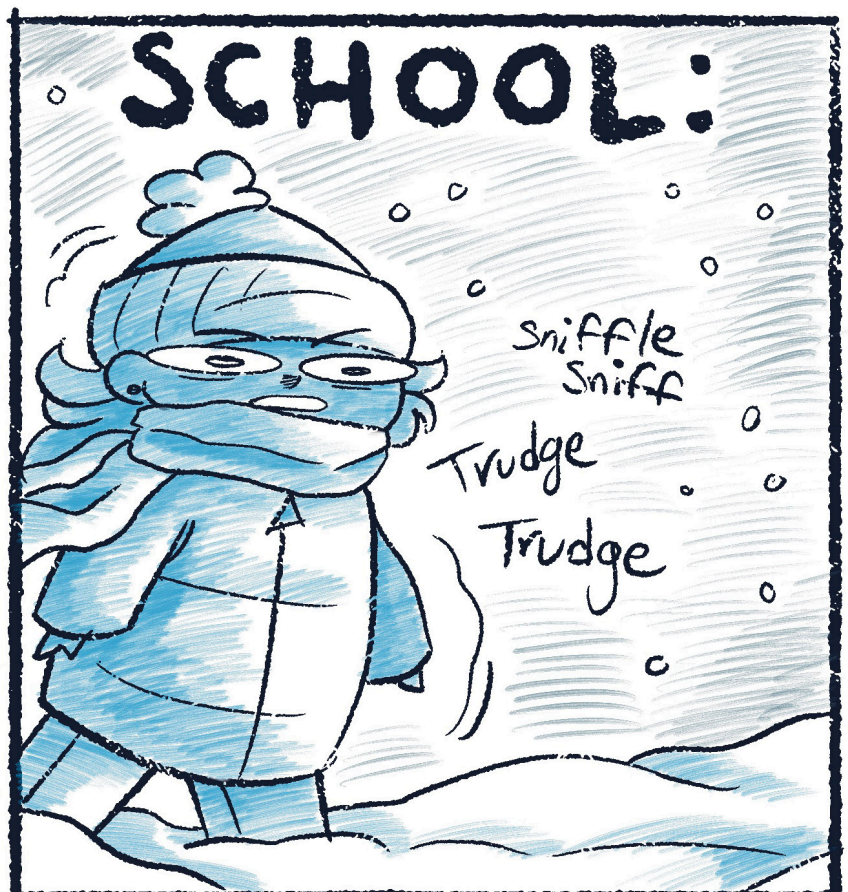


The sun sets behind Horsebarn Hill on Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025. This has brought students' first day of the spring semester at the University of Connecticut to a close.
PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

comics



COMIC BY CONNOR SZREJNA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Droppin' Dimes



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

by **Matt Dimech**
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After coming up short against the Kansas City Chiefs in the 2024 AFC Championship, Lamar Jackson and the Baltimore Ravens came into their 2024-25 campaign with a chip on their shoulder. The addition of Derrick Henry in the offseason had everybody excited and many believed that this would finally be the Ravens' year to hoist the Lombardi Trophy. Nevertheless, Baltimore once again met their playoff demise, losing to the Buffalo Bills 27-25 in the AFC Divisional round this past weekend. This extended Baltimore's 12-year streak of failing to win back-to-back playoff games. The Ravens entered the contest as -120 fa-

avorites and had shut down the Bills earlier in the regular season 35-10. Fans knew before this game that the loser would be under immense scrutiny, with everyone pointing fingers to assign blame.

Lamar Jackson
It's no secret that Lamar Jackson does not live up to his potential in the playoffs. Jackson dug the Ravens into an 11-point hole in the first half of the game. In Baltimore's second drive of the game, Lamar threw an interception five yards behind his intended target and followed it up with a fumble in the following drive. This led to a Bills touchdown, giving them a lead that they would hold onto for the remainder of the game. Now, this was in no way Lamar's worst playoff performance. In recent playoffs, we have seen him crumble after struggling early on. However, Lamar did not back down and eventually led the near comeback drive down the field at the end of the game. This does not leave him

Droppin' Dimes: Pointing fingers at another failed Ravens postseason

off the hook, though. Lamar did not have a single game this season with multiple turnovers until the brightest lights were on him. In fact, during his career, he has only committed multiple turnovers in 14% of regular season games. In his eight playoff games, he has had multiple turnovers in four of those matchups. That is the most by any quarterback in NFL history, second place being Tom Brady with three turnovers, doing so in eleven more starts. It isn't coincidence or bad luck, it's just a fact: When the playoffs come around, Lamar does not rise to the occasion.

Mark Andrews
Mark Andrews got off to a slow start at the beginning of the season, making only 10 catches through his first five games as the Ravens started off 2-3. He got it together as the season progressed and capped off the regular season with a touchdown in each of the final six regular season games, winning five and proving he was still a viable option in the Ravens' dynamic offense. In Sunday's game against the Bills, Andrews completely fell apart. With less than nine minutes to be played in the game, Bal-

timore had all of the momentum as they were driving down the field trailing behind by just two points. Andrews reeled in a pass to the Buffalo 44-yard line which would have, at the very least, gotten the Ravens in position for a long field goal. The 29-year-old tight end attempted to extend the play after the catch but failed to protect the ball as linebacker Terrell Bernard punched the ball free, forcing a fumble which was then scooped up by Buffalo, halting the Ravens' momentum. This led to a field goal for Buffalo, stretching their lead to five. Andrews had an opportunity at redemption in the final minutes of the game as Baltimore lined up for a two-point conversion attempt down by two. They executed a perfect roll out for Andrews, which found him wide open in the endzone. Jackson hit him just above his line, and to the Ravens fans' horror, the ball found its way through Andrews hands and fell to the turf. Andrews' two mistakes were largely responsible for costing the Ravens their season.

Coaching
Despite the players putting on less than stellar perfor-

mances, questions have to be asked about the coaching. Jon Harbaugh is a great coach, and he has the Superbowl ring to prove it. However, there were some glaring issues in this game. Jackson is the greatest dual threat quarterback we have ever seen. How is it possible that his legs were hardly put to use in this game? Jackson only ran for 39-yards in the game, and not once was it by play design. Jackson has improved significantly as a thrower over the past year, but his true gift is with his legs. In addition, Derrick Henry was relatively nowhere to be seen until the third quarter. The Ravens were 9-0 this season in games where Henry got 20 touches, and he only saw 16 in this game. The Ravens failed to properly use their two best offensive players. The lost penalty battle was a huge breaking point for the Ravens. The Bills committed only one ten-yard penalty the whole game, meanwhile, the Ravens committed five for a total of 43 yards. If you look at these penalties paired with the turnover problems, it all comes down to a lack of discipline, which will always fall on the head coach to instill within his team.

Patriot Place: What can Patriots fans expect from Mike Vrabel?

by **Graham Wilker**
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The New England Patriots introduced their 16th head coach in franchise history on Jan. 13, marking the official beginning of Mike Vrabel's tenure. It took just nine days after the end of the 2024-2025 season for the franchise to make a hire after the departure of Jerod Mayo. This came after an abysmal season in which the Patriots finished 4-13.

Vrabel, a three-time Super Bowl Champion and All-Pro during his playing years with the Patriots, was inducted into the Patriots Hall of Fame during the 2023 season while he was still the head coach for the Tennessee Titans, a title he held until the end of that season, in which he was fired and replaced by current head coach Brian Callahan.

While many know Vrabel for his excellent playing career and early success with the Titans, what can the Pa-

triot's faithful expect of him in his new role as the New England head coach?

Winning at the Line of Scrimmage

Vrabel's offense in Tennessee centered around dominating the line of scrimmage and running the ball with power. During the first four of his six years in Nashville, his offense ranked in the top ten in rushing yards per game. When they ranked No. 13 and No. 18 in his final two years, the team performed a disappointing 13-21. During Vrabel's best season in 2021, in which the team finished 12-5, the defense also ranked first in stopping the run, allowing a league lowest 83.5 yards per game. They repeated this feat the following year, but the Titans finished the season with only seven wins, due to a struggling Ryan Tannehill. During Vrabel's tenure, the team did not rank in the top half of average time of possession during five of six seasons. Although, during that phenomenal 2021 season they

ranked second, possessing the ball for just shy of 33 minutes a game.

Fewer Penalties

In his first four seasons, the Titans also ranked in the top half of the league in the least penalized teams, including being the least penalized squad during his first year in 2018. The Patriots struggled in this aspect this past year, where their 6.5 penalties per game pegged them among the league's most penalized, though not as bad as the 2024 Titans, who ranked No. 2. The Patriots also allowed about two first downs per game due to penalties, a figure comparable to Vrabel's time in Tennessee with the exception of 2021, where they ranked a league best 1.2 first downs due to penalties a game.

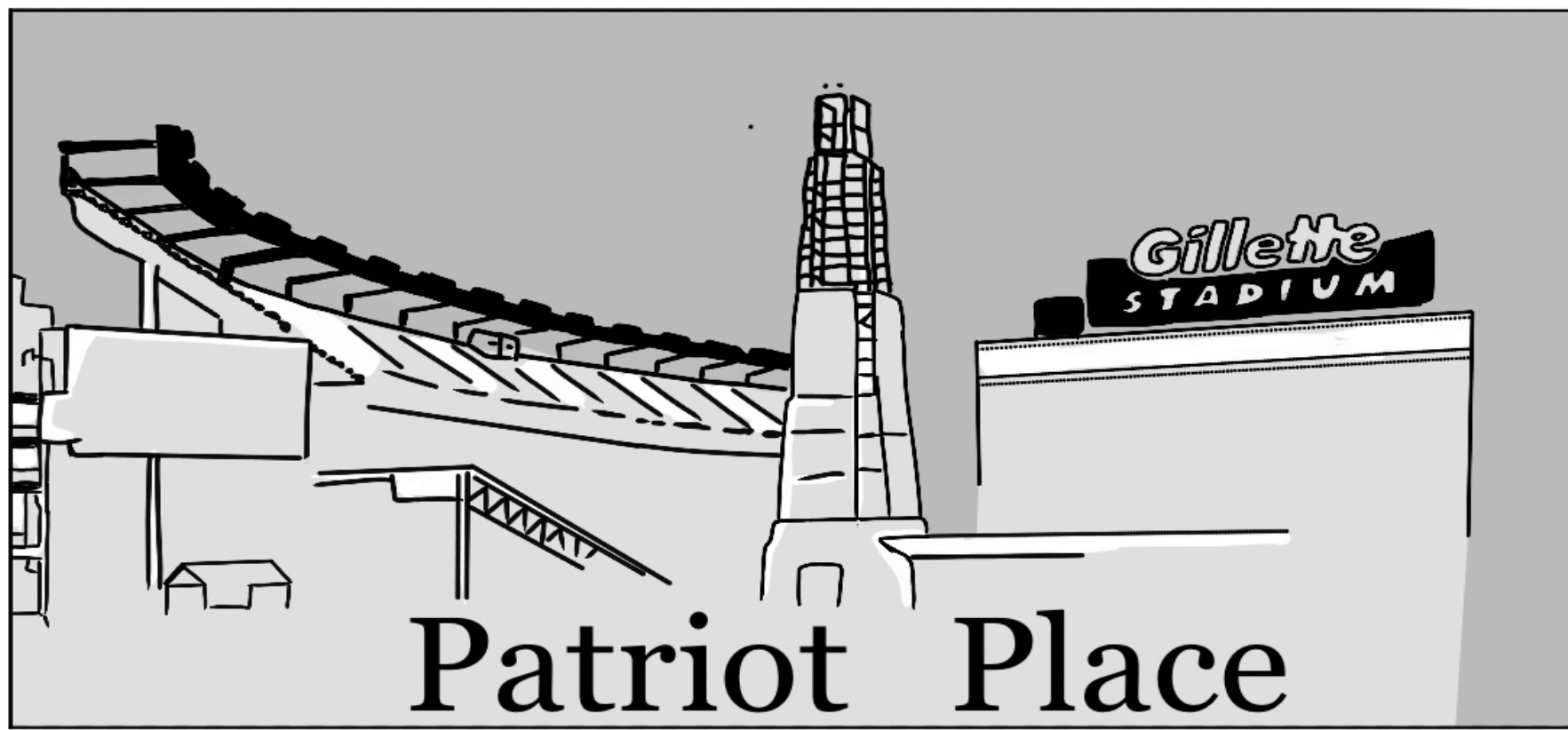
Drafting

While Mike Vrabel was not responsible for drafting in Tennessee, we can see some trends in the team's philosophy through their selections. Across the six drafts that saw Vrabel in the Volunteer State,

the team averaged taking one wide receiver per draft, with one in the first round (Treylon Burks, 2022), and one in the second round (A.J. Brown, 2019). The other four were selected in the fourth round or later. In five of six drafts, the Titans selected an offensive lineman in the first three rounds, including a first rounder in 2020 and 2023. They selected a defensive back in every draft but his last, and from 2020-2022 the franchise selected a cornerback specifically in one of the first two rounds. 18 of 38 draft picks over the time span were defensive players, a 47.4% rate. The first selection in each draft was split into three players on each side of the ball during the six drafts. While it may not be as important for the Patriots, Vrabel selected a quarterback on four different occasions. Three of the four never made it through their rookie contract with the Titans, and while Will Levis only just finished year two, his odds

of receiving a second contract are not good. While these drafts may be more of an indication of the (poor) performance of then General Manager Jon Robinson, it could be an indication of Vrabel's stylistic ideas when it comes to the draft. Additionally, with the addition of Ryan Cowden to the front office, these drafts could be better. Cowden spent 2016-2022 with the Titans until he became a key figure in the Giants draft room in 2023. Following what looks to be an excellent draft for the Giants headlined by Malik Nabers, this is an encouraging addition; seemingly a Vrabel-approved hire.

I'd grade this hire a B at the moment. I think that it's a solid move and I have the confidence he'll build out a very solid staff. They will likely win more games than last year, contingent on Drake Maye's development. Fingers crossed for Patriots fans; Vrabel is the next great head coach of this storied franchise.



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

Sports

Photo of the Day | Men's basketball



UConn men's basketball takes on the Butler Bulldogs at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn. on Jan. 21, 2025. UConn defeated Butler in overtime, 80-78.

PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Point/Counterpoint: Who should be the NFL MVP? Lamar Jackson or Josh Allen

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With the NFL regular season wrapped up in early January, there are debates on who should be the league's most valuable player. There are two prime candidates: Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson and Buffalo Bills quarterback Josh Allen. Both have made compelling arguments for one of the most prestigious awards the NFL hands out at the conclusion of each regular season, but who should be given the MVP trophy will be debated in this week's edition of Point/Counterpoint with Sam Calhoun and Jake Loomis.

Jake Loomis: Lamar Jackson

Lamar Jackson is the most valuable player in the NFL because he is arguably the best player on the Baltimore Ravens. Jackson's ability with his legs allows the Ravens to have three types of plays while other teams can only have two. They can run the ball with Derrick Henry, they can pass with Jackson or they can run with Jackson after he settles into the pocket. Teams often use a quarterback to spy on Jackson, but this does not work as the franchise star escapes every time, providing that he is too fast for the opposing defense. To put it in simpler terms, he is a running back

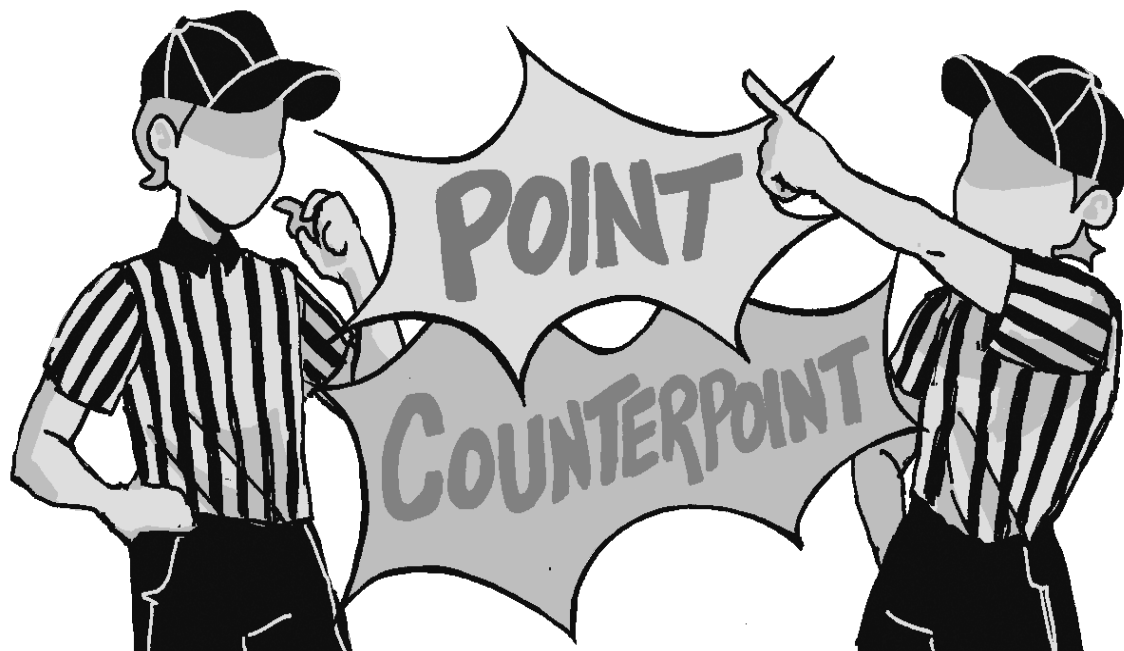
in a quarterback's body. In another life, Jackson would have been a running back, but as the years have gone on his passing has gotten better, turning him into a true dual-threat quarterback. Over this year Jackson turned in 4,000 yards through the air while throwing for 41 touchdowns to only four interceptions, which doesn't even mention what he did with his legs this year. On the ground, the quarterback totaled just shy of 1,000 yards which would be a good season for any running back, while also providing four scores throughout the season with his legs. Despite the playoffs not going how the Ravens had originally hoped, Jackson was the Most Valuable Player this regular season and should be

the top candidate to win the award at the NFL Honors in February.

Sam Calhoun: Josh Allen
After losing star receivers Stefon Diggs and Gabe Davis, as well as their starting center, the Bills were expected to be in contention for a Super Bowl, but significantly weaker than last year's team. Allen is a major reason why the Bills will be playing in the AFC Championship on Sunday and why they cruised through the AFC East. Jackson had his most impressive season in the air, setting career highs in passing yards, completions, passing touchdowns and passer rating. While Jackson may have a better completion percentage than him, Allen had fewer turnovers and had better overall

ball security. His interception went from 3.1 percent in 2023 to 1.2 percent in 2024. That stat alone can tell you that he might have had his most consistent season since entering the league in 2018. According to Next Gen Stats, Allen finished the year with 133.3 expected points. The narrative for box score watchers will be that Jackson had a better year statistically. I'm not arguing that because there is no argument against that, except that Allen had three times as many rushing touchdowns as Jackson. However, the Ravens brought in help for Jackson, including superstar running back Derrick Henry from the Tennessee Titans. Henry has drastically changed the Ravens' offense, ranking second in the NFL in rushing yards

(1,921) and finished the year in a three-way tie for most rushing touchdowns with 16. Outside of Henry, the Ravens provided more weapons for the NFL's reigning MVP this season, including wide receiver Zay Flowers, who made the Pro Bowl and had over 1,000 receiving yards. No one on the Bills achieved that feat, with Khalil Shakir leading the way with 821 receiving yards. Jackson has an advantage head-to-head, with the Ravens stomping the Bills 35-10 in Week 4. I don't expect there to be a 2003 situation of a tie like there was with Steve McNair and Peyton Manning. I don't believe in recency bias, but it's hard to avoid the fact that Allen has been better as of recently. The Bills, behind strong performances from their MVP candidate, took down both the Kansas City Chiefs and the Detroit Lions. In December, Allen became the first player in NFL history with at least 18 total touchdowns and one or fewer turnovers in a calendar month. Despite his overall stats, Jackson did not finish as strong. He has two of his worst four games of the season in losses in rivalry showdowns with the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Philadelphia Eagles. The rest of their schedule down the stretch was a lot easier, with the Ravens taking down the New York Giants, the Steelers, the Houston Texans and the Cleveland Browns. Overall, I believe that Allen did more with less and was better against top competition, separating himself from Jackson as the league's MVP.



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Everything you need to know about the new Unrivaled League

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The Unrivaled League, the brainchild of UConn Women's Basketball alums Napheesa Collier and Breanna Stewart, came to fruition this past weekend after kicking off in Miami.

If you happen to be asking, "What is the Unrivaled league?" Then, you have to come to the right place.

How does it work?

With star players like Caitlin Clark, Paige Bueckers and Angel Reese on collegiate basketball and WNBA rosters, the popularity of women's basketball has grown exponentially.

Unrivaled gives fans a chance to see their favorite WNBA stars on the court during the offseason, but with a twist. It's a 3-on-3 league that's designed to be fast paced and high-scoring. To put it into simpler terms, it's a revolutionized version of the classic game of

street ball. Not only will this new league be great for further exposure of women's basketball,

it. It's a custom for athletes in the WNBA to play overseas during the offseason, but now, they can play in the U.S. and get paid doing so.

The league will last a total of eight weeks with all games, regular season and playoffs, being played in Miami at the MediaPro Center. Playoffs begin on March 16, with two elimination games ending in the Championship on March 17.

The Unrivaled league has a total of six teams and each game the teams play will have a similar process to games you see in the WNBA and collegiate basketball. The games will be split into four quarters. However, the first, second and third quarters will each be seven minutes long, but the fourth will be untimed until a team reaches the "winning score."

The winning score is calculated based on the score of the leading team by the end of the third quarter, with an addition of 11 points. Let's say if Team A finishes the third quarter with a leading score of 56 points, the winning score to reach in the fourth quarter is 67 points.

In addition to the games being shorter, fans will see a compact court as well. Instead of the 94'-by-50' basketball court

you see in 5-on-5 games, and a half court you see in regular 3-on-3 games, Unrivaled will have a 72'-by-49' court for quicker, faster gameplay, per Unrivaled on X.

The three players each squad will have on the court at all times will consist of a guard, forward and center.

Who's playing?

The six teams in the league are the Laces, Lunar Owls, Mist, Phantom, Rose and Vinyl.

For the UConn fans out there, there are various alums playing for various teams. Stefanie Dolson and Tiffany Hayes will put on the Laces jersey, whereas Collier will play for the Lunar Owls, Stewart and Aailyah Edwards for the Mist and Katie Lou Samuelson for the Phantom.

In addition to the Connecticut alumnae, there are many other big names throughout the rosters including Sabrina Ionescu, Kate Martin and Angel Reese.

With names like these, there's no doubt of the popularity the Unrivaled League will find, as it will continue to bring exposure to women's sports.

Where can I watch it?

Having kicked off this past weekend, each game for Unrivaled will take place on Monday, Friday and Saturday and fans can tune in on TNT or stream on Max.

How the Dodgers broke baseball

by Jake Loomis
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The Los Angeles Dodgers are doing something in baseball that many teams are not doing by a very large margin. They are pouring billions of dollars into players with hopes of forming a super team that can win championships for years to come. Some MLB owners don't want to take part in this, while others have the means to pour all their money out onto the field like the Dodgers ownership group. Throughout the last few years, the team has spent billions on their players, and some are not even being paid much money yet. The team has deferred approximately \$900 million into future years for some of their star players to keep their current payroll smaller. This is a common strategy to use for one or two players, but for this sum of money is unprecedented, which is why many are calling for the league to have a salary cap threshold.

This threshold would prevent the Dodgers from being able to offer just pennies on the dime to their players now and pay them their money later. The funds given later would not be a part of the salary cap due to the players either being off the team or retired. This is a cheat code in the system that many are calling for baseball commissioner Rob Manfred to remove to give the game a more level playing field. All teams can make this move, though smaller markets may not be able to keep up. However, it's not the smartest business decision from a money perspective, as you will most likely lose a lot of money if your franchise does not win a ring.

The current Dodgers team is stacked, to say the least. Their rotation features four arms: Shohei Ohtani, Tyler Glasnow, Yoshinobu Yamamoto and Blake Snell, who could be aces for almost any team in the league. Three out of the four ace contracts are in deferred money. They also have a few arms out of the rotation such as Emmet Sheehan and Landon Knack that could be solid rotational arms anywhere in the bigs. In the bullpen, they also have high-end arms such as Micheal Kopech, Ben Casparius and new addition, Tanner Scott, who has deferred money. The reigning World Series champions also features arguably the top lineup in baseball, led by Freddie Freeman, Mookie Betts and Shohei Ohtani, all of whom have deferrals on their current contracts.

While the Dodgers are just one team, if another team joins in on their spending spree, it could become detrimental to baseball. There are already big differences between low market teams and high spenders due to market revenue drawn from various factors, and some teams simply cannot compete with teams that offer these kinds of deals. It cuts off another one of their legs by saying you must build from the draft entirely now and you won't even have the chance to sign a player. That player will just end up going to the Dodgers or another high-market team that offers the most money because baseball is now broken, possibly beyond repair, unless Manfred and the league steps in.



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Women's basketball: New-look Husky offense welcomes in Villanova for second meeting of 2025

by Jake McCreven
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After Connecticut's 96-36 thumping of Seton Hall on Sunday afternoon, head coach Geno Auriemma was asked what led to such a high-volume offensive performance that saw three starters eclipse the 18-point mark.

"We kind of slashed our offensive playbook - a lot, I mean there were way too many things to choose from," Auriemma said post-game. "We just scaled it down to four or five things that we wanted to do and just [stuck] with those the entire game, and I think that's where the confidence and the flow [came] from."

That confidence was showcased throughout the box score. All 12 eligible players scored at least one basket in Sunday's win, as the Huskies - who shot over 55 percent from the field and 53 percent from deep - claimed their largest margin of victory in over three years (Jan. 2021 vs. Butler).

No stat line was more impressive than that of freshman Sarah Strong, who piled on a first half double-double en route to winning Big East Freshman of the Week for the seventh time this season (23/11/2). Redshirt senior Paige Bueckers recorded her 2,000th point as a Husky, becoming the 12th - and fastest - player to reach the milestone in program history.

Connecticut also welcomed the return of veteran forward Aubrey Griffin on Sunday, who played her first game in 381 days after a torn ACL last January ended her season early.

With the way Strong has been

playing on the post for the Huskies, it is unlikely Griffin cracks the starting lineup at the four. If Auriemma chooses to experiment with a small-ish ball lineup (which he has done at times this season), it is very possible the down-low duo of Strong and Griffin breaks itself in on the blocks.

UConn is 8-0 in conference play for the fifth straight season since rejoining the Big East in 2020-2021. One of those eight wins is the team's next opponent, the 10-9 (4-3) Villanova Wildcats.

Following its 83-52 loss to UConn on Jan 5, the Wildcats are 3-1, with a loss to Marquette being sandwiched between wins over Georgetown, DePaul and Saint John's.

The Huskies are 4-0 since last meeting Villanova, beating Xavier, Georgetown, Saint John's and Seton Hall by an average of 42 points. During that stretch, the Huskies ranked second nationally in effective field goal percentage (63.5) and first in two-point percentage (64).



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



Sports

Men's Basketball: UConn blows nine-point first-half lead, survives by the skin of their teeth 80-78 in overtime over Butler

by Connor Sargeant

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Following a heartbreaking 68-63 defeat at the hands of Creighton that snapped a 28-game home winning streak, the UConn men's basketball team returned to action this Tuesday, hosting the Butler Bulldogs at the XL Center. Connecticut got a crucial sixth conference win, holding on 80-78.

Despite the much-needed win, the Huskies' path to victory was not ideal. However, it has been par for the course, as nearly every game has been a fight for their lives.

UConn's questionable defense, coming in ranked No. 128 in the country, according to KenPom, played the part early on, with some questionable on-the-ball defense that included some open threes that the Bulldogs did cash in on. However, they finished the first half 3-8 on such shots. UConn did, however, show some positive signs offensively. After every defensive possession, the program took off running down the ball to start a fastbreak opportunity. While these didn't always yield points, Connecticut was able to set up the rest of its offense, which was led by Solo Ball and his electric scoring throughout the first half.

Despite getting beat on defense on numerous possessions, the sophomore guard torched Butler's defense with his elite scoring ability. Ball accumulated 15 points in the first 20 minutes on 5-9 shooting, including 3-7 shooting from deep.

Tarris Reed Jr. also had himself a solid nine-point, four-rebound half. However, what was even more crucial for the Huskies was the way he was getting these buckets. At times, the Michigan transfer was a one-man wrecking crew for the Huskies. Reed Jr. embraced his inner kodiak bear at times, throwing his body with all his strength toward

the hoop to get the board and go back up with it, which he was largely successful with. There was even a point in the contest where the UConn big man ripped the ball from the hands of a Butler defender after losing the rebound, making a putback, and finally energizing the Hartford crowd. Immediately following this, Ball kept the frenzy going with a massive three-pointer to put the Huskies up 10. Despite all the good things the program was doing on offense, their defense ultimately allowed Butler to come back into the game, as the Bulldogs went on a nine-point run near the end of the half.

A significant reason why the Bulldogs kept a pulse for as long as they did was due to the excellent offense of Andre Screen, coupled with numerous undisciplined fouls from the Huskies.

Screen had nine first-half points of his own on a 4-5 shooting performance, with most of his looks coming off a rebound or a broken-down play from the UConn guards, meaning either Samson Johnson or Reed Jr. had to play help defense, giving Screen an advantageous position.

However, what didn't seem to be an issue but transpired into one as the half progressed was UConn committing poor offensive fouls. This led to some unnecessary Butler free throws, including a three-point shot that did not go in but instead was called based upon not giving the shooter sufficient space to land.

Despite these confounding variables, UConn skidded to the halftime break up eight points, though with much to improve on. However, they played even worse in the second half.

The Huskies' defense in the paint went from bad to worse. After conceding a laughable turnover on an arid pass, Reed Jr. fouled Finley Bizjack on a layup, giving the sophomore guard an and-1 opportunity, though he missed the try. De-



UConn men's basketball takes on the Butler Bulldogs at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn. on Jan. 21, 2025. UConn defeated Butler in overtime, 80-78. PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

spite missing the free throw, Bizjack was the UConn killer in the second half. The guard put up 12 second-half points on 4-8 shooting, including 2-3 from downtown.

Jahmyl Telfort also built

off a six-point first half, scoring an additional 10 points on 5-9 shooting. As fluid as the Butler duo were offensively, the Huskies' defense was doing Butler all the favors in the world. Not only did the guards allow Bulldogs to walk into advantageous positions, which set up either free throws or open looks, but the fouling from Connecticut was as bad as it had been all season. Numerous and-1 opportunities for Butler, fouling on missed Butler threes and hacking the offensive player after getting beat. It was a significant reason neither program could jump out to a significant advantage, and this game came down to the wire. UConn committed 11 second-half fouls compared to Butler's six. To make matters worse, both Johnson and Reed Jr. fouled out of this contest before it was all said and done.

Despite UConn coming into Tuesday as 13.5 point favorites, a 68-68 game ensued with less than a minute to go, and the Huskies were fighting for their lives. With a chance to take a lead late, the Huskies needed a bucket, but to do so, they needed to inbound the ball, which proved to be much more difficult than it should have been.

After a Hassan Diarra pass was batted away and some chirping from Butler, Diarra tried again. However, to no avail, Diarra couldn't get the ball in, meaning UConn had to burn a timeout. Eventually, the Huskies got the ball in, but this was after Karaban chucked it over halfcourt to where only Diarra could get it. Still, the Huskies couldn't

do anything, as Diarra put up a questionable three-pointer with nearly no time remaining. However, Butler got possession with 2.5 seconds left and a chance to win. The Bulldogs chucked a full-court inbound pass, though Diarra intercepted it near the other three-point line. With nearly no time left, the guard put up a halfcourt heave to win it. However, Diarra narrowly missed, so this contest headed to overtime.

Overtime started on a sour note for Connecticut, as Butler quickly took a three-point advantage, but thanks to the efforts of Karaban and Ball, the Huskies quickly took control of the five-minute period. Karaban converted on an and-1 try to tie the contest, and Ball nailed a three to take the lead. However, Butler quickly came roaring back into Tuesday night's contest thanks to their ability to draw fouls and make some tough shots down low. Reed Jr. eventually hit a dagger layup with nearly no time left to put the program up four points. After some drama later with missed free throws and a chance for Butler to win it later, the Huskies held on for the win, 80-78.

Tuesday's contest was a classic Big East war, with UConn narrowly holding on for the win. Tuesday also marked the fifth game without Liam McNealey, and the program has missed him badly as UConn lacks shot-creators and a disruptive defensive presence. Despite the win being less than ideal, Connecticut has a chance to put together an even more complete performance this Saturday at Xavier.



UConn men's basketball takes on the Butler Bulldogs at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn. on Jan. 21, 2025. UConn defeated Butler in overtime, 80-78. PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS