

## Gant North Wing to begin renovations this summer

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On March 17, the University of Connecticut announced in a UConn Today article that renovations to the Gant Science Complex North Wing will begin in the summer of 2025. This is the final phase in a series of renovations that Gant has undergone, with the South Wing and West Wing completing renovations in 2019 and 2021 respectively.

Elizabeth Craun, the director of major projects in the university planning, design and construction department, talked about what the renovations will entail in an interview with the Daily Campus.

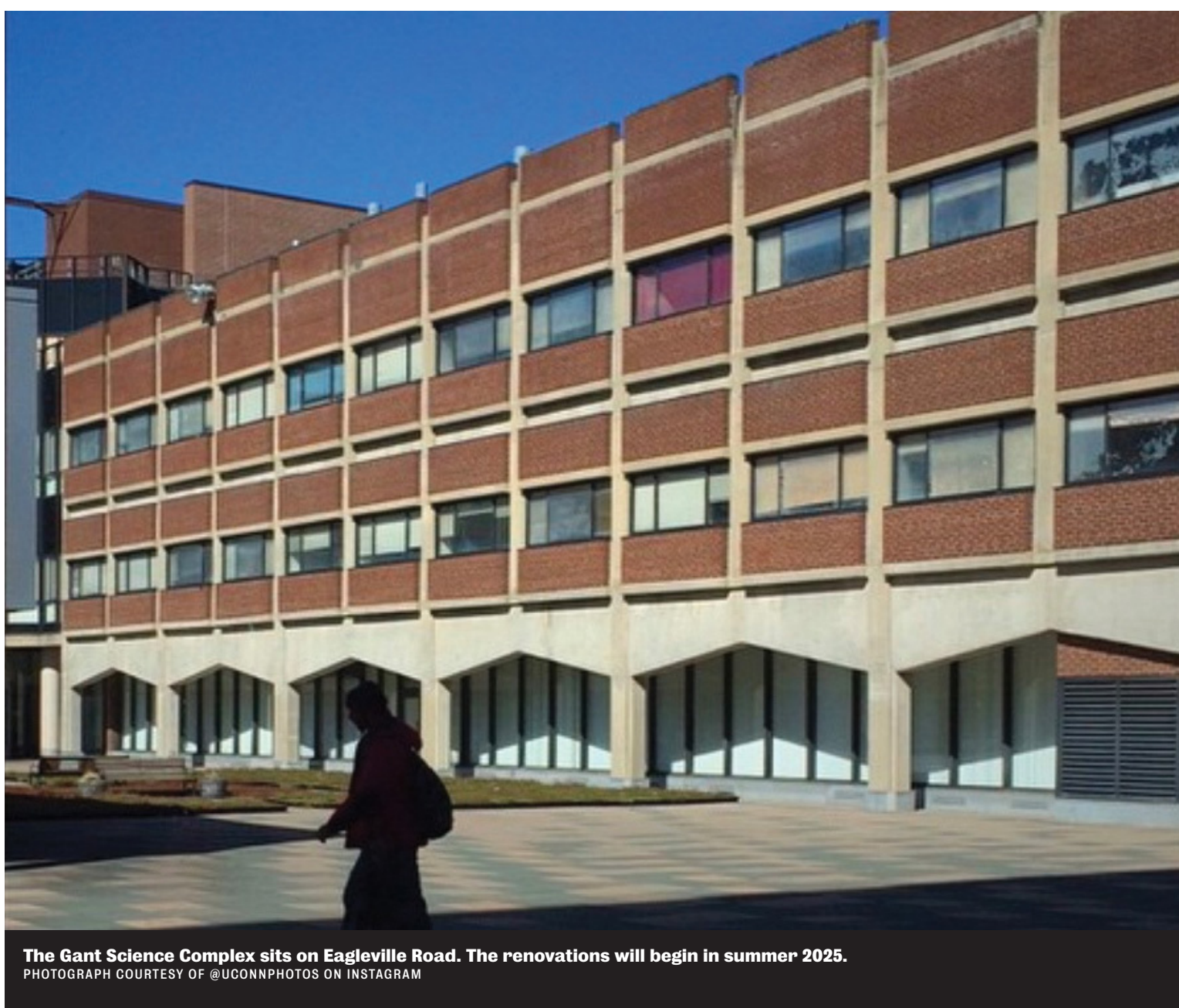
According to Craun, floors G, one and two will “focus on student services and instruction.”

“The primary use is classrooms for the science program, and that includes BIO 1000’s dedicated spaces, [ecology and evolutionary biology] dedicated spaces, as well as flexible science classrooms,” Craun said. “Those programs are all growing, UConn is growing as a whole, so floors G through two are really focused on supporting undergraduate education.”

Craun added that another addition on the ground floor will be a dedicated tutoring space for College of Liberal Arts and Sciences students.

“Another nice feature of this renovation is that on the ground floor, there’s going to be an advising and tutoring suite for CLAS. That’s a space that really doesn’t exist as a dedicated space right now, it’s been a need that’s been identified for a long time for CLAS,” Craun said. “It’s going to provide tutoring services, it’s going to provide advising and support spaces, and it’s really just a dedicated facility for that identified need.”

The third floor and a newly added fourth floor will house spaces for future research projects, although the specific projects haven’t been



The Gant Science Complex sits on Eagleville Road. The renovations will begin in summer 2025.  
PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @UCONNPHOTOS ON INSTAGRAM

determined yet, according to Craun.

“Floors three and four are going to be prepared for future research, but because we want to stay flexible and not allocate those spaces to a user yet, they’ll be fit out for the future to accommodate future needs... all of the mechanicals will be put in, but they won’t be finished,” Craun said. “When the user or occupant of those floors is identified, then there will be a trailing project. It may happen under the Gant

project; it may happen as a separate project.”

The renovations will begin once graduation ends and is set to be completed in the 2027-2028 academic year.

“We’ll probably see the shovel in the ground sometime around June 1st... we really take advantage of the summer because it’s a lower traffic period... and then we know that we’ll be opening in the 27-28 academic year,” Craun said. “The goal is to open for fall 2027... [but] we may be opening for the spring semester

of 2028. That’s somewhat up in the air right now. We are still driving for fall 2027, but we do want to be transparent that we might be making a decision to open for spring 2028 instead.”

Craun said that the northwest entrance of Gant and the adjacent sidewalk will be closed during the construction process.

According to the UConn Today article, this project is a part of the UConn 2000 initiative, and it received funding from the state’s Next Generation Connect-

icut initiative. The NextGenCT initiative has previously funded UConn projects such as the renovation of Monteith Building in 2016 and the construction of the Science 1 Research Center.

According to Craun, the Institute for Material Sciences used to be housed in Gant North before being moved to the Science 1 Research Center after its completion. Gant North has been vacant since the construction of the center, so there “won’t be any loss of space for usage” during the renovations.

## How to celebrate Passover at UConn this year

by **Samantha Brody**  
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The Jewish holiday Passover is arriving, starting on April 12 and lasting until April 20. The University of Connecticut and its student organizations have begun preparing for ways to accommodate the needs of Jewish students during this holiday.

Passover celebrates the Exodus of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt in the 13th century. According to Encyclopedia Britannica, the first night of Pass-

over involves a ceremonial meal known as the seder. For the entirety of the holiday, those who observe uphold dietary laws and special prohibitions.

UConn Dining Services has prepared for Passover by working with Jewish student organization UConn Hillel and with NOSH Kosher Kitchen to ensure Jewish students have access to the food they need to celebrate, according to their website.

Students celebrating Passover can eat meals prepared by NOSH Kosher Kitchen either at Hillel House or at Gelfen-

bien Dining Commons. However, students and any guests must sign up beforehand using a meal form available on the UConn Dining Services website. Sign-ups close on Wednesday, April 9.

Students with a meal plan can pay for their Passover meals using meal swipes, flex passes or points. Students can also use traditional payment methods such as check or credit card. They can also choose to apply the charge to their fee bill.

UConn Hillel will also be hosting an event specifically for seder on April 12 at 6:30 p.m.

The event was advertised on the organization’s Instagram account, which included a link to RSVP for seder.

UConn’s preparation for Passover is in line with the university’s Religious Accommodation Policy from the Office of University Compliance.

“The University of Connecticut is committed to providing welcoming and inclusive learning and workplace environments,” the policy said. “As part of this commitment, the University will make good faith efforts to provide reasonable religious accommo-

dations to faculty, staff and students whose sincerely held religious practices or beliefs conflict with a University policy, procedure, or other academic or employment requirement, unless such an accommodation would create an undue hardship.”

The Office of the Provost has further information on what students can expect should they require special accommodation in keeping with their religion. This includes excuses from class and faculty responsibilities regarding students’ religion.

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THE DAILY CAMPUS NEWSLETTER

## News

# Tesla sales tumble 13% as Musk backlash, competition and aging lineup turn off buyers

NEW YORK (AP) — Tesla sales fell 13% in the first three months of the year, another sign that Elon Musk's once high-flying car company is struggling to attract buyers.

The leading electric vehicle maker has faced a growing backlash from Musk's embrace of right-wing politics and his role in the Trump administration. Opponents have staged protests at Tesla showrooms in the U.S. and in Europe, where the sales declines have been steeper.

Tesla's line-up is aging, and some consumers may have held off from buying its bestselling Model Y while waiting for an updated version. The Austin, Texas, company also faces fierce competition from other EV makers offering vastly improved models, including those of China's BYD.

Tesla reported deliveries of 336,681 globally in the January

to March quarter. The figure was down from sales of 387,000 in the same period a year ago. The decline came despite deep discounts, zero financing and other incentives and could be a warning that the company's first-quarter earnings report later this month could disappoint investors.

Dan Ives of Wedbush said Wall Street financial analysts knew the first quarter was likely bad, but turned out even worse than expected. He called the sales results a "disaster on every metric."

"The brand crisis issues are clearly having a negative impact on Tesla...there is no debate," he said.

Musk has been President Donald Trump's point man in his effort to cut government spending. As criticism of Musk mounted and Tesla's sales and stock price slumped, Trump last month held an extraordi-

nary press conference outside the White House in which he praised Tesla, blasted boycotts against the company and bought a Tesla himself while TV cameras rolled.

Tesla investors have complained Musk's work at the Department of Government Efficiency has diverted his focus from running Tesla. On Tuesday, New York City's comptroller overseeing pension funds holding Tesla stock called for a lawsuit accusing a distracted Musk of "driving Tesla off a financial cliff."

After falling as much as 6% in early Wednesday, Tesla stock shot up more than 5% on indications that Musk may soon return his attention to Tesla. Politico, citing anonymous sources, reported Trump has told Cabinet members that Musk will step back from his role at DOGE in coming weeks.

Tesla's stock has plunged by roughly half since hitting a mid-December record as expectations of a lighter regulatory touch and big profits with Donald Trump as president were replaced by fear that the boycott of Musk's cars and other problems could hit the company hard. Analysts are still not sure exactly how much the fall in sales is due to the protests or other factors.

Still, even bullish financial analysts who earlier downplayed the backlash to Musk's polarizing political stances are saying it is hurting the company, something that Musk also recently acknowledged.

"This is a very expensive job," Musk said at a Wisconsin rally on Sunday, referring to his DOGE role. "My Tesla stock and the stock of everyone who holds Tesla has gone roughly in half."

Tesla cars have been smashed and set on fire in recent weeks,

and protests have been staged at hundreds of Tesla dealerships. Owners have put bumper stickers on their cars saying, "I bought this before Elon went crazy."

Europeans have also balked at buying Tesla, especially Germans upset after Musk publicly supported a far-right party in national elections and gave what many say was a Nazi-like salute at a Trump inauguration rally in January.

Tesla is expected to report earnings of 48 cents per share for the first quarter later this month, up 7% from a year earlier, according to a survey of financial analysts by research firm FactSet.

Nearly all of Tesla's sales in the quarter came from the smaller and less-expensive Models 3 and Y, with the company selling less than 13,000 more expensive models, which include X and S as well as the Cybertruck.



Officers from Ottawa Police Service (OPS) are seen at a Tesla Service and Showroom centre after it was damaged with pink spray paint in Ottawa, Ontario, on Monday, March 31, 2025.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SPENCER COLBY/THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA AP

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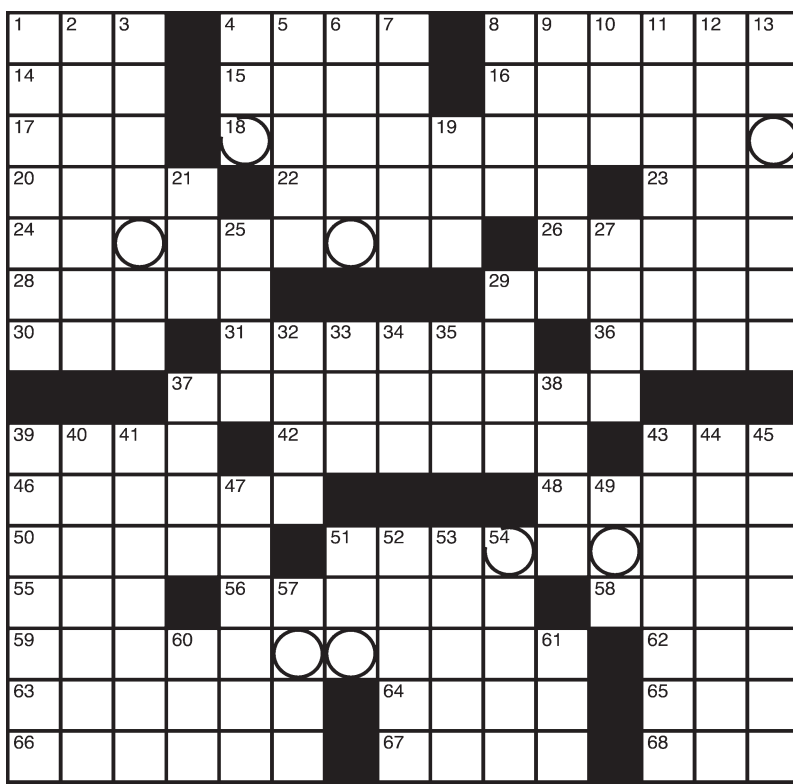
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**ACROSS**

- 1 Drill sound
- 4 Basics
- 8 Look up to
- 14 Polish name?
- 15 Shut with attitude
- 16 West African country
- 17 "Mulan" voice actress Ming-Na
- 18 Upstanding citizen?
- 20 A pop
- 22 Unremarkable, in a way
- 23 Doc with an otoscope
- 24 Window to a simulated world
- 26 Muppet with a beloved rubber duckie
- 28 Hunter who goes after Bugs
- 29 Motion picture pioneer
- 30 White alternative
- 31 Small cave
- 36 Make concessions
- 37 Instruction before a group prayer, or, when parsed differently, an apt description of what 18-, 24-, 51-, and 59-Across do
- 39 Trilling solo
- 42 Appear to be
- 43 "Get a room!" elictor, for short
- 46 "For your viewing pleasure" brand
- 48 How fries are fried
- 50 French school
- 51 Pickle
- 55 Power
- 56 Play a flute
- 58 Nestlé bar with a bubbly texture
- 59 Increase that might be documented on a door frame
- 62 -been
- 63 Water whirls
- 64 Country star McEntire
- 65 Reddit Q&A
- 66 Square dance call
- 67 -buco
- 68 Receipt line



By Kareem Ayas

4/3/25

**DOWN**

- 1 Transition word
- 2 Ready to greet the sun, perhaps
- 3 "Am I dreaming?"
- 4 Light hair color
- 5 Light hair color
- 6 Prints such as U.S. Woodland, familiarly
- 7 Campfire treat
- 8 Uttar Pradesh tourist site
- 9 Faced off with swords
- 10 Hot
- 11 Hot
- 12 Nostalgic get-together
- 13 London setting of "Call the Midwife"
- 19 CPR giver, often
- 21 Giggle syllable
- 25 Ship of Greek myth
- 27 Kids
- 29 Ages and ages
- 32 Swell
- 33 See 34-Down
- 34 With 33-Down, soulmate
- 35 Highland cap
- 37 "Just Visiting" Monopoly square
- 38 "Proceed"
- 39 Settled, as a score
- 40 "I Love Lucy" surname
- 41 Tiny crustaceans
- 43 Mitre, informally
- 44 Historical miniature
- 45 Jazz combo instrument
- 47 Made
- 49 Government org. that employs many mathematicians
- 51 Lean-
- 52 Genius at the Apple Store, e.g.
- 53 Sticks
- 54 Thyme and basil
- 57 Very, very
- 60 Mario Kart platform
- 61 Benjamin Hoff's "The \_\_\_ of Pooh"

**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**

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

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4/3/25

# Daily Campus Crossword And Sudoku

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

Solution to Wednesday's puzzle

4/3/25

7	4	2	3	1	5	6	8	9
5	6	8	4	9	7	2	1	3
3	1	9	2	6	8	4	5	7
8	3	5	6	4	2	9	7	1
1	7	6	8	3	9	5	2	4
2	9	4	5	7	1	3	6	8
9	5	1	7	2	4	8	3	6
4	8	3	1	5	6	7	9	2
6	2	7	9	8	3	1	4	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](http://sudoku.org.uk)

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## Life

# Mara Pastor's poetry reading showcases the power of language

by **Elijah Polance**

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Puerto Rican poet Mara Pastor delivered a poetry reading and discussion to the University of Connecticut community at Susan V. Herbst Hall on April 1.

The event was bilingual, with more emphasis on Spanish than English. Katerina Gonzalez Seligmann, an associate professor in the Department of Literatures, Cultures and Languages, translated some of the Spanish comments into English.

Before the reading began, Seligmann introduced Pastor and her work. Pastor had selected a handful of poems to read from her award-winning anthology "Deuda Natal," which translates to "Natal Debt" in English. The poems were written in Spanish, but English translations by María José Giménez and Anna Rosenwong made up the second half of the collection.

Many of the poems focused on Pastor's experiences in Puerto Rico. They blended childhood memories and her current life there, touching on topics like climate change, the housing crisis and the power of language.

Pastor would introduce and read her poems in Spanish, and afterwards, Seligmann read the English translation. The first poem read was "Los Bustos De Martí," which translates to "The Busts of Martí" in English. In it, Pastor creates the image of different memorials to José Martí, a Cuban poet who helped Cuba earn inde-

pendence from Spain, all coming to life, confusing the rest of the world.

One recurring idea in Pastor's poetry is something she calls "the edge" in English. Her poem of the same name delved into the idea, presenting it as a fragile and desirable state of being. Afterwards, Pastor said she was impressed with her translators' ability to relay ideas between languages, even when they do not share the same words to convey them.

"This is a poem where you

see that I have great translators because they've handled something that is impossible to manage," said Pastor.

"They've written a totally new poem, which is beautiful. Which is what we always do when we're translating, it's just very clear that it's happened here," she said.

"Deuda Natal," or "Natal Debt," the poem the work is named after, had a hypnotic rhythm when read in both languages. Pastor made use of repetition as she declared what

is, what she wants and what will be.

Once Pastor concluded the reading, participants, who were both in-person and online, were invited to ask her questions. The discussion shifted seamlessly between Spanish and English depending on the language the question was asked in. Repeated images in her poems, colonialism and language were frequently addressed in the discussion.

When an online participant

asked a question in Spanish, Seligmann translated Pastor's answer, which provided context for Pastor's goals with writing.

"You want to bring into your writing the words for things that are becoming extinct in Puerto Rico in relation to fruits and other flora and fauna," said Seligmann.

In doing this, Pastor helps preserve language, share the characteristics of Puerto Rico and bring attention to the decline of wildlife because of human activities. Preserving language is one of the main goals Pastor wishes to address with her writing, as dominant groups can erase it.

"As a colonial subject, I have realized that we need to stand against losing language and also losing the capacity of abstraction," said Pastor.

One of the final questions for Pastor was about the work of translation and whether she still viewed the English translations of her poems as her own.

Pastor responded by saying the poems still felt like hers, as the translators retained the essence of her work. However, she said they can feel different when she reads them, giving a sense of "language dysphoria."

"We are different versions of ourselves in every poem, in every language and in every poem," said Pastor.

"But in every language we speak, we are different versions of ourselves. We don't express ourselves in the same way in our mother tongue or our native language, and you might relate to this, the way we express ourselves," she said.

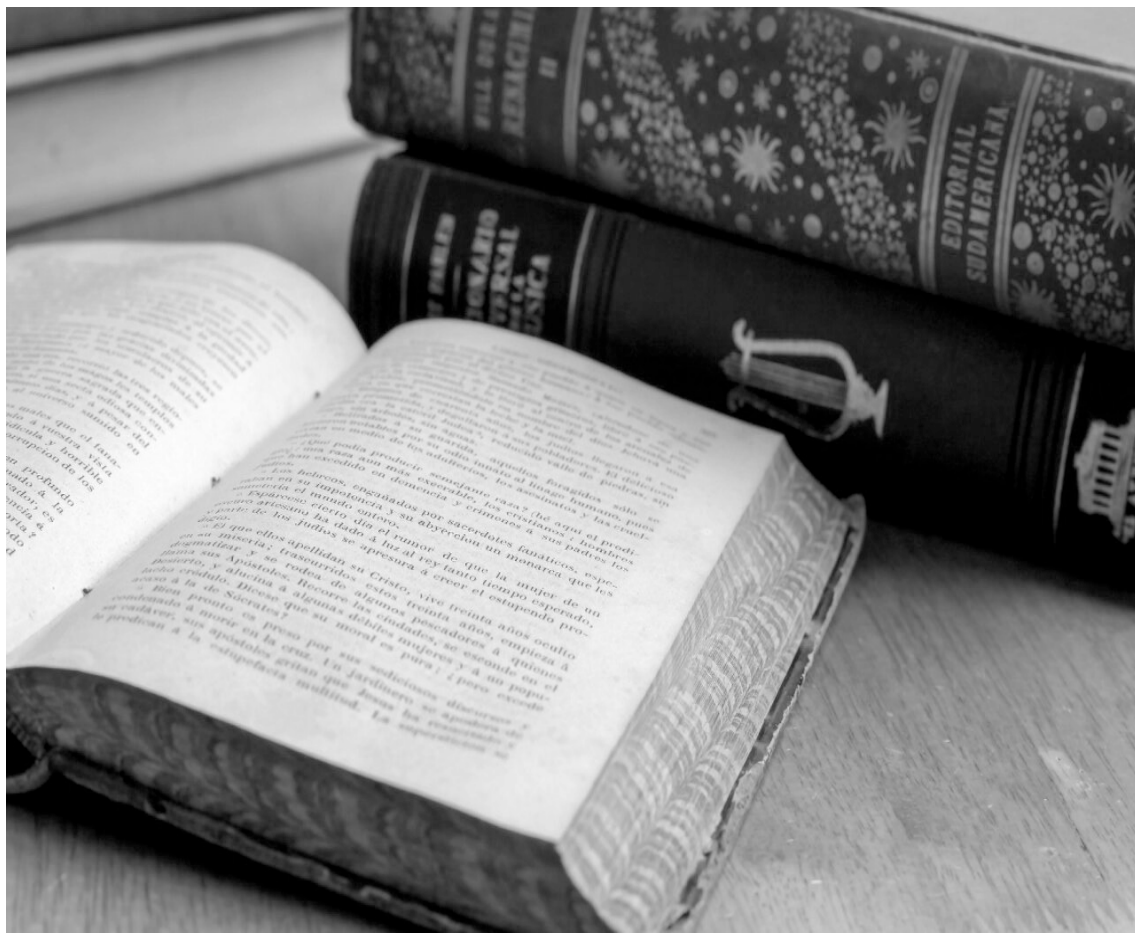


IMAGE COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

## We come to this place: A night with the Alliage Quintet

by **Kyler Kumi**

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We all know the feeling that comes when the lights are turned off right before a performance begins. "I'm excited...I love music," a woman sitting behind me exclaimed.

We were there to see The Alliage Quintet, an ensemble made up of five saxophonists and one pianist. Prior to the event, I had never considered the combination of those instruments; I was not disappointed.

The ensemble performed their first two pieces with no introduction, starting to play shortly after entering the stage. As a saxophonist myself, I noticed and appreciated the simultaneous breaths the players took whenever they could. With the fast tempos that often characterize classical music, those rapid opportunities to inhale were paramount.

After the first two songs, the soprano saxophonist ap-

proached the microphone. He explained that when the saxophone was created by Adolphe Sax in 1846, jazz was not even a thing. So, although we might associate the saxophone with the jazz genre, saxophones originally played classical music.

Classical music can notoriously be quite long. At least once during each song, the players stopped playing without re-treating their mouths from their mouthpieces. This signified an ending of a movement, but not the piece. The first couple of times the audience responded with hesitant applause, which made the people on stage smile before beginning to play again.

On several occasions, the performers elicited laughter from the audience. The first time this happened was near the beginning of the suite from "West Side Story" when they snapped in unison. It was quite unexpected, especially since, up to that point, only the soprano saxophonist had produced noise outside of the sound from their instruments.

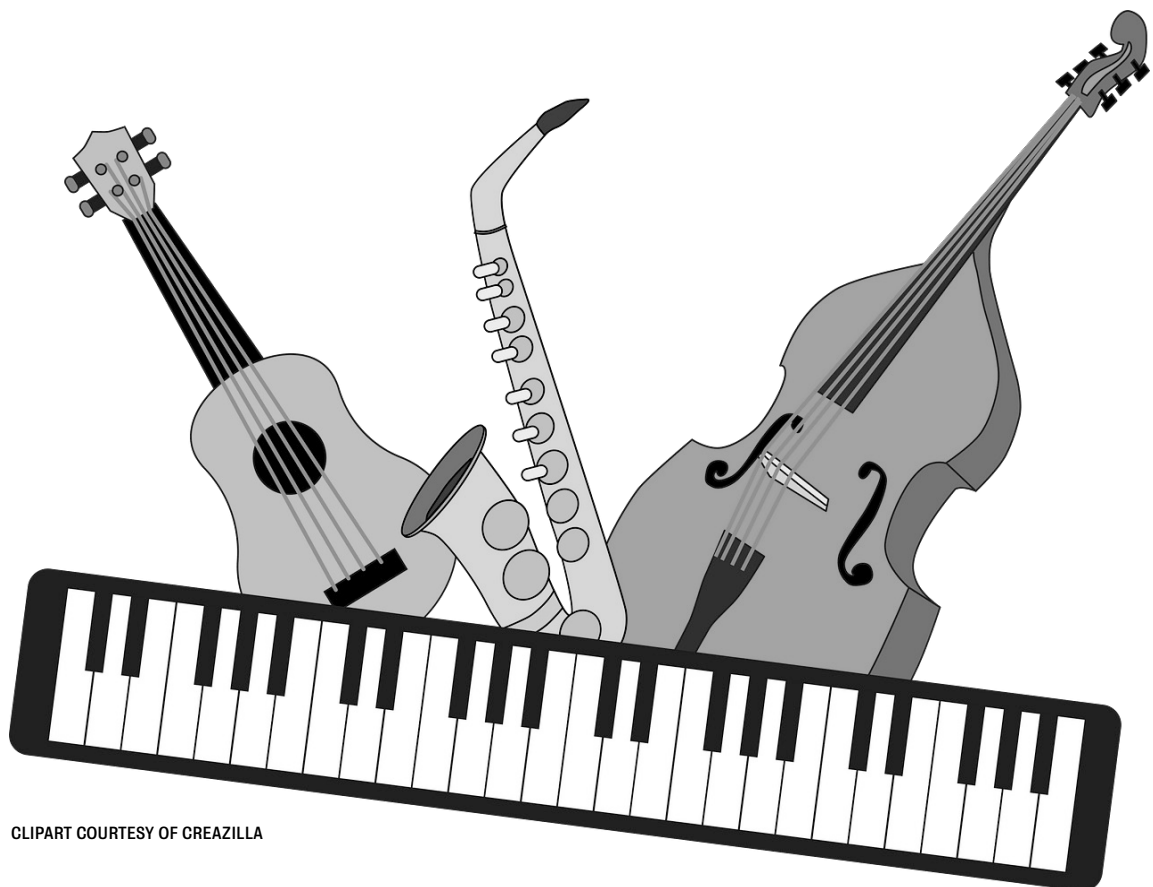
Later, they yelled out "Mambo!" while playing "Mambo" from "West Side Story."

The performance was comprised of so many special moments, like when people swayed their heads back and forth. Someone whispered between pieces, "they're really good!" Most of all, it was clear how much fun the performers were having. They moved with their instruments, as if the instruments were just a medium to which they were expressing themselves.

When the soprano and alto saxophones had a duet, the other two stood back in admiration, smiling at their favorite sections or shaking their heads in disbelief.

In a time with so many polarizing views, it was wonderful to be in a room that everyone had come to for one reason: to leave the Jorgenson feeling something much more than a melody.

More information on upcoming performances at the Jorgenson Center can be found online at [jorgensen.uconn.edu](http://jorgensen.uconn.edu).



CLIPART COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

## Split Record Review: Skrillex delivers a questionable new album

by **Henry St. Pierre**

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Welcome back to Split Record Review! This week, James and I will be discussing what might be the most divisive record we've tackled yet. Growing up in the early 2010s, one of the biggest musical fads of the time was dubstep. A staple of Minecraft videos and MLG parodies alike, artists like Skrillex were inescapable on the internet for a few years.

While he may seem archaic nowadays, Skrillex was, at one point, one of the biggest artists on the planet. With massive hits like "Bangarang," Skrillex, aka Sonny Moore, brought his style of overstimulating electronic dance music and enigmatic persona to the top of the world. His look became instantly recognizable: a scrawny white kid with scraggly hair, swooped to one side, thick rimmed glasses and ear gauges.

Contrary to what you might think, Skrillex is still going and staying true to his format. His latest effort, "Fuck U Skrillex You Think Ur Andy Warhol but Ur Not!! <3," sounds exactly

like what you would expect from the title alone. It's long-winded and downright confusing.

The opener, "Skrillex is Dead," sets the tone for the album perfectly. If you grew up listening to FM radio, this track sounds like the prerecorded call signs that play before each commercial break. At just 50 seconds, it somehow overstays its welcome and fails to reach anything remotely close to comedic.

This album sees Skrillex attempt to join dubstep and trap in holy matrimony. The coupling of these two genres feels more like an arranged marriage than love at first sight. The result of this unholy combination is 34 tracks that serve as an exercise in patience.

"Tears Lost Drop" opens with the "shadow wizard money gang" tag front and center, before dropping into the usual beeps and bleeps you would expect from a Skrillex drop, complete with meme soundbites. Though the track is deeply unserious, it's one of the most listenable on the record.

For more of the story visit [DAILYCAMPUS.COM](http://DAILYCAMPUS.COM)



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST  
EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# THE DODD CENTER HOSTS A SCREENING OF 'WITNESS TO WAR'

CONTENT WARNING: DEPICTIONS OF WARTIME CONDITIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab**  
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The Dodd Center for Human Rights hosted a screening of the 1985 award-winning documentary "Witness to War" about the human rights violations during the civil war in El Salvador on April 1.

Afterwards, a conversation commenced between Charlie Clements, the focus of the film, Deborah Shaffer, director of the film and Scott Wallace, professor of journalism.

Director of the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute Kathryn Libal introduced David Richards, associate professor of the political science department and affiliate of the Human Rights Institute, who introduced Charlie Clements.

Charlie Clements is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and a human rights activist who defied orders and refused to fly more missions during the Vietnam War. As a result, he was put in a psychiatric ward. After being discharged, Clements pursued his doctorate and applied his medical knowledge abroad, going to El Salvador during the civil war to help injured and dying civilians.

The film began with a reading of Clements' diary. In El Salvador, Clements noted the statistic that "25% of all children die from malnutrition causes."

Clements said that at first, they used gauze to treat wounds, but after there were crackdowns on gauze, they used mosquito netting as a substitute. When mosquito netting was restricted, they used diapers. It was noted that a woman was murdered for transporting diapers.

Clements remarked that he went to El Salvador "because [he] feared that another Vietnam War was going to happen." He recounted the story of

a woman who was nine months pregnant and gave birth with her leg wounded from grenade shrapnel.

An El Salvadorian woman said she and others didn't trust Clements at first because they thought he was a "gringo" or a "yanqui," but after he started to tend to the injured, he won their trust. For example, he treated a baby with medicine and vitamins after telling the mother not to lose faith.

There was a startling piece of footage where men armed with rifles were pushing people, including children, towards a car. A cameraperson was hiding be-

hind something and filming the act.

Footage was then shown of anti-Vietnam War protests at colleges. Clements recounted a quote by former President John F. Kennedy about how people shouldn't think about what their country can do for them but what they can do for their country.

After going to a psychiatric ward for not complying with Air Force policies and not facilitating the Vietnam War with more missions, Clements said, "I was told I was going to get strapped down and get an injection if I don't cooperate."

They weaponized mental illness diagnoses to oppress Clements. "I made a personal commitment to nonviolence," said Clements. After leaving the psychiatric ward, Clements went to medical school in 1980.

Another El Salvadorian woman remembered how her husband was murdered, while food sources and hidden stock were destroyed, burned and killed. Even an avocado tree was chopped down so people couldn't eat from it.

Children were murdered, and some of their bodies couldn't be located. The movie ended with a quote about how someone said that there was a violence of the spirit by watching your children die of malnutrition.

The audience was made aware that there was a display with artifacts in the Dodd Center's reception room that also appeared in a slideshow presented before the movie was screened.

The film's Oscar-winning ceremony was then played for the audience.

Next, a promotional video for the 2027 Charlie Clements Digital Archive sponsored by the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute was shown. The digital archive includes Clements' diary written in El Salvador. "The diary was a catalyst for other memories," he said in the video.

The archive was described as "remnants of a life of activism" and a way to understand how policies change. He also said that being an activist takes a toll on your family. There was a self-care focus in the archive, which is rarely seen in archival projects. Clements ended the video by saying "you can never go wrong with being kind to someone."

Then, there was a conversation between Clements, Shaffer and Wallace, the moderator. Shaffer said "I wouldn't be a filmmaker without the Vietnam War" since it radi-

calized her into anti-war activism.

She then remembered how an article about Clements in the New York Times was removed. When she was working with CBS News, they weren't interested in covering Clements' story.

Clements said the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front was seen as a legitimate combatant by Mexico and France. He also remembered how customs gave him trouble for having medicine in his backpack.

Clements said, "I hoped the movie would be about El Salvador" because he wanted the war to end. Instead, Clements recounted, "the film made me a movie star." He was also accused of being a communist.

Wallace said, "Vietnam weighed a lot on our generation." Shaffer said, "there was a lot of idealism in America in the 1950s." She also said her friends were drafted into the war and were either killed in action or their lives were in danger.

Clements said that just being a college student made you exempt from the draft, leaving poor people at a disadvantage.

A student in the military asked Clements what it was like getting an Article 15 disciplinary action, to which Clements replied, "we need honorable people in the military." Former President Richard Nixon said there were no soldiers in Laos, but Clements said he lied.

In an interview with Clements, when asked what his life was like after his work in El Salvador, he said that he was also involved in trying to stop the Iraq War. He also recalled the genocide in Guatemala.

He said that 80 million protesters didn't deter the government from the Iraq War, but he also said, "I think that when we learned to organize and create pressure on elected officials. That's how we make policy changes."

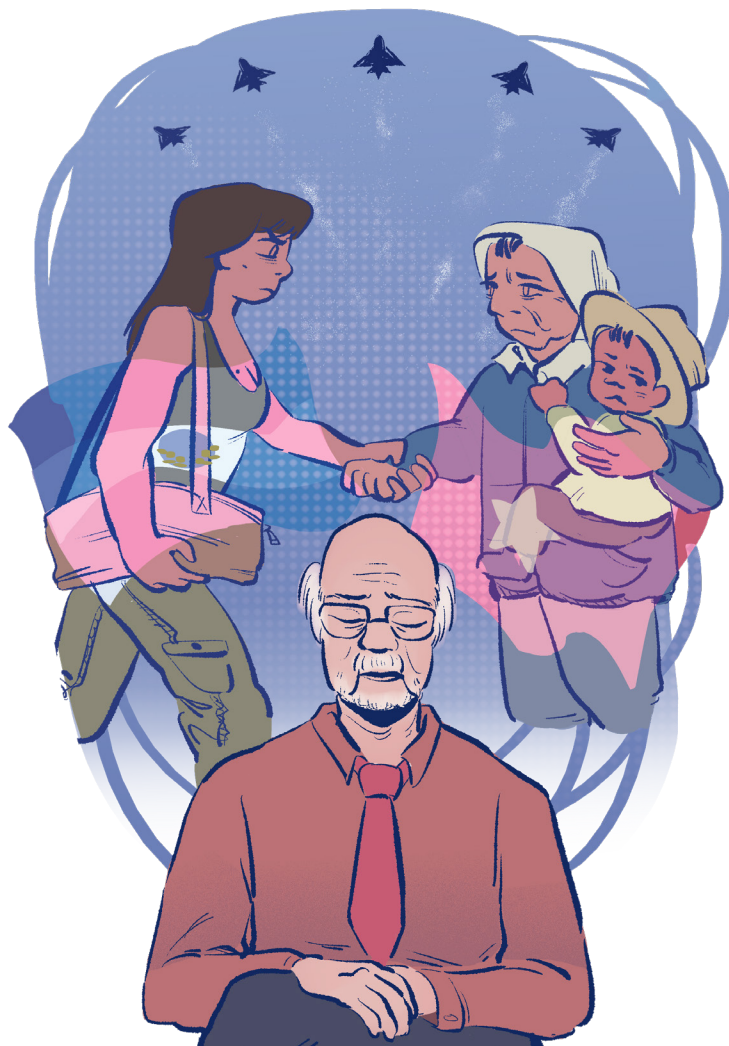


ILLUSTRATION BY LEE ERNEST, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# THE MUSIC NEVER STOPS: EDDIE DAHILL

by **Dan Stark**  
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We all want to find our purpose in life, something that gets us out of bed in the morning with the energy to take on a new day. After years of searching, Eddie Dahill found that purpose with music.

Dahill is a talented multi-instrumentalist who is the drummer of Ruby Leftstep, an alternative rock band that has become one of the biggest names in the Connecticut music scene. At the heart of their sound is Dahill's emphatic and John Bonham-esque drumming, as well as his songwriting contributions.

Music became a part of Dahill's life when he picked up a ukelele while working at his parents' farmstand during his sophomore year of high school. He spent his time learning songs like "Stairway to Heaven" before he realized he wanted to play music with others, so he started taking lessons at Downright Music in Collinsville, Conn. It was there that he started playing bass, which he still plays on the band's latest recordings. But he soon realized that some ukelele chords transferred over to guitar, leading him to briefly put down the four-string and move up to six strings.

When the pandemic hit during his senior year, he decided to "strategically tank" his grades so that he could spend as much time playing guitar as possible. The approach paid off, giving him hours to spend with the instrument.

"I knew I wasn't going to college, so I tanked my grades on purpose so I could have more time to spend on guitar," said Dahill. "And I bought a nice guitar and played for 10 hours a day."

In 2021, he met singer and guitarist Dylan Hrinda at

Downright Music and the two started jamming together frequently. After bringing in guitarist Thom Busemeyer to the fold, the core of Ruby Leftstep was complete. Dahill served as the group's bassist early on, during which they recorded their debut EP "The Ground Up," which was released in August 2022. But when their drummer left the band in January 2023, Dahill filled the newfound void and became the group's drummer, a role he has held since then.

Dahill is left-handed, something that usually requires drummers to shift their entire kit around. But he has experimented with different ways of setting up his drums instead of fully inverting the kit to a left-handed setup. He's constantly moving drums and cymbals around trying to find what works best, a process driven by the question, "how can I play this in the most efficient way possible and also look cool?"

One of the latest set-ups that Dahill has used involves placing the ride cymbal, which right-handed drummers keep on their right, on his left side, while the rest of the kit features a traditional right-handed configuration.

"The ride on the left side happened because it needed to," he explained. "At a gig, I didn't have enough space in front of me to where I literally would have been hitting Dylan's back with the ride cymbal, so I put my crash there and my ride on my far left above my hi-hats."

Though this set-up has been effective during live performances, it has presented a challenge while recording in the studio. In a right-handed setup where the hi-hats and ride cymbals are on opposite sides, the overhead mics placed on each side pick up on this contrast; however, this is lost when both are on the same

side. As a result, Dahill noted that "when you pan those overheads left and right, the left overhead is capturing so much cymbal," making it difficult to get a balanced mix.

To resolve this, Dahill has been teaching himself to play open-handed, with his less-dominant right hand playing the ride cymbal on the right side of his kit. Training his right hand has been "insanely difficult, but I know that it's worth it."

"Most days, I'll just sit there with a metronome and I'll play with my right hand as the driving force for an hour or two," he said. "It's not like I haven't made improvements, but it's not at a point where I'm like 'alright, let's put the ride on my right side at a gig.'"

Dahill is also actively involved in the band's songwriting process. Some songs like "Plastic Stranger," "The Comedown" and "Shuteye" have been written primarily by him, while others like the recently-released "Bitter End"

have been full group collaborations. He said that "there's a couple of songs where I'll write them almost entirely by myself, not because I prefer that, but just because that's what makes the most sense with the time that we have."

Over the last two years, Ruby Leftstep has established themselves as one of the best and most popular bands in the Connecticut music scene. They've also developed a strong presence in Storrs, including performing at and winning WHUS Radio's Battle of the Bands in February 2024, as well as other frequent shows in the area.

One of the shows in Storrs that stood out most to Dahill was the band's most recent appearance at The Dog Pound on Feb. 21. The energetic crowd danced and jumped along with the band. As Dahill looked out to the crowd, he could see them singing along as well, a powerful moment for him.

"I think the reason that felt so much more important is the

amount of people I could see singing the lyrics to songs that I wrote, it was super weird," he recalled. "I was like, 'Oh my god, how do you know this, what the hell?'"

Dahill spoke positively of the Storrs crowds, saying that "time and time again, they'll show up and dance no matter what." He made note of the camaraderie that can be found at Storrs shows, which helps the band foster "the most positive community we can."

Dahill called Ruby Leftstep "the most important thing I've ever been a part of." It's given him a profound sense of purpose, wanting to keep pursuing music in any way he can and molding him into "the person I've always wanted to be."

"Playing with Thom and Dylan has been very transformative to finding my own purpose," he said. "I feel like I've found what I should be doing. Whether it's recording, writing, playing live, doing live sound, it's definitely turned things around for me."



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# Life

@dailycampuslife

## ‘Didi’ brings nostalgic light to self-identity and growing up

by Maleena Muzio  
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Middle school drama and struggling with one’s identity—things that many know all too well. The 2024 film “Didi” touches on both of those things beautifully and in a relatable way.

The Asian/Asian American Faculty & Staff Association at the University of Connecticut held a screening of “Didi,” accompanied by a panel discussion, on Tuesday, April 1, to kick off their celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Although Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is officially in May, the university is choosing to celebrate it during April so students can get the full experience before leaving campus for summer.

“Culture is what rounds us and makes us who we are,” said panelist Sou Thammavong and staff for the UConn Transformation, Equity, Access and Sense of Belonging (TEAS) Project.

Students and faculty filled the Student Union Theater to come together in celebration and watch the award-winning film. Student members of the Asian American Cultural Center (AsACC) welcomed guests with

smiling faces and a plethora of complimentary Asian snacks and beverages.

“Didi” is a coming-of-age film that follows the 2008 summer of 13-year-old Chris Wang’s life. Nicknamed “Wang Wang,” Chris struggles to fit in with his peers, accept his cultural identity and navigate familial issues. Wang and his older sister, Vivian, are of Taiwanese American heritage and his mother and grandmother are both immigrants.

“This film is all encompassing,” said Elisa Tolentino, the graduate assistant at AsACC.

Audience members also expressed their connection to the film, feeling as though they could resonate with Chris’ experiences.

Premiering at the Sundance Film Festival, “Didi” won the Audience Award: U.S. Dramatic and the U.S. Dramatic Special Jury Award Best Ensemble Cast. The director of the film, Sean Wang, made his narrative debut with “Didi.”

The film is very nostalgic, using common technology from the 2000s to help tell Wang’s story. Flip phones, desktops and YouTube are all essential parts of Chris’ life, with interest in videography and the visual arts.

The film really does cover a little bit of everything. From young romance to parenthood

to sibling rivalry, Wang illustrates essential parts of adolescent life. Wang’s Asian heritage is crucial to his story, as he learns to be confident in who he is, having previously lied about being “half-Asian.”

“I did not realize how much I needed to see people who look like me on screen,” said journalist Catherine Shen.

On the topic of authentic representation in the media, Haritha Subramanian, vice president of UConn’s Undergraduate Student Government, said, “we do not get our stories told.”

Subramanian expressed that real representation, such as in “Didi,” is incredibly valuable compared to the stereotype-filled media that many grew up with.

In agreement, Juanito Briones, a student staff member at the AsACC, shared his past with cultural assimilation and setting his profile names to “Tony” as a child. In the film, “Wang Wang” chooses to tell his new white and Black friends that his name is Chris, despite previously going by his nickname with his old Asian friends.

At the end of the film, all conflict is resolved, as Chris reconciles with his mother and sister and reconnects with his true friends.

“[The end] felt very hopeful for Didi,” said Thammavong.

## YOUR MOVIE MAGE: ‘POPSTAR: NEVER STOP NEVER STOPPING’

by Isaac Grad  
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Welcome back to another issue of Your Movie Mage, where I discuss underrated movies across genres. Last week, we discussed the beautifully filmed and heartfelt movie “Little Miss Sunshine.” This week we’ll be talking about a very different genre of movie, a comedic mockumentary starring Andy Samberg called “Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping.”

This movie was released in 2016 and, despite Samberg being a well-known name, few people talk about this movie. Samberg and the rest of The Lonely Island crew are known for creating funny songs, so it’s bizarre to me that not many people are familiar with this movie.

This film follows “Conner-4-Real,” a superstar known by all who tries to maintain his superstardom, kicked off with his two best friends. The movie takes place after the breakup of their trio, when one stays on as Conner’s DJ and the other moves away to live on a farm.

The film features cameos from various famous artists who poke fun at themselves and others in the industry, including The Lonely Island crew. The characters follow a similar path to the real-life crew, with Samberg as the most famous and recognizable, Jorma Taccone as the next most known and Akiva Schaffer as the least known.

The movie certainly walks the line between absurdism and realism, only a few times slipping into being overly absurd.

What can’t be overstated about this movie is that the

hilarious songs are also genuinely good. Many of these make appearances in various playlists of my own, as they are catchy and funny. I’m not typically a huge fan of comedic music (aside from Flight of The Conchords, of course), but they nailed it in this movie. I can’t help but laugh out loud when listening to their songs.

The story itself isn’t wild and insane: It’s straightforward and is, more than anything, a way to allow for funny scenes. The ending is positive, with a nice message, but that’s not exactly why I enjoy watching it.

It seems the marketing for this movie is to blame for why few people have seen this movie. Along with that, a lot of people aren’t drawn in by the premise of a pop music mockumentary, which is fair. I recall when my dad suggested we watch the movie that, despite being a big Samberg fan, I had little interest initially. Of course, now I trust any movie recommendation from him.

This movie tracks with other Samberg films, meaning it has a bit of a cult following, yet didn’t receive much monetary success. Like “Hot Rod,” this movie has a more specific type of humor that perhaps not everyone enjoys, and a less-marketable plot than other movies being released at that time.

“Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping” is a hilarious movie, with some truly great songs in it, and it’s well worth a watch. I give it an underratedness score of 4/5, as it does have a small cult following. It’s not a perfect movie, but it will have you laughing the whole runtime (and after, if you add the songs to your playlist).

**Rating: 4/5**

## Tapa off your week with Spanish croquettes

by Oliver Power  
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This week on I Made It So You Don’t Have To, I found a great TikTok recipe that is surprisingly easy to make given the description. Tapas are Spain’s way of jazzing up an appetizer and this tapa of the week did not disappoint.

This week, we made Spanish ham and cheese croquettes. They are crunchy on the outside and soft on the inside, utilizing simple cooking techniques to achieve these great side dishes. This week, I decided to grill skirt steak to go along with these.

Let’s get to the recipe. First, we dice one yellow onion. These are different from other types of onions because they have a sweeter flavor, which makes the filling of the croquettes smoother.

Cut up about 3/4 of a stick of butter and add it to the pan with the onions, sautéing for three to four minutes on a medium to medium-high heat until translucent. Add in your chopped ham or pancetta. I used a combination of pancetta and prosciutto since that has the most similar flavor to the typical “jamón crudo” used in traditional Spanish croquettes.

Let these cook down for about three minutes and mix everything well. Gradually add 80 grams of flour and consistently stir into the mixture. It will start to get dry as you add more, but do not worry. This is part of the process since we can season this combination of butter and flour, which is called a roux.

Make sure this toasts for a minute or two to give it a smoky flavor. Once the roux is ready, lower the heat to medium and add milk in small drizzles. As you incorporate it, the milk will mix and then evaporate, so you add more once the evaporation has happened.

Complete using the listed amount of milk and add in your spices. This mixture is now a thicker bechamel, which is a sauce consisting of flour, butter and milk. Taste it to see if you like the blend of spices. Since it is a simple blend, adjusting to taste is super easy.

Add the mixture to a casserole dish or bowl, cover with cling wrap and refrigerate for about two hours. I did this in the afternoon, so it was ready for the night. When making this dish, make sure to plan ahead.

When ready to prep the croquettes out of the fridge, take a spoon and shape the mixture into 1.5 to 2-inch spheres. They should be easily moldable after having been refrigerated, but if not, sprinkle some flour into the mix. Once the balls have been formed, you should end up with around 15-16 of them.

Prepare three bowls: one with flour, the second with two eggs and a splash of milk and the third with Panko breadcrumbs. Add a dash of salt and pepper, along with the breadcrumbs. In this order, pass each ball through flour, then egg and then breadcrumbs. Fry them in frying oil deep enough that they are half-submerged until golden brown on the outside,

with oil kept at medium to medium-high heat.

For the skirt steak, I used roughly six slices of the steak and cooked for about two minutes on each of the sides at medium-high heat with olive oil, salt and pepper. I served the croquettes with a mayo-derived aioli to dip them in, made from one and a half tablespoons of mayo, three teaspoons of lemon juice and 1/8 teaspoon of salt and pepper.

For more of the story visit [DAILYCAMPUS.COM](https://www.dailycampus.com)

- Ingredients:**  
130g of cured ham or pancetta, or both  
3/4 stick of butter  
1 yellow onion diced  
80g flour (more for the fry prep)  
500mL milk  
1 container of Panko breadcrumbs (enough to coat each croquette)  
Salt (to taste)  
Pepper (to taste)  
1/4 tsp nutmeg  
Vegetable oil  
6 pieces of skirt steak  
Olive oil  
**Price:**  
Croquettes: \$14  
Steak: \$13  
**Rating: 4.8/5**



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



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# Opinion

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## ICE abduction of Pro-Palestine student activists is an unconstitutional scare tactic

by Declan Messier | CONTRIBUTOR  
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On March 8, student activist and green card holder Mahmoud Khalil was abducted from his apartment by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and arrested. Khalil had been a leader of Columbia University Apartheid Divest (CUAD) and, since the beginning of Israel's attack on Gaza in 2023, had been negotiating with Columbia University's officials. ICE apparently intended to deport him, believing he was living in the United States on a student visa. But when they were informed of his status as a permanent resident, they decided to hold him in detention while they attempted to legally invalidate his status.

This action was evident to most legal scholars as a significant overreach on the part of the federal government. Since ICE was operating on direct orders from the United States State Department, they did not have to obtain a warrant. When Khalil was arrested, the agents declined to show a warrant and even declined to identify what agency they were part of. Khalil was taken to an unmarked vehicle. Initially, Khalil's wife was not aware of where he was taken, but after some time, it was revealed to Khalil's lawyer that he was taken to an ICE detention center in Louisiana. The nature of Khalil's arrest, and the fact that ICE apparently tried to separate him from his lawyer by taking him to a distant detention center, are obvious attempts to cause confusion and fear among pro-Palestinian student activists in the U.S.

Despite the flurry of online rumors, Khalil was never charged with a crime. Instead, the State Department is attempting to deport him under an obscure section of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, which allows the Secretary of State to deport lawful residents whose presence risks "potentially serious adverse foreign policy consequences." As such, the State Department's case rests entirely on the presupposition that pro-Palestinian student activism risks the foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, the slanderous rumors that Khalil was violent, or that he was antisemitic, are admittedly not the basis of his kidnapping and attempted deportation. And while these claims are not part of the case against him, it should be said that no proof exists of Khalil's involvement in violent demonstrations or antisemitic statements, and Columbia officials regarded Khalil as someone with whom they could negotiate in good faith. Khalil also publicly disavowed antisemitism, saying, "There is, of course, no place for antisemitism. What we are witnessing is anti-Palestinian sentiment that's taking different forms, and antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism [are] some of these forms."

In response to these events, civil rights organizations have characterized the State Department's conduct as unconstitutional. The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression said, "Allowing the Secretary of State to deport any non-citizen whose views, in his subjective judgment, are against America's foreign policy interests places free expression in mortal peril."

While the Trump administration has claimed that this action and similar deportations are intended to prevent supposedly-growing antisemitism on college campuses, it is clear that Trump and Republicans' issue with pro-Palestine student activists is that they are drawing attention to the complicity of the United States in the Israeli genocide of Palestinians. By making an example of Khalil, the State Department hopes to convince any students sympathetic to the humanity and rights of Palestinians to keep their mouths shut and avoid activism. This attempt to censor the justified expression of pro-Palestinian student activists must be opposed by anyone who values free speech. It is my sincere hope that the deportations of Khalil and the other students abducted by ICE are struck down in the courts, although in some ways, simply by creating fear and uncertainty among activists, the damage has already been done.



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Patrick Minnerly | WEEKLY COLUMNIST | HE/HIM/HIS | patrick.minnerly@uconn.edu

As a resident of Towers at UConn, I often find myself walking in the parking lot sandwiched between Hillel House and the Catholic Center, a route which leads me through an opening in a wooden fence and up a long set of stairs that finally bring me to my dorm building. A few days ago, however, the fence opening was unexpectedly closed, meaning I had to either walk around the fence or try to hop over. All in all, this is an extremely minor inconvenience; walking around takes about 15 more seconds. But it was fascinating to see the choice in action: accept the waste of time and trudge around, or defy the fence by hopping over? It is a decision that holds much more weight when you apply it to far more consequential affairs, such as the current U.S. government.

Throughout the first few months of Trump's second term, as the administration has continuously flouted the rule of law and imposed draconian restrictions on everything from ideology to immigration, the idea of resistance has once again come to the forefront. During Trump's first term, resistance to his policies seemed much more defined and organized; the Women's March, which took place one day after Trump was sworn in, demonstrated the power of an organized, grassroots-fueled opposition.

But after nearly ten years of having Trump on the news every day, a length of time that seems both shocking and mind-numbing, widespread resistance has burned out. Organizers were astounded and exhausted by the fact that despite Trump's obvious transgressions, he won again in 2024. Even worse, he immediately set about smashing the norms and

workings of the government on a level hardly anticipated in his first term. This has created a sort of paradox where the conditions of democracy are deteriorating worse than ever, yet resistance appears feebler and people seem less interested in combating Trump. Yes, legal challenges to Trump's policies trundle along in the courts, and there are sporadic protests over specific issues. But one only has to look at massive, ongoing protests over democracy in Turkey and Serbia—two countries that have been teetering on the edge of authoritarianism for a long time—to know that we are doing much less in the U.S. We are not turning out by the hundreds of thousands every day and conducting widespread boycotts.

Even though nearly half of the voting bloc in America did not vote for Trump, we are not voicing our opposition as much as we could be.

This brings us to the fence dilemma. Faced with a barrier, you might very well hop over it the first time. But what happens when there are fifty fences to overcome? Chances are you would decide to just walk around eventually.

Yet walking around an actual fence only takes time, while avoiding issues of preserving democracy may cost your rights in the end. Of course, Trump's goal is to create so many problems, so quickly that there is a laundry list of actions detrimental to our democratic norms: defying a judge's order to halt deportations of migrants to an El Salvadoran prison, arresting college students off the street and revoking their visas because of their personal views, instructing the Smithsonian to

purge "improper ideology" and seriously floating the idea of a third presidential term. Those events, all from the past two weeks, are part of Trump's constant stream of swift democratic erosion. At the same time, all of these problems divide attention between them, so that only a few moments of outrage last for each one before the news moves on to the next issue, as there is always more to cover.

Faced with a barrage of illegal or unethical actions, we must consider what lies at the heart of all of them—a concerted assault on democracy—and act accordingly. Senator Cory Booker, a Democrat from New Jersey, exemplified this idea when he spoke for more than 24 hours on the Senate floor, protesting against the lack of normality we find ourselves in by disrupting the regular business of the chamber. Booker's speech contained protests against many Trump administration policies, but first and foremost, he did all he could to fight against Trump's attempts to make democratic government obsolete. The speech captured attention nationwide, providing a step in the right direction for those looking to find a spark in what has been a concerning past few months.

Much as Trump has been continuous in his ways, resistance should be continuous as well. In Turkey and Serbia, every day the people protest, boycott and go on strike puts more trepidation in the hearts of their governments, the fear that their countries will grind to a halt. That is the response this moment in the US deserves. Letting Trump know that his "new normal" of attempted autocracy is not accepted is needed to begin the new phase of resistance.

## 'Daredevil: Born Again' continues to impress (more or less)

by Isaac Grad | STAFF WRITER | HE/HIM/HIS | isaac.grad@uconn.edu

We are now up to episode seven of the new Daredevil series on Disney+, and with each episode, I am more impressed. Though received well by viewers, some are questioning how the show is continuing, especially episode five. I have found that the show has successfully maintained the feel of the original series, while still showing that Murdock is now in the same universe as other known characters—though it is worth mentioning that in the original series, we had some similar indications.

Episode four was one of the most significant and emotional episodes of the series thus far, as we're reintroduced to Frank Castle, aka the Punisher, on the anniversary of his first appearance in the original series. The chemistry between the two characters remains with feelings of anger and immediate disagreements, which is a crucial element in how the two interact. We also begin to see the downfall of Fisk as mayor, as he starts to feel a lack of power compared to before.

Episode five was a bottle episode, meaning the plot of this episode was separate and disconnected from the rest of the series. It seems this episode garnered the most mixed reviews, as many thought the Disney production was showing. While I agree that it wasn't the strongest episode of the series, it wasn't bad. There were some very memorable moments in this episode. We saw the series connect with the Marvel Cinematic Universe at large, with mentions of Ms. Marvel as Matt Murdock worked with her

dad to survive a bank heist. Having watched episode seven, this filler episode could have been utilized to continue the main story more, as it's feeling a bit rushed.

By episode six, there's a release of the build up from the previous episodes. We're finally seeing Fisk and Murdock show their true nature. We saw a key point from the original series, which is an equivalency between Fisk and Daredevil, bringing into question how different they are. Additionally, the focus is put on Muse, a serial killer who's terrorizing the city. I will note that the buildup to this character was a bit strange, as people have supposedly been going missing for a while by this point, though we didn't hear much about it. There were ample opportunities to slip in foreshadowing about a growing threat building in the absence of Daredevil that were missing from the beginning episodes.

I will say that Angela, the niece of Hector Ayala (the White Tiger), was an interesting character when she was first introduced, but I was deeply annoyed with her by the sixth episode. It felt unrealistic that she would go to a blind lawyer and request that he do something about a serial killer he has no connection to, without assistance from the police. Her solution to him rightfully stating that there's nothing he could do was to go down into the abandoned train station where people are going missing, alone and with nothing but a cellphone flashlight. While her stupidity was annoying, it did

ultimately lead to the return of Daredevil, which of course is a positive.

I'm curious to see where they will connect Fisk into this story, seeing as the main bad guy has been Muse, who Fisk and Daredevil are working to take down. We're seeing another classic Daredevil problem, in which the police are compromised, in this instance by Fisk. However, Fisk is disconnected from the criminal world he had previously been king of. While they are showing indications of his violence and willingness to commit crimes, they have not built up anything on this end, making it difficult for me to conceive how they'd include it. It seems instead they'll focus on Fisk's power of word as mayor, putting Matt's secret at risk of being revealed, and punished by the law, over which Fisk has more direct control over.

SPOILERS FOR EPISODE SEVEN

The seventh episode is the first one to make me question where this story is going. It feels very disconnected in terms of what Fisk's motivations are, and who will become the new bad guy after Muse's demise. I don't want to preemptively judge, but currently I'm struggling to see where they're going. There are certainly ways they can go with this story that put Matt in difficult situations, but as they haven't built anything up at this point, it's difficult to know where they're aiming to go.

For more of the story visit [DAILYCAMPUS.COM](https://www.dailycampus.com)

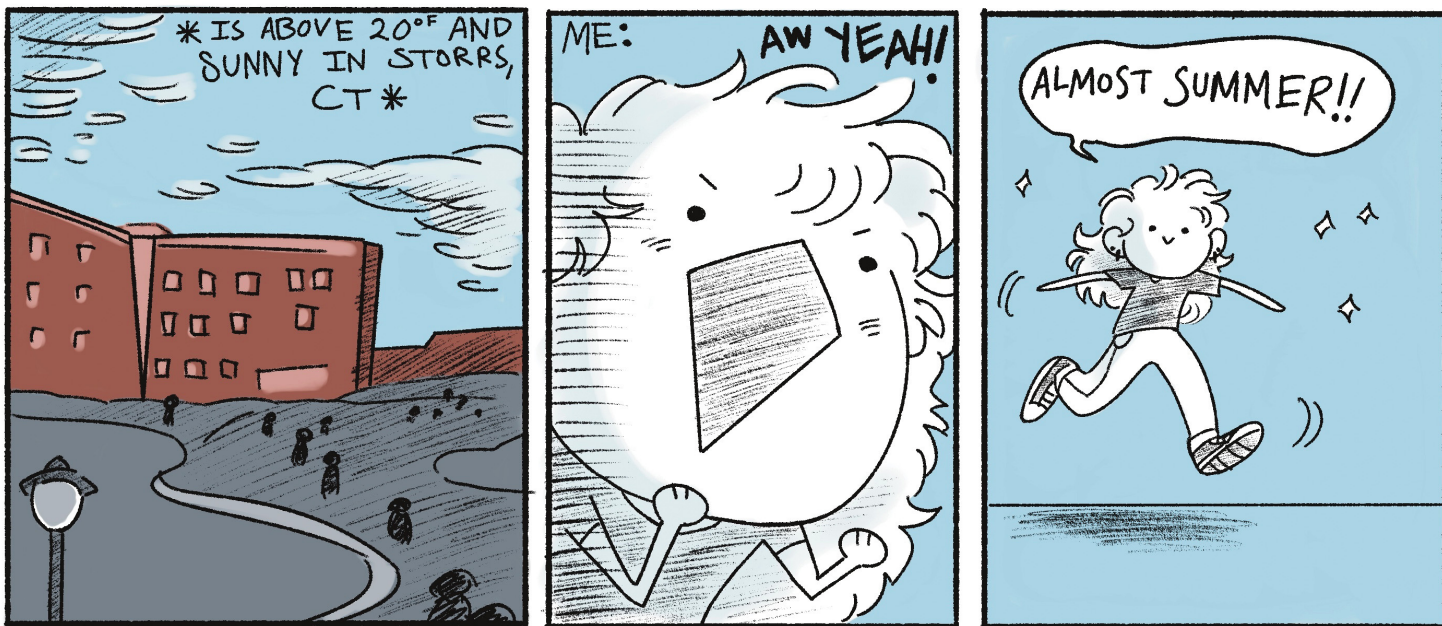
# Opinion

## Photo of the Day | Spring is springing!



The sun sets over the University of Connecticut as students make their way across campus in Storrs, Conn. on Tuesday, April 1, 2025. The temperature for the coming weeks will be in the high 50s and low 60s, hinting warmth as summer break nears. PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# ..... COMICS .....



COMIC BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY CONNOR SZREJNA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



KRISTA 4/2/25

COMIC BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# SPORTS SPECTRUM: ATLANTA BRAVES ARE OFF TO A ROUGH START

by Seth Wallen

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The Atlanta Braves claimed the World Series title in 2021, creating an unforgettable atmosphere that had everyone celebrating. After securing their first championship since 1995, it seemed their core would remain intact in the long term, and the future looked bright. Unfortunately, the 2022 season ended in disappointment with a first-round playoff exit. However, they bounced back with a remarkable 100-win season in 2023 and were recognized for having the league's top offense, with each player posing a significant threat.

National League MVP Ronald Acuña Jr. dominated with 40 home runs and 70 stolen bases, while Matt Olson led in home runs and RBIs. Austin Riley, Michael Harris II and Sean Murphy also added to their offensive strength. Spencer Strider, the Cy Young runner-up and strikeout champion, had an outstanding season. Despite this, they faced a first-round exit by the same team that eliminated them last year—the Philadelphia Phillies.

Two seasons have passed since that high point, and the team has lost the core that led them to the World Series. Dansby Swanson is on the Chicago Cubs, Freddie Freeman is the recently-crowned World Series MVP for the Los Angeles Dodgers and Max Fried is the next up pitcher for the New York Yankees. Both Acuña Jr. and Strider are injured, and the outlook for 2025 appears grim.

It's important to remember that this is just the beginning of the season, and there's still plenty of time for things to change. The Braves are relying on a lot to go right this year, but there's also a lot of potential for improvement and success.

## 2024 in Retrospect

As noted earlier, the Braves faced considerable injury setbacks throughout the season. Key players, including Riley, Sean Murphy, Harris and Ozzie Albies, each spent significant time sidelined due to various injuries, which undoubtedly im-

pacted the team's performance. Despite these challenges, the Braves managed to showcase a remarkable aspect of their game this season: their pitching strength. Their pitchers consistently delivered strong performances, helping the team remain competitive in a tough season marked by numerous injuries.

Chris Sale was acquired during the offseason, bringing with him a wealth of experience and skill that proved invaluable to the team. He showed an impressive pitching record, with 18 wins and only three losses throughout the season, accompanied by an outstanding earned run average (ERA) of 2.38. Sale dominated his competition in the National League, achieving an extraordinary level of performance that led him to top rankings in several key pitching categories. He not only led the league in total wins and strikeouts, but also boasted the best ERA among his peers, an achievement that allowed him to secure the coveted Triple Crown for pitchers. His remarkable performance culminated in him being honored as the National League Cy Young Award winner, a testament to his outstanding abilities on the mound.

In addition to Sale's stellar contributions, rookie Spencer Schwellenbach emerged as a significant asset to the team's pitching staff. His development and performance throughout the season enhanced the rotation, bringing fresh energy and competitiveness that complemented Sale's leadership. Meanwhile, the bullpen played a crucial role, providing essential support in high-stakes situations, ensuring that leads were maintained and games were secured.

Overall, the pitching staff excelled not just through individual accolades, but as a cohesive unit that topped the league in vital statistics, such as team pitching, wins above replacement and ERA. This exceptional collective effort helped to offset the difficulties the team faced on the offensive side, demonstrating that a strong pitching foundation is key to success in the league. The combination of

Sale's dominance, Schwellenbach's emergence and the bullpen's reliability created a formidable pitching arsenal that rivaled any in the league, setting the stage for a successful season ahead.

Despite this, their postseason ended in remote disappointment, as they were swept in the wild-card round by the San Diego Padres. Chris Sale was also sidelined for this series, which is another blow to their roster. In Game One, former New York Yankees pitcher Michael King delivered an impressive performance, pitching seven scoreless innings while striking out 12 batters and walking none. The Padres' offense was clicking, with Fernando Tatis Jr. sending the ball over the wall for a 2-run homer. Kyle Higashioka also had a sacrifice fly, which is another blow to their roster. In Game One, former New York Yankees pitcher Michael King delivered an impressive performance, pitching seven scoreless innings while striking out 12 batters and walking none. The Padres' offense was clicking, with Fernando Tatis Jr. sending the ball over the wall for a 2-run homer. Kyle Higashioka also had a sacrifice fly by Marcell Ozuna. However, in the 2nd inning, the Padres responded with five runs. Higashioka hit another home run, with Manny Machado and Jackson Merrill delivering key hits that contributed to the win over the Braves.

## 2025 Rough Start

Minus spring training, the Braves started their season facing the same team that had eliminated them from the playoffs: the Padres. They were scoreless for about 29 innings, beginning with the 5th inning of their second game against the Padres, through the last two games, which were shutouts, and ending with a home run from Harris in their first game with the Dodgers. They lost that game 6-1. Through the four-game sweep, they were outscored 17-7, highlighting their offensive struggles. While their pitching staff had moments of effectiveness, they lacked key run support. In their second game against the Dodgers, they scored only one run, which was due to a fielding error, and lost the game 3-1. Despite this rough start, the Braves have shown potential for improvement in the 2025 season, and with the right adjustments and strategies, they could turn their season around.



The Braves are starting rough after losing to the San Diego Padres on Sunday, March 30. The team will play against the Miami Marlins on Friday, April 4. PHOTO COURTESY OF @BRAVESWORLDWIDE ON INSTAGRAM

As if things couldn't get any worse, their recent outfield acquisition has been suspended just four games into the season due to testing positive for a performance-enhancing substance, which has generated considerable concern among fans and team management. This suspension has sidelined him for a significant portion of the season, affecting not only his statistics but also the team's overall performance. Furthermore, if the Braves manage to reach the postseason, he will be ineligible to participate, which could have critical implications for the team's playoff strategy and success. This player had signed a three-year, \$42 million contract with the Braves this winter, following a notable season with the Padres where he not only earned his first All-Star selection but also won a prestigious Silver Slugger award, highlighting his exceptional skills at the plate. During the previous season, he achieved an impressive OPS+ of 134, indicating his offensive prowess and value as

an elite player in Major League Baseball.

There's still hope, however: Manager Brian Snitker remains optimistic despite the team's struggles thus far. Their upcoming home opener is scheduled for April 4 against their divisional rival, the Miami Marlins. This match presents an excellent opportunity for the team to reset, regroup, and address any early-season challenges that they might be experiencing. While the current standings may appear concerning to fans and analysts alike, it's crucial to bear in mind that the MLB operates differently than the NBA, with significantly more games remaining to be played in the season. This extended schedule allows teams the chance to turn things around and build momentum as they progress into the warmer months, when performance often begins to shift. So, despite the initial difficulties, the outlook remains somewhat positive as there is still plenty of time to rebound and make a push for improvement.

# LATO'S LENS: FINAL FOUR PREVIEW

by Tyler Lato

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And then there were four.

But not just any four. For the first time since 2008 — and only the second time ever — all four No. 1 seeds have made it to the Final Four of the NCAA men's basketball tournament. After a fantastic, eventful and entertaining March, America is getting the Final Four that it wholeheartedly deserves.

The Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas, will be rocking this Saturday as the Florida Gators take on their fellow SEC rival, the Auburn Tigers, in a highly anticipated rematch. Immediately following, the No. 1 overall seed Duke will square off against Houston, the top seed in the Midwest Region.

In total, this Final Four features three different conference champions — Duke (ACC), Houston (Big 12) and Florida (SEC) — setting the stage for one of the most competitive, talent-stacked Final Fours in recent history.

Without further ado, here's a preview of what's to come for this epic weekend of college basketball.

## Florida

Round of 64: 95-69 win over No. 16 Norfolk State  
Round of 32: 77-75 win over No. 8 UConn  
Sweet 16: 87-71 win over No. 4 Maryland  
Elite 8: 84-79 win over No. 3 Texas Tech

## Starting Lineup

Walter Clayton Jr., Guard  
Alijah Martin, Guard  
Will Richard, Guard  
Alex Condon, Forward  
Rueben Chinyelu, Center

## Preview

Florida certainly had one of the hardest routes to the Final Four out of everyone in the tournament, barely squeaking out wins against Maryland, Texas Tech and defending two-time national champion UConn. In each of their tournament wins, several key players rose to the occasion, including guard Walter Clayton Jr. Clayton Jr. has been nothing short of incredible, averaging 23.3 points per game this tournament while hitting several key shots that helped seal close victories. Their bench has been incredible as well, especially forward Thomas Haugh, who was the difference maker in their Elite Eight victory over Texas Tech. Overall, this Florida team is dominant in nearly every facet of the game and will be a pain for Auburn to take down on Saturday. Not to mention, the Gators have already ousted Auburn 90-81 in the regular season.

## Auburn

Round of 64: 83-63 win over No. 16 Alabama State  
Round of 32: 82-70 win over No. 9 Creighton  
Sweet 16: 78-65 win over No. 5 Michigan  
Elite 8: 70-64 win over No. 2 Michigan State

## Starting lineup

Chad Baker-Mazara, Guard  
Denver Jones, Guard  
Miles Kelly, Guard  
Johni Broome, Forward  
Dylan Cardwell, Center

## Preview

After suffering a loss to Tennessee in the semifinals of the SEC Tournament, the Auburn Tigers have bounced back, cruising to the Final Four convincingly. The Tigers are led by SEC Player of the Year Johni Broome, who's currently averaging 18.7 points, 10.9 rebounds and 2.9 assists. In their Elite Eight matchup against No. 2 Michigan State, Broome left the game with apparent elbow and knee injuries but later returned and played out the rest of the game. However, Broome appeared to have a slight limp, which may play a huge factor in the game on Saturday. Regardless, head coach Bruce Pearl's Tigers are talented all across the board and possess the ability to beat virtually any team in college basketball. Guard Miles Kelly and center Dylan Cardwell complement Broome rather nicely, resulting in a balanced team all around.

## Duke

Round of 64: 93-49 win over No. 16 Mount St. Mary's  
Round of 32: 89-66 win over No. 9 Baylor  
Sweet 16: 100-93 win over No. 4 Arizona  
Elite 8: 85-65 win over No. 2 Alabama

## Starting lineup

Sion James, Guard  
Kon Kneuppel, Guard  
Tyrese Proctor, Guard  
Cooper Flagg, Forward  
Khaman Maluach, Center

## Preview

In my opinion, the reigning ACC champion Duke Blue Devils have by far the most talented team in the entire tournament, possessing several five-star prospects. In fact, the Blue Devils have five-stars who don't start, including center Patrick Ngongba II and guard Isaiah Evans. Their most prolific player, however, is ACC Player of the Year and projected top draft pick Cooper Flagg. Flagg has been virtually unstoppable this tournament, including his 30-point performance in Duke's Sweet 16 win over Arizona. Tyrese Proctor, Khaman Maluach, Kon Kneuppel and Sion James have all played massive roles in the Blue Devils' postseason run, resulting in a balanced, versatile attack that's nearly impossible to contain.

## Houston

Round of 64: 78-40 win over No. 16 SIU Edwardsville  
Round of 32: 81-76 win over No. 8 Gonzaga  
Sweet 16: 62-60 win over No. 4 Purdue  
Elite 8: 69-50 win over No. 2 Tennessee

## Starting lineup

LJ Cryer, Guard  
Emanuel Sharp, Guard  
Milos Uzan, Forward  
J'Wan Roberts, Forward  
Joseph Tugler, Forward

## Preview

Under the reign of head coach Kelvin Sampson, the Houston Cougars have been a household name in college basketball in recent years. What's baffling is that Houston has never won a national title in program history — a baffling statistic, to say the least. However, if there was a year for Sampson to break through, 2025 definitely feels like it. The Big 12 champions are playing their best basketball right now, suffocating teams on the defensive end while making timely shots on offense. Guards LJ Cryer and Emanuel Sharp have been leaders for the Cougars, both averaging double-digit point totals while bringing much-needed veteran experience to the table. A Duke-Houston Final Four matchup is ultimately a dream scenario for college basketball lovers — a clash between two perennial powerhouses as they compete for a bid to the national championship.

## The Games

No. 1 Florida vs. No.1 Auburn: Saturday at 6:09 p.m.  
Prediction: Florida  
No. 1 Duke vs No.1 Houston: Saturday at 8:49 p.m.  
Prediction: Duke

## Sports

## Photo of the Day | UConn v USC



The UConn Huskies defeat USC in the Elite 8 at Spokane Arena on March 31. UConn won with a final score of 78 -64 and moves on to play UCLA in the Final Four.

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## TYLER'S TAKE: THE BOSTON CELTICS MAKE HISTORY WITH SIX ROAD GAME

by Tyler Pruneau  
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In 1973, the Boston Celtics won five road games in a row, the most in NBA history. However, the team surpassed their own record with six victories after beating the Memphis Grizzlies last Monday. In this week's edition of Tyler's Take, I am breaking down all six matches that led to the franchise rewriting history.

### Utah Jazz:

In the Celtics' 121-99 win over the Utah Jazz, Kristaps Porzingis put on a dominant performance, nearly securing a triple-double. The center finished with 27 points, knocking down three for five from deep and six for 10 within the field. Moreover, the 29-year-old grabbed 10 boards and dished out six assists. In addition, Jayson Tatum notched a 26-point game, making just three of his 10 attempts from three. However, he went eight for 15 from within the arc. To add on, Payton Pritchard and Sam Hauser dropped a combined total of 32 points coming off the bench.

### Portland Trail Blazers:

Despite Porzingis and Jrue

Holiday not participating against the Portland Trail Blazers, the Celtics still took the 129-116 win. Tatum topped the team with 30 points, dropping 10 for 17 from within the paint, but struggled beyond the arc, shooting one for seven. In addition, the leader snagged nine balls and assisted nine players, nearly finishing with a triple-double. Furthermore, Hauser had a night, putting up 24 points from the three-point line. Additionally, Pritchard saw his first career start for the franchise, ending the night with 16 points.

### Sacramento Kings:

In the Celtics' 113-95 victory over the Sacramento Kings, Tatum, for the second night, led in points scored and assists. Despite leaving late in the third quarter with an ankle injury, the former Duke Blue Devil cashed in 25 points, nailing five of nine three-pointers and three of six shots from the field. To add on, the forward set up eight teammates for assists. Besides Tatum, Pritchard dropped 22 points off the bench, the second highest for the team. He finished five of 13 from deep and three of five on two-pointers.

### Phoenix Suns:

Regardless of Tatum not playing due to an ankle sprain, the Celtics handed the Phoenix Suns a 30-point deficit loss. Porzingis returned and dominated the court, putting up 30 points. The big man nearly went perfect from three, making four of his five shots and knocking down six of 10 attempts from field goal range. In addition, Jaylen Brown became runner-up with 24 points, landing four of nine beyond the arc and three of six shots within the paint. To add on, Holiday, Al Horford and Derrick White each contributed 16 points for a combined total of 48 points. Moreover, Horford led the team with 10 rebounds, while White had seven assists.

### San Antonio Spurs:

The Celtics defeated the San Antonio Spurs 121-111, with Tatum ending with a double-double after missing the previous match. The star cashed in 29 points, going eight for 13 from two but only making two of his nine attempts from deep. However, the 27-year-old hauled in 10 boards and dished out eight balls. Holiday went five for seven outside the perimeter and buried three of five field goals.



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

Luke Kornet came off the bench hot, converting seven of 10 jumpers and snatching a career-high of 16 rebounds.

### Memphis Grizzlies:

In the final away game, the Celtics knocked off the Memphis Grizzlies 117-103. After checking in, Horford proved that age does not matter, as the 38-year-old led the team with a season-high of 26 points. With 37 minutes of court time, the veteran drained six of 13 three-point attempts and went three

for five within the arc. Tatum sat behind Horford with 25 points and 14 boards. To add on, White passed Isaiah Thomas with 246 made threes in a single season in Celtics' history, per X.

In the month of March, the Celtics held a 14-1 record, and nothing looks to stop them now. With seven contests remaining, the team is "trending in the right direction at the right time," said Tatum when asked about the postseason, according to Sports Illustrated.

## KNICKS POSTSEASON OUTLOOK: HOW THEY STACK UP AGAINST THE BUCKS AND PISTONS

by James Badeau  
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It's the last two weeks of the NBA season, which means it is time to talk playoff matchups. The New York Knicks are 48-27, making them third in the Eastern Conference. The Indiana Pacers, who knocked the Knicks out of the playoffs last season, are 4 games behind New York. I can comfortably say that the Knicks will finish the season in third place in the East.

The Knicks have a zero percent chance of catching the Boston Celtics, who are eight games ahead of them.

New York will face either the Milwaukee Bucks or the Detroit Pistons. The Bucks lead the Pistons by two games. As of today, Milwaukee holds the tiebreaker over Detroit, 2-0. However, the two teams still have two more games to play against each other this season.

If the season ended today, the

Knicks would face the Bucks (41-34). I would love this matchup if I were New York. The Knicks swept the season series 3-0 and have a win differential of +65. Two out of the three games were complete blowouts, featuring Knicks wins by 22 and 34 points. In the early January game, Jalen Brunson dominated with 44 points and six assists.

Milwaukee will most likely be missing star guard Damian Lillard for the first round with deep vein thrombosis (blood clots), the same injury that took down Spurs' Victor Wembanyama back in February. The Bucks are going to rely heavily on two-time MVP, Giannis Antetokounmpo, to lead the way without his teammate Lillard. Ryan Rollins and Kevin Porter Jr. are key names to look for to step up for Milwaukee.

On the Knicks' side of things, Brunson needs to continue his dominance over the Bucks, averaging 37 points per game vs

Milwaukee in five games last season and 30 points per game this season in two games vs Milwaukee.

However, the ankle injury that Brunson suffered in Los Angeles on March 6 may alter how the Knicks play against the Bucks. Brunson was cleared to resume basketball activities earlier this week. The Knicks are hopeful he returns before the playoffs begin.

My prediction? The Knicks win the series 4-1.

The Detroit Pistons (42-33) are the matchup I would be less confident with if I were the Knicks in round one. If you had told me this time last year that I would be worried about facing the Detroit Pistons in the playoffs, I would have called you crazy. Detroit has tripled their win total from last year, 14, to now 42—the first team in NBA history to complete such a feat. The Pistons lead the season series over New York 2-1 with one game to

play on April 10.

The Pistons are headlined by Most Improved Player of the Year candidate, Cade Cunningham. Cunningham is averaging 25.7 points and 9.2 assists a night, putting him third in the league. Cade dominated at Madison Square Garden this season, posting a 29-point triple-double and dropping 36 on the Knicks. New York will need to figure out a way to stop Cunningham from getting hot in the playoffs. Tom Thibodeau should put elite defender OG Anunoby all over Cunningham. When the former Raptor checks out, Mikal Bridges should take the assignment and guard Detroit's top scorer.

Another bright spot for the Pistons this season has been Malik Beasley. Beasley has shot the lights out this season, leading the league in three-pointers made. He is also in the top 10 in three-point percentage with 42.3. Beasley shot even better against the Knicks this sea-

son, hitting seven out of ten three-pointers in their January matchup and six out of eight in February.

If the Knicks want to pump the brakes for Detroit, they must guard the perimeter. They are 27th in the league in opponents' three-point percentage per game with 37.3. The major weakness this season for New York is leaving players wide open behind the three-point line. For the Knicks to defeat Detroit, they must figure out their defensive struggles.

The difference between Detroit and Milwaukee is experience. Detroit's roster is filled with young talent who have little to no experience in the postseason. Milwaukee has tons of experience. They won the championship back in 2021, so they know a thing or two about the difference between the regular season and playoffs.

My prediction? The Knicks win this series 4-1.

# BRAYDEN'S BREAKDOWN: GRADING EVERY RED SOX STARTING PITCHER

by **Brayden Gorski**  
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In a complete 180 from last season, the 1-4 Boston Red Sox have struggled from the plate to begin the year. A top-10 offense by almost every offensive metric last season, the Sox have not scored more than five runs in a game this season. Apart from Wilyer Abreu and Kristian Campbell, the bats have struggled mightily, resulting in a four-game skid.

The pitching staff has provided hope that once the bats get going, this team will be a contender in the American League.

**Garrett Crochet: A-**

A Cy Young hopeful coming into the season, Crochet was solid in his first outing. The Opening Day starter went five innings, allowing two runs and striking out four batters against the Texas Rangers. Crochet got himself into trouble in the second inning, giving up a walk and then two consecutive hits—the latter of which drove in the first run of the game for the Rangers. He then settled in, only allowing one more run in his last three innings of work. Crochet earned a no decision, but his stuff kept the Sox in the game, helping them notch their lone win of the season so far. If he can keep his pitch count down, he will be a workhorse for this Boston team. Crochet signed an extension on Monday night that will keep him in a Red Sox uniform until at least 2030.

**Tanner Houck: C**

The home-run ball struck Houck in his first start of the

season. The 2024 all-star gave up two to Jonah Heim, followed by another two earned runs later in the game. Houck was not great during the second half of the season last year, going 1-4 post all-star break. Despite all of this, he is still a top arm in a rotation that is playoff caliber

when fully healthy. The right-hander will make his second start of the season on Thursday afternoon against the Orioles.

**Walker Buehler: C**

Buehler gets the benefit of the doubt since he had Tommy John surgery in 2022, missed all of 2023 and started in 16 regu-

lar season games last season. He almost worked himself out of a jam in the first inning, but Campbell could not squeeze the glove in an unbelievable effort play in leftfield, leading to two runs scoring for the Rangers. After giving up a home run in the fourth, Buehler found him-

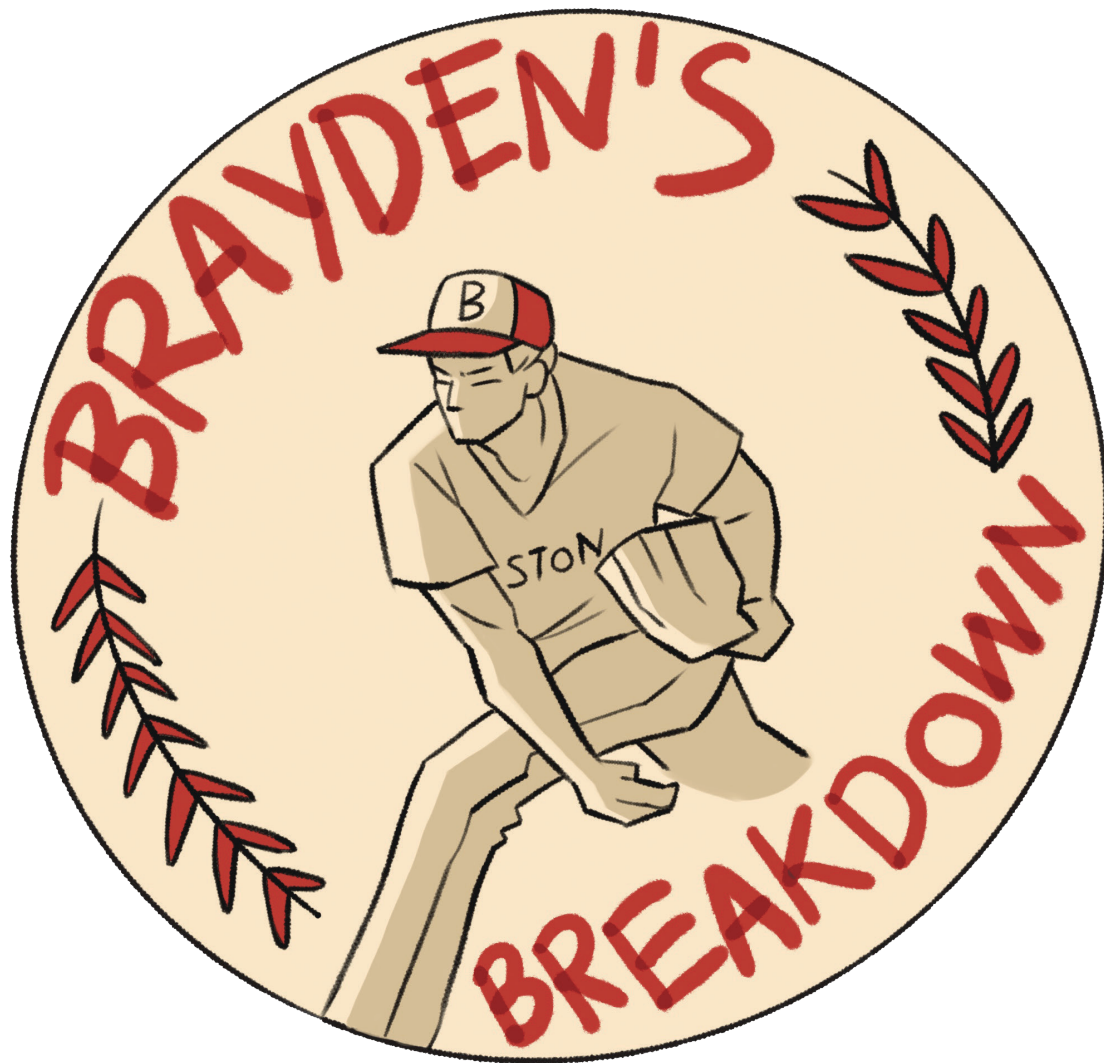
self in trouble once again in the fifth inning. He gave up three hits and a run before Alex Cora removed him after 4.1 innings. This is a big year for Buehler, who is looking to prove the injury doubters wrong, and he cannot let one shaky start determine his whole season. He will get the ball for the home opener against the Cardinals on Friday.

**Richard Fitts: B+**

Fitts had two bad pitches all night, and that was enough for him to take the loss on Sunday. After retiring 12 straight batters, Wyatt Langford homered off him to tie the game. Two batters later, Adolis Garcia gave Texas the lead which they would hold for the rest of the game. Those two mistakes do not tell the whole story of Fitts' outing. Fitts struck out four batters and nearly worked out of a bases-loaded no out jam in the second inning, only allowing one run. His pitching for the Red Sox since being acquired in the Alex Verdugo trade has been more than chief baseball officer Craig Breslow bargained for.

**Sean Newcomb: C+**

Newcomb is only expected to make a few starts to begin the year, as Brayan Bello is expected to return later this month. Newcomb settled in after being bombarded by the Orioles offense in the first inning. Despite the four runs allowed in the first, Newcomb kept the Sox in the game over the next three innings, striking out four and generating two double plays. If he can settle down in the beginning of games, he can earn a long reliever spot in the bullpen or a spot starter for Boston.



LOGO BY SAMANHHTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# DROPPIN DIMES: GRADING MORE NFL OFFSEASON DECISIONS

by **Matt Dimech**  
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Last week, I graded four of the NFL's headlining offseason moves, breaking down which teams made the smartest decisions, and which might regret their choices. With so much action this offseason, there are still

plenty of grades to hand out.

**Chicago Bears - Dayo Odeyingbo: A-**

The Bears are quietly putting together a very beneficial offseason. The team has addressed their needs throughout their roster, including improving their pass rush. The Bears landed Odeyingbo at a fairly cheap price of \$48 million over

the next three years, with \$32 million guaranteed. Odeyingbo saw a decline in his sack totals this season, but the analytics will tell you this is not cause for concern. His pass rush win rate when playing on the edge improved four percentage points from 12% to 16%, while his win rate on the interior is at a very high 14%. Perhaps the most

appealing part of the deal for Bears fans is his age. At 25 years old, Odeyingbo is still young, leaving room for improvement. I think that, with a reinvigorated organization, Chicago could be the place for Odeyingbo to flourish.

**New York Giants - Russel Wilson: D+**

Giants country...let's cry. Despite being a Super Bowl champion, Wilson is certainly not the quarterback that will bring the Giants back to the playoffs. I would probably grade this move a little bit higher, had the Giants not already signed Jameis Winston just a couple days earlier to a two-year deal, which is a bit of a head scratcher. Should Shedeur Sanders be available at pick three, many believe the Giants are going to take him. This would create a three-man competition for the QB spot which I believe could be a major distraction for the team. The Steelers had to deal with this dilemma last season with Wilson in front of Justin Fields. The Giants have other needs to address following a 3-14 season, so I don't think signing two veteran quarterbacks was the best use of money.

**Indianapolis Colts - Daniel Jones: C**

Speaking of New York quarterbacks, let's talk about Jones. Jones' time in New York was less than ideal. He spent six seasons with the team before being cut in the middle of the 2024 season. In his tenure as the starting quarterback, he only eclipsed 20 passing touchdowns once (2019) and 3,000 yards twice (2019 and 2022). However, his natural athleticism and physical gifts

lead the Colts to believe he can compete with Anthony Richardson for the starting job by bringing him into their quarterback room. Richardson missed the majority of his 2023 rookie season due to injury and came into 2024 hoping to remind the world why he was selected fourth overall. He made 11 starts this season where he threw 12 interceptions, raising concerns about the Colts' pick, but Jones may light the fire under Richardson to protect his starting job. Jones also understands being a young quarterback struggling early on with a team, and his veteran mentorship could help Richardson overcome that pressure.

**New England Patriots - Steffon Diggs: B**

The Patriots were in desperate need of a top wide receiver to give Drake Maye a true No. 1 target. Despite the locker room issues that come along with Diggs, it would be irresponsible to ignore the positive impact he has on quarterbacks. Flashback to 2020 - Diggs first joined the Buffalo Bills and Josh Allen was entering his third season. After struggling in his first two years under center, it would probably be his final chance to prove he could be the Bills starting quarterback. In Allen's first season with Diggs, he achieved career highs in passing yards (4,544), passing touchdowns (37) and passer rating (107.2). Allen might not have developed into the MVP quarterback he is today without Steffon Diggs. If you're New England, you're hoping that Diggs can have that same effect on Maye.

## Droppin' Dimes



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



# Sports

## WOMEN'S LACROSSE: HUSKIES DOMINATE IN INDIANAPOLIS FOR FIRST CONFERENCE WIN

by Ryan Lombardi  
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The UConn women's lacrosse team (8-4, 1-1) finished off a four-game road trip with a dominant 18-7 victory over Butler University (0-9, 0-3) in Indianapolis on Tuesday. The Huskies displayed a balanced offensive attack led by redshirt junior Rayea Davis and a suffocating defense to cruise past the Bulldogs.

Butler struck first with junior Elise Latham finding the net early to give the Bulldogs a 1-0 lead. However, Butler scored an own goal right after to tie the game. Sophomore Eve McGrogan gave the Huskies the lead with an unassisted goal at 8:59, followed by a goal from Davis to make it 3-1. The UConn attack didn't look back, notching two more goals to jump out to a 4-1 lead.

The Huskies showed no signs of slowing down in the second quarter after Davis assisted on two goals to extend the lead. Butler fought back, with freshman Makenna Evans scoring twice to cut into the deficit. Davis responded with two goals to complete a hat trick and rejuvenate the UConn attack. Connecticut scored five goals in the



UConn women's lacrosse takes on the University of Massachusetts for a back and forth battle in Storrs, Conn. on March 1, 2025. The Huskies showed fans the kind of energy the team will bring this season. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

last three minutes of the quarter, including Davis' fourth to bring the halftime score to 14-3.

The third quarter was a much lower-scoring affair, with both teams struggling to keep possession. Butler scored once off a free position attempt following a UConn foul, but that was the

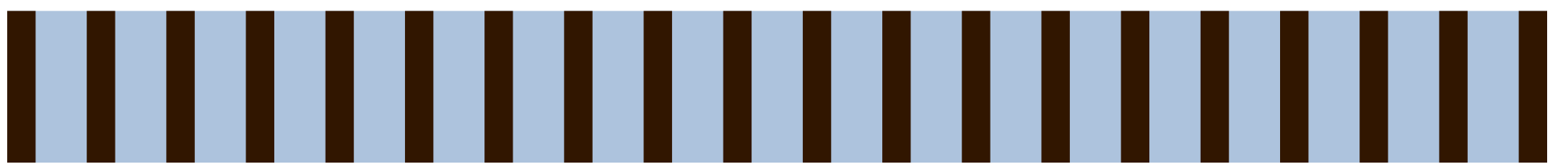
extent of their offense for most of the quarter. The Huskies' defense held firm, and freshman Meghan O'Brien responded with her eighth goal of the season. The Bulldogs found the net once more with 0:14 left in the quarter, going into the fourth with the score 15-5.

Up ten in the last quarter, UConn continued to apply pressure on the Butler defense, with junior Barlow Clark-Schoeb netting an early goal to expand the Huskies lead to 16-5. Butler responded with back-to-back goals, cutting the lead to single digits. However, Connecticut

responded quickly with two more goals of their own, both from sophomore Emma Dacey. The UConn defense remained solid, with saves from goalkeeper Tori Cini shutting down any hopes of Butler coming back. A late yellow card highlighted the Bulldogs' frustrations as UConn closed out a commanding 18-7 victory.

Davis has proven to be a leader for the Huskies attack all year, putting up two strong performances in a row to propel the UConn offense. Supporting her, junior Karsyn Burnash netted a season-high three goals, while Dacey and McGrogan each had a pair. The Huskies dominated on draw controls, beating the Bulldogs 19-7 in that regard. UConn also outshot Butler 28-13, a testament to the defense's ability to limit open shots and to force 17 turnovers.

The victory marked the end of a successful road trip before the Huskies face their toughest stretch yet. Coming up Saturday, April 6 is a matchup against No. 23 Denver, who has been a challenge for UConn in past years. The Huskies hope to build on this dominant performance as they prepare for a tough conference schedule ahead of them.



## MEN'S GOLF: HUSKIES PLACE SECOND IN GOLF WEEK SPRING CHALLENGE

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The UConn men's golf team put on an impressive showing at the Golfweek Spring Challenge in Pawley's Island, S.C., from Monday to Wednesday, coming in second place out of 17 teams.

Connecticut started out with a score of 287 in the first round, one under par, as they adjusted to the course. Connor Goode led the way for the Huskies, shooting an eagle and four birdies on his way to a 70, two under par. Bradley Sawka also came in under par for the round, carding a 71 with four birdies and three bogeys.

Meanwhile, senior Ray Dennehy had an up-and-down round, recording both an eagle and a double bogey two holes apart. He ended up with a 72 to break even. Vikram Konanki, playing in his first invitational of the spring as a part of the team score, shot a 74, carding a triple bogey on the fourth hole, although he recovered with three birdies on the back nine. Two other golfers, Alex Heard and Eric Boulger, who played as independents, didn't have their scores count for the official round.

On the second day, the Huskies found their groove. This was especially true for Konanki as he bounced back from his 74 of the previous day to card an impressive 65, seven under par.



UConn men's golf hits the green to meet and play with two local veterans. Held at GreatHorse country club in Hampden, Mass., October 18, 2024. COURTESY OF @UCONNMGOLF ON INSTAGRAM

He had six birdies on the front nine and two more on the back end, his only blemish being a bogey on the sixth hole. Goode also put on a good performance, building on his momentum from the first round with six birdies and a score of 67, five under par. Heard, who was re-

cently named big east Player of the Week, recovered from his effort the day before and shot a 69; a double bogey on the 16th hole prevented him from having an even better round. Dennehy rounded out the team score on day two with a 74, two over par. As a team, UConn shot 275, im-

proving by 12 strokes and moving from the back of the pack into a tie for second with their fellow big east team St. John's.

Heading into the third and final day, UConn was neck-and-neck with St. John's and a few strokes behind leader Jacksonville State. Although

the Huskies struggled to recapture the very low scores of the previous day, they still managed to keep pace. Heard provided the best effort of the round, shooting a 70. Konanki and Goode both shot a 71 to come in one under par. Rounding out the day three score, Sawka managed to break even with a 72. In total for the third round, Connecticut shot a four under par 284, securing second place behind St. John's, who ended up winning after carding a 281 in the final round. Jacksonville State fell back to third place with a 292.

For the players, Goode carded a 208 overall, good for fourth among all competing golfers. Konanki tied for eighth place with a 210, holding the distinction of UConn's best round—a 65—of all three days. Heard tied for 21st place after a similar-looking trajectory in the invitational to Konanki, ending up with a 214. Sawka and Dennehy tied for 41st and 56th, respectively.

In the rest of the field, despite Jacksonville State's faltering in the final round, two of their golfers, Ryley Heath and Ben Shedd, secured a 1-2 finish on the player leaderboard. Carson Bellish of Xavier, the other big east team to compete in the invitational, came in third place, just ahead of UConn's Goode.

