



Arrested professor Sherry Zane sues UConn; cites wage theft, defamation

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University of Connecticut professor Sherry Zane issued a complaint against UConn and individuals involved in the university on March 5, following her February arrest on one count of first-degree larceny.

Zane was an associate professor in residence and interim director of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) at the time of her arrest. She has been on administrative leave as of Nov. 15 while investigations continue.

The complaint has been raised against University President Radenka Maric, Provost Anne D'Alleva, Director of University Compliance Kimberly Hill and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Ofer Harel. The Nov. 14 document detailing the allegations against Zane was sent from Hill to D'Alleva and Harel, with others, including Zane, carbon copied to the email.

The Nov. 14 document cites an anonymous report about Zane that stated she had been taking expensive trips to various locations for pleasure but writing off as work-related expenses.

The civil action movement was originally under the jurisdiction of the Superior Court of Connecticut, Judicial District of Tolland. On March 19, the case was moved to the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut.

Zane's complaint raises four counts against the various de-

endants. The complaint alleges that Harel, D'Alleva and Maric violated the Fifth Amendment's takings clause and the Fourteenth Amendment's due process clause. These two counts are related to alleged wage theft associated with the money she had allegedly used for personal trips.

This counterclaim is a civil case, while the charge against her is being tried in criminal courts. Michael Thad Allen, of Allen-Harris PLLC law firm, is Zane's attorney for the civil action case. Zane's criminal attorney is Trent LaLima of Santos & LaLima, P.C.

The Daily Campus reached out to LaLima for comment but has yet to receive a response.

"We have contemporaneous documents that say she was entitled to this research account, which was made up of her own wages," said Allen in an interview with the Daily Campus.

"[The university] didn't make a final decision on [Zane's] case," said Allen. "And quite frankly, they didn't even bother to get some of the most relevant evidence. Like, whether they should have asked her colleagues [if] she was conducting legitimate research or not. But they still ran and reported this to the police and got her arrested."

A count of defamation has been specifically placed on Hill as a part of this complaint.

"Defendant Kimberly Hill intentionally defamed and published false statements in order to ruin the reputation of Professor Zane and get her arrested for 'larceny' due to Professor Zane's insistence that she be paid her rightfully earned wages," the complaint said.

This count is in association with the Nov. 14 document authored by Hill.

"In particular, Defendant Hill issued a so-called 'Report' (dated Nov. 14, 2024), which is clearly erroneous on its face," the complaint said. "Defendant Hill not only published this Report but then UConn supplied the Report to law enforcement to get Professor Zane arrested. UConn then supplied the defamatory statements once again to the Hartford Courant, so that Professor Zane could be dragged into the public sphere."

The Daily Campus reached out to Hill for comment, who referred the paper to UConn spokesperson Stephanie Reitz.

"The university does not comment on pending litigation, especially during the course of ongoing personnel action with the claimant," said Reitz in an email.

"Why is the university allowing its so-called compliance officers to openly lie about employees? There are various research trips that [Zane] took, and they are claiming that all of them are illegitimate," said Allen, referencing Hill's Nov. 14 document.

In the complaint, Zane also requests her allegedly withheld wages (of over \$80,000, according to the complaint) and requests "reputational damages arising from defamation per se."

According to Zane's complaint, UConn withheld these wages as a part of a collective bargaining agreement with the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). Under this agreement, professors cannot earn more than their 12-month salary every year, even if they take on extra university work, such as sum-

mer classes. The only way for a professor to earn additional money is by taking on even more extra hours, including in the form of research.

"Professor Zane earned deferred compensation by teaching extra classes, revisiting coursework, or settling on a committee that works over the summer," the complaint said. "Then, she had to earn her compensation once again by engaging in faculty research or other service to the University. In that event, she was allowed to draw down funds which were basically withheld compensation to cover the travel fees, expenses, materials, or other costs."

The complaint alleges that all of the extra compensation that Zane had earned was placed into a separate account.

"By the plain language of the contract, the account could be used for 'a wide variety of purposes' consistent with the University's mission, not exclusively 'research,'" it said. "For example, 'teaching... supplies or equipment, scholarly travel, and related expenses.'"

The complaint includes an affidavit from Cathy Schlund Vials, who was the associate dean for humanities, diversity, equity and inclusion in CLAS in 2018. Vials asserts in her affidavit that, while Zane was teaching summer classes in 2018, the university could not compensate her properly for them. Instead, Zane agreed to waive compensation, and that money was then placed in the aforementioned research account.

The waiver compensation document attached to the complaint lists Zane having waived over \$9,000 that she had earned from July 8, 2018, to Aug. 13,

2018. The agreement does note the existence of this account and its previously stated uses, but includes that the account "may not, however, be used to pay or supplement the employee's salary." Vials signed this document.

The complaint includes an affirmation from UConn WGSS professor Françoise Dussart.

"I find these allegations misleading. Sherry Zane has done nothing wrong and for her to be charged with a crime is unfathomable," the affirmation said. "It is my strong belief that Sherry Zane's trips to Belfast were undoubtedly tied to her professional and academic research of the murals and how the community viewed and reacted to them."

In her email to the Daily Campus, Reitz did include the original announcement the University had released in response to Zane's February arrest. This announcement contains a comment from Maric.

"UConn takes its ethics and compliance responsibilities very seriously, and it is critical that we always hold ourselves and our workforce to the highest standards of accountability," the comment said. "The university has multiple mechanisms to identify potential issues, including through our Audit and Management Advisory Services unit and the university's Office of Compliance. The university conducts thorough investigations into potential policy violations and takes appropriate action as needed. That is what happened in this case, and it is also how we continually support a culture of compliance on our campuses."

UConn graduate student creates Connecticut's first beaver map

by **Kevin Guinan**
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The first map tracking Connecticut's increasing beaver population was part of a research project in the University of Connecticut's Department of Natural Resources and the Environment. Evan Zocco, the research assistant who conducted the project, says the map can help solve both property management and climate mitigation issues.

One reason the map has such wide applicability is because beavers are categorized as a "keystone species" with profound influence on the ecosystem, according to the project's website.

"Beavers are considered keystone species because of their unique ability to create more diverse habitats than those that previously existed," the website stated. The creation of this diversity was analyzed in the research project by distinguishing the "stages of sites" in beaver habitats.

The first stage in the web-

site's breakdown was the construction of a dam to block flowing water. Beavers stop streams because they need to redistribute that water to create their habitat. Dams create ponds where beavers build lodges in the middle to protect against predators, according to the project's introduction.

Connecticut's landscape is abundant with optimal areas for beavers looking to build dams, but that becomes a problem in close proximity to human structures, according to the study. The security that dams grant beavers is not extended to humans because dams flood the surrounding area. This increases the likelihood of water damage in residential areas close to active beaver sites, according to Zocco's research.

Zocco gave some examples behind the map's practicality by highlighting at-risk residential areas that he found using the resource he created. The website highlights 15 houses that are particularly close to beaver structures in the towns of New Milford, Sherman, Ashford, Colchester and Killingworth.

Connecticut home flood repair costs are some of the highest in the country, according to a report published earlier this year by the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC). A contributing factor to these costs is the lack of required disclosure about flooding in the real estate industry. In Connecticut, sellers are only required to warn buyers when a home is in a flood hazard area, not if there was any previous flood damage, according to NRDC lawyer Joel Scata.

"This difference in flood costs highlights the importance of flood disclosure laws so that home buyers have a clear picture of the potential burden from flooding," the NRDC report stated. While mapping beaver activity won't tell buyers whether there were any previous floods, the information in the map can help homeowners avoid some financial burden, according to Zocco.

"While having a stream on a property can enhance its aesthetic appeal, it also brings the potential for unintended destruction if beavers choose to build there," according to Zocco's website. "Awareness of these risks is crucial for property owners to implement preventative or mitigative measures effectively."

The beaver site map used Zocco's research to ensure the public has accessible resources informing about the risks.

Not all beaver activity was found to be financially destructive, according to Zocco's study. While the first stage of a beaver site raises concern in human-beaver relationships with flooding, later stages of beaver activity compel our co-existence through carbon dioxide mitigation, according to the project's website.

The excess water in beaver dam floods alters the plant life in a pre-existing area to be more suitable for smaller aquatic life and nutrient rich soils. As beavers move and respond to changes in biodiversity, the initial beaver pond evolves into a wetland, according to the project website.

Wetlands act as carbon sinks, which absorb more carbon in the atmosphere than they release, according to Client Earth. The climate is warming in accordance with rising atmospheric carbon dioxide levels, which

places importance on carbon sinks like wetlands, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"Beavers naturally generate these ecosystems as a byproduct of their activities," the website stated. "In contrast, man-made wetlands often fail to replicate the effectiveness of their naturally occurring counterparts." Research by the State of Washington's Department of Ecology reassures Zocco's claim.

"Younger freshwater wetlands and disturbed wetlands can emit carbon until they develop sufficiently to sequester carbon," Washington's Department of Ecology reported. "The turnover time from a wetland being a carbon emitter to a carbon sink can take 61 to 14,000 years."

It took Zocco and advisor Dr. Chandi Withrana months to compare different images and monitor changes instigated by beaver colonies. The long period of research reflects the number of images the pair analyzed, with the dates going back as far as 1930, according to The Hartford Courant.

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News

Firm acquires student housing site, to begin construction later this year

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As students begin to select housing options for the upcoming school year, a real estate firm has acquired a site to create new student housing, a development called The Mark Mansfield.

The firm, Landmark Properties, which is based in Athens, Ga., obtained the 1.56-acre site on March 14, according to a press release. The firm will begin construction on The Mark Mansfield in late 2025.

According to the university's 2024 Fact Sheet, last fall the University of Connecticut experienced a record-high enrollment.

The large number of students living on campus has made the housing lottery stressful, said second-semester political science student Anagha Khisti.

"I thought that being in the honors program would mean getting guaranteed housing. But I'm worried about the heightened uncertainty for junior[s] and seniors of getting housing on campus especially for students that can't commute," Khisti said.

According to the press release, Landmark Properties seeks to

help students with this issue.

"As the university moves forward with plans to expand its enrollment further over the next decade, the demand for high-quality and pedestrian-to-campus living options will continue to increase," said Jason Doornbos, chief development officer of Landmark Properties. "We're excited to help meet this growing housing need with the development of The Mark."

The community will be located at 134 North Eagleville Road, adjacent to the main Storrs campus. The location offers proximity to not only the university but also a variety of retail and dining options in downtown Storrs, according to the press release.

This property will be replacing the previous development project by Core Spaces, according to the press release. Core Spaces is a developer based out of Chicago which was granted the land in October 2023. However, as of March 2025, the space has been given to Landmark properties.

The Mark Mansfield is set to hold 738 beds and will offer robust amenities and fully furnished residential spaces, according to the press release. The housing space will be the

second asset created by Landmark Properties in the Storrs market. The Oaks, built in 2012, was UConn's first purpose-built student housing project and also developed by Landmark Properties.

The firm is also working to open The Standard at Four Corners this fall, according to the press release. The Standard at Four Corners is a student housing center located in Mansfield, Conn. that will provide student apartments near UConn.



The Mark Mansfield is now under development. The land was bought on Mar. 14 and is located on North Eagleville Road. PHOTO COURTESY OF LANDMARK PROPERTIES

Ted Cruz flagged \$2.05 billion in diversity grants, including \$7.46 million at UConn

by Liliانا French

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Sen. Ted Cruz released a database identifying 3,400 diversity-related grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF) worth \$2.05 billion on Feb. 11. This included 21 grants, worth \$7.46 million, at the University of Connecticut awarded during the Biden administration.

A press release from the NSF stated that listed grants created funding for "questionable projects that promoted Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) or advanced neo-Marxist class warfare propaganda."

A federal judge said that the government could not cancel

"equity-related" contracts, according to CNN. This temporarily blocked the cancellation of diversity-related grants.

Some of the flagged UConn grants showed topics which were related to diversity, such as a grant on the reduction of bias in medicine. The grant, worth \$392,994, looks at using artificial intelligence to counter biased, harmful and false information that disproportionately impacts minority groups.

Another grant, worth \$31,999, was for an inaugural conference in geometric analysis held in 2022. Although the grant ended in 2023 and only \$129 was not outlaid, it was included in the spreadsheet. The grant may have been flagged because it included plans to

support speakers from underrepresented backgrounds.

A UConn grant worth \$356,558 covered stochastic, or random, systems and examined models for randomness and their impact.

A spreadsheet listed that the grant was flagged for social justice-related reasons.

"The research will promote diversity and inclusion, increase public scientific literacy, and enhance interdisciplinary collaborations and the STEM workforce," the grant description said.

An NSF webpage states that research results may still be published, regardless of executive order outcomes.

These flagged grants consist of obligated funds, some of which have been paid out in

part or in full and some of which have not.

University of Maryland public policy professor Philip Joyce explained how obligated funds work.

"When Congress makes an appropriation and the president approves it, that gives a federal agency the ability to spend that money," said Joyce. "What an obligation represents is an intent to spend money. [...] You basically have said to an entity that 'this is how much we intend to spend' but they're not giving it to you all at once."

Joyce explained that deobligations can occur when obligated funds are no longer needed. He gave the example of when a project costs less than anticipated. Joyce said that there was the question of what the Trump administration's legal authorities are for not spending the obligated funds.

"Ultimately, what I see happening is that that bigger question is going to go all the way to the Supreme Court," said Joyce.

Joyce said that the Trump administration is embracing unitary executive theory, instead of the traditional interpretation that that the president faithfully spends appropriated money.

Joyce thought that different contracts could be treated differently.

"A lot of the specifics could differ from one contract to another," said Joyce.

The law that sets the appropriation may not be specific that money has to go to UConn, according to Joyce.

"There's a difference in my mind between shifting the money from UConn to another university and choosing not to spend the money at all," said Joyce.

The Daily Campus

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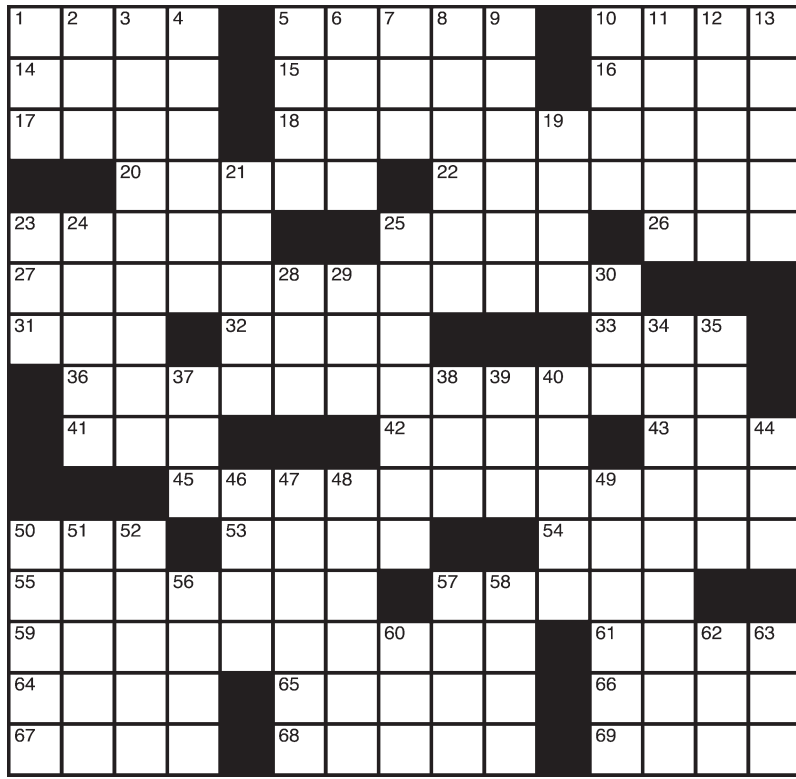
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ACROSS

- 1 Hurtful remark
- 5 Can't help but
- 10 Get smart with
- 14 Cookie with a Dirt Cake flavor
- 15 Two twos, say
- 16 Miller option
- 17 Director Preminger
- 18 One-hit-wonder by the New Zealand band OMC
- 20 Collect
- 22 "Just tell me the answer"
- 23 Twiddled one's thumbs
- 25 Advil target
- 26 Online convos
- 27 Title theme song of a 1985 John Hughes film
- 31 Egg cells
- 32 Mosul's country
- 33 Broke bread
- 36 Tom Jones classic that accompanied the Carlton dance on "Fresh Prince"
- 41 Island garland
- 42 Steak sauce brand
- 43 Cryptology org.
- 45 ELO hit from the album "Face the Music"
- 50 Texting segue
- 53 "Dateline NBC" anchor Lester
- 54 Cruise stopover
- 55 Snoopy alter ego
- 57 "Cabaret" director
- 59 Figures on right-hand pages, or an apt title for this puzzle
- 61 "Ferrari" actor Driver
- 64 Wrath
- 65 Lifts, as spirits
- 66 Sounds from a comedy club
- 67 Russian refusal
- 68 Far from shore
- 69 Duration



By Joe Rodini

3/27/25

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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3/27/25

- 4 Child of the 1950s
- 5 Sounds of derision
- 6 Mil. addresses
- 7 Tool that can make music
- 8 Fibulae neighbors
- 9 Where the x-axis and the y-axis cross
- 10 Serb or Croat
- 11 Put on TV
- 12 Play lightly
- 13 Trickle
- 19 Metal in pennies
- 21 Introduce to the mix
- 23 ___ Jima
- 24 New Jersey athlete
- 25 Pleasingly tangy
- 28 Packed theater letters
- 29 Monopoly token that replaced the iron
- 30 ___ de cologne
- 34 Snarled
- 35 Pitcher of milk?
- 37 Family girl
- 38 Eggy drink
- 39 Arles article

- 40 18-wheelers
- 44 Play, or part of a play
- 46 Commandment start
- 47 iRobot vacuum
- 48 Nearly entirely
- 49 Analyzes chemically
- 50 ABBA singer Ulvaeus
- 51 "While I'm young!"
- 52 Trivial Pursuit piece
- 56 Tech review site
- 57 Boot company since 1863
- 58 Mount of Greek myth
- 60 Volkswagen model until 2016
- 62 Alias letters
- 63 AOL alternative

DOWN

- 1 Bae
- 2 Objet d'__
- 3 Return like for like

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

Solution to Wednesday's puzzle

3/27/25

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

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

Daily Campus Crossword And Sudoku

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Life



Little Miss Sunshine

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 shot and written “Honey Boy.” This week we’ll be talking about the better known “Little Miss Sunshine.”

“Little Miss Sunshine” follows the dysfunctional Hoover family as they travel across the state to fulfill their young daughter’s dream of winning a beauty pageant. Through this relatively simple plot, we’re able to understand various intriguing characters, each with their own motives, aspirations, feelings and opinions. All of these characters are flawed in their own ways, but ultimately their love for one another trumps whatever beliefs they hold.

Not many movies are able to tackle the complexities of family dynamics, especially not one with so many characters, but “Little Miss Sunshine” does an amazing job. The writing and acting are incredible from everyone, including two young actors, Paul Dano as Dwayne and Abigail Breslin as Olive.

This movie covers themes such as love, marriage, suicide, body image issues, homosexuality in an unaccepting world, goals, substance abuse and family. Each theme is treated with care,

approached subtly and ultimately resolved gracefully.

The approach this film took to parent-child relationships was one I’ve seen elsewhere. Dwayne is the stepson to Richard, Olive’s dad, but this fact is only mentioned briefly.

The relationship between Dwayne and Richard is of great interest to me, as it’s built on subtle anger and annoyance. Richard is clearly unable to form a strong bond with his stepson, despite being in his life for some time. Dwayne is not a fan of Richard by any means, though it isn’t necessarily outright stated. Relationships like this can be incredibly complex and often go unnoticed.

We also see the parent-child dynamic through Richard and his dad Edwin. Both characters are finding meaning in life at different ages, with Richard’s being very important, as he has the power to shape his children’s views on life and meaning. Ultimately, Edwin tells Richard that trying is enough. Having this older character provide such wisdom, while still being a flawed human himself, was crucial and made this film even better.

This film features some incredibly heartfelt scenes between the various characters. Each realistic resolution to longtime dynamics shows that everything will work out as long as they have the ones they love. This is delicate work, especially balanced with the establishment of ten-

sion, humor and an overall upbeat feeling.

Another way this film stands out is in its inclusion of a young character, which movies often get wrong. In this film, Olive is a young girl who’s following her heart but also her family. She’s susceptible to what she hears, mostly from her father, who pushes harmful messages to her about giving up to avoid failing. Her character is crucial to the story, as she’s the one who brings her family together. Because she is so much younger than the other characters, she still views life in a simpler way, where what’s most important is family. Though she was excited to participate in the pageant, she didn’t view it the same way as her father. She was happy to get on stage, be herself and spend time with her family along the way—no matter how dysfunctional it was.

Ultimately, viewers are left with a positive feeling. We aren’t left with unrealistic hope that life will be perfect and all our dreams will come to fruition. In fact, the movie suggests those dreams and goals will inevitably fall apart, but you’ll be okay regardless. I have a strong preference for movies like this, and “Little Miss Sunshine” is one of few that do it so well. I give this film an underratedness score of 4/5. It’s rated highly, but it’s not talked about as much as it deserves. It’s yet another lower budget film that began with a very solid base of incredible writing.

‘EMPOWERED HARMONY’: HOW THE WOMEN’S CENTER CELEBRATED INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

by Karla Perez
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Purple papier-mache streamers and flowers decorating the space. Female voices singing over the loudspeakers. Students, staff and visitors of various backgrounds and identities joining together to celebrate the same thing: women. This is what it looked like to celebrate International Women’s Day at the University of Connecticut.

On March 26, the Women’s Center decked out the Student Union ballroom with decorations, flowers and treats to celebrate International Women’s Day, which is marked on the calendar as March 8. The theme for the celebration was “Empowered Harmony,” to highlight the power of community.

The event opened with words from the event organizers Kayvona Brown, an eighth-semester psychology major and the community engagement coordinator, and Naya Peterson, a sixth-semester psychology major and the programming committee chair. These two mediated the event between activities.

After their welcoming statement, the two young women invited the associate director of the Women’s Center, Kathy Fischer, to the podium. While she acknowledged that this event was late for the calendar date of International Women’s Day, she said that “every day is a day to celebrate women.”

According to Fischer’s brief presentation, International Women’s Day is an official holiday in 27 countries. It was officially recognized by the United Nations in 1977.

Fischer also took time during her presentation to highlight four women activists: Malala Yousafzai, Jackie Bom-

boma, Sanam Doka Sherpa and Ayana Elizabeth Johnson. She highlighted these women to show that “there are many, many lanes for activism.”

After Fischer’s presentation, Brown and Peterson invited attendees to make cards for women in their lives. The Women’s Center provided paper, markers and an array of decorative stickers and decals. Josalyn Munson, a fourth-semester journalism major, wrote a letter to her nana.

“I wanted to remind her that she has done and been through so much and fought so hard to have the life that she’s living,” she said. “I wanted to give her that grace that she’s allowed to be herself and be a woman.”

As participants worked on their letters, the event coordinators handed out pink, red and white carnations to each person.

The event had cupcakes and cookies catered from Zest Fresh Pastry, a women-owned bakery in Stonington, Conn.

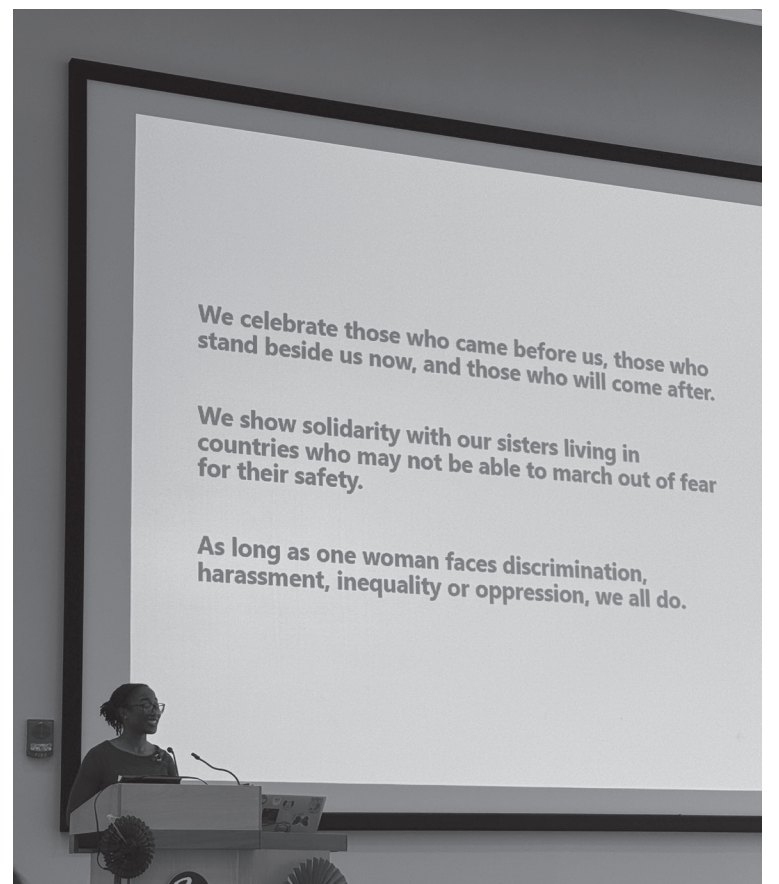
Once everyone settled down again, Brown and Peterson introduced the keynote speaker Nasim Basiri. Her presentation focused on dismantling the “one size fits all” mindset in feminism as she talked about her experiences growing up as a feminist in Iran.

The event ended with closing remarks from Elise Delacruz, the interim director of the Women’s Center. She echoed the sentiment that women should be celebrated every day.

Johnson will visit UConn on Monday, March 31 to discuss her book “All We Can Save,” and ways to “create the best possible climate future,” as stated in a post on the Women’s Center’s Instagram. The event will take place at 7 p.m. in the Student Union Theater. Johnson will be selling and signing books afterward.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB



International Women’s Day is recognized as an official holiday on March 8 in 27 countries. The Women’s Center at the University of Connecticut hosted an event to celebrate in the Student Union Ballroom on Wednesday, March 8, 2025.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

It's 'betta' with feta: A college-friendly chicken and potato recipe

by **Oliver Power**
HE/HIM/HIS
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Welcome, spring. While we are still feeling the cold winds reminiscent of our Storrs winters, the sun is poking out more and more. Weather is a great marker for how we characterize seasons. However, the next best thing is foods and flavors.

The dish for this week was not inspired by TikTok, so again, I will be abstracting away until I find another recipe that catches my eye. Instead, I tried a Greek recipe over spring break that was one of the best potato dishes I have enjoyed. It utilized simple ingredients, and the results were detectably soft potatoes coated with oil and soft feta cheese.

This dish also won me over with the aromatics, using dried thyme and oregano, which give a strong Mediterranean flavor that is perfect for a spring recipe.

Without further ado, the recipe for this week is Greek potatoes served with yogurt-marinated Mediterranean chicken. I had to pair the potatoes with some sort of meat, so I altered a previous Mediterranean chicken recipe from TikTok that I thought would work well.

First, I prepped the chicken. This is super quick and easy. I added boneless, skinless chicken thighs to a bowl with a drizzle of about one tablespoon of olive oil. Then, I added three tablespoons of Greek yogurt. The yogurt helps the spices stick to the chicken, and when cooked,

gives it an earthy flavor that brings the meat to life.

After ensuring the thighs were fully coated, I added paprika, oregano, salt and pepper. To give the chicken more acidity, I added about three tablespoons of lemon juice and four teaspoons of garlic. For color and to give the chicken a more refreshing taste, I chopped up some parsley and added it to the mix as well.

Make sure these are evenly incorporated and then cover and refrigerate for a minimum of one hour. Although, if you are really pressed for time, give it at least 10 minutes.

To cook them, heat a sauté pan to about medium-high. Add the chicken and cook for about five to six minutes per side. Because the seasoning coating can char, you may confuse how “done” your chicken is, so just stick to the five to six minutes or cut into the chicken as a check. Top with some more chopped parsley when you are ready to serve.

For the potatoes, I washed and cubed roughly six potatoes. I used yellow Yukon potatoes since they are much softer upon cooking than the brown ones. Keep the skin on because they will get crispier in the oven, giving the potatoes a good texture.

Add these to a bowl and mix in the olive oil, thyme, oregano, salt, pepper, garlic and lemon juice. Combine everything and add it to a baking tray with moderate depth so you can shake the potatoes as necessary when baking. Set the oven to 390 degrees Fahrenheit.

Place a block of feta—around 200 grams—in the middle. Some

of you have likely seen this done with a pasta dish utilizing a block of feta and cherry tomatoes. Same deal. Just place it in the middle and line the rest of the tray with potatoes. I learned that, with smaller bits of feta, it is more difficult for the cheese to become creamy than with using the large block. That is why we use the block.

Cook in the oven for about 40-45 minutes. This is variable, so just pluck both the feta and the potatoes with a fork to make sure they are at the level of softness you would like. A trick I learned is to broil on low for just the last minute. The broiling function of an oven uses the highest possible heat quickly to char whatever you have in the oven. This gives the feta and potatoes a smoky depth that tastes great.

Make sure not to broil too long; otherwise, everything will get burned and may even activate the ear-piercing ring of your fire alarm. Once everything is out, try to incorporate the potatoes with the feta so everything gets coated. Then, these are ready to serve.

This is a great recipe for college because it utilizes spices that are commonplace in the spice cabinets of students. Additionally, it is relatively cheap, as the Greek yogurt and chicken are the largest expenses. This comfortably fed four people, so it can also be used for meal prep.

Utilize this recipe next time you add another dish to your college food rotations. So, instead of going Greek for Greek life, go Greek with this recipe. Hope you enjoy it.



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

Ingredients:

<i>Chicken:</i>	<i>Potatoes:</i>
2 lbs. boneless, skinless chicken thighs	200g block of feta
1 tbsp olive oil	2 tbsp olive oil
3 tbsp plain Greek yogurt	1.5 tsp dried thyme
3 tbsp lemon juice	1.5 tsp dried oregano
4 tsp garlic	1 tsp of salt
2 tsp dried oregano	.5 tsp of black pepper
1.5 tsp salt	5 yellow Yukon potatoes
1 tsp paprika	1.5 tbsp lemon juice
6 sprigs of parsley	

Rating: 4.9/5
Price: \$24.21

Apple TV+'s new 'Side Quest' series reflects the flaws of parent show 'Mythic Quest'

by **Samantha Brody**
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Apple TV+ released a new anthology series titled “Side Quest” on March 25. Just like the show it was based on, “Mythic Quest,” this new series tackles the dynamics between creator, creation and the world that these forces influence.

To talk about “Side Quest,” we’ll have to start with its dad. Often shortened to just “MQ,” “Mythic Quest” is a four-season sitcom based around the experiences of people who work for a fictional video game company. This company is responsible for the creation and maintenance of a massively multiplayer online role-playing game, also called Mythic Quest.

Although MQ is mostly a comedy, it doesn’t shy away from discussing deeper themes related to the world of creativity. Once every season, the show includes a special standalone episode that deviates from the main storyline to focus on the backstory of one specific character. These standalone episodes have the most direct ties to the show’s themes, such as creative independence versus executive power.

Created by Ashly Burch, John Howell Harris and Katie McElhenney, “Side Quest” is only four episodes long. Each one is around half an hour in length, and each episode functions just like one of these previously mentioned backstory episodes. Although they deviate from the show’s main cast, they illustrate how Mythic Quest (the game) has impacted people in various ways, highlighting ideas such as nerd culture or artistic burnout.

“We were trying to figure out what the standalone episode



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

would be for S3 and we filled a board with so many ideas of stories we could tell,” explained Burch in a Reddit Ask Me Anything (Anna) held on March 24. “That realization, plus the overwhelmingly positive response to Dark Quiet Death and our other standalones, made it seem like a great idea for its own show!”

“Dark Quiet Death” is a standalone episode from the first season of “Mythic Quest.” Written by McElhenney, the episode follows the life and death of a fictional video game of the same name. It’s also one of my favorite episodes of television to ever be aired; I could write an entire article just on that episode, but that’s a story for another day.

The first episode of “Side Quest,” titled “Song and Dance,” is focused on the life of Mythic Quest’s (the game) art director, a man named Phil (Derek Waters). Phil is often the butt of jokes in the main series, with Mythic Quest’s demanding creative director Ian Grimm (Rob

McElhenney) often pushing Phil to work long hours.

In “Song and Dance,” Phil is on vacation with his girlfriend Maude (Anna Konkle), but Ian continues to badger him about work. Maude tells Phil repeatedly to ignore Ian’s requests, but Phil and his lack of self-respect holds him back and prevents him from being honest with both Ian and Maude.

“Song and Dance” isn’t the best episode here, but it isn’t a bad one. Phil’s character is always paired nicely with Mythic Quest’s overbearing directors Ian and Poppy (Charlotte Nicdao), but he doesn’t work as well on his own. Still, the episode is heartfelt and has a very sweet ending.

“Pull List” is my favorite episode of this series. Janae (Shalita Grant) is the owner of an independent comic shop that she’s worked hard to maintain and dreams of upgrading. She’s just received the latest Mythic Quest comic but, unfortunately, the shipment only came with one is-

sue. And there are four people in her store who desperately want it.

“Pull List” is “a love letter to Black nerds and was heavily inspired by our writer (who also co-wrote the episode) Javi Scott,” wrote Burch in the Reddit AMA. Apart from one white man named Duncan (Gary Kraus), the rest of the characters are Black.

“Fugue” tells the story of Sylvie (Annamarie Kasper), a cellist in a touring video game orchestra. Music has always been her passion, but the touring begins to weigh her down as she struggles to love the dream that has now become a job.

The premise of “Fugue” is interesting but struggled to keep my attention. The idea of an artist finding difficulty with turning their art into work isn’t a new one. Although impressive visually, it’s missing a little something extra to make it unique.

“The Last Raid” is the last episode of the series, and it’s a little frustrating. The episode

focuses on a band of young people fresh out of high school. This group has been playing Mythic Quest together as a group for four years, but as the episode continues, it becomes clear that they’ve simply grown too old for one another.

The dynamics between the individual characters are interesting, and the episode does a great job of teaching the audience everything there is to know about this group in just half an hour. And, as a freshman in college, I can relate.

The biggest issue of “The Last Raid,” however, is its humor. Both “Mythic Quest” and “Side Quest” have a pervasive issue around young-people humor. Whenever the shows depict a young gamer, the character always spits out vulgar and disgusting jokes. “The Last Raid” does this constantly. It ruins the experience.

Overall, “Side Quest” is a solid entry into the world of “Mythic Quest,” but I wouldn’t recommend it to anyone who hasn’t already seen the show. If you’re interested in learning more about either series, I’d say start by watching the main show, and make sure you watch “Dark Quiet Death.”

“Side Quest” is clearly an attempt to recreate the feeling of “Dark Quiet Death,” but the episodes tend to lack the emotional gut-punch. There’s some emotional resonance, certainly, but it usually isn’t present until the very end of the episode. I hope “Mythic Quest” takes another crack at the anthology series because “Side Quest” could be so much better.

Rating: 3/5



Life

@dailycampuslife

'KID KROW, DECOMPOSED': THE CUT STILL BLEEDS 5 YEARS LATER

by Noa Climor

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Conan Gray's debut album "Kid Krow," was released on March 20, 2020, and to celebrate — and make fans cry — Gray released "Kid Krow: Decomposed." This five-year anniversary version of the album now features "Bed Rest," a vaulted track from the "Kid Krow" era, "Heather (Lost Verse Version) [Live]" and "The Cut That Always Bleeds [Live]," in addition to the rest of the songs.

Gray is my sister's favorite artist and one of the singers I admire most. His music, filled with unfiltered honesty and powerful lyricism, has remained on my playlist for years and will never disappear.

I find that "Bed Rest" was the addition I was always looking for. "You know that there's a lot of things that I wish that I didn't do / You know that there's a side of me that I wish you never knew", Gray sings. His lyrics cut deep, and this song starts with sorrow and regret, a common theme, but one Gray does exceptionally well.

"And although I'm crazy, maybe just this time / You could try to see my sweeter side / I promise after, a little while longer / I'll come back to my senses / But now I need some bed rest," he sings. Gray is honest and clear about his state of mind, begging for understanding—not mercy.

The rest of the song follows a trail of turmoil about navigat-

ing a relationship in which self-destructive behavior and low self-esteem surround both you and the person you are with, taking you away from the rest of the world.

"But now I need some bed rest / To mend from all our train wrecks / Our love was all too reckless / But now I need some bed rest / Forget your name and address / We almost ended up dead," he continues. This is the rest and healing needed from a tumultuous and straining relationship where both Gray and

RATING: 5/5

the person hurt each other. It was so harmful that, in the end, they were both worse than they were before entering it.

The song is followed by one of my favorites from the album, "The Cut That Always Bleeds," which is now on the album twice. I enjoyed the live version more; I've never seen Gray per-

form live, but hearing the crowd and the energy they gave him immersed me in his music.

With "Heather," Gray shares a version of the song that had yet to be released on streaming services but was shared in a TikTok in 2023 in honor of the third of December, which, for Gray fans, is the unofficial-official Heather day.

The third verse goes like this: "I want her hair, want to steal what she wears / Wanna smell like her perfume, do everything like her / 'Cause isn't she per-

fect? The lipstick on her lips / I wish I could kiss her to know why you love her."

"Heather" is about unrequited love and a person who is so perfect that you are extremely jealous and slightly shocked at where those feelings are coming from. I think that adding the "lost verse" drives the point home even more.

You so desperately want to be like this person, and there is no reason for your feelings. Every thought feels like an effort to override reactions that you know are coming from a place of envy. "Heather" is just so perfect, beautiful and bright that it feels like there's no point because you will never compete.

You shouldn't have to! What is so brilliant about Gray's songs is that, even though you might feel guilty for feeling some of these emotions, he makes it clear that there shouldn't be any guilt for simply feeling.

We're human beings, and our emotions are complex and not always pretty. The songs in "Kid Krow" remind you that there's no reason to feel bad. There are so many people in the same exact spot as you.

This album is not entirely new. In fact, only one of the songs had yet to be released. However, the nostalgia and celebration of an album so great and moving drove me to want to review it.

"Bed Rest" was beautifully immersive and the entire album is filled with melancholy yearning that breaks my heart no matter how many times I listen to it.

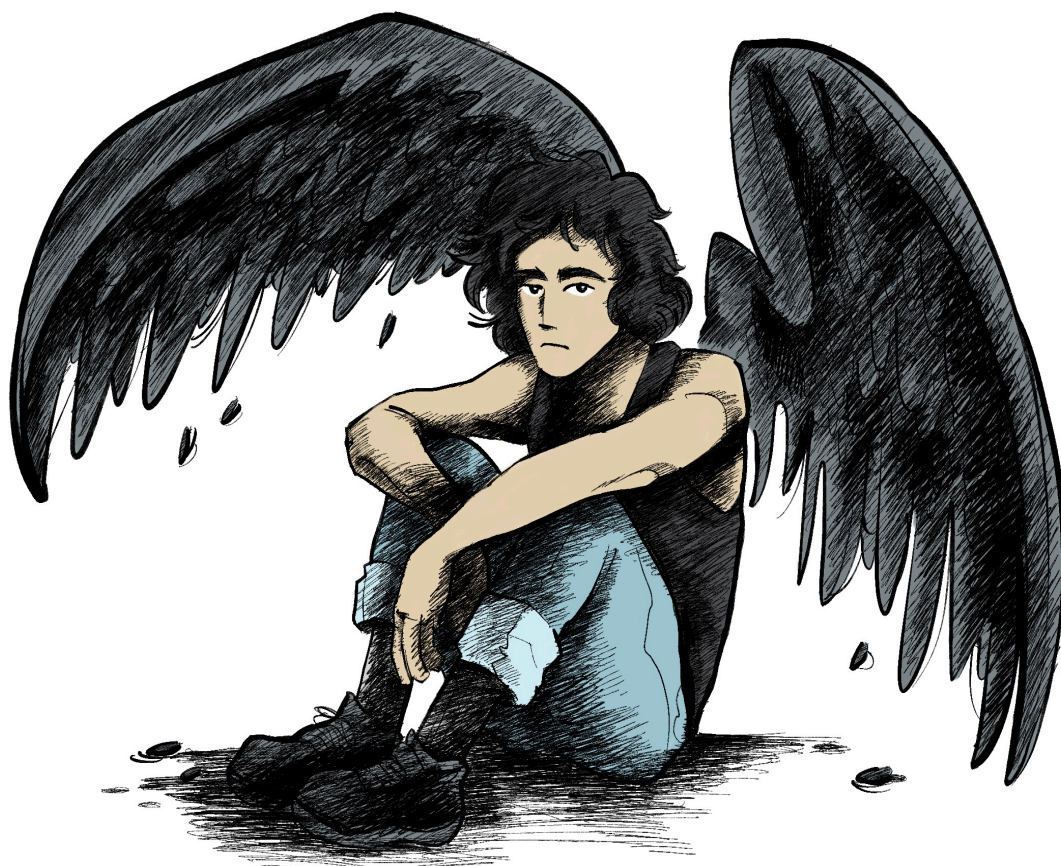


ILLUSTRATION BY SAMANTHA HAAS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

CORY HANSON COMES AT YOU WITH MOST RECENT EFFORT

by Henry St. Pierre

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From the depths of Los Angeles is singer, songwriter, guitarist and producer Cory Hanson. Best known as the frontman for the psychedelic rock band Wand, Hanson has had his foot in the musical world for ages now. He has been in the bands Together Pangea and Meatbodies and collaborated with the likes of Ty Segall and La Luz.

Throughout the years, Hanson has been quietly releasing solo work under his own name. 2023's "Western Cum" garnered Hanson attention outside his efforts with Wand, landing him yet another feature on Seattle radio station KEXP and a showcase with guitar manufacturer Fender.

Once you get past the strange title and ethereal artwork, "Western Cum" is a true hidden gem in the world of underground rock. The record harkens back to classic hard rock and proto metal, while still maintaining a unique identity. While many modern hard rock albums often fall into the deep and cavernous hole of derision, Hanson manages to escape this.

Many will be quick to point out similarities between "Western Cum" and some of Wand's modern output, but they have some key differences. Wand's latest sludgy efforts forgo their quirky psychedelic sound in favor of a blow-your-head-clean-off wall of fuzzy guitars and guttural bass. This record keeps a delicate balance between the thunderous rock and softer psychedelic elements that brought Hanson his notoriety.

The album opens with the energetic and introspective "Wings." The main guitar lick is a harmonized, spiraling line that's as much of an earworm as the chorus. The track is almost instrumental, only containing two verses at the beginning of the song before exploding into a guitar solo. The tone of Hanson and Tyler Nuffer's guitars is ear candy.

"Housefly" is a highlight of the record. Stylistically, it has the same structure as "Wings," with quiet verses and loud guitars between and a blistering solo in the second half. What sets these two apart is that the melodies in "Housefly" are much catchier than the former track. While that's subjective, there's a reason it was released as the lead single. The lead guitar line trips up and down, syncopated heavily and harmonized between Hanson and Nuffer.

"Persuasion Architecture" erupts from a wall of feedback with a sound that can only be described as an assault on the ears with a guitar. Quickly dropping into just Hanson's vocals and a lonely acoustic guitar, the track builds back up before returning to the buzzsaw sound from the beginning.

In "Horsebait Sabotage," the band plays in a funkier, syncopated style complete with prebends and angular chords. Hanson's vocals and songwriting shine through on this track, as his smooth vocal style cuts through the track's abrasive sound.

The record switches things up with the next track, "Ghost Ship,"



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HAAS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

which is the closest thing "Western Cum" has to a ballad. Hanson croons about loneliness and emptiness over a soft instrument of clean and slide guitars. The slide guitar gives the track that classic Americana vibe, though this record is nearly the furthest thing one can get from country.

"Driving Through Heaven" is a strange one. The penultimate track is a 10-minute sprawling journey through nearly every style and sound the record has explored so far. It's here that Wand's jam influence bleeds into Hanson's solo work. The back five minutes of this song are an extended jam that meanders around. There isn't much of a point or climax to this section, although the verse at the end is infectious.

The closer, "Motion Sickness," is another ballad, but it's more forgettable than "Ghost Ship." The dual harmonized guitars make a return, this time playing the same line before soloing at the same time, which produces a cool effect when hard panned into each ear. This track suffers from weak melodies and verses,

taking a lot out of what should be a memorable closer.

"Western Cum" is an exercise in whiplash. Nearly every track has a switch between soft and loud, clean and distorted. Hanson's soft vocals and thoughtful lyrics

complement this sound perfectly. The biggest issue in this record is its tendency to meander on certain sounds. Though this record has its faults, it's one that's easily accessible yet still wildly unique and creative.

RATING:
5/5



Opinion

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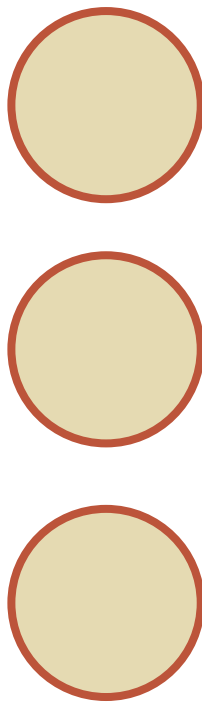


ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Patrick's Politics: What happens when the government group chat gets leaked?



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Patrick Minnerly
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The Atlantic published a bombshell report on Monday, March 24, announcing that highly sensitive U.S. attack plans had been discussed by

several high-ranking Trump administration officials in a group chat, which set off a firestorm of critical coverage. The extraordinary leakage of these plans bares the depths of dangerous stupidity the Trump administration has sunk to, as well as their trou-

bling and uncaring response to the report.

The first major issue of this debacle concerns the method of sharing classified information and how that information was leaked. The group chat was based on the messaging app Signal, which features end-to-end encryption, meaning that any messages can't be intercepted and deciphered on the way to their recipient. This feature makes Signal more secure than regular texting, but it doesn't prevent the possibility of hacking, nor the possibility that someone might be inadvertently added to the chain. The latter is exactly what caused the leakage; The Atlantic released the report because their editor-in-chief Jeffrey Goldberg was added to the group chat by national security adviser Michael Waltz, despite Waltz' claims that he didn't know Goldberg. This created a massive security breach, since Goldberg was privy to extremely sensitive information without having security clearance. Nobody in the group chat, which included many important officials such as Vice President JD Vance, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, and CIA Director John Ratcliffe, noticed that he had been added, and no one noticed when he left. Their cluelessness was perhaps best put by Hegseth, who texted "We are currently clean" on operational security, unaware that his messages were in fact not secure and soon to be published. Hegseth and other officials, however, would surely be aware that there are established ways to share classified information without compromising national security; usually, this involves going into highly secured rooms within the Pentagon to discuss sensitive matters, and no phones are allowed in.

The nature of the leaked classified information is equally concerning. The plans being discussed were for airstrikes against the Houthis, a militant group in Yemen who has been disrupting shipping lanes in the Red Sea. In the group chat, Hegseth disclosed the precise timing of attacks on specific targets. In one text, he wrote "1215et: F-18s LAUNCH (1st strike package."

This plan, had it been leaked to the Houthis or anyone opposed to American interests, would have given time for air defenses to be set up, putting the lives of U.S. soldiers in danger. That the strikes were a success, at least from the view of American military personnel, does not diminish the notion that disclosing such specific information was an astonishing and grossly irresponsible act from Hegseth.

We've established that the group chat fiasco was a terrible breach of national security. But what happened in the aftermath of the report? Did the Trump administration fully own up to its egregious mistakes? Were there widespread, bipartisan calls for complete accountability of these events? Of course not. This is reality we're talking about, and nowadays reality is worse than fiction.

The administration's response was both scrambled and chilling. On one hand, Hegseth vehemently denied any wrongdoing, telling reporters that "nobody was texting war plans." Ratcliffe and Tulsi Gabbard, director of national intelligence, argued in a Senate hearing Tuesday that no classified information had been shared at all, despite the clear indication that such details of military operations were indeed highly sensitive. House and Senate Republicans largely said that mistakes had been made, but downplayed the issue as simply a learning experience. House Speaker Mike Johnson even described the incident as an example of officials "doing their job, doing it well and executing on a plan with precision," because letting a journalist have access to top-secret information is clearly precise execution. Meanwhile, taking a more conciliatory tone, Waltz said he took full responsibility for adding Goldberg to the text chain.

None of their reactions mattered in comparison to Trump's, who holds enormous sway over the Republican Party and their ultimate leanings. Trump characterized the security breach as "really not a big deal." At the

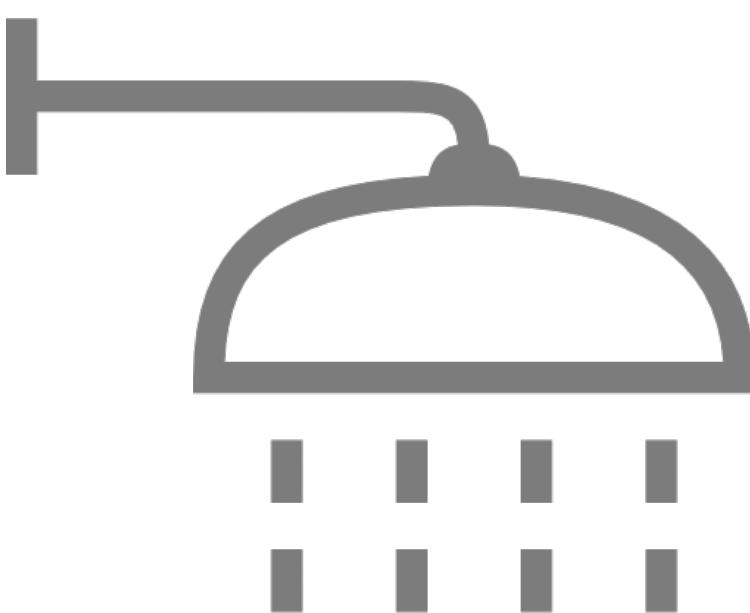
same time, White House press secretary and Trump mouthpiece Karoline Leavitt slammed the story as a hoax, disparaging Goldberg and The Atlantic in the process. This dismissal and attack on the basic facts of a report demonstrate the true position of the Trump administration and the president himself: They don't care, and they want to discredit the free press as much as possible.

From Trump's perspective, there is little loss to pushing aside the issue and turning it against the media outlet who revealed it, even with something as grave as sharing classified information in a group chat. Trump knows that his administration is built on loyalty—that was perhaps the number one qualification for a position in his government— and everyone will do their best to downplay the security breach. Similarly, he knows there aren't likely to be consequences from a Republican-controlled Congress. Every time something happens with Trump or people in his orbit that would make other administrations crash and burn, Trump seems to sail through unscathed. This is part of the reason why attacking journalists is so effective; with every new story detailing the latest disaster, the MAGA base is more convinced of the media's supposed anti-Trump bias.

This is a playbook that has worked for years, from Trump's complaining about the "Russia hoax" during his first administration up to the present.

Time will tell if this group chat leak will make as much of an impact as it should on the consciousness of the American public when midterms and ultimately the next presidential election comes up. This story should not be allowed to fade, but it might very well be allowed to drown under the next wave of news. Our job is to remember that this security breach could very well have costed American lives, and that it represents the weapons-grade incompetence of Trump and his cronies.

Securing Privacy: Why we need locks on residence hall showers



CLIPART COURTESY OF ICON-ICONS

by Jessica Pizzimenti
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Moving into my college dorm room, I was skeptical about sharing a communal bathroom with the other girls on my floor. It's often not as clean as I would hope, and I despise having to wait in line to use the sink at the end of the night to take off my makeup and brush my teeth. But the one thing I absolutely can't stand is the never-ending anxiety that comes with taking a shower in my residence hall bathroom.

My dorm is in one of the only buildings in my residence complex that is entirely co-ed. All four floors and all four halls are inhabited by students of any gender, with two men's restrooms and two women's restrooms on every floor. One of the first things I took note of was that there were no locks or doors on the showers in the bathrooms, only two curtains that separate you from the rest of the bathroom. These curtains offered no way to secure them to ensure that they do not fly open in the middle of a shower. Now, it makes plenty of sense why the actual bathroom door has no lock. If something were to happen, it would be incredibly dangerous to have a lock on the bathroom in its entirety, but it's important to ac-

knowledge the danger of not having security in the shower stalls.

Women ages 18-24 are at an elevated risk of sexual violence according to rainn.org, a site dedicated to supporting survivors of sexual violence. In addition to that, one in five women and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted while in college, with nine out of 10 women coming forward saying their offender was someone they knew prior. Between that and the "Red Zone," a period of the beginning of the school year when sexual assault is more likely to occur, I find it shocking that UConn would allow for their residence hall showers to be so easily accessible for others to open while occupied. There should be preventative measures taken in residence buildings, such as lockable shower doors, to add that extra layer of protection within shower stalls.

One of the most confusing aspects of this situation is the fact that toilets already have lockable stalls doors, but showers do not. By that logic, we can have guaranteed privacy while using the restroom, but when students are at their most vulnerable in the shower, they have to just hope someone doesn't come by and pull back the curtain.

According to the Lowe's website, it would cost between \$875 to \$1,575 per stall for plastic laminate parti-

tions, based on size. That price does include installation, but it is generally not that expensive when you consider how much most students pay in tuition a year. With the elevated risk of sexual violence on college campuses, the cost per stall is a low price to pay for the elevated safety of students. In addition, having questionable safety measures that put students' dignity at risk is not a good look for the university. If students were to have repeated issues with privacy in residence hall bathrooms, why would anyone want to apply or live on campus?

I do want to make myself clear, the installation of lockable stall doors on residence hall showers will not end campus sexual assault entirely. Rather, I think it would help students feel safer. I also do not think that this is an issue isolated to co-ed dorms, as I think every shower on campus should have locks like the ones that they have in the locker rooms at the UConn Recreation Center.

Students deserve more than two curtains that give the illusion of privacy in our communal bathrooms. The current college is a very difficult and intimidating time for any student. So, why add more stress to students and parents when the solution to this issue is so incredibly obtainable?

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Ice cream season



University of Connecticut students and families enjoy ice cream from the Dairy Bar in Storrs, Conn. on March 26, 2025. The sun was out and the doors were open, which made the Dairy Bar the perfect pit stop for a Tuesday treat. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

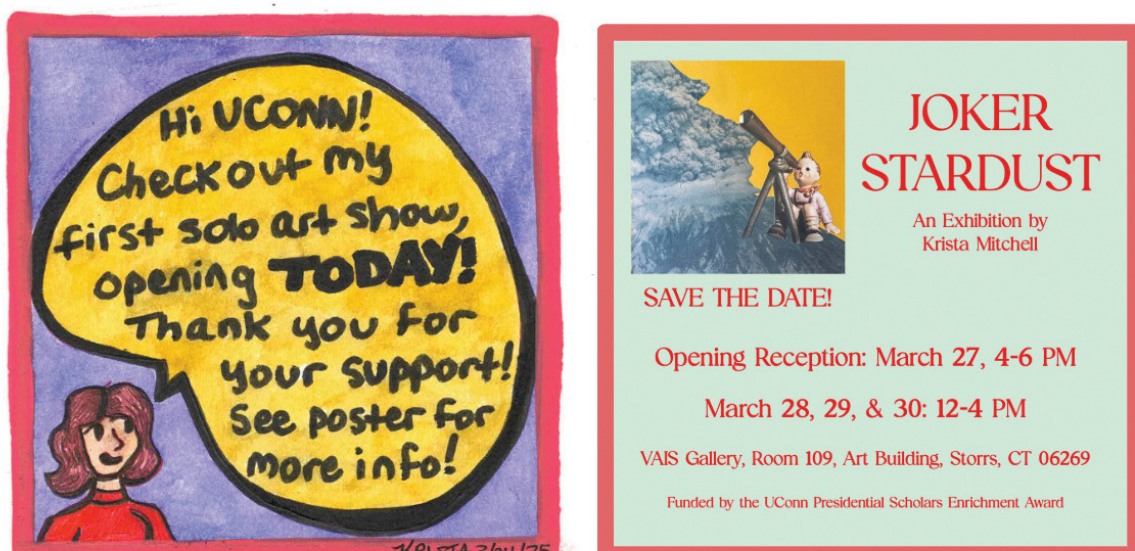
Comics



COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY CONNOR SZREJNASTAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

DROPPIN' DIMES: GRADING NFL OFFSEASON DECISIONS SO FAR

by **Matt Dimech**
HE/HIM/HIS
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With the NFL offseason in full swing, several teams have made major moves as they prepare for the 2025 season. Some of these changes have poised teams for greatness in the coming years, while others may not pan out as intended. Here are my grades for some of the biggest offseason moves so far.

Chicago Bears - Joe Thuney: A

Caleb Williams was the most sacked quarterback in the NFL in the 2024 season, being taken down behind the line 68 times. The blame shouldn't all be placed on the offensive line, as they were blocking for 3.09 seconds per pass attempt, the fourth-longest in the league. Regardless, it was imperative for the Bears to pursue better protection for the quarterback they have entrusted the future of the franchise to. Trading for Thuney was the big addition the team needed to protect Williams. Thuney is a two-time All-Pro offensive guard and a three-time Pro Bowl selection. Aside from addressing a serious issue in the roster, the Bears earned an A on this move for managing to land the four-time Superbowl champ for cheap, as Chicago only had to give up a fourth-round pick.

Cleveland Browns - Myles Garrett: D

Garrett has been the beloved star of the Cleveland Browns since being drafted in 2017. He has been named to four All-Pro teams and won the Defensive Player of the Year award in

2023. Garrett requested a trade at the end of the year, but the Browns managed to extend his contract. So, why does retaining the team's best player earn them a D? In desperation to retain their premier pass rusher, the Browns emptied their wallets. At \$160 million over four years, Garrett became the highest paid non quarterback in the history of the NFL. It took a massive overpay for Garrett to stay with the team and not go to a winning franchise. That contract, paired with Deshaun Watson's pay, will make it very hard for the Browns to build up the rest of their roster and make a push into the playoffs.

New York Jets - Justin Fields: B+

With the Aaron Rodgers experiment officially going down as a failure, it was time for the New York Jets to pivot from their current quarterback situation. Unfortunately for the Jets, they will be picking from seven, which will most likely knock them out of contention for one of the top quarterbacks in this year's draft. Of the free agents on the table, Fields offers an exciting blend of talent, while also being young enough to potentially take the reins of the team in the long run. On top of that, Fields' top target in New York will be his former wide receiver in college, Garret Wilson. The 26-year-old quarterback will also benefit from a more stable environment this year, compared to last season when it was uncertain what would happen when Russell Wilson returned from injury, and the season before that when it was debated whether the Bears should move

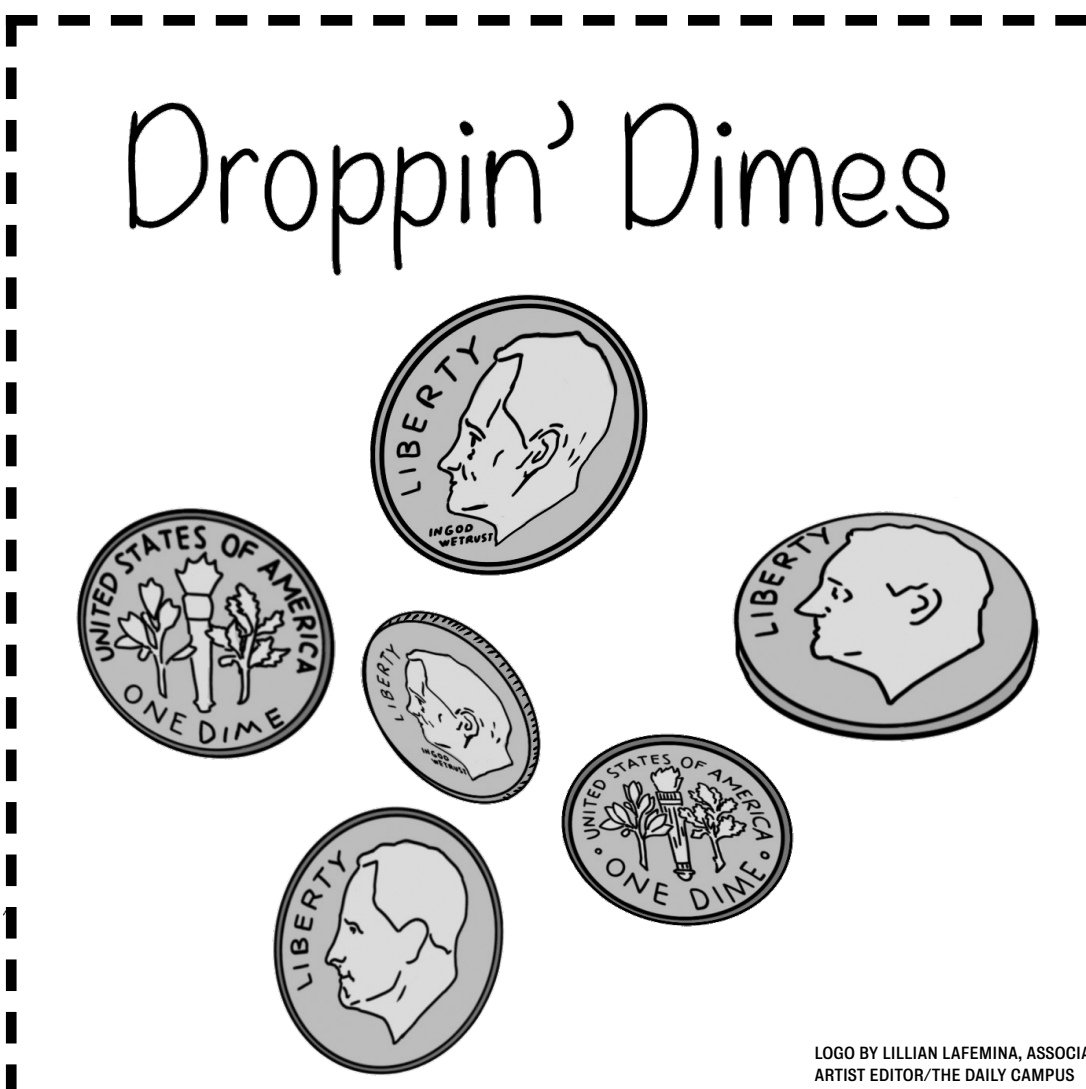
on from him. It's time for Fields to finally get a fair chance.

Pittsburgh Steelers - DK Metcalf: C

There is not a team with a more physically gifted wide receiver duo in the NFL right now than the Pittsburgh Steelers. The Steelers went out and made a trade for Metcalf in exchange for a second-round pick, pairing him with George Pick-

ens. The contract extension is what holds this move back at a C. Following the trade, the Steelers extended Metcalf to 132 million over the next four seasons. That will make him the fourth-highest paid wide receiver in the NFL. This is a gross overpay, as you would be hard pressed to find someone who has Metcalf in their top ten wide receivers, let alone

top four. There is also the quarterback dilemma-who are the Steelers going to find to throw the two of them the ball? Most of the top free agent options have already been snatched. Metcalf definitely brings versatility to the Steelers offense, but between the contract and the Steelers current situation, it's hard to bring the grade up much higher than a C.



SARGEANT'S ORDERS: WHY ALEX KARABAN DESERVES AN NBA SHOT, AND COULD TAKE IT



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After a season marked by highs and lows, the UConn men's basketball team's 2024-2025 campaign ended last Sunday, with a loss in the second round of the NCAA Tournament. A significant part of this year's squad, as well as the past two years, is Alex Karaban. In this week's edition of Sargeant's Orders, we will discuss why Karaban deserves a shot in the NBA and why he may end up taking it, although no official word has been given on his status.

According to numerous draft boards from basketball pundits, Karaban is expected to be an early to mid-second-round pick, which is a fair assessment based on his collegiate career. Looking at his raw statistics, the 22-year-old averaged over 12 points a night, five rebounds and three assists per contest. This came on over 30 minutes of work per night, with an efficient 47% shooting percentage, and a slightly above-average three-point shooting of 37.5. While some may be quick to point out that Karaban had a down year across the board, he played nearly five minutes more per night this season and was relied upon as a primary scoring option, rather than in a complementary role, where he performs best.

While some may view Karaban's ability to play in a complementary role as a negative trait, this is not the case, and it certainly does not shut the door on him playing professionally. Whether it be Harrison Barnes or Pau Gasol, non-first-option contributors who can score have proven track records at the NBA level. As much as scoring is valued in today's NBA, Karaban does more than shoot the basketball.

Karaban's best trait is, arguably, his IQ for the game. Even in his side's recent loss to Florida, when he wasn't scoring, he

was still contributing, which not every NBA hopeful can say. He was grinding out tough offensive rebounds, disrupting passing lanes and, of course, successfully running the complicated UConn offense. All of this came against a highly talented and tall Gators squad, which looks to make its seventh Final Four in program history. Karaban also has a proven track record in pressure situations. Whether it be his crucial role in two national championships or many big-time regular season matchups, he has excelled at all parts of the game at one point or another, which should translate

to the next level.

Some basketball pundits believe that Karaban may and should stay for another season. Before the age of Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL), the odds of Karaban, among other college athletes, returning for another year and delaying their first NBA contract were lower than they are now. If Karaban decided to stay for his redshirt senior year, he would delay his first NBA contract by a year, but the opportunity cost of staying would not be as high, as he could potentially earn money through NIL. If he stayed, however, he could chase a third

ring and make his legacy as a Husky even more lasting, despite already winning nearly everything there is to win in college basketball. Head coach Dan Hurley acknowledged that Karaban, along with other players in similar situations, face difficult decisions for the near future.

"It's a tougher decision for these kids that are at the end of the first round into the second round on what do I do," said Hurley at a press conference on Wednesday. "I think it's more complex that way, but Alex is a smart kid. We are leaving him alone. We have had one con-

versation. I think the best thing that you can do when you have to make decisions is you talk to very few smart people."

An attribute that goes beyond the stat sheet, often overlooked by those outside the UConn fanbase, is Karaban's ability to win. There's no way to sugarcoat it: Ever since arriving at college, Karaban has flat-out won. Even though he struggled at times, he was still a serviceable player and was called upon when needed most. Hurley emphasized this point and highlighted the "honor" that Karaban had in for coming back for the "threepeat."

"Alex has accomplished everything you can in college, and more with what he's been able to do," said Hurley. "No one wins one national championship; he won two in a row, and then he came back with honor to try to get a third, and he fought and led and was awesome. It's a life choice for him at this point."

At this point last season, Karaban would have been drafted in a relatively similar spot to if he stayed in the draft. At this point in his career, it is difficult to see his draft stock move significantly, as NBA teams tend to avoid drafting older players earlier. However, there is little indication that his stock would fall given his successful career up to this point. Tristen Newton put together an All-America caliber campaign for the Huskies a season ago, following another excellent season the year before. He had one of the best college careers imaginable, yet he was selected late in the second round, which is likely due to his age.

Based on all of this, it is not unimaginable to see Karaban throw his hat in and chase his NBA dreams. If the forward decides to leave Storrs for the next level, NBA executives should seriously consider him early in the second round, as he could be the steal of the draft and a near-immediate contributor for a franchise that already has significant scoring power.



The UConn Huskies secure a 73-56 win against Villanova during the Big East Tournament at Madison Square Garden on March 13, 2025. The Huskies impressive Big East run landed them at the No.8 seed in the NCAA Tournament PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sports

Photo of the Day | UConn v South Dakota



UConn women's basketball takes on South Dakota State during the second round of the NCAA tournament at Gampel Pavilion on March 24, 2025. The Huskies secured a 91-57 win. PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

BASEBALL: HOOK C SHUT OUT AT NORTHEASTERN IN A NEAR-PERFECT GAME, 3-0

by Sam Calhoun

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A day removed from an 18-6 blowout loss at home to Boston College, the UConn baseball team (10-13) was shut out at the Freidman Diamond in Brookline, Mass. by the Northeastern Huskies (15-8, 2-1 CAA) Wednesday afternoon.

UConn hoped to bounce back against another Boston-based team after getting embarrassed at Elliot Ballpark on Tuesday afternoon.

While right-handed pitcher Sean Finn had runners on first and second base, he was able to strike out the side in the bottom of the first inning. The sophomore from Warrington, Pa. had five strikeouts through the first two innings before being taken out.

Northeastern got on the board in the third inning with a sacrifice fly out to left center field by outfielder Harrison Feinberg, which allowed Wolcott, Conn. native Cam Maldonado, who walked along with Jack Good-

man to lead the inning off, to cross home plate and give his team a 1-0 lead.

The fourth inning gave Northeastern a cushion with a two-run single by junior Carmelo Musacchia. He placed a bunt down the third base line and advanced to second base on a throwing error by Connecticut third baseman Tyler Minick. Freshman Eric Cha and senior Jack Doyle scored off Minick's error.

Right-handed pitcher Ian Cooke took UConn most of the way with 4.1 innings pitched and a season-high seven strikeouts. He was on the mound for the final two runs scored of the game, but the loss went to left-handed pitcher Evan Hamberg-er due to the sacrifice fly.

Northeastern starting pitcher Max Gitlin pitched a near-perfect game, allowing just one hit and relying on his team's defense to help make plays for him. Pinch hitter Sam Biller hit a double to right center field to spoil the perfect game for the Clark University transfer.

It would have been the second

perfect game in college baseball this season. Ryan Rembisz pitched a perfect game as Portland defeated Seattle University on Feb. 25, 2025. A Big East team has not been on the losing end of a perfect game since Javi Salas pitched a perfect game against Villanova on March 4, 2014.

Gitlin bounced back from the hiccup with a pop-out and fly-out to finish his first complete game with Northeastern. Northeastern has had two complete game efforts in the past three games, with a seven-inning 10-0 complete game against Towson earlier this season.

Northeastern catcher Gregory Bozzo provided a strong outing, going 3-4 in the batter's box. However, the most productive player on offense was Doyle, who went 3-4 and scored one run.

UConn has lost five straight games against Northeastern and has not come out on top since April 26, 2022. Despite the recent trend, Connecticut remains in front in the all-time series dating back to April 28, 1923, 59-23-1.

Up next for Northeastern is Stony Brook for a three-game series with the Seawolves in New York in CAA play.

As the conference preseason favorite, UConn dropping its

final two games before Big East play begins does not make for a lot of momentum going into the weekend, where they will travel to Cincinnati, Ohio to take on Xavier to wrap up March.



Spring is in full swing as UConn baseball plays Boston College in Storrs, Conn. on March, 25, 2025. The Huskies put up a fight but lost to the Eagles 18-6.

PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

SPORTS SPECTRUM: HOW THE PHOENIX SUNS GOT TO THE END OF THE LINE

by Seth Wallen

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The Phoenix Suns are nearing the end of their Big Three era, which has not gone well. To say they have not met expectations is an understatement. They have dramatically underperformed to the point that they are a lottery team.

That leaves a question: How did we get here?

Let us start with the 2020-21 season, which many call the good old days.

The season prior, the Suns had gone 8-0 in the NBA bubble before missing the playoffs entirely, so this season, they came in young and chippy. This season, they traded for Chris Paul from the Thunder to add depth and leadership to this team. They won 50 games in this shortened season and made the playoffs. DeAndre Ayton, their No. 1 overall draft pick, was giving Anthony Davis and Nikola Jokic trouble in the post-season, with both players giving him high praise afterward. They made it to the finals and

went up 2-0 before the Bucks destroyed them. It wasn't a big deal because the team was so young, and they generally had more time to gel.

In the 2021-2022 season, the Suns achieved a franchise-best regular season record of 64-18, securing the top seed in the Western Conference. However, despite high expectations, their postseason ended in utter disappointment. The Suns got served the Luka Dončić special, with the Mavericks torching them in game seven of the Western Conference Semifinals, despite the Phoenix Suns being up 3-2 after Game 5.

Their starting five went ice cold to begin the first half, combining for 15 points. Paul and Devin Booker combined for 3 points, all of which came from the free throw line. Dončić ended the half with 27 points, missing only three shots. The entire Suns team had 27 points at halftime. They lost the game so severely that the Suns had to write a letter of apology to their fans.

After this, the Sun's chemistry deteriorated. During that game seven collapse, head coach

Monty Williams got into it with Ayton and his subpar performance. The front office was compelled to match the Pacers' offer for Ayton and extend Booker the supermax deal, which restricted their cap space. The Suns started the 2022-2023 season 30-27 and traded for Kevin Durant. Concluding the regular season with a 45-37 record, they beat the Clippers in five games in the first round before losing to the eventual champion, the Denver Nuggets, in six games. Paul and Ayton were not available in this series, which placed immense stress on the rest of the team as they lost games. After this, they fired Williams at the end of the season, presumably due to Ayton wanting him gone and their issues bleeding over into team chemistry.

By the start of the 2023-2024 season, they had traded Ayton for Jusuf Nurkić. The trade value of Ayton went down after the motivation issues became apparent. This is where they also made the Bradley Beal trade, sending Chris Paul, Landry Shamet, four first-round picks and six second-round picks for

Beal, Jordan Goodwin and Isaiah Todd. This was widely regarded as the worst deal possible due to the overpayment, and it would continue to haunt the franchise throughout the year. When the Washington Wizards gave Beal his 50-million-year contract with a no-trade clause, it was universally agreed to be the worst contract in the league by a mile.

This trade would probably have been okay had Beal replicated the production that made him such a force; however, his averages dropped, and the Suns finished sixth in the Western Conference with a 49-33 record. They got embarrassingly swept by the Minnesota Timberwolves in the first round, who went to the Western Conference Finals. Then, coach Frank Vogel made a point about having a point guard on the roster, and the front office declined this because it would take the ball out of the hands of Booker, Beal and Durant. He was fired at the end of the season, having lasted only a year before Mike Budenholzer was hired.

As the 2024-2025 season commenced, the Suns aimed for an improved performance compared to the previous year. However, the team has faced challenges in achieving cohesion, resulting in a record of 33-37 as of March 25. This places them 10th in the Western Conference, putting their playoff aspirations in jeopardy.

The team's recent underperformance has ignited conversations about potential roster changes and the franchise's future direction, with discussions including the possibility of trading Beal for Jimmy Butler. However, this discussion fell through, as Butler has since joined the Warriors and Beal has found himself on the bench. In addition to the financial burden of having Booker, Beal and Durant on the roster, the team lacks control over any future draft picks until 2032, complicating their decision-making process.

The outlook does not appear particularly promising, suggesting a challenging horizon for the basketball team in Phoenix.

TYLER'S TAKE: BREAKING DOWN THE ODDS OF THE BOSTON CELTICS BECOMING BACK-TO-BACK CHAMPIONS

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With an 11-1 record, the Boston Celtics have performed at an NBA Championship level in March so far. From the team's leader to off-the-bench players, the dominating depth showcases why becoming back-to-back NBA Champs could happen.

Jayson Tatum:

Tatum averaged just over 28 points in March so far. However, the star player suffered an ankle sprain against the Sacramento Kings on Monday. Despite leaving after the third quarter, the forward dropped 25 points, continuing Tatum's eight-game streak with 20-plus points. In addition, the former Duke Blue Devil leads the team with a little more than 27 points, nearly nine rebounds and almost six assists per match, according to ESPN. Additionally, the 27-year-old sits at No. 5 in the points per contest ladder, per the NBA. Regardless of looking like the MVP frontrunner, the leader stands at No. 4 in the race, per the NBA. However, the MVP race continues, as ten clashes remain on the Celtics' schedule.

Jaylen Brown:

Brown has seen better days. The 28-year-old sustained a knee injury, sidelining him for five of the Celtics' past 12 games, per Fox Sports. The guard re-

turned Monday night against the Kings, playing for 26 minutes and cashing in for only nine points. Despite struggling to knock off the rust, the guard dropped more than 17 and a half points, secured nearly six boards and dished out more than four balls per contest in March. In addition, Brown leads the team in steals, snatching more than one rock per match. With April rolling around, fans can expect the Georgia native to perform better.

Kristaps Porzingis:

Similar to Brown, Porzingis spent nearly all of March recovering from an illness, per Fox Sports. Despite participating in four matchups, Porzingis immediately made an impact, contributing over 20 points and leading the team in points scored in three clashes, according to ESPN. To add on, the big man secured a double-double against the Brooklyn Nets and Utah Jazz. The 29-year-old plays a major factor in helping the Celtics win, so keeping him healthy for the playoffs is a must when trying to claim banner No. 19.

Jrue Holiday:

Comparing the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 seasons, Holiday declined in nearly every category. The two-way player scored nearly two-and-a-half fewer points per game and his rebound and assist numbers have

decreased, per ESPN. However, Holiday can get hot on any given day. For example, against the Miami Heat, the 34-year-old notched a 25-point game, knocking down five for eight from deep and five for seven within the field. The point guard adds depth to the Celtics defensively, as he is a top-25 defender, according to the NBA, stealing nearly two balls per match.

Al Horford:

Despite becoming an off-the-bench player after trading for Holiday in 2023, Horford continues to prove that age does not matter. In March, the 38-year-old averaged nearly 12 points, snagging a little more than eight balls and assisting three-and-a-half players per night. In addition, the veteran shoots from anywhere, making over 34 percent from beyond the arc and nearly 45-and-a-half percent from the field, per ESPN. With that said, the former Gator provides an extra set of hands and can start when needed.

Derrick White:

As a Celtic, White has improved every year, with this season being no exception. In March, the 30-year-old started the month dropping a career-high of 41 points against the Portland Trail Blazers. White drilled nine for 17 from the three-point line and five for eight within the paint. Overall,

the two-way player knocked down nearly 18 points, rebounded four and a half balls and dished out five assists per clash. Defensively, the former San Antonio Spur steals one-and-a-half balls and leads the franchise with one block per contest, according to ESPN. White also lands at No. 23 in the defensive player rankings, per the NBA.

Payton Pritchard:

Like White, Pritchard developed into a reliable sixth man for the Celtics, taking a massive leap this year. In the 2023-2024 campaign, the former Oregon

Duck ended with a little more than nine-and-a-half points per game. In this season, Pritchard has averaged more than 14 points. Alongside White, the 27-year-old also put on a show against the Trail Blazers, scoring a career-high 43 points with 10 rebounds and five assists. Pritchard registered 10 of his 16 buckets from deep and was perfect within the arc. Overall, the point guard contributed nearly 16 points per clash in March. Moreover, the Oregon native is favored to win Sixth Man of the Year, per BetMGM.



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

BRAYDEN'S BREAKDOWN: THE ASTROS ARE DOING A DISSERVICE TO JOSE ALTUVE

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The Houston Astros are moving their best player in franchise history to a posi-

tion he has never played before.

Jose Altuve is slated to start Opening Day on Thursday in left field against the New York Mets. The career-long second baseman has played sparingly at shortstop, but never once in

his 14-year career has he played in the outfield.

Houston will instead opt for a platoon at second base, with Mauricio Dubon as the main starter. Dubon is a Gold Glove utility man, so moving Altuve to the outfield in favor of somebody who can play both the infield and outfield is a strange move.

Isaac Paredes is also an option at second base, after being acquired from the Cubs in the Kyle Tucker trade. The Astros announced that their number one prospect, Cam Smith, will be on the Opening Day roster. Smith, who was also in the Tucker deal, will see time at third base and possibly in left field.

It is not like Altuve's numbers have declined to a point where he is only playing because of his legacy with the team. The Venezuelan made his ninth all-star game last season and still hit almost .300 in 153 games. Altuve only committed five errors in the second last year, tied for the least

he has ever committed in a full season. The one-time Gold Glove Award winner even led all second basemen in fielding percentage last season, making this move even more preposterous.

Altuve has not played great in left field during spring training, misplaying multiple fly balls which led to unearned runs and baserunners. It will continue to take time for him to improve, but the Astros seem set on their ways to keep Altuve in left.

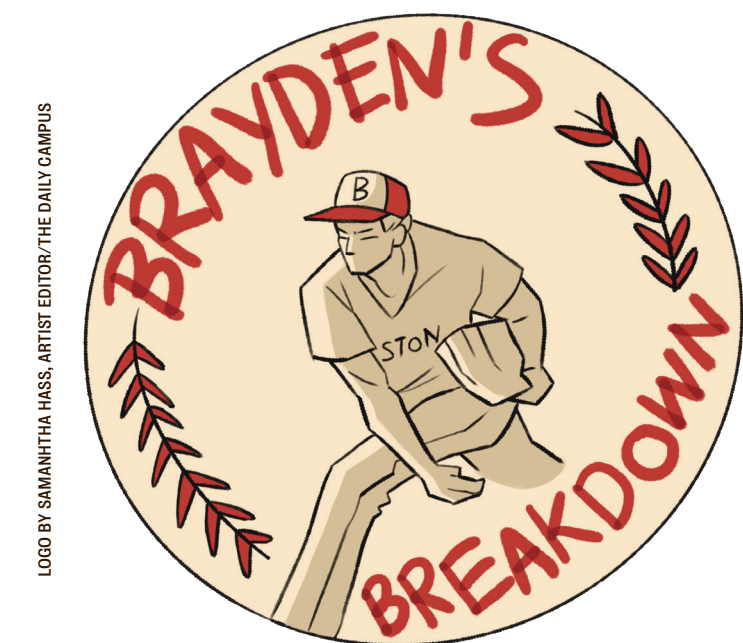
This experiment has failed multiple times, with Hanley Ramirez recently falling victim. After signing a big contract in 2015, Ramirez played 92 games in left field, a position he never played before or after. Coming off a hot month of April, mashing 10 home runs, Ramirez sprained his shoulder when he collided with a wall while running after a fly ball. This sidelined him for an extended period of time, and he only hit nine more home runs the entire season.

The Sox did not learn their lesson the next year as they

trotted out second-year catcher Blake Swihart in left field. Swihart also collided with a wall at Fenway, causing an ankle injury which would sideline him for the remainder of the season. The switch-hitter never met his full potential and would be out of the league after the 2019 season.

An injury to Altuve in the outfield is not out of the question given his recent injury history. He only appeared in 90 regular season games in 2023 while nursing thumb, shin, knee and multiple oblique injuries. The soon to be 35-year-old will need to do a lot more in left field than second base, and it could start to show his age.

Altuve has stuck with the Astros through thick and thin. He has been with the team since they were in the National League. He was a part of some of the worst teams in franchise history, but he just put his head down and did his job. This is no way to treat the two-time World Series champion.



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WOMEN'S LACROSSE: HUSKIES LOOK TO FINISH NON-CONFERENCE SCHEDULE STRONG AT HOFSTRA

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The UConn women's lacrosse team (6-4, 0-1) is set to travel to Hempstead, NY to take on Hofstra this weekend to finish off non-conference play.

The Huskies are coming off an 11-7 loss at Villanova in the Big East opener, in which the Wildcats outshot Connecticut 38-23. UConn took an early 3-1 lead in the first quarter before Villanova rattled off six unanswered points before the half. This proved too much to come back from, despite the Huskies' best efforts in the second half. Graduate student Jenna Giardina led the Huskies with three points with two goals and one assist.

Hofstra (6-4) is also looking to bounce back after a 14-12 loss to Elon. Redshirt sophomore Nikki Mennella dominated with six goals and three assists on the day. Mennella is Hofstra's leading scorer this season with 58 points, consisting of 33 goals and 25 assists, making her

one of the top scorers in the nation. Slowing her down will be a key challenge for the Huskies' defense.

UConn is hoping for a bounce-back game from their leading scorer, redshirt junior Rayea Davis, who has been relatively quiet for the past few games. A strong performance from her could provide the offense with a much-needed boost after the last game. Goalkeeper Tori Cini has looked solid in her past few games, bringing up her save percentage to 46.7. In transition, UConn has been very efficient with 91.7% clearing, which will be crucial in limiting turnovers.

The two teams are nearly identical in draw controls, though UConn has a slight advantage at 55.4% compared to Hofstra's 55.3%. Hofstra has been able to limit turnovers, averaging 14.3 per game, while UConn averages 16.8. As a result, the Huskies will need to rely on efficient shooting to keep up. The Pride's attack is one of the most efficient in the nation, converting 47% of their shots, compared to UConn's 45.2%. Despite their efficient offense,

Hofstra has struggled on the defensive end. The Pride allow an average of 10 goals per game and have a 40.1 save percentage at goal. If UConn can create quality looks on offense,

they could take advantage by putting pressure on Hofstra's goaltending.

UConn and Hofstra will face off on March 23 at 3 p.m., with both squads looking to get

back into the win column. For the Huskies, finishing non-conference play with a win would be a needed confidence boost before returning to Big East competition.



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



Sports

WOMEN'S TENNIS: UCONN TO SQUARE OFF AGAINST PROVIDENCE AT HOME

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With an 11-2 record, the UConn women's tennis team looks to take down yet another opponent as they will face Big East foe, Providence, on March 28. The Huskies have yet to lose a game at home all season, and they will be looking to continue that streak against the Friars on Friday. Connecticut hasn't lost a match since February, beating the likes of Milwaukee, Marquette, and Xavier through their five-game win streak.

The Huskies looked particularly strong in their 5-1 win over Milwaukee in Orlando. Senior Olivia Wright, sophomore Victoria Matos, junior Cameron Didion, sophomore Isabella Asenov and freshman Chloe Lomans all won their singles matches handily in consecutive sets. Wright and Matos won their doubles match 6-2, and Wright was further named the Big East player of the week for her strong performances.

UConn has dominated all year, and the individual stats justify their impressive performance. Didion has had a season to remember, with a stellar 12-3

singles record. Lomans follows at 15-4, while Matos has also put together an impressive 15-8 season. As a team, the Huskies have been sensational, with

96 wins across 13 matchdays. With a strong performance against their Big East foes, the Huskies would break the hundred-win mark with five

matchdays left, which is an impressive accomplishment.

The 2-10 Friars dominated Bentley in early March with a 7-0 win, bouncing back after a loss against Rhode Island. They went on to lose a tight contest against Binghamton, 4-3, in which grad student Elise Leik and senior Lauren Carson put on strong showings, and both won their singles matches. The Huskies need to bring their A-game to slow down the two. Most recently, the team traveled to Staten Island to play Wagner on Sunday and the Seahawks claimed a 4-0 win.

The first serve is set for 2:30 p.m. in Storrs, and the Huskies look to take down the Friars to advance to 12-2. Last season, the Huskies finished 13-8 and the fourth seed in the Big East. With just a few more wins, they could eclipse last season's record and be strongly in the running for the No. 1 seed in the conference come NCAA tournament time. It will be a difficult matchday, but an excellent opportunity for the Huskies to continue to improve. The first serve Friday is scheduled for 2:30 p.m.



The UConn women's tennis team plays against Fordham on the second day of the 2024 UConn Invitational held in Storrs, Conn. on Sept. 14, 2024. The Huskies won the match 4-3.
PHOTO BY SAHANA GANESH, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

SOFTBALL: HUSKIES HIT THE ROAD FOR BIG EAST BOUT WITH BLUEJAYS

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This week, the UConn softball team (16-11, 5-1) looks to continue its in-conference success in a three-game weekend series against the Creighton Bluejays. The Huskies are coming off of a dominant series sweep over Seton Hall last weekend, showcasing both offensive firepower and dominance in the circle in all three of their wins.

Outfielder Kailyn Breslin, who received Big East Player of the Week Honors for her performance last weekend, is proving to be tremendous asset for the Huskies at the plate. Over the course of the weekend, the sophomore scattered eight hits over 11 at-bats, including two doubles and a towering home-run in the last game of the series. Not to mention, Breslin also drove in six runs, contributing immensely to the success of the Huskies' lineup.

Junior catcher Grace Jenkins is also having a strong season, posting a .372 average while leading the team in RBIs (31),

doubles (10) and homeruns (8). Having a bat like hers in the lineup is crucial, as the Huskies will rely on Jenkins to drive in

timely runs.

After a shaky couple of outings, Payton Kinney is as dominant as ever in the circle.

Kinney (5-2) was virtually unhittable against Seton Hall, surrendering only five hits over a whopping 10.1 innings of work. Kinney's heroics against the Pirates earned her a spot on the Big East Conference Honor Roll for the second time this season. Keep an eye out for Kinney to get some innings against the Bluejays this weekend.

On the other hand, Creighton is currently struggling a bit with an 11-16 record overall and a 1-5 conference record. They're also riding a seven-game losing streak, eager to put it to a close against the Huskies.

Despite the teams' losing record, 2024 All-Big East Conference Second Team selection Sydra Seville is currently slashing .392/.453/.510 with a 1.000 fielding percentage, solidifying her case as one of the best outfielders in the conference. The Jays need Seville to produce for success over this gritty, talented UConn squad.



The UConn softball team versus Sacred Heart University. The Huskies fought hard and were rewarded with a win. PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

TRACK & FIELD: TWO RELAY MEETS ON TAP FOR THE HUSKIES

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The UConn track and field team will head to Austin, Texas and Raleigh, N.C. for meets this week.

Connecticut will send a handful of their best jumpers to Austin to compete in a stacked field.

Joshua Mooney and Diarmuid O'Connor will kick off the decathlon events. O'Connor won the Big East Outdoor Championships decathlon in 2024 with a score of 7,610 points. The Ireland native earned All-American status after finishing 13th in the Division 1 championship.

Kasey Savage and Marc Morrison will compete in the long jump at Texas. Morrison is coming off a 12th-place finish at the NCAA indoor championships, earning Second Team All-American honors. Savage, along with O'Connor, were both named Most Outstanding Field Performers at the Big East Championships. Savage earned an astounding fourth- consecutive High Point Performer of the Meet at the Big East Championships, tallying 18.5 points.

Kyle Johnson rounds out the

men's field in the Lone Star State by competing in the triple jump. Johnson also earned a Second Team All-American nod, coming in tenth place at the indoor championships.

Two women will be competing at the Texas Relays. A'Liyah Thomas will participate in the long jump. Thomas took home All-Big East honors for the indoor Track & Field season. She also won the gold in the Big East Championship in the long jump.

Zayin Roe is the other representative on the women's side, competing in the triple jump. The senior sits eighth all-time in UConn history for the triple jump with a jump of 12.5 meters. She will look to climb the record books this weekend.

Other runners will head to NC State to compete against collegiate programs from across the country.

The Huskies have four runners in the 1500-meter run. Loghan Hughes, Faith Kiplimo, Calista Mayer and Madison Reylea will compete in a field of almost 300 competitors.

Jenna Zydanowicz will attempt to rewrite the record books once again this weekend in the 5000-meter run. Zydanowicz took home gold in the 5000

at the Big East Championships, while her teammate Kiplimo grabbed the silver. The West Hartford native set the school record for the 3000-meter run back in February, with a time of 9:06.07. A race against top tier competition could land Zydanowicz back in the record books in Raleigh.

Chloe Trudel will race in the 10,000-meter race. The junior has a personal best 5K time of 16:53 and a 6K time of 21:24.

Malin Rahm and Sarah Trainor will round out the women's competitions in the 3000-meter steeplechase.

Griffin Mandirola is running in the men's 1500-meter at NC State. The freshman previously ran the 3200-meter race in 9:15.

Travis Martin and Alec Sauter will continue the distance racing trend, competing in the 5000-meter run. Sauter broke the four-minute barrier in the 1500 during his freshman year, running 3:53.55.

The final competitor of the weekend is Daniel Hilmer, who will race in the 3000-meter steeplechase.

The Huskies have a lot to prove in two of the most competitive meets of the season.



UConn men's track and field competes in day two of the Husky Challenge. The challenge was hosted in the Hugh S. Greer field house on Friday Dec. 6, 2024.
PHOTO BY FRANCESCA BAZIL, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS