

University Senate discusses housing, state funding cuts and DEI in monthly meeting

by **Samantha Brody**
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The University of Connecticut's senate met on March 3 in the Student Union ballroom to discuss current issues such as housing, (DEI) and state funding in the wake of executive orders.

The University Senate consists of 104 voting members, nine of which are undergraduates and three of which are graduate students. It also includes 14 ex-officio members, including UConn President Radenka Maric and Provost Anne D'Alleva. Many of the senators were online for the entirety of the meeting.

Moderator Del Siegle called the meeting at 4:02 p.m. and began with a land acknowledgment. After an approval of the minutes, Maric had the floor for her president's report. Maric first noted that she plans to testify in front of the Higher Education and Employment Committee in order to ask for extra funds when hiring topic school officials. She then turned the report over to Pamir Alpay, the vice president for research, innovation and entrepreneurship, to discuss federal grants.

"Since day one, we've been hit with executive orders, as you know," Alpay said. "In the last two months we also see a significant reduction in new grants that are coming in."

He noted that the university typically sees around \$25 million in grant money.

"The last two months haven't been too bright. We've received only five million dollars in funding," he said.

Alpay did note that he does have a team working with the financial affairs committee and the executive committee to figure out how programs will be affected by a lack of funding.

"I hope I'll have better news

next time around," he said. "I know we'll adjust."

Maric also mentioned that not all cuts have been finalized, stating that organizations like the Department of Energy and programs like Medicaid have also been receiving cuts. Despite this, she said Governor Ned Lamont was open to further conversations.

"He is definitely having the empathy, but he wants to see what are the things that we can do the best," Maric said. "If there are cuts, what can we leave out? And how will this affect our faculty?"

The conversation then turned to UConn's diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programs.

Maric assured that while there has been federal pushback, the school will not change vocabulary surrounding DEI. "In this position, we are not breaking the law," she said.

Maric then gave the floor to former Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer Franklin Tuitt and D'Alleva to discuss UConn's policies on DEI and plans going forward.

"Diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility is foundational to our missions and values," Tuitt said. He cited the creation of a task force designed to predict how executive orders will impact people at UConn. "We're also particularly concerned about what is happening in the gender affirming care space as well."

D'Alleva also noted that the university will pause hiring for the time being. This is in anticipation of federal cuts and regulations on DEI.

"We ask people to proceed, but to proceed with caution," she said.

D'Alleva said candidates that have already been approved for hire will still be hired.

"We are not going to ask anybody to stop teaching or to change what they are teaching," D'Alleva added. She later noted



Connecticut Hall at the UConn Storrs campus on Aug. 27, 2024. Connecticut Hall is the newest residential and dining addition to the Storrs campus. PHOTOS BY MERCER FERGUSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

that UConn's cultural programs and cultural centers still have the support of the university.

"For any student, the Dean of Students Office is an essential resource and is a first stop for our undergraduate students," D'Alleva said. "When students need help, if they are international students, if they are struggling in any way because of the impact and the changes coming out of Washington, that's the place to start."

Maric then departed from the senate meeting, and her report was followed by the report from the Senate Executive Committee by Laura Burton, the SEC chair. She noted that the SEC has been discussing ways of improving communication and has been reviewing bylaws.

Senator Karen Bresciano then began a review of a bylaw, Article II, Section B. 12, regarding undergraduate readmission.

Bresciano explained that while UConn stopped officially asking for readmission applications for their criminal history in 2022, the bylaw was not changed to reflect that. She proposed the removal of the mention of criminal history from the official bylaw.

Senator Jamie Kleinman covered the next bylaw change, Article II Class E. 9, regarding protocol if the university must close. The updated bylaw would ensure that teachers cannot require that students attend class or submit assignments in the event of a closure, and that students must be given sufficient time to complete said assignments after UConn reopens. Kleinman noted that "sufficient time" would be defined on a case-by-case basis.

Both proposed changes will be voted on by the senate at their next meeting.

Jeffrey Geoghegan, UConn's executive vice president for finance and chief financial officer,

then began a presentation on the current state of the university's budget.

Geoghegan noted that UConn is currently projected to have \$1.4 million in profit by the end of the school year. This income will be invested into the next school year, which he predicted would be especially useful if UConn does not receive full state funding.

Geoghegan labeled all aspects of the budget as "favorable" apart for state funding.

"There is a \$5.5-million-dollar reduction in state support," he said. "We don't currently expect any additional reductions at this time."

He added that the Storrs campus is currently at capacity for both housing and dining. Geoghegan plans on talking to Vice President for Student Life & Enrollment Nathan Fuerst to discuss methods of increasing capacity.

New local doughnut shop opens in Storrs

by **Sara Bedigian**
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A new doughnut shop is bringing fresh mini doughnuts to the University of Connecticut and local Mansfield community.

Dad's Doughs, located at 483 Storrs Road, is open daily from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., offering a dozen specialty doughnuts and six classic flavors. The specialty flavors are rotated frequently, and six classic doughnuts, which include plain, powdered sugar, cinnamon sugar, honey glazed and jelly, are offered every day.

One of the dads behind Dad's Doughs is Lucas Ahern, co-owner and local restaurateur. He explains their mission of creating doughnuts that are fresh and made to order daily.

"The oldest that your doughnut is going to be from Dad's Dough's, realistically, is maybe 30 or 35 minutes at its absolute oldest, just simply because we're always making fresh batches of donuts," Ahern said. "Fresh has always been super important to me, regardless of whatever kind of concept I've been working in."

Ahern, who grew up in Man-

sfield and returned to Connecticut after managing restaurants in Boston said he always wanted to have his own restaurant.

He partnered with local businessman Anthony Raggi and worked to get zoning approval to open the doughnut retail location in the historic former agricultural organization house Echo Grange, which is owned by Raggi.

While Ahern is running the food service side of the shop, he said Raggi is an integral part of the day-to-day business from his experiences in marketing and brand recognition. Raggi owns the insurance business that is located upstairs of the building.

After breaking ground in September, Dad's Doughs opened on Dec. 6 with their ribbon cutting ceremony. However, located in a university town, this came at a time when most students were headed home for winter break.

While Ahern said the local support from people that live in town has been great, ever since the spring semester started and college students have returned, it has "been a boom for the business."

Ahern said he has worked

with a variety of groups at UConn by making large orders for clubs and organizations, including the Residential Hall Association and approaching this weekend with a 3,000-doughnut order for HuskyTHON, an 18-hour dance marathon on March 8.

"We very much enjoy working with the different organizations, whether it has been members of athletics teams, clubs, or other groups" he said. "I have met people from all over the country, all over the globe and ultimately, the most important

so far, a few have been specifically UConn themed.

"Even though we try to focus on a few items and do those items well, if you are a regular of ours, or if you are coming in multiple times a week or even multiple times a month, there are always going to be new options," he said.

Some flavors will be one and done because they weren't as popular, but other ones like maple bacon, a doughnut with maple frosting and bacon pieces, or dulce de leche, a doughnut with a whipped cream topping

him at other restaurants he has managed.

"I have been at Dad's Dough's every single day that we have been open at the register in an attempt to greet and say thank you to every single person that comes in and spends their hard-earned dollars here," Ahern said.

In addition to doughnuts, the shop offers local beverage options from Baronet Coffee Roasters in Windsor, Mountain Dairy in Storrs, Hosmer Mountain Soda in Willimantic and Village Springs in Willington.



Co-owner of Dad's Doughs Lucas Ahern (left) and a staff member (right) at the new location in Mansfield, Conn. The local doughnut shop opened on Dec. 6, 2024. PHOTO BY SARA BEDIGIAN, EDITOR IN CHIEF

part is it doesn't really matter the organization, people like doughnuts and that has been the most enjoyable thing."

He explained the rotating specialty flavors attract a younger audience, like college students and out of the 51 specialty flavors they have done

and caramel sauce, have been extremely popular.

When it comes to bringing in new flavors, Ahern said his staff works together to create them, especially on slower days when it is rainy or snowy. Ahern spoke highly of his staff, all of which have worked for

Dad's Doughs offers gluten-free doughnuts sourced from Freedom Gluten Free Bakery out of Woburn, Mass.

Takeout, catering options and online ordering is available at <https://dadsdoughs.com/order>. No phone orders are accepted.

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News

Teachers union sues over Trump administration's deadline to end school diversity programs

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new federal lawsuit in Maryland is challenging a Trump administration memo giving the nation's schools and universities two weeks to eliminate "race-based" practices of any kind or risk losing their federal money.

The lawsuit, filed Tuesday by the American Federation of Teachers union and the American Sociological Association,

says the Education Department's Feb. 14 memo violates the First and Fifth Amendments. Forcing schools to teach only the views supported by the federal government amounts to a violation of free speech, the organizations say, and the directive is so vague that schools don't know what practices cross the line.

"This letter radically upends and re-writes otherwise well-

established jurisprudence," the lawsuit said. "No federal law prevents teaching about race and race-related topics, and the Supreme Court has not banned efforts to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in education."

The memo, formally known as a Dear Colleague Letter, orders schools and universities to stop any practice that treats people differently because of

their race, giving a deadline of this Friday. As a justification, it cites a Supreme Court decision banning the use of race in college admissions, saying the ruling applies more broadly to all federally funded education.

President Donald Trump's administration is aiming to end what the memo described as widespread discrimination in education, often against white and Asian American students.

At stake is a sweeping expansion of the Supreme Court ruling, which focused on college admissions policies that considered race as a factor when admitting students. In the Feb. 14 memo, the Education Department said it interprets the ruling to apply to admissions, hiring, financial aid, graduation ceremonies and "all other aspects of student, academic and campus life."

The lawsuit says the Education Department is applying the Supreme Court decision too broadly and overstepping the agency's authority. It takes issue with a line in the memo condemning teaching about "systemic and structural racism."

"It is not clear how a school could teach a fulsome U.S. History course without teaching about slavery, the Missouri Compromise, the Emancipation Proclamation, the forced relocation of Native American tribes" and other lessons that might run afoul of the letter, the lawsuit said.

The department did not im-

mediately respond to a request for comment.

In the memo, Craig Trainor, acting assistant secretary for civil rights, had said schools' and colleges diversity, equity and inclusion efforts have been "smuggling racial stereotypes and explicit race-consciousness into everyday training, programming, and discipline."

"But under any banner, discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin is, has been, and will continue to be illegal," Trainor wrote in the memo.

The lawsuit argues the Dear Colleague Letter is so broad that it appears to forbid voluntary student groups based on race or background, including Black student unions or Irish-American heritage groups. The memo also appears to ban college admissions practices that weren't outlawed in the Supreme Court decision, including recruiting efforts to attract students of all races, the lawsuit said.

It asks the court to stop the department from enforcing the memo and strike it down.

The American Federation of Teachers is one of the nation's largest teachers unions. The sociological association is a group of about 9,000 college students, scholars and teachers. Both groups say their members teach lessons and supervise student organizations that could jeopardize their schools' federal money under the memo.



Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, speaks during the Democratic National Convention Aug. 22, 2024, in Chicago, Illinois. (AP PHOTO/J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE)

Who are the Mennonites in a Texas community where measles is spreading?

(AP) — The Mennonite population being affected by a measles outbreak in West Texas is part of a larger, loosely affiliated group of churches worldwide with varied beliefs and leadership structures — and with sometimes strained or distant relations with health officials and other public authorities.

Who are the Mennonites?

Mennonites are part of the wider Anabaptist family of churches, which emerged in 1525 as the radical wing of the Protestant Reformation in Central Europe. Other Anabaptist branches today include the Amish, Brethren and Hutterites. Anabaptists believed that a true biblical church had to follow such principles as non-violence, unconditional forgiveness, adult baptism, church discipline, and a refusal to bear arms or swear oaths.

Early Anabaptists suffered persecution and martyrdom under Catholic and Protestant rulers in Europe, a history that still influences some groups today in their suspicion of governmental authorities, including public health officials.

Mennonites, named for an early leader, Menno Simons, vary widely in practice today.

Some Mennonites have largely assimilated into mainstream culture and dress, with a focus on working for peace and social justice in the larger society. Other Mennonites maintain traditions

similar to the Amish, with tight-knit, separatist communities marked by such things as limited technology, nonviolence, male leadership and traditional dress, including women's head coverings. Still others are somewhere on a continuum between such practices.

There are more than 2 million baptized believers in 86 countries in Anabaptist-related churches, according to the Mennonite World Conference

What are Old Colony Mennonites in Texas?

The outbreak has particularly affected Gaines county and some adjacent areas.

While it's not immediately clear which Mennonite community has been affected, the Gaines County area includes a community with a distinctive history.

Many other North American Amish and Mennonites trace their roots to immigration directly from Western Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries, said Steven Nolt, professor of history and Anabaptist Studies at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania.

In contrast, the Seminole area includes a community of Old Colony Mennonites, which has a much more circuitous history of migration, Nolt said.

Old Colony Mennonites migrated first to the Russian Empire, then to Canada, then to Mexico, fleeing government pressures to

assimilate, according to Nolt. As economic conditions deteriorated in Mexico, some moved to such areas as Gaines County and other communities in Texas and nearby states in the 1980s and 1990s. All along, they have preserved their Low German dialect and other cultural distinctions.

Gaines County is also home to one of the highest rates of school-aged children in Texas who have opted out of at least one required vaccine, with nearly 14% skipping a required dose last school year.

What are Mennonite views on vaccines?

"Historically and theologically, there has not been any religious teaching against immunization in Mennonite circles," Nolt said via email. "There's no religious prohibition, no body of religious writing on it at all. That said, more culturally conservative Mennonite (and

Amish) groups have tended to be under-immunized or partially-immunized."

Partly, he said, that's because they don't engage as regularly with health care systems as more assimilated groups do. Many traditional Anabaptist groups did accept vaccinations that were promoted in the mid-20th century, such as for tetanus and smallpox, but they have been more skeptical in recent years of newly introduced vaccines, Nolt said.

But Old Colony groups who arrived in the late 20th century also "missed the whole mid-century immunization push, as they weren't in the U.S. at that time."

What are state laws on student exemptions from vaccines?

All 50 states and the District of Columbia require vaccines for students to attend school, accord-

ing to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Many states align their mandates with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

All states allow exemptions for medical reasons, while most allow exemptions for religious or personal reasons, or both. Only five states — California, Connecticut, Maine, New York and West Virginia — have allowed no non-medical exemptions, according to the conference, but West Virginia is taking steps this year to allow religious or philosophical exemptions.

Texas law allows exemptions for "reasons of conscience, including a religious belief."

U.S. kindergarten vaccination rates dipped in 2023, and the proportion of children with exemptions rose to an all-time high, according to federal data posted in 2024.



A vehicle drives past a sign outside of Seminole Hospital District offering measles testing Friday, Feb. 21, 2025, in Seminole, Texas. (AP PHOTO/JULIO GORTEZ)

The Daily Campus

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Study Break

The Daily Campus Crossword and Sudoku

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

Solution to Tuesday's puzzle

3/5/25

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

- ACROSS**
- 1 Update a historic home, say
 - 6 Quick look
 - 10 "Dream on"
 - 14 Enlighten
 - 15 Crooner Paul
 - 16 Novela introduction?
 - 17 Fleetwood Mac hit with the lyric "I'll settle for one day to believe in you"
 - 19 Jai ___
 - 20 Pro vote
 - 21 Ingrid's "Casablanca" role
 - 22 Strenuous
 - 24 Prefix with tech
 - 26 Taylor Swift hit that features a sweater metaphor
 - 28 Milwaukee team
 - 31 "The Daily" podcast producer, briefly
 - 32 Special glow
 - 33 Paul of "The Batman"
 - 35 Venomous snake
 - 40 Elvis Presley hit about someone who only looks like an angel
 - 43 Be of ___: help
 - 44 ___ Point, California
 - 45 Summer getaway
 - 46 Govt. intel org.
 - 48 Gets to giggle
 - 50 Rihanna hit about friends who stick together rain or shine
 - 55 For fear that
 - 56 See 50-Down
 - 57 Quite bright
 - 59 Alley-___
 - 62 Actor Alda
 - 63 Musical remakes, and what 17-, 26-, 40-, and 50-Across all are, in a way
 - 66 Rare rocks
 - 67 Sinister
 - 68 Verdi work
 - 69 "Gotcha"
 - 70 "The Voice" host Carson
 - 71 Elevates

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
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		24	25			26	27							
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32					33		34			35	36	37	38	39
40				41					42					
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			46	47			48			49				
50	51	52	53				54		55					
56						57	58				59	60	61	
62					63	64				65				
66					67					68				
69					70					71				

By Sala Wanetick & Emily Biegas

3/5/25

- DOWN**
- 1 Depend (on)
 - 2 Actress Falco
 - 3 Touched on something touchy
 - 4 Back of the boat
 - 5 Author credit
 - 6 Buds
 - 7 Pioneering computer
 - 8 Scrape (by)
 - 9 Danish, e.g.
 - 10 Pong platform
 - 11 Former baseball commissioner Bud
 - 12 Glazer of "Broad City"
 - 13 Pretend
 - 18 "Euphoria" actor Jacob
 - 23 Pet collar attachment
 - 25 Stand by for
 - 27 Designate as a successor
 - 28 Grammy winner Erykah
 - 29 Feels remorse
 - 30 Flip-flop, e.g.
 - 34 Confidentiality contract, for short

- 36 Dodges
- 37 Landline sounds
- 38 "Twilight" vampire Cullen
- 39 Gym count
- 41 Not a people person, say
- 42 Mariner
- 47 Prepared to serve, as pie
- 49 Black out
- 50 With 56-Across, grilled eel dish
- 51 Odometer units
- 52 Not one's best effort
- 53 Flush
- 54 Blacksmith's block
- 58 Wriggly
- 60 Fantasy monster
- 61 Unpaid ads
- 64 Egg cells
- 65 Maker of Lincoln Park After Dark nail polish

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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

Ear 2 Da Sky:

Santigold shines in her debut

by **Hayden Cromer** | HE/HIM/HIS | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | hayden.cromer@uconn.edu

Welcome to Ear 2 Da Sky! Each week, I will be going over topics within music culture and reviewing albums and EPs across genres, eras and artists that are submitted by readers like you and listeners of my radio show, ear 2 da ground airing every Wednesday at 11 p.m. on WHUS 91.7 FM! For this week's submission, I listened through Santigold's "Santigold," album while riding the Red Line bus.

"Santigold" is Santi White's debut album, released on April 29, 2008. She, as well as this album, used to go under the name "Santogold" before changing the O to an I. This was due to a lawsuit filed against her by Santo Rigatuso, who had been going by the name "Santo Gold" long before White.

Her debut album clocks in at 41 minutes, sitting at 12 songs. She uses this first impression to her advantage as she shows off her artistic and musical range through every track. It's a mix of pop, new wave, reggae, punk and electronic, amongst other subgenres and niches I may have missed.

She kicks off the album with

indie pop in "L.E.S. Artistes." She writes about creating art for art's sake and the suddenness of being under the spotlight after being in her own head for years. Around the time this was written, Santigold had moved to New York City, so you can hear her inner thoughts in the chorus: "I can say I hope it will be worth what I give up / If I could stand up mean for the things that I believe," and on verse two, "What am I here for? / I left my home to disappear is all / I'm here for myself / Not to know you."

This song was also made as a commentary on those that take up artist spaces with the intention of having eyes and appealing to the public rather than creating for their own desire. The title itself is also a dig at those that try and make everything pretentious, as it may read as a French translation of "the artists," but it literally means "Lower East Side Artists."

Track three is titled "Shove It," and it features Spank Rock. This is another showcase of her genre-blending style. In a 2008

Q&A with Westword, she said the song was about the "propagandist tactics" of the George W. Bush administration, as well as the "power of people and the need for us to speak up." She repeats the song's namesake over, chanting "We think you're a joke / Shove your hope where it don't shine." In reference to what "hope" means in the song, she said that it "is just a metaphor for all their bullshit talk."

Santigold's self-titled debut album is one that I believe is important to the development of music production. While she isn't the first person to create a genre-blending album, she created something that was her own. I feel that this album holds value because she is extremely important to the freedom of being weird in music. That's why we have the Doechiis, the Tyler, The Creators — who both eventually had a hand in the creation of "CHROMAKOPIA" — the A\$AP Rockys, the Blood Oranges and everyone that's free within their own respective weirdness.

Rating: 3.5/5

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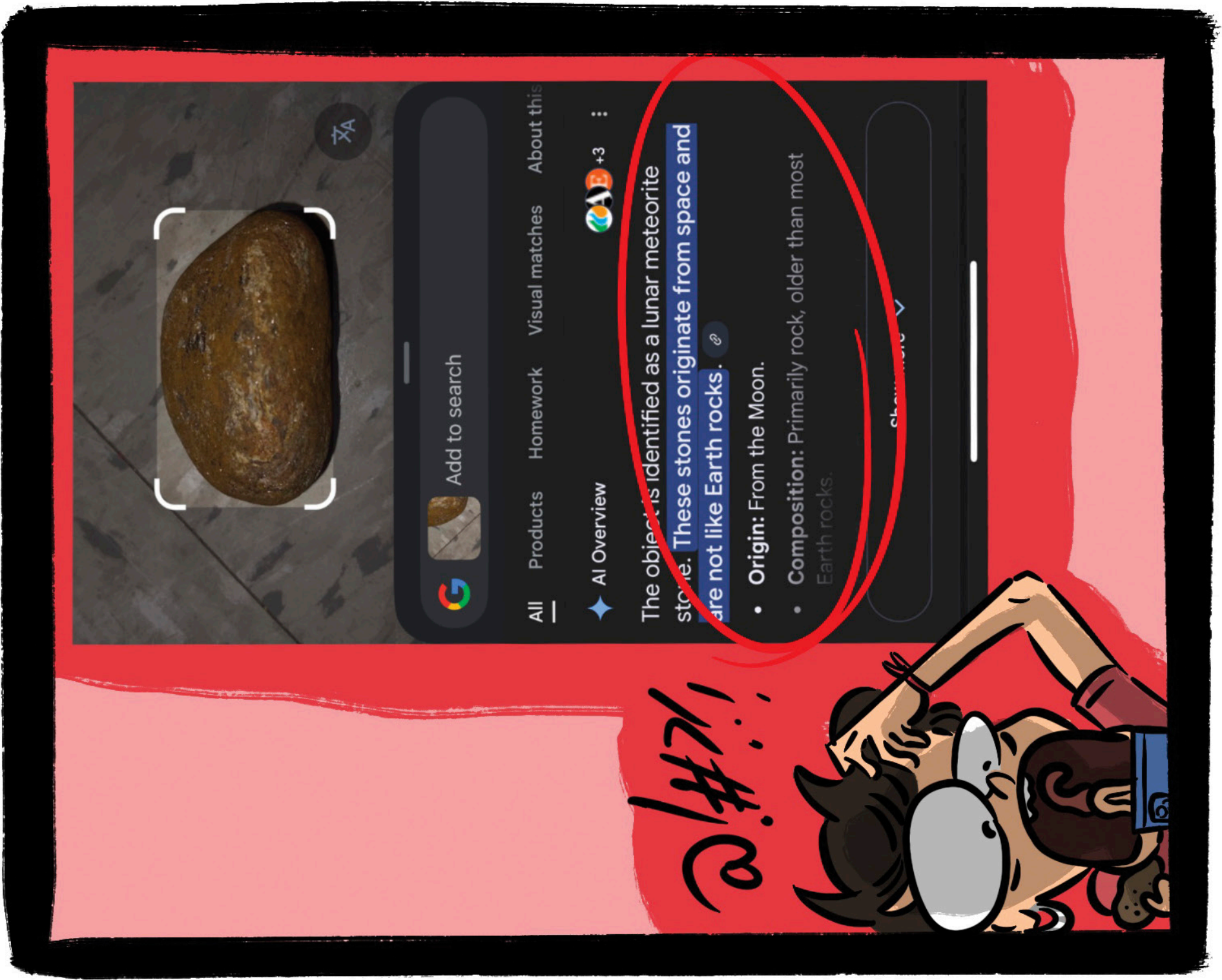
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Comic of the Day

by Connor Szrejna

Staff Artist



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Life

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THE MUSIC NEVER STOPS: SKY CARLSON

by Dan Stark

HE/HIM/HIS
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In punk rock, there's truly nothing better than a classic power trio. Having a guitarist, bassist and drummer together creating the most sound possible makes for some high-energy, moshable music. And no one gets that more than Sky Carlson.

Carlson is a singer-songwriter and guitarist who is the frontman of 2/14, a pop-punk trio based in New York City. He's known for the wall of sound he creates with just one guitar and his expressive vocals and has brought his talents to the Big Apple and the Nutmeg State, among other places.

He first picked up a guitar when he was 17, inspired by pop-punk and bands like Blink-182, Sum 41 and Taking Back Sunday. He cited Blink-182 as the band that drove him most to start playing, recalling that "watching their shows was what really made me want to be in a band." He later picked up singing, which was something he wasn't planning on doing when he first wanted to start a band.

"I was gonna just play guitar and write some songs, but I could never really find anyone who sold it the way I wanted to, so I ended up figuring out how to do it myself," he said.

It was a big step outside of his comfort zone, as he considers himself to be a "really reserved person." But he's embraced the role at the microphone, saying, "I ended up growing into it, I feel like I'm learning more every time we perform."

Carlson first started 2/14 when he was in high school after putting up some flyers around school looking for people to jam with. After finding a bass player and drummer, they made plans to perform at their school on Valentine's Day. But before they could sign up for the show, they needed a name.

Inspired by other pop punk groups with numbers in their name and the day of the show, they picked the name 2/14. Though he laughed at the juxtaposition of "playing punk rock music and being named after a super cheap Hallmark holiday," the name has stuck ever since.

Things slowed down for the band after Carlson went off to college, but he became particularly inspired again when he came home at the onset of the pandemic in 2020. With nothing else to do, he spent his time improving his guitar playing and songwriting craft.

"That's when I started playing guitar a lot, figuring out how to put songs together and figuring out how to put what was in my head on the strings," he said. "I had so much time to focus on it and I wrote quite a few of my favorite songs in that period."

He also spent the time jamming with his old bandmates in a period that he called "super formative" in his musical development. He reflected on these jam sessions, saying that "I didn't care how bad it sounded, the music I was making just meant so much to me."

Carlson and his bandmates soon went their separate ways, as he was ready to take making music more seriously. The current lineup began taking shape in early 2020 when he discovered drummer Ben Bustamante on YouTube.

Carlson was impressed with Bustamante's drum covers of '90s alternative rock songs by Nirvana and Rage Against the Machine, among others, so he reached out on Instagram to see if Bustamante would be interested in jamming. The two soon got together and clicked quickly, which gave Carlson more motivation.

Joined by bassist Dylan Taganas, the revamped lineup soon got to work on the group's debut album, "Adrienne's Garden," which was released in October 2023. It was Carlson's first time recording and producing an album, but he stepped up to the daunting task.

"It was a huge learning curve for me personally because I was producing it with basically no experience," he said. "The recording process was a lot of fun though. People talk about it being a lot of pressure and stressful, but we really just cranked everything out."

The band has also been busy making a name for themselves on stage in the New York City music scene. Every show was different but was rewarding for Carlson.

"Shows out here can really be a hit or miss sometimes," he said. "We've had some of the best shows ever and we've also played to nobody plenty of times. But it never really gets to us, we just love to play."

The band has also established a presence in the Connecticut music scene, including recent performances in Storrs at The Dog Pound and WHUS Radio's Battle of the Bands. Though these shows were a hike, they were "worth the trip for show," adding that "it's what you've got to when you're in a band and trying to get your music out there."



Sky Carlson performing with pop-punk band 2/14. Carlson started the New York City based group when he was in high school. PHOTOS COURTESY OF SKY CARLSON



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Opinion

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► Editorial

The importance of voting in USG elections

by the Editorial Board
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Election season is well underway for the University of Connecticut's Undergraduate Student Government (USG), with voting open from March 4 to March 6 at noon. This busy period presents an opportunity for all UConn students, whether they are first-year students or graduating this semester, to make their voices heard and have a say on matters concerning their college education.

USG, founded in 1893, works with the UConn administration to serve and advocate for the interests of the student body, as well as allocate funding for Tier II organizations. USG is made up of three distinct branches based off the federal government structure: legislative, executive and judicial. Each year, elections take place to determine who will receive several important positions within the organization. The roles of president, vice president, comptroller and chief diversity officer are all up for grabs in the executive branch, and candidates for those positions participated in a USG debate on Feb. 24.

There are also 45 open senate seats, some of which may be voted on by all undergraduate students at UConn and others that represent a certain academic school or college.

Voting in USG elections is certainly not the only way to get involved on campus, but it is a simple and powerful way to represent yourself as a student of UConn. However small of an act voting may seem, it signals that you are aware of your surroundings at the university, and is a recognition of the extensive body of work which USG carries out. While USG has limited jurisdiction over UConn affairs – it cannot, for instance, control funding for Tier III organizations or require the university administration to create or implement specific policy items – the ways in which it works to give students a voice include many important aspects. One such advocacy arm includes the four committees which tackle specific issues on campus: Student Services, Academic Affairs, External Affairs and Diversity and Outreach. Diversity and Outreach was previously known as Student Development. All of these committees contribute important advocacy work in their respective areas of jurisdiction and are comprised of elected senators.

Casting a vote also gives students a say on who exactly they want to run the complex and extensive apparatus of USG, especially when it comes to the presidential election. There are four campaigns running for presidential office, each with

different priorities and focuses for the position they are seeking. If students do not vote, they are unable to affect the outcome of this important choice that will impact their years at UConn.

It is important to note that voting is just the first step. The political involvement of UConn students should not begin or end at the ballot box. USG has specific abilities as a governing body for UConn students that they should be aware of and steer in a direction that best represents them, but it's also worth understanding that it can only do so much. A vote for an elected official within this body will not change the key conditions students face, no matter who that person may be. USG is meant to support efforts to affect policies on campus – student advocacy goes beyond the programs and institutions that it offers.

That being said, the power of the vote is not just represented in a ballot cast. In any elected government that features the virtues of democracy, each vote brings their operations more legitimacy. This is precisely why elections with high turnout are often praised as upholding the ideals of democratic institutions, while elections with lower turnout have doubt cast upon them – if people don't vote, it raises questions as to whether the election was in fact representative of the relevant population.

A core principle of founding US political philosophy states that the people have ultimate control over the government. Thomas Jefferson, writer of the Declaration of Independence, wrote in 1794 that "the influence over government must be shared among all the people." The smaller the share of those who do vote in elections, the less those who decided not to be represented, and in turn, the less legitimate a government appears.

This is a dilemma USG faces every year and one that each vote can help rectify. In last year's elections, voter turnout did increase 35% – from 2,254 students to 3,053 – resulting in 15% of the student body casting a ballot. Out of roughly 20,000 students, this number is an improvement but not close enough to true representation. The Editorial Board believes that while USG can always take steps to increase turnout on their own, part of the burden also falls on students to educate themselves and understand the meaning behind student government. More students will need to find their voice and vote, giving themselves and USG more power and legitimacy at the same time.

Drastic cuts to NIH funding affect more than just research

by Erica Lavoie | SHE/HER/HERS | CONTRIBUTOR | erica.lavoie@uconn.edu

In the past few weeks, the Trump administration has attempted to set a cap for indirect costs of medical research paid for by the National Institute of Health (NIH) at 15%. Further, some Republican members of Congress have proposed major changes to the NIH's funding, including reissuing the NIH's \$48 billion in funding directly to states through block grants. These changes are currently being evaluated by a federal judge, who could possibly issue a block to these changes. However, while waiting on this ruling, these funding cuts are already affecting and will continue affecting the U.S. in so many ways. The goal of this article is to attempt to inform readers about what the NIH is, what they do and the effects that their funding has on U.S. society.

What is the NIH?

The NIH was founded in 1887. This institute receives funding from the U.S. federal government, which they then distribute as they see fit. One goal that the NIH has in distributing its funding is to fund research that would help us understand the causes of diseases, which leads to our ability to diagnose, treat and prevent them. The NIH has 27 centers and institutes that each focus on different diseases to address this broader goal. Some include the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). These institutes, which have greater expertise in these areas of science than the NIH alone, then fund promising projects in these areas. Funding ends up being distributed to universities, research institutes, laboratories, biopharmaceutical companies and hospitals nationwide. However, the NIH does not only fund research projects in the U.S. This institute also supports research training and career development, construction of biomedical research facilities, small businesses involved in technological innovation and loan repayment, among other efforts.

The effects of these funding cuts

The NIH is the largest funder of biomedical research in the world. The U.S. has about 200,000 people working in biomedical research that all require funding. The NIH does not fund all research in the U.S. As of 2023, about 43,000 biomedical researchers applied for NIH funding, and about 13,000 of these investigators end up getting funded (31%). To date, the NIH has been selective in deciding which projects get funded. However, the projects that they have funded has led to a multitude of foundational findings that affect U.S. health care procedures and U.S. society. According to the NIH annual research highlights, here are some therapeutics and technologies that are only available because of research supported by NIH funding:

- General chemotherapy as a cancer treatment (1960s)
- Steroid-based asthma inhalers like fluticasone (2007)
- Dinutuximab Beta as a pediatric cancer treatment (2010)
- COVID-19 vaccine (2020)
- Ozempic as a weight loss medication (2022)
- Azidothymidine (AZT) as the first HIV treatment in the world (2024)

With these recent funding cuts to the NIH, all applications for new funding filed this year (which total about 16,000 grant applications) are not being reviewed. The funding cuts do not only mean that less research in the U.S. will get funded each year; the NIH touches many other aspects of U.S. society too.

Effects on the U.S.'s position as the world leader in biomedical research

The U.S. is the world leader in biomedical research. Most countries fund research using federal money, but the U.S. has significantly more institutions conducting research and more funds available. As of 2023, the NIH invested nearly \$40 billion towards this purpose. This funding is absolutely necessary, since the average biomedical research project costs about \$609,000 to conduct. The number of projects that have been funded in the U.S. has contributed to our country establishing itself as the number one research nation in the world. With these funding cuts, study sections reviewing NIH grants have been paused since January, so no new NIH funding has been distributed yet in 2025. This has put many research projects on hold, which hinders the contributions of the U.S. as a research superpower to the world and in developing the U.S.'s advanced health care system.

Many do not know that the NIH funds training in the biomedical sciences as well. U.S. researchers are some of the most educated people in the world, as our graduate programs require students to take more courses and defend their research more often, which develops critical thinking skills. Because of this, the U.S. attracts trainees globally to receive the best training in the biomedical sciences. With that being said, our country has only been able to get to this point as the world leader in biomedical research because of the amount of training and expertise that has been provided to our researchers. This year, many doctoral programs are reducing the number of students they are accepting or will not be accepting new graduate students at all. Further, students that have already been admitted to graduate programs for this admissions cycle are getting their offers rescinded, including at the University of Pennsylvania, one of the country's top graduate schools. These funding cuts have broader effects outside of the fact that students wanting to contribute to research are now not able to get the training to do so. With cuts to the job force and training in the U.S., we risk losing our spot as a global research superpower.

Effects on the U.S. economy

NIH funding drives the U.S. economy in multiple ways. To start, one of the most basic principles of economics is the understanding that having a well-educated workforce is key to economic growth. Since the NIH supports many graduate programs through training grants that pay students' salaries throughout their training so socioeconomic standing is not a deterrent for receiving training, limiting funding for the NIH decreases access to higher education. Additionally, low unemployment rates are another key component of economic growth. In 2023, the NIH supported 412,000 jobs through its funding. Not to mention, the NIH recently laid off 1,200 employees, which is likely only the beginning of job losses nationwide resulting from these actions. Further, science itself drives economic growth, as outlined in a 2024 policy briefing by the U.K. Royal Society. As detailed in this report, science leads to economic impact through four routes: new knowledge and ideas, innovation and productivity, skilled people and jobs and wider economic impacts which are not directly monetized. Some sources have estimated that the NIH alone produced nearly \$92.89 billion in new economic activity in the 2023 fiscal year. Cutting funding to this institute is not as simple as taking some money away from research. This action has broad-reaching effects into the health of the U.S. economy too.

Effects on Connecticut

Most universities in the state of Connecticut rely heavily on NIH funding. Connecticut state officials have estimated that the state will experience a \$150 million loss of funding for many institutions. University of Connecticut President Radenka Maric wrote in a letter to the campus community stating, "If implemented as announced, this change will impair our ability to produce innovative research that benefits all parts of society and place a significant financial strain on the university." Scientists at Yale University have been protesting and advocating for the federal government to keep its "hands off" their research. Many Yale faculty have noted that this will not only have serious effects on medical breakthroughs at Yale, but it will also impact the local New Haven economy.

What can you do to help?

1. Support peaceful protests in the area. There is a "Stand Up for Science 2025" protest occurring at the state capitol in Hartford, CT on Friday, March 7 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. This is going to be accompanied by peaceful protests occurring in 31 cities nationwide, including the nation's capital, Washington D.C. Post photos and videos to social media with #StandUpForScience to show nationwide unity for this cause.

2. Join the nationwide walk out. The "Stand Up for Science 2025" movement is also encouraging office and classroom walkouts at 12 p.m. on Friday, March 7. Walk out of the classroom, gather in a visible location and spread awareness! This is a great way to show support without the major time commitment of traveling to Hartford.

3. Reach out to your government representatives. Write a letter or email to one of your government representatives to highlight why this issue is important to the state and country as a whole. Our Connecticut state representatives include Senator Richard Blumenthal, Senator Chris Murphy, Representative John Larson, State Senator Rick Lopes, State Representative Donna Veach and Governor Ned Lamont. However, if you are not from Connecticut, make sure to reach out to your home state's representatives! This is arguably more important since Connecticut representatives are already attempting to block these NIH funding cuts.

Opinion

Photo of the Day | You have been sentenced to studying for midterms



A student at the Wilbur Cross Building studying in Storrs, Conn. on March 4, 2025. The central location of the building on campus makes it easy for students to stop by in between classes. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

If we're going to fight fascism, we need community



by Harry Cohen
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Ever since Donald Trump took office on January 20, the news has been full of headlines chronicling our rapid decline into fascism. Watching the world change before our eyes, it feels like there is nothing we can do to prevent it, and the Democrats have been little help. For the past three weeks, Chris Murphy has been screaming in my YouTube ads that we are in a “constitutional crisis,” and yet the only thing he offers for us to do is donate money. These calls for donations are not new and have done little to prevent us from arriving in the treacherous political climate we find ourselves in today and it’s hard to imagine what they’ll do now. In a time of increasing fear and isolation, we need more than just a donation page. We need a community.

The lack of politically motivating community structures

is a relatively new phenomenon in the United States. In his book “Bowling Alone,” sociologist Robert Putnam describes how the role of the party shifted from a community-oriented space to the detached conglomerates they are today.

Coming out of the war years, Americans had very strong interpersonal relations that sparked political and civic engagement. These were religious organizations, their social clubs and unions. Your union wasn’t just an organization you became a member of paid dues to; it was your friends and the people you would get a drink with after work and complain about your boss. Churches were places where local communities got to know each other during Sunday mass or socials. Even political parties like the Democrats acted as community spaces. These served to form strong bonds between people, which political movements used to create a well-connected mobilized base.

Beginning in the mid 1960s, however, American civic engagement began a steep decline (which was partially dis-

guised by the success of the civil rights movement repealing Jim Crow laws and making voting accessible to many more black people). Putnam ascribes several causes for this; increasing suburbanization, keeping people physically separated, increased workloads tiring people out and a changing technological landscape, which transformed what we choose to do with our free time. As people’s behaviors changed, so did the party’s. Slowly it transformed from a place where people gathered and built relationships to a well-oiled machine of ad campaigns and call centers that require little engagement but the dollar.

This is what we’re seeing today with modern campaign ads. Almost every ad will not include a place where you can get engaged, meet people or volunteer, but instead a place to put your money. During her campaign, Vice President Kamala Harris ran an ad that was exemplary of this ideal, say-

ing “Today is the day I hope you will donate to support our movement.” The ad contains nothing other than the call to act, or more accurately, the call to donate.

What we’ve seen in this past election is that this doesn’t work. Harris lost to Trump considerably, despite having collected far more than him in campaign donations. Without a supporting community of people, an ad campaign is going to do little to sway a person’s vote or get them to the polls.

At the same time as these campaigns are alienating and distancing voters, the right has maintained the community infrastructure that motivates and keeps people committed. The NRA doesn’t just fight firearm regulations, it offers women’s wilderness escapes and large country concerts. When they tell people how to vote, it’s not an estranged voice who’s only asked for their money, it’s the person who arranged the retreat where they met their best friend. The right has never lost the importance

of interpersonal relationships, but the Democrats have, and if they do care to combat the Trump administration, they need to find it quickly.

In a way it starts with you, it starts with you. Communities are built by people, after all. If you’re struggling with feelings of helplessness and isolation there are things you can do. Consider switching off X (a site owned by an actual nazi), go outside and join one of the many community groups on campus that are doing wonderful organizing work. ECOHUSKY, for example, regularly does community events outside its environmental activism. Importantly, don’t compartmentalize the people you do activism with to the realm of politics. Let them become your friends and have your activism be your activity. Build your community.



THE WEEKLY POWER PLAY: LATE GAUDREAU BROTHERS HONORED AT NHL STADIUM SERIES

by Nicole Caruso
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It was an emotional yet memorable game as the Columbus Blue Jackets defeated the Detroit Red Wings 5-3 at Ohio Stadium.

Johnny and Matthew Gaudreau were killed late August when struck by a drunk driver during the weekend of their sister's wedding. Since their passing, the NHL has honored them in several ways, with the most recent time being this past weekend. J. Gaudreau had been a player on the Columbus Blue Jackets.

The Gaudreau family led the Columbus Blue Jackets into Ohio Stadium prior to the start of the game. Meredith Gaudreau, wife of J. Gaudreau, carried their children Noa and Johnny down the rink alongside the Gaudreau brothers' parents. Right behind them was Columbus Blue Jackets center Sean Monahan. Monahan and the Gaudreau brothers shared a special bond while playing for the Blue Jackets and the center continues to be a close family friend to the Gaudreau family.

The late brothers were also honored in both teams' game day attire. The Red Wings wore jerseys from both brothers' careers and the Blue Jackets wore a "typical" J. Gaudreau outfit: a hoodie, black sweatpants and a black hat. The idea for the simple, yet meaningful outfit came from Captain Boone Jenner of the Jackets. In conversation with The Columbus Dispatch, Jenner said "We thought of it quite a while ago and we just thought it was fitting. To us, that's a signature Johnny fit, and we've seen him come to the rink in that or something very similar. It's just a special thing we wanted to do

for him, and we've had so many good times with him, in those clothes. I mean, it was special... It was special to wear that and come in like that, for us."

With over 94,000 fans in attendance, both teams gave them a show. After a scoreless first period, defenseman Denton Mateychuk opened the scoring after a pass from captain Jenner to give the Blue Jackets a 1-0 lead just 5 minutes into the second. The Red Wings answered with a goal of their own from right wing Alex DeBrincat on the power play. The Blue Jackets got their own power play goal just four minutes later when left wing Dmitri Voronkov found the back of the net giving his team a 2-1 lead. Just 32 seconds later, fellow teammate Mathieu Olivier scored a backhander to give the Blue Jackets a 3-1 lead entering the third period.

The Red Wings did not let the two-goal deficit affect them as Patrick Kane scored a quick goal just three minutes into the period to cut the Blue Jackets' lead down to one. After a back-and-forth battle, DeBrincat scored his second of the game with just four minutes remaining in the period to tie up the score.

Blue Jackets' center Justin Danforth quickly found the back of the net with a quick snapshot to give his team the lead once again. Once the Red Wings pulled their goalie in the final two minutes of the game, center Adam Fantilli scored an empty-netter to give the Blue Jackets a 5-3 lead securing the win.

The Blue Jacket's win pushed them past the Red Wings for the top stop in the Wild Card rankings. It will be a close race towards the postseason as both teams are competing for the top spot.

After the game, M. Gaudreau expressed her gratitude via Ins-



Johnny Gaudreau's show-stopping skills on the ice earned him the nickname 'Johnny Hockey.'

PIMAGE COURTESY OF FREEMALAYSIA TODAY.COM

tagram, in a heartfelt statement:

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart to the NHL, Detroit Red Wings and especially the Columbus Blue Jackets for honoring John in

so many ways during the Stadium Series this weekend. The management, players, wives and fans from both organizations made my family feel so loved and supported.

Thank you most of all for including our children by making them a big part of all the events throughout the weekend. I know John truly appreciates it as much as I do."

SAM'S SECTION:

FLAGG, IZZO HEADLINE PART 1 OF MAJOR CONFERENCE AWARD PICKS

by Sam Calhoun
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The final week of the regular season is finally here, and most of the major conference awards have a clear front-runner.

In this week's edition of Sam's Section, I will go over my award picks for the ACC and Big Ten with the Big 12 and SEC coming later this week. The Big East will be its own article on Tuesday.

ACC Player, Rookie and Defensive Player of the Year: Cooper Flagg, F, Duke (19.6 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 4.2 apg, 1.6 spg, 1.2 bpg, 49.7 FG%, 38.2 3P%, 82.8 FT%)

Flagg took college basketball by storm this season, becoming the front-runner for national player of the year. He averages 25.2 points per 40 minutes (99th percentile nationally). His defense is elite. On the glass, he averages 6.1 defensive rebounds per game and ranks third in the ACC in total defensive rebounds, behind Stanford's Maxime Raynaud and Clemson's Ian Schieffelin. His steal percentage ranks in the 96th percentile at 3.1% and

ranks sixth in the ACC in total steals. He is the only ACC player named to the Naismith Defensive Player of the Year watch list. Flagg makes plays for his teammates too, with an assist rate of 26.1% (99th percentile). He ranks third in the ACC in scoring, behind Raynaud and Notre Dame's Markus Burton.

Sixth Man of the Year: Jeremiah Wilkinson, G, California (14.8 ppg, 1.9 rpg, 1.4 apg, 41 FG%, 31.7 3P%, 79.3 FT%)

Despite being a freshman, Wilkinson led the ACC in scoring off the bench. The Powder Springs, Ga. native has only started in 11 of the 29 games he has played for the Golden Bears. He is an effective offensive player, averaging 22.9 points per 40 minutes, which is in the 98th percentile nationally. While he is not an elite defender or passer, he has carried the load for California this season, leading the team in scoring in 11 games.

Coach of the Year: Pat Kelsey, Louisville

Kelsey is one of two coaches named to the Naismith Coach of the Year Watch List, with the other being Duke's Jon

Scheyer. After an 8-24 season last year, Kelsey has completely turned the program around. The Cardinals are now 23-6 behind a brand-new roster including Wisconsin transfer Chucky Hepburn. Louisville has only lost twice in conference play and has earned wins over Indiana and Clemson.

Big Ten Player of the Year: John Tonje, G, Wisconsin (19.2 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 1.7 apg, 47.1 FG%, 37.6 3P%, 91.5 FT%)

After four years at Colorado State and only playing eight games last season at Missouri, Tonje broke out as an All-American caliber guard this season. He averages 24.7 points per 40 minutes and has an effective field goal percentage of 56.5%. His true shooting percentage is exceptional at 65.8% (98th percentile nationally) and he ranks sixth in the Big Ten in scoring. He has come up clutch numerous times and has led the Badgers in scoring in 16 games this season, including nine of the last 11.

Defensive Player of the Year: Ace Baldwin Jr., G, Penn State

Baldwin is the only Big Ten

player on the Naismith Defensive Player of the Year Watch List and looks to win his second consecutive Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year honor. There are few one-on-one defenders better than him. Baldwin ranks tied for second in the Big Ten in steals per game (2.3) and tied for second in steal percentage (4%).

Freshman of the Year: Ace Bailey, G, Rutgers (18.2 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 1.3 apg, 1.3 bpg, 1 spg, 46.5 FG%, 36.3 3P%, 68.9 FT%)

The projected top 5 pick in the 2025 NBA Draft has been one of the two bright spots for Rutgers, the other being Dylan Harper, also contending for Freshman of the Year. According to NBA.com, Bailey has been compared to Brandon Miller, Michael Porter Jr. and Rashard Lewis. He averages 21.8 points per 40 minutes and has been one of the best guard rebounders in the country. He ranks seventh in the Big Ten in scoring and could even share this award with Harper. He has led the Scarlet Knights in scoring in nine games, including a 39-point outing at Indiana in early January.

Sixth Man of the Year:

Will Riley, F, Illinois (11.9 ppg, 4 rpg, 2.2 apg, 41.5 FG%, 31.5 3P%, 71.9 FT%)

Another freshman, Riley has produced well for Illinois despite only starting four games of the 30 he has appeared in. He is efficient when he is given the opportunity, averaging 19.3 points per 40 minutes (90th percentile). Despite coming off the bench, head coach Brad Underwood relies on him a lot, with a 24.1% usage rate (88th percentile). He is not a great defensive player, but his offense makes up for that.

Coach of the Year: Tom Izzo, Michigan State

After multiple seasons of not being on the top 4 seed line, Michigan State is primed to not only be on the top 2 seed line, but they are also in the driver's seat to win the Big Ten regular-season title. After starting February 1-3, the Spartans have not lost a game since Feb. 11. Michigan State was projected to finish fifth in the conference, but will not finish any lower than second. Izzo became the all-time winningest coach in the Big Ten earlier this season, passing Indiana's late legend Bob Knight.



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sports

Photo of the Day |

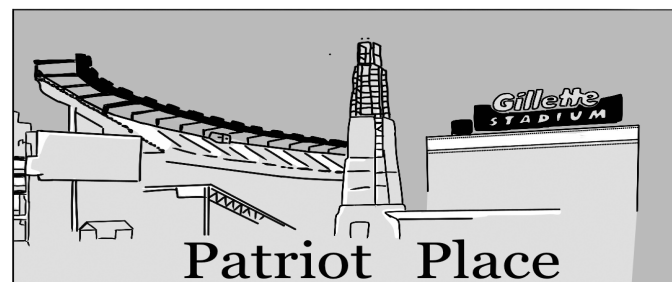


The UConn Huskies defeat Marquette 92-57 at Gampel on March 2, 2025. Following the game, UConn honored the seniors on the team and inducted Paige into the Huskies of Honor.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PATRIOT PLACE:

3 ROUND MOCK DRAFT, ROUND 1



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

by Gram Wilker

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The NFL Draft is less than two months away, and with the scouting combine complete and just Pro Days to go, this year has mystery unlike past drafts. The first overall pick is still up in the air; we'll see a true two-way player be selected in the top five and several potential All-Pro offensive linemen will find their home in the first round of this draft. In just 50 days, the Tennessee Titans will be on the clock.

1.1 | Tennessee Titans: ED Abdul Carter, Penn State

While they could opt to make a splash with a quarterback, it may be best for them to stick and pick a top two talent in the draft who seems sure to be a Pro Bowler sooner rather than later.

1.2 | Cleveland Browns: QB Cam Ward, Miami

Dashaun Watson's contract is a major burden and Myles Garrett requested a trade. This is a long term rebuild, and bringing in a top quarterback speeds up that process.

1.3 | New York Giants: QB Shedeur Sanders, Colorado
Sanders is the best answer for the Giants QB: he has all the hype and name brand value needed to be the face of a New York franchise.

1.4 | New England Patriots: CB/WR Travis Hunter, Colorado

He likely won't play both ways in the NFL, but his cornerback play alone is elite enough to land him in the top five. Despite their needs across the offensive line, the Patriots go with the best player available.

1.5 | Jacksonville Jaguars: DT Mason Graham, Michigan

The Jaguars land the last of three prospects Mel Kiper called "blue chip" in this year's draft (Carter and Hunter). Liam Coen may be an offensive mind, but the chance to add a game wrecker on the defensive interior should not be passed up.

1.6 | Las Vegas Raiders: RB Ashton Jeanty, Boise State

The sixth pick is far too high for a running back in most cases, but Pete Carroll loves the position. Jeanty fills the Marshawn Lynch role for Carroll's new squad and is instantly an offensive rookie of the year frontrunner.

1.7 | New York Jets: OL Will Campbell, LSU

Whoever the signal caller is will need better protection, and Campbell can provide that. He could start opposite Olu Fashanu at tackle or move into guard.

1.8 | Carolina Panthers: ED Mykel Williams, Georgia

The defense allowing the most points in the league (31.4), is unacceptable. Williams offers versatility in the front seven that should supply the Panthers with a much-needed boost alongside Derrick Brown.

1.9 | New Orleans Saints: WR Tetairoa McMillan, Arizona

Continuously strapped down from restructuring contracts to stay competitive, they've failed to make the playoffs since 2020. They'll hope McMillan can form an exciting young trio of receivers with Chris Olave and Rashid Shaheed.

1.10 | Chicago Bears: OL Kelvin Banks Jr., Texas

New HC Ben Johnson comes from a place where offensive line is a major priority, somewhere the Bears struggled massively with last season. Banks could offer a solution on the interior or play tackle, where he played for three seasons at Texas.

1.11 | San Francisco 49ers: OT Josh Simmons, Ohio State

Trent Williams turns 37 in July, and the unit needs upgrades. In comes Simmons, who could play on the right side until Williams calls it quits.

1.12 | Dallas Cowboys: G Tyler Booker, Alabama

The Connecticut native should be a fixture of this Dallas line for the next ten

years and even longer, and I wouldn't expect them to miss a beat after Zack Martin's retirement.

1.13 | Miami Dolphins: SAF Malaki Starks, Georgia

Jevon Holland likely will depart in free agency and the Dolphins will replace him with Starks. Miami could look to add a player on the defensive interior here, but instead they opt for the flashier pick as Mike McDaniel and company tend to.

1.14 | Indianapolis Colts: TE Tyler Warren, Penn State

Warren totaled over 1,200 yards last season on 104 catches, nothing short of incredible. Whether it be Anthony Richardson or another player, adding a top tier seam threat takes a lot of pressure off the signal caller.

1.15 | Atlanta Falcons: ED Mike Green, Marshall

Matt Judon didn't come as advertised and Arnold Ebiketie hasn't proven to be a top pass rusher. Green's ridiculous 17 sack season is reason enough to get excited, even if edge defender wasn't a position of need.

1.16 | Arizona Cardinals: ED/LB Jalon Walker, Georgia

Jonathan Gannon comes from a Philadelphia defense that prides itself on its front seven play. That's where I'd expect them to make their selection, especially considering no player had more than 4.5 sacks last season.

1.17 | Cincinnati Bengals: CB Will Johnson, Michigan

The Johnson slip finally ends with Cincinatti, and very similar to Christian Gonzalez's fall in 2022, he finds a home at pick 17. The Bengals' defense was horrendous despite healthy investment in the secondary, and they'll hope Johnson can help.

1.18 | Seattle Seahawks: DT Kenneth Grant, Michigan

The run on lineman earlier in the draft gives Seattle an opportunity to select a faller. Jarran Reed and Jonathan Hankins are both 32, and

Mike Macdonald comes from Baltimore, a place known for stopping the run.

1.19 | Tampa Bay Buccaneers: LB Jihaad Campbell, Alabama

The Buccaneers were a buzzsaw before the injuries to Chris Godwin and Mike Evans. Given Jalen McMillan's development, the Bucs go with Campbell: a big athletic linebacker who can rush the passer.

1.20 | Denver Broncos: WR Luther Burden III, Missouri

If there's one thing the Broncos need, it's playmakers. They had a very solid season with Courtland Sutton leading the pack, but much of their play relied on great defense. Burden's 2024 stats aren't anything to gawk at, but his 2023 was very impressive and so is his speed.

1.21 | Pittsburgh Steelers: WR Michael Golden, Texas

The Steelers QB room will be one to watch this offseason, with both Russell Wilson and Justin Fields set to be free agents. I'd say they add a playmaker to a group of receivers that's very underwhelming.

1.22 | Los Angeles Chargers: TE Colston Loveland, Michigan

Will Dissly led the TE room in receiving with under 500 yards and Jim Harbaugh recruited Loveland to Michigan. He'd offer another threat alongside Ladd McConkey.

1.23 | Green Bay Packers: CB Jahdae Barron, Texas

Jaire Alexander was suspended during the season by the Packers, and it seems they're just about at their wits end with his antics. Playing slot, outside and safety during his time in Austin, Barron would add to an already solid and young DB room.

1.24 | Minnesota Vikings: RB Omarion Hampton, UNC

Pending free agent Aaron Jones had his best season to date but turned 30 in December. Adding Hampton would be a luxury pick the Vikings can afford to make.

1.25 | Houston Texans: OL Armand Membou, Mis-

souri

Laremy Tunsil led the league in penalties this past season and the rest of the line wasn't much better. Membou has the versatility to play four spots.

1.26 | Los Angeles Rams: WR Emeka Egbuka, Ohio State

I feel pretty confident Cooper Kupp will not be with the Rams in 2025, so Egbuka joins Puka Nacua to make the most out of what Stafford has left.

1.27 | Baltimore Ravens: CB Benjamin Morrison, Notre Dame

The Ravens have Marlon Humphrey and selected Nate Wiggins in the first round last year and now add Morrison as a third stud at the position.

1.28 | Detroit Lions: G Donovan Jackson, Ohio State

The Lions go back to what they do best by selecting another lineman to continue to help their run force.

1.29 | Washington Commanders: ED James Pearce Jr, Tennessee

Top pass rusher Dante Fowler, though effective, will be 31 soon. Adding an elite SEC athlete would help Washington compete for the NFC crown for years to come.

1.30 | Buffalo Bills: DT Derrick Harmon, Oregon

An excellent pass rusher and a big body at 320 pounds, Harmon would help stop Baltimore's harsh rushing attack while also getting Patrick Mahomes.

1.31 | Kansas City Chiefs: DT Walter Nolen, Ole Miss

The Chiefs focused all their energy on bottling up Saquon Barkley in the Super Bowl. Adding Nolen would help stop elite rushing attacks and allow them to play a more balanced defense.

1.32 | Philadelphia Eagles: DL Shelmar Stewart, Texas A&M

Milton Williams will likely get a massive contract elsewhere in free agency, and the Eagles can reload the best roster in football with another athletic freak across the front three with very similar frame.

LATO'S LENS:

THE THREE MOST INTRIGUING OUT-OF-CONFERENCE CLASHES IN WEEK ONE OF THE 2025 COLLEGE FOOTBALL SEASON

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Lato's Lens is taking a little bit of a detour this week. Don't get me wrong, I love college basketball. In fact, I'd much rather watch college basketball than professional basketball for several reasons. However, there's something about college football that's just different. The unwavering passion of the fans; the bitter, toxic rivalries; tearing down goal posts in an upset win. There's just so many things that make college football special. Although I'm not its greatest proponent, the transfer portal has undoubtedly made the game more entertaining, creating an atmosphere like that of professional football.

Furthermore, I always look forward to the many out-of-conference matchups the sport has to offer each season. Seeing a highly touted team out of one conference square off against a powerhouse from another is one of the most exciting events for college football lovers, including myself. The 2025 season, week one specifically- offers some of the most exciting out-of-conference matchups in history, some of which are just too good not to write about. Without further ado, here are the three most intriguing out-of-conference

matchups in week one of the upcoming college football season in no particular order.

August 30th: Alabama at Florida State

In a matchup between two college football perennial powerhouses, the Alabama Crimson Tide will travel to the hallowed grounds of Doak S. Campbell Stadium to square off against the Florida State Seminoles. Both teams had terrible 2024 campaigns per program standards. However, both the Crimson Tide and Seminoles have much to look forward to this upcoming season.

In their second season under Head Coach Kalen DeBoer, the Tide returns one of the best young wide receivers in the nation in Ryan Williams after his stellar freshman campaign. Though losing starting quarterback Jalen Milroe to the draft, Alabama has plenty of options to choose from at quarterback, whether that be rising five-star freshman Keelon Russell or veterans Ty Simpson and Austin Mack.

The Seminoles, on the other hand, acquired former star Boston College quarterback Thomas Castellanos from the transfer portal, giving the Noles an experienced signal caller to resurrect an otherwise stagnant offense from last season. Head Coach Mike Norvell also made a huge

splash in the high school recruiting game, acquiring several four-star prospects at nearly every position. Keep an eye out for this matchup during week one.

August 30th: Texas at Ohio State

I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw this game on the week one college football slate. Head Coach Steve Sarkisian's Texas Longhorns will seek vengeance after losing a heartbreaker to the eventual National Champions, the Ohio State Buckeyes in the 2025 Goodyear Cotton Bowl. Both programs come into the season absolutely loaded with talent.

Texas returns several starters who were key to their postseason success last season, including star running back Quintrevion Wisener, edge-rusher Trey Moore and lethal safety Michael Taaffe who opted to return for his senior season. What most Texas fans are drooling about is seeing how projected starting quarterback Arch Manning will pan out in a high-level Texas offense. Manning showed flashes of greatness last season, filling in for a few games when starter Quinn Ewers was injured. As a result, this Texas squad currently has opponents shivering.

After achieving ultimate glory, Head Coach Ryan Day also

brings back a roster smothered in talent. Star running back Treveyan Henderson is returning for his senior year, looking to terrorize opposing defenses. After losing starter Will Howard, former five-star Julian Sayin looks to fill in as the head signal caller, who is touted by many as the real deal. Their defense also returns a lock down secondary led by safety Caleb Downs and cornerback Davison Igbino-sun, who were critical in locking up opposing offenses in the Buckeyes' championship run.

Given the teams' history between each other, this Big 10-SEC crossover game is a must watch. It has college football junkies giddy at the moment.

August 30th: LSU at Clemson

This game is on a pedestal of its own for several reasons. For one, who doesn't love a battle of the Tigers? While both teams boast a Tiger as their mascot, both teams also coin their respective stadiums as "Death Valley." Not only does this game feature much off-field hype, but it also features two teams who are certainly playoff contenders in the coming season.

The Head Coach Dabo Swinney-led Clemson Tigers are led by star quarterback Cade Klubnik, who returns for his senior season after

tossing for over 3,000 yards and 36 touchdowns in the Tigers' ACC Championship winning season. What's different about the 2025 Clemson Tigers is that this is the first season that Dabo has ever utilized the transfer portal, signing former Alabama linebacker Jeremiah Alexander, Purdue defensive lineman Will Heldt and Southeast Missouri State wide receiver Tristan Smith. Does this mean something is brewing in Death Valley? Time will tell.

Like Clemson, LSU also made some pivotal moves in the portal over the offseason, securing highly talented cornerbacks Mansoor Delane (previously at Virginia Tech) and Ja'Keem Jackson (previously at Florida). Head Coach Brian Kelly also returns to starting quarterback Garrett Nussmeier, who has struggled at times but has the potential to do some big things this season. Nussmeier is also backed with great offensive line talent, who should without a doubt, be critical in the Tigers' success this season.

Coach Kelly has lost the last five season openers of his career. Could this be the game where he breaks the funk? Who knows, but this game will surely be absolute cinema to Clemson and LSU fans alike.

THE INDYCAR SEASON IS FINALLY HERE

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The IndyCar season has finally started at St. Petersburg, Florida as Dennis Hauger wins the NXT series and Alex Palou wins the NTT series.

Some of the NXT drivers to look out for this season are rookie drivers No. 28 Hauger of Andretti Global, No. 38 Hailie Deegan of HMD Motorsports, No. 24 Sophia Floersch of HMD Motorsports and No. 26 Lochie Hughes of Andretti Global.

Deegan came to Indy NXT from the NASCAR Xfinity Series while Floersch and Hauger came over from the Formula Series, Floersch coming from Formula Three and Hauger from Formula Two.

The NXT race featured the drivers driving 44 laps around the 1.8-mile road circuit.

Hauger was the NXT driver of the weekend as he finished in first place in all but one session this weekend, where he finished second.

Hauger secured pole position by over three-tenths of a second with a lap time just under a minute and four seconds and continued to dominate the race, leading all 44 laps and winning by 1.2 seconds over Hughes.

Although this was not Hauger's first time in an open wheel car, it was his first time in the Indy NXT cars. Hauger is known for his time in the FIA Formula series where he won Formula Three and was a multiple time race winner in Formula Two.

Deegan also did well after a nightmare start to her NXT Debut earlier this week. Deegan qualified in 21st but made her way up to 14th place for a gain of seven places during the race.



Dario Franchitti at the 2011 Indy Japan 300 qualifiers. The 2025 Indycar season began in St. Petersburg, Fla.

IMAGE COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Hughes finished in second place, and Floersch finished 12th. The driver who lost the most places was Liam Sceats, who qualified fifth but fell to 18th for a total of 13 places lost.

Now onto the IndyCar NTT race where No. 3 Scott McLaughlin qualified on pole position followed by No. 26 Colton Herta, No. 60 Felix Rosenqvist, No. 66 Marcus Armstrong and No. 7 Christian Lundgaard.

The drivers to look out for this season are 2024 second place finisher in 2024, Herta, 2023 and 2024 third place finisher McLaughlin, six-time champion No. 9 Scott Dixon, two-time champion No. 12 Will Power, two-time champion No. 2 Joseph Newgarden and three-time champion No. 10 Alex Palou.

On the first lap, the caution flag came out as No. 6 Nolan Siegel, No. 45 Louis Foster and Power collided, sending all three out of the race.

Through 50 laps, there had been no other cautions or crashes as Lundgaard led with No. 20 Alexander Rossi, Dixon, Newgarden and Palou all within six seconds of Lundgaard.

The race came down to the wire in the final laps, with the gap between first place Palou and second place Newgarden less than one second for the final 11 laps.

On the final lap, Palou crosses the line first, taking home his first win of the season with six-time champion Dixon finishing second by passing Newgarden who placed third on the second to last corner. Some other drivers mentioned were Power who did not finish the race and Herta who finished 16th.

The next race for Indy NXT is on Sunday, May 4 at 11:30 a.m. while the next Indy NTT race is on Sunday, March 23 at 3 p.m.



Sports

MEN'S BASKETBALL: UCONN HOSTS NO. 20 MARQUETTE IN FINAL WEEK OF REGULAR SEASON

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There is one more week left in the college basketball regular season and the UConn men's basketball team (20-9, 12-6 Big East) can improve its Big East Tournament seeding as they look to sweep the No. 20 Marquette Golden Eagles (22-7, 13-5 Big East) on Wednesday night at the Harry A. Gampel Pavilion.

The final two games of the Huskies regular season are set to be played at Gampel Pavilion. With a win against Marquette, Connecticut can move into a prime position to earn the No. 3 seed in next week's conference tournament. They can finish as high as the No. 2 seed, but that is unlikely after splitting the regular season series with Creighton.

UConn can be as low as the No. 6 seed in the Big East

Tournament, but that is unlikely with a 3% chance according to Matt Hackman. Marquette, on the other hand, has clinched a first-round bye and can finish as high as No. 2 and as low as No. 5. The most likely scenario for the Golden Eagles would be the No. 3 seed.

"You just want to finish as high as possible in the Big East and you just want to be the closest to the top as possible," Alex Karaban said at a pregame media availability. "So, we're fine with any path for the Big East [Tournament]. It's just more so we want to finish as high as we possibly can."

In the first meeting of the regular season, Connecticut stunned the Golden Eagles in Milwaukee, Wis. Solo Ball had arguably his best game in a UConn uniform, scoring 25 points and grabbing 11 defensive rebounds while shooting 7-9 from the 3-point line.

Tarris Reed Jr. has been

on a tear for UConn and was named to the Big East Weekly Honor Roll. He had a career day on Saturday at Providence, scoring 24 points, grabbing 18 rebounds and blocking six shots on 10-13 shooting.

He will face another big who made the Big East Honor Roll as Marquette's Ben Gold is heating up at the right time. Last week, the stretch-big averaged 16 points and five rebounds in wins over Providence and Georgetown.

Samson Johnson was nearly invisible on Saturday, much due to Reed's dominance. However, he had a massive impact in the first meeting, finishing the night with 13 points.

Liam McNeeley was named the Big East Freshman of the Week for the seventh time this season after averaging 15.5 points, 3.5 assists and three rebounds in two games played last week.

Marquette has a lethal

backcourt with Kam Jones, Stevie Mitchell and Chase Ross. Jones is considered a contender for Big East Player of the Year and serves as the frontman for the No. 30 offense according to KenPom. He averages 18.4 points, which ranks third in the conference behind Villanova's Eric Dixon and Creighton's Ryan Kalkbrenner. With Tyler Kolek gone, Jones has taken the role of creating opportunities for his teammates and averages 6.2 assists per game (15th in the country).

"People thought there would be a drop off since they lost Kolek and Oso [Ighodaro], but there hasn't been a drop off at all," Karaban said.

What makes Marquette a tall task for the Huskies is their defense, which ranks 19th in the country in terms of efficiency.

The anchor of that defense is Mitchell, who would be a contender for Big East De-

fensive Player of the Year if Kalkbrenner did not exist. He ranks second in the Big East in total steals with 69 and leads the conference in steal percentage at 5.4%. His steal-to-turnover ratio is at the top of the league as well, with an average of 2.76.

"We definitely want to cut the turnovers down," Ball said. "That's all we were working on in practice today."

Their defense has been better lately, with a rating of 94.9 in the last five games (99th percentile nationally).

It will be the 21st meeting between the two, dating back to 2006. The Huskies hold a 12-8 record over the Golden Eagles, including a 9-2 record since joining the new Big East. It will be the first meeting in the Northeast since the 2024 Big East Championship game.

Tip-off is set for 8:30 p.m. and will be televised on FS1. It is promoted to be a white-out game in Gampel Pavilion.



CLIPART COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL

WOMEN'S HOCKEY: HUSKIES TO COMPETE FOR A CHANCE AT THE CONSECUTIVE HOCKEY EAST CHAMPIONSHIP

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Following a dominant 4-0 victory over Merrimack over the weekend, the Connecticut Huskies (22-11-1) find themselves matched up against Northeastern (21-13-1) in the Hockey East semifinals on their home ice.

The women's hockey program is led by freshman forward Claire Murdoch, who is fifth in the conference in points, as the Huskies are looking to repeat as Hockey East tournament champions. The Huskies also have the best goalie in the Hockey East, senior Tia Chan. Chan, who won tournament MVP last year after posting a shut-out in the championship game, currently ranks first in the conference in goals allowed and save percentage.

While the Huskies have had a very successful season, currently sitting at 12th in the country after being crowned the Hockey East Regular Season Champions with a 19-6-2 conference record, they have had their struggles against Northeastern.

Northeastern has had the upper hand on the Huskies this season, winning their first two matchups 1-0 and squeaking out a 4-3 win in an overtime thriller last time they faced off to sweep the season series.

With one of the best goalies in the conference in freshman



UConn women's hockey beats Merrimack 4-0 to move on to the Hockey East Tournament semifinals on March 1, 2025. The Huskies will face off on Wednesday March 5 at 6pm at Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Lisa Jonsson and a strong trio in senior forward Skylar Irving, freshman defenseman Tuva Kandell and junior forward Lily Shannon, Northeastern is looking to advance to their ninth straight tournament championship and continue their Hockey East dominance.

These two squads met in the conference championship just a season ago, where Connecticut was crowned Hockey East champions for the first time in program history with a 1-0 overtime win, ending Northwestern's streak of six straight conference titles.

Northeastern has been a Hockey East juggernaut, having made it to the conference championship in the last eight years and winning six of them. Even with a bit of a down year, going 15-11-1 in conference play, the Northeastern Huskies still find themselves with a chance to get to their ninth straight Hockey East championship.

The 2024 conference championship rematch will kick off Wednesday at 6 p.m. where the Connecticut Huskies are tasked with ending another one of Northeastern's streaks. That being, on Wednesday, they look to stop Northeastern from getting to the championship game for the first time since 2016. The winner will face off against the winner of No. 13 Boston University and No. 15 Boston College for the Hockey East title.