



“U.S. Anti-Black Racism” degree requirement will be reconsidered

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The decision to make the U.S. Anti-Black Racism (ABR) course a degree requirement at the University of Connecticut is being reconsidered to determine its legality.

Various committees and members of the senate are involved in this consideration, including the Common Curriculum Committee (CCC+) and the Senate Executive Committee (SEC).

Jamie Kleinman, chair of the CCC+, responded to an email interview with The Daily Campus, writing, “at this current moment we don’t know if this will continue to be a degree requirement as it was originally passed.” She added that “one option we are currently exploring is adding the ABR course to our TOI3 courses.”

She further gave The Daily Campus a summary of the course’s history, though she acknowledged that she herself was not involved in the vote to make ABR a requirement.

The course was first offered electronically in Fall 2021 as a pop-up course. Following the suggestion of students who “felt that the ABR course was a great learning experience and wanted all undergraduate students to take it,” the senate formed an ad hoc committee which eventually approved of a plan to integrate this course as a degree requirement.

As per the Office of the Provost webpage, pop-up courses are provided in response to its communal or national importance, taken by “faculty, staff and students.” The transition from pop-up to degree requirement was approved in 2023 as part of a social justice requirement, though it was not yet in effect.

Dr. Robert Day, chair of the SEC, explained the difficulty in requiring the course. Questions were raised about the ABR course’s legality in relation to the “Dear Colleague Letter” interpretation of diversity laws.

According to the Department of Education, the “Dear Colleague Letter” was distributed to “educational institutions receiving federal funds” in order to clarify the definitions of “nondiscrimination” that will be used in the future. The letter claims that diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives “frequently preference certain racial groups and teach students that certain racial groups bear unique moral burdens that others do not.”

Day emphasized that, while he could not speak directly about its legality, the ABR course requirement is being reconsidered under the possibility that it could be interpreted as illegal. He also mentioned that these questions are additional factors in the already difficult process of changing degree requirements.

Day and Kleinman both attest that committees such as the SEC and CCC+ are working together to create a proposal to the senate regarding the ABR course.

Day said this process may



Protesters gather in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. Protests erupted across the United States in response to the death of George Floyd and police brutality due to racial bias.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

lead to one of three conclusions: First, the ABR course may not be required. Day said he believes that this is an unlikely outcome due to the support of the ABR course in the past.

Second, the committees may instead propose that multiple popular pop-up courses, rather than ABR alone, should be promoted, allowing choice between them. While Day did not expand on which courses he specifically referred to, Anne D’Alleva, the outgoing provost, wrote in 2023 about “Why the Jews? Confronting Antisemitism” and “Confronting Anti-Asian Racism” as related pop-up courses, though this was before the Topic of Inquiry system.

Third, Day noted the possibility that the senate would be satisfied with designating the ABR course alongside other pop-up courses in TOI3 as one-credit courses, since the proposal requiring the ABR course was voted on before the new common curriculum system was launched.

“[...]Maybe they would’ve thought about this differently if they had known how much stronger we’re already going in directions like this with respect to our TOIs,” said Day.

Day emphasized that the course’s content itself is not at risk of being changed, stating that “it’s whether it would be required of all students or not ... the content would only change in the direction that experts in the area say we can improve the course.”

Both Day and Kleinman emphasized that not many conclusions have yet been drawn about the ultimate direction of the ABR course. The decision will be influenced by the committees, the vote of the senate and the federal interpretation of diversity.

‘JIMMY KIMMEL’ SUSPENSION SPARKS FIRST AMENDMENT DEBATE

by Patrick Boots | STAFF WRITER | HE/HIM/HIS | patrick.boots@uconn.edu

Disney and ABC pulled “Jimmy Kimmel Live” off the air last week under pressure from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in the wake of backlash over remarks made by the host about the killing of conservative activist Charlie Kirk. The unprecedented suspension has fueled a fierce debate about free speech, media regulation and corporate pressure.

“There is a continued lurch to the right throughout much

monologues criticizing conservatives — commenting on their response and attitudes toward the killing of Kirk, an ally of President Donald Trump.

“We hit some new lows over the weekend with the MAGA gang desperately trying to characterize this kid who murdered Charlie Kirk as anything other than one of them and doing everything they can to score political points from it,” Kimmel said in his monologue.

After the show aired, Bren-

Carr, a Republican, was nominated to the Commission in January 2025 — both times by Trump.

Because radio spectrum is finite, and considered a public resource, the FCC is chiefly responsible for ensuring that broadcast stations and other users make efficient use of this spectrum by using a licensing structure and developing standards to prevent harmful interference.



Jimmy Kimmel hosting his late night television show, “Jimmy Kimmel Live.” The show was suspended indefinitely due to pressure from the FCC following Kimmel’s comments regarding the death of Charlie Kirk. PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

of our major media in the United States right now,” Victor Pickard, a professor of media policy and political economy at the University of Pennsylvania, said to Reuters. “I expect to see more of this to come. There’s no countervailing force against it.”

Kimmel, who has hosted the ABC late-night show since 2003, made remarks during his

dan Carr, the chairman of the FCC, criticized Kimmel’s conduct.

“I mean, look, we can do this the easy way or the hard way,” Carr said on Wednesday. “These companies can find ways to change conduct and take action, frankly, on Kimmel, or you know there’s going to be additional work for the FCC ahead.”

In exchange for a broadcast license, owners must operate their facilities in service of the “public interest, convenience and necessity.” Generally, this means it must remain technically stable and air programming that is responsive to the needs and problems of its local community.

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News

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“Broadcasters — not the FCC or any other government agency — are responsible for selecting the material [stations] air,” their “The Public and Broadcasting” manual states. “The First Amendment and the Communications Act expressly prohibit the Commission from censoring broadcast matter. Our role in overseeing content is very limited...[except for] regulation of obscene and indecent programming.”

Broadcast networks, such as ABC, CBS, NBC and PBS, are not regulated by the FCC; they are primarily content providers. Local stations in different geographic areas affiliate with the networks to relay their programming, filling in the rest of their airtime with locally-produced content like newscasts and specialty shows relating to the station’s community.

“They’re 97% against me, they give me only bad publicity,” President Trump said to reporters on Thursday. “I mean, [the TV networks are] getting a license. I would think maybe their license should be taken away. It will be up to Brendan Carr... They’re not allowed to do that.”

Although one can watch a network’s content on a local station, and stations may use branding which include network names and logos, most are owned by independent companies. The corporations which operate networks do own and operate a certain number of local stations, such as in New York, Los Angeles and other markets, but do not necessarily have to program those stations with the network’s content.

Trump’s comments do not line up with the FCC’s licensing rules; after the second presidential debate last year, he took aim at ABC, saying “I mean, to be honest, they’re a news organization. They have to be licensed to do it. They ought to take away their license for the way they [conducted the debate].”

A fundamental freedom afforded by the First Amendment is that news organizations, as in those who report news, do not have to be licensed whatsoever.

“This FCC does not have the authority, the ability, or the constitutional right to police content or punish broadcasters for speech the government dislikes,” Democratic FCC Commissioner Anna Gomez said in a statement. “If [the FCC] were to take the unprecedented step of trying to revoke broadcast licenses...it would run headlong into the First Amendment and fail in court on both the facts and the law.”

The network-wide Kimmel cancellation was spurred by two large ABC station owners,

Nexstar Media Group and Sinclair Broadcasting, pulling the show “indefinitely.”

“Mr. Kimmel’s comments about the death of Mr. Kirk are offensive and insensitive at a critical time in our national political discourse, and we do not believe they reflect the spectrum of opinions, views, or values of the local communities in which we are located,” said Andrew Alford, president of Nexstar’s broadcasting division, in a press statement.

“We appreciate FCC Chairman Carr’s remarks today and this incident highlights the critical need for the FCC to take immediate regulatory action to address control held over local broadcasters by the big national networks,” Sinclair’s statement read. “Sinclair will not lift the suspension of ‘Jimmy Kimmel Live’ on our stations until formal discussions are held with ABC regarding the network’s commitment to professionalism and accountability.”

Nexstar and Sinclair are some of the largest TV owner groups, and both lean conservatively according to the Columbia Journalism Review; their stations’ local news operations may differ editorially. Nexstar, which owns WTNH Channel 8 (ABC) and WCTX Channel 59 (Ind.) in Connecticut, agreed to begin a merger with another broadcast holdings company — Tegna, who operate WTIC Channel 61 (Fox) and WCCT Channel 20 (The CW) locally, for \$6.2 billion in August. While there is no limit on the number of television stations a single entity may own nationwide, and mergers and acquisitions happen often, the deal would run afoul of the FCC’s rule mandating that no one owner collectively reaches more than 39% of all national TV households.

The merged Nexstar-Tegna would likely have to divest many stations under the current rule — if not for the fact that major commercial station owners are lobbying for the FCC to remove the ownership cap. Supporters of dropping the rule claim that the cap makes it harder to compete with streaming and new media outlets.

Nexstar previously acquired the broadcast assets of the Tribune Company in 2018 — which forced the sale of WTIC and WCCT to a neutral party, Tegna, due to the rules.

“The ‘suspending indefinitely’ of Jimmy Kimmel immediately after the Chairman of the FCC’s aggressive yet hollow threatening of Disney is yet another example of out-of-control intimidation,” said former Disney President Michael Eisner on social media. “Maybe the Constitution should have said, ‘Congress shall make no

law abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, except in one’s political or financial self-interest.”

“May I just say, it is a privilege and an honor to call Jimmy Kimmel my friend in the same way it is an honor to do this show every night,” Seth Meyers, the host of NBC’s “Late Night” said. “I wake up every day and count my blessings that I live in a country that at least purports to value freedom of speech, and we’re going to keep doing our show the way we’ve always done it with enthusiasm and integrity.”

Earlier this year, the CBS network settled a lawsuit brought on by Trump for \$16 million. He said the network engaged in biased portrayal during last year’s election with how it chose to edit an interview segment with candidate Kamala Harris. It happened in the midst of a now-completed merger of CBS’ parent company, Paramount, and conglomerate Skydance Media — one that required the signature of Carr and, by extension, Trump’s blessing.

Some have theorized that the announcement that CBS decided to cancel their late-night show, “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert,” was a casualty of trying to appease Trump.

“Stephen Colbert, an extraordinary talent and the most popular late-night host, slams the [Paramount-Skydance] deal, days later, he’s fired,” Senator Bernie Sanders said on social media. “Do I think this is a coincidence? NO.”

“This is what authoritarianism is about: government silencing dissenting voices,” Sanders added after the Kimmel suspension.

Kimmel and Colbert have aired multiple critical comedy pieces on Trump over the years. Although broadcast on and produced by the network, late-night shows are editorially distinct and managed separately from networks’ news operations.

On his show, Colbert mocked Carr’s statements suggest-

ing the FCC will take action if program content falls short of “community values.”

“Well, you know what my community values are, buster?” Colbert said during his monologue. “Freedom of speech.”

“The FCC has long held that ‘the public interest is best served by permitting free expression of views,’” their consumer guide “The FCC and Speech” states. “Rather than suppress speech, communications law and policy seeks to encourage responsive ‘counter-speech’ from others. Following this principle ensures that the most diverse and opposing opinions will be expressed, even though some views or expressions may be highly offensive.”

Even though Trump vowed upon entering the office of the presidency to “immediately stop all government censorship and bring back free speech to America,” his actions would indicate that only those with views he approves of may be permitted

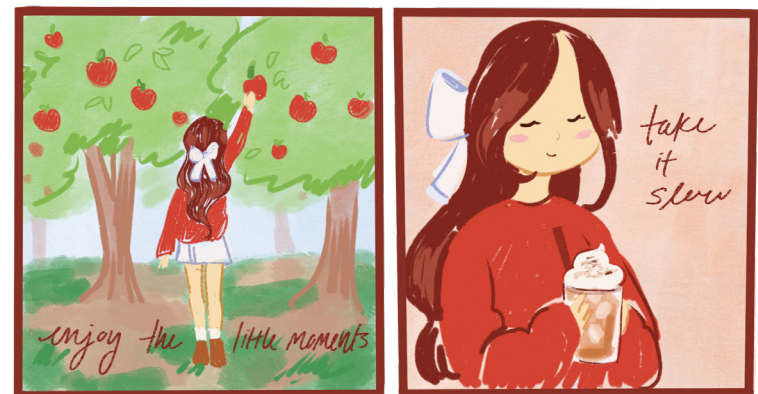
to “speak freely” — making attempts at smothering outlets that he feels portray him in a bad light, however truthful it may be.

Last week, he sued The New York Times, claiming that their reporting was defamatory. The case was procedurally dismissed because the complaint read as a praiseful advertisement rather than a “short, plain, direct statement of allegations of fact,” according to Judge Steven Merryday of the U.S. District Court for Florida.

Jimmy Kimmel has not issued a public statement since the suspension, but is reportedly working with Disney to return his late-night show to the air. In addition to airing at 11:35 p.m. on ABC stations, the show has a large audience on-demand through Disney’s streaming networks and clips on social media. Kimmel had the highest viewership of late-night shows with young adults, according to Nielsen, a media ratings tabulation company.



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COMIC BY ALEXA PAPPAS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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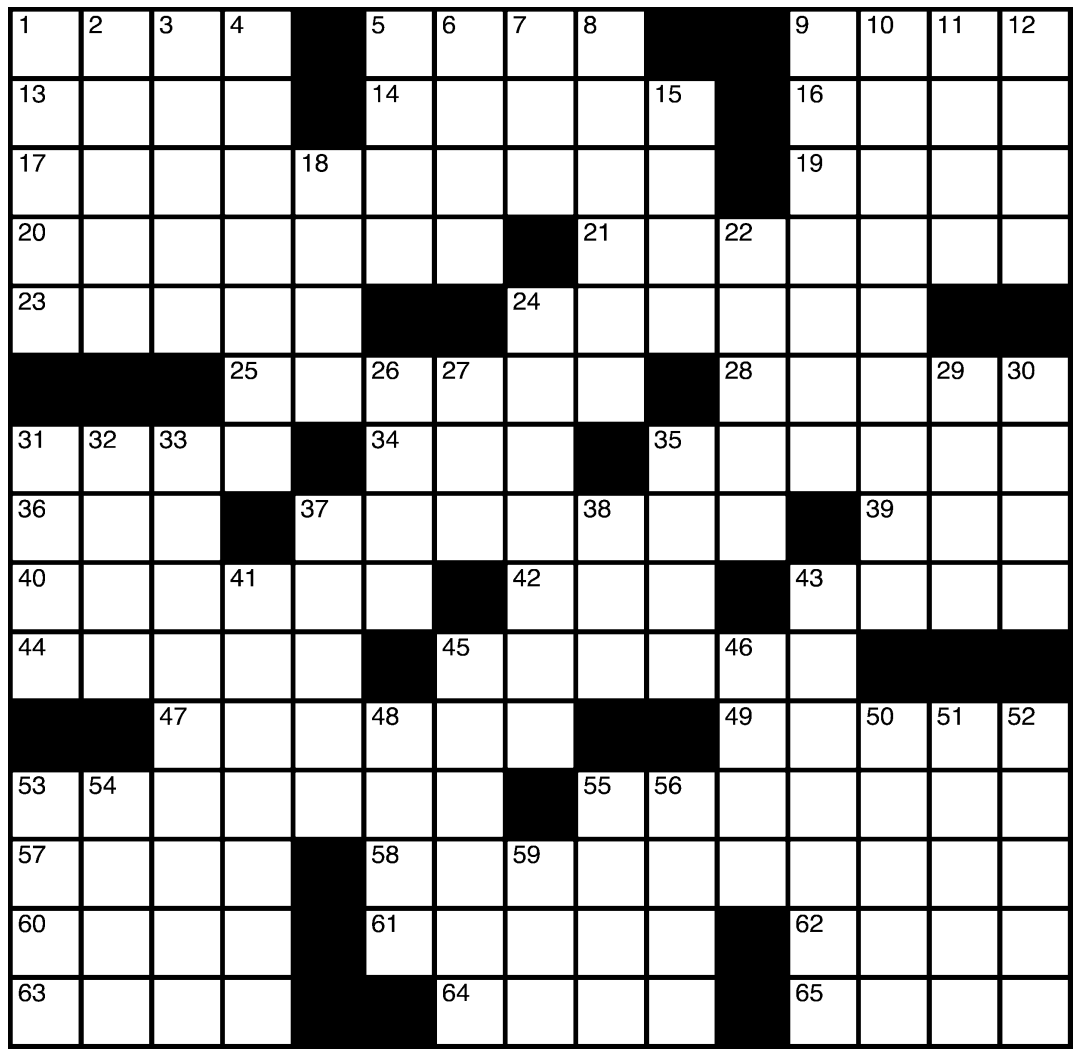
ACROSS

- 1 Animation pioneer Disney
- 5 CGI emu who wears sunglasses in insurance ads
- 9 Chichén __: Mayan ruins
- 13 Word of woe
- 14 Ain't right?
- 16 "Carpe __!": "Seize the day!"
- 17 Architectural component of many a stained glass window
- 19 Ranch division
- 20 Lures
- 21 2,240 pounds
- 23 Big name in tractors
- 24 Lady of Spain
- 25 Shape-fitting video game
- 28 Computer pros
- 31 Puts in
- 34 Bit of black magic
- 35 Cape __ Island, Nova Scotia
- 36 Summer zodiac sign
- 37 Nitpick
- 39 Lisbon greeting
- 40 Scarf down
- 42 One seeking platonic love, informally
- 43 Slugger Matt who led the NL in homers in 2011
- 44 Puccini work
- 45 Pester continually
- 47 Scamp
- 49 Mookie of the Dodgers
- 53 Stronghold
- 55 Get ready
- 57 French for "mine"
- 58 Jukebox musical featuring Gloria Estefan songs, or where to find the ends of 17-Across and 10-, 24-, and 33-Down

- 60 Approximately 2.2 lbs.
- 61 Marshmallow treats
- 62 Words often said sarcastically
- 63 Genesis garden
- 64 Small amount
- 65 __ list

DOWN

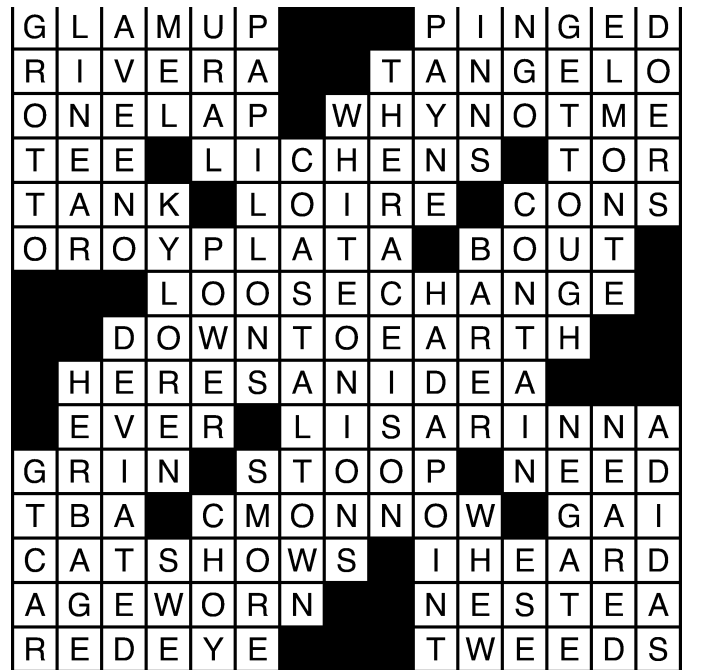
- 1 Fought, as a war
- 2 Unaccompanied
- 3 Starbucks order
- 4 Some concert merch
- 5 Lingerie trim
- 6 Golden yrs. funds
- 7 Crème de la __: luxury skin care product made with kelp
- 8 Parents' brothers
- 9 "Can't argue with that"
- 10 Pencil game that often has no winner
- 11 Goose egg
- 12 Prayer ending
- 15 Suffix for a lengthy fundraising event
- 18 Slushy drink
- 22 __ Dame: South Bend school
- 24 Billiards game
- 26 Calendar abbr.
- 27 L.L.Bean rival
- 29 Ian of "The Hobbit"
- 30 Break sharply
- 31 Gucci of fashion
- 32 "Take a __ breath"
- 33 Flatfish native to the northern Atlantic
- 35 Internet journal
- 37 Somewhat
- 38 Lingerie item
- 41 Formal speech
- 43 Stay in shape
- 45 Reviewed harshly



By Robert E.L. Morris

9/22/25

- 46 Lyft rival
- 48 Member-owned grocery
- 50 1990s fitness fad
- 51 Trapped on a branch, as a cat
- 52 Minor scuffle
- 53 Make a cake, say
- 54 Within
- 55 Unwelcome sounds for a balloon artist
- 56 Work with haste
- 59 Affirmative vote

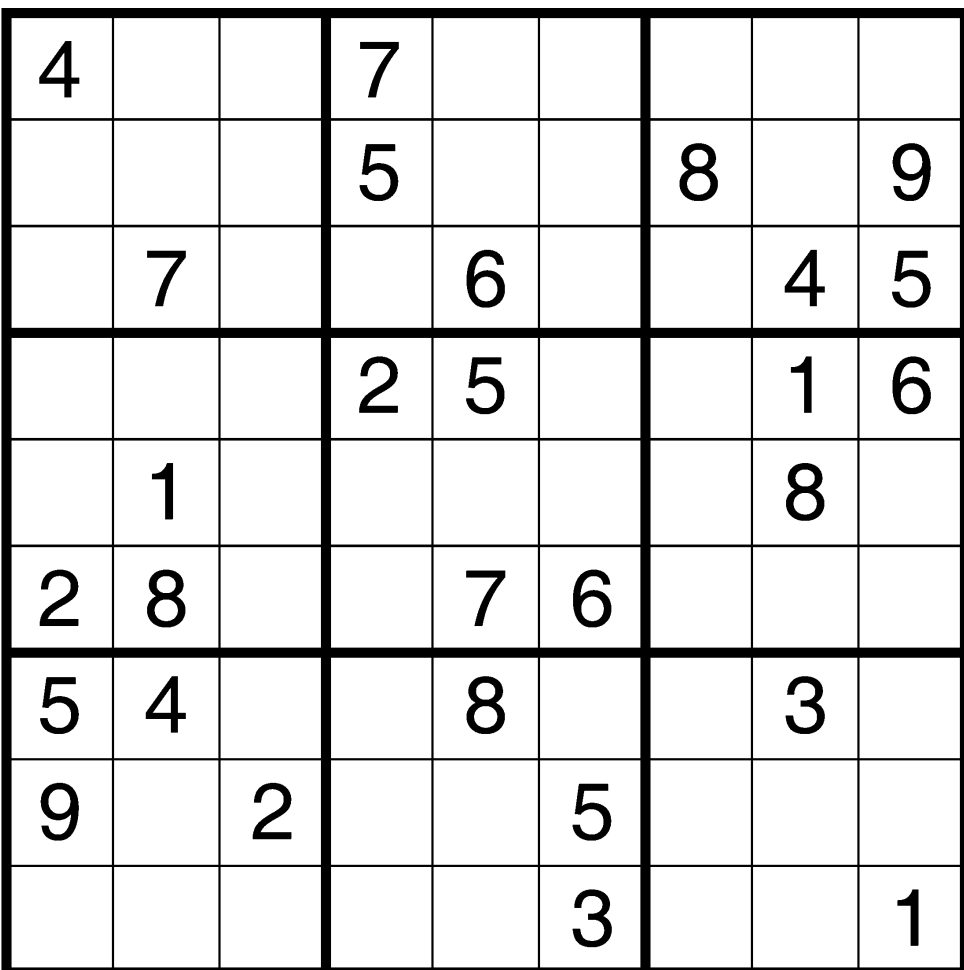


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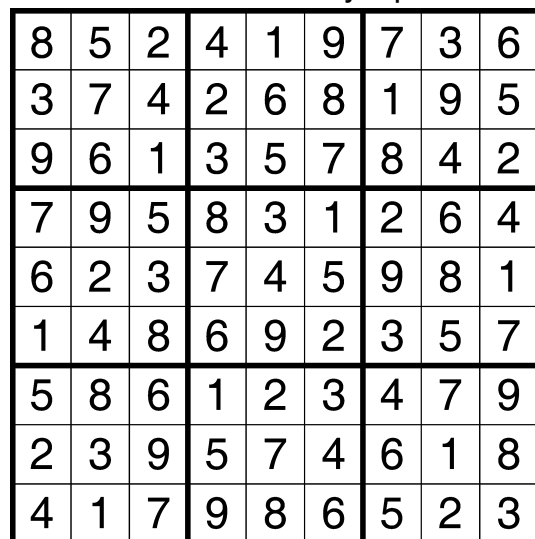
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SUDOKU



Solution to Saturday's puzzle

9/22/25



Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit sudoku.org.uk.

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Lumbee Hydrologist Ryan Emanuel on Indigenous Environmental Advocacy

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab**
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Duke University's Dr. Ryan Emanuel was invited to the University of Connecticut's Storrs campus as part of the Edwin Way Teale Lecture Series' 29th season. Emanuel will talk about his experiences culminating into his newly released book "On The Swamp: Fighting for Indigenous Environmental Justice" on Thursday, Sept. 18, in The Dodd Center's Konover Auditorium.

Dr. Ashley Helton, an associate professor at UConn's Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, gave an opening address to introduce Emanuel.

Helton told the audience that there were two co-chairs for the Teale Lecture Series' planning committee for the first time in the history of the series. Speaking of history, Helton said, "The beginning was interdisciplinary, promoting conversations about the environment." She continued that the messaging of the series was "to protect biodiversity and the quality of life on earth" and "this protection will not succeed unless the approach to it is multidisciplinary."

Emanuel began his talk by talking about the Indigenous and other marginalized communities who shoulder disproportionate social issues, including in terms of the environment.

Before coming to UConn, Emanuel read the Native American Cultural Programs website and said the land acknowledgment page is "not

stuck in the past tense." He would later say, "I do critique performative land acknowledgments" and discussed how he likes to imagine land acknowledgments as a longer story beyond the buzzwords.

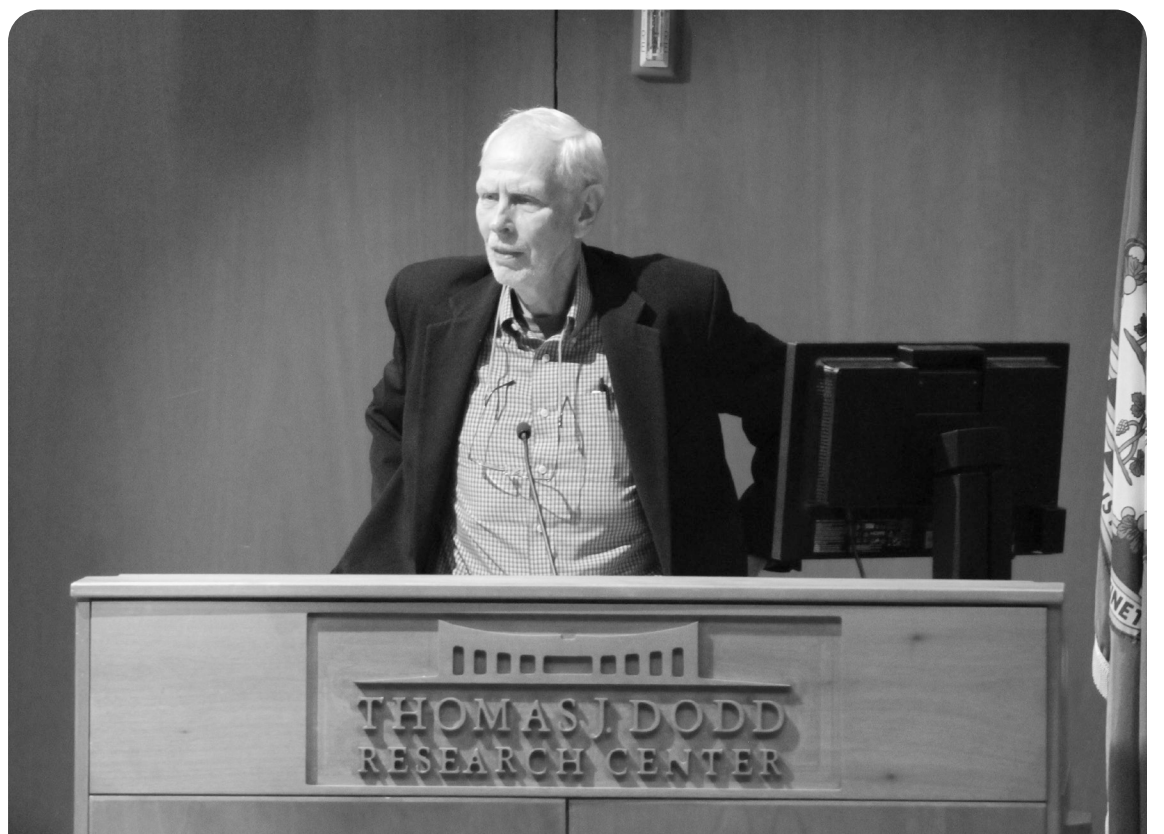
He then talked about his Lumbee background, which is an Indigenous American tribe originating in what's now known as North Carolina. "My homeland is one marked by colonialism," Emanuel said. He illustrates this through excerpt readings.

On his book, Emanuel said "I start out the entire book to consider this wider context by outlining our long history of colonialism." He would then say, "I wrote this book for my people, the Lumbee, but also our Indigenous neighbors and kin."

"I didn't actually set out to write a book," Emanuel said. He currently works as a hydrologist and the closest thing to a career writing literature about his position is that he's a professor on the subject.

"The Lumbee community said that the purpose of education was to serve your people," Emanuel said. He then followed that up with a saddening reality told in a comedic way: "The first day I was in the same room as a Native American professor was on my first day of teaching. I was that professor." Emanuel talked about how it was difficult for him to find ways to help his people as a professor and scientist. He said, "Our political identities can help or hinder our ability to help our people."

Emanuel then directed his attention to the Lumbee River, which he refers to as home and has a lot of cultural signifi-



Gregory Anderson, Ph.D., who contributed to starting the Edwin Way Teale Lecture Series, spoke to the audience before Emanuel's lecture at the Dodd Center for Human Rights in Storrs, Connecticut on Sept. 18, 2025.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MAK BLAKE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

cance to the Lumbee people.

"Cultural attachments to water help keep us rooted," he said. "Everybody benefits from meaningful tribal engagement, and everybody suffers when that engagement doesn't happen."

His love of the Lumbee River — not as a possession to exploit and profit from but something closer to a loved one — inspired him to string together a collection of nonfiction prose about his experiences advocating for the environment.

Emanuel then introduced a social vulnerability map,

which he described as "a composite index that represents a community's capacity to recover from adverse events." He showed that gas pipelines correlate with higher social vulnerability. He shared a statistic about how "1% [of the] state population [has] 13% of the people impacted" by natural gas pipeline projects to drill in this point. Furthermore, poultry gut bacteria in Hurricane Florence floodwaters causing disease points to even more environmental issues.

Emanuel also explained that during the American Civil War, the Lumbee, as well as other

people of color, were in danger of getting conscripted into hard labor, so they hid in an attempt to avoid the brutality. Luckily, freedom fighters against white supremacy, led by the Lumbee Henry Berry Lowry, fought off the oppressors. This is known as the Lowry War. Since Lowry's burial grounds are unknown, the Lumbee River represents him.

There was then a Q&A session. One attendee asked about the social vulnerability map and how it was accessed, to which Emanuel said it was based on U.S. census data and the Center for Disease Control.

A Moss Petting Zoo and More at 'A Window Into the Universe of Mosses'

by **Elijah Polance**
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The Connecticut State Museum of Natural History showcased a variety of moss species and adaptations at the Mansfield Public Library on Saturday, Sept. 20.

The event, "A Window Into the Universe of Mosses," was joined by Dr. Bernard Goffinet, a professor of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and director of the Biodiversity Research Collections at the University of Connecticut.

Various tables were set up in the Buchanan Auditorium with different examples of mosses with descriptive cards. Microscopes were available to see tiny details of moss samples in Petri dishes and the structures of different cells.

One of the more hands-on exhibits was the moss petting zoo. Fifteen different species of moss were arranged next to each other for the attendants to touch freely. Brushing your hand across the cluster revealed different spongy, fuzzy, feathery and firm textures.

Another display demonstrated how moss can control spore dispersal based on humidity. One of the ways mosses reproduce is through spore dispersal, which favors drier conditions. Under a microscope, you could see how quickly they closed off their spore capsules when a water droplet was placed on them.

A different table showed how mosses that reproduce sexually care for their offspring. Mothers will provide nutrients to the growing stalk



Dr. Bernard Goffinet speaking at the 'A Window Into the Universe of Mosses' event. This was a talk given at the Buchanan Auditorium in Mansfield, Conn.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

and a protective "hairy hood" that protects the spore capsule until it matures.

After the attendants had time to observe the moss, Goffinet gave a presentation that went deeper into the species seen in the room.

Goffinet began by outlining the lineage of mosses, which have been around for hundreds of millions of years. He explained that despite mosses looking similar, there are around 12,000 species of moss in the world and 1,600 species in North America. He then clarified what exactly this meant.

"It means that there were 1,600, or 12,000 ways of build-

ing moss," Goffinet said. "Fundamentally, they all have the same building blocks. But if we play with these blocks and we modify them, we can create some diversity."

Goffinet explained that some species can only be distinguished by their DNA or small details invisible to the naked eye. But he said that others were more prominent, especially with their spore usage.

"There are some mosses where you have half a million spores on the capsule," Goffinet said. "And then there are others that have a different strategy, they only produce 16."

He explained that the resistance of spores and means of dispersal also depends on the species. While some mosses rely on wind to travel, others brush against birds or other animals to spread.

Goffinet also went into how mosses have dead cells that surround their living cells to retain water. Because mosses lack roots, they can absorb and lose water across their entire surface. These dead cells store water to prevent moss from drying out, which is part of what makes many species spongy.

According to Goffinet, peat moss has the highest water absorption of any species and

is not broken down by decomposers because it causes acidic conditions in the environment. He said that humans have found helpful ways to use peat moss because of these properties.

"The water holding capacity has been known to indigenous communities wherever peat moss occurs because they have used them as diapers or any other product they need for absorption," Goffinet said. "The acidification property was also known because peat moss was used for bandages [in war times] because it was so acidic that it prevented bacterial growth and thereby limited infection."

After Goffinet's talk, the audience had more time to review the displays and ask questions.

Elizabeth Barbeau, a program/administrative coordinator and museum informatics specialist for the CSMNH who helped organize the event, said it was a nice change of pace from the outdoor moss walks sometimes held by the department.

"We wanted to do something like this...so we can see the diversity of different mosses and really appreciate them and compare them and do it in an environment where everyone gets a chance to ask questions and get up close, because you can't always do that on the trail," Barbeau said. "We just think it's important to teach people about the things that are right under their feet and very common, but they might not notice."

Future events hosted by the CSMNH in the fall can be found on the CSMNH website.

CLEARING HER NAME: **CARDI B** RELEASES FIRST ALBUM IN SEVEN YEARS

by **Maleena Muzio**
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Revenge, divorce and public trials — Grammy Award-winning rapper, Cardi B, released her very personal, second studio album on Friday, Sept. 19.

“Am I The Drama?” is Cardi B’s first album produced since her debut “Invasion of Privacy” in 2018. The album is a thrilling successor, playing for a total of 70 minutes and consisting of 23 songs.

Features from popular artists like Selena Gomez, Summer Walker, Janet Jackson and Lizzo (just to name a few) are common throughout the record. The album also ends with two pre-released singles and fan favorites, “Up” and “WAP,” featuring Megan Thee Stallion. The remainder of the work is new material, however.

“Dead,” featuring Summer Walker, opens the album, setting the tone with anger and vengeance, as Cardi sets her story straight to fans. “Dead” is energetic and hypes up listeners to prepare for the rest of the album.

The next two songs, “Hello” and “Magnet,” follow similar themes and hold a similar sound. In my opinion, these first three

songs are some of the best on the album. Both “Hello” and “Magnet” are self-confidence boosting songs that give off “it-girl” energy.

Some of the following songs begin to explore different sounds. “Pick it Up,” featuring Selena Gomez, is more of a pop rap blend, similar to many Doja Cat songs. “Imaginary Players” veers more into classic hip-hop and “Bodega Baddie” encompasses a Latin sound, tapping into Cardi’s roots.

“Salute,” another top-ranking song on my list, taps back into the original flow of the album, picking up the pace from the previous songs.

In the middle of the album are collabs with Kehlani, Lizzo, another song with Summer Walker — this time more rhythm and blues-esque — and a heartfelt confessional about Cardi’s divorce, “Man Of Your Word.”

“Man Of Your Word” is a stab at the rapper Offset, who Cardi B filed for divorce against in 2024. The song references Offset’s cheating scandals, as well as lies he allegedly told her.

The next few songs sort of blend into each other and almost get lost in the whole of the album. Regardless, the songs are not bad, but the album very well

could have stood alone without the majority of them. “Check Please” wakes audiences back up, however, and is followed by a collaboration with the icon Janet Jackson, “Principal.” Jackson’s 1986 song “The Pleasure Principle” is sampled in this song. This is not the first reference to an old hit on the album, as the earlier, “What’s Goin’ On,” featuring Lizzo is a take on the 1994 hit, “What’s Up” by 4 Non Blondes.

“Trophies,” an attitude-filled self-appreciation song, is another amazing hit. It’s the kind of song that will rile you up and get you jumping around no matter where you are.

Following is a collab with artist Tyla, “Nice Guy.” It is rather relaxed compared to the rest of the songs on the album, but is a nice break from the heaviness of the surrounding songs.

We then are hit with “Killin’ You Hoes” which plays into the news recording that opens the album, which accuses Cardi of multiple crimes, including murder. She plays into the murder plot line by drawing on the fact that she is ending or killing careers with her music.

Finally, the album concludes with the popular hits of Cardi’s past which never officially appeared on an album. “Up” was



Cardi B poses for a promotional photoshoot. The rapper released her second studio album, “Am I The Drama?” on Friday, Sept. 19, 2025.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @GENIUS ON INSTAGRAM

initially released as a single in 2021 and is clearly a fan favorite, being Cardi’s fifth most popular song on Spotify.

“WAP,” is the other previous single that ends the album, which was first released in 2020. Many probably recall the viral TikTok dance to this song that took over social media during quarantine and caused quite a controversy. I found it very fit-

ting that Cardi concluded “Am I The Drama” with a song that received backlash, but nonetheless charted number one on the Billboard Hot 100.

Despite having a somewhat controversial career filled with drama and scandals, Cardi B has proven yet again to be a very successful and talented artist with her second studio album.

Rating: 4/5

‘I’m Only F**king Myself!’

LOLA YOUNG’S DEFINING BREAK

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There’s a big chance you’ve heard of the song “Messy” by Lola Young, which took over TikTok and is on its way to hit one billion streams on Spotify. On Friday, Sept. 19, the artist released “I’m Only F**king Myself,” a new album showing she intends to solidify her place in the music industry. In this review, I’ll briefly discuss each song, as well as which I believe will thrive the most.

The album starts with an upbeat song titled “FUCK EVERYONE” that explores the ideas of sexuality. While I don’t personally enjoy the lyrics themselves, I do really like the musical elements of it and how the song reminds me of pop from the 2000s. If you put the lyrics aside, the song is nostalgic and puts you in a great mood.

Moving on to “One Thing,” this song really exhibits Young’s voice and her uniqueness. It is also one that I’ve

heard before the album’s release. I’m not someone who typically listens to Lola Young, showing that the song is successful already. This song is one I can see more people enjoying and listening to on an everyday basis.

With “dealer,” the beat and instruments remain consistent throughout the song, also making it calmer than the first two tracks. I enjoyed the lyrical theme change from “FUCK EVERYONE” and “One Thing.” I found this song, as well as “Post Sex Clarity,” to be the catchier ones of the album.

“SPIDERS” is probably my favorite song from the album. The lyrics are beautiful and more emotional, making it easier to connect with them. It was a surprising twist to the album for me, and I really enjoyed it. “Penny Out of Nothing” is very similar in that the lyrics are more likable.

I found it a little difficult to enjoy “Not Like That Anymore” and “who f**king cares?” when you have a song like “SPIDERS” on the album, as these

are simply not as interesting and harder to connect with.

“why do i feel better when i hurt you” is another one that fell flat for me, as the lyrics are very repetitive. Still, it is a good option for those who prefer calmer songs. Young has an amazing voice, but lyrically, there is room for improvement.

“CAN WE IGNORE IT? :(” is another one that proves the musical variety in this album as an upbeat alternative song that uses drums and electric guitar. It offers a nice change from the previous “SAD SOB STORY! :)” which has a softer start to the song.

Another thing that I liked throughout this album and found refreshing was Young’s British accent shining through in songs such as “SAD SOB STORY! :)” and “Walk All Over You.” Typically, British accents aren’t heard in many songs by British artists.

I wanted to end off with “how long will it take to walk a mile? (interlude)” and “ur an absolute c word (interlude)” as these two I didn’t really enjoy at all. May-



Lola Young, an English singer whose song “Messy” has found success on TikTok and Spotify. Young recently released her new album, “I’m Only F**king Myself,” this past Friday.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @GENIUS

be I am missing something, and at the end of the day, it’s the artist’s own creative vision, but I found the voice changer a bit annoying and the interludes unnecessary.

Although Young is a newer artist, I see her becoming one

of those voices you instantly recognize. This album was half and half for me, but there is no denying that Young is talented, with a song that’s as big a hit as “Messy.” More and more people will know her name.

Rating: 3/5

Ruby Leftstep Takes it Easy and Sad with New ‘TED’ EP

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab**
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Ruby Leftstep is a local alternative rock and emo band from New Hartford, Conn., which plays many shows in the area, including in Storrs. For example, they won WHUS Radio’s Spring 2024 Battle of the Bands, making a name for themselves over the years in the Connecticut DIY music scene.

After a string of singles between 2023 and 2025, including the well-received “Shuteye,” the band is back with their long-awaited second extended play: Sept. 19’s “TED.”

The EP starts with “For The Record,” which is a rerecording of a song from the group’s debut EP “The Ground Up.” The rerecording doesn’t change much beyond the guitars sounding a bit different and the drums sounding a bit softer. The lyric about fall leaves are perfect and timely for this fall season, though.

Was this rerecording neces-

sary? It’s complicated, but regardless, this is the happiest the release is going to be. I prefer the original version personally, but this version has its merits.

“Marcelene” is a beautiful song about the tumultuous existence of a depressed and apathetic girl with the same name as the title. Pop singer-songwriter Zoë Coz of Farmington, Conn., adds her vocals to the song in a way that I feel indifferent to. The best part about this song isn’t any of the vocals; it’s the glistening and absolutely pretty guitar work.

“I Told You So” feels very folk-like as it delves deeper into the cognitive dissonance of pretty and relatively happy-sounding instrumentation and downcast lyrics. It could be inspired by someone like singer-songwriter Elliot Smith, who notoriously made music about his mental illness. The lyric “nobody’s fault but my own” stood out and is a sentiment many depressed people carry with them.

The last two songs are where the EP really picks up the pace. In “How Does it Feel?” lead vo-

calist Dylan Hrinda sings about mutual death between the protagonist and their subject as the song explodes into this beautiful guitar riff. The hollowness of the drums near the end before the final hurrah was a wonderful touch, and the song ends with a solemn but beautiful bang.

The final song, “Garbage,” discusses the dangers of microplastics, pollution and consumerism within the entire song but with the lyrical leitmotif of “there’s runoff in my garden and there’s plastic in my brain.” It may or may not be a metaphor for artistic slop and junk food that don’t positively contribute to one’s character development or education. This is easily one of the band’s best songs (up there with “Plastic Stranger” and “Shuteye”) and the de facto best song on the entire EP for its potent and creative lyrics and heavy instrumentation compared to the other songs.

I would love to hear Ruby Leftstep explore heavier sonic palettes while still catering to pop sensibilities to suit their



Ruby Leftstep is an alternative rock and emo band from Connecticut. The band released their second EP, TED, this past Friday, Sept. 19.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @RUBYLEFTSTEP ON INSTAGRAM

depressing lyrics from this EP. The music here is mainly a slow burn that makes me wish there were more ways for the music to grab my attention and be more memorable instead of just pleasant, but “Garbage” is certainly an exception.

I will always be a fan of this band and I want to see them

succeed and get the popularity they deserve. Regardless of popularity, let’s hope their first album is full of great melodies and down-to-earth lyrics, as this band has previously established, while experimenting with their sound to stay fresh and exciting.

Rating: 3.25/5



Life

A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO CUBA:

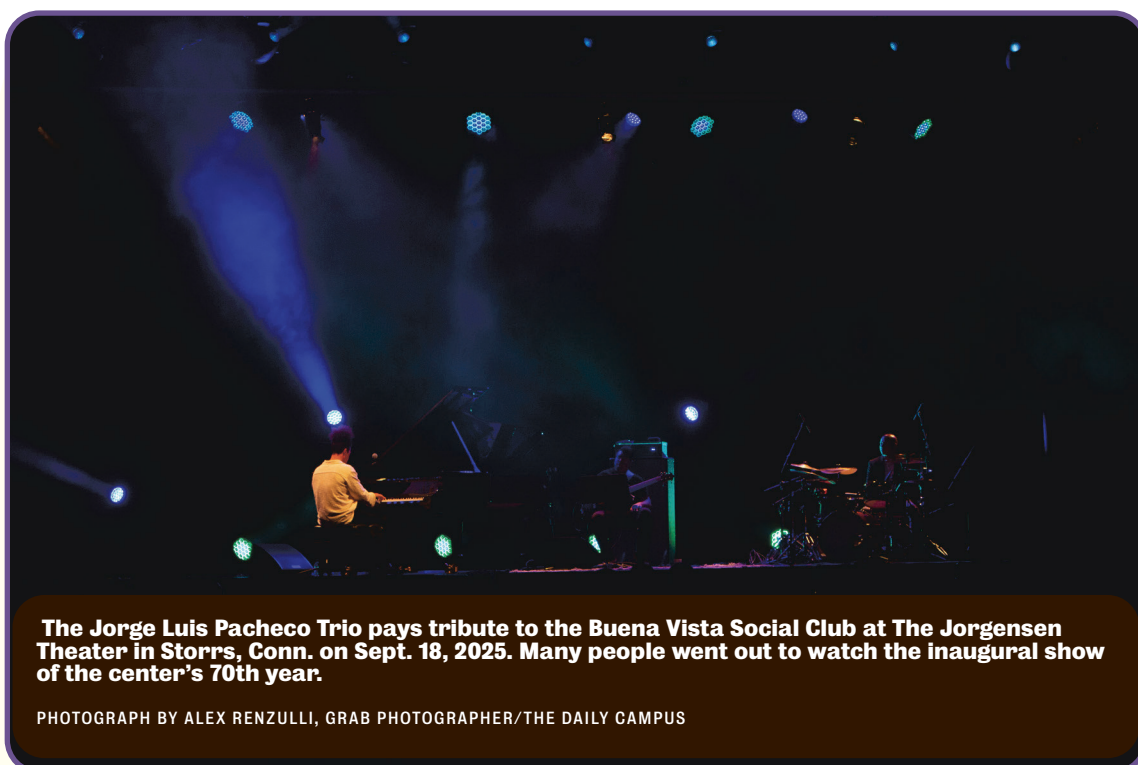
JORGE LUIS PACHECO AT JORGENSEN

by **Eva Nyquist**
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On Thursday, Sept. 18, the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts, in collaboration with the Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center (PRLACC), hosted Cuban pianist Jorge Luis Pacheco's trio in a tribute to Buena Vista Social Club and Cuban music.

Buena Vista Social Club was a Cuban musical ensemble based in Havana, Cuba. It was responsible for the resurgence of traditional Cuban music, combining several Cuban styles to create songs that popularized Cuban music and culture globally. These songs inspired a new generation of artists to engage with traditional Cuban music. Though many of the original members of Buena Vista Social Club have passed, their legacy lives on in the 1999 documentary "Buena Vista Social Club" and the recent Broadway musical of the same name.

Jorge Luis Pacheco is an award-winning Cuban pianist, composer and singer who has been performing genre-bending works for over a decade now. He is known for incorporating jazz, classical and Afro-Cuban rhythms in his music and has shared his breathtaking compositions globally, particularly in his hometown of Havana. He has created over seven albums and is set to release two more in the



The Jorge Luis Pacheco Trio pays tribute to the Buena Vista Social Club at The Jorgensen Theater in Storrs, Conn. on Sept. 18, 2025. Many people went out to watch the inaugural show of the center's 70th year.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALEX RENZULLI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

coming months.

The Pacheco trio — composed of Pacheco, Gerson-Lazo Quiroga and Reinier Mendoza — performed several songs by Buena Vista Social Club over the course of the night, as well as some of Pacheco's own compositions and famous Cuban works like "Yolanda" by Pablo Milanés and "Guantanamera" by Joseito Fernández.

"I'm really really happy to be here and to come to this area of the United States for the first time and of course play here for the first time," said Pacheco while

opening the show. He remarked that it was a joy to see students engaging in appreciation for live music and to be able to share Cuban music with the community at Jorgensen.

Pacheco's love for this music was unmistakable in his performance. Between each song, he'd pause to relay to the audience stories of why this music mattered to him; his personal experience with each melody made the show much more intimate. His knowledge of his instrument is also profound, shining through in the way his hands fly down

the keys and in his confidence to even reach inside the piano and pluck the strings himself to extract unique sound. Often, the energy of his performance would be so electric that it'd lift him out of his chair. "Don't be scared," he told the audience, in reference to this energy. But he didn't need to — it was enthralling.

Quiroga's and Mendoza's talents cannot go unnoticed, either. Quiroga's bass playing was smooth, with each pluck purposeful, while Mendoza's control over the drums was emotional and crisp. The chemistry

between the trio as a whole was palpable; from banter during songs to Pacheco's compliments of his fellow members after every significant solo, their friendship emanated from the stage. Pacheco seemed unable to keep from smiling after every glance at his bandmates.

Pacheco engaged the audience not only through his tales, but by making the show interactive. The audience, which ranged from students to community seniors, was at times instructed to participate in the songs — clapping the beat, vocalizing a tune, singing key words or dancing along.

"I didn't know what to expect from Cuban jazz, but Jorge and his trio brought energy and passion to the stage with every note," said student Laura Park. Many in the audience seemed to agree; the trio received hefty applause and cheers throughout the show and a standing ovation after the final song.

Pacheco began the show by teasing the audience about what language he should use — Spanish or English — and eventually settled on Spanglish. This is what the trio's performance encapsulated: the sharing of Cuban culture and rhythm in an American setting, expressing both a thanks to Buena Vista Social Club for their contributions to Cuban music and a reassurance that that music lives on through modern musicians and is being shared with the wider world.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY:

"I AM THE YANKEE DOODLE BOY," THE STORY OF NATHAN HALE

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The University of Connecticut in Storrs is a place I like to call pretty darn close to the middle of nowhere. As a result, during my stay over the summer doing research, when I wasn't in the lab, I often spent my time exploring the Connecticut countryside. Trekking through the abandoned "Factory Hollow" in what is now Gay City State Park was quite fun, but another interesting relic from the revolutionary days caught my eye — the soldier Nathan Hale.

In fact, it would have been quite difficult for me not to see him. He is everywhere. In the surrounding areas of Bolton, Coventry and Mansfield Hollow, his statue appears along the road, his name on street signs and his very homestead is one I passed many times. So naturally, I had to find out, who is this guy? And his story might surprise you (especially if you haven't grown up in the state of Connecticut's education system).

This week in history, Sept. 22, 1776, Nathaniel Hale of Coventry, Conn., the first spy of the Revolutionary War, was executed for espionage. Another interesting facet of this story was that, like many of the students currently attending UConn, he was just 21 years old.

Hale's story begins like most white men in the 18th century; he grew up on a homestead with his brothers and sisters and learned how to fish, hunt and do chores to maintain the land. In 1769, he and his brother Enoch decided to pursue higher education at Yale University, which was just as much of a hot spot for political discourse as colleges are today. It was here that Hale first became interested in the Patriots' cause. After grad-

uating in 1773, Hale became a schoolteacher in New London, Conn., before eventually joining the Continental Army as a lieutenant in 1775 and being promoted to captain in 1776. It was then that, under Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Knowlton, he volunteered to cross enemy lines as a spy on Sept. 8 of that year.

Now, a large part of why we know Hale's story is because although he was a spy, he wasn't a very good one. His friend Captain William Hull even encouraged him not to go, feeling that he was too open, often wearing his heart on his sleeve. But what Hale did excel at was illustrat-



LOGO BY COLBI LORANGER, ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

ing fortified British encampments, which ultimately led him to pursue this role.

For Hale, his mission was over before it even began when he caught the attention of British Army Major Robert Rogers. Before Hale's arrival on Long Island, Rogers' role was to rat out defectors from the British Army, among other undesirable things. To get an idea of who Hale was dealing with, Rogers was once described by one of his subordinates as, "subtil & deep as Hell itself... a low cunning cheating back biting villain." Sounds like a nice guy, right?

Rogers had heard about Hale's suspicious arrival on Long Island and was able to track him down by Sept. 19. He actually tracked Hale for hours without him noticing. He saw that Hale had been gathering information and jotting down notes on the British Army. The trap was set; the night before Hale was to leave, Rogers approached him while he dined, spouting lies about how he was a patriot trapped behind British lines. Hale, being the trusting and naive young man that he was, told Rogers that he was a spy. However, Rogers still needed more proof and witnesses, so he invited him to breakfast the next morning, to which Hale said yes. It was here that his future was done for. Believing that he ate with patriots, he continued to spout his secrets. Eventually, they captured him. Realizing that he had been bamboozled, Hale denied everything. Regardless, he eventually did admit to his deeds and was executed within the following days.

Despite his unfortunate end, Hale's legacy was quite successful. He has his own statue at the CIA, where they recognize him as the first American spy. Historian George Dudley Seymour even purchased the homestead in 1914 to maintain his role in our history books.

Overall, when I think about Nathan Hale, I feel a mixture of pride and pity. Pride from my ingrained sense of American nationalism from watching "Hamilton," and pity in the sense that he was really just a gullible young man who wanted to fight for what he thought was right. Whether Hale would fight for this country given the current state of affairs, that's up for you to decide.

Fun Fact: "Yankee Doodle" is the official state song of Connecticut.



Statue of Nathan Hale, who served as a spy for the Americans during the Revolutionary War. Hale was caught and executed by the British in 1776.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF FLICKR



Opinion

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COMIC BY KLEA OMERI, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Sidewalks, not speedways:

UCONN MUST ACT ON E-SCOOTERS

by Colin Hamilton
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Open Yik Yak on any given day at UConn and you'll find the same complaint: students forced to dodge electric scooters like it's a contact sport. Posts such as "so f*cking sick of these scooters man" and "I swear scooter users are having a competition to see how close they can get to me without actually running me over" are common complaints on the anonymous messaging platform. Just three weeks into our current school year, I have been nearly hit more times than I can count just walking to class. Sadly, my own experience is shared by many others. Something must be done by the administration to rein in scooters and protect our student body.

Why must students live in a state of constant vigilance when it comes to these scooters? After all, we are just trying to get to class. A quick glance at UConn Parking Services' website tells us these problems should be easily avoidable. As it states, "the operation or parking of motorized vehicles on sidewalks, lawns, and within landscaped areas of campus is unlawful."

UConn's policy further bans parking scooters at bike racks or on sidewalks. Breaking either rule is meant to incur the impoundment of the vehicle.

Yet these rules, which are meant to keep UConn walkable and safe, are almost entirely ignored. No scooters are stopped when speeding down the sidewalks, and a quick glance is enough to see that those left on bike racks are ignored by any enforcement.

The problem isn't just with campus policy — it's state law, too. Connecticut's Public Act 19-162 declared that all e-scooters must follow the same rules as cyclists. Under this ruling, e-scooters are required to come to a full stop at intersections, stop signs and traffic lights.

Most importantly, e-scooters must also yield to all pedestrians. This makes e-scooter users' current behaviors not only unsafe, but highly illegal. Furthermore, Connecticut has set a speed cap of 20 mph for e-scooters, no matter the time or place. Exceeding it should result in a

ticket, and yet scooters are often seen breaking this limit even on sidewalks. A scooter outpacing a car on campus is not an uncommon sighting. Riding with headphones or earbuds in is also considered illegal as it impedes hearing, which puts others at risk. Despite this, both violations continue to be a common sight on campus.

The current way scooters are used at UConn is anything but reasonable. Regardless of both our state's and university's regulations on e-scooters, students are still stuck dodging them daily. The solution to this disconnect between policy and reality is simple: the university must back up its policy and enforce its laws. This means the impoundment of wayward scooters, and it also means holding e-scooter users financially accountable for their reckless behavior.

Studies have already shown ticketing to be highly effective at reducing traffic violations. Massachusetts' Click it or Ticket campaign, for instance, reduced motor vehicle crashes by 11%. What's more, ticket revenue from e-scooter violations would flow back into the university and its police department, giving them an implicit motivation to pursue what should be considered their job. UConn could also get a more direct stake by charging a fee for the retrieval of an impounded scooter. This would provide an added deterrent against reckless scooter use. A \$50 retrieval fee would make anyone think twice about taking their scooters along Fairfield Way. This solution is no harsher than having to pay a \$50 charge when locked out of a dorm. Only with these actions will the rules actually be recognized by e-scooter users. Only then will students be able to navigate walkways safely, without fear of reckless collision.

UConn has an obligation to protect its students from the dangers of reckless e-scooters. Already, it has a policy in place to do so, backed by state law. All that remains is for our administration to act. Will UConn do the right thing and keep our pathways safe? Or will Yik Yak continue to be full of angry complaints about the perils of e-scooters? That is the question the university must answer.

House M.D.:

HOUSE HAS DONE NO WRONG

by Isaac Grad
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If you're familiar with House M.D, you know how polarizing the character of Dr. House is. I'll be honest, I am an open and adamant House apologist (in case that wasn't obvious from the title). Of course, this wretched man has done plenty wrong, but he is not nearly as evil as people want to believe.

As I made clear in an article published two weeks ago, House does not operate on self-interest alone. He operates based on his own strict morals and warped view of the world. In his mind (and mine), many of his more abhorrent actions are excusable, as they are what ultimately lead to saved lives. It can't be denied that his methods are effective, even though they often result in an impressive number of HR complaints and costly legal battles. These issues, however, are a small price to pay for cured patients.

House's logic, as I understand it, is that he is destined to be in a perpetual state of misery, so he made the decision to place himself in a constant state of despair, one that he can grow to accept and adjust to. This way he can expect the misery and have it be on his own terms. Rather than things just happening to him against his will, he controls his world using his own created chaos to prevent genuine chaos from hurting him. When you approach his character using this framework, it's easier to understand why he's cruel to those around him. House is protecting himself from his unfortunate reality; he can't be happy, at least not long enough for that happiness to negate the pain he's experienced in his life.

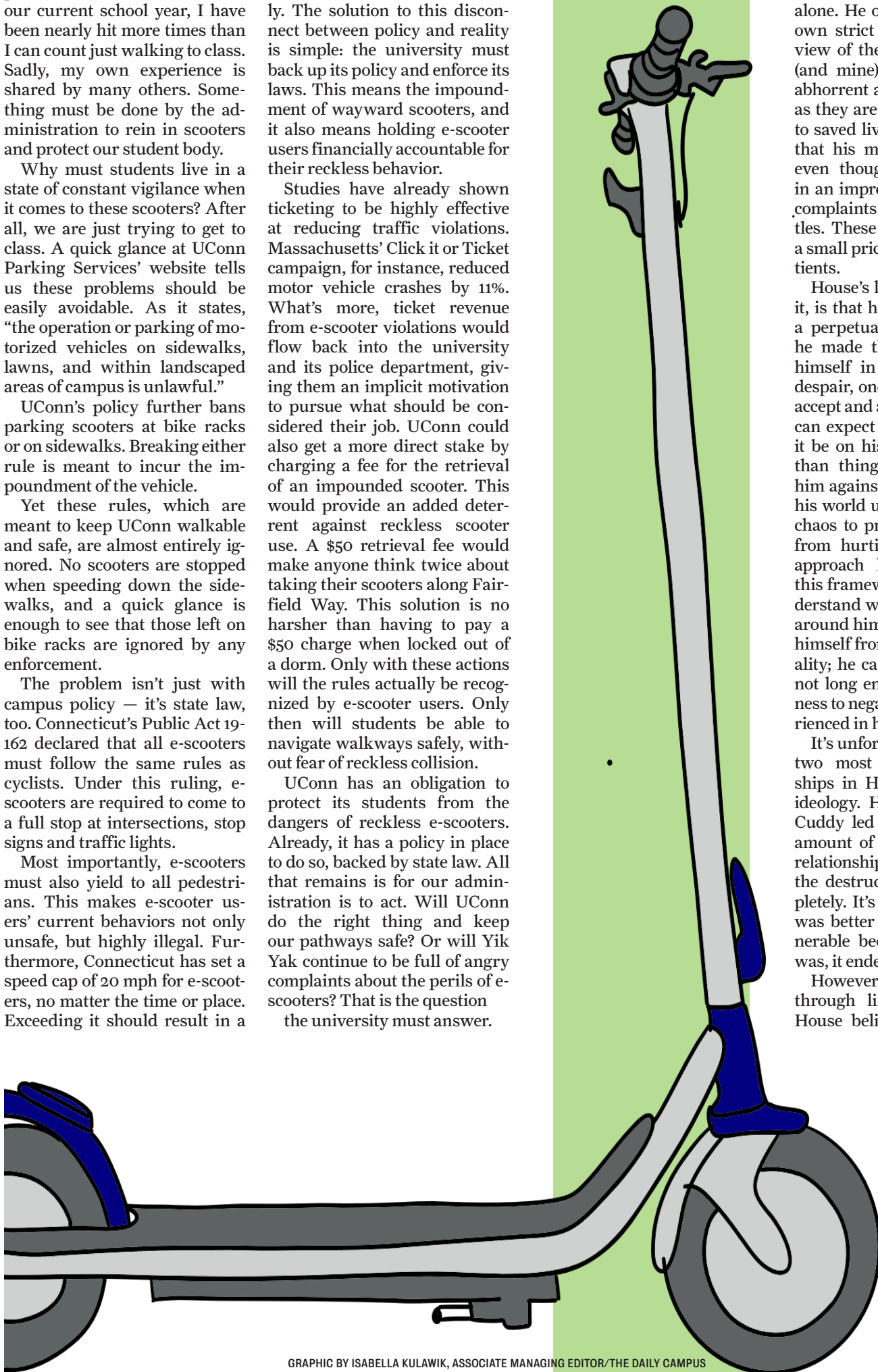
It's unfortunately true that the two most important relationships in House's life prove his ideology. His relationship with Cuddy led to an immeasurable amount of pain for House. His relationship with Wilson led to the destruction of his life completely. It's hard to argue that it was better for House to be vulnerable because every time he was, it ended in pain for him.

However, one truly can't go through life isolated. Even if House believed that's what he

wanted and needed, deep down he knew it wasn't true. He consciously chose to be a doctor, a job that is heavily involved with other people. He could've just as easily pursued his interest in quantum physics, a job more suitable to solitude. He wanted to force himself to be around people and be of service to them. This alone emphasizes his humanity and can easily fly under the radar as it's stated extensively that House is a doctor for the puzzles exclusively, despite that clearly not being the case.

House creates walls between him and those around him, both to protect himself and to ensure the patient's health, as he figures his misery and distance from those around him allows him to be the brilliant doctor that he is. We're also able to deduce that House places all his value on his brilliance and it's hinted that he believes himself unworthy or incapable of love. He uses his harsh exterior to protect himself from proving that he truly has no value outside of his ability to solve cases.

The series finale, wherein House fakes his death to avoid going to jail during Wilson's final few months as he's dying of cancer, proves my point, showing what was woven under the surface of his character throughout the series. House sacrifices everything we were made to believe was valuable to him: his puzzles, his job, his drugs, everything he had, for Wilson. All the things that House values, added together, didn't compare to the value Wilson holds in his life. He effectively ended his life in exchange for five months with his best friend. The entire series we're told how selfish House is, how uncaring he is for everyone but himself, and yet he does what he did. He just as easily could've ended his life in the burning building, ending his suffering and finalizing his self-destruction, but he knew Wilson needed him. This is a level of care and selflessness that we don't see from anyone else on the series, and only solidifies what us House apologists knew all along; that he is only blunt and cold to create distance from him and others because he loves and cares too deeply, and by opening himself up he's risking a pain incomparable to anything else.



GRAPHIC BY ISABELLA KULAWIK, ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Opinion

Photo of the Day |



The University of Connecticut football team defeats Ball State at Rentschler field on Sept 20, 2025. The Huskies defend a late attack from the Cardinals with a final score of 31-25.. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Distorted By Outrage:

HOW SELECTIVE MEDIA COVERAGE WARPS AMERICA'S UNDERSTANDING OF GUN VIOLENCE

by Grace Donahue

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It is a well-known fact that the most effective way to capture someone's attention is to evoke an emotional response. This is no different in the media when trying to get clicks and views. By simply making audience members furious, media stories are able to get the viewership they need in order to make an exponential amount of revenue. Whatever gets them rich.

This pattern of thinking is consistently seen in America's media, especially when looking at how a culture of selective outrage has resulted in and distorted our understanding of violence in our country. Evoking outrage and causing polarization is rewarded by algorithms with high ratings. And thus, the feedback loop continues. Viewers only see what aligns with their interests or what generates shock value.

Sadly, this dynamic is not new. For years, the algorithm has proven time and time again how some tragedies become national obsessions while others fade almost immediately from the public eye. The mass shootings at Sandy Hook

and Parkland — both of which are suburban or predominantly white schools — dominated headlines for weeks. However, equally deadly shootings in cities like Chicago or St. Louis often pass with a fraction of the coverage. The media gravitates towards stories from suburban areas or whose victims are predominantly white because they're the stories that their core audience can identify with. But in doing so, they create a hierarchy of whose suffering "matters" enough to be seen.

This happened a few days ago, as well with the death of Charlie Kirk. Kirk was a political activist who co-founded the organization Turning Point in 2012 and hosted The Charlie Kirk Show. On Sept. 10, Kirk was holding a "Prove me Wrong" debate at Utah Valley University when he was killed. His death received national attention because he was famous, politically polarizing and part of a conservative movement. His memorial received wall-to-wall coverage, his death sparked national debates, and even censorship controversies unfolded on a national scale. Part of the reason for the extensive media attention is that many audience members who mourned could

recognize themselves in him — as a white, male political figure — in ways they might not with other victims of violence.

On that same day, there were other school shootings. At Evergreen High School, Desmond Holly brought a gun to school and critically wounded two classmates before fatally shooting himself. Under different circumstances, Evergreen might have become one of those national stories the media fixates on like Parkland or Sandy Hook. But because it happened on the same day as Kirk's assassination, Evergreen barely registered outside a handful of articles. Kirk's death was seen with front-page headlines, days of continuous updates, op-eds, political debates and TV panels. Meanwhile, Evergreen was quickly dropped from the cycle. The disparity reveals how timing and symbolism shape coverage — when a politically famous figure is killed, even tragedies that normally would command national attention are eclipsed.

This difference in coverage has real consequences, though. Without seeing the full scope of what is occurring, the public is led to believe that gun violence is isolated rather than systemic. This influ-

ences policymakers who respond to pressure from these headlines and the voters who are unable to see past them, causing the events in headlines to be the ones that shape legislation. Thus, a distorted cycle results where solutions are debated only in the context of high-profile cases while the broader epidemic of shootings in schools and communities remains unaddressed.

What's more is that Kirk's assassination continues to receive attention due to several right-wing influencers with huge social media followings alleging that the shooting is related to transgender activism and was funded by left-wing activists — claims that remain unfounded. Yet, the outrage these narratives generated kept the story trending for weeks. This is the outrage economy at work: the more polarizing the claim, the more clicks it earns and the longer the spotlight stays fixed on Kirk. Meanwhile, tragedies like Evergreen fade because they lack that same culture-war fuel, even though their victims represent the everyday reality of gun violence in America.

When headlines focus on politically symbolic deaths while pushing aside other tragedies

that do not fit the outrage formula, our national understanding of gun violence becomes dangerously incomplete. We mourn the famous while ignoring the everyday. We debate censorship and conspiracies while forgetting the victims whose names never trend.

If America wants to take gun violence seriously, we need a shift in how stories are told. Coverage must prioritize context and truth over clicks and polarization. Equal weight must be given to stories that reflect the scope of the crisis, not just the ones that spark the loudest reaction.

Without change, this problem will only grow worse. As Americans, we have a duty to stay well-informed about the many issues concerning our country instead of simply acknowledging the headlines. By continuously seeking out diverse news sources, talking about current events and sharing them on social media, we can spark conversations that draw attention to the bigger issues. Until then, the culture of selective outrage will continue to warp our understanding of violence, leaving us unprepared to address the very epidemic destroying lives every day.

Don't Get Distracted:

OLD NEWS IS CURRENT NEWS

by Holly Thompson

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On Sept. 17, Jimmy Kimmel's talk show was "pre-empted indefinitely" after he made comments regarding the fatal shooting of Charlie Kirk. His comments pertained to how he believed the "MAGA gang" aimed to score political points from the shooting. Whether or not you agree with what Kimmel said, it is evident that censorship of the press is becoming increasingly prominent. Free speech is no longer truly free, but instead available to those with the resources and power to speak over others and prevent their voices from being heard. In times such as these, we must not forget the injustices in the world when political figures attempt to cover them up, no matter how old they may seem.

When I say that old news is current news, I'm addressing the ongoing crises within the United States that are not talked about

nearly as much as they should and used to be.

A key example of this phenomenon is the Epstein files, which include records found in the investigation of Jeffrey Epstein and his accomplice and former girlfriend. There has been a hard push to release the documents to reveal the who "supported him in his criminal activity, especially those with wealth and political sway." The Trump administration has received criticism for their decision to not release information related to Epstein's investigation. Tying back into censorship, Trump went after the Wall Street Journal after they reported a "risque birthday letter to Epstein in 2003 that had Trump's name on it." Later, Trump denied that he had any connection to the files after the Journal claimed his name appeared multiple times.

Recent news has been filled with disinformation and intense debates that create intensified political division between the left and right. For example, White

House press secretary Karoline Leavitt claimed that Democrats pressing the release of the files are "pretending to care about victims of crime when they do not care about victims of crime." However, both parties are simultaneously pushing for a bill demanding the administration to release all investigative material relating to Epstein.

Between Trump's denial of his connection to the files and the pitting of Republicans and Democrats against each other, the Epstein files have become a controversial topic that is simultaneously pushed down by powerful political figures. We must not allow the chaotic discourse surrounding the files' release to make us forget the most important reason they should be published: justice for the victims and their families.

Another controversial topic whose impact has been greatly minimized is the existence of Alligator Alcatraz as well as other immigration crises. Alligator Al-

catraz is an immigration detention center created by the Trump administration meant to house 3,000 people. People detained there have reported that the conditions in the facility are horrific.

While there was talk of the facility being shut down, the government recently ruled against a lower court's attempt to shut down the facility. Therefore, the detention center will remain open. There are, however, three other lawsuits challenging the facility. This creates the illusion that there is something being done to shut down the inhumane operation, but this minimizes the issue at hand by assuming it can be fixed easily. It also means that the process will continue to drag on, making news about it less relevant in the era of constant breaking news cycles.

Another concerning and related trend is the number of immigrants who are disappearing. At the end of August, the location in which two-thirds of over 1,800 men detained at Alligator Alca-

traz could not be found. In fact, around 800 detainees "showed no record on ICE's online database."

There are also more than 1.2 million immigrants who vanished from the labor force from January to July. This number also includes people who entered the country legally or are legal residents. Information about where these people are now as well as news coverage on the subject has also disappeared. While this is an ongoing conflict, it has gone under the radar and is concealed by claims that Alligator Alcatraz and similar facilities will be shut down.

Charles Bukowski, a writer who focused on the grittier side of life in America, has a famous quote: "the only time most people think of injustice is when it happens to them." Overall, now more than ever, it is incredibly important to pay attention to all news, since old news is still current. Even though major headlines change each day, older news remains relevant and important.

VOLLEYBALL: HUSKIES DOMINATE THE WEEKEND TO FINISH NONCONFERENCE PLAY

by Ryan Lombardi

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The UConn volleyball team finished its nonconference run in dominant fashion this weekend, sweeping their competition with victories over Brown University, Marist University and Sacred Heart University.

The Huskies' first opponent was Brown, who gave them a tough start to the match. The Bears began the first set with five unanswered points, seizing early momentum. Their lead grew as high as nine points, and just when it seemed like it was going to be a blowout, the Connecticut attack came alive. A kill by senior Emma Werkmeister jumpstarted the Huskies late in the set, as they exploded for a 14-6 run to even the score at 24. Werkmeister closed it out with a powerful ace, completing the comeback to take the first set.

The momentum had fully shifted to UConn's side, and the Huskies took full advantage. After trading points to begin the second set, Connecticut began to take over after five straight points gave them an 11-5 lead. The rest was all UConn, as they continued to dominate from that point on, finishing the second set 25-10.

The third set once again began tightly contested, but two kills from junior Grace Maria and an ace from graduate student Doga Kutlu helped UConn jump out to a 10-8 lead. Werkmeister heated up down the stretch, notching three more kills to pace the UConn attack. Errors by Brown kept this set out of reach, with the Huskies going on to take the third set 25-19, capping off a dominant Friday night.

On Saturday afternoon, the Huskies geared up to face Marist, and once again they were tested to start the match. Werkmeister wasted no time contributing, delivering her 20th twentieth ace of the year early in set one. However, it seemed like neither side could pull away for much of the set, with back and forth runs up to 13-13. From there, UConn

finally found its footing, rattling off eight of the next eleven 11 with help from two aces by sophomore McKenna Brand. The Red Foxes didn't go down easily though, clawing back for five of the next seven to make it 23-21. Ultimately, late errors by Marist ended their momentum and handed UConn the first set, 25-21.

The Huskies jumped out to an early 7-3 lead in the second set, helped by an ace from Brand and two kills by redshirt sophomore Loren Winn. UConn's blocking shut down any attempts at coming back from Marist. At 20-16, Winn roofed a powerful spike to erase the Red Foxes' late momentum. She finished off the second set herself with another kill, Huskies winning it 25-17. "The energy was great, and Doga [Kutlu] was getting me some great balls, so I knew I had to do something and put it

away," Winn said in a postgame interview on the UConn+ broadcast.

The third set began just as competitive as the first two until the Huskies subbed in senior Hanna Tylska. She immediately came out swinging, notching three early kills to give UConn an 8-6 lead. That sparked the offense as they took eight of the next twelve 12 points, bringing them up to a 16-10 lead. The Husky offense continued to put on the pressure, and Tylska exploded for four aces to end the set 25-15, and closing out another straight set victory for the Huskies.

UConn's third and final match of the weekend pitted them against in-state rival Sacred Heart. The first set was marked by a challenging start on both ends, with both teams plagued by errors. The Huskies quickly settled in, capitalizing on the

Pioneers' miscues to jump out to a 13-8 lead. Connecticut saw offensive contributions from across the roster as they maintained control throughout the set. Sacred Heart was unable to overcome the deficit, as a long spike by Sacred Heart sailed out of bounds to end the set 25-18.

Junior Isabella Suhy gave the Huskies early momentum in the second set with an ace, and another ace from Werkmeister soon after gave UConn a 7-2 lead. However, the Pioneers found momentum of their own, as a 6-1 run propelled by three aces quickly erased the Huskies' advantage. After keeping it tight for a while, a huge block by Kutlu and another pair of aces for Werkmeister fueled the Huskies' offense to take six in a row, firing up the home crowd. The Pioneers' late efforts were dashed by a service error to end the set, 25-19.

The third set opened with sharper play by the Huskies, as Kutlu set up Werkmeister for an early kill to set the tone. Sacred Heart held onto a tight lead until midway, when back-to-back kills from senior Audrey Rome lit up the offense, rattling off five of six to take a commanding lead. The Pioneers came back to tie it again at 18, but Winn crushed their hopes with a pair of kills for herself. The Huskies' attack overwhelmed Sacred Heart from that point, cruising to a 25-20 set, and completing the clean sweep of the weekend.

The Huskies looked dominant this weekend, sweeping all three games in straight sets. They will head into conference play riding a wave of momentum after going 11-1 in non-conference play. Next up, they travel to Chicago to take on DePaul this Friday night. The match is set for 8 p.m. and will be streamed on ESPN+.



UConn women's volleyball playing Marist on Sept. 9, 2025. The Huskies took several victories over the weekend against Marist, Brown and Sacred Heart.. PHOTO BY TOMAS HINCKLEY, OPINION EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY: HUSKIES FALL TO QUINNIPIAC IN PRE-SEASON EXHIBITION GAME

by Nicole Caruso

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On Friday night, the UConn Women's ice hockey team was unable to take down their Connecticut rival in their exhibition game, losing to Quinnipiac 3-0.

Entering the matchup, Quinnipiac had won 12 out of their 23 games against UConn in previous seasons. The Bobcats are picked to finish fourth in the Eastern College Athletic Association whereas the Huskies are rated to finish first in the Hockey East Association Preseason Coaches' Poll for the second year in a row.

Quinnipiac got on the scoreboard just 24 seconds into the game, thanks to junior forward Kahlen Lamarche who was able to get past UConn graduate student goaltender Tia Chan. Lamarche's goal was assisted by graduate student forward Laurence Frenette and sophomore defenseman Aynsley D'Ottavio. Frenette went on to net a goal of her own to close out the first period, sending the Huskies trailing by two to enter the second.

Both of these goals were scored on even strength despite Quinnipiac having two power play advantages throughout the first period. UConn freshman defenseman Camryn Grimley was handed a penalty for un-

sportsmanlike conduct, but Quinnipiac was unable to take advantage of the extra skater and did not score. Shortly after, UConn junior forward Livvy Dewar went to the box for a tripping penalty with six minutes left in the period, yet the team was unable to score on the Huskies.

In the first period, UConn outshot the Bobcats with 11 shots compared to Quinnipiac's

nine. Both teams were even with faceoff wins and UConn entered the second period looking to get momentum going and have more shooting attempts which they lacked in the first.

The second period was fairly quiet to start with both teams having a limited number of shots on goal. UConn had one power play attempt, when sophomore forward Bryn Prier got a hooking penalty. However, the

Huskies' lack of shots on goal not only during the power play but the entirety of the second period resulted in a scoreless 20 minutes for both teams.

UConn entered the third period needing to make changes to their game if they wanted to win. Not only did they need to attack the ice more, but they also needed to allow themselves the chance to score more goals by staying in Quinnipiac's zone. Junior forward

Julia Pellerin dominated the third period for the Huskies, contributing three shots on goal and significant ice time. The Boston College transfer is a player to watch out for this season as she led Hockey East last season in scoring.

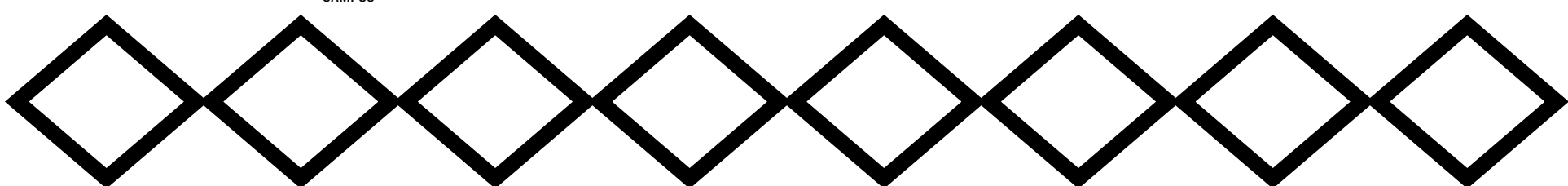
Later in the third period, UConn freshman defenseman Grimley earned herself a second penalty of the night for unsportsmanlike conduct. The Bobcats took full advantage of this opportunity and attacked the ice right away. Senior defenseman Zoe Uens gave Quinnipiac a 3-0 lead, netting a goal past UConn junior goaltender Shannon Moran. The Huskies were unable to answer with a goal of their own, resulting in a shutout victory for the Bobcats.

UConn's lack of offensive zone ice time and significant penalty minutes all contributed to their loss against Quinnipiac. Despite it being an exhibition game, UConn will need to fix some aspects of their game play in order to have a successful season including staying out of the penalty box.

Looking ahead, UConn's 2025-2026 season officially begins this Friday, September 26 at 6 p.m. It is also Hockey Night in Storrs where the first 250 people with get a free T-shirt. Tickets go on sale for UConn students Monday night at 10 p.m. If you are unable to attend in person, the game will be available to watch online on ESPN+.



The UConn Huskies take on the Northeastern Huskies at Toscano on March 5, 2025. The Huskies face each other to move onto the Hockey East championship. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Sports

Photo of the Day |



The University of Connecticut football team defeats Ball State at Rentschler field on Sept 20, 2025. The Huskies defend a late attack from the Cardinals with a final score of 31-25. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WOMEN'S SOCCER: JENKIN'S, STEPHENS-MARTIN LIFT UCONN PAST ST. JOHN'S IN BIG EAST OPENER

by Matt Dimech

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The University of Connecticut women's soccer team began its defense of the Big East crown with a win over St. John's University on Saturday night's conference opener.

The Huskies (5-2-1) played in front of over 1,300 fans at Joseph A. Morrone Stadium as they defeated the Red Storm (2-4-2) 2-0 to extend their win streak to four.

UConn dictated the tempo throughout the contest, outshooting St. John's 17-5 and getting 11 corner kick chances against the Red Storm's two.

In the 41st minute first-year Maree-Anne Van Doesburg curled a corner kick into the box, which was met by a header from second-year Taylor Jenkins for the breakthrough goal. This was Jenkins' second goal in as many matches.

"We always talk about being gritty, being hardworking," Jenkins said. "Those are our true core values as a team and just continuing that, growing upon that each and every game."

Less than two minutes later,



UConn hosts the UConn Dog Fight Invitational in Storrs, Conn. on April, 4, 2025. The sunny day promoted a big crowd which instilled a strong work ethic from the team. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

second-year Riley Prozzo led a counterattack with a through ball to second-year Farrah Stephens-Martin who punched in her first career goal with the Huskies. Prozzo and Van Doesburg each recorded their first collegiate assists on the play, giving the Huskies a two-goal

lead before halftime.

The offense's recent success marks a stark contrast to the season's opening weeks, when UConn scored just two goals through its first four games. However, in recent weeks the Huskies have turned the corner, scoring multiple goals in each of

their last three wins. Over the same stretch, UConn won each game by a two-goal margin.

Preseason Big East Player of the Year favorite, fourth-year Chioma Okafor was essential offensively against the Red Storm despite not finding the back of the net herself. Her three shots

on goal kept the pressure on St. John's defensive line.

"Chioma is just a beast out there," head coach Margaret Rodriguez said. "She intimidates every team we play against. Our team also has other players that can threaten just like Chioma, so she could distract teams, and other players can get in. I just think her work rate, her mentality, her aggressiveness. Our team feeds off of her."

Saturday's defensive effort was equally as dominant. First-year keeper Ava Yamas, who entered the night as the reigning Big East Goalkeeper of the Week, needed just one save to secure the Huskies' fifth clean sheet of the season. The back line and midfield kept St. John's from creating consistent chances and pushed the ball out in transition.

UConn will look to keep its momentum going Wednesday night when they host No. 23 Xavier at home. The Musketeers will be the Huskies' ranked opponent of the season, setting an early test as they look to defend their Big East crown.

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m., fFans can tune into the game on ESPN+.

FIELD HOCKEY: HUSKIES SPLIT WEEKEND ROAD TRIP

by Thaddeus Sawyer

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UConn field hockey (3-4) took a trip to the tri-state area this past weekend and split a pair of road matches. The Huskies won in their first game of conference play on Saturday with a 2-1 win victory over the Villanova Wildcats (1-6) before being shutout in a 5-0 loss against the Princeton Tigers (4-2).

In game one, UConn faced their first Big East opponent of the year in Villanova. Both of UConn's two goals came in the first half. Freshman Lene Bunjes got the scoring started with an unassisted close-range shot in the first quarter. Bunjes stole the ball from Villanova defender Gemma Lysaght after Lysaght had gotten a stick on an errant pass from UConn's Julia Bressler.

UConn extended their lead with just 41 seconds left in the first half, as freshman Abby Davidson scored her first collegiate goal to bring the score to 2-0. Davidson's goal was also unassisted, as she handled a loose ball from just inside the scoring arc while back pedaling for an impressive first goal.

Villanova pulled within one in third quarter on a score from junior Addie Froehlich on a

penalty corner attempt that was assisted by Molly Zimmerman. That was all Villanova could muster offensively on the day, as the goal was the only shot on the day that they placed on goal. UConn's defense played strong throughout, only allowing the Wildcats to get

four shots off in total.

With UConn looking to sweep of a weekend series for the first time this season, the Huskies were shut out against ESPN No. 9 Princeton. Beth Yeager had a big day for Princeton, as the senior midfielder scored the first goal of the game for the Tigers

on a shot assisted by freshman Saylor Milone. A member of the 2024 United States Olympic field hockey team, and a three-time All American also had two assists.

Sophomore defender Izzy Morgan scored her first career goal in her 26th collegiate game,

making it a 2-0 game going into the second quarter. While both teams combined for a game high eight shots in the second, neither scored and the score remained at 2-0 going into the half.

Princeton took off in the second half, scoring twice in the third and once in the fourth to put the game out of reach. Otilie Sykes, Ella Hampson and Helena Grosse all had a goal for the Tigers, with Grosse also adding an assist.

Princeton goalie Olivia Caponiti pitched a shutout with four saves before getting pulled midway through the fourth quarter. UConn goalie McKenna had five saves, letting in 50% of Princeton's shots on goal. Princeton and UConn each got a similar number of shots off with 13 and 10, respectively, but the Tigers had six more shots on goal. The 5-0 loss was the second time that UConn has been shut out this season. The Huskies are now 1-2 against Ivy League opponents.

After back-to-back weekend double headers, UConn will play just one game next weekend as they travel to Lynchburg, Virginia to play the No. 5 Liberty Flames (5-1). The Friday night contest will take place at the Liberty Field Hockey Field with a start time of 6 p.m.



UConn Field Hockey plays Rutgers at home in Storrs, Conn. on Sept 12, 2025. The Huskies ultimately fall in overtime with a final score of 3-2. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WNBA POSTSEASON: A ROUND ONE RECAP

Minnesota vs. Golden State

by Meredith Lloyd
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The WNBA playoffs tipped off in Minneapolis, with a matchup between the Minnesota Lynx and the Golden State Valkyries. The Lynx made a major statement in the first game with a 101-72 finish. Minnesota played an incredibly well-rounded game. Five players put up double digits, including an 18-point night off the bench for Natisha Heidemen.

Golden State adjusted quickly for game two. They controlled much of the game and entered the final quarter with a 17-point lead. However, Minnesota's resilience was tough to stop. The Lynx stole the game in a 24-9 fourth quarter run. Cecilia Zandalasini was unable to convert a game-winner for the Valkyries, and the buzzer sounded at 75-74, with the Lynx on top.

Minnesota finished the first round as the only team to make a clean sweep.

The Valkyries still walked away with a spot in the history books as the first WNBA expansion team to make the playoffs in their opening season. They also took home two post season awards: Most Improved Player for juniorthird-year guard Veronica Burton, and Coach of the Year for head coach Natalie Nakase.

Indiana vs. Atlanta

The upset of the week came from the Indiana Fever, who eliminated the third-ranked Atlanta Dream. Atlanta started strong, with a comfortable 80-68 victory in game one. Alisha Gray, Rhyne Howard and Naz Hamilton combined for 56

points on the night.

The Fever responded in a similar manner, taking game two in a 77-60 win. Atlanta couldn't find a solution to Indiana's offense and gave up several scoreless runs throughout the game. The Dream's low-scoring performance left the team 25 points below their season's average.

The deciding matchup was a hard-fought battle with multiple lead exchanges. In the final moments, Aliyah Boston handed a 1-point advantage back to the Fever. It was a defensive act that sealed the game for Indiana. With 7.4 seconds on the clock, Lexie Hull made the clutch inbound steal that regained Fever possession. The final score was 87-85.

This semifinal advancement

is huge for the Fever, who lost many players to injury, including All-Star Caitlin Clark and other key pieces like Sydney Colson and Sophie Cunningham.

Las Vegas vs. Seattle

The Las Vegas Aces sent the Seattle Storm a message, opening their playoff series with a 102-77 win. Vegas' flying start capitalized off of the transition game. A'ja Wilson owned the paint on both ends as a force on the defensive boards while working her way to the free throw line. The Aces' resounding victory reminded everyone why they are the No. 2 seed.

Seattle returned the favor in gGame two2. They came alive, specifically on the defensive end, to close out an 86-83 win. They forced 15 Vegas turnovers

which converted to several points on the fast break. In the final stretch, they outscored the Aces 16-4, with another huge push in transition points. Rookie Dominique Malonga had an outstanding performance guarding Wilson. She put up 10 rebounds and held Wilson to her lowest scoring game of the series.

Wilson bounced back tremendously. Her 38-point game helped lead the Aces through an even closer battle than the last. But it came down to Jackie Young's offensive rebound and hustle play to tip the Aces over by a point. Vegas extends their playoff streak to seven straight semifinal appearances.

Las Vegas will face Indiana in the best of five, beginning on Sunday at 3 p.m.

New York vs. Phoenix

The New York Liberty led 1-0 after an overtime battle against the Phoenix Mercury. Natasha Cloud's defensive performance was instrumental to the victory. The former Mercury player led the night in steals and grabbed six rebounds to accompany her 23 points.

Game two went to Phoenix in a dominating 86-60 win. The Mercury came out hungry after their loss. Satou Sabally's 15-point night was pure redemption following her 2-for-17 performance in game one. Phoenix controlled the game on both ends of the floor. They shut out New York for the first eight8 minutes and 25 seconds of the third quarter and went for a 13-0 run in the first half.

Game three was high stakes for all. Breanna Stewart, who played through a fresh MCL sprain, had a momentous night. But her stellar performance of 30 points, nine rebounds and three assists was not enough for New York to clinch the final game. Her 14 points were the only for the Liberty in the fourth quarter.

On the other hand, the Mercury showed up. It was a legendary night for Phoenix veterans. DeWanna Bonner's eight boards claimed the league record for most playoff rebounds, surpassing Candace Parker. Alyssa Thomas earned her fifth playoff triple-double on 20 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists. Sabally had another fantastic performance, with a 23-point, 12 rebound finish.

The Mercury will face the Lynx in the semifinals on Sunday at 5 p.m. on ESPN.



WNBA playoffs: Fever takes game 1 with 89-73 win over Aces in semifinal matchup on Sept. 21, 2025. PHOTO COURTESY OF @WNBA ON INSTAGRAM

MEN'S SOCCER: UCONN COMES OUT ON TOP IN UPSET WIN OVER NO. 10 AKRON

by Avery Becker
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If you're a Husky fan, you could not have scripted up the UConn men's soccer team any better.

Especially after this past Friday, when the Huskies pulled off the upset versus the No. 10 Akron Zips, 3-1, to open Big East play. With this win, the Huskies earned three points in Big East standings, as well as remain unbeaten on the season (6-0-3).

Despite Connecticut taking home the win, the match did not start out in their favor.

In the 21st minute, Akron got themselves on the board first with a goal from Stefan Dobrijevic in the corner. Even with the one goal under their belt, the Zips would not be able to put another one in to increase their score, due to UConn's goalkeeper Kyle Durham's impressive efforts in between the pipes. The red shirt sophomore finished the game with six saves

throughout the entire match, one of them being featured No. 1 in the SportsCenter top 10 Saturday night. This save came in the second half of the game, where he swatted the ball once in the top right corner of the net, and then again off a rebound at the crossbar.

The New York native has proven himself time and time again to be a defensive catalyst for the Huskies this

season, boasting a SV% of 0.891 on his 2025-26 campaign. This shows that even without goalkeeper Max Kerkvliet from last season, Connecticut can still find success in between the sticks.

Although the Huskies had various attempts to knot the score at one in the first half, the score would still be 1-0, Akron, heading into intermission.

Red shirt freshman Sabri Hanni was the

one to score the equalizer for Connecticut around 11 minutes into the second half. Hanni flipped around to net the ball in the upper corner of the net, notching his second goal of the season.

With both squads vying to rack another goal on the board, it wasn't until the 69th minute that the Huskies scored the second goal of the game, as well as the lead.

Graduate student Balthazar Saunders managed to score his third goal of the season, rebounding the ball off Akron's goalkeeper, in what would be the game-winning goal.

Saunders had a tremendous game for the Huskies, having been involved in all three of the goals scored in the match and, racking up the most points ever in a game in his career.

In the 79th minute of the match, freshman Preston Alessio put a lid on the game for the Huskies, with his first career goal.

So far, in just nine games in a UConn jersey, Alessio has attained a goal and an assist.

"The will, the grit the determination from the group," Chris Gbandi said postgame in a post on the teams' twitter, "we're currently one of the few teams that haven't lost a game, but nobody seemed to have the respect for us. We showed today that we can play anybody in the country."

Next up, the Huskies will return to Storrs for another top-20 matchup to take on the No. 17 Bryant Bulldogs. Kickoff is scheduled for 6 p.m. If Husky fans cannot make it to the pitch, they can tune in to the match on UConn+.

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





Sports

FOOTBALL: EDWARDS, BELL LEAD HUSKIES TO 31-25 WIN OVER BALL STATE

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On Saturday, the UConn football team (2-2) defeated the Ball State Cardinals (1-3) for their first FBS win of the year.

Running back Cam Edwards set a new career-high in rushing yards with 194, eclipsing his previous career-best of 149 against South Florida during the 2023 season. In addition, the Norwalk, Conn. native found the end zone twice during the mid-afternoon game.

“I have a lot of trust in Cam [Edwards],” UConn head coach Jim Mora said. “I think we all do, and we all should. I mean, he’s dependable, he’s a warrior, he’s tough, he’s gritty, he’s resilient. You want guys like that on your team.”

Wide receiver Skyler Bell carried the receiving corps with 14 catches for 113 yards and a touchdown. The Bronx, N.Y. native was a reception short of the single-game program record, which remains 15 receptions by Jeremy Davis against Memphis during the 2013 season. To put it into perspective of how much Bell carried the receiving corps, the rest of the receivers combined for six receptions total.

“My mindset is more [about] just making plays,” Bell said. “I feel like when I’m myself and I have that mindset, nobody can stop me.”

After a three-and-out by the Cardinals on their opening drive, Jackson Harper re-

turned the punt 25 yards to the Ball State 19-yard line, where the Huskies failed to find the end zone but settled for a 30-yard field goal made by kicker Chris Freeman to give the Huskies a 3-0 lead with 9 minutes and 48 seconds left in the first quarter.

After a second consecutive three-and-out by Ball State, Connecticut finally had a successful drive against a low-tier pass defense. Quarterback Joe Fagnano completed a 46-yard pass to Bell that got the Huskies quickly across midfield at Ball State’s 37-yard line.

UConn was aggressive on this drive. On 4th-and-8, wide receiver John Neider reeled in a one-handed catch for 26 yards that put the Huskies goal-to-go at the 9-yard line.

“I was just going off the book, the analytics book,” Mora said on the aggressive playstyle on fourth down. “Figure we spend money on it, might as well follow what the book says.”

That set up a 2-yard touchdown pass from Fagnano to Bell to give UConn a 10-0 lead with 2:30 left in the first quarter.

Ball State would keep up the pace on the following drive. On 2nd-and-8 from their own 19-

yard line, quarterback Kiael Kelly completed a pass to Qian Magwood for 53 yards that put the ball at Connecticut’s 28-yard line. To open the second quarter, Ball State did their own version of the Philly Special as Magwood found a wide-open Kelly for 19 yards and a touchdown on 4th-and-1.

Ball State punted after moving the sticks once to open the second half. UConn increased its lead with its first drive of the second half. On 4th-and-6, Fagnano found wide receiver Shamar Porter for 33 yards and nearly got into the end zone before Ball State defensive back Ashton Whitner saved the play and downed him at the 1-yard line.

On 3rd-and-goal from the Ball State 3-yard line, Fagnano could not complete a pass short to Porter but was bailed out by a roughing the passer penalty on linebacker Jack Beebe. So, instead of kicking a field goal with Freeman again, the Huskies took advantage of a massive mistake by Ball State by handing the ball off to Terrence Smith for a 1-yard touchdown run. The ball popped out on that play, and the touchdown was under review but was upheld moments later. UConn was now up 17-7 with 6:04 left in the third quarter.

Ball State marched down

the field on the following drive but had to settle for a field goal thanks to an illegal block in the back penalty negating a 37-yard touchdown run by TJ Horton.

UConn had the ball to start the fourth quarter, where Fagnano made up for 3rd-and-14 by finding Bell for 19 yards to get near midfield and continue the drive.

Agent Zero, as coined by teammate Reymello Murphy, gave the Huskies a cushion with a 32-yard touchdown run with 10:24 left to play, making it a 24-10 Connecticut lead.

Kelly’s one critical error came with 9:06 left in the game as his pass was picked off defensive back Lee Molette III at UConn’s 42-yard line.

However, even with all that momentum, the door stayed open for the Huskies as they punted on a three-and-out following a holding penalty on a 52-yard touchdown run by Edwards.

That is where Ball State came in with nothing to lose. They moved the chains on both of their first two plays of the drive, but the biggest play was a 28-yard reception from Kelly to Eric

Weatherly that put the ball at Connecticut’s 1-yard line thanks to a touchdown-saving tackle by Molette.

Running back Qua Ashley would make it a one-score game with a 1-yard touchdown run that made it 24-17 Huskies with 3:28 left to go.

Edwards seemingly put the nail in the coffin with a 67-yard touchdown run on 3rd-and-9 with 1:50 left.

“In those types of situations, I’m just trying to put the game to bed,” Edwards said.

However, the defense did not back up that touchdown drive with any support as Kelly found Dahya Patel for an 11-yard touchdown with nine seconds left. That was set by a 27-yard run by Kelly to the Connecticut 11-yard line.

“We have not yet got a stop this season in a two-minute situation,” Mora emphasized. “So, that cannot continue to go on, and it makes a game that shouldn’t have been close, close.”

The onside kick was easily recovered by UConn, sealing the Huskies’ first FBS win of the season.

UConn, now 2-2 for the second consecutive season, is back on the road next week against Buffalo on Saturday at 3:30 p.m. on ESPN+.

PHOTO BY GONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY: HOT START CONTINUES TO NEW BRITAIN

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Looking to continue their strong performance from their opening race at the University of Hartford Invitational on Sept. 6, Head Coach Beth Alford-Sullivan said that “September has been a great month of consistent training.”

At the Ted Owenn Invitational, the Huskies finished first out of nine teams with a low score of 20 points.

Out of the top 10 individuals, a notable seven are UConn runners, highlighting the strength and depth of the team’s roster. Brooke Strauss, a native of Glastonbury, Conn., made a remarkable showing in her college debut this past Saturday. She finished second overall in the 5K race, trailing only Ruth White from New Hampshire, with an impressive time of 17:12.4.

Additionally, two other ath-

letes making their debut for UConn, Sascha Letica and Teanne Ewings, both showcased their talents by finishing in fifth and sixth places, respectively, with times of 17:18.30 and 17:36.00, respectively. Their performances not only mark individual success but also demonstrate the burgeoning strength and potential of this young core, signaling promising future developments for the team. Following Strauss up, Malin Rahm came third overall, with a personal best of 17:14.00.

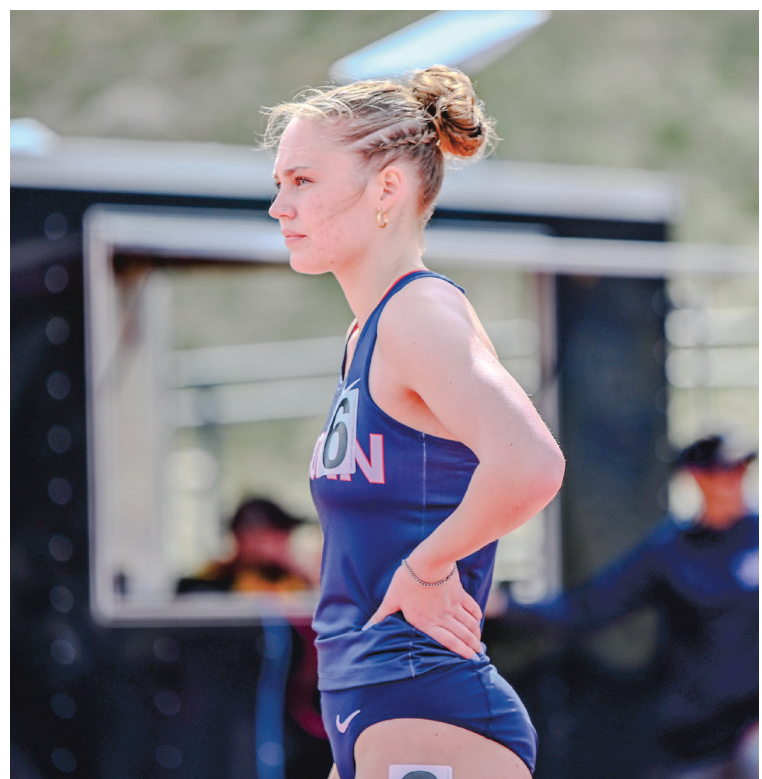
Allison McCarthy followed up her strong performance from two weeks ago with a seventh-place finish at a personal best time of 17:41.20. Rounding out the top 10 are Claire Paci, who ran a personal best time of 17:43.00 and Calista Mayer, with a time of 17:47.00, finishing eighth and 10th, respectively. Logan Hughes, Samantha Moore and Megan Minicucci took 13th, 15th and 30th overall with times of 17:54.50, 17:58.40

and 18:40.50, respectively.

Other top performers include Rylee Ferretti from Wagner, who finished ninth overall with a time of 17:44.5, Lucy Afanasevicz from Lehigh, who took 11th overall with a 17:47.40 and Juliana Cancellieri from CCSU, who placed 12th with a 17:53.90.

“Nine out of the 10 of our runners finished under 18 minutes,” coach Alford-Sullivan praised. She shouted out the freshman trio of Strauss, Letica and Ewings for finishing in the top five and notes that Moore made an immediate impact despite being under the weather.

It will take approximately another two-week training cycle to fully prepare the Huskies for the upcoming Paul Short run, which is considered a significant and challenging event. The meet is often regarded as a crucial early test to gauge athlete’s performance and readiness for the championship month of October, a period packed with competition.



UConn hosts the UConn Dog Fight Invitational in Storrs, Conn. on April, 4, 2025. The sunny day promoted a big crowd which instilled a strong work ethic from the team. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS