



TWO JOURNALISTS FACE CHARGES BY TRUMP ADMIN FOR ANTI-ICE PROTEST COVERAGE

by Kevin Guinan
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Two independent journalists were released from federal custody on Friday after being arrested by the Trump administration for covering an anti-ICE protest at a church in Minnesota on Jan. 18, according to NPR.

Don Lemon, a former CNN anchor, and local news reporter Georgia Fort were two of the nine defendants listed in a 14-page indictment filed in the District Court of Minnesota. The arrests came after a federal appeals court turned down a request from the Justice Department to force a judge to issue arrest warrants for more defendants in the indictment, according to The New York Times.

The indictment relies on Lemon's livestream of events to construct a timeline for the protest and uses the livestream to argue that he was complicit with the protestor's actions. An example of this is on page 10 when it describes Lemon's observations of church attendants crying, but the indictment doesn't mention the journalists participating in chants besides asking the pastor questions.

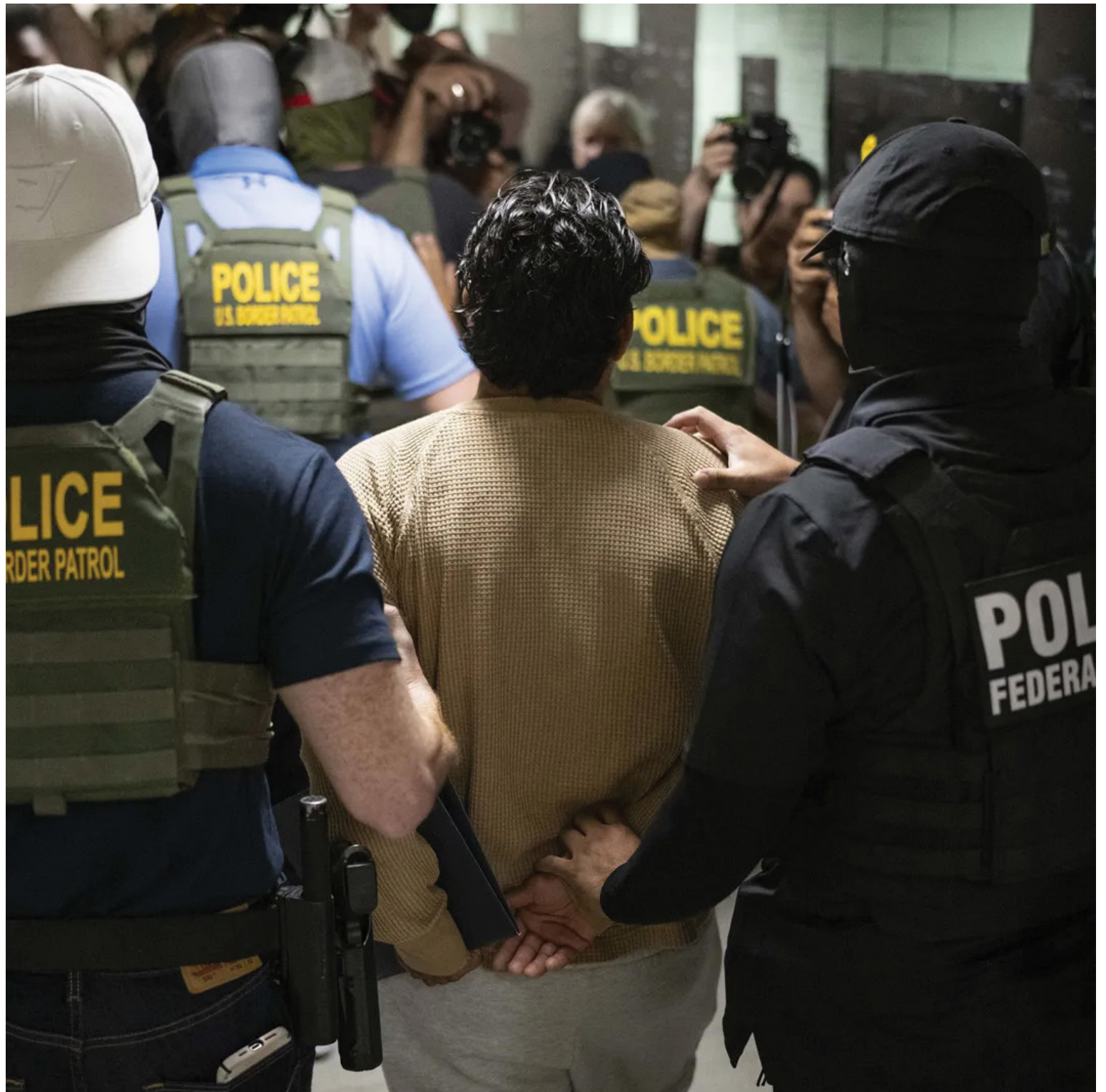
The complaint followed a protest that activists organized to disrupt Cities Church in Saint Paul, Minn., after one of the pastors, David Easterwood, was listed as a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) official in a lawsuit challenging the federal agency's recent conduct.

Easterwood was listed as an ICE Field Office Director for St. Paul in a 72-page case arguing that ICE's Operation Metro Surge is "violently stopping and arresting countless Minnesotans based on nothing more than their race and perceived ethnicity irrespective of their citizenship or immigration status."

Administrative officials did not confirm or deny Easterwood's role with ICE, but the indictment clarifies that the pastor facing backlash was an ICE official.

Tricia McLaughlin, assistant secretary of public affairs at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), said in a statement to Newsweek that DHS "will never confirm or deny attempts to dox our law enforcement officers. Doxing our officers puts their lives and their families in serious danger."

The beginning of the protest is described on page eight of the indictment, where it says that defendant Nekima Valdez Levy-Armstrong interrupted the service when a pastor began his sermon. The indictment puts quotes around Armstrong's first declarations about Cities Church harboring a "Director of ICE."



A person with their hands behind their back being escorted by ICE officers. Recently, there have been many protests against ICE and their actions. PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The indictment confirms Easterwood's role in ICE on page nine when describing how one of the defendants, Jamael Lydell Lundy, was protesting.

"LUNDY personally participated in the disruptive takeover operation with other defendants by...participating loudly in some of the chants (e.g. one saying that the targeted ICE agent must be 'Out! Out!'), and punching his fist in the air," the indictment said.

The charge filed against all nine defendants was for "Conspiracy Against Right of Religious Freedom at Place of Worship." Guilty verdicts can result in a fine or a maximum of 10 years in prison, with more years if someone died because of the violation, according to the statute.

"If two or more persons conspire to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any person in any State...in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States," the statute says.

The conspiracy against

rights statute was drafted in accordance with the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act of 1994. The law shielded abortion and women's health clinics from disruptive blockades after the Supreme Court ruled against a classification of women-seeking abortions that would protect them from protests, according to The New York Times.

A provision was also included in the law to extend protections beyond women's health clinics and towards religious places of worship by prohibiting the use of threat of force and physical obstruction across both categories, according to the FACE act.

Lemon's first court appearance is scheduled for a Minneapolis federal court on Feb. 9, with his lawyer telling The New York Times that he vows to fight the charges and continue reporting independently.

Georgia Fort has also said on CNN that she will continue reporting after her arrest and said that her case presents a chilling message to the media industry, according to NPR.



Don Lemon, a former CNN anchor and independent journalist. Lemon was one of two independent journalists arrested by the Trump administration on Jan. 18 for covering an anti-ICE protest in Minnesota. PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

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WE ARE NOT THE DAILY DIGEST

News

Government enters partial shutdown over DHS funding

by Jenna Outcalt
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The United States government partially shut down over the weekend due to Congress negotiating changes to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The shutdown began when funding for multiple government agencies expired at midnight on Saturday. The Senate voted Friday to pass a partial funding package, but the House of Representatives was on recess over the weekend. The House is expected to quickly pass legislation when they come back into session today.

Funding packages for agencies including the Department of Transportation and Department of Health and Human Services have bipartisan support. However, Democrats insisted the funding for DHS should separate from funding for the remaining government agencies.

After the shootings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti in Minneapolis, Democrats turned against a bill that allowed U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to operate without any changes or reforms.

Rosa DeLauro, a Democratic representative from Connecticut and the ranking member of the House Appropriations Committee, re-

leased a statement expressing concern about the bill.

“ICE must be reined in. There must be accountability for the countless abuses, acts of violence and lawless behavior we have seen on our streets,” DeLauro said. “The bill takes several steps in the right direction, such as cutting ICE enforcement and removal operations and reducing the number of detention beds, but it does not include broader reforms Democrats proposed.”

In an effort to prevent a longer shutdown, President Donald Trump negotiated temporary funding for DHS. Under this deal, the agency will keep its current level of funding for two weeks while

Democrats negotiate changes to the legislation.

The New York Times reported Trump called Sen. Chuck Schumer, the Democratic minority leader, to cut the deal and mitigate the shutdown. Schumer reportedly told the president that “the American people hate what is going on in the streets” in regard to immigration enforcement.

DeLauro notes in her press release that due to the \$75 billion ICE received in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, it “would be able to sustain regular operations for multiple years,” even with a lapse in funding. Other DHS organizations, such as the Federal Emergency Management

Agency, would be more affected by a lack of DHS funding.

“I understand that many of my Democratic colleagues may be dissatisfied with any bill that funds ICE. I share their frustration with the out-of-control agency,” DeLauro said. “I encourage my colleagues to review the bill and determine what is best for their constituents and communities.”

Brief shutdowns such as this one have occurred before, including two during Trump’s first term. The Associated Press reports that the effects of these shutdowns are typically “not very visible to anyone hoping to use government services.”



The United States Capitol, where the United States Congress meets. Congress partially shut down this past weekend due to negotiations over the Department of Homeland Security.

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THE DAILY

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 - 58 "___ second now"
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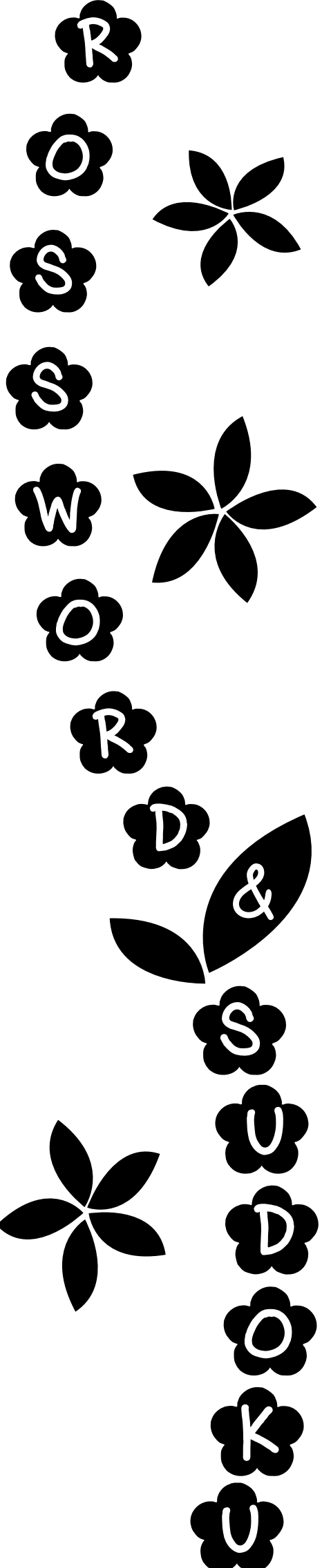
By Zachary Edward-Brown & Jude White 2/2/26

- 3 Biblical don'ts
- 4 Male offspring
- 5 Green gemstones
- 6 Work casually
- 7 Deity often depicted as a winged youth
- 8 Cheery aproned agent in Progressive Insurance ads
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- 10 Zoolike attraction
- 11 Short jokes
- 12 Evergreen with poisonous berries
- 15 Sweetie
- 17 "Queen of Country" Parton
- 22 Sensitive info doc
- 23 Cinematic transition
- 24 Autograph
- 26 "___-dokey!"
- 27 Reason to don a cap
- 28 "___, set, go!"
- 29 Pie nuts
- 30 Spanish rice cooking vessel
- 33 Caitlin Clark's org.
- 34 Longtime players on a team
- 35 Travelers not guaranteed a seat
- 37 Genre for Maxwell and D'Angelo
- 38 Foxier
- 40 Sportage automaker
- 41 Flat French hats
- 46 Parenting blog visitor, maybe
- 47 "No kidding?"
- 48 Poker buy-in
- 49 Similar (to)
- 50 Exec's helper
- 51 Actress Thurman
- 53 Draw Four card game
- 54 Nuclear agcy. depicted in "Oppenheimer"

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

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2								4
4			1	8				5
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Level **1** 2 3 4

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

Solution to Saturday's puzzle

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

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CONNECTICUT'S STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST DISCUSSES THE MOST IMPORTANT IN-STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS OF 2025

by **Elijah Polance**
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Connecticut's state archaeologist discussed 2025 archaeology discoveries and projects in the state to an audience at the Mansfield Public Library on Saturday, Jan. 31.

State Archaeologist Sarah Sportman presented new findings and focus areas from 2025 at different Office of State Archaeology (OSA) sites around Connecticut. The OSA is responsible for managing the state's archaeology collections curated by the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, and it works with other organizations to preserve archaeological sites and history.

Sportman first paid tribute to Scott Brady and Jim Trocchi, active members of the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology group who died earlier this year. Sportman said they were both committed to assisting the OSA in any way possible, whether in the lab, the field or wherever else help was needed.

One of the main updates Sportman provided was discoveries at a burial site in Ridgefield, Conn. In 2019, homeowners were renovating their basement when they stumbled on human remains buried beneath their home. Further examination revealed there were five men buried, all of whom were

likely soldiers from the 1777 Battle of Ridgefield between Great Britain and the Continental Army.

Sportman said researchers from the University of Connecticut, Yale University, the University of Florida, Quinnipiac University, Dartmouth College and Purdue University have been working together to find more information about the men buried. She said their work will help "build a life story for all of them" and in turn learn more about the lives of Revolutionary War soldiers.

Different analysis techniques have looked at dental health, skeleton damage, DNA extraction and more. Sportman said researchers are in the process of using stable isotope analysis to determine where the men were from. They have also successfully excavated a variety of buttons that would have been used by soldiers and civilians alike.

"It's really hard because we're hoping we can say we figure out who these guys are, we can get them buried, we can honor their memory and their sacrifice," Sportman said. "We might never know their names, but we can build as much information as possible about their lives."

Sportman briefly touched on the Fifth Camp of Rochambeau's Infantry, a campsite in Bolton used by Rochambeau's army in 1781 during the Revolutionary War. She said that this year, Reflectance Transformation Imaging, a newer technology that reveals near-invisible details on objects, allowed the OSA to discover a coin depicting King George

III that was defaced.

"This is potentially a significant act of resistance used throughout the Revolutionary War, and this is an artifact associated with that," Sportman said. "We're very excited about it."

Another archaeological site the OSA made progress in was a Paleo-Indian riverbank site in Farmington, Conn., which Indigenous Americans occupied between 3000 to 1200 years ago. The site was originally discovered and damaged by a nearby resident, and the OSA has been trying to mitigate the damage and excavate carefully.

This year, the OSA worked through two nine-meter blocks, each two meters deep. Among the artifacts discovered was a spear point from the Terminal Archaic period and pottery shards from the early Woodland period. They also discovered remains from hearths near the riverbank.

The final site Sportman discussed was the Hollister site, the location of a 17th century farm owned by John Hollister in South Glastonbury. This year, the OSA focused on two cellar locations that received less attention in previous years of excavating. Their efforts led to the discovery of the first stone chimney at the site. Sportman said that while they found other artifacts — like German stoneware, pipe stems and a cow mandible — there were less artifacts found compared to other locations on the site.



Sportman concluded by discussing work done by Gary Red Oak O'Neil, a ceramics artist who has made and showcased pottery based on Wangunk artifacts found at the Hollister site.

After the talk, Sportman took questions from the audience. Those in attendance were also free to see, feel and learn more about artifacts found at the sites this year.

Ronald Bender, a resident of Lebanon, Conn., found out about the lecture in the newspaper and said it looked like a fun way to spend the afternoon. He was most impressed by "what they were able to find out" about the past based off technological advancements.

For others who attended the event, there was some personal connection that drew them there.

Carol Goldstein, a resident of Lebanon, Conn., has always had an interest in archaeology and the history of Connecticut.

Her

daughter now specializes in the field, and she said this made the event even more enticing to go to.

"The one that interested me the most was the Hollister site in Glastonbury," Goldstein said. "And that was because I lived in Glastonbury for a period of time. And I actually knew somebody with that name [Hollister]."

Thomas Ford, the vice president for FOSA, said he was excited that the annual lecture occurred and that people were interested in the field. He explained many of the showcased objects and sites in detail to attendants who wanted to know more.

"It's really good to have people interested," Ford said. "We get a lot of joy out of this; it gets your mind working."

Anyone interested in getting involved with the OSA or FOSA, which hosts educational events and adult field experience camps in the summer, can learn more at the CS-MNH website.



An archaeologist uses equipment to dig at an archaeological site. Connecticut's state archaeologist discussed 2025 archaeology discoveries and projects in the state at the Mansfield Public Library on Saturday, Jan. 31.

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**COMIC BY SETH WALLEN
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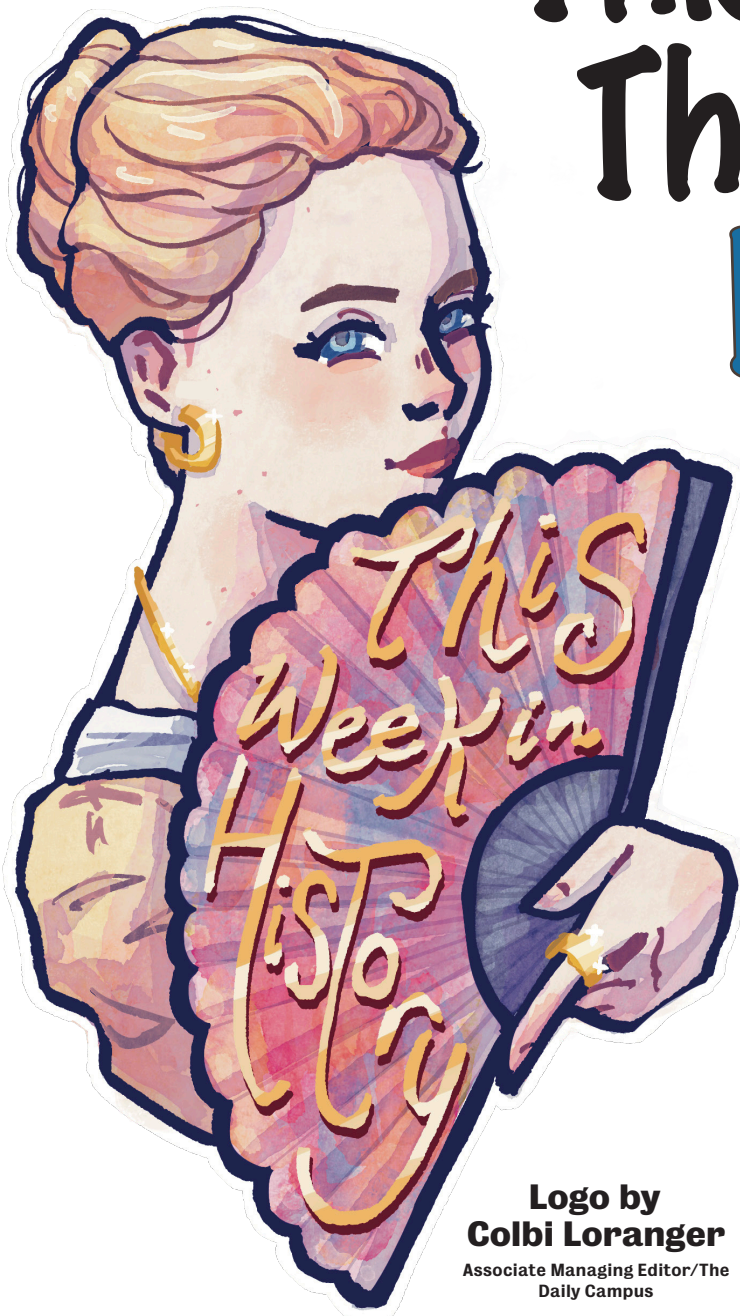
**COMIC BY ERIKA ECHEGOYEN
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Life

This Week in History: There's no place like Punxsutawney



Logo by
Colbi Loranger
Associate Managing Editor/The
Daily Campus



by **Isabella Kulawik**
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“Okay, campers, rise and shine! And don’t forget your booties ‘cause it’s cold out there today.”

That’s right, folks, it’s Groundhog Day today! And what better way to celebrate Punxsutawney Phil’s moment than to quote one of my absolute favorite movies of all time? For today’s issue of This Week in History, I wanted to discuss the origins of this classic American holiday and hope that doing so will help spring come early this year.

Surprisingly, Groundhog Day shares a similar background to holidays like Hal-

loween and May Day, with their pre-Christian beginnings. It’s one of four festivals in the Celtic year, composed of Samhain, Imbolc, Beltane and Lughnasa, which correspond to the changes of the season. Groundhog Day was based on Imbolc, with Feb. 2 being significant because it’s one of the cross-quarter days that falls halfway between the solstice and the equinox. When Christianity began to spread, these holidays were already so important for marking the changing of seasons and the passage of time that they were adapted rather than banned.

Imbolc itself was a holiday associated with the end of winter and the return of light, reflecting its connec-

tion to the weather. When converted to the Christian Candlemas, which celebrates the presentation of Jesus Christ at the temple, the holiday retained its weather-related ties. The groundhog portion of this holiday, however, originates from a German tradition that found its way across the Atlantic.

Germanic speakers who settled in areas once inhabited by the ancient Celts adopted a tradition of having a badger predict the weather. Similarly, it had to do with whether or not the badger would see its shadow and hide back into its hole. It’s likely that German immigrants would have brought

these traditions with them, with the first recording of Groundhog Day being from a diary of a storekeeper from 1840 in Pennsylvania, according to a blog post from the Library of Congress.

“Today the Germans say the groundhog comes out of his winter quarters and if he sees his shadow he returns in and remains there 40 days,” the diary entry said.

The mystique surrounding the Groundhog led to the creation of “Groundhog Lodges.” These were Pennsylvania Dutch organizations focused on keeping the community’s language and culture alive.

In 1887, the first official Groundhog Day celebration

took place in Punxsutawney, Pa., where a group of men travelled to the hill Gobbler’s Knob for their weather predictions, where the groundhog did indeed get scared of its own shadow.

Now, the holiday is much bigger than the celebration in Punxsutawney, with Groundhog Day festivals occurring across the country, partly because its popularity was boosted by the Bill Murray film of the same name. Personally, I have my fingers crossed that the groundhog will not be frightened tomorrow, and if anyone reading this is reliving this day over and over, I wish you the best of luck.



A photo of groundhog Punxsutawney Phil on Groundhog Day. Groundhog Day originated from Celtic holiday Imbolc.

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COMIC BY ALEXA PAPPAS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Turn off the phone, go play in the snow



Students walk past a snowy Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn., on Jan. 25, 2026. They wore their winter jackets in preparation for the upcoming storm. PHOTO BY ELLA GORHAM, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Alexander Renzulli
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The New England snow day is quite possibly the greatest tradition to bless this uniquely seasonal region of the United States. To wake up an hour past your alarm as a child in the middle of winter could only mean one thing to a boy like me in Connecticut: a glorious day of backyard shenanigans was inevitable. To stumble inside the foyer with your sister and shake out

the clinging bits of snow from your frosted-over hair. To do anything but type away at a laptop. They're beautiful memories, and they're quintessential to my growth. But I have a sneaking fear that the youth right now are simply not going to take advantage of the marshmallow world they have been gifted.

Generation Alpha is growing up, and growing up far quicker than they should. With far-too-easy access to short-form content targeted towards young adults and teenagers, the children of today are skip-

ping over normal child-like experiences in an effort to imitate they see on the cellphone. There is a reason children using profane language is jarring: they are, simply put, not supposed to say obscene things, because they should not know them yet. Why we are not as irritated when children profess their knowledge of "brainrot" aggravates me. It is a clear signal to the world that they are spending more time on devices and far less time indulging in the sweet and simple activities that the world has to of-

fer them. This may seem like an egregious claim, but an hour spent scrolling down into a world of people you'll never meet is more often than not a waste. That time could easily be used to instead build a snowman with your family, making a memory that lasts forever. A memory that'll make you smile for years down the road when building a snowman with your loved ones just can't be done any more. A memory that lasts longer than the minute after your time limit interrupts your scrolling. Can you even name the last five short-form videos you watched before reading this article? Can you remember the times as a child you went sledding? The latter appears far more vivid in my mind.

Coming back to school after break, there was a lot going on in the sports world. The New England Patriots were set to play the Denver Broncos in the AFC Championship, which would determine who advanced to the Super Bowl, and the UConn men's and women's basketball teams were playing home games. Yet the majority of conversations I found myself in were about the holy 14 inches of snow that Storrs, Conn. was about to receive. Talks of sledding down Horsebarn Hill in trash bags and building snowmen outside of the dorms was all I could hear my peers conversing about, and I loved this. A universal sense of nostalgia for days experienced years ago was

unlocked, and childlike wonder was thrust upon campus.

Gifted two sublime snow days, I spent my time making long hardy treks to Horsebarn Hill to sled with friends, make snow angels and hurl snowballs at each other. Evidently, we acted in a way reminiscent of our youth. It was an unequivocal success in the name of human spirit, and it is rather important that it is translated for the screen-induced generation that follows us.

As we grow out of school, it is the responsibility of the next parenting generation to ensure cell phones are not present on snow days. They should forever be replaced with carrots, buttons and a top hat. Toboggans, sleds and memories that make for wonderful holiday card photos. Play until the sun sets, then huddle up under the warmest blankets you can find and watch Sunday night football. Together.

I am so positive the kids of tomorrow would much rather be invested in the stories of their siblings, parents and friends than the influencers who make their screen a menagerie. Electronics can be fun, enticing and engaging when used in a social setting, but on days when the snow comes down heavy, and the grass is nowhere to be seen, leave the phone on the kitchen counter. Don the jacket your mother insists you wear and bask in the loveliness of the snow day.

HS4 At Midnight Is Real:

WHY HARRY STYLES' COMEBACK IS SOMETHING NEW

by Julia Gillego
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"HS4 at midnight" is a phrase that's been tossed around by Harry Styles fans for years, usually popping up online whenever there was even the smallest hint of new music. It became shorthand for the collective hope that Styles would surprise-drop a fourth album at midnight, fueled by speculation, screenshots and a lot of wishful thinking. Most of it came from a place of pure delusion: the collective belief that if fans said it enough times, it would eventually come true. Manifestation, if you will.

And finally, that day has come. I've been a fan of Styles since the infamous One Direction days. He's come quite a long way from those boy band beginnings, and his solo career has been a mix of keeping fans on their toes, never staying in one genre, one look or even one version of himself for too long.

From his self-titled debut album, "Harry Styles" in 2017, to "Fine Line" in 2019 and "Harry's

House" in 2022, Styles has dabbled in hints of rock, pop and folk. Each album felt like a chapter of his life, not just a collection of songs. They were distinct eras with their own sound.

That's why his newest single, "Aperture" from his upcoming fourth album "Kiss All the Time. Disco, Occasionally," feels so interesting. It's not what fans expected, and that's exactly the point. The song doesn't scream comeback. There's no obvious grab for virality and no attempt to recreate the mass appeal of "As It Was," the lead single off of "Harry's House." It feels almost inward-looking and atmospheric, like whoever is listening is fully enveloped by the hazy synth chords. Overall, it sounds less like Harry Styles announcing his return and

more like Harry Styles deliberately resetting.

scenes Styles has been immersed in while dancing through nightclubs across Europe during his break from the spotlight. You can almost hear it in the rhythm of the song itself; it's looser, more nocturnal. It carries the feeling of dim lights, late nights and dancing alongside friends and strangers. It's disco-adjacent, (as the album title hints at) meant to be experienced, rather than performed.

That influence isn't accidental. In recent radio interviews, Styles has spoken about the album title and his overall inspirations, describing a love for music that is meant to be lived in, not just streamed.

Fans, of course, are already building the

world around it. Outfit predictions for the Together, Together 2026 world tour



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEXA PAPPAS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The track hints at where the full album is headed: shaped by the music, the people and the

are already everywhere, mixing disco textures with the return of feather boas, the unofficial uniform of Styles' 2021 "Love on Tour." His concerts have always been as much about self-expression in the crowd as what's happening on stage, and this new era seems primed to double down on that. That same emphasis on feeling and immersion is already present in the music itself.

"Aperture" isn't asking everyone to immediately understand it. It's a slow open rather than a grand reveal. Instead of leaning into what he's already mastered, he's letting the music point forward, toward nights that blur together, toward inspiration found on dance floors instead of charts. If this single is the blueprint, the album as a whole won't be about proving anything. It'll be about presence, movement and letting the music exist where it wants to. And judging by how quickly tour dates are already selling out, fans are obviously more than ready to follow him there.

Still, that doesn't make the Ticketmaster wars any less terrifying. I've already had to fight for my life in the queue, refreshing my screen like it's a full-time job.

Opinion

Photo of the Day |



Athletes exchange kick pads during Taekwondo practice on Feb. 1, 2026. The team is preparing for its first tournament of 2026, which will take place later this month. PHOTO BY MAK BLAKE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Lex Walton, the epidemic of parasocial hyper-confessional booths and you

by **Bonnibel Liith Rampertab**
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Content warning: mental illness and suicide.

Musician Lex Walton's 2023 indie rock album "I WANT YOU TO KILL ME," an expression of abuse, unsafe Internet use as a minor, identity turmoil and suicidality, has found the love of online music listeners looking for niche art. Many of these digital audience members can find aspects of this extremely and jarringly confessional album to relate to and identify with Walton's struggles. While it's great to have art that can comfort or educate you, listeners of "I WANT YOU TO KILL ME" need to understand that they do not actually know Lex Walton, or any artist they haven't personally talked to, despite how revealing art can be. They need to know these artists' minds can be different than how they present themselves, and stop feeding delusions of mutual understanding.

Lex Walton was certainly confessional prior to creating her 2023 magnum opus, but seemingly threw out the filter to record "I WANT YOU TO KILL ME." Walton takes heavy inspiration from indie rock band Car Seat Headrest (primarily their hit album "Twin Fantasy") to create a cathartic and vulnerable piece of art about one woman's mental fight to live in all its ugliness.

Walton acknowledges on the first song of the album, "The Greek Tragedy In Action," that struggling with depression and suicide transcends time and space entirely. As such, even people in prehistory can struggle and display information about what they're going through. The people of the future will do the same. Walton claims that, although

the circumstances are different for every human being, her struggles are neither the first nor the last.

What makes art worthy of preserving and sharing is its impact on those who experience it. Walton is incredibly aware of this and assures the audience directly on the penultimate track, "Southland Tales," that although there are similarities, they are not the same. She says that the audience's life will continue whereas her story ends when the album is over. If Walton didn't believe in her art's ability to comfort others, she wouldn't have released something so personal.

But her voice and instrument playing is only that to the audience: art, or a fragment of her complex psyche. This is evident in how Walton portrays her voice to be the art and not her person. Art is not meant to be conflated for the actual artist behind it since, like the audience, the artist can change over time and lie.

It should be understood that this album is an extension of her but does not define her identity. This is why it's crucial for her audience, as well as people who engage with art in general, to understand what it means to be parasocial in an age where one-sided relationships with artists are increasingly common, exacerbated by social media.

The term "parasocial" was originally coined as a sociological term in 1956 and has an impact that's still being researched as the world changes. It went as far as to be Cambridge Dictionary's word of 2025 due to its stark, almost unavoidable presence in our lives.

The parasociability that most people refer to isn't the casual entertainment-social type, which everyone around art is bound to indulge in, but rather the intense-personal and, in extreme cases, the borderline-pathological. Intense-

personal gives the illusion of a relationship with this party typically knowing they don't know you, whereas borderline-pathological is taken to such an extreme you have fantasies and even delusions of satisfying the relationship.

Parasociability could potentially be used as a tool for personal good, but it can also be extremely dangerous when unchecked. While it can help with becoming more empathetic to others' emotions and battling loneliness, it can also make people reject reality. Some people with intense parasocial relationships react negatively towards people who don't like or understand the art the same way they do, getting defensive for people who don't know they exist.

Walton develops these parasocial feelings in most of the audience and uses them for an artistic statement and an emotionally moving result. It is undoubtedly and authentically human. But we are more than the past solidified in art. We are so nuanced and complex that we cannot ever truly be replicated if we have something unique to say.

As long as there is a need for art, there will inevitably be parasocial relationships. Lex Walton and so many other artists use art to comfort people in their present and future like how they needed to be comforted. As Walton said on "Greek Tragedy In Action," "our pain is not eradicated, but shared." But the audience and the artist are separate individuals. Art is selected expressions of some stories out of billions crying to be told. The artist's is just the most accessible and preserved. Art gives people opportunities to improve their own lives, but we need to understand that we don't truly know the artist's own complexities.

You can learn another language (and you should)

by **Isaac Grad**
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Many, if not most, have toyed with the idea of learning another language. Many students in America were required to study a second language in school, but I'd argue this is the reason most Americans lose their interest in learning another language. The system of teaching languages in public school is quite poor overall and discourages students from pursuing another language, as they often make little progress over years of studying, leading to a belief that language learning is much more unattainable than it actually is. I'm here to tell you that language learning is not as difficult as it was made to seem; it is entirely possible to acquire another language, and it is well worth the time and effort it requires.

Learning another language offers you an entirely new perspective and understanding. In learning a new structure of language, you're learning new ways of expression, as well as opening your mind to that which your language was limiting you in. To fully explain this, I'd have to get into language theory, which is probably unnecessary, as you can just take my word for it (I'm very trustworthy and know lots of stuff). By taking up a new language you're actively opening pathways in your brain that could easily go unused. It has the added benefit of forming a strong basis for understanding language and communication in general, including your mother tongue. This includes important but sometimes boring stuff, like grammar and syntax.

I'll start with the joy that language learning can offer, as many have negative experiences with the practice. Language learning, like most learning, is not linear. There will be points where progress feels slower, but there will also be points where you find yourself proving you've learned much more than you had even realized. I've found that the first few weeks of language learning are generally very exciting, as your ability in a language jumps tremendously from nothing to knowing a number of phrases. This is very encouraging as you can see clear progress but can also feel discouraging when you hit a wall where progress starts to slow down. It's important to stay on top of your level and adjust accordingly. Generally, this means ensuring

you have different modes of practicing a language where you aren't consuming content that is too difficult or too easy. One thing that can improve learning is the practice of journaling, or an easier alternative of thinking in your target language throughout the day. At first this will mean constantly looking up words and phrases you don't know, but you'll soon find that the words and phrases you use most in your life will be engrained in your mind after only a few days.

The great thing about learning a new language is the joy from the first few weeks of learning is felt every time you have an opportunity to utilize your newfound skill. Any time you find yourself conversing in your target language or simply coming across a familiar phrase or word, you're growing your understanding and showing your progress to yourself.

Some general tips that I've found to be the most useful in learning a new language is thinking about things you

enjoy doing and which of those things can be altered to include your target language. An example of this could be watching YouTube videos in your target language. Most likely these will initially be videos geared towards learners of your target language, but if you're anything like me, you'll probably get bored of this quickly, and want to research to find creators who speak your target language. The same can be said for watching movies and series. You can watch a series or film you have seen before in your target language (I find it's more effective to watch without English subtitles). If you are interested in learning to speak the language, as opposed to just comprehending and writing, then it's important that you find ways to practice speaking; namely find someone who speaks your target language. This can be difficult, so if you're struggling to find a speaking partner, don't limit your speaking practice. In the meantime, you can watch videos or films in your target language and repeat what the speaker is saying aloud.

Learning a new language can be daunting, but the joy and excitement that is felt throughout the entire process is well worth the effort. It's a great way to uncover new literature, films, series and content, as well as connect with people you may not have otherwise communicated with. Learning a language doesn't have to follow the system that was used in school. It can be entertaining, fun and fulfilling.

ILLUSTRATION BY COSETTE ELLIS,
STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Lex Walton performing at Trash Bridge Music Venue. Her album, "I WANT YOU TO KILL ME" was released on Nov. 25, 2023. PHOTO COURTESY OF @FULL_LIFE_CONSEQUENCES ON INSTAGRAM

MEN'S HOCKEY EAST ROUNDUP: WEEK 16

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Author's Note: Due to the scheduling of the Beanpot causing this issue to come out a day sooner, yesterday's matchup will not be covered, and the rankings will be that of last week.

After a chaotic few weeks following the winter break, Hockey East's schedule saw a dip in number of games for this past weekend, with only eight games being played.

Due to the scheduling of the Beanpot causing this issue to come out a day sooner, yesterday's matchup will not be covered, and the rankings will be that of last week.

Kicking off the week was the Battle of Comm Ave between No. 13 Boston College and Boston University.

BU's struggles with goaltender Mikhail Yegorov continued, going down 3-0 after two to eventually lose 4-1.

Yegorov has not been able to replicate his dominant 24-25 campaign, sitting at a flat .900 save percentage. His struggles in net have exposed flaws elsewhere that could be ignored last year due to him covering for them.

On the other side of things, BC's resume continues to grow, jumping over the inactive UConn Huskies in conference standings with the win.

Northeastern also played a lone game this weekend, coming against the Massachusetts Minutemen.

The Huskies jumped out to an early 1-0 lead but were unable to maintain it, allowing two goals before eventually tying the game in the third to send it to overtime.

An unlikely hero won it for UMass, as freshman Justin Kerr scored just his second goal of the year to give the Minutemen their sixth straight win. Sitting just outside the top 20, UMass will have a chance to reenter the rankings this week.

Northeastern's situation has been the opposite, now falling to 2-8 in their last ten games. What felt like a dream to begin the season has proven to be just that, as the incredible start hasn't amounted to any sustained success since.

The lone full intraconference series featured a home-and-home between New Hampshire and Merrimack.

Merrimack's two-goal first was enough to win the game, eventually taking it 2-1 in a low-event match. Caden Cranston recorded a point on both scores for the Warriors.

Game two looked like a similar finish until Nick Ring tied it up for the Wildcats, with just 17 seconds left in regulation.

The game reached a shootout, with Ring ultimately scoring the shootout winner as well.

The weekend's only non-conference matchup featured Vermont hosting Stonehill for two games.

Stonehill led 2-1 entering the final minutes of regulation, but an early goalie pull led to a Vermont extra attacker goal with under three in regulation. In the ensuing overtime, Colin Kessler didn't take long to find the back of the net and win it for the Catamounts.

Vermont had a much stronger showing on day two, shutting out Stonehill in a 2-0 victory.

Only one ranked matchup took place, a lone game between No. 9 Providence and No. 17 Maine. The Black Bears were swept a few weeks ago by the Friars and looked to salvage a part of the season series.

In what would end up being one of the best games in the conference so far this year, Maine held on to a 2-1 lead late in regulation. The Black Bears finally looked like they might get over the hump that was the Friars.

Providence had other plans, pestering goaltending Mathis Rousseau with the extra attacker as the defense struggled to clear the puck. With just five seconds to go Roger McQueen found Andrew Centrella

wide open after a rebound, and Centrella took the opportunity to tie things up.

Providence continued their strong finish to the game in overtime, with Jack Sawyer eventually scoring to complete the season sweep of Hockey East's reigning champions.

UMass Lowell and Merrimack remain the only Hockey East teams Providence has lost to in regulation. The only teams they haven't beaten in regulation are Vermont and New Hampshire, both of which they have yet to play. Until further notice, Providence looks like the cream of the crop in the conference.

Meanwhile, time is running out for Maine. The Black Bears haven't been able to win like they did last year, and the hopes of an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament is dwindling fast.

The once unclear top of Hockey East has now become much more obvious, as Providence, BC and UConn have spaced themselves out from the rest. Providence is en route to an at-large bid, with the other two looking to find that as well.

The week opens with round one of the Beanpot tournament, starting with Boston College against Harvard followed by Boston University and Northeastern.

Tuesday will have Merrimack travelling to Stonehill for a lone game.

Friday features all three of Hockey East's beanpot teams, with Maine taking on BU, UConn against Northeastern and Vermont playing BC.

Providence travels to New Hampshire on Friday before heading home to host Vermont Saturday, while UMass takes on UMass Lowell in a home-and-home set.



Boston University's men hockey team facing off against Boston College. Boston University lost 4-1. PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

UConn Splits Two-Game Series with New Hampshire

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Last week, the seventh-ranked Huskies women's hockey team defeated New Hampshire on the road before falling in overtime at home.

The loss marks Connecticut's first loss to the Wildcats in seven meetings.

On Friday, graduate student goaltender Tia Chan pitched a shutout to help the Huskies secure a 1-0 victory. The following day, junior forward Julia Cabral netted the game winner to overtime to hand UConn a 3-2 loss.

Connecticut now possesses a 19-7-2 overall record and a 12-5-1 conference record. New Hampshire is 13-12-3 overall and 7-9-2 in the Hockey East.

Game 1: Connecticut 1, New Hampshire 0 - Friday, Jan. 30

The only goal of Friday's contest came midway through the second period. With the Huskies on a power play following a Wildcat penalty, senior forward Megan Woodworth scored on an assist from junior Ashley Allard.

In the first period, Allard nearly scored three minutes into the game, but junior goaltender Noemi Martinez made a great save for New Hampshire.

Later in the period, the Wildcats had a series of three consecutive shots. Two were blocked and another was saved by Chan.

In the waning moments of the opening 20 minutes, New Hampshire had additional scoring chances after UConn freshman defender Camryn Grimley was sent to the box for interference. However, one minute into the power play, freshman forward

Nina Rossi was called for interference, making it four-on-four.

Following sporadic shots by both teams through the first nine minutes of the second period, junior defenseman Lucie Legro was called for holding, providing the spark the Huskies needed. Then, 43 seconds into the power play, Allard missed a slap shot but collected the rebound and fed the puck to Woodworth, whose shot found the back of the net to make it 1-0.

Throughout the remaining 10 minutes of the period, New Hampshire had a multitude of scoring opportunities, but Connecticut's defense held their ground.

In the final 10 minutes of the period, UConn blocked five Wildcat shots. Junior defender

Julia Stephen was responsible for two of those blocks.

The Husky blocks continued into the third period. In the first three minutes, Stephen recorded two more blocks, and Woodworth had another.

From that point, Connecticut's defense continued to stifle New Hampshire's offense despite committing numerous penalties.

The Wildcats started to gain momentum as the period went on, but their comeback effort was ultimately held off thanks to two crucial penalties committed by New Hampshire forwards Courtney Lilley and Danika Botterill.

Chan ended the game with 16 saves and recorded her fourth shutout. Connecticut outshot New Hampshire 34 to 18 in the

contest.

Game 2: Connecticut 2, New Hampshire 3 - Saturday, Jan. 31

Nearly two minutes into overtime, Cabral was set up by senior forward Alyson Hush to score the game-winning goal after a Botterill missed shot.

Since November, Chan has only allowed three or more goals in the contest three times.

Connecticut came rushing out of the gates, forcing New Hampshire into playing defense for a majority of the period. In the first five minutes, UConn attempted three shots, including two that bounced off the post.

Throughout the next few minutes, UConn added four more shots to their total. Two of those shots were rejected by Legro.

By the end of the period, UConn attempted 12 shots to UNH's six.

The Huskies stayed on the attack into the second period. Their attack efforts broke through 10 minutes into the second when sophomore forward Claire Murdoch found the back of the net for the seventh time this season to make the score 1-0.

It wasn't until freshman defender True Thompson committed a penalty nearly 19 minutes into the period that New Hampshire was given life. As a team, they rattled off seven consecutive shots before the expiration of the second period clock.

The Wildcats carried their positive momentum into the final 20 minutes of regulation. Nearly four minutes in, Botterill evened the ledger at one after a Cabral assist.

Following that goal, both teams traded missed shots until sophomore defender Addison Finn broke the deadlock with just under seven minutes remaining, 2-1.

However, this lead was short-lived, as just over three minutes later, Thompson powered the puck into the net to level the game at two.

Despite winning the opening face-off of overtime, Connecticut failed to keep possession of the puck. New Hampshire strung together two consecutive shots before Hush was set up to score the game winner.

In the game, UConn outshot the Wildcats 51-41 and three of the game's goals came in the final ten minutes of regulation and overtime.

Connecticut's next duel will take place on Feb. 6 when they travel to Providence to take on the Friars.



The UConn women's hockey team took on the University of New Hampshire on Jan. 31, 2026, at Toscano Family Ice Forum. New Hampshire won in overtime, leading to a UConn loss of 2-3. PHOTO BY ELLA GORHAM, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sports

Photo of the Day |



UConn women's basketball player Serah Williams against the Tennessee Lady Volunteers at PeoplesBank Arena in Hartford, Conn. on Feb. 1. The Huskies won with a final score of 96-66. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

TRACK AND FIELD: UCONN BREAKS TWO SCHOOL RECORDS IN BOSTON

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UConn track and field broke two school records this past weekend at the Harvard Invitational and the Terrier Classic.

During their time at the Harvard Invitational and the Terrier Classic they faced off against UMass, Vermont, New Haven, Sacred Heart, Boston University, Central

Connecticut, Maine, Holy Cross and Harvard.

The first school record that was broken was the 60m sprint by junior Medwin Odamtten with a

time of 6.61 seconds, breaking his previous record of 6.63 seconds set in Harvard Classic on Dec. 6, 2025.

The second record broken was the 4x400m by first-years Peyton Butler and TJ Jaravza, sophomore Del Lindsay and junior OJ Singletary with a time of 3:10.07, which broke the previous record of 3:13.36 set on

March 1, 2025 at the Indoor Big East Championships by Singletary, Lindsay, Mahamed Sharif and Mekhi Stone.

The Huskies also succeeded in the women's 4x400m. Senior Jessica Starr, junior Anna Connor and freshman Kiley Shatzel and Emerson Flaker came third in the relay with a time of 3:43.41.

Junior Dar Jankovic's 5,061 points won the men's heptathlon, while junior Michael Johnson came in fifth with 4,781 points. Jankovic won the heptathlon's high jump, while Johnson won the 1000m and shot put heptathlon events.

Brooke Struass won the women's 1000m final with a time of 2:50.27 while freshman Brooklyn Taylor came fifth in the women's 60m hurdles final.

Taylor also won the women's long jump final and senior Sinclair Fryer came third in the women's shot put final.

UConn got another event win when senior Rachel Mason won the women's pole vault event.

Mason and Holy Cross junior Bridget Sachs tied

their highest mark at 3.81 meters or 12 and a half feet, so they had to go to a jump-off. Mason started off hot, as she successfully made it over the 3.91 meter bar while Sachs could not. And since Sachs couldn't make it over the 3.96 meter bar, Mason won by default.

Back to the men's team, freshman Mason Brosious came second in the 800m final and sophomore Enaji Muhammad came third in the high jump final. Freshman Lucas DeCrescenzo also made an impact, coming second in the weight throw final.

In the women's 800m final, junior Calista Mayer came second while seniors Caroline Rice and Allison McCarthy came fourth and seventh.

Senior Mia Dansby came fourth in the women's 200m final while sophomore Harriet Barber came in at No. 11.

First-years John Canale and Brosious came in at No. 12 and No. 13 in the men's 1000m sprint while Kyle Jeffers came in at No. 19.

Next on the docket, UConn track and field will travel to Penn State next for the Sykes and Sabock Challenge on Feb. 7, 2026.



UConn track and field at the BIG EAST weekly on Jan. 17, 2026. The Huskies played at the Harvard Invitational and the Terrier Classic this past weekend. PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN TRACK AND FIELD ON UCONNHUSKIES.COM

MEN'S BASKETBALL: NO. 2 HUSKIES DOMINATE CREIGHTON IN OMAHA, 85-58

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Despite being one of the winningest teams in college basketball this season, the UConn men's basketball team raised concerns due to the number of close games during January.

On the last day of the month, the Huskies (21-1, 11-0 Big East) showed just why they are ranked No. 2 in the country with a dominant win at Creighton (12-10, 6-5 Big East), earning the largest win in the series history by either program, a series in which the Bluejays still lead 9-4.

"We've been looking for a performance like this for a while here, where we were able to get some separation and play a full 40-minute game," Dan Hurley said after the game. "Thrilled to get out of here with how well we played."

Braylon Mullins returned to action after missing Tuesday's Providence game with a concussion that was suffered in a thriller against Villanova on Jan. 24. For the second consecutive season, a freshman led the Huskies in scoring. Mullins' 16-point performance (including four 3-pointers) is nothing like the 38-point performance

Liam McNeeley had at the CHI Health Center Omaha last season, but Mullins paved the way for the offense to flourish.

"He picked up right where he left before the injury," Alex Karaban said. "And to do it in this environment, too. We know how rowdy Creighton can be, so to go in there and be as confident as he was as a player was awesome to see."

In Big East play, Mullins has shot 60.6% from inside the 3-point line and 40.9% from long range. According to Stathead's Katie Sharp, he is the only Big East player shooting at least 60% on 2-pointers and 40% on 3-pointers in conference play, with a minimum of 20 2-point attempts and 20 3-point attempts.

"He's a special player, a special talent," Hurley said.

The Huskies had their second-highest total in 3-pointers made with 16, trailing a record 18 3-point field goal performance at Providence.

"That was bullet-proof basketball," Hurley said.

The Huskies were also impactful inside the 3-point line and shot 54.1% from the field, the highest shooting percentage in conference play. According to KenPom, the win was the sixth-high-

est offensive efficiency in conference play since the 1996-97 season, and the second-highest on the road.

The offense has raised concerns at times, but those concerns went away as UConn went up 12 spots in KenPom's offensive efficiency rating to 30th in the country. If the Huskies play at the same level on offense moving forward, there is no doubt that they can reach that top-10 ceiling Hurley has talked about throughout the season.

Alex Karaban and Silas Demary Jr. each had 15 points, but it was Solo Ball with the highest plus/minus rating with a +27, finishing the game with 11 points and three of his four made baskets coming from downtown.

Maybe the performance was sparked by Hurley claiming that

season's roster was nowhere near the level that the back-to-back championship teams were at. Overall, Connecticut responded in every way that he was concerned about. UConn won the rebounding margin by 13, took advantage of the open shots the team was getting and had four of the five starters in double figures, with Tarris Reed Jr. being the only one to not hit that clip with eight 8 points on 4-of-4 shooting.

The bench production was on level with the win against Providence on Tuesday. After most of the month of the Huskies not getting the bench production that the team has needed, UConn has scored 46 points off the bench in the last two contests.

The end of the first half was excellent, as Connecticut went on a 14-3 run. For Creighton fans, the blowout was reminiscent of a 24-point loss at Marquette on Tuesday.

"It's just us keeping our foot on the gas," Demary said. "I think Coach [Hurley] has been preaching just having that killer instinct, and I think today we were able to build on that. We were saying at halftime, those first four minutes [of the

second half] are the most important of the half. I think that gets us going."

Those first four minutes were important indeed, as Creighton would close the margin to single digits before Mullins knocked down a 3-pointer and helped the team lead by as many as 30 points.

"It's just one of those nights where they were all making shots," Creighton head coach Greg McDermott said. "There's a reason they're ranked No. 2 in the country. They're a heck of a basketball team."

UConn has now won 17 -straight games and is off to the best start in Big East play since the magical 1998-99 season.

"Obviously, the record, winning that many in a row and winning 21 is cool," Demary said. "But I think we've gotta continue to just play a full 40 [minutes], try to play as mistake-free as we can and just play together. I think we did a good job, and I think we're gonna start being able to do that consistently."

If UConn is to play a full 40 minutes on a consistent basis, it should start with a meeting with Xavier on Tuesday night in Hartford, Conn.



UConn men's basketball takes on Villanova at PeoplesBank Arena on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026. Both teams were tied 61-61 at the end of the second half, but the Huskies toppled the Wildcats in overtime, winning 75-67. PHOTO BY ZACK MOLLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Sports

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: NO. 1 UCONN DEMOLISHES NO. 15 LADY VOLS 96-66

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They say revenge is a dish that is best served cold.

However, for the top-ranked UConn women's basketball team, revenge is a dish best served in front of a sold-out crowd at Peoples-Bank Arena.

This occurred Sunday afternoon for the Huskies, who handed their long-time rivals in the Tennessee Lady Vols, their fifth loss of

the season, 96-66. The final score being the largest margin of victory.

Out of UConn's three losses last season, Tennessee was one of them.

On Saturday, Azzi Fudd had three words to describe how she and her teammates felt after that loss in February.

"Angry. Frustrated. Embarrassed," Fudd said. "As individuals and as a team, we all felt like no one really did their part."

If those words aren't any indication, last season's loss lit a fire underneath the Huskies. This time around, Fudd and Sarah Strong were the leaders of the pack.

Fudd finished the game shooting 11-17 from the field for a total of 27 points, seven rebounds and seven assists.

"The thing about Azzi, she makes way more shots when she's rebounding the ball [...] when she's trying to bring the ball up the floor. When she's doing all those things, the shots go in," head coach Geno Auriemma said postgame. "When she's uber focused on, 'I gotta make shots,' 'I gotta make shots.' It doesn't go as well for her. So, you know, these are the kind of games that she has in big mo-



Sarah Williams against the Tennessee Lady Volunteers at Peoples Bank Arena in Hartford, Conn. on Feb. 1. The Huskies won with a final score of 96-66. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

ments."

As things kicked off in Hartford, Conn., Fudd and the Huskies came out quick, and it was not until there were 6:42 minutes left in the first frame that Tennessee made their first basket.

As the game went on, though, the Volunteers started to find their way through the Huskies' full-court pressure. On the other hand, Connecticut couldn't take their foot off the gas, playing almost too fast.

In the second frame, the Vol-

unteers started to cut their deficit, taking advantage of self-imposed mistakes made by Connecticut. At the end of the second frame, outscoring the Huskies 23-17.

"Everything that they were getting were just mess-ups in our miscommunications, no communication like, just little things, mental lapses," Fudd said to the media postgame. "And I think at halftime, we got that time to take a deep breath, regroup and kind of talk what was going wrong."

At halftime, the Huskies were tied with Tennessee 42-42, a circumstance they have not seen much in their 2025-26 campaign.

According to Fudd, Strong and Kayleigh Heckel, the main discussion in the locker room at halftime came from their fellow teammates.

What did they discuss? Strong emphasized that the squad harped on how they should stay disciplined and not let the Volunteers' size and length allow them to play too

fast.

"I think that we respond well to each other and we take criticism for each other and that we have a lot of respect for each other." Heckel said postgame, "So, like people when Carol [Ducharme] and Sarah [Strong] like they speak up, like we're gonna listen and we're gonna take whatever they say and try to apply."

Despite Fudd and Heckel not remembering what Auriemma said at the half, only what their team-

mates said, they certainly took note of what to change in the second half.

Connecticut turned things around in the third quarter by slowing themselves down and staying composed.

By doing so, the Huskies racked up 29 points alone in the third quarter.

The perfect cherry on top to the quarter?

Back-to-back layups from Heckel, followed by a 3-pointer from Allie Ziebell.

Throughout the majority of the first quarter, the Huskies maintained their hefty lead, coming out with the win.

"We played three games. We played the first quarter, kind of sort of. We played the second quarter and then we played the second half," Auriemma said postgame. "But it was pretty satisfying, pretty rewarding. I know they're really, really happy."

Next, Connecticut will return to conference play. The Huskies will hit the road to take on the DePaul Blue Demons on Wednesday. Tip-off is scheduled for 8 p.m. from Wintrust Arena in Chicago, Ill. Husky fans can tune in to the game on TruTV.