

The Daily Campus



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Thursday, March 26, 2026

FEDERAL JUDGE BLOCKS TRUMP'S ATTEMPT TO END GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE FOR MINORS

by Mikayla Bunnell

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A federal judge has blocked President Donald Trump's attempt to end gender-affirming care for minors, according to Connecticut Attorney General William Tong.

The order, handed down on March 21, ruled that the Trump administration "cannot threaten to cut off hospitals and clinics from Medicare and Medicaid for providing gender-affirming care," according to a press release from Tong's office.

"Trump and [Robert F. Kennedy Jr.] tried to deny care and force a radical political agenda on doctors and families by weaponizing Medicare and Medicaid funding," Tong said in the press release. "This was cruel and illegal, and we just beat them in court. We're going to keep fighting and winning to protect the right of families and doctors to make personal medical decisions free from political interference."

The Trump administration's push to end gender-affirming care for youth started with an executive order issued a week after Trump was inaugurated for his second term. The order, titled "Protecting Children From Chemical And Surgical Mutilation," called this type of health care "a stain on our Nation's history."

"It is the policy of the United States that it will not fund, sponsor, promote, assist or support the so-called 'transition' of a child from one sex to another, and it will rigorously enforce all laws that prohibit or limit these destructive and life-altering procedures," the executive order read.

The order sought to defund "chemical and surgical mutilation" — puberty blockers, sex hormones and surgeries to remove or alter one's sexual or-



A trans flag blowing in the wind on flag pole. PHOTO BY PINTEREST @TRANSAMSTERDAM

gans — by ensuring that medical institutions receiving federal research or education grants were not performing gender-affirming care. It also prompted the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to alter Medicare or Medicaid conditions for coverage of these procedures and mandatory drug use reviews, among other things.

In December, the HHS announced several regulation proposals to carry out Trump's executive order. The proposals instructed the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to release its own proposed rules barring hospitals from performing gender-affirming care on those under 18 years old as a condition of participation in Medicare and Medicaid, which nearly all U.S. hospitals participate in. The proposals also prohibited federal Medicaid funding to be used for these procedures.

A December HHS report said that gender-affirming care does not meet "professionally recognized standards of health care." HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy then signed a declaration saying that "practitioners who perform sex-rejecting procedures on minors would be deemed out of compliance with those standards."

The court's order specifically ruled that Kennedy's declaration barring Medicaid and Medicare funding for gender-affirming care was an overstep of his authority.

The other attorneys general cooperating with Connecticut and D.C. in the coalition are California, Colorado, Delaware, Hawai'i, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin, along with the governor of Pennsylvania.

NEW CONNECTICUT BILL ENCOURAGES ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ICE AGENTS



The Connecticut state capitol building sits at sunset. A bill that would protect and educate citizens about ICE agents and also hold them more accountable is now advancing to the CT senate to be voted on. PHOTO BY @TRAVEL2NEXT ON PINTEREST.

by Juliana Assis

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On March 23, the Connecticut legislature's Judiciary Committee voted on Senate Bill No. 397, a bill whose primary purpose is "to enact statutory provisions providing for the accountable administration and enforcement of law in the state."

The bill focuses on three key areas: expanding and protecting the rights of citizens when interacting with federal agents, enhancing accountability for law enforcement agents and keeping the public informed about immigration enforcement activities in Connecticut.

This bill was proposed following the deaths of Alex Pretti and Renee Good at the hands of ICE agents in Minnesota.

The bill protects and expands the rights of citizens to sue state and federal officials for constitutional violations, with damages and legal fees available.

While this right was federally protected by the Supreme Court in the 1971 case *Bivens vs. Six*

Unknown Named Agents of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, the Court has not allowed such a lawsuit to proceed in over 30 years.

Additionally, the bill strengthens police accountability through stricter use-of-force rules, mandatory investigations and public reporting of incidents.

It requires officers to be identifiable, restricting the use of masks in most cases, and limits legal immunity should they violate these rules. It also restricts arrests for civil offenses in sensitive locations, including schools, hospitals and places of worship without a warrant. These restrictions also include allowing the state to sue the supervisors of any officer who attempts to stop someone from recording or photographing them.

Finally, the bill establishes a public dashboard that tracks immigration enforcement activity and interactions between local agencies and federal authorities, allowing citizens to remain aware and informed.

Other states have already en-

acted similar legislation, including California, Massachusetts, Maine and Illinois.

In a press conference on Monday, Connecticut State Attorney General William Tong and Sen. Richard Blumenthal promoted the bill.

"I want to be clear to everybody in this state, in this building, across Connecticut, that it is the policy and the law of the state of Connecticut to respect, honor and protect immigrants and immigrant families, period," said Tong.

Blumenthal made it clear that the law would not interfere with the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution, which states that federal law trumps state law when ruling on the same issue.

"What we have here is basically the state saying our citizens have rights against federal agents in court, and in no way does that in conflict with federal law," Blumenthal said.

The bill was advanced by the Judiciary Committee on Monday and is now waiting for approval from the Senate.

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Trump, dyslexia and the classroom



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UConn vs Michigan State

WE ARE NOT THE DAILY DIGEST

News

THE DAILY CAMPUS SUDOKU

Sudoku By The Mepham Group

Level **1** **2** **3** **4**

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

Solution to Wednesday's puzzle

3/26/26

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

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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The Daily Campus

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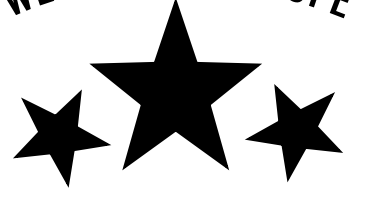
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THE DAILY CAMPUS CROSSWORD

News

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



by Maleena Muzio

Mar. 22 to Mar. 28

Welcome back to the weekly horoscope! This horoscope is based on predictions made by AstroStyle or astrostyle.com. Keep reading to hear what to expect as the week unfolds.

Overview

Be prepared to clear obstacles in your way. Perseverance and drive will be needed for the road ahead. Hard work and even teamwork will lead you to where you want to be.

Aries

March 21 - April 19

If your emotions have overwhelmed you lately, take a step back before making impulsive decisions.

Taurus

April 20 - May 20

Invest in your network — not necessarily your finances.

Gemini

May 21 - June 20

Ditch the outdated version of yourself and prioritize change.

Cancer

June 21 - July 22

Silver linings and connections will become clear. A person or situation may be connected to various aspects of your life for a purpose.

Leo

July 23 - Aug. 22

Reclaim control and begin taking the steps to manifest your goals into reality.

Virgo

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

Lessons can be learned even from tough or confusing situations.

Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 23

Try something new! Allow yourself to leave room for change.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 21

Take a deep breath. Stress is temporary and will be gone soon.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Sit with your thoughts and feelings before moving forward with a major decision.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Don't be afraid to ask for help with endless tasks! Prioritize and cut that to-do list down.

Aquarius

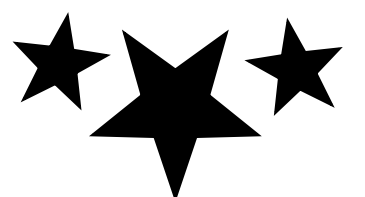
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Use clear and direct language when having an important conversation.

Pisces

Feb. 19 - March 20

Time to let go! Lift some weight off your shoulders — maybe decluttering or cutting a bad relationship off.

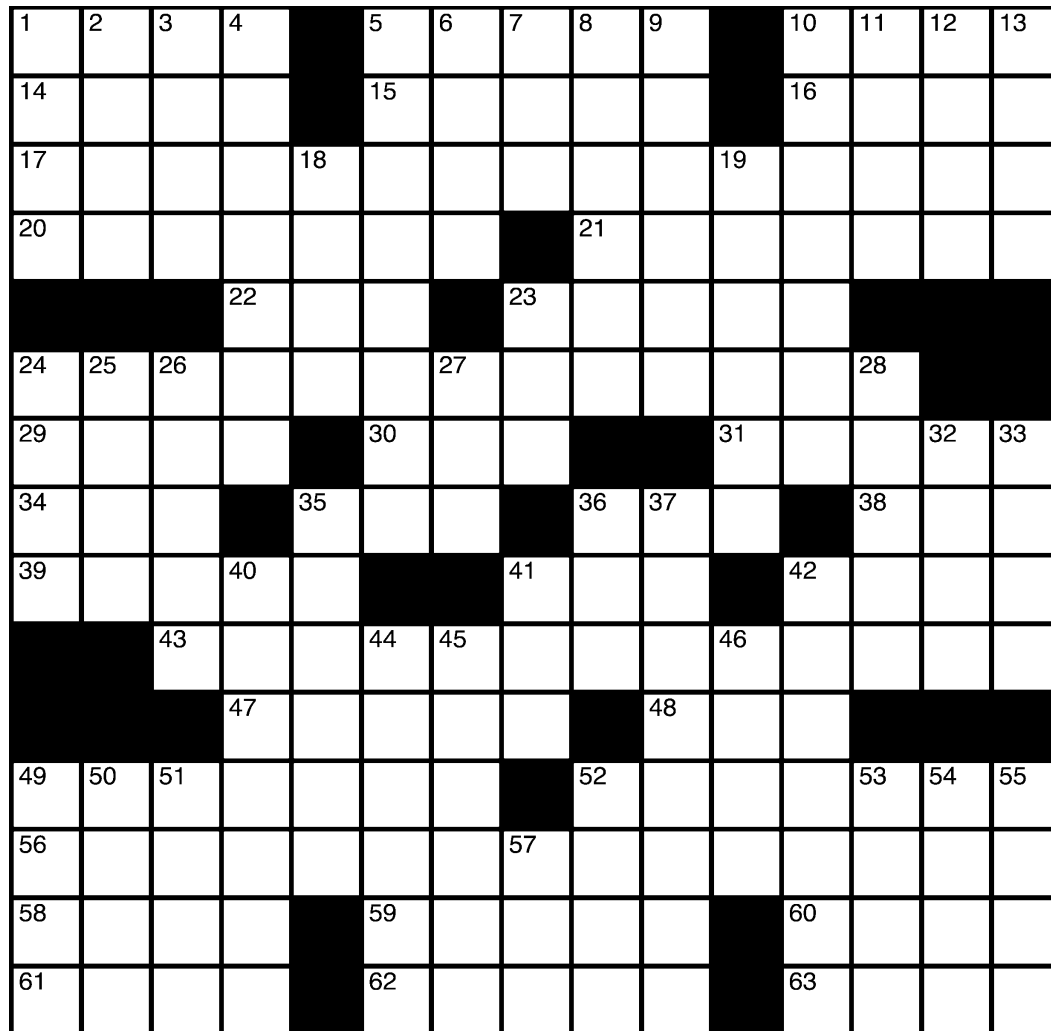


ACROSS

- 1 Language in the same family as Hindi
- 5 Balance, for one
- 10 Spots for STEM classes
- 14 Tap on the nose
- 15 Opening
- 16 "Aha"
- 17 Starting line?
- 20 Cravings
- 21 Island country whose capital is St. George's
- 22 ___ and paste
- 23 "Get Out" writer/director Jordan
- 24 Punch line?
- 29 Hoppy beers, briefly
- 30 ___ out a win
- 31 Ivan the Terrible and Feodor the Bellringer
- 34 Scand. land
- 35 Vote against
- 36 That, in Spanish
- 38 Poseidon's realm
- 39 "Hello" singer
- 41 "Too cute!"
- 42 Shade in four-color printing
- 43 Pickup line?
- 47 49-Across, for one
- 48 B.A. Baracus player
- 49 Spine-stretching yoga move
- 52 Warm jackets
- 56 Trip line?
- 58 Wood used to make some woodwinds
- 59 Seize without right
- 60 James of "The Godfather"
- 61 Edges
- 62 Hammer parts
- 63 "Bonanza" brother

DOWN

- 1 Former eBay rival
- 2 Wrapped garment
- 3 Carries out
- 4 Baby bumps?
- 5 Sugary pitcherful



By Howard Neuthaler

3/26/26

- 6 Hearing things
- 7 Big Blue of the NFL, for short
- 8 Former NPR host Robert
- 9 Daily special, typically
- 10 Sub-Saharan female
- 11 Forbidden City locale
- 12 Big ___ National Park
- 13 Genesis creator
- 18 "Valid point"
- 19 Affogato scoop
- 23 Some EMT gear
- 24 Rock legend Turner
- 25 Discontinued Apple gadget
- 26 Hall of Famer Rod with 3,053 career hits
- 27 Chicago hoops squad
- 28 Undemanding class
- 32 ___ admiral
- 33 Zen garden rake target
- 35 Country great Willie
- 36 Feta source

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



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3/26/26

- 37 Worked out in the pool
- 40 Ten lords in a Christmas carol, e.g.
- 41 "I'm an open book" sesh
- 42 Split a course?
- 44 Total, as numbers in a ledger
- 45 Like most straws
- 46 Concoct
- 49 Wrapped garment
- 50 Arabian port
- 51 Spot on the small screen
- 52 Common houseplant
- 53 "Toodles, dahling"
- 54 Waze guesses, for short
- 55 Tax doc IDs
- 57 Word on a Paris map

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UConn Spring Career Fair Invites Students to Explore Employers and Graduate Programs

by **Jaylyn Davis** | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | SHE/HER/HERS | iue25001@uconn.edu

Employers and graduate programs came together on March 25 to give students post-graduate opportunities at the UConn Spring Career Fair. Opportunities included connecting with companies, exploring careers, finding internships and seeking graduate programs. The fair took place at the UConn Volleyball Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The center was divided into two courts. One court was dedicated to the employers and graduate programs represented at the fair. Another was dedicated to career preparation activities including a résumé printing station and an IRIS headshot photo booth.

After checking in at the UConn Volleyball Center's entrance, students were given a program consisting of all the employers and graduate programs at the fair. Each employer and graduate program had its own assigned table and number, making it easier for students to find a group they're interested in.

Every employer and graduate program at the fair represented themselves in a variety of methods. Many offered brochures containing information for students. Some had souvenirs such as pens and stickers. Others offered candy and chips as snacks.

The employers at the fair came from a variety of fields, with one being finance. Companies representing finance included M&T Bank, Northwestern Mutual and New England Financial Advi-

sors.

Three more fields represented at the fair were health, advocacy and social service. Companies from those fields included Hartford HealthCare, Public Allies Connecticut, Lumibility and the Salvation Army.

Additional fields represented at the fair were technology, construction, science and engineering. Techtronic Industries, Sweeney Excavation, Consolidated Electrical Distributors, Chem-Aqua and HTS Engineering — Heat Transfer Solutions were some of the companies that symbolized those fields.

The fair also included companies featuring veterinary services, such as Guardian Veterinary. Holly Oths, a veterinary specialist from the company, described the company and its locations.

"Guardian Veterinary is a small animal hospital," Oths said. "We are privately owned, and we're based in New York. We have four locations, going on to six. Our main location is in Brewster, New York, which is about an hour and a half to two hours from here. We're only ten minutes from Danbury and about half an hour from Stamford."

Oths also informed what kind of candidates the company's looking for.

"We are looking for veterinary specialists, veterinary assistants and veterinarians," Oths said. "If anyone's interested in animals and working with them, I'd be



happy to talk to them."

There were a few colleges and universities at the career fair. Some of them were Sacred Heart University, Dartmouth and Fairfield University. Kelly Tamborrino, Assistant Director of Graduate Admission from Fairfield University, discussed the university and the graduate programs it offers.

"We have five different colleges with graduate programs," Tamborrino said. "We have the College of Arts and Sciences, we have the Dolan School of Business. We also have our nursing program; it's very popular. And we also have a school of engineering and computer science

as well as education and human development."

Tamborrino also described the purpose of Fairfield University's presence at the fair.

"Students are coming from a variety of interests, so I'm collecting information from them, giving them information about our programs and helping them make decisions on next steps and further education for their future career," Tamborrino said.

Some of UConn's career programs and departments were at the career fair as well. The departments featured in the fair were Economics and Physiology & Neurobiology. Some of the other UConn programs that

were at the fair were the International Student & Scholar Services, the Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education and the Business Graduate Programs.

Jakob Feltquate, a sixth-semester Communications student, said while he originally didn't plan on coming to the career fair, he came to it and learned about an online internship program.

"I didn't even plan on coming here at all," Feltquate said. "One of my friends in my dorm brought me here. I would say it's really cool so far. I talked to a table. They told me about this creative online social media internship that I can do at home, which I think is really nice."



Students visit tables to speak with employers and internship representatives. The UConn Spring Career Fair was a success as it helped prepare many students with job opportunities and post grad ideas.

PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Trendsetter: Cancelled!

by **Maleena Muzio** | ASSOCIATE LIFE EDITOR | SHE/HER/HERS | maleena.muzio@uconn.edu

Cancel culture is prominent today just as it was during the quarantine days of 2020. Friday, March 13, marked the six-year anniversary of the COVID-19 quarantine, and it seems like remembering grocery shortages and mask-wearing was not all the internet was doing.

Welcome back to “Trendsetter,” where I take a deep dive into pop culture’s most recent trends. Today’s issue will discuss recent celebrities that have been “canceled,” but in different ways and for different reasons than they might have been scrutinized for in 2020.

Whipped coffee — a popular quarantine treat made from instant coffee, sugar and water — recipes and the romanticization of teen life, typically overly saturated images of baggy jeans and Nike Air Force 1 sneakers, are not the only 2020 reminders circulating social media lately. Cancel culture is back in full swing (if it ever left).

However, today, actors and singers are being canceled as opposed to influencers and social media personalities. While there may be no lengthy apology videos, like those from beauty influencer James Charles’ or internet comedian Colleen Ballinger

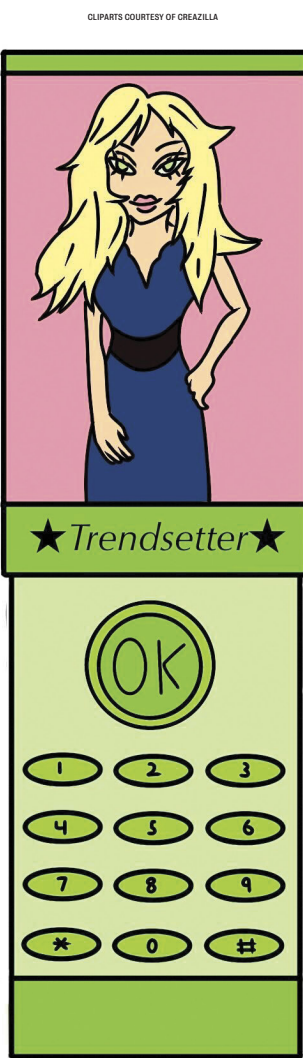
(who portrays the character Miranda Sings), fans are angry.

Two names will be the focus of this analysis: Timothée Chalamet and Chappell Roan.

In the past, influencers were typically canceled for the use of offensive language and slurs, hidden endorsements and even for posting disturbing photos or videos. That is not what is going on with Chalamet or Roan, though.

Chalamet is an American actor known for his roles in films like “Call Me By Your Name” (2017), “Wonka” (2023) and most recently, “Marty Supreme” (2025). Since the beginning of the “Marty Supreme” press tour in late 2025, Chalamet’s behavior in interviews became noticeably different than before. He was met with backlash almost immediately for what The Parade called “perceived arrogance” in an article published on Dec. 22, 2025.

Variety in collaboration with CNN posted a video conversation between actors Chalamet and Matthew McConaughey on Feb. 24 that catalyzed further backlash toward Chalamet. In the video, Chalamet said, “And I don’t wanna be working in ballet or opera,” and adds



“no one cares about this anymore.” He quickly followed up with “all respect to ballet and opera people out there.” But this was not enough for many.

Top comments under the original video read “When no one remembers Timothée Chalamet, Mozart and Tchaikovsky will still be working their magic” by user @themusicprofessor, “Support your local theaters people” by @kittymarch4203 and “Every time he opens his mouth, it becomes clearer that he doesn’t really love art. He loves the attention and praise he gets” by @Gerogia-Higgins.

In similar fashion, pop singer Roan is facing fresh backlash surrounding her character. Roan has a long history of speaking out on her privacy and distaste for paparazzi, which sparked controversy in the past.

Brazilian-born Italian soccer player Jorginho took to Instagram on Saturday, March 21, to express his discontent toward Roan and her security team after an alleged incident with his daughter. Roan and Jorginho’s 11-year-old daughter were staying at the same hotel in Brazil at the time of the alleged situation.

According to an article pub-

lished by People on March 24, Jorginho said, “She simply walked past the singer’s table, looked to confirm it was her, smiled, and went back to sit with her mum. She didn’t say anything, didn’t ask for anything.”

Roan defended herself on her own Instagram Story, sharing her side of the incident, and later posting “I do not hate people who are fans of my music. I do not hate children. Like, that is crazy,” according to People. Fans and social media users are showing similar reactions to Roan as they did to Chalamet with comments like “SHAKIRA WOULDNT HAVE DONE THAT!!!” and a GIF that read “Trash” on her pinned promotion post for her single “The Subway,” which was originally shared on July 28, 2025.

Conan O’Brien poked fun at Chalamet during his opening monologue at the Oscars on Sunday, March 15, with comments like “Security is extremely tight tonight,” followed by “I’m told there’s concerns about attacks from both the opera and ballet communities.” Will Roan get similar treatment at future award shows? Only time will tell if these celebrities are permanently canceled or not.





Life

Roundtable: The Next Great Frontier

“PROJECT HAIL MARY” LANDED IN THEATERS THIS PAST FRIDAY, AND THE MOVIE HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO MAKE WAVES IN THE BOX OFFICE. ADAPTED FROM SCIENCE FICTION ANDY WEIR’S NOVEL OF THE SAME NAME, THE STORY DETAILS AN UNLIKELY ASTRONAUT TASKED WITH SAVING HUMANITY FROM EXTINCTION. WEIR USES REAL SCIENCE AND HIS OWN IMAGINATION TO CREATE WORLDS AND LIFEFORMS BEYOND OUR CURRENT UNDERSTANDING, AND IT BEGS THE QUESTION: WHAT’S REALLY OUT THERE IN SPACE? WRITERS OF THE LIFE SECTION HAVE COME TOGETHER TO SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS ON WHAT PLANET THEY THINK HUMANITY SHOULD BLAST OFF TO IN SEARCH OF DISCOVERY.

by Samantha Brody
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It’s easy to look at the stars and imagine what places humanity can eventually discover, but there’s a few places closer to home that I think are worth some further investigation. If we suddenly get the ability to jump light years across space like in “Star Wars,” my first pick is Jupiter.

We currently know that the great gas giant has about 100 moons, and while that’s a far cry from Saturn’s 285, it’s the content that matters. The original four Galilean moons (as in, those discovered by Galileo

Galilei) are all bigger than Pluto and some have a solid chance of being the home to alien life, specifically Europa.

Furthermore, Jupiter’s Great Red Spot (a massive storm bigger than Earth) has been shrinking for some time now. NASA suspects that the main cloud layer of the storm is made of ammonia, which is also an important piece of alien life in “Project Hail Mary.” Who knows, maybe Weir was right!

by Max Muller
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If I were to pick the second planet that humanity should travel to,

I wouldn’t actually pick a planet because the only correct choice is inhabiting the Sun. My reasoning is a little convoluted, but I think our future will likely mirror the evolution of plants.

Right now, humanity is like bacteria; the vast majority of our energy has to be produced manually and we are slow at collecting nutrients. In the future, I think that we will have “leaf” colonies stationed around the sun which share energy with the “roots,” which are settlements on different planets. By specializing these different colonies, we will more efficiently gain control of our future and the stars.

by Jaylyn Davis
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I feel like humanity can visit all the planets in the solar system. However, the planet humanity needs to visit is Venus. It may sound ironic since Venus is inhabitable for human beings, but Venus is inhabitable for a reason. For eons, Venus’s atmosphere has been dominated by carbon dioxide, causing its temperature to be as high as 900 degrees Fahrenheit. Because Venus is hot enough to melt lead, oceans are non-existent, the ground is nothing but rocks and the sky’s engulfed in thick

cloud layers.

Why did I mention all this? Well, Earth’s currently on track to becoming Venus. For the past few decades, temperatures have been skyrocketing and the oceans have been getting warmer. This is because the use of fossil fuels is increasing the amount of carbon dioxide in Earth’s atmosphere. If humanity visits Venus, then they can physically see the damage that greenhouse gas emissions have done to the planet. When they see the damage, humanity might wake up and start crafting solutions to fight climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to save Earth and its luscious environ-



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

Sweet Nibbles Hannah Montana is 20!

by Sarah Baker
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Sweet nibbles Hannah Montana is 20!

Happy Hannahiversary! If you’re anything like me and Hannah Montana was your childhood when this special started to be teased, you were probably feeling insanely nostalgic and maybe a bit stunned at it being 20 years since the show aired (at 22 this has me feeling like I’m practically in the retirement home). The “Hannah Montana 20th Anniversary Special” was a way to make sure every fan who grew up with the show was honored in a way a concert wouldn’t be able to.

The special was for some reason hosted by Alex Cooper of the “Call Her Daddy” podcast. I have nothing against Cooper — I don’t know much about her and I don’t listen to her podcast, but she makes absolutely no sense for this special. Sure, she was a fan of the show, but so were millions of people, and I think she could’ve just done a podcast episode with Miley Cyrus and saved the special for the people who were actually involved in the show.

With that, the special was missing a lot of people and although it felt like a nostalgic overload, I think they could’ve done so much more with it. Emily Osment, Mitchell Musso and Jason Earles were all main characters on the show yet were absent from the special, and they each probably had their reasons, but at that point it would be best to do the special when everyone is available.

The special opens with Cyrus performing “The Best of Both Worlds” and then transitions into her touring the famous set of the

show where everything was set up like it never left.

As the interview starts, Cooper asks how the special came to be and Cyrus says if she learned anything from Dolly Parton, it’s that “if you start saying something is happening it’ll happen”, so in interviews she started teasing a special when nothing was actually in the works, which I think is iconic as hell. Cooper then asked what it was like auditioning for the show. Cyrus said she didn’t want the role that bad as she was on a cheer team that she didn’t want to lose her spot on and had a school crush that she wanted to get back home to in Tennessee.

Cyrus’ mom, Tish, was very present in the special, as they explored Hannah’s insane closet that everyone wanted after watching the show. Her mom was an integral part of the fashion in the show and had a vision for both Miley and Hannah as characters and was able to differentiate between what was more Hannah and what was more Miley. They played in the closet pulling out iconic pieces from different outfits throughout the show and honestly, I think most of them are on trend and could be worn today with no questions asked.

The special cut back to the pre-recorded concert, during which Cyrus sings both “This is the Life” and “The Climb” which will always give me chills. One thing about this special is that a lot has happened in Cyrus’ life between family drama, the VMAs with Robin Thicke and the Liam Hemsworth of it all, but in this special she looks so good and so happy. I’d like to think coming back to celebrate the thing that made her allowed for some healing, but what do I know?

And speaking of healing, Cyrus’ father Billy Ray Cyrus, who also

played with her on-screen dad, made an appearance. Cyrus expressed that it means a lot for him to be there because their relationship meant a lot to viewers. In talking with her dad, they agreed that even though the show wasn’t written for them, it still felt like it was.

“It was art imitating life imitating art.” Billy Ray Cyrus said. The pair then tried to remember their handshake from the show before sitting at the Stewart kitchen table to run through a scene together.

Also, in her sit down with Cooper, Cyrus said that in her infamous love triangle with Jake and Jesse she would pick Jake, but only because the actor has said nice things to the press about her. She also confirmed that she dated Dylan Sprouse at one point. She also explained how Taylor Swift ended up in the Hannah Montana movie and said that they were looking for someone who would realistically be playing in a barn, which was “Fearless” era Swift to a T. And a fun fact, Swift wrote

the finale song “You Always Find Your Way Back Home” for the movie, which I need a duet of her and Cyrus singing immediately.

Another notable cameo was Selena Gomez, who played Mikayla in the show. Seeing the Disney girls doing well makes my heart so happy. Jamal Sim, who choreographed “Hoedown Throwdown” from “Hannah Montana: The Movie,” was visited by Cyrus to do the dance and she’s still got it. Next up, Chappell Roan made an appearance, which was hilarious considering her current controversies, and while I love Roan, why was she there? I get that she does the whole Hannah Montana double life thing, but it was so random.

As the special came to a close, Cyrus opened up about finding herself without the wig and said that she used to think of Hannah Montana as something separate from herself, and from doing this special she’s been able to reclaim both parts of herself, Hannah and Miley. She said she is proudest of

who she’s become as a person and that she’s always stayed true to her heart.

And to end the special, Cyrus left the set recreating one of her iconic moments from the show when she waved goodbye to the house. She walked over to a different part of the lot to sing a brand-new song called “Younger You,” which is releasing on Friday and will probably be my new sob song.

Overall, I really enjoyed the special. I think they could’ve had some better cameos considering who came to the premiere, but other than that it was everything I could’ve wanted for a celebration of something that was so defining a lot of people’s childhood, mine included. I appreciate that Cyrus wanted to do something and truly went all out for it because there are some celebrities who won’t even acknowledge where they got their start. And hey, I think I’ve been sleeping on Cyrus’ music, so let me go get those streams up for my girl.

Rating: 4.5/5 Stars



The cast of Hannah Montana pose together for a photo at the premiere of the 20th anniversary special. This was a highly anticipated reunion for many Hannah Montana fans.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @MONTERREYLIVE_ON INSTAGRAM.



Opinion

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Trump, dyslexia and the classroom

by Colin Hamilton | STAFF WRITER | HE/HIM/HIS | cjz24004@uconn.edu

Last week, President Donald J. Trump unjustly lambasted Governor Gavin Newsom of California in an interview at the Oval Office. In the latest escalation between the two political giants, Trump attacked Newsom's life-long diagnosis of dyslexia, a common neurobiological learning condition that causes difficulty with reading and spelling. The president claimed Newsom's condition should disqualify him from running for the presidential office. In his words,

Trump's claim that having a learning disability diagnosis "is not a good thing" is laughably ignorant in the face of both historical precedent and scientific fact. His belief that such a disability should disqualify a candidate from higher office ignores the many great American presidents who have had a learning disability.

"a president should not have learning difficulties." In a follow-up interview, Trump doubled down. He claimed that he is "all for people with learning disabilities, but not for [] president — a president should not have learning disabilities." As someone who works in special education, I am appalled at Trump's ignorance. As a human being, I am abhorred at his bigoted language. Trump's ableist attack against Governor Gavin Newsom is not just inaccurate, but a gross representation of our society's wider bias against disabled people's futures.

For one, Trump's claim that having a learning disability diagnosis "is not a good thing" is laughably ignorant in the face of both historical precedent and scientific fact. His belief that such a disability should disqualify a candidate from higher office ignores the many great American presidents who have had a learning disability. George Washington was diagnosed with dyslexia, the same condition Gavin Newsom has been open about. John F. Kennedy had ADHD. Abraham Lincoln, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Woodrow Wilson, Lyndon Johnson and Thomas Jefferson all had similar conditions. These names represent the leaders of our nation who led us through the birth of our nation, and played key roles in defining the ideals America would strive towards. If their conditions had disqualified them from office,

as Trump wishes, it is hard to imagine our nation looking in any way as it does now. His claim further ignores the scientific fact that these so-called "disabilities" can in many situations be a blessing. Individuals with dyslexia,

Individuals with dyslexia, for one, have been found to possess enhanced creative problem-solving skills, high-level pattern recognition and strong visual-spatial skills. All these traits are crucial to holding high office, where decisions can impact the entire world.

for one, have been found to possess enhanced creative problem-solving skills, high-level pattern recognition and strong visual-spatial skills. All these traits are crucial to holding high office, where decisions can impact the entire world. Indeed, our nation may be in a better place if President Trump displayed just one of these qualities.

The precedent set by Trump's remark that disabled learners cannot and should

not find success is nothing new. Those with learning disabilities have long faced prejudice in America, despite the remarkable contributions they have provided us. From the earliest stages of life, individuals with a learning disability face expectations of failure. In our schools, where one in five children are diagnosed with dyslexia, only one-tenth receive specialized support. Even then, these special education programs often fail to bring students up-to-speed, in part due to a limited and underfunded workforce. Those left behind struggle alone in classes where they are, as Trump's language demonstrates, branded "stupid" and "low IQ." Yet the support offered to the minority — those deemed to need it the most — is not better. As a result of a dissonance between state standards and classroom expectations, higher-needs students often fall behind their peers outside their concentrated learning environments. As a result of these systemic failures, students with a learning disability diagnosis are continually expected to achieve less and less. This self-fulfilling prophecy fuels these students to be set up only for the bare minimum: they are taught just enough to graduate the K-12 system, where they can enter the workforce as grocers and menial laborers. While this may be an ideal plan for some, it does not justify such a goal being placed on those who

want to achieve some other path in life. Our system's expectation of failure is what best explains why 18% of students with learning disabilities drop out of primary and secondary school, and why only 5% will attend college.

The apology of one man is not enough to alleviate decades of systemic bias against diagnosed learners. More pressing is our need to bring reform to a society that systematically devalues the potential of those deemed "different".

What Trump said last week is inexcusably wrong. He must be held accountable and apologize to the community of over 12 million Americans who he has belittled. Yet, the apology of one man is not enough to alleviate decades of systemic bias against diagnosed learners. More pressing is our need to bring reform to a society that systematically devalues the potential of those deemed "different". Right now, our next great American president is sitting in a classroom, falling behind by no fault of their own. It is our responsibility.



Gavin Newsom speaking at a press tour for his new autobiography, "Young Man In A Hurry." Newsom has been very candid about his experience with dyslexia and he emphasizes that won't stop him from running as a presidential candidate.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @FOURHAWKSPHOTO ON INSTAGRAM.



President Donald Trump sits while speaking. Recently, the President spoke out against supporting Gavin Newsom, as well as any others who have a learning disability and hope to run for president.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @NYDAILYNEWS ON PINTEREST.

Opinion

Huskytalk | What's a word that you always spell wrong?



"Onamotapia."

Katie Tran
Allied Health Science
Fourth semester

"Rendevous."

Micheal Russo
Digital Media and Design
Second semester

"Prestiougs."

Yohannes Robson
Finance
Second semester

"Gaurantee."

Tom Curran
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
Sixth semester

COMIC BY
SETH WALLEN
CONTRIBUTING
ARTIST

Patrick's Politics:

Air travel issues? Blame Trump

by Patrick Minnerly | ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR | HE/HIM/HIS | patrick.minnerly@uconn.edu

If you've ever gone on a long trip, you probably know the drudgery of an airport security line. Waiting for agents from the Transportation Security Administration to check you over can be an onerous experience at the best of times, and the recent partial shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security has exacerbated the situation. TSA workers haven't been paid for 40 days, leading many to call in sick or quit their jobs, and security lines are out the door at many airports across the country. It's chaos during a very busy travel period, and if we know one thing from the Trump administration's example, the government is only going to make it worse. This pattern of causing a crisis and doing nothing to solve it has become all too common, and subverts the very idea of how a functioning government should operate.

Why is the DHS shut down? It all stems from the violent and oppressive conduct of Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. In January of this year, two American citizens were killed in broad daylight by ICE agents. These shocking murders aren't even the half of it, unfortunately; the list of violations and abuses perpetrated by them against migrants is far longer and far more shadowy. Previously in this column, I've written about the new system of ICE concentration camps – or sorry, detention centers – where undocumented immigrants are held in dismal conditions. Thankfully, there has been significant backlash to these injustices, and Democrats refused to fund DHS until reforms to ICE were implemented. Republicans in turn wanted nothing to do with re-

forms, and 40 days later, no end to the shutdown is in sight.

The impacts of the shutdown have been severe, especially for workers who aren't being paid. They already had to endure a full shutdown last fall, and now they're yet again feeling the strain of not being able to provide for themselves or their families. Ac-

ing gaping holes in staffing and the long wait times – some up to six hours – that travelers have experienced. As a result, people expecting to fly are getting increasingly more apprehensive about taking a trip. Those currently snagged in the system are having to deal with significant inconveniences to their daily lives.

security line in Houston, delaying their arrival on the scene. While not directly related, the shutdown is only making other problems worse, leading to a sense of cascading chaos.

The continued march of government shutdowns puts our dire situation in stark terms. Trump has blamed Democrats for the

forward from the Democrats that would fund the TSA and other agencies under the DHS umbrella, except for ICE and Border Patrol. Trump even rejected a potential deal put forward by his own party's lawmakers over the weekend.

Trump is only doubling down. He has deployed ICE agents to airports, supposedly to help with the long lines, but their presence is only worsening an already tense environment. ICE agents aren't trained to deal with the tasks TSA employees handle on a daily basis, and footage has emerged of them simply standing around or lingering near the snaking lines. It's important to note that ICE, unlike TSA, remains fully funded due to \$75 billion from Trump's so-called "Big Beautiful Bill."

Even more concerning, the New York Times reported that the TSA is sharing personal data with ICE, which led to the violent arrest of a mother and her daughter in San Francisco International Airport last Sunday. Far from helping with travel issues, ICE is being further empowered to carry out the agenda Democrats are protesting against.

The government should not behave in this manner. The Trump administration's resistance to making any sort of compromise on the shutdown has caused unnecessary chaos and hardship. Coming on the heels of the previous failure to fund the government, this deadlock has been allowed to feel like a new normal. However, it's anything but normal for the kind of leadership the people deserve. With the Senate hurtling towards Easter recess, will anything get done? With the state of our government, that's an open question.



Many travelers wait in TSA lines for up to several hours due to the government shutdown. Not only are the lines getting longer, but almost every airport is short on TSA staff and they are being subbed with federal ICE agents causing even more tension.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @BUZZFEED ON PINTEREST.

According to CBS News, one TSA employee asked of the Trump administration, "Why are we being sacrificed? What did we do to deserve telling our families we might get evicted at the end of the month?" A new estimate from DHS shows that over 450 TSA agents have quit their jobs, leav-

The recent plane crash at LaGuardia International Airport, in which an Air Canada jet collided with a fire truck, killing the two pilots, illustrates the ripple effects the shutdown can have. An investigator assigned to look into the accident was stuck in an interminable

shutdown's effects, but it's not the left's fault ICE must be reined in. Instead, Republicans should look to their president's own extreme policies and obstinance. In the past month, spurred on by Trump's unwillingness to compromise, Republican senators have frequently blocked bills put

UGLY EAGLES PUSH ON

by **Dylan Bonanno**
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Crystal Palace FC has managed to qualify themselves for a meeting with Italian club Fiorentina in the quarterfinals of the UEFA Conference League. This comes after a victory over Cyprus-based club AEK Larnaca last Thursday.

The Eagles recorded an aggregate score of 2-1 over two, albeit not-so-stellar, legs of football. While the privilege to play in a competition such as the Conference League is one that no mid-table team should take for granted, the likes of a team so recently coined as “giant slayers” in their fairytale storming of the FA Cup, as well as their several impressive league runs under current manager Oliver Glasner, should have little trouble in soaring past a squad like Larnaca’s.

This was hardly the case. Palace, who were favorites to win the trophy coming into their first league stage match against a powerful Dynamo Kyiv, and a few other disappointing results including a 1-0 loss to Larnaca, failed to qualify for the knockout rounds immediately and were forced to do so with a seeded playoff system.

They demonstrated their class on the second asking with an aggregate score of 3-1 against Zrinjski in late February to bring them to their first knockout round against Larnaca. While AEK Larnaca deserve credit for recognizing that playing a low block and accepting the unlikelihood of scoring against Palace would work best in their favor, it is hard not to laugh at the inability of a Premier League level club in figur-

ing out how to counter this.

Glasner has previously expressed his frustration with the team’s difficulty in finishing their created chances, and Palace has one of the worst expected goal ratios (xG) in the Premier League this season. This has been an ongoing issue for Crystal Palace, failing to find the back of the net in games they should be converting in, their most recent being a 0-0 draw at home against Leeds United.

Palace’s goal trouble was very much on display in a wasteful first leg which ended in a 0-0 draw and boos for the home team.

Although the Eagles defended valiantly and worked themselves into dangerous positions, large chances were squandered by Sarr, Mitchell and Richards, and the three points went begging. This result set up a dramatic must-win second leg fixture on the 19th and was certainly not as convincing as it should have been.

Larnaca’s opportunities to get involved in the game were not for Palace’s lack of trying, but rather for lack of class. Palace started the game with a strong squad, only missing Dean Henderson and Daniel Munoz, who later came on for Brennan Johnson in the 60th minute.

While Munoz is consistently energetic, his form mirrored the rest of the squads in that it just was not good enough. Daichi Kamada was unable to make five-yard passes under no pressure; Munoz was more likely to shank a cross than to find a target, and Adam Wharton still can’t work out translating his brilliant passing skills into a decent shot on target. Sarr was clinical in his two finishes, giving him a bit of a pass for hitting

the woodwork with no keeper in the net. Two red cards also went to the advantage of the Eagles, with goalscorer Enric Saborit being booked in the 73’ and a late showing off for Petros Ioannou in 120’ + 4’ for a late tackle on Jean-Phillipe Mateta.

Dramatic chances from Pino, Mateta and Strand Larsen were

missed, and the match came to a close just as things were starting to boil over. Cups began piling up behind the Palace goal as Larnaca fans started to throw their drinks at Palace goalkeeper Walter Benitez.

While it was anything but an attractive showcase of football, Crystal Palace will be satisfied

with managing to get a positive result and will live to see the next round.

The general feeling around Palace at the moment is that it must be better, but if they can finish off the season with Conference League silverware, it may all be chalked up to a success.



Players of Crystal Palace F.C. celebrate on the field following a goal. They have been winning games, yet fans believe that their performance on the field could be better. PHOTO COURTESY OF @CPFC ON INSTAGRAM.

2026 MLB STANDINGS PREDICTIONS:

NATIONAL LEAGUE

by **Thaddeus Sawyer**
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The Yankees and Giants opened the 2026 MLB season last night, with the rest of Major League Baseball set to play their first contests today.

After predicting the 2026 American League standings, here is how I see things finishing in the National League.

East

Phillies
 Philadelphia rides an elite rotation and an above-average lineup and bullpen to a third straight division title. The Mets will be breathing down their necks, but the Phillies’ are the more proven roster with a leadership core of Kyle Schwarber, Trea Turner and Bryce Harper that remains strong.

Mets
 New York had one of the best offseasons in baseball, signing Bo Bichette and trading for Luis Robert Jr. and Freddy Peralta, among other moves. Still, many of these additions were just filling voids for a team that missed the playoffs last year.

The roster is probably better than Philadelphia’s, but the improvements need to translate paper into practice before they can be placed higher.

Marlins
 Though it pales in comparison to the two-horse race above, Miami offers a young lineup spearheaded by Kyle Stowers when healthy. A bounce-back campaign from Sandy Alcántara would go a long way towards solidifying an unsteady rotation.

Braves
 Atlanta has almost an entire above-average starting rotation sitting on the injured list to begin the year. By the time a few arms get healthy, the team may already be buried. MVP candidate Ronald Acuña Jr. will have to do a lot of heavy lifting early.

Nationals

Washington finishes in last place for the sixth time in seven seasons. CJ Abrams and James Wood are the only things between them and the worst record in the NL.

Central

Cubs
 Chicago finally reaches the division summit for the first time in a full season since 2017 after a balanced offseason, swapping out Kyle Tucker for Alex Bregman in the lineup and rebuilding the bullpen. The batting order has no gaping holes, and a postseason-ready starter at the deadline would cement them as an NL frontrunner.

Brewers

Milwaukee lost a lot of contributors through trades, including Freddy Peralta, that made a big impact in 2026. They got a lot of young talent in return that should sustain the small market team in future seasons alongside Jackson Chourio and Brice Turang.

While 2026 will likely be a step back, the Brewers aren’t going anywhere and will continue to be perennial contenders.

Pirates

Pittsburg made a considerable effort to improve after their playoff drought reached double digits. Brandon Lowe, Ryan O’Hearn and Marcell Ozuna add power to go along with Oneil Cruz.

The Bucs are finally trying to build a competitor around Paul Skenes (while they still have the chance).

Reds

Cincinnati didn’t lose much talent from their playoff run a year ago and added Eugenio Suárez. However, the top of the rotation is banged up, and the lineup remains underwhelming. The Pirates got better, and the Reds were never going to touch the Brewers or Cubs.

The Reds needed to improve just to keep up. Instead, they sat

on their hands.

Cardinals

If you were a player who wasn’t going to contribute past the next two seasons, chances are St. Louis traded you away this winter. The roster is desolate plain, with the only thing sprouting through being rookie shortstop JJ Wetherholt.

West

Dodgers
 Somehow, the Dodgers continue to get better, adding an elite closer Edwin Díaz and breaking the average annual value record to sign all-star outfielder Kyle Tucker.

Though the in-division depth knocks them down a few wins and keeps them from earning the best record in baseball, Los Angeles are serious contenders

to “three-peat” in 2026

Padres

San Diego still has one of if not the best bullpens in baseball with a high-powered veteran lineup to boot. The rotation is shakier, and they probably won’t keep up with the Dodgers as in past years, but this is still a playoff club.

Giants

San Francisco has a lineup capable of beating the Padres any given day, but it may be a moot point if that day aligns with a start from the back half of the rotation. Instead of shopping at the top of the market, the lowest-cost additions of Tyler Mahle and Adrian Houser are serviceable but underwhelming for a contending club.

Diamondbacks

It wasn’t necessarily a bad offseason, bringing back Merrill Kelly and trading for Nolan Arenado. Ketel Marte remains among the best in the sport, but there just isn’t enough going in Arizona to propel them past the three-headed monster at the top of the division.

Rockies

Colorado is getting better, and Charlie Condon’s eventual debut will draw more attention to the Rox. Despite that, it isn’t enough to get out of the West’s cellar for the first time since 2021.

Best record: Phillies
Worst record: Rockies
Surprise: Pirates
Under-performer: Reds



Alex Bregman of the Chicago Cubs walks out with a fellow teammate. The Cubs are expected to do well during the 2026 MLB season. PHOTO COURTESY OF @PLAYERTRIBUNE ON INSTAGRAM.

Sports

Photo of the Day |



The UConn Pep Band performs on March 20, 2026. Although the crowd was not in UConn's favor, the Huskies persisted and secured the win. PHOTO BY MADISON HENDRICKS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/ THE DAILY CAMPUS

LATO'S LENS:

Madness unfolds as upsets shake up the Sweet 16

by Tyler Lato

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After a hectic week of play-in games and the first and second rounds, I can confidently say that the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament has lived up to its name: madness. While many high seeds are still alive, some lower seeds are starting to carve their way through the bracket.

The first four games of the Sweet 16 start tonight. Before you tune in, take a look at some of the highlights of the first two rounds, followed by some games to watch for the upcoming week of March Madness.

Greatest Upsets

No. 12 High Point 83, No. 5 Wisconsin 82

After winning the Big South Conference tournament the week before, the 12th-seeded High Point Panthers shocked the nation with an 83-82 victory over No. 5 Wisconsin in the tournament's first round last Thursday. The victory marked the program's first-ever NCAA tournament win.

High Point guard Chase Johnston scored his first two-point basket of the year on a fast-break layup to give the Panthers an 83-82 lead over the Badgers with 11.7 seconds left. Following Johnston's bucket, the Badgers had an opportunity to score. However, Owen Aquino blocked Badgers star guard Nick Boyd's shot, sealing the upset victory.

While Johnston finished with a solid 14 points, his batterymate Rob Martin had a career day, recording a 23-point, 10-assist double-double. Though the Panthers' run in the tournament came to an end after a loss to No. 4 Arkansas on Saturday, their victory will forever be etched in March Madness history.

No. 11 VCU 82, No. 6 North Carolina 78

It's not often a blue-blood team gets upset this early in the tournament, but it certainly happened during VCU's 82-78 overtime victory over the injury-ridden North Carolina Tar Heels.

The Atlantic 10 Conference tournament champions trailed the Tar Heels by as many as 19 points. However, they slowly climbed their way out of the deficit, eventually tying the game at 75-75 after Terrence Hill Jr.'s layup in the final seconds of regulation.

Tar Heels guard Seth Trimble made a free throw with 35

seconds left in overtime to give North Carolina a 78-77 lead, but it was short-lived after Hill drilled a critical step-back jumper to give the Rams a two-point lead of their own. While big man Henri Veesaar was fouled with 4.2 seconds left, he missed both free throws, essentially sealing the game for VCU.

Hill capped off his heroic performance with 34 points, five rebounds and five assists, shooting an incredible 7-for-10 from three-point range. Should he decide to stay in Richmond next season, the Rams could be favorites to make another run at the title.

No. 9 Iowa 73, No. 1 Florida 72

As I've said in several Lato's Lens articles: down goes No. 1.

The top-seeded Florida Gators came into March with the goal of defending their national title from the previous season. But the ninth-seeded Iowa Hawkeyes played spoiler, overcoming an off-game from star guard Bennett Stirtz to defeat the Gators in the game's final seconds.

The Hawkeyes dominated Florida early, but later lost their lead in the second half. With 8.9 seconds left and trailing 71-70, Stirtz kicked the ball out to junior forward Alvaro Folgueiras, who drained the game-winning three-point shot to give Iowa a 73-72 lead.

Florida guard Xaivian Lee had a last-second opportunity to win the game for the Gators, but his attempt was smothered.

Iowa's Tavion Banks scored 20 points and hauled in six rebounds, while Stirtz added 13 points of his own. This shows how deep this Iowa team truly is and how dangerous it can be moving forward in the tournament.

Top Performers

Tarris Reed Jr., C (UConn), recorded an incredible 31 points and 27 rebounds in the No. 2 Huskies' 82-71 first-round win over 15th-seeded Furman.

Cameron Boozer, F (Duke), contributed to No. 1 Duke's 71-65 comeback victory over No. 16 Siena with a 22-point, 13-rebound double-double.

David Mirkovic, F (Illinois), scored 29 points and added 17 rebounds in the Illini's dominant 105-70 win over No. 14 Pennsylvania.

Braden Frager, F (Nebraska), came off the bench to score the game-winning basket, lifting No. 4 Nebraska over No. 5 Vanderbilt in the second round of the tournament.

Darius Acuff Jr., G (Arkansas), ended High Point's Cinderella run with a 36-point, six-assist performance in No. 4 Arkansas' 94-88 victory.

Sweet 16 Games to Watch

Thursday: No. 11 Texas vs. No. 2 Purdue - 7:10 p.m.

Though it's unusual to refer to a team from the SEC as a Cinderella story, the No. 11 Texas Longhorns have played the part. They defeated North Carolina State in a play-in game to get into the tournament and have since beaten No. 6 BYU and No. 3 Gonzaga along the way.

They now face none other than No. 2 Purdue, fresh off a victory in the Big Ten championship game. Not to mention, the Boilermakers return several members of their 2024 national championship squad, including Fletcher Loyer, Braden Smith and Trey Kaufman-Renn. Nonetheless, this should be a good one, featuring a seasoned conference champion and this year's Cinderella squad.

Friday: No. 5 St. John's vs. No. 1 Duke - 7:10 p.m.

When I saw this as a potential matchup at the start of the tournament, I almost couldn't believe my eyes.

St. John's is anything but a five seed. Despite early-season struggles, they cruised to both Big East regular-season and tournament titles, even defeating No. 2 UConn twice along the way. And while Duke is clearly the favorite to win the tournament, they've looked shaky at times, especially after narrowly escaping Siena in their first-round game.

Keep an eye out for St. John's Zubey Ejiyor. Earning 2025-26 Big East Player of the Year honors, he's currently leading the team in almost every offensive category with 16.3 points, 7.3 rebounds and 3.5 assists. While Duke has the more talented roster on paper, Ejiyor is an equalizer.

Friday: No. 3 Michigan State vs. No. 2 UConn

Two premier programs. Two stacked rosters. Two seasoned head coaches. One goal.

This is as even a Sweet 16

matchup as there can be, with DraftKings listing UConn as a 1.5-point favorite. It also marks the second time the two programs face each other this season, with Michigan State facing the Huskies in a preseason exhibition game.

Though struggling offensively with several lackluster performances from junior guard Solo Ball, Tarris Reed Jr. is a bright spot in the Huskies' starting lineup and is critical on both ends of the floor. Not to mention, senior forward Alex Karaban is finally heating up again, especially after his career-high 27-point performance against No. 7 UCLA.

Meanwhile, Michigan State is led by junior forward Coen Carr and guard Jeremy Fears Jr. The two powered the Spartans past a red-hot Louisville squad in the second round of the tournament and look to do so again against the Huskies. Should Ball struggle again, the Huskies could be in for a long night.



Tarris Reed Jr. of the UConn Huskies looks to the ball during their first-round March Madness game against Furman University. Reed Jr. had a phenomenal performance, leading the team to an 82-71 win. PHOTO COURTESY OF @IAMTARRISREED ON INSTAGRAM.

The Weekly Power Play:

Boston Bruins host Blackstone Valley Hockey Champions after emotional title run



LOGO BY ALEXA PAPPAS, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Nicole Caruso
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The Boston Bruins had a few more skaters on the ice than normal during their practice Monday. The organization hosted the Rhode Island Division II State Champion hockey team, the Blackstone Valley Co-op, at Warrior Ice Arena, giving them the once-in-a-lifetime chance to meet their favorite players and experience the Bruins practice facility.

The team had just won their high school state championship on Wednesday with a late goal to tie the game in regulation and win in not just one

overtime, but quadruple.

The win was especially significant for the team as it followed just one month after their Senior Day game took a tragic turn, when one player's father shot and killed several family members including himself.

"It's amazing how the community can rally for us, all the gifts we've gotten, it's so special," team co-captain Camden Governo said Monday. "We're so grateful for everything we've gotten. There's nothing better than the community we have. We're still moving forward. We're still recovering. But we're definitely doing good after that championship win."

The team wore patches on their jerseys during Wednesday's game. A red heart with the initials of each family member killed during the tragedy.

The Blackstone Valley team is still celebrating their victory on the ice, this time, surrounded by support from the Bruins.

"The hockey world is such a tight-knit community, it's a family. Whenever we get an opportunity like this, we really cherish it," said Jeremy Swayman in an interview with NBC 10 Boston. "It's so cool to have these guys in the locker room, and to see their excitement and really enjoy the good things that hockey brings us every day."

This is not the first time the NHL community has rallied around hockey teams across the country when faced with tragedy. In 2018, NHL teams showed support for the Humboldt Broncos, a Canadian junior hockey team that was involved in a bus crash that left 15 people dead and 14 injured.

Coaches and players from the NHL expressed their support for the Broncos with the Toronto Maple Leafs adding the Broncos logo to their backdrop during their morning press briefing the next day. The Philadelphia Flyers held a moment of silence prior to their game against the New York Rangers just days after the tragedy.

Prior to leaving the ice, the Blackstone Valley team and the Bruins posed for a photo to remember this special day where players of different stages of life came to celebrate their love for hockey.

"Just a sad story, but also a wonderful story, the way they responded and winning," Swayman said. "Just to have them here, they were so excited to see David in the training room, maybe get a massage, just little things like that... That was probably the best moment today."

"This is what I love about hockey, about hockey teams, because we're all the same," Swayman said.

TYLER REDDICK, 23XI MAKES NASCAR HISTORY AGAIN

by Alex Klancko
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Tyler Reddick made history again after his win at Darlington on Sunday, becoming the third driver to win four out of the first six races to open a NASCAR season.

The previous two drivers to do such a feat are Dale Earnhardt Sr in 1987 and Bill Elliott in 1992.

Reddick, who went winless last season, dominated the opening six races with a lowest finish of No. 13 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

With Reddick's dominance to start the season, he has skyrocketed up the betting odds charts, going from +1000 to start the season to +600, tied with William Byron and just below Denny Hamlin and Kyle Larson at +500.

Reddick and 23XI Racing as a whole have been in elite form since the lawsuit settlement in early December.

Reddick's teammate, Bubba Wallace, currently sits third in the championship standings, 120 points behind Reddick. But Wallace leads NASCAR in stage points with 60.

Wallace secured another seven stage points in the first stage of the Darlington race but after an unavoidable crash in the middle of the race, Wallace dropped down in the order, finishing No. 34 in Darlington. Before Darlington, Wallace's worst finish was No. 11 at the Circuit of the Americas.

The driver of the day was Brad Keselowski, though. Keselowski led 142 out of the 293 laps completed and won both stage one and stage two. It took a late charge from Reddick to regain the lead from Keselowski, who would finish second for his best finish since the fall Phoenix race at the end of last season.

Ryan Blaney looked fast as well, securing his place as second in the standings and 95 points behind Reddick.

Blaney won at Phoenix just three races ago and after finishing third at Darlington, secured his fourth top 10 finish this season.

Carson Hocevar and Ty Gibbs left a lot of questions on the table after the Darlington race. After starting No. 16 and No. 28, Hocevar would finish fourth and Gibbs would finish sixth. If they had done better in

qualifying, we might have seen them competing for the race win alongside Reddick and Hocevar.

Both drivers led a lap with Hocevar leading two and Gibbs leading one.

Austin Cindric rounded out the top five after a solid performance from the veteran Penske Racing driver.

Martinsville and the Cook Out 400 are set to return this weekend. Byron won the fall Martinsville race, while Hamlin won the spring Martinsville race last season.

In the last six races at Martinsville, Larson has the best average finish in the Cup Series with 3.7, including a win in 2023. Both Byron and Blaney each have two wins apiece with Blaney having the better average finish with 4.5.

This year, look out for Connecticut-native Ryan Preece in the front of the pack. The RFK Racing cars have looked fast the past couple of races, and with Preece being especially good at short tracks, a win should be in the cards for him.

You can watch the Cook Out 400 at Martinsville on FS1 or HBOmax at 3:30 p.m. EST this Sunday, March 29.

by Matt Dimech
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UConn entered the NCAA Tournament on Thursday without its starting point guard. In March, that's where seasons usually fall apart.

Malachi Smith made sure it didn't.

The Huskies' starting point guard, Silas Demary Jr., went down in the Big East Tournament Championship game with a low ankle sprain the week before. He was ruled out for the first game, leaving Smith to make his first start in a UConn uniform.

Smith logged 32 minutes in the first-round win over Furman. He finished with seven assists with just one turnover. It was the most minutes Smith had played all season, with his previous high coming on Jan. 4 against Marquette.

"He saved us," Head Coach Dan Hurley said. "32 minutes with the pressure that their guards put on you... that's not easy."

Demary returned for the second-round game against UCLA but was not yet at full strength. Smith remained in the starting lineup and again played 32 minutes. He tallied six more assists while only committing two turnovers.

Hurley applauded Smith's toughness and "will to take care of the ball" for "stabilizing" UConn's offense in the tournament opening weekend.

The word "stabilizing" encapsulates what Smith brought to the floor over the weekend. The Huskies did not need someone to post 20 points; they already had Alex Karaban and Tarris Reed Jr. each putting up monster numbers throughout the weekend.

What UConn needed was a point guard to protect the basketball and make the right plays in its decision-making offense, and that is exactly what he did.

"I didn't really have nerves," Smith said. "I know what I can do when I run the team, and I play with good confidence."

His confidence is rooted in how he has always approached the game. Smith has built his game around being a pass-first point guard, more concerned with creating scoring opportunities for others rather than chasing his own.

So that's what he did.

MENS BASKETBALL: MALACHI SMITH 'SAVED' UCONN IN THE NCAA TOURNAMENT'S OPENING WEEKEND

by Matt Dimech
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So that's what he did.

"Growing up, I'm always making reads, trying to get my teammates involved... that's my game," Smith said.

While UConn's starting point guard has improved throughout the season as a facilitator, Demary acknowledged that the role comes more naturally to Smith. He said that his backup has helped him develop that part of his game.

Demary finds comfort in having Smith behind him in the backcourt, knowing that the offense remains in steady hands.

"I feel Malachi has been ready for this moment ever since he came on campus," Demary said. "I have the utmost confidence in him...knowing that if I'm out, I know he's going to take care of business."

That trust is shared throughout the locker room. Teammates like Karaban point to the "energy" and "spark" that he brings to both the locker room and on the court.

Freshman center Eric Reibe sees it firsthand every day. While both were new to the program this season, Smith arrived in Storrs with four years of college basketball under his belt. Reibe said that he and Smith are always on the same team in practice, giving him plenty of guidance in navigating the collegiate level.

"Malachi is a great guy on the court and off the court," Reibe said. "He showed me how to be a good teammate... he has a lot of experience, and that helped me a lot."

Smith's final season of college basketball could have looked a lot different. Hurley has said all season that the graduate transfer could have started at a number of major programs and made significantly more money after leaving Dayton last summer. Yet he still chose UConn with a different priority in mind.

"We all sacrifice something to be here. We all could have been somewhere playing major minutes... probably more money," Smith said. "But we decided to come here so we can win...that's the only reason why we came here. That was top of the list."

That has meant embracing his complementary role behind Demary for most of the season. But in the NCAA Tournament, it meant being ready to step up when his number was called.

So that's what he did.



Tyler Reddick of 23XI poses with the trophy following his fourth win of the season. Reddick is currently on a hot streak and looks for more success throughout the rest of the season. PHOTO COURTESY OF @TYLER_REDDICK ON INSTAGRAM.



Sports

MEN'S HOCKEY:

NO. 14 UCONN OPENS UP NCAA TOURNAMENT AGAINST NO. 3 MICHIGAN STATE

by **Ava Inesta**
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Following their bid to the Worcester Region, the UConn men's hockey team will kick off the NCAA Tournament against No. 3 Michigan State. The match is set for Thursday, March 26, at 1:30 p.m. at DCU Center in Worcester, MA.

"We're focused on the present, we're focused on Michigan State," said senior captain Ryan Tattle.

"We're all so happy to be here. We're so grateful for the opportunity to put on the UConn jersey every day. We just want to keep fighting, keep fighting to get another day, another week together."

This is UConn's second-ever appearance in the NCAA Tournament and second consecutive. Last season, the Huskies defeated Quinnipiac 4-1 for the first time but then fell to Penn State in overtime in the Allentown regional final.

Following the Hockey East Tournament, the Huskies hold a 20-12-4 overall record.

The Huskies have continued to receive contributions from all four of their lines. Following the Hockey East semifinal game, all four lines from UConn have combined for 20 or more goals. Friday's semifinal matchup marked the 146th game played by seniors Tom Messineo and Tabor Heaslip. Neither senior missed a game during their four-year career with the Ice Boys and set the program record for most games played in the Hockey East era. This proves that one of the best attributes a player can have is availability.

Tattle leads the Huskies with 32 points, and junior Joey Muldowney tops the team with 17 goals. Tattle currently has 19 assists, and junior Jake Richard is not too far behind with 17.

Goaltender Tyler Muszelik has been a statement player

for UConn all season long. Following the Hockey East Tournament, the senior goaltender holds a .927 save percentage with a 2.21 average. He has been the anchor to the Huskies defense and will be a key to their chances of making a run to the 2026 Frozen Four.

"I think if we play a complete 60-minute game, going all four lines, I think it's going to be tough for any team to beat us in the country," said sophomore Mike Murtagh.

The Spartans are the top seed in the region but No. 3 overall in the tournament. The Worcester region also includes No. 6 seed Dartmouth and No. 12 seed Wisconsin.

Michigan State is entering the tournament with a 25-8-2 overall record after securing their third consecutive Big Ten regular season championship. They led the conference with 51 points, topping both Michigan (49) and Penn State (41). MSU finished as the Big Ten leaders in goals against average (2.23), save percentage (.927), power play percentage (.309) and penalty kill percentage (.803) during conference matchups. Michigan State was third in scoring at 3.67 goals per game through 24 contests.

A strong suit of the Spartans is their power play as it leads the nation at a .353 percent success rate since Jan. 1, going 18-for-51 over the last 17 games. Michigan State's 4.0 goals per game since the same date ranks fourth in the country.

MSU's top line forwards include senior Daniel Russell, senior Charlie Stramel, freshman Porter Martone. The three have generated 130 points this season on 54 goals and 76 assists. They are combined +86 on the ice with Stramel leading at +30 to Russell's +29 and Martone's +27. Those Spartans are the fourth-highest scoring trio participating in the NCAA Tournament.

The road to the 2026 NCAA

Tournament Frozen Four starts now. UConn will commence tournament play on Mar. 26 against No. 3 Michigan State.

Puck drop is set for 1:30 p.m. in Worcester, MA. The game is available to stream on ESPN2 and on the radio on the UConn

Sports Network - FOX Sports 97.9 FM.



Tyler Muszelik of the UConn Huskies men's hockey team blocks a shot from a player on the University of Michigan Wolverines. UConn faces off against Michigan State University in the first round of the NCAA tournament tomorrow night. PHOTO COURTESY OF @HOCKEY_EAST ON INSTAGRAM.

BASEBALL:

UConn drops midweek matchup to Quinnipiac at Elliot Ballpark

by **Ava Inesta**
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After sweeping a double-header to close out their spring break trip in San Jose, Calif., the UConn baseball team returned to Storrs for a midweek matchup against in-state foe Quinnipiac at Elliot Ballpark.

On a bright and sunny day in Storrs, the Huskies fell to the Bobcats 9-3.

"We got out coached, out pitched, out defended, out hit," said Head Coach Jim Penders following the loss to Quinnipiac. "There's not much else to say. When you play in-state teams they're going to be especially ready to go - that's on me, I got to get our team ready to go."

The game started off with what looked like strong pitching for the Huskies. Graduate student Austin Trumpour got the start in the circle and opened the game with a 1-2-3 inning.

The second inning ended with Trumpour having two strikeouts. The third inning is where the tables turned as Quinnipiac broke out their offense and gained a 3-0 lead.

Redshirt freshman Drew Smith came out of the bullpen for the fourth inning and stranded two Bobcat runners on the base to keep the Huskies chances

alive mid-game.

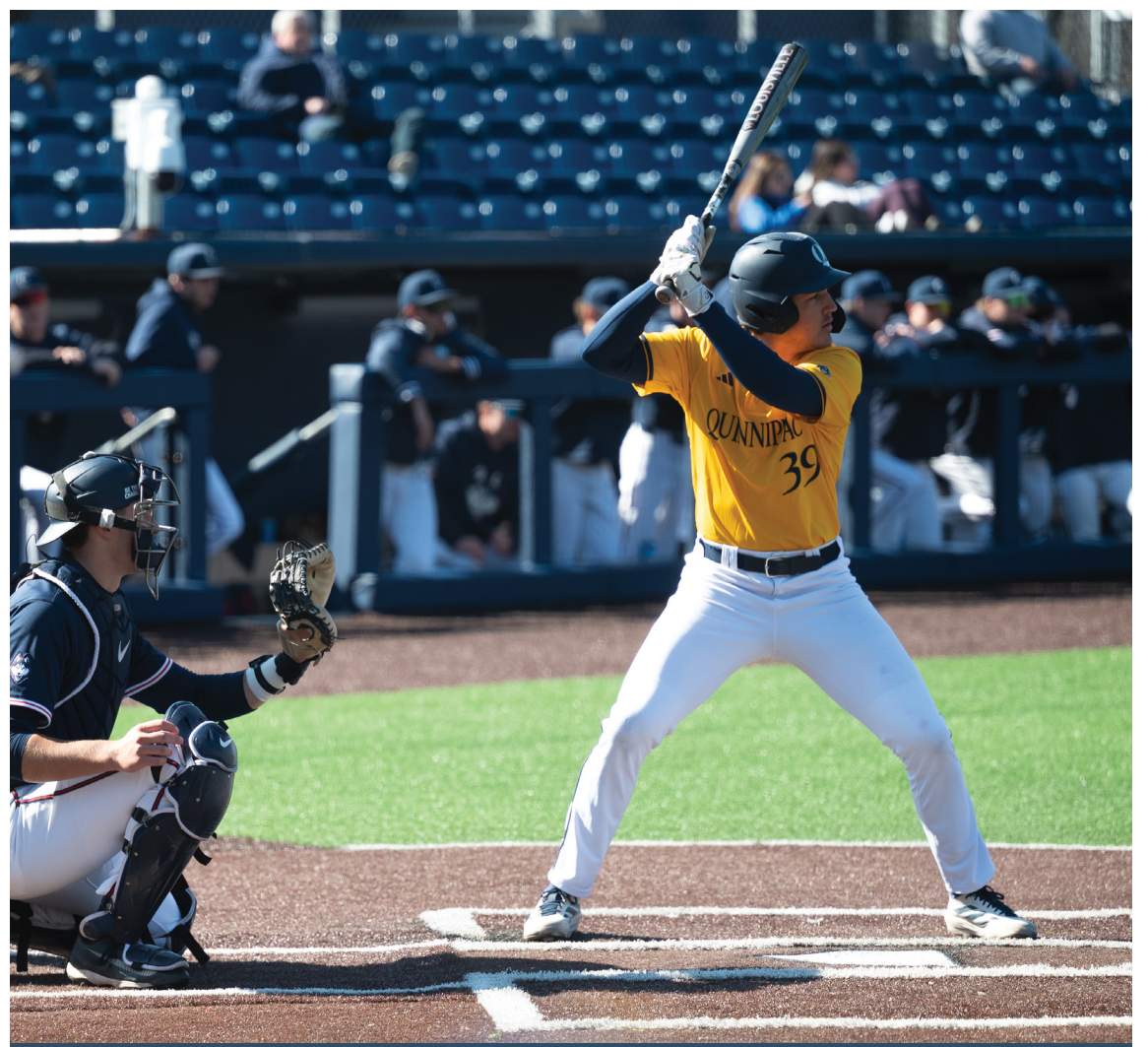
In the bottom of the fifth inning, Nater Wachter stepped up to the plate and hit an RBI single to score freshman Cam Righi to get UConn on the board.

In the top of the sixth, Quinnipiac added more runs to extend their lead to 5-1 over UConn. However, the Huskies' next offense splash came in the bottom of the frame after Righi blasted a two-run homer, his fourth of the season.

Unfortunately for the Huskies, that would be their last offense of the day as Quinnipiac scored three more runs and never looked back. UConn fell to Quinnipiac with a final score of 8-3. Hook C holds a 12-14 overall record following the midweek matchup with Quinnipiac.

"You've got to tip your cap," said Coach Penders during the postgame. "We gave them a little confidence and they took it. So tip your cap to Quinnipiac - they played a lot better than we did."

This weekend, UConn will look ahead to Big East conference action, starting with a series against Xavier at home at Elliot Ballpark. The three-game series will open on Friday, March 27 at 3:05 p.m., continue on Saturday, March 28 at 2:05 p.m. and wrap up on Sunday, March 30 at 12:05 p.m. All games will be available to stream on ESPN+.



The UConn Baseball team put up a hard fight against Quinnipiac, falling to the Bobcats 3-8. This was the Hook C's third home game of the season, despite being well into the spring season. PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS