



Three Consecutive Days of Fire Alarms at McMahon: A look into what happened



The exterior of the McMahon Residence hall. The fire alarms went off three times from Jan. 24 to Jan. 26. PHOTOS COURTESY OF UCONN CAMPUS HOUSING ON FACEBOOK

by Anna Heqimi
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From Jan. 24 to Jan. 26, students evacuated the building as Brien McMahon Hall fire alarms were activated each day.

On Jan. 24, a fire drill that is required to be conducted within 30 days of the academic semester was held. According to UConn Fire Chief Christopher Renshaw, the fire drills are done during evening hours. However, they were set off around noon “due to the impending storm and colder weather that was forecasted.”

On Jan. 25, according to university spokesperson Stephanie Reitz, low temperatures caused a water pipe to freeze and burst, triggering the fire alarms.

On Monday, Jan. 26, the use of a hair care product too close to a smoke detector activated the alarms, according to Reitz.

“I assumed someone burned popcorn in their dorm.”

ANNE HOAGLUND

After the pipe burst on Jan. 25, elevators on the North side of the building, the ground floor and the laundry room located on the ground floor were closed off to students for a short period of time. UConn Facilities Operations quickly repaired the damaged pipe, according to Reitz.

McMahon Resident Assistant Anne Hoaglund, a senior political science and sociology double major, saw the pipe leak on the ground floor after the alarms went off on the second day.

“I assumed someone burned popcorn in their dorm,” she said.

Hoaglund said when she saw the water spill, she was confused about how the leak happened.

She said she worried about “the extent of the damage and how it could impact residents.” She was one of the resident assistants on duty working to get students to exit the building.

“We recognize and sympathize with the inconvenience that our students and employees face when these incidents occur...”

ALEX HOUDESHHELL

When the fire alarms activated, a buildup of students blocked the stairways as many were hesitant to exit the building. After resident assistants’ persistence, the majority of students complied.

Still, due to active snowfall and frigid temperatures, a few students remained in the building.

According to Patch, by Monday morning, the total snowfall at Storrs was 14.9 inches. Weather tracker website time-and-date reports Storrs being 14 degrees Fahrenheit around the time students were evacuating the building on Jan. 25. Some of the students that did not leave the building were wearing shorts, slippers, or were in their pajamas.

“We recognize and sympathize with the inconvenience that our students and employees face when these incidents occur, and our public safety personnel work to identify and address the issues quickly so we can safely allow people to return and reoccupy the spaces,” Reitz said via email.

Reitz added that everyone should treat the fire alarms seriously and exit the premises when fire alarms are activated.

USG ELECTIONS UNDERWAY, INTENT TO RUN FORM DUE MONDAY

by Sara Bedigian
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The Undergraduate Student Government is kicking off their election process for the 2026-2027 school year, with intent to run forms due Monday, Feb. 9.

The open positions for the spring 2026 election include student body president and vice president, who must run as a joint ticket, as well as chief diversity officer and comptroller. There are various student senator seats open for each school and college and ten multicultural and diversity senate seats.

The intent to run form is the first step in the election process, which allows those interested to fill out what position they are running for and to include a short statement and photo that appears on the ballot. The election voting period opens on March 3 at noon and closes March 5 at noon.

“For anyone considering running, it is worth remembering that leadership is not about having all the answers going in,” said Andy Zhang, current student body president. “It is about the ability to show up and learn. Even after the process ends, the skills, confidence, and understanding gained from stepping into the role stay with you. I know that will certainly be true for me.”

Zhang said it is common to feel

uncertain leading up to the intent to run date, which he remembers feeling this time last year.

“Many people question whether they are qualified enough, whether they belong in the space, or whether the process will be worth the stress and vulnerability that comes with it,” he said. “What often matters more than complete confidence is a willingness to step forward despite uncertainty.”

Candidates running in the election must collect student signatures before being placed on the ballot. President and vice president tickets require 100 signatures, and chief diversity officer and comptroller require 50. Signatures are due to USG chief justice by 11:59 p.m. on Feb. 12.

Those running for president, vice president, comptroller and chief diversity officer will participate in a USG debate on Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. in the Student Union Theater.

Many candidates also choose to campaign by making social media accounts or creating flyers to introduce themselves to the student body.

“The campaigning can feel awkward, conversations can be unfamiliar, and the entire process can be intimidating at times,” Zhang said. “But it is also a rare opportunity to challenge yourself and learn how to communicate your values to a community in a meaningful way.”

Academic senators do not need to obtain signatures or participate in the debate, USG Chief Justice Ella Bennett said.

“It’s a lot less pressure to do that and a great, easier way to get involved in USG,” she said. “They still have to go to Senate meetings and caucus and committee meetings, but it’s an easier transition into USG for a student who might be looking for less commitment, but still getting involved.”

President, vice president, comptroller and chief diversity officer positions are paid positions. Bennett said senators are unpaid however they may be academically compensated by taking a one credit political science class with no additional attendance requirements.

Bennett is overseeing the application material for the election. Any questions can be directed to her email at chiefjustice@usg.uconn.edu. More information about each position and the application process can be found in the USG election packet.

“If you have an idea of something you’re passionate about that you want to advocate for the student body, I think USG gives you the platform to do that,” said Bennett, who joined USG this year. “I think that’s a really powerful thing, especially in the day and age that we live in where it’s hard for students’ voices to be heard.”



PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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News

Spring Involvement Fair today in Gampel



The University of Connecticut Student Activities hosts the 2025 Spring Involvement Fair in Gampel Pavilion on Jan 29, 2025. The Involvement Fair provides students the opportunity to join the over 400 student organizations and university programs.

PHOTOS BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Mikayla Bunnell

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The University of Connecticut's Spring Involvement Fair is happening today in Gampel Pavilion from 1 to 6 p.m. according to the Department of Student Activities.

The fair is free of cost and will feature 370 different registered student organizations, according to Sarah Bernhardt, the coordinator for Student Organization Support and Leadership and event coordinator for the fair. Students can come and learn about Tier IIIs, fan clubs, club sports, Greek life and more. UConn holds two involve-

ment fairs each school year, at the beginning of each spring and fall semester. The spring fair is the smaller of the two, as it's held indoors with limited space, Bernhardt said. However, the spring fair received its largest number of applications since the pandemic.

"The other side of that coin, though, is that because of space limitations, a number of organizations were placed on a waitlist, which is processed as cancellations are received," Bernhardt said.

Acceptances for tabling were based on the organization's active status, and then by order of application "to ensure consistency." Students can enter the fair

through Gampel's north or east entrances. There will be security, including bag checks, though students are encouraged to come without bags for quick entry.

"All of this is done because we believe in the value, mission, and purpose of campus involvement"

SARAH BERNHARDT

Planning the event is a lengthy yet rewarding process, Bernhardt said. In the spring, organizers must coordinate with UConn Ath-

letics to account for basketball home games in Gampel. Securing a date is only the first step, though. Student Activities must plan table rentals and set-up, marketing, floor plans, applications and waitlist management and staff and volunteers to help with check-in tables and event breakdown.

"All of this is done because we believe in the value, mission, and purpose of campus involvement," Bernhardt said.

According to Student Activities, getting involved on campus is a great way to "make friends, build your resume, expand your horizons, develop your leadership skills, and have fun all while doing

something that interests you."

Bernhardt said that involvement connects students to each other and to the campus as a whole.

Involvement "fosters a sense of belonging and connection, which are critical to student persistence and well-being in college, as research validates," she said. "These experiences also provide opportunities for identity development and meaning-making beyond the classroom."

According to Student Activities, there are more than 500 student organizations and university programs at UConn. For a full list of all UConn organizations, students can visit UConncontact.



The Daily Campus

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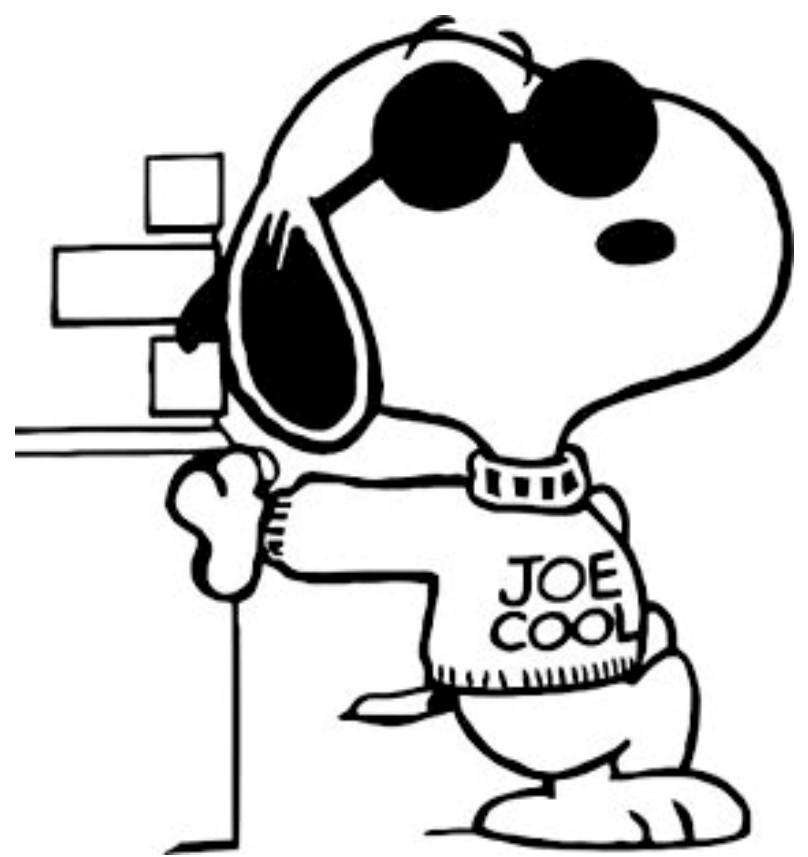
Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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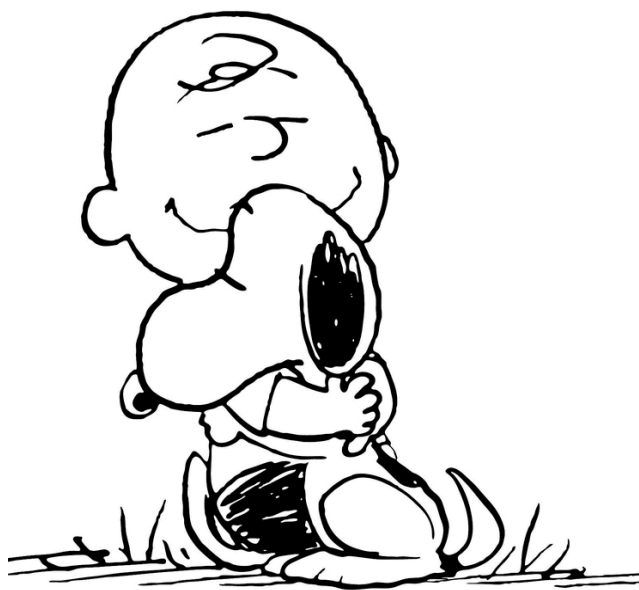
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Solution to Tuesday's puzzle

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BRITISH INVASION:

All about the BRITs



LOGO BY ESHITHA RAO, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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A new year brings new beginnings, fortunes and opportunities. It also brings forth awards season — when people's hard work creating a body of art is culminated in stuffy three-hour awards ceremonies, filled to the brim with musical performances, red carpet interviews and comedy bits. This even includes presenting some of the awards that they were supposed to give out.

Since the Grammys held their ceremony last Sunday, Feb. 1, I thought it would be nice to talk about its British counterpart, the BRITs. Welcome to the BRITs edition of British Invasion, the column that dives into British music history.

The BRITs are the premier music awards show in the U.K. much like the Grammys. The ceremony is run by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) and held their first awards in 1977. Beginning in 1982, they started holding the awards ceremony annually and in 1985 it became televised. The ceremony is less known for the awards and more for notable moments by its guests, especially during the 1990s, which cemented the ceremony's reputation for being “shambolic, unpredictable and, at times, anarchic,” according to the Irish Independent.

One unique quirk of the BRITs is its trophies. Since 2011, the winner's statuette has been redesigned by various British architects and designers, including Vivienne Westwood, Damien Hirst and Anish Kapoor.

The first ceremony was held in 1977, then called the British Record Britannia Centenary Awards. 11 million people tuned in to watch both the centenary celebration of Thomas Edison inventing sound recordings and the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, as they gave out trophies to those who shaped British music culture in the past 25 years. This explains why the Beatles won Best British Group and Album for “Sgt. Pepper Lonely Hearts Club Band,” even though the band broke up

in 1970 and the album was released in 1967.

From 1985 to 1989, the ceremony was broadcast live to the public. That is, until a disastrous 1989 ceremony, where presenters Mick Fleetwood and Sam Fox missed cues, announced incorrect winners and Michael Jackson's pre-recorded acceptance speech was completely forgotten about, prompted the BPI to record future events and broadcast

them for the following night. A good call given some of the stuff that happened in future ceremonies.

In the 1992 ceremony, electronic band The KLF opened the show alongside grindcore metal band Extreme Noise Terror. Both groups delivered a chaotic performance, which ended with The KLF's Bill Drummond firing blanks from a vintage machine gun into the audience. The event

signaled their exit from the music industry, as they concluded the performance with “Ladies and gentlemen, The KLF have now left the music business.”

In 1998, Danbert Nobacon of Chumbawamba dumped a bucket of ice water over Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott. Not because Prescott was partaking in the ice bucket challenge, but more as an act of protest from Chumbawamba

against the Labour Party government of the time.

Even after the program returned to a live broadcast after 2006, it still had moments like Adele brandishing a middle finger towards the crowd after her acceptance speech was cut off 30 seconds in, even though she was accepting the show's most coveted prize, British Album of the Year.

The BRITs award several dozen categories per year, albeit not on the same scale as the Grammys, who gave out 96 trophies in 2026. It's a condensed list of awards mainly focused on celebrating British artists. Awards include the “Big Four” you'll find in the Grammys, and the genre awards are slim pickings, only awarding the best genre act. There are also awards for international artists outside of the U.K. for best artist, group and song.

Across 45 ceremonies, Robbie Williams holds the record for most BRITs awards, with 13 as a solo artist and five as a member of Take That. Adele is the most awarded female act with 12 statuettes to her name. Coldplay hold the distinction for the most awarded British group with nine BRITs. U2 and Prince hold the mantle for most wins by an international act, with seven apiece.

The 2026 ceremony will be held on Feb. 28, hosted by comedian Jack Whitehall. Olivia Dean and Lola Young, both newly awarded Grammy-winning artists, lead the nominations with five apiece. Other nominees of note are Jim Legxacy for both Best R&B and Hip-Hop act, Cynthia Ervio and Ariana Grande's duet “Defying Gravity” for Song of the Year and PinkPantheress for Best Dance Act.

The BRITs may not be the biggest, most prestigious or flamboyant music awards show, but it has carved out its own unique niche amongst heavy hitters and has struck a chord with the British public, seen in the millions of people who still tune in. That's all I've got for this week, so come back in two weeks' time to see what else I'll talk about to close out this frigid February!



Sabrina Carpenter's performance at the 2025 BRIT Awards. This year's ceremony will be held on Feb. 28.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIT AWARDS ON FACEBOOK

MIRACLE CUP DOG YOGA ELECTRIFIES STUDENT UNION BALLROOM

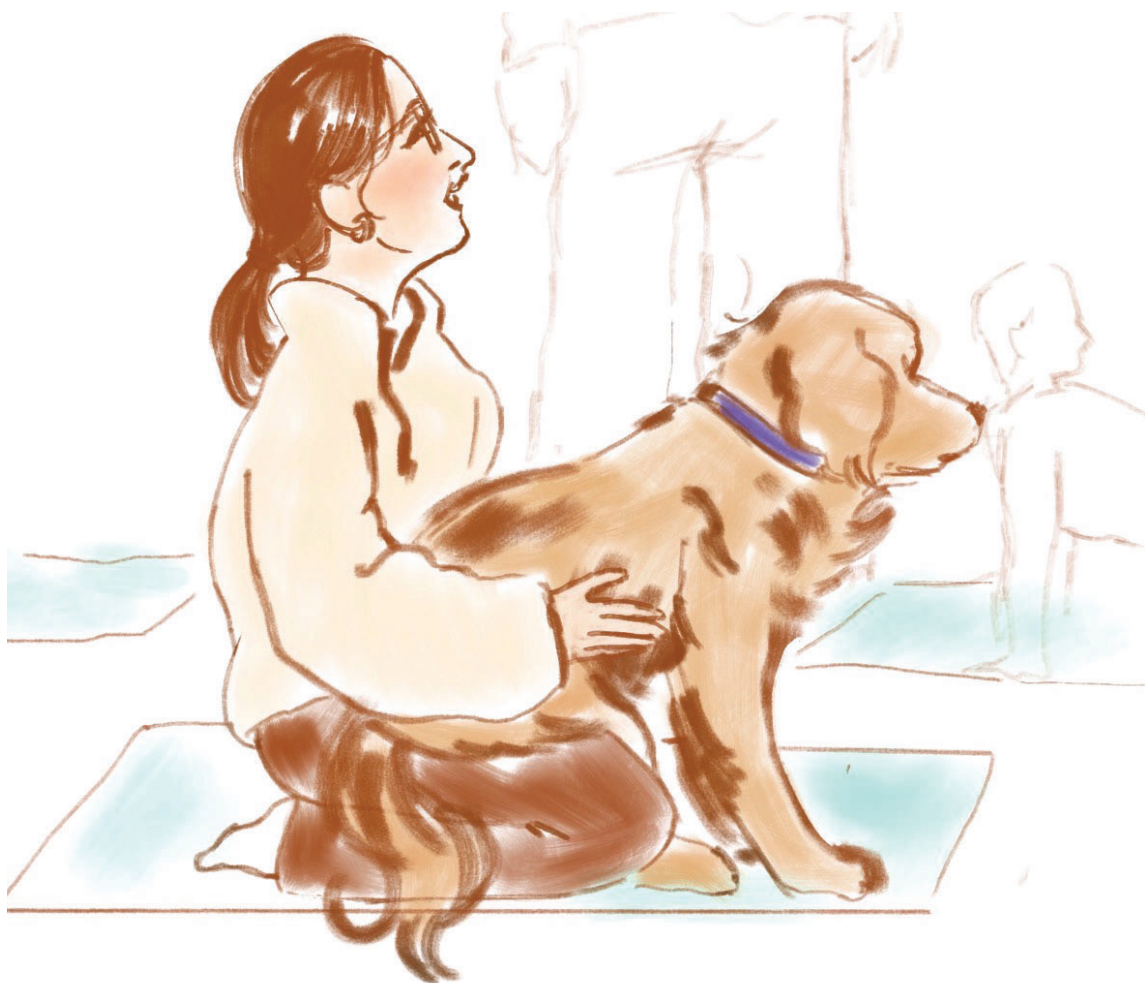


ILLUSTRATION BY ALEXA PAPPAS, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Students participate in dog yoga in the Student Union Ballroom on Feb. 2, 2026. UConn's Campus police K9 Jazmine as well as Canine Companions support the event by walking during the class and enjoying students' company. PHOTO BY MORGAN BLANCHARD, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Jaylyn Davis
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On Feb. 2, dogs and dozens of UConn students came together to participate in Miracle Cup Dog Yoga. The event was hosted by HuskyThon and Canine Companions, two organizations at UConn. The three dogs who took part in the event were Gunther, Nidu and Officer Jazmine. Officer Jazmine is one of UConn's astonishing police dogs, and Gunther and Nidu are from Canine Companions.

What better way to end a stressful day of classes than to do some yoga with puppies?

As students flooded the Student Union Ballroom floor with their yoga mats and towels, the three dogs walked around the ballroom, saying "hi" to everyone who came to do some yoga with them. Dog yoga participants had the opportunity to meet the dogs and share some puppy love with them.

Once the event began, participants remained on their mats and towels, performing yoga moves such as the table pose, the rabbit pose and the cobra pose. As the participants performed yoga, the dogs weaved their way around the participants, greeting them and allowing them to stroke their soft fur. Not only did the dogs constantly walk around the participants, but the participants performed yoga moves with dog-related names, such as downward dog and the 3-dog pose.

Miracle Cup Dog Yoga was an uplifting experience for all who came and participated, according to Abby Harding, an eighth-semester Honors student at UConn.

"It was a lot of fun," she said. "It makes yoga more fun when there's dogs around."

Eighth-semester student Brianna Ashton, who studies speech, language and hearing sciences, declared the event was a nifty experience.

"I thought it was really fun," she said. "I think it's a great way to get people to come to stuff."

Laura Solomon, a sixth-semester Elementary Education student, said that she liked "that there were so many people who came," adding on that "it made it more fun with a big group of people because you're having fun with the dogs but also just with everyone."

Reilly Hazard, a sixth-semester Actuarial Science student and the vice president of Canine Companions, said that the event was an exceptional experience for the dogs who took part in making the yoga experience a "doga" experience.

"They have a great time getting to meet a whole bunch of different people and spend time with the UConn community," she said.

Miracle Cup Dog Yoga event was a tremendous way to promote community within the UConn campus. Not only were the students who took part in the event able to connect with one another, but the dogs also got to meet tons of new people and form early connections with them.

Miracle Cup Dog Yoga was not the last time that UConn students will be able to see Gunther, Nidu and Officer Jazmine. Officer Jazmine tends to appear in numerous places here and there, so students will have plenty of chances to see her. And to further connect with Gunther and Nidu, students can join Canine Companions, where training sessions, games and many other opportunities are offered for the members of the organization to interact with the puppies and form connections with them.

BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE:

A GUIDE TO STAYING IN ON THE WEEKENDS

by Eva Nyquist
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Now that it's February, we're officially in the worst throes of winter. The temperature is masquerading as a fine twenty degrees when the real "feels like" temperature clocks in at a whopping zero or below. If that on its own wasn't bad enough, the wind is making sure you feel it by spraying the snow and salt back into your face. You slip more than walk down the unshoveled sidewalks and try to pretend that the dirty slush is sand. Your ears and fingers still sting under your hat and gloves. If you hope that the sun will be any relief, it won't, because it sets at 4:30 p.m.

It's painful to go outside. So... don't. Stay in.

That's easy enough on the weekdays, when rotting away in your bed feels earned after a hard day of classes and pages upon pages of assigned reading. On the weekends, that might feel too unproductive, and though rest is good, it can get old after the fourth hour of doomscrolling. Luckily, weekends aren't just for going out; there are a lot of fun alternatives to keep you sane while surviving the subzero weather indoors.

First, make sure you have a healthy stock of snacks. Make a detour to Price Chopper during the week and load up on all the candy and chips your heart desires. Having nothing to munch on while stuck in your room can make you even more miserable, so fill your fridge as if you're preparing for a snowstorm (which you might be, with our luck).

Now let's review your hobbies. Being stuck indoors gives you the perfect excuse to indulge in your solo interests. Are you a casual film bro? Start that movie or show you've been meaning to watch and log all your pretentious thoughts on Letterboxd. Do

you like crafts? Make some door decorations, knit a scarf to keep you warm or crochet a stuffed animal. If you like video games, try to 100% your favorite or start a playthrough of a new download. Maybe you want to try painting or read something from the bookstore, or even something more niche like woodcarving. Your options are endless!

If you instead want to feel productive, try doing work... on yourself. Self-care is an easy way to fill your time and make yourself feel better, physically and emotionally. Give yourself a spa day or try out a new skin-care routine; model a bunch of different outfits in the mirror that you haven't had the guts to wear out yet.

Or, maybe you're tired of being alone and want to replicate that feeling of community you get from going out with your friends. The good news about this weather is that everyone else is also stuck inside. So, migrate a short distance to your friend's room and suddenly your roster of activities has expanded tenfold. Play a card or board game (UNO and Monopoly will keep you busy a while and get you energized), watch a movie or start binging a show on your laptop, bake some microwavable cookies, collaborate on your assignments or just gossip. Schedule these hangouts regularly and pick an activity in advance to give yourself something to look forward to.

If you're adamant about getting out of your dorm for one reason or another, there are plenty of other places on or around campus that can provide respite from the cold and your boredom. Bundle up and take advantage of what's near to you — or the UConn buses, if you don't mind waiting.

Take a short walk to the Student Union on Friday evenings to enjoy the activities offered at Late Night, including snacks, karaoke and crafts. If you just need a change of atmosphere,



Students playing bingo and drinking tea at a "Bridgerton" themed Late Night in the Student Union. Finding indoor activities over the weekends can help you stay warm this winter. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNSTUDENTACTIVITIES ON INSTAGRAM

the Union also has plenty of cozy seating perfect for studying or scrolling. If you're feeling hungry, the Beanery has some great warm food and drink items, including delicious hot chocolate.

Clubs and other student organizations on campus are likely to be hosting events throughout the week and weekends, so try to catch a few of these, too. You might meet a few new friends or discover a new interest!

In short, make the most of your time inside — you don't always get a free excuse to sit in your room all day. Clean your desk, pick up a hobby and take time for yourself. Try not to let the winter depression consume you.

If you like none of these suggestions, you could always just do your homework... but that might be worse than the biting zero-degree wind.

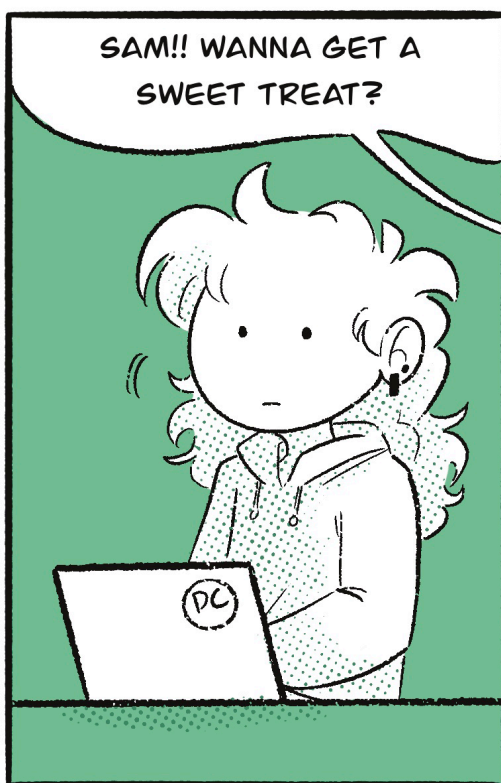


Students crafting in a McMahon Residence Hall lounge. There are many ways to spend downtime during the frigid weather. PHOTO BY CRISTIAN WELCOME, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Life

COMICS



CARTOON BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Roundtable: The Muppets are back!

Jim Henson's Muppets have been an iconic piece of pop culture history since their creation in 1955 and have never quite left the public consciousness. Although Disney's Muppets haven't had a regular media slot for some time, they're coming back in a big way with a brand-new special, featuring pop star Sabrina Carpenter. The writers of the Life section have come together to share their takes.

Maleena Muzio, she/her/hers, Associate Life Editor, maleena.muzio@uconn.edu

The Muppets were personally always a staple of my childhood. I still remember going to see "Muppet*Vision 3D" at Disney's Hollywood Studios when I was a little girl, purchasing a Miss Piggy plushie in the gift shop shortly after. That being said, Miss Piggy has always been and will always be my favorite Muppet. Although my grandma always found her obnoxious, Miss Piggy was an early idol for me — embodying a strong personality while still being hyper feminine, presenting herself as a powerful diva. Her yearning lover, Kermit, is also a Muppet that I hold near and dear to my heart.

As for the films, "The Muppets" (2011) is the best in my book; maybe because it came out when I was a kid, or maybe because it features the incredible original song "Man or Muppet" performed by Jason Segal. An honorable mention is "Kermit's Swamp Years" (2002), which I think no one other than my sister and I have seen, but is a cute flashback into Kermit's

early life, which played on repeat during road trips of my younger years.

Patrick Boots, he/him/his, Campus Correspondent, patrick.boots@uconn.edu

The Muppets remain a small miracle of joy: absurd, sincere and endlessly humane, reminding us that silliness and wisdom often arrive hand in hand.

When it comes to my favorite work of the furry troupe, hands-down it's "The Muppet Movie" from 1979: The original story of how the group banded together while trying to escape the greedy Doc Hopper. Highlights also include masterful celebrity cameos and the soundtrack, primarily written by Paul Williams — The "Movin' Right Along" and "Can You Picture That?" sequences especially.

With so many zany characters, it is even hard to pick a favorite — yet, I'll say Guy Smiley from "Sesame Street," the self-proclaimed "America's Favorite Game Show Host" played by Jim Henson. Inspiration is a heavy word, but Smiley's can-do spirit (in the funniest of contexts) speaks to me.

If you haven't seen it, check out the prime-time "Secrets of the Muppets" special. It's a peek behind, or below, the curtain with backstage film from "The Muppet Show" and a number of latter-day projects like "The Storyteller." It really is cool!

Logan De la Rosa, he/him/his, Campus Correspondent, logan.de_la_rosa@uconn.edu

For my favorite Muppet, I'd have to go with the main man: Kermit. Yeah, I know, basic answer, but who doesn't love the guy? There's something very endearing about how he deeply loves both his job and coworkers but is also experiencing extreme stress from it and their constant shenanigans.

His design is also incredibly charming, hardly changing from his first appearance in the '50s — even going so far as to still retain the original handmade ping-pong eyes and somewhat derpy face.

As far as my favorite Muppet projects, I've got a huge soft spot for the 2015 "The Muppets" parody of "The Office." Shoutout to the five other people that know it exists.

Also, please watch the Muppet-adjacent "The Dark Crystal" if you haven't. It's peak '80s dark fantasy and has consistently traumatized kids for over forty years.

Alex Klancko, he/him/his, Campus Correspondent, ivb24001@uconn.edu

My favorite Muppet has to be Beaker. The lovable meeper who has every experiment under the sun tried on him. Some of my favorite Beaker moments are the hair tonic experiment, his performance of "Feelings" by Morris Albert and the photocopy machine fiasco where he gets copied over and over again and hunts Dr. Benson Honeydew.

Another one of my favorite characters is the Chef. He just throws food all over the place and it's really funny. His theme song is also iconic for all the right reasons. My favorite moment of his is when he chases the chicken around the kitchen.

Two other characters I enjoy a lot are Animal and Gonzo. Animal is a really good drummer who is overall erratic and insane and Gonzo is a stunt maniac. Gonzo's stunts are the best with my

favorite being when he caught the cannonball in episode 223.

Jaylyn Davis, she/her/hers, Contributor, iue25001@uconn.edu

If I had to choose a Muppet to be my favorite, I'd choose Kermit the Frog. It may be an obvious answer, but Kermit's bright green color reminds me of the environment, which is currently getting polluted by greenhouse gases and global warming. Besides his color, Kermit's frog species reminds me of all the poor amphibians and aquatic animals that are currently suffering from plastic and other toxic chemicals getting dumped into the oceans. In my opinion, Kermit is a very important symbol of climate advocacy. If we all like Kermit, then we should save the animals that are just like him.

In addition to Kermit, I love "Sesame Street" as my favorite Muppet project because it's the only Muppet project I've ever watched. But nonetheless, the show has very iconic characters like Elmo, Big Bird, Cookie Monster and many more that'll make your day.



ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTIAN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Opinion

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girl, uninterrupted: girl, get audacious.

by **Gianna Cassino**
WEEKLY COLUMNIST
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If you're anything like me, you start every new year with a vision board and an extensive list of goals to accomplish. We're a full month into 2026, but how much have you actually done to chase your goals?

You know what you want. That's the easy part. Now it's time to actually get it. Too often, we ignore opportunities by magnifying minor obstacles: not meeting all the requirements for a job, discovering an internship application a day after the deadline, or being scared to "bother" someone who's older and more successful with an email.

My advice? Just ask. So many of us, especially young women, don't lobby for ourselves because we're afraid of negative perception. Asking for a raise or an extension on a deadline seems like asking for too much, even when we know we deserve or need these things. When women have audacity, we're often mislabeled as power-hungry or entitled. When men have audacity, they're just marketing themselves. Putting yourself out there

seems reserved for overconfident corporate guys and your grandfather who believes the path to employment is simply walking into an office building and slapping a resume down. Audacity feels exclusive, reserved for those with experience or success, but it doesn't have to be that way.

There are people out there with half your capabilities getting exactly what you want. Audacity is the only thing separating you from them. You can be the most qualified person in the room, but if you don't make that clear and actively seek opportunity, you won't get anywhere. Closed mouths don't get fed, and to succeed you need a little audacity.

When I say, "be audacious",

I don't mean "be rude". Audacity isn't necessarily a negative trait (in fact, it was used to describe the bold-

respect, and shooting for goals that may seem unrealistic while remaining genuine and respectful. Most people are more than willing to help you get what you want as long as you approach them with kindness.

Say you need to take a class with a certain professor, but it's full. A straightforward, polite email detailing your situation can go a long way. Worst case scenario: the professor now knows your name and may recognize you if you get into their class in the future.

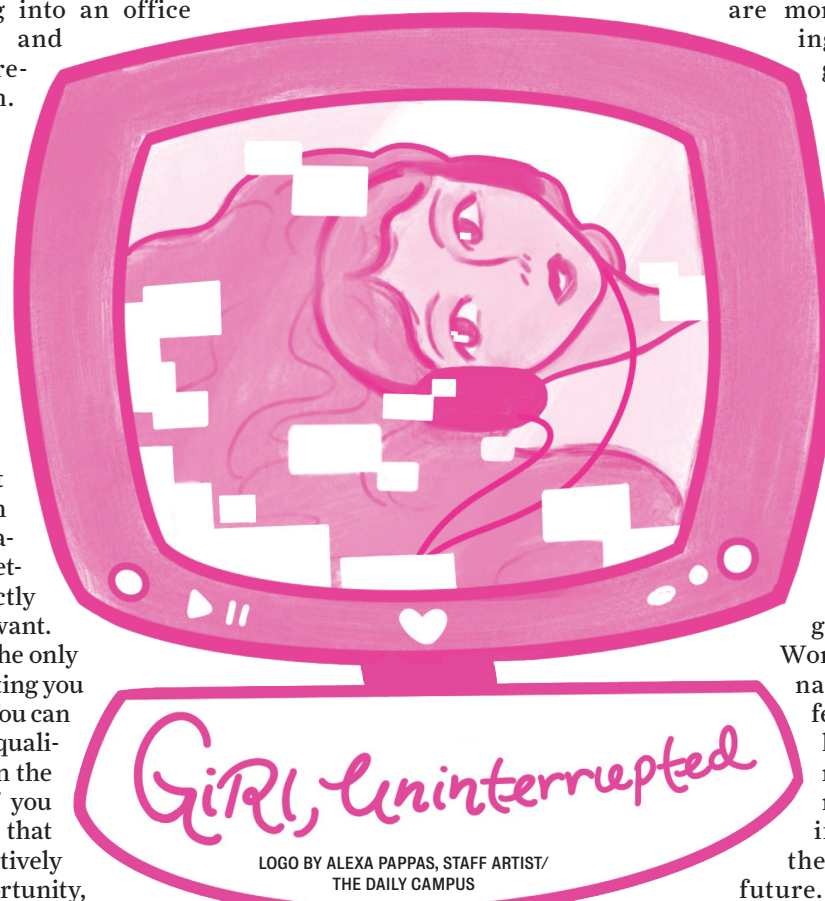
It may seem uncomfortable, but cold emailing and outright asking is rarely looked down upon. If you care enough to personally re-

quest something, the assumption is that you'll work hard once you've gotten it. Showing genuine interest creates a connection with the people in charge, and they'll be much more inclined to help you out.

Don't get me wrong; this doesn't guarantee immediate success. More often than not, though, you'll benefit even if the outcome isn't exactly what you pictured. As my high school acting teacher used to say, you don't have to book the job, just book the room. Even if you don't get exactly what you asked for, being confident and memorable can open a number of doors later down the line.

In the past few months, just asking nicely has changed my life. I've gotten networking opportunities, higher grades, entry to upper-level classes and even my job writing for The Daily Campus. I don't regret any of it.

So, send that cold email. Apply for that internship even though you're not sure you're totally qualified. Go for goals that seem completely unrealistic. Put more energy out into the world, and you'll get more back in return. Your voice is just as important as anyone else's, so don't be afraid to use it.



LOGO BY ALEXA PAPPAS, STAFF ARTIST/
THE DAILY CAMPUS

UConn students attending the first day of the UConn Career Fair. Several companies visited UConn on Tuesday as students look at jobs and internships.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Opinion

Photo of the Day | The snow is finally starting to melt a little



Students make their way through the snow on a pleasantly warm February day. UConn's first full week of school during the spring semester is officially under way.

PHOTO BY ALEXANDER RENZULLI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Lesbians don't owe you an explanation

by Addison Riccoboni

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Lesbian normalization has been progressing for decades. It moves alongside queer movements like the Stonewall uprising and the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights to work towards a more inclusive society. Working towards equality is never-ending, though. While progress is more often associated with more substantial acts of activism, smaller acts also shape norms, and not all in the right direction. They may quietly amplify discrimination, building on sexism and pushing “heteronorms” to the forefront of queer visibility. As acceptance in the lesbian community has shifted throughout time, one standard has remained the same: a masculine and feminine woman make a lesbian relationship. The idealization of certain dynamics reveals the deep-rooted misogyny that still runs rampant regarding relationships that don't center men.

The greater society still believes in traditional gender roles and the appearance of such, no matter the relationship. These expectations don't escape lesbians, for which these gender roles mimic masculine and feminine roles. But what defines being “masc” or “femme”? To many, a masculine woman is expected to uphold traditional “male” roles. This consists of a less feminine clothing style: swapping a dress for a suit, short-shorts for longer jorts, or shopping in the men's section. For a femme, society's expectations are to play the same role in a lesbian relationship as in a straight one, following traditional “female” gender roles. “Lipstick lesbian” is a derogatory term often associated with these women, explained as “a lesbian with a female gender expression... who is seen as automatically passing for heterosexual.” This follows femme lesbians everywhere they go, and a woman who strays from such norms is seen as less of a woman by

the heterosexual population. But what about androgynous women? An androgynous lesbian woman is often seen as being unable to fulfill either “requirement.”

Lesbians are expected to be hyper-feminine or hyper-masculine because our hetero-

familiar and “normal.” Furthermore, these standards make it easier for society to dismiss relationships that do not closely follow them. A relationship between two masculine presenting women may be seen as uncomfortable or unnatural. Similarly,

acknowledged by heterosexuals as legitimate. Even so, the masc-femme dynamic doesn't come without issues; it allows for homophobic, or even just unassuming people, to ask questions like “so who's the boyfriend?”

The concept of being expected

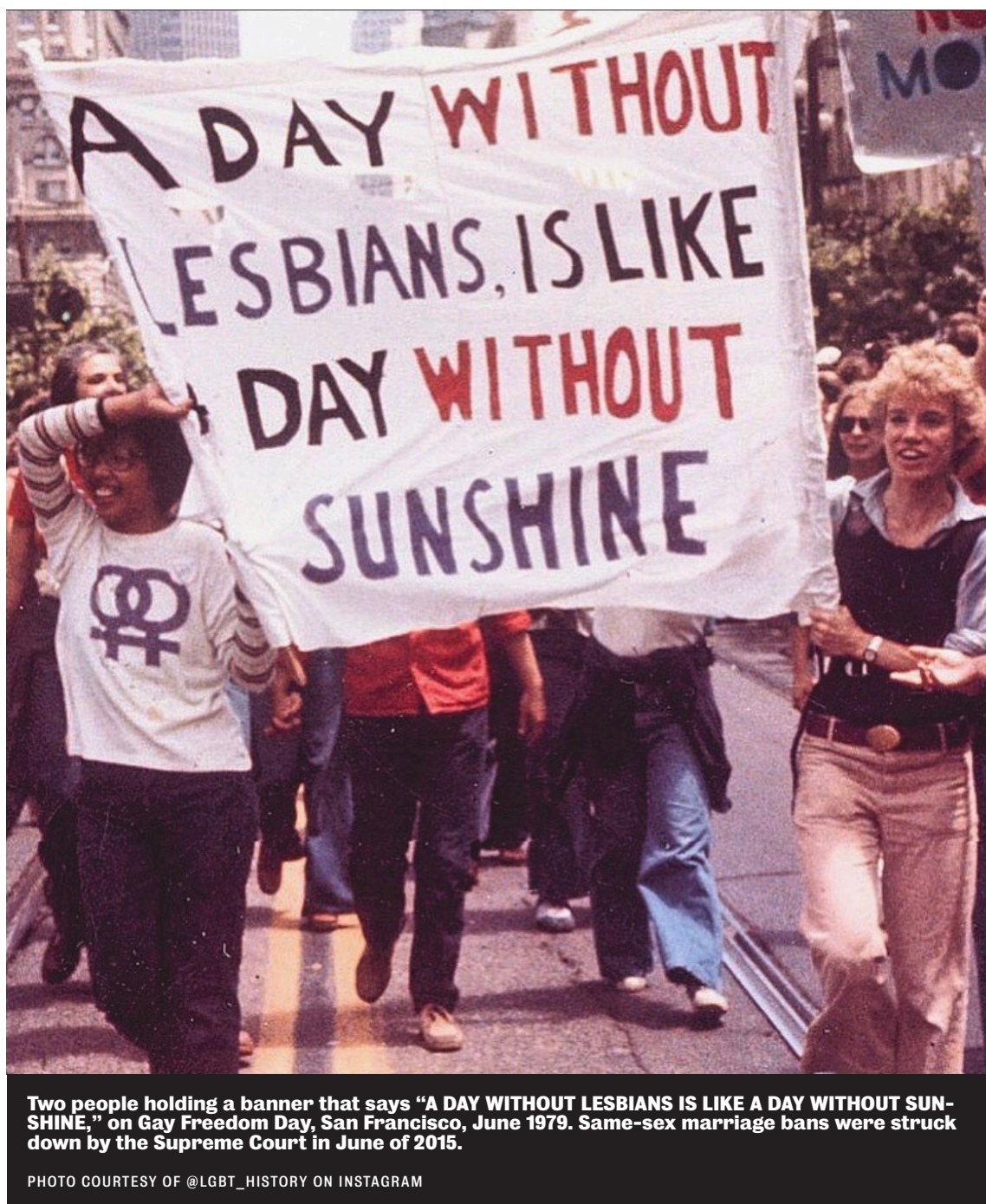
from tradition. Why is this? After all, a masc-femme relationship, in the eyes of heterosexuals, is the closest thing to a straight relationship – that's the only reason it's more accepted.

What isn't acknowledged is that despite appearing more “heterosexual”, the dynamic is not even remotely similar to that of a woman and a man in a relationship. Both women, no matter if femme-femme, masc-femme, masc-masc, or let alone anything or anyone in between, break from the “norm” of traditional female roles. This patriarchal need to visually maintain masculinity proves that society cannot yet interpret women without men.

This misogyny doubles as an act of homophobia. Though not as intense as some examples of queer hate, it allows for the smaller instances, the ones that lead people to believe homophobia acceptable, to slip through the cracks. Something as simple as having a “standardized” lesbian relationship harms all lesbians. Those who fit into the dynamic may feel trapped, and those who do not feel locked out. Extending acceptance to only straight-resembling couples is not progressive; it's crushing progress from the inside out.

Although there should be a push for acceptance of all variations of lesbian relationships, there's nothing wrong with a masculine woman being attracted to a feminine woman, or vice-versa. Claiming that this dynamic is less-than would create the same setbacks that are being argued against. But that's the whole point. What's wrong is the internalized need to conform to a society that does not accept queerness to begin with. No relationship should be judged based on its resemblance to a straight couple. It's not “only acceptable” when a masculine and feminine woman are present.

All lesbian relationships are worthy of the same level of respect, and a step towards seeing all relationships as equal is a step away from expecting heteronormativity.



Two people holding a banner that says “A DAY WITHOUT LESBIANS IS LIKE A DAY WITHOUT SUNSHINE,” on Gay Freedom Day, San Francisco, June 1979. Same-sex marriage bans were struck down by the Supreme Court in June of 2015.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @LGBT_HISTORY ON INSTAGRAM

normative society still relies heavily on gender roles to legitimize relationships. These extremes exist to push one person to act as “the man” and the other as “the woman” in an attempt to make the relationship seem more

a relationship between two feminine appearing women is observed as less than a relationship, or even just a close friendship. A relationship between a masc and femme woman is the “ideal” lesbian relationship and is the most

to both follow and break gender roles in a relationship that breaks them in every other instance is just another form of misogyny; a method of controlling women. Society in general is uncomfortable with the idea of women being able to stray

MONEYBALL WEEKLY:

THE TERRIBLE TENURE OF THE NASHVILLE PREDATORS' BARRY TROTZ

by Jack Yadlon
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On Tuesday, it was announced that Nashville Predators' General Manager Barry Trotz would be soon retiring from his job, marking the near end of one of the worst tenures in NHL history.

Back in 2023, it was announced that longtime general manager David Poile would be stepping down after being with the team since its inception in 1998. Though Nashville still has yet to win it all, Poile built a team which made the playoffs in 15 of his final 19 years in office.

Nashville announced the successor to be Trotz, the head coach from the team's inception all the way through the 2013-14 season. Trotz guided the Washington Capitals to a Stanley Cup win in 2018, followed by two eastern conference finals appearances with the New York Islanders.

Trotz had been an advisor to Poile for a season to learn the job better, but moving from a coach to a GM so quickly is extremely uncommon due to the risks of inexperience.

Poile still drove the draft but upon reaching free agency Trotz took the reins, with a class headlined by Gustav Nyquist and Ryan O'Reilly.

Many expected the Predators to sell at the upcoming deadline, considering their 27-25-2 record. The core that had taken them to a cup final was all but gone, with only five players left, and with goaltender Juuse Saros only having one more year on his contract and a top 15 draft pick in Yaroslav Askarov waiting for a chance, the anchor of the roster seemed as good as gone.

That February, the team had plans to go to a U2 concert while in Vegas.

But a 9-2 loss to Dallas caused Head Coach Andrew Brunette to call this off.

Nashville went 16-0-2 in their next 18 games, marking the longest point streak in franchise history.

The talks of selling at the deadline were quickly marked as dead. Nashville made the playoff in the first wild card, though they lost to Vancouver in round one.

Concerns lingered when looking past the incredible 18-game stretch, but Trotz chose to ignore the flaws and just start buying in the off-season.

Trotz brought in 30-year-old defenseman Brady Skjei on a seven-year deal, 34-year-old forward Steven Stamkos on an eight-year deal and 33-year-old forward Jonathan Marchessault on a five-year deal. Stamkos received the highest average annual value in the free agency class, Skjei at fourth and Marchessault ninth.

Saros received an eight-year extension while Askarov was



General Manager Barry Trotz of the Nashville Predators on the ice with a player. On Tuesday, it was announced that Trotz will be retiring from his position.
PHOTO COURTESY OF TENNESSEAN ON FACEBOOK



Former general manager of the Nashville Predators', Barry Trotz, standing with David Poile, former Predators' president of hockey operations and general manager. Trotz will be retiring from his job as the Nashville Predators' general manager.
PHOTO COURTESY OF TENNESSEAN ON FACEBOOK

traded to the San Jose Sharks for picks and prospects.

All of these contracts included clauses, three of which being full no-move clauses.

Despite the bold moves, the concerns remained. Almost every single returning core player was coming off a career year, some of which being far beyond what they had ever done before, while the new acquisitions all fell on the wrong side of thirty.

Unfortunately for the Predators, these flaws proved to be right.

Marchessault's scoring halved to 21 from the prior year's 42, Skjei's points went down from 47 to 33, and Stamkos dropped from 81 all the way down to 53.

It doesn't get better when it comes to the returning members. While both were still productive, Filip Forsberg and Roman Josi fell notably in production, and Josi missed a decent portion of the year due to injury.

Saros saw his save percentage drop below .900, meaning his heroics that had bailed the team out on multiple occasions the prior year were nonexistent.

Nyquist saw the biggest drop of anybody, going from 75 points on the year to just 28. Though his prior season remains an outlier in his career, he fell even below what his expectations had been before his career year.

Nashville chose to sell off underperforming parts at the deadline, moving both Nyquist and Tommy Novak, who looked like he broke out the year prior but, like many others, failed to meet expectations.

The result of the year was a brutal 30-44-8 record and 30th in the league in what was marketed as the leap to true contention.

To add insult to injury, Nashville fell from third to fifth in the draft lottery.

A far less aggressive offseason has now culminated to a 27-23-6 record as the deadline approaches.

Trotz had originally planned to retire after next year but instead will help the team look for his replacement. As a result of his retirement not being imminent, he'll still be behind the wheel for the trade deadline.

The structure of the team would warrant a fire sale to begin the rebuild that was expected two years ago, but the structure of contracts prevents that.

Also, with a weak bottom of the western conference, the Preds only sit three points out of the playoffs.

Regardless of this year's outcome, Trotz's time as GM is a warning sign to other teams about the danger of trying to buy a championship, proving that building a quality core takes time and that jumping the gun only leads to a bigger mess.

Sports

Photo of the Day | Men's Basketball



UConn men's basketball takes on Villanova at PeoplesBank Arena on Jan 24, 2026. Both teams were tied 61-61 at the end of the second half, but the Huskies topped the Wildcats in overtime, winning 75-67.

PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

ATTENTION SPORTS FANS: PREPARE FOR THE SPORTS CALENDAR TO BREAK THE INTERNET

by **Elliot Koplas**
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Within the next five months, sports fans will get to witness the Olympics, Super Bowl, March Madness, World Cup and so much more.

The real question is, though, how can we process all these events? We can sit back, kick up our feet, and enjoy!

Winter Olympics

On Feb. 6, the Winter Olympics start in Milan & Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy. The opening ceremony will take place at Milan's San Siro Stadium, with the closing ceremony taking place on Feb. 22 at Verona's Roman Arena.

This year, over 2,900 athletes will compete from over 90 countries in 16 sports for 116 medal events, according to the official Olympics' website.

One of the events to keep an eye on is the new Ski mountaineering event, also called "Skimo." This event consists of athletes ascending with and without skies, depending on the steepness, followed by a descent.

There will be three events for it, including men's and women's individual sprints and a mixed relay involving one male and one female athlete.

The Olympics will be streamed on NBC and Peacock.

Super Bowl

Two days later, we have Super Bowl LX with the (16-3) Seattle Seahawks taking on the (17-3) New England Patriots. The game will be played at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, Calif. This will be a rematch of Super Bowl XLIX, when the Patriots won on a last-second interception at the goal line, taking the 28-24 win.

Arguably one of the worst play calls in the history of the Super Bowl, the Seahawks will look for payback this year.

The Patriots open as the underdogs, as no one saw them making it this far. This year, they are known for having the easiest schedule in the league, but they are still taking down the top defenses in the NFL.

The Seahawks have cruised through the past few weeks, defeating the top teams in the country, which should lead to an exciting Super Bowl.

College Baseball

Feb. 13 is the opening day of college baseball. With many young athletes looking to make their name known under the lights, the first hit of the bat should be a signal to fans that a brand-new season of college

baseball is coming. The college baseball World Series will take place in Omaha, Neb., on June 12.

World Baseball Classic

A few weeks later, the biggest stage of baseball will be on display at the World Baseball Classic on March 5. The stage will be played in multiple cities, including Tokyo, San Juan, Houston and Miami, with the championship game being played on March 17 at Loan Depot Park in Miami. This event is held every four years, with the best players in the world representing their country based on heritage or citizenship.

March Madness

Two weeks later, college basketball explodes in its biggest month of the year. March Madness has opening tipoffs on March 17 and 18 with the First Four games. Following that, 64 teams will compete for the title, showing Cinderella runs, bracket busters and buzzer beaters. The Final will take place on April 6 at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

Get ready, maybe this year you can finally get that perfect bracket!

Opening Day

Continuing with baseball, we have the Opening Day on March 26. The New York Yankees will face the San Francisco Giants on March 25, for a standalone Opening Night. The Opening Day schedule for the next day will feature a 14-game slate. According to MLB.com, this will be the earliest scheduled Opening Day in MLB history.

The Masters

The 2026 Masters Tournament will start on April 6. Although the golf tournament begins on April 9, the week includes practice rounds and the Par 3 contest on the 6th. Returning champion Rory McIlroy looks to defend the Green Jacket at Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia.

NHL and NBA Playoffs

A few weeks later, the greatest post-season tournaments begin. The NHL and NBA playoffs are scheduled to start in late April, drawing in millions of viewers.

With fast-paced and exciting hockey, mixed with dramatic NBA playoffs, fans will be hoping for some nail-biting game sevens.

The finals for both leagues will come in June, with ABC/ESPN showing the NBA and NHL finals.

World Cup

As we enter June, the most viewed sporting event will take

place in America, the World Cup. This will be the first World Cup hosted by three countries.

It will begin on June 11, with the Final on July 19. There will be a total of 16 host cities, with 11 in the US, two in Canada, and three in Mexico. This year, the Cup has expanded to 48 teams instead of the traditional 32. There will be 12 groups of four, with the top two teams from each group advancing to the round of 32 knockout stage.

If the math does not add up, the eight third-place teams across the 12 groups also advance based on a point system, this completes the final 32.

The World Cup Final will be held at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey.

The next few months of sports will not only be busy, but also unforgettable.

With Championships and playoffs consisting of buzzer beaters, grand slams, hole-in-ones, gold medals, game sevens and last-second goals, legacies will be written.

The only thing you can do to prepare is clear your schedule and get ready to witness history.



Madison Chock and Evan Bates from Team USA's Figure Skating team practicing before the 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy. The Winter Olympics are set to begin on Feb. 6, with the closing ceremony scheduled for Feb. 22.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TEAM USA ON FACEBOOK



WOMEN'S

BASKETBALL:

CONNECTICUT GEARS UP TO TAKE ON BLUE DEMONS IN CHICAGO

by **Avery Becker**
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After defeating their long-time rivals in the Tennessee Lady Vols, 96-66 on Sunday, the top-ranked UConn Huskies (23-0, 12-0) are gearing up to take on the DePaul Blue Demons (5-19, 2-11) on Wednesday evening.

Despite being tied at the half on Sunday, UConn rallied back to take the 30-point 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." Head coach Geno Auriemma said to the media post-game, "But it was pretty satisfying, pretty rewarding. I know they're really, really happy."

Against the Vols, two players stood out.

Sarah Strong and Azzi Fudd. Fudd and Strong have been standing out throughout the program's 2025-26 campaign, and combined for 53 points and 16 rebounds, each playing 37 minutes, respectively.

Not only are Strong and Fudd integral to their program's success on the hardwood, but they are also imperative to their teammates off the court, in terms of their leadership.

"Sarah [Strong]'s voice is getting louder. Azzi [Fudd] -- she doesn't use her voice often, but when she does, it's pretty impactful." Auriemma said on Sunday, "To me, it's doing the things that really have to be done right now."

That's what makes the rest of the team go 'yeah, that's why they are who they are.'"

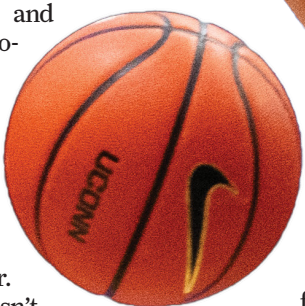
As the Huskies shift to completely playing conference play for the rest of the regular season, the win against Tennessee was fundamental for the Huskies, as they look to stay undefeated.

In terms of the Blue Demons, the Huskies should keep an eye on junior guard Kate Novik, who averages 12.1 points per game.

The last time these two conference foes

need to utilize their full court pressure.

Tip-off between these two Big East foes is scheduled for 8 p.m. at Wintrust Arena in Chicago, Ill. Husky fans can tune in to the game on TruTV.



each other was this season on Dec. 27, where the Huskies took the win 102-35.

In this matchup, the Huskies held Novik to just four points on the day and Strong and Fudd contributed 20 and 16 points to the final score, respectively.

The Blue Demons are coming off back-to-back losses against the No. 2 and No. 3 teams in the Big East and sit in last place in the Big East conference standings. To win, the Huskies will



UConn Husky Sarah Strong shoots a basketball during a game. The Huskies defeated the Tennessee Lady Vols 96-66 on Sunday.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

UConn's Serah Williams faces off against Tennessee's Zee Spearman in an intense game. The Huskies won Sunday's game 96-66.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS