



Storrs music venue 'The Dog Pound' finding new location post-closure

by **Samantha Brody**
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After receiving complaints from the Town of Mansfield and months of closure at their official location, indie DIY music venue The Dog Pound has begun transitioning to a new location.

The Storrs-based collective first began operation in August of 2024, hosting their first show for move-in day of that semester. Beginning in October of 2025, however, the organization began to see pressure from the Town of Mansfield calling for the venue's closure. The Dog Pound's primary location has been inactive since the end of the fall semester.

The Dog Pound had begun receiving communication from the University of Connecticut, the Town of Mansfield and the venue's landlord in request that the organization stop hosting events at their current location, according to founding member Alexa Udell. While the organization had received noise complaints in the past, October was when the group started to see this specific request, Udell said.

"For me, saying that really can't be separated from the context that our previous spot was on, like, Frat Row," Udell said, referring to a neighborhood known for including fraternity houses. "So, it was next to a ton

of houses that were all doing the same thing, and we were the only house that faced that."

Udell is a second-year master's of public policy student at UConn. Udell is also a primary organizer for The Dog Pound and does most of the group's booking, along with making flyers, operating the social media, working sound equipment and making many of The Dog Pound's "big picture" decisions.

The Town of Mansfield was first to receive noise complaints about The Dog Pound, and later contacted UConn, according to Udell. The Dean of Students office notified The Dog Pound to expect a visit from the office to ask that the venue discontinue hosting music events.

Since the venue's closure, The Dog Pound and its members have been looking for a new way for the organization to thrive. For Udell, the official location could never have been permanent.

"It's inherently tenuous to be hosting music events at places like that, and even hosting DIY venues in general is very tenuous," Udell said. "Even established locations, places that were intended to be a venue, sometimes go under. So, taking that into account, I knew that we would have to eventually be adapting."

Without the ability to host events at their official location, Udell and the rest of the team at The Dog Pound needed to

evolve. Current events hosted by The Dog Pound are now held at a separate location, while the organization itself now operates primarily as a booking agency.

"We're really thankful for people for opening their home to us to allow us to host and do things there," Udell said.

Udell and the rest of the team at The Dog Pound have found a venue in Vernon where they plan to begin hosting events again. To begin, Udell hopes to host smaller artists as opposed to the ones The Dog Pound hosted in Storrs, to try and keep the location to smaller crowds.

"It's a lot of work to go and scout out venues and find people who are willing to let you host at their place," Udell said. "But it's really exciting when we're able to get those things going through. I'm always looking for new places to host at, especially in Storrs just because that's where we've been super strongly rooted."

While The Dog Pound has begun expanding its operations, Udell hopes to remain connected to the UConn scene.

"It's really important to us to emphasize the community building aspect of it, I feel like specifically in the queer community at UConn," Udell said. "At UConn, The Dog Pound is very well-known, and it's a very important space for people to be able to go out and have a nice night out without necessar-

ily worrying about a lot of the considerations that you need to have when you're going out as an openly queer person."

For some in the Storrs music scene, The Dog Pound's closure is more than just a venue shutting down. Eddie Dahill, the drummer for Connecticut-based band Ruby Leftstep, saw the organization as an important way of connecting with fans.

"The Dog Pound was a very important presence to us musically and then also socially, because our, I would say 60, 70% of our loyalist fans are all at UConn," Dahill said.

Dahill noted that he had a personal connection to The Dog Pound. When the organization first moved locations at the start of the 2025 fall se-

semester, Dahill helped set up the venue's sound system and even secured discounts from his job at a music store. Additionally, Ruby Leftstep recorded their live album "TED" at this new location in October of this past year.

"It doesn't need to be like this," Dahill said. "You're infinitely safer at The Dog Pound in a mosh pit than you are at a frat, you know, covering your drink the entire night."

"Music will always go on," Dahill said. "They hosted a show where they had shuttle services — like, music will find a way. They'll find a way around the assholes that try and put it down. That's the beauty of it, is that everybody wants it so bad that they'll do anything to get it back."



Photos from a show at Storrs-based DIY live music venue, The Dog Pound. The venue has had to switch locations following complaints from the Town of Mansfield and the University of Connecticut. PHOTO COURTESY OF @THEDOGPOUND ON INSTAGRAM

FIRES AT HORSEBARN HILL, DADDY'S NOODLE BAR

by **Jenna Outcalt**
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A fire broke out at Horsebarn Hill on Feb. 14 around 8 p.m., killing four sheep.

University of Connecticut spokesperson Stephanie Reitz said in an email that UConn firefighters put the fire out before major damage occurred. Reitz also confirmed that there were no reported injuries to the emergency response crews.

The UConn Fire Marshal's Unit is investigating the origin of the fire. Mutual aid crews from Coventry's and Mansfield's fire departments also responded to assist, according to Reitz. Representatives from UConn Facilities Operations, Farm Services and the Building Inspector's Office came to the scene as well.

"UConn's sheep herds are used in the UConn Department of Animal Science's teaching, research, and community extension programs," Reitz said in the email. "There typically are about 90 ewes in the livestock barns along with about 45 beef cows."

Fire crews came to Daddy's Noodle Bar in Downtown Storrs late in the morning on Feb. 15. The restaurant was closed for at least the rest of the day.

Jordan Narotsky, an eighth-

semester allied health major, worked at Dog Lane Café, the neighboring restaurant, that day. She said that because of the connected vents between the two buildings, Dog Lane Café was filled with smoke for a while. The restaurant never closed, but it mainly focused on takeout orders for a while, according to Narotsky.

The Daily Campus will continue to report on the fires as more information becomes available.



Fire crews responding to a smoking building. Mutual aid crews from Coventry and Mansfield fire departments responded to a fire on Horsebarn Hill this past Saturday, with additional crews responding in Downtown Storrs on Sunday, Feb. 15. PHOTO COURTESY OF @WTHNB VIA INSTAGRAM.

BLUMENTHAL HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE TO STAND AGAINST STUDENT LOAN RESTRUCTURING

by **Jenna Outcalt**
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Sen. Richard Blumenthal held a press conference in Hartford, Conn. on Feb. 9 to address federal student loan limits imposed on teaching and social work degrees by the One Big Beautiful Bill.

Blumenthal called the bill "one big betrayal" and said he wondered whether Secretary of Education Linda McMahon was "more the secretary of miseducation."

"If you could imagine a measure that is stupid and cruel, it would be capping the loans that are available to teachers and social workers as they pursue their studies," Blumenthal said.

The One Big Beautiful Bill changed the system for federal student loans based on whether the borrower was pursuing a professional or graduate degree. Blumenthal said these changes could worsen the shortages of educators and social workers, both in the nation and in Connecticut.

"Public service is a calling for teachers and social workers, and the least we can do is enable them to afford financially and have access to the studies they are engaged in doing to acquire the skills that make them productive public servants," he said.



Sen. Richard Blumenthal speaking at the Munich Security Conference. Blumenthal has stated that recent student loan restructuring outlined in the One Big Beautiful Bill could worsen the shortages of educators and social workers.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @SENBLUMENTHAL ON INSTAGRAM

"We need more of them, not fewer. We need to aid them more, not less."

Blumenthal said he has written to McMahon and reached out to colleagues on both sides of the political aisle to address the potential fallout from these changes, as supporting teachers and social workers should not be a

political issue.

Education and social worker advocates also spoke at the press conference. Kate Dias, the president of the Connecticut Education Association and a University of Connecticut graduate, said continued education was important so

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UConn Department of Music jazz recital



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Self-confidence is critical



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No. 6 UConn sweeps Georgetown, Karaban sets program win record

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teachers could set an example for their students about the importance of education.

“Make no mistake, this effort, what is being done to de-professionalize education, is intentional,” Dias said. “With this administration’s efforts, they’re attempting to really identify that education is unnecessary.”

Dias also said this effort was consistent with what has already come from the Trump administration.

“There’s no question that this is a part of a larger scheme to reduce an educated population, to make sure that we can’t question authority because we don’t know how, to make sure we don’t have access to the leadership in classrooms and in schools that would allow our populace to be highly educated

and invested in the democracy that we are all trying to build,” she said.

Dias noted that the Trump administration was targeting a mainly-female industry and said that was also intentional.

Corey Moses, the first vice president of the Hartford Federation of Teachers, said that forcing students to choose between economic survival and following their dream “defeats the basic tenets of American education.”

“This de-professionalization hits at the core that everyone should be able to follow a dream and be economically prosperous. Educators in this vocation took on a vow of charity, not a vow of poverty,” Moses said. “If we wish to have future generations believe in the dream of being anything they put their mind to, we must continue to maintain the professional status of

those that inspire them.”

Dawn Brown is the executive director of Connecticut’s National Association of Social Workers chapter. She thanked Blumenthal for his commitment and advocacy and emphasized that social workers are professionals.

“We have the privilege, and let me say this, the responsibility to work with individuals, families and communities throughout our state,” Brown said. “With the increasing needs of our Connecticut communities, everything from access to food and affordable shelter to advocacy to quality affordable mental health care, there is always a need for more social workers to support our communities, to go from just surviving to ultimately thriving.”

She also said these loan changes would lead to less women and people of color in

professional roles and force people to reach for riskier private student loans.

“In order to maintain a workforce that is representative of the communities we serve, it is imperative to ensure access, availability and affordable loan options are available to support our graduate students in social work and education and other professions that would be impacted,” Brown said.

Brown said the bill could have a detrimental impact on the Connecticut workforce and beyond.

“Let’s make it very clear: we are living in a time where we need more professionals in social work and education, not less,” she said.

Joslyn DeLancey, the vice president of the Connecticut Education Association, said that teachers were “more than professionals” with their pas-

sion and commitment to their practice.

“Removing our professional titles and denying us access to education does not just harm our professions and our colleagues and our future colleagues,” DeLancey said. “It harms every community in our state and our nation, because our educator conditions and expectations are our students’ learning conditions.”

She said they should demand better for their students.

“Your children deserve to have highly educated, skilled individuals serving you and your classrooms,” DeLancey said.

Blumenthal ended the press conference by thanking the participants and restating that the bill’s measures were “cruel and stupid.”

“We’re going to continue this fight,” he said. “We’re not giving up.”



Sen. Richard Blumenthal speaks at a press conference to address federal student loan limits imposed on teaching and social work degrees. The press conference was held in Hartford, Conn. on Feb. 9, 2026.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @SENBLUMENTHAL ON INSTAGRAM

The Daily Campus

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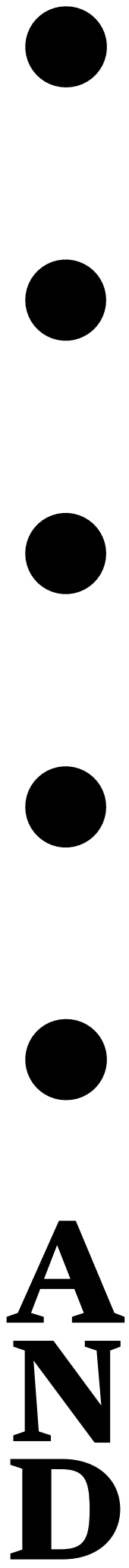
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THE DAILY

CROSSWORD



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By Betsy Ochester & Andrew Gutelle 2/16/26

- DOWN**
- 1 Summer sleepaway site
 - 2 Smell
 - 3 Achy after exercise, say
 - 4 Meas. on the wrapper of a stick of butter
 - 5 "Catch my drift?"
 - 6 "Run ___ now!"
 - 7 "Likewise!"
 - 8 Stone or Iron follower
 - 9 Berate
 - 10 Puffer jacket filler, often
 - 11 Still snoozing
 - 12 Exhilarate
 - 13 Twice four
 - 18 Paint layer
 - 22 Sings like Sarah Vaughan
 - 23 Self-referential
 - 24 Utter mess
 - 25 Three Bears matriarch
 - 26 Mil. truant
 - 27 ___ and rave
 - 28 Nanny's offspring
 - 31 Grimace
 - 32 Directional suffix
 - 33 Amazed
 - 34 ___ Star State
 - 35 River of Florence

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

T	A	P	A	S	B	A	R	S		P	A	B	S	T		
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- 36 Confidentiality contracts, for short
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- 39 Branch of Islam
- 43 The "B" of LBJ
- 44 Airbnb competitor
- 45 Tennis star Sharapova
- 46 Action ___: post-meeting list
- 47 Baby beds
- 48 Peace Palace site, with "The"
- 49 Bozo
- 50 Devoured
- 53 Con
- 54 The Badger St.
- 55 Suit to ___: fit perfectly
- 56 Gomer of TV's Mayberry
- 58 Extinct New Zealand bird
- 59 Food writer Drummond

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SUDOKU

Solution to Saturday's puzzle

2/16/26

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

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

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'Strollin' & Scattin'

FILLS THE VON DER MEHDEN RECITAL HALL WITH JAZZ VIBES

A pianist, bassist and vocalist on stage. All three took performed in a jazz recital called "Strollin' & Scattin'" on Friday, Feb. 13.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JAYLYN DAVIS, CONTRIBUTOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Jaylyn Davis

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On the evening of Friday, Feb. 13, the University of Connecticut Department of Music put on a fabulous jazz recital called "Strollin' & Scattin'."

The recital took place at the von der Mehden Recital Hall, and it starred Hazel Mae Allik on vocals and Andrew Cecarelli on bass. Others who were a part of the recital were Sean Byington on drums, Noah Lafond on the saxophone, Colin Quigley on the guitar, Christopher Rauch on the trombone and Sebastian Rodriguez on the piano.

Five songs were performed, including: "Triste" by Antônio Carlos Jobim, "Joy Spring" by Clifford Brown, "Duke Ellington's Sound of Love" by Charles Mingus, "Slap that Bass" by George Gershwin, "Footprints" by Wayne Shorter and "Spain" by Chick Corea.

"Triste" is Brazilian tune that portrays loneliness and

unrequited love. It consists of a bossa nova style that blends exquisite harmonies and samba rhythms to produce a serene jazz sound. The performance of the song was excellent. Allik's Portuguese was amazing, and her vocals blended in very nicely with the music.

"Joy Spring" is a song featured on Clifford Brown and Max Roach, a Clifford Brown album from 1954. "Joy Spring" includes sequential melodies along with an up-tempo swing feel. The swing feel was present throughout the performance, which was well-done, especially during the exceptional drum solo that Byington had.

"Duke Ellington's Sound of Love" is a song that's considered a tribute to the musical influences of both Duke Ellington and Mingus. The song was written not long after Ellington passed away, and it's an elegant symbol of how jazz musicians inspire each other, especially when it comes to tradition, reverence and history. The song was in-

credibly performed by all the musicians on stage, especially Allik, whose powerful vocals gave an emotional appeal that matched the tone of the song.

"Slap That Bass" is a tune featured in "Shall We Dance," a movie from 1937. The song refers to "slapping," a jazz technique from the 1910s and 1920s in which a musician strikes the strings of a bass against the instrument's fingerboard to produce a sound that sounds like a slap. The song was very riveting. Hazel's vocals and the music filled the recital hall with vibrancy and ebullience.

"Footprints" is a song from the 1960s that is in 6/8 time and is a part of "Adam's Apple," one of Shorter's albums. The song features a bass ostinato that was wonderfully performed by Cecarelli. It also featured a saxophone solo that was amazingly performed by Lafond and a drum solo that was remarkably carried out by Byington.

The final song, "Spain," is a jazz composition that has an

introductory melody that was inspired by the song, "Concierto de Aranjuez," which was written by Spanish composer Joaquín Rodrigo. The original song doesn't have any lyrics. However, a lyrical version of the song was written in 1980 by American vocalist Al Jarreau. Like the five songs that were performed before, "Spain" was beautifully done. Allik's vocals remained powerful throughout the piece, and the key change in the middle was excellent.

There were only a handful of people who attended the recital. However, everybody who attended gave lots of applause at the end of each song.

Jennifer Zhao, a sixth-semester student double-majoring in music and electrical engineering, said the recital was amazing, and it was a marvelous collaboration between Allik and Cecarelli.

"It was absolutely beautiful," Zhao said. "I expected great things from Andy and Hazel. They've worked together in the past and pro-

duced really good performances. Hazel's vocals are beautiful, and Andy's amazing on the bass. I think this is a really cool product that they collaborated on. It was so cool to see both of them take solos across all the pieces, and the music was very beautiful. It almost made me cry."

Shazia Alladin, a fourth-semester student majoring in mechanical engineering, said she really enjoyed the recital.

"It was really, really gorgeous," she said. "I came out to support Andy, but I really loved everyone that was on the stage. There was a lot of really great talent, and they worked really well together. The connections that they have, and their sounds blend so well. It was a really, really great experience."

"Strollin' & Scattin'" was not only a remarkable event, but its emphasis on jazz music is what allows the genre to continue to exist. Jazz music may be over a century old, but events like "Strollin' & Scattin'" keep it alive.

Face the IMPROVABLE with SUBOG

by Ayyan Tamjeed

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Two secret comedy agents faced their toughest mission yet: performing to a crowd of University of Connecticut students at the Student Union Theatre on Wednesday, Feb. 11. They passed their mission with flying colors, as the actors and audience alike experienced fits of laughter throughout the improv comedy show put on by the Student Union Board of Governors (SUBOG).

Donned in dress shirts and khakis, Agents Byron and America of Mission Improvable delivered a delightful improv comedy show — what they called a “mission” — that enthralled the small crowd inside the theater with a multitude of games, skits and scenarios.

One of the first, and arguably funniest, games they played was a four corners game. Both agents and two audience members acted out four distinct scenes, and when Byron yelled “pan left” or “pan right,” they would switch scenes. The scenes were entertaining in their own rights, especially when they started devolving into meta-comedy.

One scene about a couple who painted their bedroom mauve started to meld with a scene about medieval-age peasants looking for rocks, and those same peasants started talking to two heisters who were trying to rob the Louvre.

Audience participation was a through line in the show. The audience had a part in each game the mission IMPROVABLE troupe played, whether it was filling in as additional actors on stage, coming up with one-liners for the secret agents to drop in conversation or creating scenarios that either Byron or America had to deduce the contents of. Speaking of audience

participation, Byron and America welcomed a few members of Scared Script-

less, a no-audition improv comedy club at UConn, to play a few games with them.

“The core of our club is we want there to be a safe space where people can come in for

two hours a week ... [to] just make and build those improv skills and get to play [improv games] with other people,” Valentine Zauls, Vice President of Scared Scriptless and an applied mathematics major, said.

The first game was an elimination type, where all the actors performed a bit about people at a beach encountering a tsunami. The twist was that each time they performed it, some actors left the stage, leaving one person with the Herculean task of performing six to eight parts all by themselves.

Next, actors had to come up with amusing responses to prompts from the audience, whether it was one’s best Michael Jackson impression, the world’s worst pick-up line from a mountain gorilla or the worst things to say at a funeral.

To conclude the mission, Byron and the audience brainstormed three scenarios for America to predict, with his only hints coming from Byron’s excellent pantomime skills and gibberish tongue.

They “talked like Sims” throughout this game, Zauls said.

In the final scenario, Agent America flew with imaginary arms made of Democrats through clouds of ex-girlfriends with The Beatles and a Jehovah’s Witness, and the modest yet mighty crowd erupted into rounds of applause for the two secret comedy agents.

Looking back on the show, Zauls said she liked the theming of it, with the idea of shows as missions and the big countdown the agents did before each game.

“It kind of had an entertainers’ slant to it, and I think it helped keep the audience engaged,” she said. “I feel like they were fantastic improvisers, fantastic comedians. They did a great job engaging with a small crowd.”



A promotional graphic for SUBOG’s Mission Improvable show. The show featured several improv games that emphasized audience participation.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @SUBOGATUCONN ON INSTAGRAM

COMIC BY COLBI LORANGER
ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR / THE DAILY CAMPUS



A FEW YEARS AGO...





Life

Award-winning writers and students share work at UConn's Long River Reading Series

by **Elijah Polance**
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The first Long River Reading Series of the Spring 2026 semester occurred on Wednesday, Feb. 11, featuring readings from the University of Connecticut community.

This iteration of the Long River Reading Series, hosted by UConn's Creative Writing Program, featured readings from Liam Smith, Victoria Ifeolu and Leon Perniciaro at the Philip E. Austin Building's Stern Lounge.

After an overview of upcoming Creative Writing Program events from Luisana Duarte-Armendáriz, the graduate

assistant director for the program, Smith read a selection of poetry work. One of Smith's poems, "Attempting Wallace Stevens in Terms of Ice-Hockey," recently won the Edward R. and Frances Schreiber Collins Literary Prize for poetry, which awarded \$3,000.

Smith said he did not expect to win the award and encouraged anyone at UConn to submit their work to the various Creative Writing Awards offered each year in the fall semester.

Smith's poems blended intricately-captured emotions with vivid everyday scenes. Some of his poem titles and details were inspired by poetry from other writers, including

Ocean Vuong, an acclaimed poet raised in Connecticut.

"Everyone writes in an amalgamation of all their influences," Smith said. "Every time I read a poem and I'm really affected by it, the first thing I try to do is write something similar."

Smith said he was nervous before the reading, anticipating an intimidating crowd. But the experience ended up being more relaxing than he expected, he said.

"I knew a lot of people in the crowd, which was good," Smith said. "Everyone there was super nice, I really enjoyed meeting the other people I was reading with."

The next reading came from Ifeolu, who is pursuing a master's at UConn that involves political science and studies of indigeneity, race and ethnicity. She has published multiple books of poetry and fiction that have won a variety of literary prizes.

Ifeolu read excerpts from the first two chapters of a novel in progress, titled "Embryo Burns." While still in development, the protagonist's voice and the story's medical emphasis was well-polished and came across clearly. After the excerpts, Ifeolu provided context for the rest of the novel with an overall synopsis.

The final reading came from Perniciaro, an English Ph.D. candidate at UConn and part-time faculty member of Quinnipiac University's Game Design and Development Program. He is also the editor of Haven Spec Magazine, an online science fiction and fantasy literary publication that specializes in stories and poetry relevant to a 21st-century audience.

Perniciaro read his short story, "To Taste Again That Bitter Tea," which was published in the literary magazine The Dread Machine in 2022.

Perniciaro's story was an immersive first-person narrative that revolved around a mysterious woman named Clara who always had a teapot on her head. Her unusual behavior, which only gets more erratic, created a constant sense of intrigue and led to an exhilarating ending.

Perniciaro's story was enjoyable and unlike what he typically reads for leisure and class, Ryan Krishna, a sixth-semester English and individualized major, said. "Despite it being a written

short story, it was very engaging to be read aloud due to the well-executed character and worldbuilding," Krishna said. "It was a great reading; I could not take my eyes off him as he was reading it."

After the featured readers, there was a brief intermission with snacks before an open mic portion of the event. A few audience members came to the podium to read their own poems.

The next Long River Reading Series will take place at 5:30 p.m. on March 25 at the Austin Building's Stern Lounge. It will feature readings from Ph.D. student Adam McLain and undergraduate student Kathleen Tumminello.



Graphic introducing the contest winners of the Long River Review. The first Long River Reading Series of the Spring 2026 semester took place on Wednesday, Feb. 11. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNCW ON INSTAGRAM | ILLUSTRATION BY COSETTE ELLIS, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

New JFK Jr. drama series suffers from slow pacing

by **Thaddeus Sawyer**
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The first three episodes of the new series "Love Story: John F. Kennedy Jr. and Carolyn Bessette" came out on Thursday, Feb. 12 on Hulu.

Produced by industry veterans Ryan Murphy and Nina Jacobson, among others, the show's bland dialogue and drawn-out pacing leave it falling short of their past projects.

The show follows the story of JFK Jr. and fashion publicist Bessette. The couple met in the summer of 1994, moving in together in the summer of 1995 and getting engaged later that year. They were married in 1996 and spent their marriage under intense media scrutiny, something that weighed heavily on Bessette both emotionally and professionally.

The couple was killed, along with Bessette's sister, when their plane crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Martha's Vineyard in 1999.

Despite the first episode including Kennedy Jr. and Bessette meeting for the first time, Kennedy Jr. asking her on a date and witnessing that first date all within an hour, the show feels slow-paced and dull for most of its runtime. There's not much action beyond the dialogue, and the conversations aren't interesting enough to make up for that on their own.

Actor Paul Anthony Kelly and actress Sarah Pidgeon, who portray Kennedy Jr. and Bessette, don't share much chemistry, making the show feel even more dull. It gets better as the first episode goes on, especially

during their first date. Still, it maintains a quality of interest that would fall as a "C" or even "D" plot in a better show.

The most interesting parts of the first episode detail Kennedy Jr. failing the New York State Bar and putting his job as assistant district attorney in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office in jeopardy. Kennedy Jr. must deal with his failure in the face of the public as his misfortune becomes headline news. He is surrounded by reporters and photographers, even during his free time playing football in the park.

This intrigue is quickly abandoned as soon as Kennedy Jr. meets Bessette, as the focus of the show solely becomes their relationship. This leaves the prior part of the story as underutilized contextualization rather than a real plot point.

Bessette's interactions with Calvin Klein are also rather enthralling due to Alessandro Nivola's eccentric performance as Klein, but the scenes do little to aid the plot.

Either a documentary solely on Kennedy Jr.'s time after failing the Bar for the second time or show about Calvin Klein

and Bessette's time would have been more compelling. Certainly, neither of those ideas would have required or deserved a nine-episode series.

Even a documentary about the plane crash that killed them both would have been more interesting.

Why then, does this less intriguing concept require a

full nine-episode series to do their story justice? There is no need for eight more episodes to bridge their first date with their deaths, which would make for a logical conclusion. Considering how much the creators packed into episode one of the slow-paced show, there are indicators that it might slow even more; a scary thought.

Rating:
★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆
2.3/5



Actors Anthony Kelly and Sarah Pidgeon in an intimate pose, next to the words "Love Story: John F. Kennedy Jr. and Carolyn Bessette," a new show. Kelly and Pidgeon play the titular characters in this show, which is produced by Ryan Murphy and Nina Jacobson.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @HULU ON INSTAGRAM



Opinion

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APRICATE: THE KEY TO SOLVING THE WINTER BLUES IS SELF-CONFIDENCE

by **Alexander Renzulli**
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As a former professional angry teenage boy, I know how low one's mental health can get during the dreaded winter months. I could have probably gone to the Olympics if rotting in bed and listening to the voices in my head was a contested sport, I probably could have gone to the Olympics. I am not a doctor, but with the days falling short and having no rational justification to go outside, many people find themselves shriveled up into a shell of themselves during the gloomy hibernal season. It sucks, plainly said.

As mentioned, I've been there, and I am positive so many of you lovely readers have as well. As the snow slushes upon my boots and the crisp air claims hold of my lungs, I've been thinking a lot about the emotions that come with winter, and how one can flourish out of it. No one wants to feel small, and I truly believe the answer to the winter blues is a happy dose of self-confidence.

Emotion in general is nothing short of a positive feedback loop. It's a cyclical pattern of feeling emotions, marinating in that emotion and subsequently feeling whatever you already are feeling tenfold.

The key to rising out of the hole is pure, unadulterated authenticity. And isn't that a



The moon rises over Horsebarn Hill on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026 in Storrs, Conn. The temperatures were chilly in the heart of winter.

PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

beautiful thing? Despite the limitations that the season brings, winter should not serve as a disruption from doing the things you love. When trapped in the house or dorm all day, I find I tend to spiral inwards. I look too deeply at myself and all that could be wrong. Screw that! Keep yourself busy, and if anything, use the supposed isolation to practice what you find productive in peace.

To keep active by participating in the hobbies and interests we love is to reassure confidence in ourselves. When alone, spend your time building your-

self up, and being your own best friend. Play the guitar, learn how to draw, work out. Feel proud when you accomplish a goal, no matter how small, and let that feeling linger.

The most egregious and counterintuitive thing we can do during our bouts of sadness is to validate it with music that matches its mood. Phoebe Bridgers, Noah Kahan and a host of melancholic artists are wonderful in moderation, but I fear we must escape them if we want any chance of forward progression. Hey, I love "Punisher" just as much as the next guy, but

not a soul has ever listened to that whole album and thought, "You know what, I feel a lot happier now." It's so easy to fall into the pit of sad music, but it is positivity that prevails in the darkest times of our lives. Play music that inspires you to get up, be alive and move around. As Mac Miller once said, "A life ain't a life 'til you live it."

While writing this article, I was reminded of the beautiful word apricity: the warmth of the sun in winter. It is an ancient and archaic word, but one that provides a wonderful summation of how we survive

the gray, melancholic days of this long year. We apricate. We must bask in the sunshine of our livelihood and derive joy in the simple measures that make us happy. It is vital that despite how easy it is to look down on ourselves, we know the single-digit degree days will soon be replaced by the warmth of sweet spring. Before you know it, leaving your dorm without a jacket will feel normal. The flowers will grow and we'll make as many wishes as we want on the dandelions. Before you know it, the world will be lovely. For now, apricate.

AMERICANS ARE WAITING IT OUT

by **Alexander Renzulli**
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Since the beginning of President Donald Trump's second term, a strange mentality has been taking prevalence amongst Americans. It seems that amid oppression, tragedy and violence, citizens of the United States are becoming tired. Even though most Americans have every capability of protesting and going against what is happening in the country right now,

they are not. Instead, they are waiting it out.

Most people might think that "waiting it out" is the best option. They understand the gravity of the actions taken by this administration, but also know that come January 2029, Trump will leave office, and the work to repair the scars of his presidency can begin. They assume that they can use their voting power to fix what has been broken, but underestimate the power they possess at this moment.

Who can blame them? It

seems that as soon as anyone begins to fight back, they are suppressed again. When Renee Good's murder by an Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) agent incited thousands of protests across the country, the reaction from the Trump administration was to label these protestors as "insurrectionists" and "agitators." Just recently, The New York Times reported that Texas Gov. Greg Abbott is threatening to punish students for staging walkouts to protest ICE. Whenever anyone tries to exercise their First Amendment rights, the government strikes back, doing anything to uphold suppression and subservience. They have made citizens afraid of consequences like never before.

So, we have fallen into this pattern. We become vibrantly angry when a fresh tragedy occurs and when the government is particularly suppressive. But when we are cracked down on, told how small our protests and words are, we roll over and wait for the next tragedy to bring us back to life. We remind ourselves of the founding principles of this country; that we

cannot accept such treatment when our ancestors did not. We are incited, we are hopeful — but we are ultimately struck down.

What those in power know is that when horrible things are presented in an unceasing barrage, people begin to lose their will to fight. They can do what they want and threaten others when they respond, because they know that people become tired. They become distracted by other things — personal events, media, work — and they let themselves be enveloped in the distraction. They decide to wait it out.

This is a dangerous cycle and a terrible mentality to become trapped in. It's fine to wait out the rain or the traffic, but not unacceptable behavior that places your rights and even your life on the line. We must escape the cycle of suppression if we are to come out of this with any dignity intact.

We cannot be tired. We cannot be distracted. We cannot wait for anyone to save us or help us, when we have every capability to do so ourselves. If you can, you should not just wait it out.

The great danger of this way of thinking that we have

become trapped in is that so many Americans do not even know that they are caught in it. But no one can be forced to leave it. When five-year-olds are detained by immigration officers and innocent protestors are persecuted and killed, I cannot blame anyone for wanting to be distracted. It is exhausting to be constantly fighting for yourself and others, knowing that whatever you do may not be effective and that you may not be listened to.

When people wait things out, they think of the future. They keep what's ahead in the back of their minds while they solve their own problems and live their own lives. So, while anyone "waiting out" the presidency does so with a certain exhaustion, they also harbor a little hope. They know that ahead of everything happening right now, there is a chance we will come out of it.

We will. Whether you are waiting it out or actively protesting and thinking of America's problems every single day, you do so with the knowledge that the future is not absolute and not everything is hopeless. Do not be discouraged.



President Donald Trump sitting at his desk. He is the 47th president of the United States.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Opinion

Photo of the Day | BANANA



Students dress in banana costumes at the UConn men's basketball game at Gampel Pavilion on February 14, 2026. Students waited outside before the game to secure seats in the student section. PHOTO BY ELLA GORHAM, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

X-Men, Avengers and found family

by Isaac Grad
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With a new Avengers movie coming out relatively soon, which will include a long-awaited X-Men crossover, it's worth delving into what makes the two teams different. Their disparities have been noted since their releases. Despite sharing a similar premise of people with superhuman abilities teaming up to take down a larger threat, the X-Men films are notably different from the Avengers. While the Avengers movies show the dynamics between characters by focusing on a shared enemy that they are brought together to defeat, X-Men focuses on more human issues, namely persecution. This leads to more nuanced team-ups, particularly with Charles and Erik oscillating between fighting together and fighting each other.

While the Avengers do have their own internal fighting, as made clear in "Captain America: Civil War," their fighting is less personal. Aside from a few friendships within the team, there isn't a lot of love shared between members. They were forced together by S.H.I.E.L.D in a last-ditch effort to confront a threat stronger than any one member alone. While they're all interested in doing "the right thing" the X-Men are much more tight-knit, as they are bound together by the shared experience of persecution. Their responses to said persecution certainly differ, as is apparent with Erik and Charles, but their goal is ultimately the same. They can't help but feel a connection with all other mutants. That is to say,

their fight is always personal, and they're a team because they want to be. When they aren't fighting threats, they more or less live together, work together and hang out as friends. The Avengers usually do not; in solo movies, they are hardly seen with even those they consider friends on the team.

This connection point is emphasized throughout the X-Men films in a way that is pushed to the side in the Avengers movies. The best comparison of this is Steve Rogers' relationship with Bucky Barnes contrasted with the relationship between Erik and Charles. The X-Men films, time and time again, show that the friendship between Charles and Erik is so strong that despite fighting on numerous occasions, they still love one another. They have a connection and understanding that seems unconditional and impossible to break. Compare this to the friendship between Bucky and Steve. Steve does everything in his power to save his friend and goes rogue on the Avengers, prioritizing Bucky over everything else. However, the Avengers films toss that relationship to the side when Steve has a chance to have a "normal" life, one without Bucky, instead opting to live his life with Peggy (someone who had been happily married to someone else, and had zero chemistry with Steve, but we don't need to get into that).

Due to the commitment and focus in the X-Men films on the relationships among the team members, the feeling the audience gets surrounding a "found family" is much stronger than in the Avengers films. The Avengers movies make it very apparent that they're only work-

ing together because they have a shared goal and there isn't much love or care between the members. That isn't to say those types of dynamics are absent from the Avengers. There are plenty of meaningful relationships presented in those films, but the focus on the team is not that of a found family. The more recent "New Avengers" do seem to be taking note of the appeal of strong bonds within a team and will most likely (hopefully) go on to be a found family.

These dynamics are important because they add complex layers to the plot, making for much more interesting stories and characters. For Charles and Erik in X-Men, their love for one another alters their actions, but it doesn't change their outlooks and judgements. It allows for films that explore nuance. For instance, in "X-Men: First Class" when Erik spends the majority of the film teaming up with Charles to take down Shaw. Despite admitting that he agrees with everything Shaw is doing, and ultimately becoming a Shaw replacement, he works with Charles because he wants to kill Shaw for killing his mother. This is an intriguing narrative that allows us to understand Erik better and subsequently all other characters involved. There is an ability to separate nuances out, which is only possible when the characters and their dynamics are placed at the forefront as opposed to the threat they're confronting.

The Avengers films generally avoid these nuances in favor of having a shared enemy be enough, and any discrepancies come not from established character beliefs or dynamics, but



Comic book art depicting members of the X-Men, a superhero team. The X-Men films focus on relationships between members of the team, creating a strong sense of found family. PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

from relatively straightforward disagreements. The Avengers generally don't utilize the complex and painful backstory of each individual character as much either, which makes for less personal scenes than the beach scene or nuclear reactor scene in "First Class."

This is by no means a complaint about the Avengers. The two groups simply have differ-

ent things to offer. The Avengers are great for more one-on-one dynamics, such as disagreements between Steve and Tony, or friendship (or a different word that ends in "ship") between Steve and Bucky. The X-Men, though, are a much better representation of the found family trope, as the love and connections between the characters are placed at the forefront.

Daily Campus Comic

by

Staff Artist

Connor Szrejna



INDOOR TRACK: HUSKIES SET RECORDS AHEAD OF BIG EAST CHAMPIONSHIPS

by **Amita Akshinthala**
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The UConn track and field team had a busy weekend on the road, wrapping up their final meets before the Indoor Big East Championship. The men and women both competed in the Eagle Elite Invitational, the Valentine Invite and the Giegengack Invite, showcasing the depth and talent across the entire roster as they refined their performances heading into the championship season.

First at the Eagle Elite in Boston, the Huskies broke new ground in program history with two pole vaulters making the top 10 all-time marks. Senior Rachel Mason went down as fourth best mark at 3.76m, once again demonstrating the precision and technical ability that defined her collegiate career. Similarly, sophomore Piper Linn achieved No.10 on the list at 3.61m, showcasing the progress in her development. The high standard of performance continues to prove that the Huskies' pole vault program is only developing in talent across seasons.

Starting on the same day as the Eagle Elite, the Valentine Invite was hosted at Boston University. At the competition, the Huskies saw more records being broken, with graduate student Jenna Zydanic breaking the women's indoor school record in the 3000m with her impressive time at 9:06.07. Her performance highlighted the dominance in the UConn distance running program and set a new standard for future competitors to follow closely. Following her standout lead, junior Malin Rahm found her place as seventh-fastest time in indoor program history for the 3000m. With a time of 9:25:56, Rahm continued to set the tone for the Huskies' successful season.

Adding another tally to the list of wins was graduate student Sarah Trainor who also joined the top 10 with the seventh-best time in the 1000m at 2:48.73. This further emphasized the team's strength in middle-distance running.

Adding to the team's packed schedule was the Giegengack Invite. The Huskies made their way back to Connecticut on Saturday to attend the competition at Yale in New Haven, Conn. Further down in the state, the Huskies continued to set the tone for the Big East Championship, with more athletes joining the ranks and establishing their competitive edge. The Huskies made their mark both in field and track events, further establishing their dominance across various events. Graduate student Zayin Roe joined the top 10 ranks in the women's triple jump with a distance of 12.50m. Joining her effort was senior Sinclair Fryer, who won the women's shot put with a distance of 13.52m, further highlighting her continued strength and consistency throughout her time in the program. Continuing the efforts was senior Travis Roux who led the men's weight throw with an impressive mark of 20.52m. Coming in with more field wins, sophomore Enaji Muhammad took home the men's high jump at 2.00m. Senior Marc Morrison secured the top spot for men's long jump at 7.40m. With this win, Morrison added another victory to his impressive season.

Switching over to the track events, junior Anna Connors turned in a strong performance for the 400m with a time of 55.47. Connors solidifies her speed and endurance that makes her a key competitor. Adding to the victories, senior Terrel Williams achieved a win in the 60m hurdles with a time of 7.75, combining precise skill and high speed.

Building on the team's winning spree as well as his own successful season, sophomore Kyle Johnson secured the second-ranked triple jump in the event squad and won the event with a jump of 15.88m, capping

off an exceptional and successful weekend for the UConn Huskies.

With their high performances and substantial wins across all three meets, the Huskies will look to defend

their Big East title at the Big East Championship. The Huskies have demonstrated they are progressing competitively and will look to present that ability in Chicago from Feb. 28 to March 1.



Members of the UConn track and field team in action. The Huskies competed in the Eagle Elite Invitational, the Valentine Invite and the Giegengack Invite this past weekend, and performed well in all. PHOTOS COURTESY OF @UCONNTFXC VIA INSTAGRAM.

COLETTE'S COMMENTARY: UNRIVALED 1-ON-1 TOURNAMENT SHOWCASES BASKETBALL IN ITS RAWEST FORM

by **Colette Doyle**
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Unrivaled is not just redefining women's basketball; it is revolutionizing the game itself. The league's one-on-one competition forces players to rely solely on their offensive instincts and defensive discipline, creating a version of basketball that is

raw, demanding and impossible to fake. In doing so, Unrivaled highlights a level of individual excellence that is often lost in a five-on-five format.

The competition was played in a 30-player, single-elimination format with each game lasting a maximum of 10 minutes or until a player reaches 11 points. A seven-second shot clock was used for each possession with

the game clock running continuously. The championship game shifted to a best of three series.

The first round began on Wednesday, Feb. 11, with four players winning their debut. Veronica Burton made a dominant debut with a shutout win against Courtney Williams that lasted just one minute and 15 seconds.

Other matchups were not as definitive as the game came down to one or two points. Aaliyah Edwards, last year's runner-up, had a close 11-8 win over Dominique Malonga. Chelsea Gray defeated Natasha Cloud by just one point after trailing 10-5; however, she made her comeback by making back-to-back three-pointers to get the win. Rookie Sonia Citron narrowly defeated veteran Marian Mabrey in a 12-10 upset win powered by dominant defensive skills.

The tournament also included matchups between teammates, Paige Bueckers and Kate Martin; Breeze Basketball Club teammates faced each other in the first round. Bueckers defeated Martin 12-5, despite an attempt by Martin to overthrow Bueckers with a 5-0 run.

The competition moved into the second round, which took place on Friday, Feb. 13. Matchups were played between Kelsey Mitchell and Veronica Burton, Kelsey Plum and Natisha Hiedeman, Bueckers and Arike Ogunbowale, Jackie Young and C. Gray, Allisha Gray and Saniya Rivers, Citron and Rae Burrell, Breanna Stewart and Aliyah Boston and Edwards and Shakira Austin.

The round consisted of Bueckers defeating Dallas Wings teammate Ogunbowale 12-4, despite an early 4-0 lead by Ogunbowale. The round also consisted of two shutout wins by Burrell against Citron and Plum against Hiedeman. Edwards clinched another close win, winning by just two points, against Shakira Austin.

The competition then shrunk to just four match-

ups in the quarterfinals. The round featured another shutout win, this time by Boston who shutout Edwards. The closest game was played between Plum and Michelle, where Plum got the 11-7 win.

Bueckers was also knocked out in the quarterfinals in an upset 11-2 loss to C. Gray. C. Gray put up a powerful defensive strength, causing Bueckers to shoot 1-of-6. A controversial late foul call sealed the win for C. Gray, knocking out Bueckers.

The semifinals and finals of the tournament were played on Saturday, Feb. 14. Plum and C. Gray matched up in the semifinals, where Gray secured the 12-8 win. A. Gray and Boston match up, where A. Gray defeated Boston 12-10.

The tournament then moved into the best of three finals. A. Gray won the first game in a 7-0 shutout win; however, C. Gray bounced back in the second game to win 8-3. In the final game, A. Gray took an early 6-0 lead before C. Gray went on a run to take the 7-6 victory. C. Gray won \$200,000 as the champion of the tournament with A. Gray winning \$50,000 as the runner-up. Plum and Boston each received \$25,000 as the semifinalists.

The tournament ultimately captured the skill, competitiveness and composure that is needed in a fast, competitive game of basketball that is stripped down to its core. Every possession becomes crucial with mistakes highlighted and the best player rising to the top. This tournament highlighted that Unrivaled is redefining the game and setting a new standard.

CROWNED



UNRIVALED

Chelsea Gray of the Las Vegas Aces during the Unrivaled 1-on-1 Tournament. The final match of the tournament took place Saturday, Feb. 14. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UNRIVALVEDBASKETBALL ON INSTAGRAM

Sports

Photo of the Day |



The UConn women's basketball team competes against Creighton. The game took place on Feb. 11, 2026. PHOTOS BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS.

MEN'S HOCKEY: HUSKIES AVENGE LAST YEAR'S HOCKEY EAST CHAMPIONSHIP, BEATING MAINE TWICE

by **Brayden Gorski**

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Last March, the UConn men's hockey team skated off the ice after a 5-2 defeat at the hands of the Maine Black Bears in the Hockey East Championship. This weekend, it was a different story.

UConn came out of the gates firing on Friday night, with multiple shots on goal in the first minute of play. A few minutes later, Jeremy Langlois was whistled for a hooking penalty and headed to the penalty box. Just 10 seconds later, Frank Djurasevic was called for a tripping penalty and it was an early 5-on-3 for Connecticut.

The best shot during the penalty was a Jake Richard shot that rattled off the post and back onto the ice. The Black Bears' defense, along with great play from goalie Mathis Rousseau, halted any chance of a goal for the Ice Bus.

On the other side, a penalty was committed by Ethan Whitcomb, giving Maine their first power play of the game. The UConn defense was excellent and prevented any real opportunities.

Maine returned the favor with a power play kill of their own after a Miguel Marques boarding penalty.

The Black Bears seemed to have the momentum heading into the locker room before a face-off with one minute left in the period. A face-off win by Ryan Tattle saw the puck go up for grabs. Joey Muldowney came flying in and fired a shot past the freshman Rousseau.

All of a sudden, the Huskies had the momentum thanks to Muldowney's 14th goal of the season.

Both teams found themselves in the penalty box twice during the second period, but no goals were scored either way. Muszelik and Rousseau were dueling through two periods.

The Huskies saw themselves in the penalty box two more times during the third period. The second time was due to an Ethan Gardula hooking penalty.

While on the penalty kill, Jake Percival found himself with a shorthanded opportunity on the breakaway. His shot was blocked by Rousseau, but the momentum had shifted to UConn. The penalty was over and Gardula flew out of the box. Tattle was in the right place at the right time, and found Gardula, who had a breakaway. The sophomore found a hole and scored the second goal of the game for the Ice Bus.

That goal deflated a Maine team trying to save their NCAA tournament hopes. They had

some good opportunities in the last 10 minutes, but Muszelik is playing his best hockey of the season between the pipes. The UNH transfer racked up 32 in his second straight shutout.

The second game of the weekend started with the theme of the weekend: penalties. Less than two minutes into the tilt, Richard was whistled for an interference penalty.

Thankfully for the Huskies, the duo of Tattle and Muldowney were unstoppable all weekend. The UConn power play defense cleared the puck to Tattle who found Muldowney. The New York native sniped a shot past Saturday's goalie Albin Boija, giving the Ice Bus an early lead on the shorthanded goal.

After some missed opportunities for both squads, Tristan Fraser was called for a UConn interference penalty.

This was the power play that Maine finally broke through for their first goal of the weekend. Thomas Freel fired a slapshot from center ice which was blocked by Muszelik. However, the rebound caromed to Marques who knocked in the game tying goal.

The goal changed the momentum in the game and the rink was rocking. The Black Bears had all the momentum heading into the locker room.

Towards the end of the period, Connecticut was on the offensive and the puck found the stick of Muldowney. He attempted a spinning shot that rebounded to Richard. Richard's first attempt was saved by the skate of Boija but his second attempt snuck into the net for another UConn lead.

After 40 minutes of play, it was 2-1 Huskies.

The Black Bears were quick to answer once again. Muszelik stopped a Maine shot, but the rebound was collected by Will Gerrior and put in to even the score at 2. UConn head coach Mike Cavanaugh challenged the call, but it was unsuccessful and the Huskies lost their crucial timeout.

UConn was finally on the advantage after a two-minute holding penalty on Langlois. Off the face off, Kai Janviriyaya got it towards Whitcomb who sent it towards Boija and the net. The puck was redirected by Tattle and in. Tattle had a great weekend scoring his first goal after assisting on three prior goals. It only took five seconds for the Ice Bus to strike on their first power play of the night.

Desperate to save their sea-

son, Jaden Lipinski went flying at Muszelik who blocked his first shot. Lipinski grabbed the rebound and sent it back to the net where Grayson Arnott was there to score his first goal of the season. The Black Bears clung to life, tying the game at 3.

Despite a few good attempts from both teams, it was time for overtime in Maine.

In the 4-on-4 overtime format, the offense was at a rapid pace. Josh Nadeau sent multiple shots Muszelik's way and Gardula had a great shot for Connecticut but missed the puck entirely.

The most controversial moment of overtime was when Tattle looked to be on the verge of a breakaway, but the referee blew the whistle and called a double penalty. Richard was called for interference while Charlie Russell was tagged for diving.

Neither team could convert and we headed to a

shootout.

Richard was the first shooter for Connecticut and he stuffed it around Boija for a 1-0 UConn lead. Marques tried to answer, but Muszelik made a skate save.

Tattle could not pad the shootout lead with a shot wide of the net. Sully Scholle, who had plenty of chances all weekend, shot it right at the

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shootout.

Next up for the Huskies is a heavyweight battle with Boston College. The Ice Bus travels to Chestnut Hill on Friday night and then plays at PeoplesBank Arena in Hartford, Conn. on Saturday afternoon. UConn

holds a two-point lead on BC for second place in Hockey East, and next weekend will determine who has the stranglehold on second.

Regardless of the big matchup next weekend, the Ice Bus will enjoy the four-hour ride home.

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UConn men's hockey faces Ohio State on Oct. 18, 2025, at PeoplesBank Arena in Hartford, Conn. The Huskies lost 4-2 to the Buckeyes. PHOTOS BY SARAH TURNER/THE DAILY CAMPUS.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: NO. 1 UCONN SLIDES PAST MARQUETTE 71-56

by Avery Becker
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The old maxim goes: all is fair in love and war.

However, one could say all is fair in love and basketball, too, if one is a fan of the UConn women's basketball program.

On Saturday afternoon, the Huskies traveled to Milwaukee, Wis. to take on the Marquette Golden Eagles. Despite a stagnant offensive start, the Huskies pulled the win off with a final score of 71-56.

Before this game, UConn had won 21 straight games by more than 25 points, which, according to the team's website, was the longest streak by any Division I program over the last 25 seasons.

With Saturday's defeat of the Golden Eagles, which was won by only 15 more points, that streak was broken.

As things kicked off in Wisconsin, Marquette took advantage of the Huskies' slow start. UConn could not keep up with the tempo the Golden Eagles had set right out of the gates.

Connecticut trailed until there were around three minutes left in the first quarter, when Sarah Strong made a driving layup in the paint.

The Golden Eagles rallied back, though, with a clutch three-pointer from Lee Volker to close out the first frame with a score of 13-10, Marquette.

The turning point for Connecticut did not come until midway through the second quarter. The score was 20-20 due to a free throw from Skylar Forbes. After that, Jana El Alfay laid the ball in for the Huskies, and from there, Connecticut kept extending their lead.

By the time halftime rolled around, the Huskies were up 36-24.

"They came in super aggres-

sive on top of their stuff. I mean, their defense, their offense, their crashing the boards. They had every hustle play, and we needed to wake up." Azzi Fudd said to the FS1 broadcast post-game.

With Blanca Quiñonez out, a player for Connecticut had to step up and change the tide for the Huskies when the offense was dull to start.

That player for the Huskies was the graduate guard, Fudd.

Fudd finished the game with 25 points, shooting a 10-20 from the field and 5-8 from beyond the arc.

"I think just my mindset of being aggressive, my mindset isn't necessarily the score, but what can [I] do to help the team to contribute to make sure that we get things done and usually that starts with 'What can I control?' and that's on the defensive end," Fudd said to FS1.

Coming out of the locker room, the Huskies turned a page, using the paint and forcing

turnovers on the Golden Eagle to generate more offense.

Strong was the leader of the pack for the Huskies in the second half, racking up 22 points and shooting 9-20 from the field.

At one point in the third frame, Strong had notched 17

consecutive points for the Huskies, solidifying her program's 27th win of the season.

"I think what's unique about our team is that at any moment, any person can hit a shot, keep going," Fudd said to FS1 post-game. "I mean it felt like Sarah made, like, 20 shots in a row. So, like the offense, nothing was really drawn up for her, and she's making [Sarah Strong] plays as she does."

In addition to Strong and Fudd, another key performance that stood out for the Huskies was KK Arnold's ball movement in the second half.

The sophomore dished out nine assists on the day, a new career high for the guard that she previously set against Villanova on Jan. 15.

Along with her assists, the Wisconsin native finished the afternoon with 10 points and six rebounds.

"People got hot at certain times, and it felt like we didn't really have that flow that we usually have. So, today was one of those days where we kind of just had to figure it out and push through," Fudd said to FS1.

The Huskies will continue their Big East road trip by

traveling to Philadelphia on Wednesday. They will take on the No. 2 squad in the Big East in the Villanova Wildcats.

Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m. from Finneran Pavilion. Fans can tune in to the bout on Peacock.

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A player from the UConn women's basketball team. The Huskies faced the Marquette Golden Eagles this past Saturday, and won 71-56. PHOTOS BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS.

UCONN CLINCHES NO. 2 SEED IN HOCKEY EAST TOURNAMENT

by Kaden Knapp
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Tia Chan. Enough said.

The graduate goaltender had another fantastic weekend for Connecticut after allowing one goal and recording 32 saves. Chan now leads the Hockey East in conference wins with 15 and boasts a .949 save percentage.

She is now one of 12 semifinalists for the Goaltender of the Year award.

The UConn women's hockey team clinched the 2 seed in the Hockey East Tournament after a fast start vs. New Hampshire (16-13-3, 10-10-2) helped lead the Huskies to a 5-1 victory.

The Huskies, now 23-7-2 (16-5-1) also downed Boston University (9-18-3, 7-12-2), 2-1, to earn their fourth consecutive win.

Game 1: Connecticut 5, New Hampshire 1 - Friday, Feb. 13

Junior forward Ashley Allard opened the scoring just over a minute into the contest by netting a turnaround shot to make the score 1-0.

During a power play later in the period, junior forward Livvy Dewar received a pass at the circle and ripped a slapshot past the goalie, extending UConn's lead to 2-0 with 10:29 left on the clock.

To start the second period, New Hampshire dominated possession of the puck. The Wildcats strung together six consecutive shots in a span of 90 seconds. Sophomore defender Addison Finn led the charge, with two during that span.

Minutes later, Dewar skated up the ice with the puck and

found sophomore forward Sadie Hotles in stride and her shot found the back of the net to make it 3-0 with 8:12 remaining.

Over the next few minutes, Connecticut kept the pressure on, and junior forward Danika Botterill converted a scoring chance off a faceoff to make it 3-1 UConn at the 7:50 mark of the period.

UConn's shooting prowess continued into the third period when senior forward Megan Woodworth's shot struck goal

to extend the Huskies' lead to 4-1.

Twenty-nine seconds later, Hotles scored again for the blue and white off a Walker miss, 5-1. The goal also marked the second time in her career that Hotles has had a multi-goal game.

UConn outshot New Hampshire 24-22 in the contest and Chan wound up with 21 saves.

Game 2: Connecticut 2, Boston University 0 - Saturday, Feb. 14

Boston University entered

their matchup with UConn shorthanded due to injuries and the 2026 Olympic Winter Games. The Terriers sent six women's hockey players to Milan. Ohio State is the only university to send more players at 12.

Despite a multitude of opportunities, Connecticut failed to score after one period of play. The Huskies outshot the Terriers 11-4.

Graduate student goaltender Michelle Pasiechnyk recorded

two saves, including a Murdoch shot that rang off the post, during a UConn power play to keep the game scoreless.

Early in the second period, freshman forward Anežka Čabelová was sent to the penalty box for slashing. During the penalty, Pasiechnyk made four more saves, bringing her game total to 18.

However, Connecticut's constant shot taking eventually resulted in a score with 12:15 left in the period. Senior defender Emma Eryou netted her second goal of the season off a Murdoch assist, 1-0.

After being outshot 17-2 in the second 20 minutes, the Terriers saw signs of life midway through the third when Allard committed a penalty, but sophomore forward Kaileigh Quigg was sent to the box 40 seconds later to squander the player advantage.

When Quigg reentered the game, she attempted two shots that nearly went in, but Chan held serve to keep the lead at 1-0 with just over eight minutes remaining.

With just over three minutes to play, Pasiechnyk was pulled from goal opening the door for senior forward Christina Walker to score the games second goal and put it out of reach for Boston University (BU).

Connecticut had 36 shots on goal to BU's 11. Chan also picked up her fifth shutout of the season. UConn has two regular season games remaining. They'll host No. 8 Northeastern on Friday and Merrimack on Saturday. Both games will be broadcast on ESPN+.



The UConn women's hockey team faces off against Boston College on Feb. 7, 2026. The teams were tied 0-0 at the end of the first period, but the Huskies went on to win the game 6-2.

PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Sports

MEN'S BASKETBALL: NO. 6 UCONN SWEEPS GEORGETOWN, KARABAN SETS PROGRAM WIN RECORD

by **Matt Dimech**
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Gampel Pavilion celebrated UConn's past and present on Saturday night. Former No. 2 overall pick Hasheem Thabeet joined the Huskies of Honor, and 1,000-point scorers were recognized. Yet when the buzzer sounded, the spotlight belonged to Alex Karaban.

Karaban became the winningest player in program history when No. 6 UConn defeated Georgetown 79-75, marking his 116th career victory.

"When I first came to UConn, I was worried about playing, just getting out there and making an impact," Karaban said. "To now have my name at the top of that list... it's special."

The two-time national champion finished his 136th start, also a program record, with 18 points and

four three-pointers on six attempts. But Karaban's impact was felt the most in the games closing moments.

Georgetown (13-12, 5-9) surged back from a once 14-point deficit to make it a two-point game in the final minute. Karaban pulled down a rebound off a missed free throw with 11.4 seconds left in the game before getting fouled and put on the free throw line. He stepped up to the stripe and buried both to ice the game for UConn (24-2, 14-1).

UConn head coach Dan Hurley said the night "was about Alex's greatness."

"He almost didn't play today... and then just gutted it out," Hurley said. "He is who he is; the most accomplished player in college basketball."

Karaban has been dealing with a "leg thing," as Hurley put it, which has limited his involvement in practice.

Unlike January's meeting between these two teams — when the Huskies shot just 36.2% from the field and 19.2% from three, both season lows — UConn found a shooting rhythm early.

Connecticut buried four threes to start the game ahead 12-7. Karaban, Solo Ball and Braylon Mullins all

connected on their first attempts from deep. The Huskies shot 56% in the first half to take a 41-33 lead at the break. UConn finished with 11 made threes, marking its fifth double-digit three-point performance in the last six games.

Ball continued his recent shooting resurgence. He led all scorers with 20 on five threes, following a 24-point performance against Butler on Wednesday. Ball's three-point struggles have been well documented this season, but this week marked the first-time all-season he finished back-to-back games with more than two three-pointers.

He knocked down three with 10:42 to play in the game to eclipse 1,000 career points, an achievement that his teammate, Tarris Reed Jr., was honored for prior to the game.

"That's just something you just dream up in your backyard, playing college basketball level, scoring 1,000 points," Ball said. "But it's a very minuscule goal compared to the goals we have in mind this year."

Silas Demary Jr.'s fingerprints were all over this game. He stuffed the stat sheet and was just an assist shy of his second triple double of the season. 15 points and 12 rebounds marked Demary's fourth double-double of the season. His rebounding was critical during Georgetown's late push as the Huskies only got three boards from their centers.

"I was just trying to get the win," Demary said. "They kept clawing back

into the game."

He was the primary defender on Malik Mack, who entered the game averaging 14.5 points per game. Demary limited him to just eight points on 3/7 shooting from the field. The Hoyas still managed to claw back in even with their point guard getting shut off.

KJ Lewis led Georgetown with 24 points while pulling down nine rebounds. He repeatedly was able to get downhill and generated several transition opportunities. Kayvaun Mulready came off the bench to score 15 points. He was averaging just over three points per game before Saturday. The Hoyas bench scored 37 points in comparison to UConn's 12.

Mulready hit four of Georgetown's 12 three-pointers. Seven of those threes came in the second half, as the Hoyas finished the night shooting at a 42.9% clip. Every time it seemed UConn had a chance to pull away, Georgetown had someone open for three.

Foul trouble made matters worse for the Huskies.

Reed was limited to just 17 minutes of action, with only seven coming in the second half during the Hoyas comeback. Freshman Eric Reibe was forced to step up. The former five-star recruit is no stranger to these moments, as Reed has missed or been limited in several games this season due to injury.

Reibe scored 10 points on 5-of-7 shooting in 22 minutes of burn. He was impactful at the rim on the defensive end. While Reibe didn't make any blocks, his length helped him force misses at the basket.

"If Eric doesn't step up the way he did today, we don't win the game," Hurley said.

UConn led for over 38 minutes but were never able to put down the Hoyas.

Free throws have been a cause of concern for the Huskies all

season, but their second half shooting from the line thwarted the potential comeback. They shot 12-of-15 in the second half, and 72% overall.

The win completed UConn's fifth regular season sweep of a Big East opponent this season and was Hurley's 12th straight win over Georgetown.

The Huskies will stay close to home when they welcome Creighton to Gampel Pavilion on Wednesday. It will be UConn's first time playing back-to-back games at its on-campus venue this season.

The game tips off at 7 p.m. and is available on TNT.



The UConn Huskies take on the St. John's Red Storm at Madison Square Garden in New York City on Feb. 6, 2026. Despite a close game, the Huskies lost 72-81. PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS.