

UConn emails ICE guidance to students, says no reports of ICE on campus

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The University of Connecticut advised students on handling Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers in an email sent to students, faculty and staff on Thursday. The email said no reports or plans for ICE presence on campus have been made.

Deputy Spokesperson Michael Enright said UConn sent the official announcement in response to both national events and requests within the university community.

The email was sent alongside a link to a UConn Today article published that same Thursday. Both sources came from University Communications and focused on the steps one could take if they witness an ICE officer trying to access spaces that are not public.

Three steps were included in an outline with streamlined guidance on UConn's protocol for ICE entering non-public spaces on campus, according to UConn Today. The article said to stay calm when following the steps.

"Inform" is the first step of the protocol and says that UConn community members should request ICE officials to wait until University Safety is contacted before ICE enters any non-public space on campus.

"Call" is the second step, which directs students to the University Safety hotline at (860) 486-4800. Those calling the hotline should give their name, department and location and share that ICE is onsite.

The last step is to "escalate" by taking communication beyond the UConn Police Department and directly to a supervisor.

The steps were only supposed to be used as guidance during the event that law enforcement try to access records or enter non-public spaces like classrooms or employee offices, according to UConn Today.

The article said that it's not unusual for external law enforcement agencies to be on campus, using Connecticut State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation as examples.

"[T]his guidance is not intended to suggest that external law enforcement, including immigration officials, should be stopped and questioned if they are in public spaces on campus," the article said.

A link to a previous UConn Today Q&A from April 28, 2025, was shared in the most recent article to elaborate on what is considered a public and private space on campus.

Residence halls, faculty and staff offices, clinical care spaces and any spaces locked when not used are all defined as non-public spaces on campus, according to the Q&A. The article explained what is needed for ICE to enter these areas.

"Federal law enforcement authorities may access any area of campus if they have a judicial warrant, meaning a warrant signed by a judge, authorizing them to do so," the article said, adding that authorized campus officials or residents can also give permission. Administrative warrants do not allow



Students ignite lighters at a vigil to honor the victims of ICE at Dove Tower on Feb. 4, 2026. Event organizers, as well as attendees, shared their stories and messages to the crowd. PHOTOGRAPH BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

entry to non-public spaces, according to UConn Today.

An internal ICE memo signed by Acting Director of ICE Todd Lyons on May 12, 2025, said that immigration regulations do not require judicial warrants to forcibly enter people's

homes, according to AP news. The memo has been used to train new ICE officers, who are told to follow the memo instead of written training materials.

Enright said that University Safety hasn't received any credible reports about ICE presence

and campus and was not aware of any recent contact between ICE and campus officials.

Trump EPA repeals landmark environmental finding, CT responds



by Jenna Outcalt
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The Environmental Protection Agency announced on Feb. 12 that it would repeal the endangerment finding, a previous EPA finding that served as the basis for much of the United States' environmental regulations.

Gases being emitted into the atmosphere and blown by the wind. On Feb. 12, the EPA repealed the endangerment finding, revoking gas emissions standards set in place to protect public health and welfare of U.S. citizens. PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

The endangerment finding was established under the Obama administration in 2009. It declares that various greenhouse gases, such as those emitted by cars and factories, "threaten the public health and welfare of current and future generations." The finding al-

lowed the EPA to regulate emission standards for vehicles and other sectors.

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin said in a press release that he was proud to deliver the "single largest deregulatory action in U.S. history."

"The Endangerment Finding

has been the source of 16 years of consumer choice restrictions and trillions of dollars in hidden costs for Americans," Zeldin said in the press release. "Referred to by some as the 'Holy Grail' of the 'climate change religion,' the Endangerment Finding is now eliminated. The Trump EPA is strictly following the letter of the law, returning commonsense to policy, delivering consumer choice to Americans and advancing the American Dream."

Legislators and officials from Connecticut denounced the decision in a press release. Gov. Ned Lamont said repealing this finding proved the Trump administration does "not care about the impacts greenhouse gas emissions have on the health of our communities," particularly in vulnerable populations.

"This is settled science. Connecticut has a proud, bipartisan history of standing up for environmental safeguards, and we will fight this decision, just like we have done every time this administration has threatened the health and prosperity of the people of Connecticut," Lamont said. "Connecticut residents deserve clean air to breathe, and safe communities in which to live and raise a family."

Connecticut Attorney General William Tong said Trump was selling out future genera-

tions in pursuit of profit for fossil fuel companies and polluters. However, he also said "the science and the law are firmly on our side."

"The next step is now the legal fight in court and, just as we won the first round before EPA - forcing it to drop its shoddy science - we are confident we can win round two," Tong said. "We will be in this fight for as long as it takes."

Katie Dykes, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection commissioner, said repealing the finding could come at a great cost to Connecticut.

"The evidence is even clearer now than it was in 2009, greenhouse gases pollute the air and contribute significantly to poor air quality. Connecticut suffers from some of the worst air quality in the United States, and greenhouse gas emissions, including from vehicles, contribute to air pollution that exacerbates respiratory illness, resulting in tens of millions of dollars spent on related health-care costs in our state every year," Dykes said.

Dykes also said this action

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WE ARE NOT THE
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could put Connecticut at a larger risk for climate impacts, such as extreme weather.

Connecticut Department of Public Health Commissioner Manisha Juthani said this decision would come at the expense of more vulnerable populations. She pointed out that Black women and children are the most affected by problems exacerbated by poor air quality, such as asthma.

Juthani also said that rescinding the finding was especially dangerous in conjunction with other Trump administration policies.

“The administration’s planned

cuts to Medicaid will result in decreased access to care for respiratory illness in communities with the greatest need, at the same time they are proactively attacking public health by abandoning efforts to protect the air we breathe,” Juthani said.

Environmental advocates and states are expected to challenge the EPA’s repealing of the endangerment finding in court.

Gasses being emitted from a factory into the sky. Connecticut officials and legislators have criticized the decision in a recent press release. PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS.



California walloped by winter storm with high winds and heavy rain and snow

AP - California was walloped Monday by a powerful winter storm carrying treacherous thunderstorms, high winds and heavy snow in mountain areas.

Millions of Los Angeles County residents faced flash flood warnings as rain pounded the region and people in some areas scarred by last year’s devastating wildfires were under an evacuation warning through Tuesday because of the potential for mud and debris flows.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass ordered emergency crews and city departments to be ready to respond to any problems.

The storm wreaked havoc on roadways spanning from Sonoma County to the Sierra Nevada. Traffic was halted temporarily in both directions on I-80 near the Nevada state line due to spinouts and crashes, the California Department of Transportation reported. In Santa Barbara County, a large tree toppled onto US-101, shutting down southbound lanes.

Forecasters said the west-

ern slope of the Sierra Nevada, northern Shasta County — including portions of Interstate 5 — and parts of the state’s Coast Range could see up to 8 feet (2.4 meters) of snow before the storm moves through late Wednesday. The heavy snow, wind and low visibility could also make travel conditions dangerous to near impossible, forecasters added.

“It has seemed ‘springlike’ for a large part of 2026, but winter is set to show it’s not quite done yet,” the Shasta County Sheriff’s Office said in a social media post urging residents to stay aware of the storm.

California’s Office of Emergency Services said it was placing fire and rescue personnel and resources in areas most at risk for flooding, mud and debris flows.

In Southern California, Six Flags Magic Mountain was closed Monday due to the storm, and Knotts Berry Farm amusement park shut its doors early. But the winter weather was celebrated by local ski resorts that



This image provided by the Santa Barbara County Fire Department shows a large tree that has fallen across the highway blocking all southbound lanes and the fast lane northbound in Goleta, Calif., Monday, Feb. 16, 2026.

(SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT VIA AP)



South Lake Tahoe resident and international fruit importer Meg Dowley skis Palisades at Kirkwood Ski Resort in Kirkwood, Calif., on Saturday, Jan. 3, 2026. (BRONTE WITTPENN/SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE VIA AP, FILE)

have waited weeks for snow.

Other states on Monday braced for different threatening weather events. Residents in parts of eastern Colorado received warnings that they could be in fire danger due to a combination of abnormally high temperatures, gusty winds and dry conditions. The risks were expected to continue further into the week as gusts up to 60 mph (96 kph) are likely to hit the Colorado eastern plains on Tuesday. Parts of Texas, New Mexico and Kansas were also under red flag warnings.

The latest storm comes amid a snow drought across much of the American West, with snow cover and depth measuring at the lowest levels scientists have

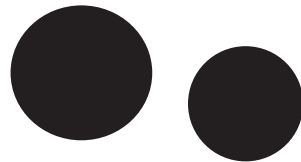
seen in decades. Most states saw half their average precipitation or less in January, though California fared better others due to heavy rains in December.

It was the first of several days of stormy weather forecast for California. A coastal flood advisory was in effect for San Francisco until Tuesday afternoon, with cooler showers and a chance of hail on Tuesday, while nearby mountains were expecting snow, the National Weather Service in Monterey reported.

Kashawna McInerny, a Realtor in the mountain community of Wrightwood, about 80 miles (130 kilometers) northeast of Los Angeles, on Monday said she was still dealing with several tons of rock and debris on

her property from Christmas and New Year’s storms that pummeled the community. After the last one, she said she got help trenching part of her side yard to direct stormwater down the street and placed a barrier of metal and wood by a door in hopes of keeping out mud and debris.

“We’re not panicking yet. At least I’m not,” she said with a laugh.



The Daily Campus

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T H E D A I L Y
C R O S S W O R D

ACROSS

- 1 "God bless you, please, ___ Robinson"
- 4 Subterranean lava
- 9 "Stop!" at sea
- 14 Feel queasy
- 15 Rumored Roswell visitor
- 16 Courage
- 17 Egg cells
- 18 "Celebration of Mexico's victory in the Battle of Puebla
- 20 Swab again, as a deck
- 22 Cold War rival of the KGB
- 23 Jr.'s practice exam
- 24 "Only woman to serve as prime minister of India
- 28 Going solo
- 29 Sobbing
- 33 Refute
- 35 Big bang letters
- 37 Alabama civil rights march city
- 38 UVA's athletic org.
- 39 "Evaluates
- 42 Special ___
- 43 Litter member
- 45 Part of a semicolon
- 46 One of a deadly septet
- 47 "That's 100% true"
- 50 "___, Macduff": Shakespeare
- 52 "Punxsutawney Phil's big moment
- 56 Green curry cuisine
- 59 Maker of small kitchen gadgets
- 60 Witherspoon of "Legally Blonde"
- 61 "So glad you've returned!" or a feature of the answer to each starred clue?
- 65 Male sheep
- 66 Trojan War tale
- 67 City whose airport is named for 24-Across
- 68 Stockholm-to-Helsinki dir.
- 69 Book identifier
- 70 Basic skateboard jump
- 71 Aykroyd of "Ghostbusters"

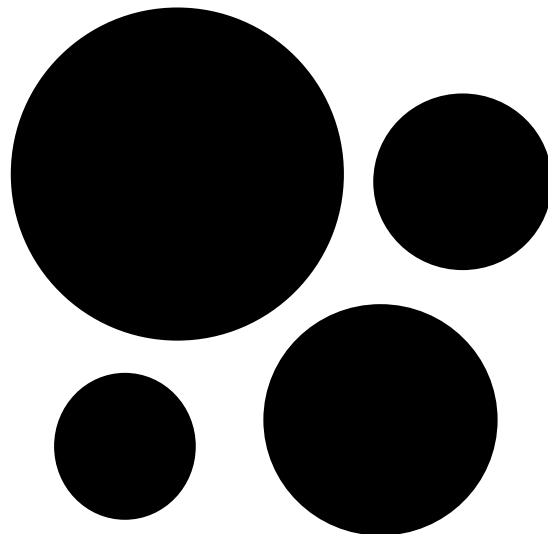
DOWN

- 1 Native New Zealander
- 2 Torn asunder
- 3 Joined a mosh pit
- 4 Apple on a teacher's desk, perhaps
- 5 Boxer Muhammad
- 6 Gimlet liquor
- 7 Muslim pilgrim's destination
- 8 Name as a successor
- 9 Michigan in Chicago, e.g.: Abbr.
- 10 One who's long in the tooth?
- 11 Pitiful interjection
- 12 High-protein bean
- 13 Bouncy gait
- 19 Miami-___ County
- 21 Like an otter's fur
- 25 Not on board with
- 26 Gp. after millennials
- 27 Door fastener
- 30 Struggled to gain traction
- 31 Pros who cry "out" loud?
- 32 ___-in first-out
- 33 Start of the day
- 34 Sound return
- 36 Actor Danson
- 39 Stimulus
- 40 Marketed
- 41 Snowbird ski resort state
- 44 Coherent
- 46 Premier seating area
- 48 Rapid growth period
- 49 Union suit?
- 51 Little terrier
- 53 Prestigious prize with six categories
- 54 Lotus pose, for one
- 55 Southernmost nation on the Arabian Peninsula
- 56 Ninny
- 57 Prefix with pad
- 58 Settled on a perch
- 62 Poem of homage
- 63 Bailiff's first word
- 64 Greek letter X

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	
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56	57	58			59										
61					62				63	64				65	
66							67							68	
69							70							71	

By Katherine Simonson

2/17/26



Monday's Puzzle Solved

C	O	S	T	S		A	S	A		R	E	N	E	E	
A	D	O	B	E		L	O	G		A	I	O	L	I	
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A	S	S	E	S		A	N	N		E	M	C	E	E	

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2/17/26

The Daily Sudoku

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

ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

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

Solution to Monday's puzzle

2/17/26

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

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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SEVEN WONDERS BAND TRIBUTES FLEETWOOD MAC AT UCONN'S JORGENSEN CENTER

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



The Seven Wonders perform a tribute to Fleetwood Mac at the Jorgensen Center on Feb. 14, 2026. The band played famous songs such as "Songbird" and "Go Your Own Way."

PHOTOGRAPH BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

A rock 'n' roll style Valentine's Day was celebrated at the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Connecticut on Saturday, Feb. 14, with a performance by The Seven Wonders: A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac.

The seven-member band showcased a variety of multi-talented musicians and vocalists joining together to cover both Fleetwood Mac's greatest hits and frontwoman Stevie Nicks' solo songs. The setlist consisted of just under twenty items, including "Landslide" as a beautiful and emotional encore — similar to how Nicks closes her own shows.

Popular songs, such as "The Chain," "Dreams" and "Silver Springs," along with many others were performed.

"Silver Springs" is one of the most beautiful songs Stevie ever wrote," Teagan Ward, who sings the Nicks vocals for The Seven Wonders, said. "I see all the colors she's singing about; the blues and greens."

Ward captivated the stage throughout the night with her powerful vocals and demeanor that matched that of Nicks — wild blond hair, black flowy dress and all.

"Rhiannon" brought forth a memorable moment of the show. The band performed a rendition similar to Fleetwood Mac's wildly intense extended live version of the hit from the 1970s.

Ward belting the lyrics "Would you take me with you to the sky?" along with large groups of women flocking to center stage to dance in their own witchy ways created an atmosphere that felt magical.

"This concert was truly phenomenal," Hardika Patel, a second-semester finance major, said. "They really knew how to engage a crowd. Their vocals and their musicianship — we really enjoyed it."

Each member of the band held their own on stage. From Jon Sheffer's enthusiastic guitar playing to intricate harmonies from Eli Flynn (Lindsey Buckingham vocals and rhythm gui-

tar) and Mel Muscarella (Christine McVie vocals). Flynn and Muscarella each sang wonderful solos of their own, such as Buckingham's "Go Your Own Way" and McVie's "Songbird."

Fleetwood Mac performed at Jorgensen Center in October 1975 and recorded songs from the performance were released on "Fleetwood Mac: Live 1975" in 2025.

Muscarella remarked that it was wonderful to be standing in the same place that McVie once had.

"I think [tribute bands] are important because younger people aren't going to see older bands perform live, and it's cool to see those classic songs performed," Miles Harriman, a second-semester psychology major, said. "It keeps the fan-base alive."

The high energy of the crowd ramped up through the night. Audience members continued to get up from their seats for the latter half of the concert, with couples slow dancing and friends holding hands, creating a picturesque Valentine's Day scene.

Timeless classic rock anthems from Fleetwood Mac's "Rumours," one of the best-selling records of all time, and "Bella Donna," Nicks' debut solo album brought an audience of varying ages together.

Drummer Matthew Ramerman and singer Flynn noted "You Make Loving Fun" as one of their favorites to perform as a band.

"It's hard not to move to," Flynn said.

The Seven Wonders: A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac was one concert of a series put together by the Jorgensen Center to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the auditorium and the birth of rock music.

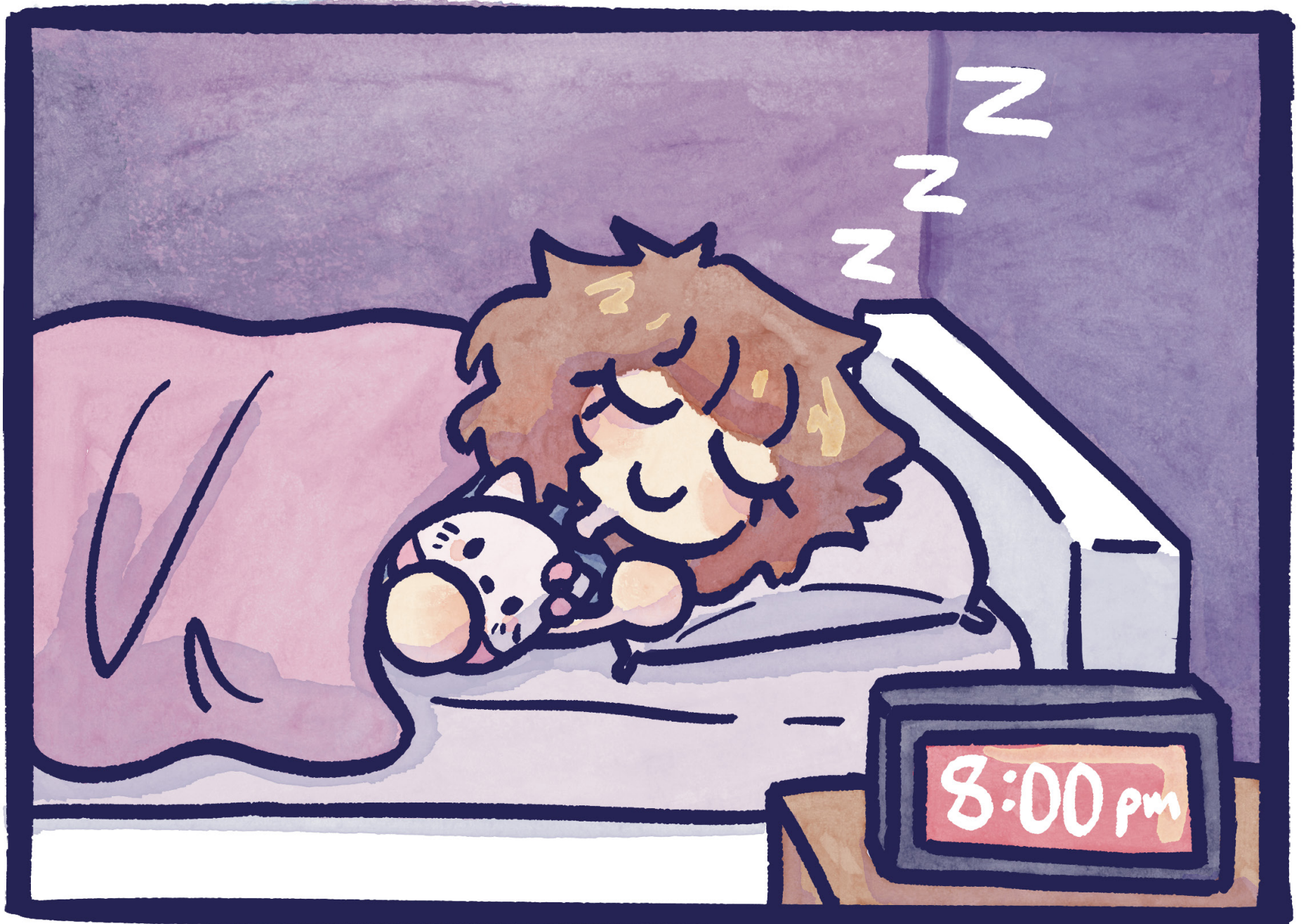
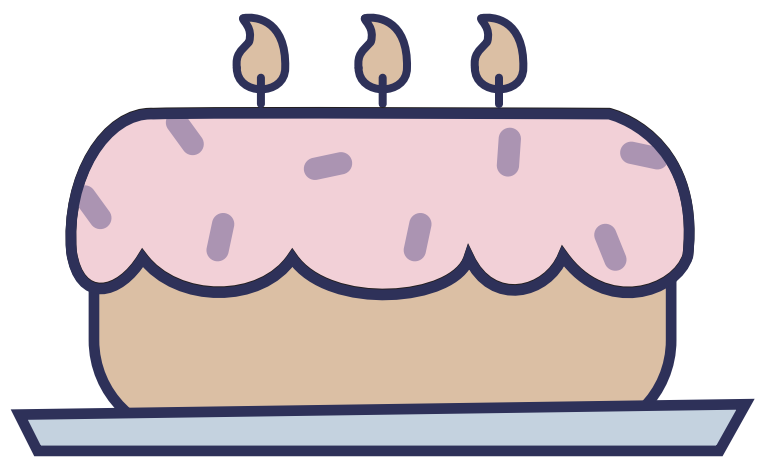
"I really liked the performance," Maximilien Forestell, a second-semester marketing major, said. "I was originally going to go to the basketball game. I heard about this concert very last minute, and I was like, 'forget the basketball game, I want to go here.'"



The Seven Wonders perform a tribute to Fleetwood Mac at the Jorgensen Center on Feb. 14, 2026. The band played famous songs such as "Songbird" and "Go Your Own Way."

PHOTOGRAPH BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

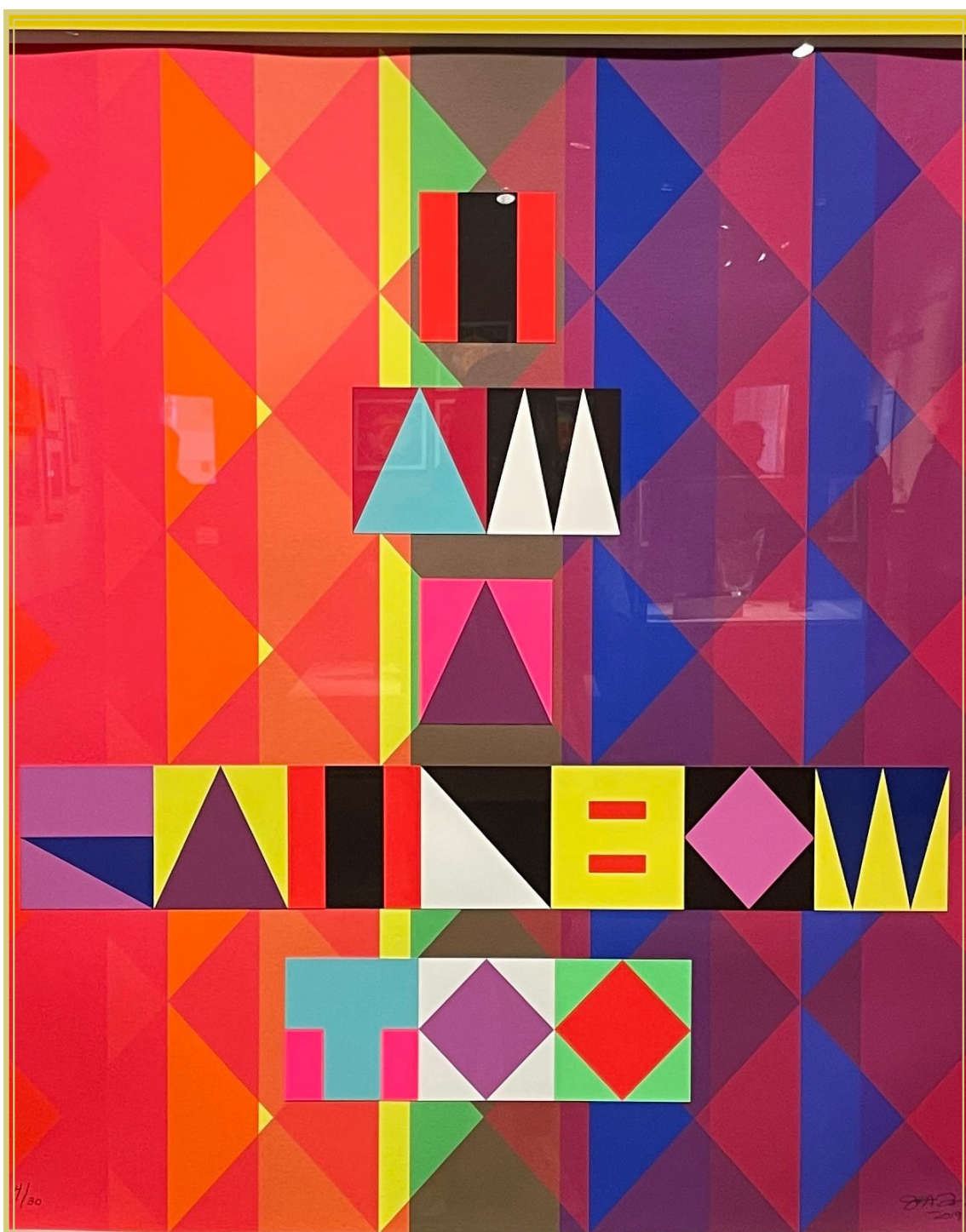
COMIC OF THE DAY





Life

Celebrating President's Day with Exhibit 'Exploring America at 250' at the Benton Museum



Artwork at UConn's Benton museum of art. These pieces are designed to celebrate America's 250 year anniversary.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR



by Jaylyn Davis
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This year marks the 250th anniversary of the United States' existence as a nation. To celebrate, the William Benton Museum of Art at the University of Connecticut established an exhibition called "Exploring America at 250." On Sunday, Feb. 15, curator Amanda Douberley led a walk-through of that exhibition.

"Exploring America at 250" features three sections that represent three ways of perceiving America. The sections are place, identity and an idea.

Before exploring the sections of the exhibition, Douberley presented artwork by Robert

Indiana, an American artist. The work contained five photos that were mostly identical.

All five photos had a black and white circle with a red star engraved in them. Within the star were three golden fives engulfed within one another. The difference between the five photos was that each had different words on the border of the circle.

The borders read: "Die," "Err," "Eat," "Hug" and finally, "American Dream 1928 - 1963." Combined, all five photos contribute to the American Dream, which has long been a debated subject.

After the presentation of Indiana's piece, Douberley moved on to the first section of the exhibition, which describes

America as a place. In this section, there are paintings and photographs that depict different places in the United States.

One piece that Douberley described was called "Cochetti's Fish Market," an oil on canvas by George Benjamin Luks. The artwork's a representation of immigrant communities in New York City in the early 20th century. Other notable works from the section included "Niagara Falls, NY" by Tseng Kwong Chi and "Louisiana" by Sarah Sense.

Douberley and the attendees then moved on to the second section of the exhibition, which held artwork that symbolizes America as an identity. Most of the artwork from the section contained people, including

Marilyn Monroe.

However, there was one work that didn't have a person in it called "I am a Rainbow Too" by Jeffrey Gibson. The piece has a rainbow background that had the title of the work in it. The artwork was significant because it represented Gibson advocating for his homosexuality and his Native American identity.

The last section of the exhibition presented represents America as an idea. The exhibition has a variety of artwork that depicts different aspects of American life.

A memorable piece presented by Douberley was a painting of a World War I war bond. In the painting, numerous immigrants looked at a child that

was holding an American flag. The purpose of that painting was to persuade people to look towards the future and think about the next generation of Americans.

Another art piece that was presented from the section was a photograph of students from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) that attended the funeral of a group of girls who were murdered in a Baptist church bombing that took place in the 1960s.

At the end of the tour, Douberley shared that she doesn't just like to collect art that represents the past, but she also likes to collect art pieces that symbolize contemporary events.

"When we're looking to acquire things for the museum, one of the arguments that you have to make is how it relates to your collection," Douberley said. "And I'd say that I've also been interested in collecting artworks that kind of say something about art and history today. So, one of the pieces that we didn't talk about is that sculpture which is another recent acquisition by an artist called Valerie Hegarty, and it's from her Covid diaries. And so, I thought, wow. How great to be able to acquire something that talks about something that's so important but also of this moment and that you could help tell the story of the pandemic through the collection with that of the artworks."

Ruth Alejandro, a fourth-semester student double majoring in political science and journalism, said the tour was a very enjoyable experience.

"I really liked it," she said. "It was very insightful. It was also very cool because there were pieces from different ages, and I really liked how it had multiple perspectives."

The "America at 250" exhibition is not just a collection of art. It portrays a message on how America can be represented in numerous ways. Everyone has their own opinion on what America is, and these opinions are reflected in the exhibition, which is to remain in the William Benton Museum of Art until the beginning of August.



Opinion

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OUR FLAG STILL FLIES: ON FRUITLESS LGBTQ+ ERASURE AT STONEWALL

by **Tamara Segal**
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At the Stonewall National Monument in Greenwich Village, the first national monument dedicated to LGBTQ+ history that honors the protests that set off the modern LGBTQ+ rights movement, a pride flag flies.

It flies as an emblem of love and acceptance, but more than that, it flies today because it was rightfully restored by local officials and community members after being taken down by the National Park Service last week. While this move was purportedly in compliance with a recent memo on flag-flying policy for national monuments, recently released by the Department of the Interior, in reality, it was just a poorly disguised act of plain and pathetic homophobia.

For one thing, within the new policy, there is already the framework for allowing the pride flag to be flown at Stonewall. While the policy states that in general only the U.S., DOI, and POW/MIA flags may be flown at national monuments, it offers many exceptions to that rule. The first allows for other flags to be flown if they hold historical significance to the monument. It is quite clear to see that the singular flag which represents the LGBTQ+ rights movement is extremely historically significant to the monument which honors that very movement.

Now, a likely rebuttal is that the pride flag is in violation of certain religious beliefs and therefore to fly it would violate the First Amendment's Establishment Clause, whereby the government cannot endorse or invalidate any religion. However, that argument rests on a fundamental misunderstanding of what the pride flag stands for. It is



An angle of the outer fenced area of the Stonewall National Monument with pride flags hanging from the fencing. PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS ON INSTAGRAM.

not a flag which concerns religion or non-religion; being part of the LGBTQ+ community is not affiliated with any religious identity, as proven by the many LGBTQ+ people who hold varied religious beliefs and the many who do not. Therefore, while there may be those who argue that, say, a transgender identity is against their own personal religious belief (which they are entitled to hold), it still stands that the pride flag and the LGBTQ+ movement do not compel anyone to be transgender. The flag's message is simply that anyone who holds that identity is equally valid, that you shall come as you are and trust that you will find acceptance — which, by the way, is a profoundly American ideal.

Others may argue that the pride flag is an inherently political flag and therefore cannot be flown at a federal monument. I won't deny that the pride flag has its political significance, yet I would also ask in return what political statement it makes that isn't already inherent in the creation of the Stonewall National Monument. Of course, this is not to say that the monument is not valid. After all, if the flag and the monument hold political weight, then so do so many other beloved national monuments. Are the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial unacceptable because they honor figures of decided political parties and revolutionary opinions? Should the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality

Monument shutter its doors because women's rights are an inherently political issue? What about the Birmingham Civil Rights Monument, for that matter? Of course, the answer is that these monuments all belong and enrich our country because they honor those who were instrumental in shaping it for the better (some more than others, I would argue, but I digress). Further, the truth becomes clear that in memorializing the history of our nation, a political state, we cannot refrain from touching upon politics. The Stonewall National Monument is no different.

Clearly, the only reason there could be to remove the pride flag from the monument is to try to erase LG-

BTQ+ identity from our national history. And sadly, this is not the first example of this kind of erasure that Stonewall has seen recently. A year ago, the Trump Administration deleted references to queer and transgender people from the monument's website and reverted the acronym "LGBTQ+" to the outdated and incomplete "LGB."

Yet, on that occasion and again this past week, members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies alike showed up at the monument and spoke out, making their presence seen, heard, and above all known. The truth is that this community has always been here and always will be; we cannot truly be erased so long as we continue to have pride in who we are.



Opinion

Photo of the Day | Week five demon



Students gather to study in the downtown Starbucks on Feb. 16th, 2026. Downtown Storrs has remained a popular place for students to do work throughout the year.
PHOTO BY ELLA GORHAM, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Roundtable: What Olympic sport could you qualify for in four years?

The 2026 Winter Olympics have begun in Milano Cortina. As with every go around of this four-year cycle, we have reached a fresh round of the general public re-finding out exactly what is included in the winter games. What is “Skeleton”? What is “Luge”? How exactly do people get into these sports and how does one become the best in the world? No one knows. At least, we at the Opinion Section do not. However, this week, our writers are looking to find, as they answer the question: With only four years to prepare, in what sport do you think you could realistically make it into the Olympics?

Colin Hamilton, Staff Writer: Given four years to prepare, I would immediately begin training for ski jumping. Despite the rather daunting reality of throwing oneself off a ramp at high speeds in an Icarian attempt at human flight, I am confident I could complete the task. Even in the face of the recent cheating scandal of “penisgate” (probably worth a Google), I would proudly strap on a pair of skis and send myself flying haphazardly into the air to represent my country in a time-honored tradition of aerial chicken. Even if I could guarantee no real element of grace, there’s no rule saying I have to stick the landing. After all, I realistically would only need to land once, one way or another. How bad could it be?

Gianna Cassino, Weekly Columnist: Completely going off vibes, I would lock in on figure skating. The U.S. women’s figure skating team is currently dominating both my brain and my TikTok feed, so what can I say, I’m inspired. I’ve always wanted to get into figure skating, so I feel that my passion would carry me through four years of training. Am I aware that figure skating is extremely difficult because it’s ice skating and dance and acrobatics? Yes. Do I have some experience in those areas separately and a delusional amount of confidence in myself? Also yes.

Tamara Segal, Staff Writer: Despite the fear that I would crash into a wall and literally die, I think I would have to go for the skeleton. A human torpedo is exactly what I want to be when I grow up, because nothing says aura like speeding down an icy slide, headfirst and on your belly. Like, that’s objectively awesome. Do I really have to explain myself further?

Amber Greene, Campus Correspondent: From two weeks of watching professional athletes do it, and my adequate ability to move on ice skates I think I can do speed skating in 2030. If you paired me up with an intense trainer that had me skate like my life depended on it, I could totally make it to qualify for the Olympics. Still, by the time it came around, I would probably get insanely humbled

by the daunting cheers of an Olympic sized skating arena and being paired against someone who has been training for life — and probably slip and fall when it came time to compete.

Ayden Mirabella, Contributor: Given four years, put me down for curling. If the Canadians can get away with cheating in the sport, why can’t I? Also, those stones weigh a good amount so I could always slide them into my opponents, so they forfeit on injury. Additionally, I think it would be fun just to slide up and down the ice, even if it is a violation of the rules. I could also have fun with those mops, or whatever they call them. Imagine how fun it would be using the mops as swords to fight with your fellow moppers on the ice. Truly, this is the spirit of the Olympics.



Speed skater Erin Jackson pushing off during the women’s 500 sprint. Erin Jackson came in 5th with a 39.19. PHOTO COURTESY OF @TEAMUSA ON INSTAGRAM.



Athlete mid-air during ski jump on Day 8 of the Olympics. PHOTO COURTESY OF @OLYMPICS ON INSTAGRAM.

POINT COUNTERPOINT: WHO SHOULD THE JETS DRAFT WITH THE 2ND PICK OF THE 2026 NFL DRAFT?

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Graham: Jeremiyah Love (RB, Notre Dame)

Would the New York Jets select Love if I was the GM? No. Is it a real possibility? Absolutely. While I'm still inclined to believe Aaron Glenn will first look to build his defense during his second offseason in The Big Apple, selecting the Heisman finalist doesn't seem unreasonable.

Love was a baller in 2025, rushing for nearly 1,400 yards and 18 touchdowns while maintaining an excellent 6.9 yards per carry. He added another 280 yards and 3 touchdowns from 27 catches, showing he can be a three-down back. His play was enough to keep Jadarrian Price, PFF's RB2 in the 2026 NFL Draft, to just 113 carries all year. Love also averaged 125.5 rushing yards per game against ranked competition.

The Jets' offense is in desperate need of playmakers, and Love is the best offensive player the draft has to offer. If it wasn't for the nature of the running back position, there'd be a real shot he'd be selected with the No. 1 pick.

Breece Hall is a talented player, but he only just eclipsed 1,000 yards for the first time this season. More importantly, he's an impending free agent, and it seems unlikely he'd play under the franchise tag when teams like the Kansas City Chiefs would seem ecstatic at the opportunity to sign him to a long-term deal. The tag value for running backs is \$14.5 million this season, which would account for 18% of the Jets' cap space.

Bringing back Hall would mean the team with the most holes in the NFL would be investing more money in bringing back the same core. A tag and trade seems the most likely for Hall.

Beyond Hall, the Jets' backfield features Isaiah Davis and Kene Nwangwu, who are also impending free agents. Davis has been an efficient back in his two seasons, but has never proved he can be more than a change-of-pace back.

Aaron Glenn's Lions weren't shy about taking the players they wanted regardless of draft position, and one of those players was a running back: Jahmyr Gibbs. Gibbs was the No. 12 pick in the 2023 NFL Draft

after being projected to be selected in the 25-40 range, and the Jets could make a similar shock pick with Love. With no quarterback worthy of the No. 2 pick, the Jets could find their Gibbs in the Notre Dame prospect to bolster their offense.

With tackles Olu Fashanu and Armand Membou looking to be stars, the Jets could continue to upgrade their interior offensive line through the draft and later in free agency with the money they otherwise would have paid Hall. They could, perhaps, select Alabama QB Ty Simpson with the No. 16 pick they acquired from the Colts to be their long-term starter.

Alternatively, they could look to acquire veteran Kyler Murray, or perhaps Malik Willis?

An offense with a new QB, Love, Garrett Wilson, and a pair of ascending young tackles is a solid baseline for the Jets going into Aaron Glenn's second season. Of course, they'd need to make a concerted effort to

upgrade the defense during free agency, but Love could help the miserable offense make up ground on the rest of the AFC

East.

Raiyan: Reuben Bain Jr. (DE, Miami)

The New York Jets fielded an unexpectedly abysmal defense during the 2025 season. They were ranked near last in most basic counting stats, making them an obvious reason for why the team acquired the second overall pick in the 2026 NFL Draft.

The Jets quickly became aware that this group of players wasn't working out and acted accordingly. Standout defensive players CB Ahmad "Sauce" Gardner and DT Quinnen Williams were traded before the deadline, and defensive play caller Steve Wilks was also fired. Head coach Aaron Glenn will now reportedly assume playcalling duties in 2026. The Jets have put themselves in a position where they need to completely rebuild their defense from the ground up.

The best place to start? Their first pick of the draft.

If the last two Super Bowl champions can tell us anything, one way to succeed in the modern NFL is to generate heavy pressure with four rushers. It allows a significant amount of flexibility on the defensive side, which is something that any defensive play caller can exploit. The Jets' defensive line was poorly ranked this sea-

son as PFF has them at 28th, however, they already have solid pieces with veterans LDE Will McDonald IV, LDT Jowon Briggs, and LB/EDGE Jermaine Johnson (assuming he recovers from injury).

Since the Raiders should be going QB with their first overall pick, the Jets will have the entire roster of defensive ends and tackles to choose from to bolster this line.

DE Rueben Bain Jr. from Miami would undoubtedly be the best pick for the Jets from that roster, who finished his 2025 season with a historic 83 pressures and consistently did this against some of the best collegiate offensive line talent. He's also generally perceived as a "high-floor" candidate who should succeed regardless of the situation around him. This is in contrast with other top prospects like LB/EDGE Arvell Reese from Ohio State, who may need to be coached into playing a defensive line role like stand-out edge rusher Micah Parsons.

From the perspective of the Jets front office, if a coaching shake-up in 2026 ends up being necessary, they can stay rest assured that their top pick from the 2026 draft will still be someone who can contribute meaningfully to the team. Someone like Bain Jr. will help them build a defense for the future, no matter the circumstance the team could find themselves in.



Sports

Photo of the Day | Men's basketball



UConn Men's Basketball takes on Georgetown in Gampel Pavilion on February 14th, 2026. The Huskies won 79 – 75 against the Hoyas, and celebrated Alex Karaban's program record of 116 wins.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ELLA GORHAM, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

BIG EAST BALLER UPDATE NO. 6: BRAWL ENSUES IN PROVIDENCE, POWELL SUSPENDED

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An underrated headline going into Saturday was Bryce Hopkins's return to Providence after transferring to St. John's. A combination of an angry atmosphere at the Amica Mutual Pavilion and two physical Big East teams resulted in a brawl caused by Providence's Duncan Powell, who committed a Flagrant 2 foul on a breakaway by Hopkins. Punches were thrown, and by the final buzzer, seven players were ejected.

How can you not be romantic about the Big East? Let's dive right into our awards.

Weekly Awards

Player of the Week: Solo Ball, guard, UConn (22 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 2 apg, 48.4 FG%, 40.7 3P%, 75 FT% in two games)

This one was a difficult choice, but out of the options, Ball had the highest plus-minus rating. In the wins at Butler and at home against Georgetown, he scored at least 20 points in both games. Ball knocked down 11 3-pointers in the two games combined, the most by a player over a two-game span in Big East play this season. He had a terrific game at Butler, scoring 24 points on an efficient 8-of-14 shooting, which included a season-high six 3-pointers. On Saturday, Ball followed these games with a 20-point performance that included 16 points in the first half. In addition to that, the 2024 NCAA champion had six rebounds and four assists, as well as five 3-pointers.

Freshman of the Week: Nigel James Jr., guard, Marquette (19.5 ppg, 9 apg, 4 rpg, 1 spg, 53.1 FG%, 33.3 3P%, 60 FT% in two games)

Despite Marquette's dismal season, James has looked like a future Big East Player of the Year. It will not be this year, but it will not surprise me if he wins one if he stays at Marquette. James had one of his best games of the season on Saturday, finishing with 30 points and a career-high 12 assists at Xavier. It was the first time since Feb. 23, 2002, that a player had at least 30 points and 12 assists in a Big East game. He also became the first Big East freshman to have three 30-point performances in conference play since the 1998-99 season.

Best game last week: St. John's fends off Xavier in over-



(Right) St. Johns player jumping to take a shot during the game. During the game, a fight ensued from players after a hard foul leading to seven being ejected. PHOTO COURTESY OF @STJOHNSBALL ON INSTAGRAM

(Left) UConn Men's Basketball takes on Georgetown in Gampel Pavilion on February 14th, 2026. The Huskies won 79 – 75 against the Hoyas, and celebrated Alex Karaban's program record of 116 wins. PHOTO BY ELLA GORHAM, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

time in historic game for Rick Pitino, 87-82

Last week, Zuby Ejiofor showed why he will end up winning Big East Player of the Year. After Oziyah Sellers forced overtime on a putback tip with 16 seconds remaining, Ejiofor took over, scoring 6 of his 25 points in the extra period to help seal an 87-82 win over the Musketeers. That win was the 904th of Pitino's career, passing Roy

Williams for the third-most Division I wins in college basketball history. The only coaches ahead of him are Mike Krzyzewski (1,202) and Jim Boeheim (1,116). The Johnnies have now won 11-straight, including that insane game at Providence on Saturday.

Best games this week (minus No. 5 UConn at Villanova): Villanova at Xavier (6:30 p.m., FS1) and Creighton at No. 17 St. John's (Saturday, noon, FOX)

Villanova can improve its tournament resumé with a Quad 2 opportunity at Xavier on Tuesday night. Jovan Milicevic was terrific in the Musketeers' last game, scoring 23 points in a 96-88 win over Marquette. The Cintas Center is a tough place to play, so a road win there always will go a long way, even though Xavier is 13-12 and 5-9 in conference play.

According to ESPN's Neil Paine, Creighton is a long shot to

make the NCAA Tournament. The Bluejays must start winning now. They have a tall task going to Madison Square Garden to face red-hot St. John's, but there are few coaches more capable of pulling off the upset than Greg McDermott. It may be a Quad 3 game for the Red Storm, but they will need all the momentum they can get before a battle with UConn in Hartford next week.

MEN'S HOCKEY EAST ROUNDUP: WEEK 18

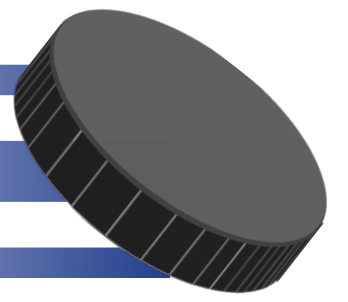


ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

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Men's Olympic hockey began this week, making the collegiate scene the new main attraction.

Non-conference play has officially concluded until the NCAA tournament, and this week began the final week of the regular season, making every game even more important.

Week two of the Beanpot tournament began this week, with Harvard and Northeastern playing the consolation before the title game featuring No. 14 Boston College and Boston University.

Harvard and Northeastern traded goals to open the game, but from there it was all Harvard on the scoresheet, culminating in a 4-1 win in the end over the still tumbling Huskies.

The main event came later in the night with the Boston teams in a bonus Battle for Comm Ave. BU opened the game's scoring early on but would concede the next four goals of the game, only scoring one more in a weak comeback attempt. The Eagles cruised to a 6-2 victory to claim

their 21st title in the tournament and first since 2016.

All of the contests on the weekend were two-game sets between teams, with no variation in who played who between Friday and Saturday. No. 19 UMass Amherst did not play this weekend.

UMass Lowell traveled to Vermont for both of their games. Despite the Catamounts outshooting their opponents, the River Hawks swept the set by scores of 4-2 and 5-2.

Following their Beanpot loss, BU looked to turn the tide and stop their drastic fall that's occurred this season. Unfortunately for the Terriers that would not happen on Friday, with Morgan Winters leading the charge in a 4-1 UNH victory.

Game two fell in favor of BU by a score of 5-3, but that didn't take away from the crushing loss the day before. The national runner-up is all but eliminated from an at-large bid and will have to win their conference tournament to reach the NCAAs.

Boston College and Merrimack played a home-and-home following the Eagles' Beanpot win. Game one began with two

goals from BC, but that would be all the Eagles managed. Merrimack scored four unanswered to win a statement 4-2 victory. BC dominated game two to win 4-2 and earn a series split.

For Merrimack, their season has been one of the quietest quality seasons nationwide. Winning against a top 15 team earned them a vote in the USCHO poll and puts them just three points out of a Hockey East bye.

No. 7 Providence hosted Northeastern in a two-game set where the expectation was a Friars' sweep.

While Providence certainly outplayed Northeastern, allowing just 11 shots, a poor performance by Jack Parsons in net gave the Huskies a surprising 4-2 victory over the Friars. Providence shut down Northeastern in game two in a 4-1 win for a little retribution.

No. 11 UConn travelled to Maine for their series, the first rematch of last year's Hockey East finalists.

It was all Tyler Muszelik in game one, saving all 32 of Maine's shots for a 2-0 victory. Maine put up 53 shots the following day, the most UConn

has ever allowed in their time in Hockey East. But Muszelik wasn't finished, keeping the Huskies alive and dragging the game to a 3-3 tie. UConn never trailed yet never led by more than one, with Trey Scott winning it for the Huskies in the shootout.

The Hockey East tournament is starting to take shape but is still very malleable. All teams make the conference tournament, but the top five seeds receive a first-round bye.

Providence has a good hold on the top of the conference, with only one ranked team on their schedule and the remaining four coming against Vermont and UNH, the worst teams in the conference.

UConn is Providence's only challenger, but a strong remaining schedule and the ground they'd have to make up makes the one seed almost unattainable. The two meet on the final day of the season, and if the cards fall right, there's still a chance this decides the one seed.

Boston College sits just two points behind UConn and also has a tough schedule to end the year. Five points ahead of

fourth, the Eagles control their own destiny but cannot take the next stretch lightly.

UMass and Boston University sit tied in the four and five, with Merrimack and Northeastern three points behind them. Maine and Lowell have outside shots at a bye, while Vermont and New Hampshire will almost certainly play first round games.

The at-large bids from the conference will include Providence for sure, with UConn being likely and BC having a good shot as well.

Merrimack travels to Maine with the power to eliminate Maine from bye contention, and Northeastern will have the same power as the visitors against UMass Lowell.

New Hampshire and No. 19 UMass play a home-and-home set, while No. 7 Providence travels to Vermont.

No. 10 UConn and No. 12 Boston College play a pivotal home-and-home that will likely determine the recipient of the two seed in the tournament and potentially clinch an at-large bid depending on nationwide results.



UConn Men's Hockey ties against Harvard 1-1 on Friday, Oct. 31, 2025, in overtime and a shootout. The 10 round shootout was capped off by Huston Karpman scoring the winning goal. PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Daily

Sports

MEN'S OLYMPIC HOCKEY GROUP ROUND RECAP

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After five days and 18 games, the first leg of the men's hockey portion of the Olympics has concluded. Each team played three games against their opponents in their group to determine seeding for the actual bracket. Unlike women's hockey where the bottom teams are eliminated in the group stage, every team plays in the men's playoff bracket, and the groups are only for seeding purposes and to determine byes.

Play kicked off Wednesday with two group B matchups, starting with Slovakia taking on Finland. Slovakian 2022 NHL first overall pick Juraj Slafkovsky made his name known in the 2022 Olympics and replicated that performance with 2 goals in the Slovak 4-1 win.

Host Italy faced Sweden for the second game of the day as massive underdogs, and despite scoring the first goal of the game Italy fell 5-2.

Switzerland and France's game to begin day two saw action early, with the Swiss scoring not even a minute in. France

failed to record a goal and saw a 4-0 loss in the opening of group A play.

The other Group A game featured Canada and Czechia. Rising star Macklin Celebrini scored with six seconds left in the first to open the scoring in an eventual 5-0 Canadian victory.

Group C play began later in the day with both matchups playing simultaneously. USA and Latvia faced off in one game, with the USA winning 5-1 despite shaky team chemistry.

The other group C game featured Denmark and Germany. Despite being outshot by 12, Germany's top-line NHL talent helped move them to a 3-1 win.

Day three began at 6 a.m. Eastern, with rivals Finland and Sweden starting things off. Sweden managed to outshoot Finland, but a vintage performance from Juuse Saros in net kept Finland ahead in what would be a 4-1 Finnish victory.

Italy and Slovakia played at the same time as the other group B game, with Italy goaltender and Anaheim Ducks' draft pick Damian Clara putting on a show to keep Italy in the game. A late goal to cut the lead from 3-1 to 3-2 gave Slovakia a scare, but they held on to avoid a huge

upset.

Group A play for the day started with Czechia and France. France's performance continued to fall flat, dropping the game 6-3 in the Czech victory.

Canada and Switzerland played in their second games, with Canada taking it 5-1.

A hit from Canadian forward Tom Wilson on Kevin Fiala left Fiala down on the ice, with a stretcher needing to come in for Fiala. He has been ruled out of not only the tournament, but also the remainder of the season for the Los Angeles Kings.

Game three for Sweden and Slovakia was crucial for both. Tiebreakers are decided by goal differential, so this game mattered for who would win the group both by victor and by the final score. For Slovakia, it was win-and-in, while for Sweden, they would need to win by three goals to take the group and clinch the bye.

Sweden took a 5-2 lead late in the game off a Lucas Raymond goal, and it looked like the group and a ticket to the quarterfinal were theirs.

Dalibor Dvorsky, a St Louis Blues' draft pick, had different plans. Dvorsky scored with just 39 seconds to go, and though

the game ended as a 5-3 Slovakian win, the Dvorsky goal was enough to push the Slovaks over the edge to win the group.

Finland and Italy's game was a complete 180 for the Italians, with the Finns winning 11-0 to end off Group B play.

Germany and Latvia faced off on the same day, with Germany leading 2-1 before conceding three straight to ultimately fall 4-3.

The USA and Denmark's match continued American uncertainty. Tied at one in the first, Nick Jensen fired a shot from center ice that grazed off USA's Matt Boldy's shin and went past Jeremy Swayman for a brutal goal. The US won the game 6-3 with improved team play, but the early game remains a problem.

Switzerland and Czechia's game was one of the best in the tournament, reaching overtime after a 3-3 regulation. It was Dean Kukan who ended the game in the extra frame to win the game for the Swiss.

The matchup between Canada and France wasn't a close game from the beginning. The Canadians outshot France by more than 30 in a 10-2 victory, with goals from all around the lineup.

The final game of group play pitted the USA and Germany against each other. The USA scored the first five goals of the game in a 5-1 victory to clinch them the group.

Canada and America finished as the only unbeaten teams, with Slovakia also winning their group bye and Finland receiving the last bye due to record and goal differential.

Canada takes on the winner of Czechia and Denmark, while the USA plays the winner of Sweden and Latvia. Slovakia takes on the winner of Germany and France, and Finland will see the winner of Switzerland and Italy. The winners of the quarterfinals will be reseeded for the semifinals.

The preliminary rounds begin today, with the quarterfinals tomorrow and the semis on Friday.

The United States and Germany getting ready to face off in a match. The United States won 5-1. PHOTO COURTESY OF @TEAMUSA ON INSTAGRAM

