



Amazon lockers installing on Storrs campus this week

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The University of Connecticut will add two Amazon delivery lockers to its Storrs campus this week, according to Associate Director of Logistics Andy Kelly.

The lockers, owned and operated by Amazon, will be located outside of Watson Residence Hall under the breezeway, and outside of Putman Dining Hall, near Garrigus, Werth, Hale and Ellsworth Residence Halls. The outdoor locations prevent any issues with card access, Kelly said.

According to Emily Cooperman, an account manager with Amazon, the lockers will be installed on Wednesday and should be activated and ready for orders by the end of the week.

Once activated, the lockers will show up as a delivery option for Amazon orders, Kelly said. The lockers will allow students to bypass campus mail services and get same-day or next-day delivery, something that is virtually impossible as of now, even with the recent addition of university-run self-service lockers.

"We track the packages. We take them to the mail room. Depending on if they're in part of campus where we have our own lockers, you know, they might have access to it sooner than if it goes to a traditional mail room," Kelly said. "And obviously, those mail rooms are constrained by the hours that we're open, which is significantly less than the access where we have lockers. And so [the Amazon lockers] will provide a solution to that problem."

Currently, UConn Mail Services operates its own lockers in Connecticut Hall, which covers South Campus and Alumni



Graphic of a student picking up a package at an Amazon locker. UConn will add two pickup lockers to campus this week. PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY IANNACI/AMAZON

Quad; Shippee Hall, for Shippee, Buckley, Whitney, Holcomb, Sprague, Hicks and Grange residents; and Hilltop Apartments, Kelly said. Mail Services is in the process of finding funding for five more university-run locker sites. Kelly said that the end goal is to service all residential areas with lockers rather than an actual mailroom.

With the lockers, "the access to get your packages is by far, immensely better, and that's what we're going for," he said.

Kelly hopes the Amazon lockers will take a lot of packages off of Mail Services' plate.

"We have times where we're a day or two behind, and that doesn't meet the expectation of our customer base, the residential students on campus," he said.

Kelly said that Mail Services doesn't have the resources to deal with the influx of packages at their peak times — the beginning of the fall semester, for example.

Since a lot of the packages Mail Services receives are from Amazon, Kelly hopes the lockers will "drop that peak a little bit," and give them a better chance at getting packages to students in a timely manner.

"We think it's a reasonable

expectation for folks living on campus to get their packages as soon as they get to the university," Kelly said.

LAMONT URGES CAUTION AS BLIZZARD HITS CONNECTICUT

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Gov. Ned Lamont urged Connecticut residents to use caution because of the blizzard conditions that started on Sunday, Feb. 22 and continued throughout Monday, Feb. 23.

According to Connecticut's Official State Website, "the forecast changed very quickly over the last 24 hours, and now it appears that we have a significant storm heading in our direction that is likely to bring blizzard conditions."

"In addition to high rates of snowfall, the particular concern with this storm are the very strong wind gusts, which will make travel ex-

tremely dangerous and will cause visibility to be very low," Lamont said. "I am urging everyone to plan ahead and stay off the roads on Sunday night and through at least Monday morning. We are monitoring the forecast as it evolves, and I advise everyone to stay alert for updates throughout the weekend."

The website also stated that, in anticipation of the storm, Lamont directed a partial in-person activation of the Connecticut Emergency Operations Center (EOC) starting at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday to track conditions and respond promptly to any emerging needs.

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GREEN AMENDMENT ADVOCATES HOLD TOWN HALL MEETINGS ACROSS CONNECTICUT

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Town hall meetings focused on constitutional environmental rights were held in Mansfield Center, Stamford and Middletown throughout February.

The town hall meetings were organized by Green Amendments For The Generations (GAFTG) and the organization's founder, Maya K. van Rossum. The events were also attended by other local activist groups including the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA), The League of Women Voters in Connecticut (LWVCT) and others.

The Mansfield town hall meeting was held at the Mansfield Public Library on Monday, Feb. 3 with State Rep. Gregory Haddad and State Sen. Mae Flexer in attendance.

The Stamford town hall meeting was held at the Stamford Government Center on Tuesday, Feb. 10 and was attended by Rep. Matt Blumenthal, Sen. Pat Billie Miller and other state municipal leaders.

The Middletown town hall meeting was held at the DeKoven Center on Feb. 11.

In a press release, NOFA reported that over 95 Connecticut residents attended across the three event days, and that "conversations at the events highlighted concerns over increasing extreme weather events, water pollution and threats to public health and the need for proactive legal tools to protect communities from environmental harm."

"The level of turnout and engagement at every one of our town hall events for the Con-



Maya K. van Rossum, founder of the GAFTG movement, speaking in Mansfield, Conn. GAFTG's mission statement lists the benefits every person and community across the United States should experience when provided with a clean, safe and healthy environment. PHOTO COURTESY OF @MAYAVANROSSUM ON INSTAGRAM

necticut Environmental Rights Amendment has demonstrated that people are looking for solutions when it comes to environmental protection," said Maya K. van Rossum, founder of GAFTG. "People are recognizing that pollution is damaging the water, air, climate and environments that communities need to not just survive, but to thrive, and they are tired of piecemeal legislative solutions that are not solving the problem."

GAFTG's official mission statement "is to ensure every person and community across the United States is able to experience the health, quality of life, education, joy and economic prosperity provided by a clean, safe and healthy environment"

"The proposed green amendment would outline the right of all residents to clean air, water and a healthy environment," NOFA said in a press release. "Green Amendments have already been successfully adopted in Pennsylvania, Montana, and New York, and have provided strong legal frameworks to prevent environmental harm and hold decision-makers accountable"

GAFTG and green amendment supporters urge Attorney General William Tong to support the amendment and help

bring it forward for a vote during the 2026 Connecticut senatorial session.

"Every Connecticut resident has an inalienable right to live in a safe and healthy environment, including clean water, air, and soil, and a stable climate," said Blumenthal. "Enshrining that right in our state Constitution will ensure Connecticut's long-term dedication to environmental health and safety, and that every Connecticut resident, in every community — including farmers, hunters, outdoorspeople, and others — can trust we will preserve the environment for this generation and the ones to follow. I'm committed to working with advocates, stakeholders and our state Attorney General to protect these rights in perpetuity by amending the state Constitution"

Patricia Rossi, the co-president of LWVCT, said a safe climate is "necessary to human health."

"The League of Women Voters fully supports the Environmental Rights Amendment which would ensure these fundamental human rights for all Connecticut residents," Rossi said.

More information about the Connecticut Environmental Rights amendment and similar amendments is available at ct-greenamendment.org.

CT, OTHER STATES SIGN AGREEMENT WITH DEPT. OF ED FOR DEI FUNDING

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Connecticut Attorney General William Tong, along with 19 other state attorneys general, has come to an agreement with the federal government to stop them from withholding funds from schools with diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) policies.

"Another major defeat and retreat for the Trump administration and Linda McMahon. Connecticut schools have always and will always comply with federal civil rights laws. Trump and McMahon tried to force [Make American Great Again] ideology on Connecticut students and teachers by illegally withholding taxpayer dollars. We stopped them, and we're going to keep fighting and winning to protect Connecticut families," Tong said in a press release.

The Feb. 6 agreement protects the nearly \$400 million that the Connecticut State Department of Education receives from the federal government, including Title I funding, which provides money for districts with many low-income students. Other education services funded by the federal government include special education services, recruitment and training for teachers, programming for Learning

English as a Second Language services and support for children without housing, according to the press release.

"As a condition of receiving these funds, state and local education agencies provide written assurances they will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color or national origin," the press release said. "Connecticut has consistently and regularly certified its compliance with Title VI and its implementing regulations."

This resolution comes nearly a year after the U.S. Department of Education sent out letters to state and local education agencies in April 2025, notifying them that they must comply with the administration's interpretation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which says that DEI policies are discriminatory, particularly for white and Asian students.

The federal government cites Students for Fair Admission v. Harvard (2023), in which the Supreme Court found that race cannot be a factor in college admissions, as the driving factor for this anti-DEI push. Though the case applied to college applications, the U.S. Department of Education said they see it as applying more broadly.

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News

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According to the website, “located in Hartford, the EOC is the state’s central emergency management hub, where state leaders, agencies and partners coordinate information, resources and strategies to manage emergency situations. Additionally, the state’s five

regional emergency management offices will also become partially activated on Sunday in locations across the state.”

Under the state’s emergency management plan, a partial activation means that representatives from several key state agencies responsible for handling emergencies will work together continuously

throughout the storm. If necessary, a full activation would involve additional state agencies joining the response efforts. Those agencies are currently on standby and ready to provide support as needed, the website went on to say.

During Lamont’s press conference on Sunday afternoon, he opened with advice to stay

off the roads. Furthermore, Lamont said the state has 800 snowplows ready to begin clearing snow off the roads. He reminded residents not to touch downed wires if one comes into contact with them.

According to WTNH, “Garrett Eucalitto, commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CT

DOT), said 900 workers are being called in beginning Sunday afternoon and about 100 contractors are also ready to help.”

Eucalitto stated that the storm would be different from the one Connecticut has seen in late January due to expected wet, heavy snowfall instead of light, fluffy snow.

CT, other states sign agreement with Dept. of Ed for DEI funding

DEI, cont. from p. 1

“Proponents of these discriminatory practices have attempted to further justify them — particularly during the last four years — under the banner of ‘diversity, equity and inclusion,’ smuggling racial stereotypes and explicit race-consciousness into everyday training, programming and discipline,” wrote Craig Trainor, then-acting assistant secretary for civil rights, in a February 2025 letter. “If an educational institution treats a person of one race differently than it treats another person because of that person’s race, the educational institution violates the law.”

In the April letter, the Department of Education made it “impermissible” for state and local education agencies to employ DEI policies to “advantage one’s race over another,” and said that DEI is a violation of federal law, but did not provide much more information or cite any federal statutes that specifically prohibit DEI policies.

In response, Connecticut

Commissioner of Education Charlene Russell-Tucker wrote a letter to the U.S. Department of Education, where she said the state wouldn’t comply with the original letter and that they are already in compliance with Title VI.

“Connecticut remains committed to safeguarding Connecticut students against the insidious effects of discrimination and continues to align its principles and programs with the requirements and purpose of Title VI,” Russell-Tucker wrote in the April 15, 2025 letter. “The [Connecticut State Department of Education] regularly reaffirms this commitment in applications certifying compliance with all assurances required for federal programs.”

Along with Connecticut, the attorneys general of California, Colorado, Delaware, Hawai’i, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin signed onto the agreement.



William Tong (bottom), the attorney general of Connecticut, posing for a photo. Tong has been taking fights against major powers to try and improve the lives of Connecticut citizens.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIAMTONG.COM

Charlene Russell-Tucker (top), Connecticut Education Commissioner, speaks about back to school guidance. The press conference occurred with school and health officials on Aug. 2, 2022.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TYLER RUSSEL/CONNECTICUT PUBLIC



A sign for the United States department of education. The department has been involved in DEI policies as of late.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Daily Campus

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This Week in History: This land was made for you and me

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I was around the age of five when I first heard this song: “This land is your land, this land is my land From California to the New York island, From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters; This land was made for you and me.”

It was mystifying. I had never listened to lyrics that had felt so intrinsically right. Even at a very young age, the lyrics resonated with me, creating a sense of pride for my country in a way that I had yet to fully understand. On Feb. 23, 1940, Woody Guthrie wrote the timeless folk song “This Land is Your Land,” with lyrics that people in this country today may have forgotten the true meaning of.

Guthrie was introduced to music at a young age, with his childhood being rather care-free. His father was a small-town politician and businessman in rural Oklahoma and, before the Great Depression, quite prosperous. Things took a turn for the Guthrie family when the stock market crash left the business in shambles, and his mother died of a mysterious illness.

With his family split apart, Guthrie eventually took to the road at 15 with his guitar and harmonica, playing songs for migrant workers and others he met along the way. Eventually reaching the American West, he sought notoriety as a western singer, making appearances on the radio. He was also inspired by those around him to write his own music about the plights and poverty people faced during that time — “This Land is Your Land” being one of them.

At the time, Irving Berlin’s song “God Bless America” was playing on the radio constantly, irking Guthrie with lyrics that he felt glossed over the wealth disparity and poverty in the country. Guthrie’s song was originally titled “God Blessed America For Me,” with those lyrics being repeated throughout, but he ended up changing it to “This land is made for you and me” when recording it in 1944. Shortly after, Guthrie



Woody Guthrie, the man who created ‘This Land is Your Land.’ Guthrie grew up around music in a small town. PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

joined the Merchant Marines to fight in World War II, and during his time in service, he boosted morale with his singing and guitar.

Guthrie’s music career would be cut unfortunately short in 1954 when he suffered from the same illness that killed his mother; Huntington’s disease. The genetic disorder is autosomal dominant, meaning that Guthrie only needed to have inherited one copy of the mutant gene to have it. In his later years, he was visited at the hospital by the many artists he inspired, and “This land is your land” would become an important song during the Civil Rights Movement.

When Guthrie wrote this song, the country was in a state of turmoil and strife, with uncertainty for what was to come. In fact, it was perhaps similar to what the

world feels like now. Music is important; it accompanies the movements that shape our country into what it is today, and it will be interesting to see what artists of this era will create.

“Nobody living can ever stop me

As I go walking my Freedom Highway

Nobody living can make me turn back

This land was made for you and me.”



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



Irving Berlin, the man who wrote “God Bless America.” This song was one of Woody Guthrie’s inspirations for “This Land is Your Land.” PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

Mumford & Sons get cheerfully vapid on “Prizefighter”

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It’s been some time since the U.K. folk-rock act Mumford & Sons have been in the public eye. While relatively prolific in the 2010s, the group slowed down in the 2020s, waiting until 2025 to release their fifth album “Rushmere.”

But the band quickly followed up with the release of “Prizefighter” on Friday, Feb. 20. Unlike their prior efforts, it’s a guest-heavy effort with Aaron Dessner’s production, writing credits from both Finneas and Brandi Carlile and plenty of features from popular contemporary folk-pop stars.

Country star Chris Stapleton makes the first appearance on the opener “Here,” a duet with lead vocalist Marcus Mumford. In alternating verses and a shared chorus, the two men present all their emotional shortcomings and baggage and put it on the table — a preview of the album’s themes of reflection and growth. While the mixing feels flat with a distinct lack of instrumental texture, the track is catchy enough to invite listeners into the album.

“Here” also begins the album’s trend of the guest artists overshadowing the vocal contributions from Mumford & Sons. Stapleton’s voice sounds less raw than typical, but still exudes more emotion than Mumford, whose pitch-corrected singing sterilizes any conviction that might have been there. It’s a different vocal style from Mumford & Sons’ earlier days where they sounded more acoustic and loose.

Lead single “Rubber Band Man” brings a bit more to the table, opening with catchy fingerstyle acoustic guitar and jubilant swells in the chorus. Hozier makes an appearance, and while his harmonies with the chorus don’t offer much, the soft delivery of his verse is one of the most tender and genuine moments on the album.

The track is almost great, but the writing holds it back. The chorus opens with the lines “You’re a world away / But you’re still the same” and ends with the even more overused sentiment “Nothing lasts forever, babe / You know it breaks my heart.” There’s no end of lyrics that have already been said a million times across the album, and “Rubber Band Man” isn’t even the most egregious. The mountain of cliches makes it hard to get invested in any of these songs, whether they’re trying to communicate sadness or catharsis.

Take “Run Together,” which builds layers of vocal harmonies, strings and synths atop calming banjo to communicate a sense of adventuring. The band maintains a good ebb and flow of the louder and quieter moments, staying spirited and engaging.

But the chorus, built around the lines “When we run, we run together / When we’re apart, we fall apart / I will love you, now and ever,” fails to communicate anything meaningful. What could’ve been a defining anthem shrinks into a jumble of phrases of unoriginality that won’t make you want to run anywhere.

The band does the best job minimizing these sonic and lyrical issues on “Conversation With My Son (Gangsters & Angels),” which unravels as a parent telling a message to their child. The presence of musician Amelia Meath enlivens the harmonies that fill what begins as a mellow folk composition. But everything swells exponentially on the ending refrain, which builds into the most cinematic and emotionally resonant point of the album.

The title track takes a quieter approach than the rest of the album. Mumford sounds tired and worn down as he reflects on a past relationship and where he might’ve ended up if it hadn’t ended. While it moves slowly, the harmonies with guest vocals from Justin Vernon, frontman of Bon Iver, ensures it doesn’t get too boring.

The ninth track, “Icarus,” uses the Greek myth of Daedalus — who fashioned wings for himself and his son Icarus to escape imprisonment, only for his son’s wings to melt upon flying too close to the sun — to trace a love story. The song starts awkwardly, with both Mumford and the featured Gigi Perez, who exploded in 2024 with her song “Sailor Song,” singing louder than the instruments demand. But it soon develops into a heavier rock sound that lets Perez really let loose with her powerful singing.

While most of the featured artists’ presence make sense given how their own music builds on or relates to Mumford & Sons’ sound, Gracie Abrams’ appearance on “Badlands” feels more random. While Abrams helps give the song life, her vocals don’t fit the best with Mumford during the empty refrain “Don’t look down now / I’m not done here yet.” They mesh better on the slightly more lyrically emphatic chorus, but the track would probably work better as a solo effort from Abrams.

The final run of three tracks might be the strongest connected effort. “Shadow of a Man” comes across with respectable conviction, while “I’ll Tell You Everything” and “Clover” are slower introspective cuts that close the album in a satisfying way.

“Prizefighter” is far from a terrible album, but it’s not great. There are plenty of engaging instrumental moments, but the sterile mixing and plain harmonies make it hard for anything to land. But the biggest downfall is the lack of lyrical nuance and substance, which really takes away from every emotional moment the band tries to get across.



A promotional image for Mumford & Sons’ upcoming “Prizefighter” North America tour. “Prizefighter” is their newest album, and was released this past Friday, Feb. 20. PHOTO COURTESY OF @MUMFORDANDSONS ON INSTAGRAM.

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Life

What is 'The Khia Asylum' and how do artist's escape?

by Devin Welch
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Chances are if you are involved with queer internet culture to any extent you

have heard of terms such as "oomf", "reheating nachos" and "onika burgers." All these terms have come mostly from X, formerly known as Twitter, and are constantly evolving as new pop culture moments

arise.

Chronically online queer people create more terminology every day that can be hard to keep up with. Of these is a fictional location known as "The Khia Asylum", named after the rapper behind the song "My Neck, My Back (Lick It)." The term has gained traction as multiple musicians have referenced it in recent interviews and album roll-outs, such as Charli xcx, Zara Larsson and Bebe Rexha.

But what exactly is The Khia Asylum and why is Bebe Rexha posting TikToks about how she is so desperate to escape it?

The commonly agreed on definition of The Khia Asylum is a fictional prison in which irrelevant music artists have been sentenced to live out their days. The term was initially coined in a May 2024 in a post on X by user @impxrfectforyou with a tier list of female pop stars ranked in terms of relevance. The bottom tier was listed as The Khia Asylum with Zara Larsson, Ava Max, Charli xcx, Bebe Rexha and Kim Petras listed as the inmates.

Demi Lovato and Camila Cabello were both listed as buying their tickets into The Khia Asylum with Sabrina Carpenter depicted as just escaping with the success of her song "Espresso."

Since then, the term has grown in popularity and has been co-opted into an adjective to describe any irrelevant or unsuccessful artist as a Khia.

There are some artists with little room to debate if they belong under the title, an example being Rita Ora.

Ora has a seemingly diverse

career between music, acting roles in films such as the "Descendants" and the "Fifty Shades" franchise and reality TV judge appearances. Despite all of this she does not hold a strong presence in pop culture or has any hit songs.

A more infamous "Khia Moment" of Ora's career is a 2014 Tweet stating "Dropping my new song Monday if this gets 100,000 retweets". The post gained very little traction and the following Monday Ora posted "By the way my Twitter got hacked someone is threatening to release new music I've worked really hard on. Nothing comes out until I'm ready".

Most of the posts around the Khia Asylum tend to be from women and queer men who mostly listen to female artists leading to the inmates also being a majority female artists which questions if male artists are also allowed to be a Khia. Other factors such as musicians with major fall offs in the case of Katy Perry, having popular songs but little chart success in the case of Lorde or controversies in the case of Nicki Minaj and her recent associations with the Trump Administration also lead to grey areas on what it truly means to be a Khia.

There's also a category of newer artists such as Gracie Abrams and Sombr who have achieved commercial success and Grammy nominations for their work but equally amassed very divisive opinions that make their role as a Khia disputed. Coming from a social media term with no true definition, it can truly be up to individuals to decide who they classify as Khia or not.

Some artists have escaped the imagined prison, though. Two of the members listed in the original Tweet: Charli xcx and Zara Larsson have recently been considered by many to escape with the release of "brat" in 2024 for Charli and "Midnight Sun" in 2025 for Larsson.

Playing a major role in the success of both albums was the branding that came with them. The marketing of "brat" revolved around the lime green background with Arial Narrow writing used by many companies, including the presidential campaign for Kamala Harris, and ended with summer 2024 being dubbed by many as "brat summer".

"Midnight Sun" took advantage of the popular dolphin meme used with Larsson's 2018 hit "Symphony" in 2024 with the album's aesthetic being based around the same neon colored summer used with the meme. An alternate cover of the album was made featuring the work of Lisa Frank, known for her vibrant imagery, reminiscent of the meme. The Recording Academy even deemed "brat" the 2024 winner of the Best Recording Package award.

There is some debate over whether The Khia Asylum is a genius term to tier pop artists, a degrading term to put down mostly female artists trying their best or just a regurgitation of already existing terms, such as one-hit wonder. Despite your personal opinion, The Khia Asylum is not going anywhere. Now, social media users just need to wait until June 12 to see if Bebe Rexha's new album "Dirty Blonde: The Visual Album" is the escape she has been teasing.



Rita Ora posing for a red carpet event at Red Sea International Film Festival. Rita Ora has had a diverse career, releasing music and acting in films like "Descendants."
PHOTO COURTESY OF @RITAORA ON INSTAGRAM.

On 'Cloud 9' with Megan Moroney

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If you haven't frequented country music spaces recently, you might not know the name Megan Moroney, but the Georgia native and singer-songwriter has been on the rise since 2022 with the release of her hit "Tennessee Orange."

"Cloud 9", Moroney's third album, stays true to the singer's country roots while also playing into the popularity of pop-country. With 15 tracks and two collaborations, the album did not disappoint.

The title track "Cloud 9" is a perfect opener and a rare love song. It sets up the sound of the album, and the dreamy guitar sounds match the lyrics perfectly.

"Medicine" is a catchy play on the phrase: "get a taste of your own medicine." The song feels like a quintessential country song with the production reminiscent of old Miranda Lambert.

"6 Months Later" was the first single dropped for her new era, and it would absolutely hit on pop radio. It's the perfect car song because of how fun it is to sing. The concept of the song is very relatable: having someone trying to crawl back into your life when they see you doing well, even when they're the one who left.

The album, for me, divides into songs I either liked or loved, such as "Stupid" and "Beautiful Things."

While "Stupid" is fun as a song about being in denial over being ghosted, it doesn't resonate with me as much as others. "Beautiful Things" stands out for its touching lyrics. Moroney wrote it for

her baby niece, reflecting on the hardships girls face as they grow up. As an older fan, I can appreciate its message while recognizing it wasn't written for me.

"Convincing" is for the girls who meet someone once and fall in love with them immediately, and I appreciate finally getting the recognition we deserve. It's slowed down a lot from where the album started; it relies on a guitar to do the heavy lifting with the production and allows for Moroney's vocals to shine.

As you reach the back half of the album, the tone starts to shift from fun "screw you" songs to sadder ballad types.

Track 7, "Liars & Tigers & Bears," is perfection. When I heard the opening piano, I knew this was about to be special. The song is about Moroney's experience in the music industry so far, but also just experiences that many women can relate to. One of my favorite lyrics is from the chorus when she sings, "So, work 'til it kills you / but don't actually die". This song is a masterclass of Moroney's writing abilities.

When the track list for the album was released, my eyes went immediately to "I Only Miss You" as it featured Ed Sheeran, and I'm a proud Sheerio. The song is raw, and their voices sound stunning together. It's kind of an odd pairing because of the genre difference, but it works so well. The song is reminiscent of a classic country ballad and is easily a top pick for me off the album.

"Wedding Dress" is another emotional killer. It was written years ago and never found itself a home on Moroney's projects until now. It's about the fear that you'll never get over someone, and

when you're walking down the aisle, they're still on your mind. There are already multiple "The Summer I Turned Pretty" edits to this song, so it's safe to say it's a fan favorite.

"Change of Heart" is another slight miss for me. It's the kind of song that's meant for being performed live because of its rock-esque production and scream-singing in the outro. As it compares to the rest of the album, it falls flat.

Moroney, like so many, is a huge Kacey Musgraves fan, so getting her to sing on "Bells and Whistles" is a career highlight. Similar to her collab with Sheeran, she sounds amazing with Musgraves. It's a fun song poking fun at exes who thought you were too much, but instead of being ashamed, embracing it.

"Table for Two" and "Wish I Didn't" blend in among the album's larger tracks. "Table for Two" is acoustic-driven as Moroney ponders missing someone and whether to reach out, while "Wish I Didn't" shifts to upbeat, pop-leaning production as Moroney playfully warns her new partner that missteps could end up in a song.

"Who Hurt You?" is Moroney's version of Taylor Swift's "The Smallest Man Who Ever Lived". She said everything she needed to say, and in doing so, she read the man (Riley Green) to absolute filth. She calls him gross on the bridge, and I'm utterly obsessed with it.

Closing the album is another beautiful ballad in "Waiting On the Rain". Instead of Moroney's classic breakup songs, where she wants the man back, this shows growth in knowing that while the



Megan Moroney holding up a vinyl for her album "Cloud 9" with two bonus tracks. The vinyl is available at Target.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @MEGMORONEY ON INSTAGRAM.

RATING: 4/5

relationship is over, she knows now that things will get better and life will move on. It's a song that really lends itself to Moroney's vocals, where you can feel the emotions.

As a newer fan of Moroney's, I

didn't go into this album with any expectations but came out with even more love for her and her artistry. The album spotlights her writing skills and voice that have continued to grow over her time as an artist.

BATTLE OF THE BANDS PHOTO GALLERY

PHOTOS BY NORA MARIANO
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PHOTOS BY OLIVIA DICKSON
GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER



Bands compete in WHUS Radio's Battle of the Bands on Feb. 21, 2026 at Rome Ballroom. Vices Inc, Part of the Problem, Elizabory and West of the Gate competed, but attendees voted West of the Gate the winner.



Life

BABY KEEM TAKES A GAMBLE WITH 'CA\$INO'

by Ayyan Tamjeed
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After five long years, Los Angeles rapper Baby Keem released his sophomore effort “Ca\$ino,” on Friday, Feb. 20.

In a marked turn from his bouncy and upbeat debut album, “The Melodic Blue,” Keem delves into his past and troubled family life. The album title is a reference to his mother’s gambling addiction while they were living in Las Vegas. The scant promotional material — three short documentaries about his early childhood and an album listening party — also discuss Keem’s rough childhood further.

The opener “No Security” details the two main themes Keem tackles throughout the album: his family trauma and the pressure

associated with being ‘the next-up’ in the rap world. Behind a somber Natalie Bergman sample and piano instrumental, Keem raps with a new, deeper voice, in contrast to the high-pitched fervor on his debut. He delivers more of a spoken-word performance on this track.

“Ca\$ino” is a song split into two parts, and a great change of pace after the bleak intro. The first half is Keem rapping about his cavalier life over a thumping rage-type beat. After the beat switch, Keem becomes a lot more introspective. He begins talking about the death of his grandmother, who raised him in the absence of his mother, sounding close to tears.

“Birds & the Bees” debuts Keem’s new alter-ego, “Waseem,” in a romantic R&B song. Waseem is a masculine Arabic name meaning “handsome” or “graceful.” In this song, the ever-

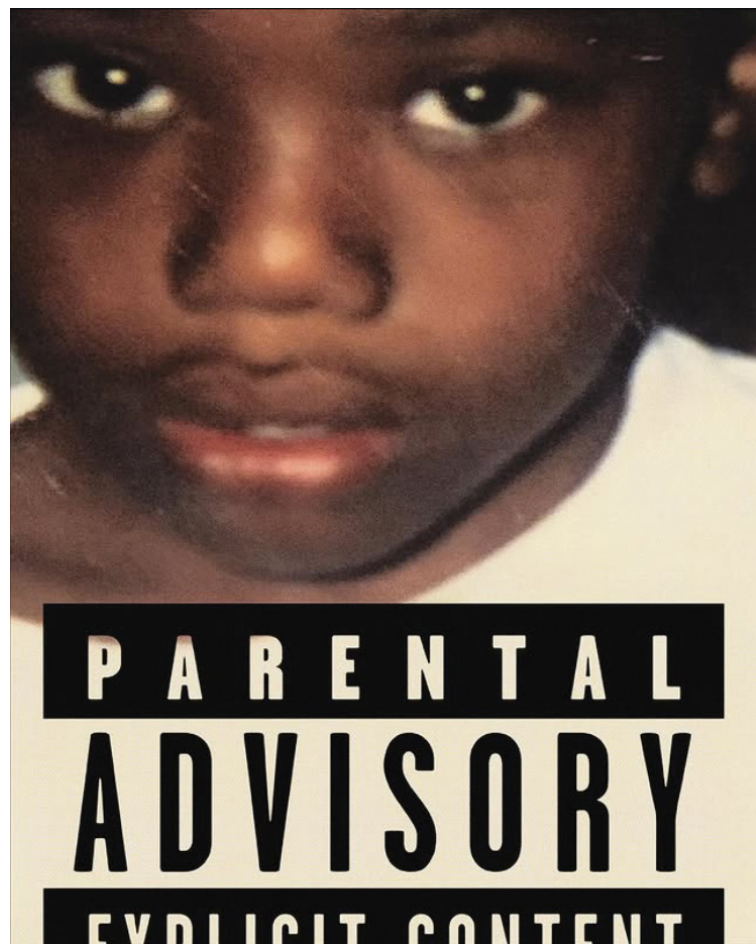
graceful Keem flirts with his girlfriend, and the song’s funky keyboard instrumental makes it a great 2000s R&B pastiche, while giving him the opportunity to flex some of his singing chops.

Kendrick Lamar enters the ring for his feature on “Good Flirts,” another lithe love song with a beat that calls back to 2000’s R&B. While Lamar sounds like he’s sleepwalking through his verse, it has some funny moments with the slight diss towards Young Thug and Lamar calling himself goofy.

Even if Keem lost steam at the end of “House Money,” it transitions perfectly into one of the heaviest songs in this album, “I am not a Lyricist.” Despite the song title, he delivers some of the hardest hitting lyrics about living in Las Vegas, or “Sin City,” as a child in an unstable home. Keem contradicts the song title a second time by not using any complex rhyme patterns or metaphors or double or triple entendres; he delivers his lines in a dejected, rote cadence, as if he is numb to all the vices presented in this song.

Sandwiched in between two bleak songs about Keem’s family life is the west coast funk-inspired “Sex Appeal.” Even then, the album’s one outright club track keeps its feet in the melancholy with the downtempo beat and bass-heavy instrumental. The autotune on Keem’s voice adds a fun dimension to Keem’s flirtatious lines that keeps it distinct from other tracks like “Bird & the Bees” or “Good Flirts.”

In “Highway 95 pt. 2,” the spotlight is centered purely on Baby Keem, as he reveals his history as a runaway child, speeding down Highway 95 to escape the abusive environment and poverty he lived in. Unlike “I am not a Lyricist,” Keem sounds a lot more emotive here, and is a lot more revealing of his traumatic upbringing, drop-



ALBUM COVERS COURTESY @KEEM ON INSTAGRAM

ping details here and there that add to the mosaic of his childhood.

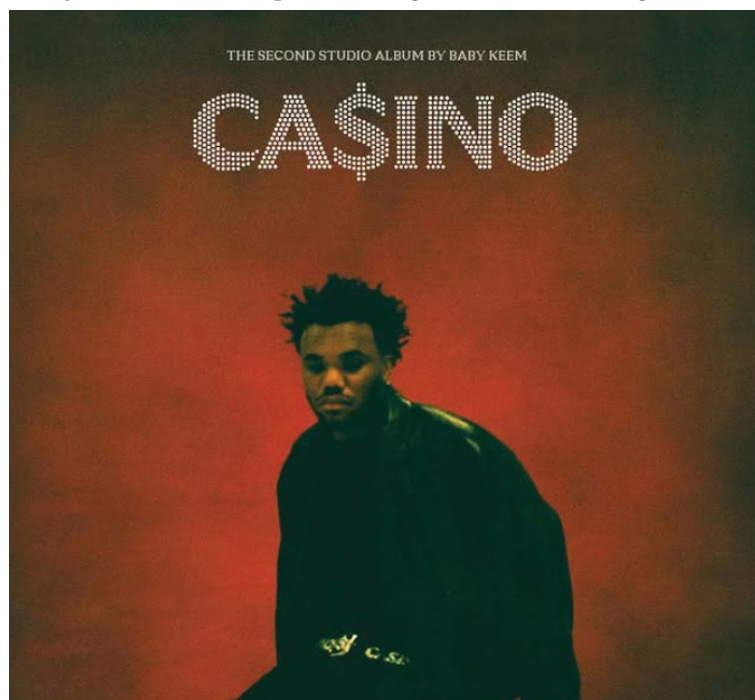
For a palette cleanser “Circus Circus Freestyle,” is an endlessly entertaining romp. This song has a similar structure to “Ca\$ino;” a braggadocious first part complemented with a hard-hitting beat. Then after the beat switch Keem becomes more introspective and reflects on his family life, painting a portrait on how his childhood is connected to his current life as a rap star.

“Dramatic Girl” is the most unique song on this album; less west-coast rap, more indie pop. In a high-pitched register, Keem and co-singer Che Ecrú sing about wanting to have a deeper emotional

connection and honesty from their partner, in contrast with earlier songs which never dove that deep.

This struggle for connection perfectly complements the final track, “No Blame,” where Keem’s first words are “I don’t blame you mama.” Keem opens up more about his traumatic past and says he doesn’t blame his mother, because he knows she had traumatic experiences as well.

Baby Keem’s new artistic direction takes some getting used to, and some listeners may be bristled by the heavy subjects this album explores. While others commend the effort to create a deeply personal record that defied outside expectations.



RATING: 3/5

West of the Gate wins WHUS Radio’s Battle of the Bands

by Maleena Muzio
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Four New England-born bands duked it out on stage on Saturday, Feb. 21, during WHUS Radio’s Battle of the Bands at the University of Connecticut.

West of the Gate, an indie jam band from Willimantic, Conn., won the competition. Saturday marked the band’s first official live concert since forming in September 2024.

“Winning means we stay together; we make this work,” Jack Lombardo, the singer and rhythm guitarist of West of the Gate, said.

In the first round of the competition, West of the Gate was pinned against Vices Inc., a pop-punk alternative rock band from Portland, Maine. Frontwoman Eleanor Langthorne sang a mix of originals and covers — including “Psycho Killer” by Talking

Heads and “Pink Pony Club” by Chappell Roan. The band, however, did not advance to the next round.

West of the Gate’s first set was opened by an original, currently titled “Driving Song.”

Lombardo noted the opener, a song inspired by his commute to work, was his favorite of the set.

The group also performed covers of the 1994 hits “Zombie” by the Cranberries and “When I Come Around” by Green Day.

Elizabory, an experimental heavy metal band from central Massachusetts, and Part of the Problem, an alternative rock band from Bethel, Conn. took the stage next to compete for a place in the final round.

Being the only returning band from last year’s event, Elizabory performed a lengthy and energetic original set fronted by singer Icez Killz. The group used horror

movie visuals, costumes and makeup to set an eerie tone for their performance.

Part of the Problem, fronted by singer Lana Botex, advanced to the final round after also performing an original set. “Wildfire,” the final song of their first set, contained transitional instrumentals and strong vocals.

“I’m excited for people to be able to see the hard work that our organization as a whole puts in, as well as these bands,” Sire-Lawrence Brock, the events coordinator at WHUS Radio, said.

They’ve done a lot in terms of preparing and creating their bodies of work — I’m excited for people to hear that.”

In the final round of the competition, West of the Gate and Part of the Problem went head-to-head, performing brief, but engaging sets.

The winner was determined by the loudness of the audience’s applause. Almost

a tie, the voting process was redone multiple times. However, West of the Gate pulled through as the winner of the competition after their second, instrument-heavy set. West of the Gate will get the chance to open at WHUS’ Spring Fling concert.

“We’re in a unique spot to give local bands this opportunity,” Colin Edwards, the general manager at WHUS Radio, said.

Throughout the night, students and audience members danced and sang along to songs and were exposed to new material from the diverse group of bands.

“I really loved the show,” Rebecca Beebe, a sixth-semester design tech major, said. “I love live music; it’s my whole life. It’s just so great that we have these kind of events at our school that support local music.”



Bands perform during Battle of the Bands, hosted by WHUS Radio, in the Rome Ballroom on Feb. 21, 2026. The annual event brought together student bands to compete in a live music showcase on campus. PHOTO BY OLIVIA DICKSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Opinion

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COMIC BY JASON J. SAMPSON, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

My top five hot takes of the Winter Olympics

by **Grace Donahue**

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The 2026 Winter Olympics have ended with the closing ceremony extinguishing the flame in Verona, Italy, last Sunday. A lot has happened in the last 17 days, with Games featuring 116 medal events across 16 disciplines. With all of these events I want to review the Olympic Games in my opinionated style by reviewing what my top five hot takes are.

#1: I approve of Snoop Dogg being the NBC Olympic Ambassador

The Winter Games are generally viewed less than the Summer Olympics. While the Summer Games boasts over 3 billion viewers the Winter Games has an average of 1.9-2 billion viewers. However, it has been noted that after the Winter Olympics this year there has been a significant viewership resurgence. I think Snoop Dogg has a lot to do with this.

He carried the Olympic torch through Gallarate, Italy. He slid a curling stone. He wore a fur coat while driving a Zamboni. He even sent restaurant owners tickets to the men's snowboard halfpipe final after a decline in credit card incidents. He brought the hype and kept the world watching, or at least America. There's no one else who could have

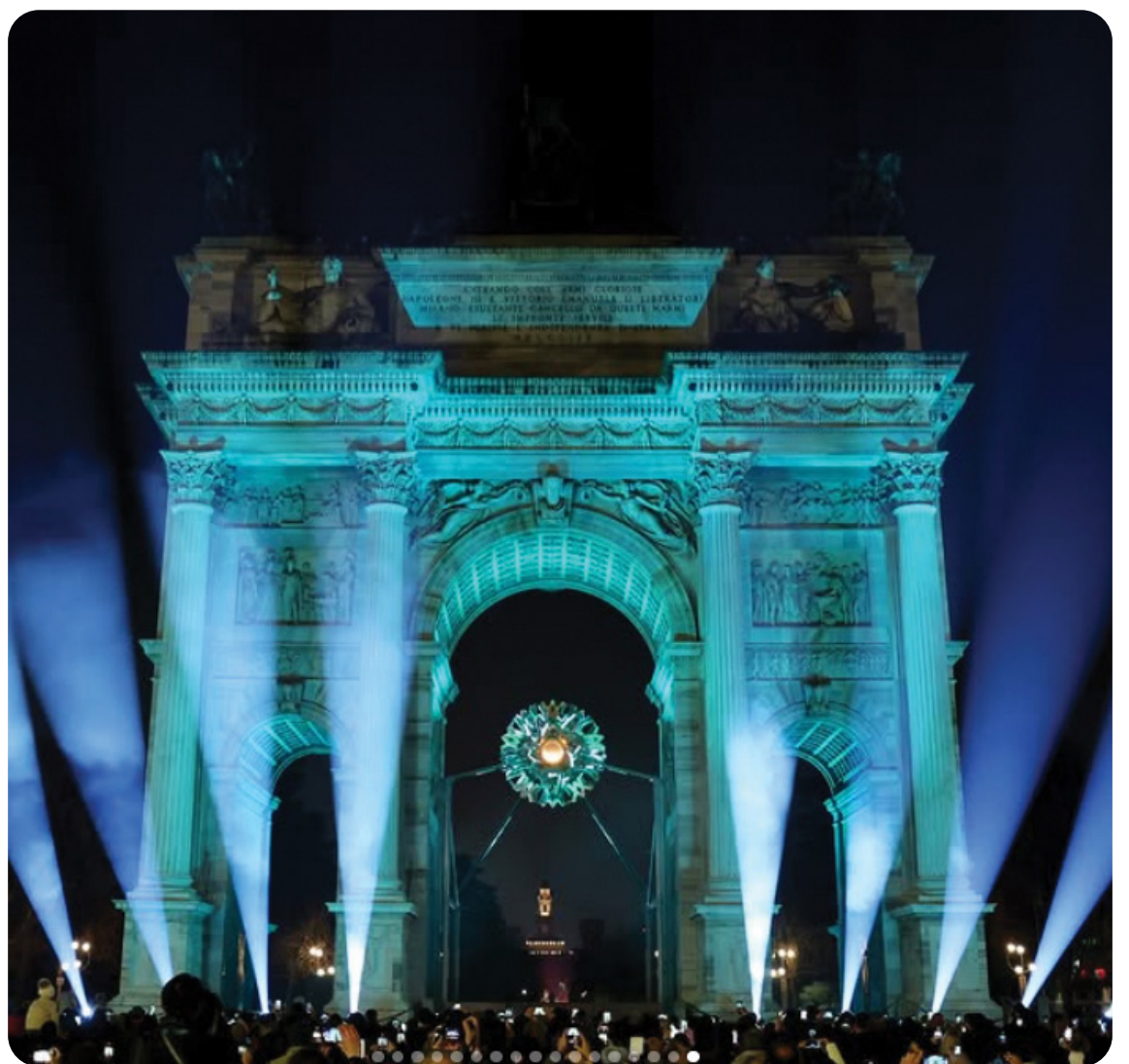
brought the hype the Winter Olympics needed. I'm proud as an American that he was Team USA's first-ever honorary coach.

Some may argue that there are more relevant people who could have been in this position, but I believe that truly there was no one better. We needed his hype. We needed his vibe. He went beyond being just a famous face and united our country together with his swag.

#2: I'm proud of the Olympians

Condoms have always been an issue for the Olympians, when you put the world's most fit in the same village it's hard to resist. However, this year the Olympic village ran out of condoms on day three. Yes, 2,800 Olympians blew through 10,000 condoms in three days. I'll let you do the math there.

Some might say that this fact is concerning or that the athletes should be focused on winning medals. I, too, asked how they had the time to do this. Yet I find myself with a sense of pride. I think that it's great for the athletes to make memories in the village. The amount of work they put into even qualifying for these events... they should be making memories. Some people just want memories of different things. Nonetheless, I put my stamp of approval on these kinds of memories as well. As



The Olympics closing ceremony being celebrated at Porta Sempione under the Arco della Pace. The closing ceremony was held in Milan, Italy. PHOTO COURTESY OF @OLYMPICS ON INSTAGRAM.

long as they're having fun and being safe.

The Olympic Village was restocked with condoms after they ran out so it's good they're still safe.

#3: I stand with Vladyslav Heraskevych

Heraskevych is a Ukrainian skeleton racer who was disqualified 45 minutes prior to his competition due to wearing a "helmet of remembrance" that featured images of 24 Ukrainian athletes and coaches who were killed in the war with Russia. The International Olympic Committee identified Heraskevych's helmet as violation of the rules due to representing political propaganda. The IOC offered alternatives such as wearing a black armband to mourn the deceased, but Heraskevych refused. He was since disqualified from competing in the Olympic Games this year.

While it is to be recognized that the IOC offered alternatives, I think that this helmet does not qualify as political propaganda and thus does not violate the rules of the IOC. Death is not political; honoring those who have died is not political as well. This helmet should have been accepted just as the black armband would have been if he had decided to wear it. I respect that Heraskevych wanted to honor those who have died in a specific way and show the faces of those who have died. I respect that he wanted to represent them in a way that would be

more personal.

#4: Sturla Holm Løegreid just wants clout

Løegreid is a Norwegian biathlete who after winning bronze in his event admitted in a post-race interview to how he cheated on his girlfriend. He admitted how she "might not be watching" but said that he hoped committing this social suicide would win her back. He sorrowfully stated, "I accept the consequences of what I've done. I regret it with all my heart."

To be honest, watching the interview made me just see him as someone who wants clout. It is known that the fastest news is something that is able to gossip, something that is shocking, something that stands out. He did exactly that. I'm sorry, but I don't believe that he's actually sorry. In an interview with his ex, she also admitted that she did not like him telling the whole world about their business. Airing dirty laundry is one way to get clout, I don't know if it's a way to get a girl back.

#5: I would have done the same as Hunter Huss

American athletes were asked persistently questions about President Donald Trump's immigration enforcement agenda and how they feel represented a country whose politics are increasingly controversial throughout the games. Freeskiier Hunter Hess is one of the many American athletes that I think is handling these quest

Freeskier Hunter Hess represents America in a manner that I find admirable. In an interview Hess stated "there's obviously a lot going on that I'm not the biggest fan of and think a lot of people aren't.... But just because I'm wearing the flag doesn't mean that I represent everything that's going on in the U.S." He furthered by explaining that he is proud to represent America and his "friends and family back home, and all the things that I believe are good about the United States." Trump's response was to call him a "loser." Hess' teammates called for unity in response to this and Hess chose to do so during his halfpipe qualifying competition by flashing an "L" on his forehead and saying that he continues to stand by his statement.

Responding in this manner as an athlete of the United States is something I believe I would have done as well if put in the same position. While not agreeing with Trump's immigration enforcement agenda, I do continue to love this country and the people that make it up beyond what our federal government is currently doing. To represent the United States at this moment is a difficult position to be put in when on the world stage. To hold by your own beliefs and clarify why you are still representing your country with pride beyond the issues we are facing is something I believe should be looked at as noble.



Rapper and NBC Olympics Ambassador Snoop Dogg. He is the first person to be made an honorary coach for Team USA this Winter Olympics. PHOTO COURTESY OF @SNOOPDOGG ON INSTAGRAM

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Domain expansion: infinite snow days



Students each lunch together at McMahon dining hall on Feb. 23, 2026. Classes were cancelled, so dining halls were popular areas to relax.

PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The death of the Republican Party

by Ayden Mirabella

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President Donald Trump has destroyed the Republican Party with his attitude of “if you’re not MAGA, you’re not Republican.” The party that once stood for the Constitution now views it as a set of mere suggestions, a piece of paper that has little to no weight when it isn’t useful to him. I would go as far as to say Trump is not a Republican, he is his own party — a cult of personality that rewards loyalty and suppresses free thought. People can be in good standing one day, but the next the president is blasting them on Truth Social and calling for them to be primaried.

If you look back at presidential candidates, you might notice the last Republican before Trump to win the GOP presidential primary was Mitt Romney. If Mitt Romney were to run today for office, the MAGA crowd and politicians would call him a RINO (Republican in Name Only). In fact, before Romney’s retirement, they did. The man who used to be face of the party was relegated to its margins and discarded. This shift over time shows the fracture of the GOP into the party of Trump and the party of others.

The split itself began in 2015 with the announcement from Donald Trump that he would seek the GOP’s presidential nomination. To many Republi-

cans at the time, they thought it was a joke nomination. Across the aisle, people imagined his success as a far-fetched possibility. Even after his victory in the Republican Primary, many still said that Democratic Nominee Hillary Clinton would be victorious in the national election. After Trump’s unexpected victory over Clinton many Republicans began a complete turnaround. This flip was in fact because he had won. Republicans began to scramble to find favor with the president to gain influence at their respective levels. They wanted to be close and attempt to be suitable for jobs within Trump’s first White House. This was followed by the 2018 midterms, where the first of many MAGA politicians began to spring up and shift electoral seats to the right by riding off Trump’s agenda. As a result, some of his previous critics became vocal supporters, using his agenda and rhetoric to boost their own campaigns and hopefully get the coveted Trump Endorsement.

Now, the sad fact is that today it is almost impossible to have a Republican go against Trump and MAGA. Most of them switched up or were voted out when facing off against a Trump backed candidate. Take for example Liz Cheney, who voted to impeach Trump over January 6th. She was voted off her leadership post and primaried by a Trump-backed Harriet Hage-



President Donald Trump giving a speech at a campaign rally. When Trump announced he was running for the GOP presidential nomination in 2015, most people saw it as a joke.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS.

man. In a campaign ad during the primary, Dick Cheney would call Trump “a coward who knew he lost big.” Then, in 2024 both him and her daughter would throw their support behind Kamala Harris. Trump in turn called Dick Cheney a RINO and “the King of Endless, Nonsensical Wars.” The departure of the Cheney’s from the Republican side towards the Democrats during this election shows how this split has grown since 2015.

This thought led me to research a politician from my home state to view his reflection and response to Trump. I looked up my House representative,

Dan Meuser, who represents Pennsylvania’s 9th district. Looking over his record, especially surrounding the 2020 election and Trump’s trial, you can see Dan Meuser falls into line with MAGA. It is absolutely insane that the same man who was pictured being rushed out of the House Chamber as rioters attempted to enter then turns around and posts on X, formerly known as Twitter, calling the January 6th Commission a sham. I do not trust a representative who calls Trump’s trial and conviction quote “a blatant attempt to undermine democracy.” Even though Meuser has

shown his incompetence, he will not be going anywhere anytime soon.

Donald Trump and those who support him have caused damage to the party. The party itself might forever be changed by Trump and the MAGA crowd. The GOP has gone from the Grand Old Party to the Grand Trump Party. Although it should be noted that the Republican party will not collapse or shutter — the Party has already survived Watergate and Reaganomics — Trumpism will be looked back upon as a shameful part in the long history of The Grand Old Party.

WATCH INDEPENDENT MOVIES NOW MORE THAN EVER

by Isaac Grad

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Many people have recognized and commented recently on the current state of Hollywood films. They have complained about a lack of originality, a disinterest in casting new and upcoming actors and more recently, the use of AI. Hollywood has always been restrictive and risk-averse in past decades, but we are now in a period of Hollywood — not for the first time — where it is especially so. However, independently made films are working to fill the gaps. Just as in past when cable television offered creative liberty in a time when Hollywood movies were limiting what stories could be told, independent films are free to tell stories less confined by

social norms and profitability.

As has been the case since its founding, Hollywood’s priority is creating as many profitable films as possible, deciding what gets made by weighing cost and return. This, naturally, means that the same popular, successful actors and creators are used again and again, as their presence often times guarantees an audience. This is especially true when the film is released in theaters; with the popularity of streaming services, there are fewer movie-goers, making a theater release expensive and risky. This means the tried-and-true method holds the most weight and taking risks on new filmmakers, actors and ideas is less likely.

However, there is a solution! The problems facing Hollywood do not mean that cinema itself

is at risk. We’ve seen similar predicaments before and there have always been creators creating despite what the majority in the field is doing. Those who love film and have real stories to tell continue to find ways to do so. Their efforts are often extremely low-budget and feature no known actors, meaning they get less attention, but they also have more freedom to tell their stories as they want to instead of seeking profit.

In the past, when Hollywood movies were limited in what stories they could tell, other creative outlets stepped in. In the mid-twentieth century, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) created a blacklist of filmmakers to force conformity and discourage the production of films that didn’t fit with American ideals. This led to a lack of creativity in films, as well as a general fear filmmakers had for what stories they would be allowed to tell, lest they lose their jobs. Howev-

er, when the film industry was being limited, many creatives still found ways to tell the stories they wanted to tell, using other mediums such as cable television, which was generally less restricted. Cable television was and is a paid service, meaning advertisers impacted creative decisions less so than with film.

The most recent and popular example of a low-budget project gaining attention is the series “Heated Rivalry,” which, seeing as it’s a queer story and starred two relatively unknown actors, was a decently risky project. The series is a testament to independent and low-budget projects telling less mainstream stories, and is hopefully part of a continued interest in similar projects. “Heated Rivalry” proved to film funders and audiences that these types of stories are desired, and showed independent filmmakers fighting to tell their stories that they shouldn’t feel discouraged by the current state of the film industry.

It’s understandable that with the price of cinema tickets, streaming services and renting or buying a movie online, people are less inclined

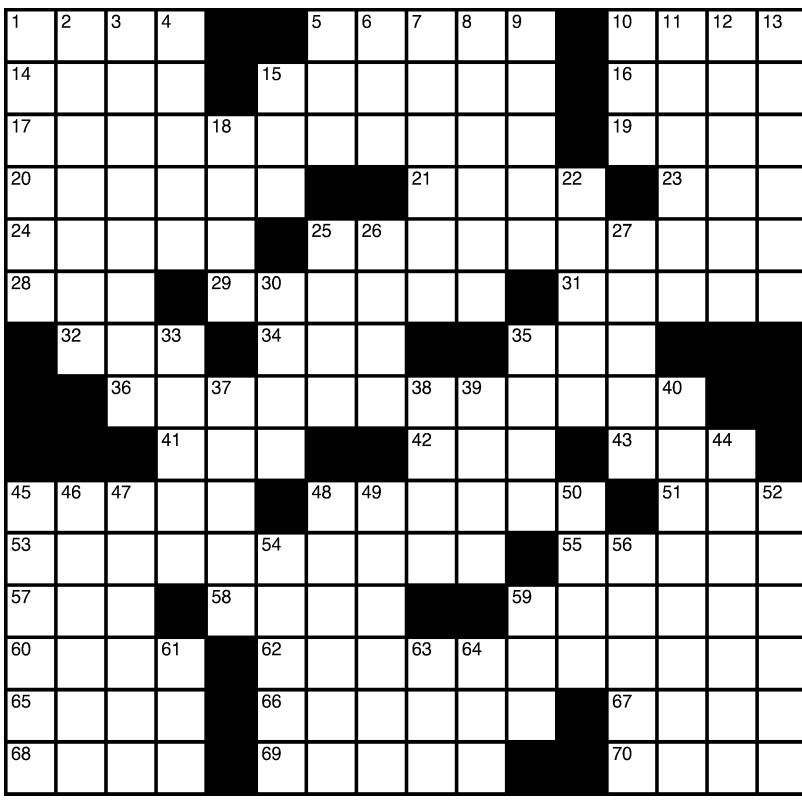
to spend significant money on a film that they don’t feel assured will be worth their time and hard-earned cash. It’s easier to have faith in a film when it’s high-budget and is attached to big recognizable names. However, independent films often have more creative integrity, thought and attention put into them. With independent projects, films, with creators have to focus on a well-written strong plot with interesting characters, as they aren’t able to lean on stars or a large budget. So, take a risk and support independent films. Encourage authentic stories and art qua art rather than art qua profit.



HEATED RIVALRY POSTER COURTESY OF IMDB

Study Break

- ACROSS**
- 1 Direction in the name of only one U.S. state
 - 5 News network that changed its name in 2025
 - 10 Story that spans generations
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 - 15 Spanish nana
 - 16 Large primates
 - 17 Performer who might play finger cymbals
 - 19 Baseball glove
 - 20 "But that's not why I ___ ..."
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 - 23 Australian bird with secondary eyelids
 - 24 Fennel flavor
 - 25 Easily frightened sort
 - 28 "The Simpsons" tavern owner
 - 29 Plausible explanation
 - 31 Leather with a fuzzy finish
 - 32 Blog feed initials
 - 34 Sort
 - 35 "Shiny Happy People" band
 - 36 Furry red "Sesame Street" toy
 - 41 Small eggs
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 - 43 Guffaw
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 - 51 Bar bill
 - 53 Hardware store device that makes custom colors
 - 55 Led Zeppelin's "Whole ___ Love"
 - 57 Feel poorly
 - 58 Breakaway group
 - 59 Actress/inventor Hedy
 - 60 Sheet music symbol
 - 62 "How goes it?," or a question that could be answered by 17-, 25-, 36-, and 53-Across
 - 65 Listen to
 - 66 Connected
 - 67 Hawaii's state bird
 - 68 Small whirlpool



By Matthew Luter 2/24/26

- 69 ___ Hall: New Jersey university
- 70 "My stars!"

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- 3 Most inane
- 4 Rats (on)
- 5 Exec's degree, often
- 6 ___-dried tomatoes
- 7 Hummingbird food
- 8 Like sleep-deprived eyes
- 9 "___ diem!"
- 10 Actor Waterston
- 11 Each
- 12 Grow angry
- 13 Insightful
- 15 Sum up
- 18 Toss aside forcefully, in slang
- 22 Ford that flopped
- 25 Peddle
- 26 Cola choice
- 27 Delish
- 30 Go backpacking
- 33 Warning wail
- 35 Raise, as kids
- 37 Young male horses

Monday's Puzzle Solved

P	O	U	R	S	R	A	F	T	B	F	A		
A	L	G	A	E	A	L	O	E	I	R	O	N	
L	E	G	W	A	R	M	E	R	S	B	E	R	G
D	R	A	B	T	R	E	A	T	S				
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A	G	H	A	S	T	I	N	A	B	I	T		
V	O	I	L	A	E	N	O	S	A	P	E	S	
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D	A	H	L	M	A	M	A	U	S	A	G	E	
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S	E	R	Y	E	N	S	T	E	A	S	E		

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- 38 Checkers turn
- 39 "Best. Day. ___!"
- 40 Blooper reel bits
- 44 Hurricane in Jesmyn Ward's novel "Salvage the Bones"
- 45 Navajo neighbors
- 46 Did exactly right
- 47 "The Handmaid's Tale" setting
- 48 Lionel of the Commodores
- 49 Still around
- 50 Meh
- 52 Fred's friend in Bedrock
- 54 Whimpers
- 56 Muscat citizen
- 59 Acid rock's acid
- 61 Word after waffle or curly
- 63 Boxing ring ruling, for short
- 64 One of a D.C. 100

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

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

Solution to Monday's puzzle 2/24/26

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

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

Crossword and Sudoku

The Daily Campus

Sports

Photo of the Day |



The UConn women's basketball team takes on Providence at Gampel Pavilion on Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026. Senior players and managers were honored after the game for their dedication and work to the program. PHOTO BY ELLA GORHAM, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Hockey East Roundup

by Jack Yadlon
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As the weeks dwindle down, the field for conference tournaments and NCAA play becomes more set. While every team in the Hockey East conference makes the tournament, first-round matchups play a large role in determining who moves on and whose season ends.

This week featured 10 of 11 teams playing in two game sets, with Boston University on bye.

Merrimack travelled to Maine for a matchup between two teams on the outside looking in, in terms of the bye.

Josh Nadeau kicked off the scoring for the Black Bears with two goals late in the first, and by the end of the second he had three points in a 3-2 game. Merrimack would tie the game but soon concede the lead, with a Nadeau empty netter for a hat trick to ice the game and give Maine the 5-3 victory.

Nadeau's incredible weekend did not conclude there, as he'd tie the game at two in the first, scoring his fourth of the weekend. Maine trailed 2-1 after one but would score the next four goals, with Nadeau scoring one and assisting on two more to end a 5-2 game and an eight-point weekend by Nadeau.

Northeastern played in Lowell for their weekend, with both goals of the first game coming from the Huskies in a 2-0 victory. Game two was nowhere near as merciful for the River Hawks, as despite only tallying

twenty shots Northeastern put up eight goals in an 8-2 win to complete the sweep.

No. 7 Providence visited Vermont in their series. Vermont's Colin Kessler began the scoring, but the Friars would record the next four goals to eventually win the game 5-2. Game two featured a Hudson Malinoski hat trick for Providence in another win, this time by a score of 5-3.

It should be noted that while Providence swept the Wildcats, both games were close in shot total, with the weekend total of 55-54 only favoring the Friars by one.

It was all No. 19 UMass in their first game of a home-and-home with New Hampshire, scoring 41 seconds in and never allowing a goal in the 4-0 victory. But it was the Wildcats who'd get the last laugh of the weekend, scoring the lone goal of game two at home to upset the Minutemen 1-0, a huge loss for a team looking for an at-large bid.

No. 12 Boston College and No. 10 UConn played in a home-and-home starting in Boston.

UConn had no answer for Boston Bruins draft pick James Hagens in game one, as he'd record BC's first three goals of the game in the eventual 5-2 statement Boston College win.

Game two was one of the best games in the conference all year. The first goal of the game came on the power play from UConn's Kaden Shahan, following three penalties in under a minute of game time that eventually put UConn on the power play.

BC would answer not long after also on the power play, with Andre Gasseau capitalizing to tie it. 12 penalties were called in the first period between both teams.

The remainder of the game was a back-and-forth affair that eventually ended up going to overtime, where it wouldn't take long for BC's Lukas Gustafsson to find the back of the net and complete a sweep over a top 10 team.

For two teams fighting for the number two seed in Hockey East and for at-large bids in the NCAA tournament, the Eagles' sweep has massive implications. Time remains, but BC is closer to a bid than ever while the Huskies' next two weeks is a critical point in their season.

Providence has clinched a bye and will clinch the top seed in the conference with a point. Boston College and UConn don't need much to clinch byes, while UMass, Northeastern, Maine and Boston University fight for the remaining two spots.

Merrimack has an outside chance for a bye, while Lowell, New Hampshire and Vermont are eliminated and will play in the first round.

Providence has also effectively clinched an NCAA bid with Boston College and UConn as the only two other teams with a chance for an at-large bid as well. Anybody else would need to win the Hockey East tournament.

Two weeks remain, and every matchup counts.

WEEK 19

New Hampshire and No. 6 Providence will play a home-and-home where Providence may begin to rest starters as tournament season nears and everything already set for the Friars.

UMass Lowell will have this week off.



UConn men's ice hockey team taking on Boston College at People's Bank Arena in Hartford, Conn., on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026. The Huskies played a strong game that extended into overtime, but Boston College scored the deciding goal to secure a 2-1 victory. PHOTOS BY ELLA GORHAM, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



The Puck Drop:

USA MEN'S HOCKEY WINS GOLD OVER CANADA

by Avery Becker | ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR | SHE/HER/HERS | avery.becker@uconn.edu

For the first time in 46 years, the United States Men's Hockey team has been crowned the gold medal winners in the Winter Olympic games.

Thanks to an overtime goal by Jack Hughes of the New Jersey Devils, the U.S. defeated Canada Sunday morning, 2-1.

Last time the Men's Hockey squad won gold against the Soviet Union 4-3 in 1980, it was considered a miracle.

However, this time around, it wasn't necessarily a miracle; it was more like the stars were perfectly aligned.

The United States was playing on the same day that the Miracle on Ice occurred, Feb. 22, and it was the birthday of the late Johnny Gaudreau's son, Johnny Gaudreau Jr.

Gaudreau, a former member of the Columbus Blue Jackets and Team USA, and his brother Matthew passed away in August of 2024, after being hit by an alleged drunk driver while biking.

"It was good emotions. It

was happy emotions." Zach Werenski, the late Gaudreau's teammate at the Columbus Blue Jackets, said in an article from People.com. "It was something John would've been at, and to have his jersey out there for all the fans, for all the people to see... His family was in the crowd. We brought his kids on the ice for the picture, I mean, it was just incredible. We wanted to make him proud, and I think we did that."

After the squad won gold, they brought Gaudreau's son and his daughter Noa down to the ice, holding his jersey as they took a team photo.

After defeating Sweden in the semi-finals, the United States geared up to face Canada, their long-time rival, in the gold medal game. After suffering a leg injury in the quarterfinal game, Sidney Crosby, Canada's captain, said he would miss the gold medal game.

Despite that, defeating Canada was still a tall task for the Americans to accomplish.

Canada had won the last Olympics NHL players were allowed to play in 2010, Crosby scoring the gold medal winning goal in that game against the United States.

Heading into this matchup, with the stars aligned, the U.S. was looking for revenge.

In the first period, the United States was up 1-0, using incredible puck movement to slide through defenders, before deking the puck to backhand it into the goal.

Then, Cale Makar of Can-

ada scored to tie the score up 1-1. Neither team was able to score another goal, sending the game into overtime.

Canada had an opportunity to win it in the third with a shot from Devon Toews, but it would ultimately be saved by U.S. goaltender Connor Hellebuyck.

"It was an all-time performance from a superstar at his position. It'll go down as one of the best performances of all-time, right up there with Jimmy Craig. If we don't have him, we don't win." Matthew Tkachuk said about Hellebuyck, comparing him to the U.S.'s goaltender in 1980, in an article from NHL.com.

Hellebuyck was integral for the United States, saving 41 shots on goal for the entire game, even when Canada outshot the U.S. (19-8) coming out of the second period.

Due to this save by Hellebuyck, it would send the game into overtime, where Jack Hughes would take it upon himself to win the game for his team.

Off a dish from his teammate, Werenski, Hughes slid the puck through Canada goaltender Jordan Binnington's five-hole and without missing a beat, ran to hug his teammates in a warm embrace.

"I can't even believe this, I mean, it's such an unbelievable game, USA-Canada. That's such a good game. They have so many great players. We're a great team." Hughes said in an article from NHL.com, "That's exactly how we



wanted it to go. We wanted to go through Canada and beat them. It's an unbelievable win for the Americans."

After the game, Hughes became immensely popular with fans, including his toothless smile, after losing a couple of teeth after being high-sticked earlier in the game.

After the squad won the game, you could feel the emotion from the players and coaches as they accepted their gold medals, still in disbelief of the feat they just accomplished.

"We've been thinking about those guys. They've been in the locker room telling us, 'It's your guys' turn, get it done,'" Charlie MacAvoy said in an article from NHL.com on the support they received from the 1980 gold medalists, "And we got it done, man. It just feels so surreal right now."



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The USA men's hockey team after winning gold at the 2026 Winter Olympics. This is the State's first gold in the event in over four decades.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @TEAMUSA ON INSTAGRAM

THE WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC PREVIEW



by Jake Loomis
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The World Baseball Classic is fast approaching, and this year the event is shaping up to be one of the most hyped and highly anticipated tournaments in history of the WBC.

This year, 20 teams will go for the quest to be crowned the world's best as they will start playing on March 5. The front-runners include reigning champs Japan, along with the USA and the Dominican Republic.

The United States is coming into the games with a new look as Mike Trout is out as Captain, and it is Aaron Judge as he looks to avenge their defeat to Japan a few years back. The rotation is arguably the strongest part of this roster, as they will have stars Tarik Skubal, Paul Skenes and Joe Ryan as their headliners.

Along with this group of pitchers, the United States will feature Clay Holmes and Mason Miller out of the bullpen. The lineup is also balanced with a wide variety of accomplished stars and up-and-comers.

Japan is looking to follow up on their run a few years ago that ended on a Shohei Ohtani strikeout of Mike Trout to end the game. This year, Ohtani will be back as he headlines the roster alongside Yoshinobu Yamamoto and Seiya Suzuki.

Japan will also return Munetaka Murekami, who just made the transfer over to the MLB as he gears up for his first season with the White Sox. However, something to

note for Japan is that they will not have Ohtani's arm, as he will just be hitting in the tournament.

The Dominican Republic is also looking to make a splash this year following a few disappointing years at the tourney. They boast the best lineup in the tournament by far, as they are headlined by Juan Soto and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. The pitching staff will be set to go with Sandy Alcántara and Christopher Sanchez. Unfortunately, The Dominican Republic are not the favorites, because of how good USA and Japan are as teams.

Outside of the clear top

three, Venezuela, Mexico and the Netherlands should all have solid tournaments as they all produce solid rosters in almost every tournament. Venezuela will look to lean on Wilner Abreu and Ronald Acuña Jr. to carry them through the tournament.

For Mexico, they have an all-around solid roster headlined by Jarren Duran, who will provide some speed and spark to their offense. Their rotation will be a weak spot, although they will have a solid bullpen to hopefully combat that.

The Netherlands will also be strong again with Xander

Bogaerts and Ozzie Albies, along with arguably the best defender in baseball, Ced-dane Rafaela. They will also have a few notable prospects on the roster, such as former top pick Drew Jones, who will help add depth to a team that could make a long run.

Teams also not to be mentioned in the upper echelon but could have breakout runs include Puerto Rico, Israel and Italy. Puerto Rico has been the talk of the tournament so far due to insurance issues with stars Carlos Correa and Francisco Lindor. Regardless of this fact, they still have aging star Nolan Arenado along with Edwin Diaz to anchor their bullpen.

Team Israel is looking to bounce back after a rough 2023 showing. In 2017, they had a magical run and are looking to do the same as they will have arguably their best roster of all-time. Led by Harrison Bader and Dean Kramer, they will have solid MLB talent along with some prospects looking to make a name for themselves on the national stage.

Finally, for Italy, they have a lot of decent pieces in a very well-rounded roster. Jac Caglianone and Kyle Teel are the names that jump off the list as they will look to boost Italy deep into the tourney, along with their plethora of veteran pitching.

This year's World Baseball Classic is set to promise big moments as the players set to make their way with their nations to a variety of sites in different countries to play. This is baseball's Olympics and will be a great kickoff to the MLB season.



The World Baseball Classic, featuring flags from participating countries. This event aims to make baseball a prominent worldwide sport. PHOTO COURTESY OF @WBCBASEBALL ON INSTAGRAM

THE LOCKER ROOM



Sports

Big East Baller Update No. 7:

St. John's takes first place into Hartford on Wednesday

by Sam Calhoun
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The Big East regular-season title is likely on the line on Wednesday as No. 15 St. John's visits No. 6 UConn. Expect a preview of that bout on the day of the game.

The Red Storm are red-hot at the right time, with one more week left in February. Madness awaits as we get closer to the Big East Tournament.

Weekly Awards

Player of the Week: Bryce Hopkins, forward, St. John's (19 ppg, 10 rpg, 1.5 apg, 1.5 spg, 58.3 FG%, 33.3 3P%, 90 FT% in two games)

Despite more impressive scoring efforts around the league, including 26 points on average last week from Xavier's Tre Carroll, Hopkins averaged a double-double while his Red Storm went 2-0 last week. On Feb. 18, the former Providence Friar had 23 points and 10 rebounds at Marquette. Days after Creighton beat UConn in Storrs, St. John's routed the Bluejays behind an impressive stat line from Hopkins: 15 points, 10 rebounds, two assists and two steals. It was the first time that Hopkins had back-to-back double-doubles since the 2022-23 season.

Freshman of the Week: Braylon Mullins, guard, UConn (17.5 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 1 spg, 44.8 FG%, 50 3P%, 100 FT% in two games)

Nigel James Jr. gave Mullins a run for his money for this week's award, but Marquette did not win their lone game against St. John's. The only reason UConn kept up with Creighton (a bad loss, by the way) last week was because Mullins put up a career-high 25 points to go with six rebounds, two steals and a blocked shot. No one stood out in the Huskies' win at Villanova, but the team as a whole distributed the offensive production evenly. Mullins was part of that, despite fouling out, tallying an efficient 10 points on 4-of-7 shooting.

Best game last week: Lewis, Villanova outlast Xavier, 92-89, in overtime

A trap game before hosting UConn on Saturday, Villanova went to war with Xavier at the Cintas Center in Cincinnati on Tuesday night. Lewis led the way for the Wildcats with 21 points (11 in the first half) on nine made baskets, but he was not the only player on the team to reach double-figures in scoring. All five starters for Villanova scored double-figures, including Tyler Perkins (17) and Bryce Lindsay (15), who hit a huge 3-pointer in overtime that snapped an 83-83 tie. Despite the Wildcats starting the second half hot from the perimeter, Xavier went on an 8-2 run to cut the deficit at the 12:25 mark. Both teams went back-and-forth for the rest of regulation, including a game-tying basket from Carroll with 4.1 seconds left to play. Carroll's 28-point, 10-rebound performance led Xavier, and they also got 20 points, nine rebounds, five assists and three blocks from Jovan Milicevic. Malik Moore also had 15 points and seven assists in the thriller.

Best game this week (minus both UConn games this week): Villanova at No. 15 St. John's (Saturday, 8 p.m., FOX)

This is a massive contest between two NCAA Tournament locks in the Big East. St. John's is red-hot in terms of momentum and will be coming off a huge battle in Hartford. Villanova is in search of an incredible upset, and they have a team that can achieve it. Lewis may be the star for the Wildcats, but it is Duke Brennan who will have the spotlight as he goes against Zubey Ejirofor, the likely Big East Player of the Year. Meanwhile, two of the league's best coaches face off in Kevin Willard against Rick Pitino. The Red Storm bested Villanova in the last matchup, in Philadelphia, 86-79. Lewis was a no-show in that game, only scoring 3 points. Expect more fire from him on Saturday.



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. PHOTOS BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS