



Noem fired amid growing criticism

by Jenna Outcalt
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President Donald Trump fired Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem yesterday after growing tensions over the department's handling of immigration and disaster response.

Trump announced on Truth Social that he nominated Markwayne Mullin, a Republican senator from Oklahoma, to replace Noem.

"Markwayne will work tirelessly to Keep our Border Secure, Stop Migrant Crime, Murderers, and other Criminals from illegally entering our Country, End the Scourge of Illegal Drugs and, MAKE AMERICA SAFE AGAIN," Trump posted. "Markwayne will make a spectacular Secretary of Homeland Security."

Mullin is a member of the Cherokee Nation and a former professional MMA fighter. He is a regular supporter of Trump's actions and policies.

Mullin thanked Trump for the nomination in a post on X. "I look forward to earning the support of my colleagues in the Senate and carrying out President Trump's mission alongside the department's many capable agencies and the thousands of patriots who keep us safe every day," he said.

Although Noem is no longer secretary, Trump appointed her to a new position.

"The current Secretary, Kristi Noem, who has served us well, and has had numerous and spectacular results (especially on the Border!), will be moving to be Special Envoy for The Shield of the Americas, our new Security Initiative in the Western Hemisphere we are announcing on Saturday in Doral, Florida," he said in the post. "I thank Kristi for her service at 'Homeland.'"

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) posted a press release thank-



Kristi Noem with the Western States Sheriff's Association in Reno, NV.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @SEC_NOEM ON INSTAGRAM.

ing Noem and calling her "the most successful DHS Secretary in history."

"President Trump and Secretary Noem restored the rule of law, delivered the most secure border ever, removed hundreds of thousands of dangerous illegal aliens, created safer communities, strengthened cyber defense, fixed disaster response, launched initiatives that are reshaping American air travel, and has made America safer for generations to come," the press release said. "The American people and our posterity are better off today, tomorrow, and for generations to come because of Secretary Noem's dedication to public service."

Noem said in the press release and in a post on X that she looked forward to working with Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth "to dismantle cartels that have poured drugs into our nation and killed our children and grandchildren."

"The Western Hemisphere is absolutely critical for U.S.

security. In this new role, I will be able to build on the partnerships and national security expertise, I forged over the last 13 months as Secretary of Homeland Security," she said.

DHS has been shut down for weeks due to legislators refusing to fund it without changes to policies for immigration enforcement. Noem testified before members of the Senate on Tuesday, facing criticisms and concerns from Republicans as well as Democrats.

Noem had been facing increasing scrutiny since the federal immigration agents killed Renee Good and Alex Pretti, two American citizens, in Minneapolis. At the hearing, Noem said she regretted the deaths, but she did not retract her earlier comments claiming the victims were engaging in "domestic terrorism."

Mullin will still need to be confirmed by the Senate to step into the role, but Politico predicted that he is likely to have a straightforward path to confirmation.



Kristi Noem with officials and representatives in Arizona.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @SEC_NOEM ON INSTAGRAM.

Connecticut sues to block RFK Jr.'s vaccine schedule overhaul

by Harika Goteti
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Connecticut Attorney General William Tong joined 15 states in a lawsuit to block President Donald Trump administration's overhaul of the nation's childhood immunization schedule, according to a Feb. 24 press release.

The complaint named Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., acting Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Jay Bhattacharya and the CDC and HHS as defendants, according to Connecticut's press release.

The lawsuit was prompted by a "decision memo" from the CDC that reduced the amount of recommended childhood vaccines from 17 to 11, according to NPR.

According to the decision memo, the CDC no longer recommends the vaccines that protect against rotavirus, meningococcal disease, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, influenza, COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus.

Tong criticized Kennedy for his lack of medical ex-

the U.S. from 1994 to 2023, researchers estimate that regular childhood vaccinations prevented roughly 508 million cases of illness,

"Trump and RFK Jr. are risking children's lives. RFK Jr. is not a doctor. He is not a scientist. His friends are not any more knowledgeable or qualified."

WILLIAM TONG

32 million hospitalizations and over 1.1 million deaths.

"We are suing today to protect lives, and to make sure that our nation's powerful public health guidance follows the law and reflects the facts," Tong said.

According to NBC-News, the CDC's updates



RFK Jr. posing with his arm around his wife, Cheryl Hines.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @ROBERTFKKENEDYJR ON INSTAGRAM.

pertise in the press release.

"Vaccines save lives," Tong wrote in the press release. "Trump and RFK Jr. are risking children's lives. RFK Jr. is not a doctor. He is not a scientist. His friends are not any more knowledgeable or qualified."

The press release states that for children born in

on the U.S. childhood vaccine schedule was effective immediately and will more closely resemble Denmark's vaccination schedule.

"For generations, these

"Vaccines save lives"

WILLIAM TONG



Connecticut Attorney William Tong speaking at a press conference. PHOTO COURTESY OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ON FACEBOOK.

vaccinations have successfully limited the spread of contagious diseases, diminished their impacts, and kept the public safe and healthy," Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont said. "There is no legitimate medical rationale for changing this... Medical decisions need to be determined by science, not conspiracy theories."

Connecticut is joined in the lawsuit by the Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro and attorneys general from Colorado, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island and Wisconsin.

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WE ARE NOT THE DAILY DIGEST

News

Pentagon says it is labeling AI company Anthropic a supply chain risk 'effective immediately'

(AP NEWS) The Trump administration is following through with its threat to designate artificial intelligence company Anthropic as a supply chain risk in an unprecedented move that could force other government contractors to stop using the AI chatbot Claude.

The Pentagon said in a statement Thursday that it has "officially informed Anthropic leadership the company and its products are deemed a supply chain risk, effective immediately."

The decision appeared to shut down the opportunity for further negotiation with Anthropic, nearly a week after President Donald Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth accused the company of endangering national security.

Trump and Hegseth announced a series of threatened punishments last Friday, on the eve of the Iran war, after Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei refused to back down over concerns the company's products could be used for mass surveillance of Americans or autonomous weapons.

Amodei said in a statement Thursday that "we do not believe this action is legally sound, and we see no choice but to challenge it in court."

The Pentagon statement said, "this has been about one fundamental principle: the military being able to use technology for all lawful purposes. The military will not allow a vendor to insert itself into the chain of command by restricting the lawful use of a critical capability and put our warfighters at risk."

Amodei countered that the narrow exceptions Anthropic sought to limit surveillance and autonomous weapons "relate to

high-level usage areas, and not operational decision-making."

He said "productive conversations" continued this week with the Pentagon over whether it could keep using Claude or establish a "smooth transition" if no agreement was reached. Trump gave the military six months to phase out Claude, which is already widely embedded in military and national security platforms. Amodei said it's a priority to make sure warfighters won't be "deprived of important tools in the middle of major combat operations."

Some military contractors were already cutting ties with Anthropic, a rising star in the tech industry that sells Claude to a variety of businesses and government agencies. Lockheed Martin said it will "follow the President's and the Department of War's direction" and look to other providers of large language models.

"We expect minimal impacts as Lockheed Martin is not dependent on any single LLM vendor for any portion of our work," the company said.

It's not yet clear if the designation aims to block Anthropic's use by all federal government contractors or just those that partner with the military. Amodei said a notification Anthropic received from the Defense Department on Wednesday shows it only applies to Claude's use by customers as a "direct part of" their military contracts.

The Pentagon's decision to apply a rule designed to address supply threats posed by foreign adversaries was quickly met with criticism from both opponents and some supporters of Trump's Republican administration. Federal codes have defined supply chain risk as



Pages from the Anthropic website and the company's logo are displayed on a computer screen in New York on Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026. (AP Photo/Patrick Sison)

AP PHOTO/PATRICK SISON

a "risk that an adversary may sabotage, maliciously introduce unwanted function, or otherwise subvert" a system in order to disrupt, degrade or spy on it.

U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, a New York Democrat and member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and Senate Intelligence Committee, called it "a dangerous misuse of a tool meant to address adversary-controlled technology."

"This reckless action is shortsighted, self-destructive, and a gift to our adversaries," she said in a written statement Thursday.

Neil Chilson, a Republican former chief technologist for the

Federal Trade Commission who now leads AI policy at the Abundance Institute, said the decision looks like "massive overreach that would hurt both the U.S. AI sector and the military's ability to acquire the best technology for the U.S. warfighter."

Earlier in the day, a group of former defense and national security officials sent a letter to U.S. lawmakers expressing "serious concern" about the designation.

"The use of this authority against a domestic American company is a profound departure from its intended purpose and sets a dangerous precedent," said the letter from former officials and policy experts, including former CIA director Michael Hayden and retired Air Force, Army and Navy leaders.

They added that such a designation is meant to "protect the United States from infiltration by foreign adversaries — from companies beholden to Beijing or Moscow, not from American innovators operating transparently under the rule of law. Applying this tool to penalize a U.S. firm for declining to remove safeguards against mass domestic surveillance and fully autonomous weapons is a category error with consequences that extend far beyond this dispute."

While losing its big partnerships with defense contractors, Anthropic experienced a surge

of consumer downloads over the past week due to people siding with its moral stance. Anthropic has boasted of more than a million people signing up for Claude each day this week, lifting it past OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Gemini as the top AI app in more than 20 countries in Apple's app store.

The dispute with the Pentagon has also further deepened Anthropic's bitter rivalry with OpenAI that started when ex-OpenAI leaders, including Amodei, started Anthropic in 2021.

Hours after the Pentagon punished Anthropic last Friday, OpenAI announced a deal to effectively replace Anthropic with ChatGPT in classified military environments.

OpenAI said it sought similar protections against domestic surveillance and fully autonomous weapons but later had to amend its agreements, leading CEO Sam Altman to later say he shouldn't have rushed a deal that "looked opportunistic and sloppy."

Amodei also expressed regret about his own part in that "difficult day for the company," saying Thursday he wanted to "directly apologize" for an internal note he sent to Anthropic staff that attacked OpenAI's behavior and suggested Anthropic was being punished for not giving "dictator-like praise" to Trump.



Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth stands outside the Pentagon during a welcome ceremony for the Japanese defense minister at the Pentagon in Washington, Jan. 15, 2026. AP PHOTO/KEVIN WOLF

The Daily Campus

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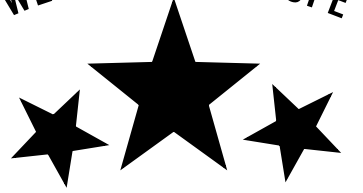
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Daily Crossword

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



by Maleena Muzio

March 6 to March 12

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

Overview

It's time to say goodbye to procrastination and hello to productivity! This week you will set goals for yourself and stick with them — no matter how daunting they may seem.

Wake-up calls, clarity and the elimination of bad habits are going to come full and center. Take risks, be bold and lean into the sparks of courage you may feel this week.

Aries

March 21 - April 19

Your creativity will be unleashed in late-night moments.

Taurus

April 20 - May 20

Keep your communication skills up to par and don't be afraid to take romantic risks.

Gemini

May 21 - June 20

Doors of opportunity will open for you.

Cancer

June 21 - July 22

Continue learning as much as you can — your education will serve its purpose soon.

Leo

July 23 - Aug. 22

Take the time to understand your own feelings, but remember: you do not owe anyone any explanations.

Virgo

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

Luck is finding its way to you; do not be afraid of the current pressure you may be under.

Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 23

Set healthy habits and goals for yourself — they can be small but valuable.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 21

An intense relationship and spiritual clarity are on its way.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Time to ditch being a homebody — step outside and regain productivity.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Say hello to strangers; unexpected connections may result.

Aquarius

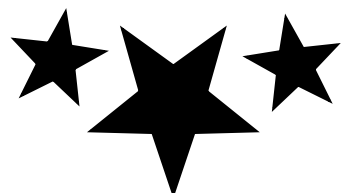
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Hard work and dedication to a project will pay off soon.

Pisces

Feb. 19 - March 20

Competition may be your motivation — lean into that energy and accomplish your goals.



- ACROSS**
- Goes through a lot of tissues
 - Chi-town paper
 - Tibetan priest
 - "If you say so"
 - New York university named for a Scottish isle
 - Tudyk of "Resident Alien"
 - Condiment served with biryani
 - Survivor's struggle, briefly
 - Tie
 - Ceremony that adorns dollar bills?
 - Foundry delivery
 - Lav
 - Dove home
 - Try to find pen pals in monasteries?
 - "I mentioned the bisque" "Seinfeld" character
 - Take from the top
 - Intl. broadcaster since 1942
 - Quash
 - Butter square
 - Leaning
 - Info requested by brewery websites
 - Store securely
 - Old Testament collection
 - Lo-cal beers from Canada?
 - Ticket info
 - Santa __, California
 - Little dog
 - Terse review of a wonky web page?
 - [I like these scratches!]
 - Sworn statement
 - Deserve
 - Designer Schiaparelli
 - Sticking point
 - Nimble
 - Tiny splash
 - Michelin award
 - Hoped-for Match.com outings

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20					21				22			
23				24			25					
26	27					28				29	30	31
32	33					34				35		
36					37				38			
39				40	41			42	43			
44			45					46				
47						48				49	50	51
52	53					54				55		
56					57				58			
59					60				61			
62					63				64			

By Patti Varol

3/6/26

- DOWN**
- Small donkey
 - Slimmest of margins
 - Kayaking challenge
 - Instrument in a Vermeer painting
 - Temple where Chan Buddhism began
 - Tread carefully
 - "Divergent" trilogy novelist Veronica
 - On the sly
 - Foul temper
 - Middle Eastern dairy product
 - Cream ingredient
 - More than a few
 - Furthermore
 - Post-it scribble
 - Miranda of "Homeland"
 - Carnival city
 - Muscle
 - Possessive type?
 - Travel aimlessly
 - Cheek
 - __ Williams bourbon
 - Toy company that acquired

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

M	E	D	S		A	M	A	S	S		J	A	G	S
A	C	R	E		M	A	L	T	A		A	V	O	N
C	H	A	R	G	E	C	A	R	D		W	O	R	E
R	E	G	I	O	N		M	A	D	E		C	I	A
A	L	O	F	T		P	O	W	E	R	W	A	L	K
M	O	N		C	H	I				N	E	E	D	L
E	N	S		H	U	L	L	S			S	O	A	R
				C	A	B	L	E	K	N	I	T		
N	A	P	A			S	T	A	I	R		F	A	D
E	V	E	N	U	P			T	A	O		A	N	O
W	I	R	E	F	R	A	M	E		B	I	N	G	O
T	A	G		O	O	Z	E		L	O	A	F	E	D
A	T	O	P		O	U	T	L	E	T	M	A	L	L
K	O	L	A		F	R	E	O	N		B	R	I	E
E	R	A	S		S	E	R	B	S		S	E	C	S

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3/6/26

- the online marketplace BrickLink
- Printing choice
- Main squeeze
- Former home of the Mets
- Cozy spots
- Blood drive unit
- Nurse a grudge
- Feature of some sandals
- Suds
- Serving a purpose
- "Oh, for __ sake!"
- __ and void
- "In that neighborhood"
- Mediterranean volcano
- Game company with a hedgehog mascot
- Energy

And Sudoku

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

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

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

Solution to Thursday's puzzle

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

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Life

Students learn how to administer naloxone at documentary screening



Darren Waller during a game against the Carolina Panthers. Waller was in "Tipping the Pain Scale," a documentary about different individuals struggling with substance abuse. PHOTO COURTESY OF @RACKWALL ON INSTAGRAM.

by Nate Wylie
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This past Wednesday, the Substance Use Prevention Program, which is part of the University of Connecticut's Student Health and Wellness (SHaW) held a documentary screening and Narcan (naloxone) training event in conjunction with SERAC, a Connecticut nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing the impact of mental health, substance abuse, and gambling-related issues.

There are many at UConn that may be familiar with substance use disorders, and whether it's through living in proximity with a user or struggling with it themselves. SHaW wants students to know that it has resources available.

"We are here to support students wherever they are

at with their substance use," said Audrey Jean-Guillame, the program manager for the Substance Use Prevention Initiatives at SHaW. "That can be students who choose not to use or students that are choosing to use and helping them find a balance and reduce their risk of experiencing the not fun things that can come along with substance use."

Nestled in a dimly lit conference room on the first floor of the Wilson building, the program provided pizza, drinks, fruit, cookies and a wide variety of SERAC merchandise, including chargers, squishies, keychains, pens and pins. In addition to this, attendees were provided with free naloxone, Fentanyl test strips, vessels for safe drug disposal and CPR mouth guards. All are invaluable resources should any drug-related emergencies occur.

Anu, a sixth-semester psychology and physiology and neurobiology major double who works as a Substance Use Risk Reduction Peer Health Educator, spoke about the importance of precaution should students choose to use substances.

"If you're going to use substances, then make sure you know how to use them safely," she said. "This can mean having Narcan on you ... using small dosages of whatever substance you're using and going slow with it, and also making sure you have a friend with you."

Risk reduction was a major theme of the documentary screening event that SHaW and SERAC hosted on March 4.

The documentary shown at the event was titled "Tipping the Pain Scale" and followed the stories of individuals struggling with substance abuse across the United

States, including NFL Player Darren Waller, 53rd mayor of Boston Marty Walsh and poet Joseph Green. Released in 2021, the documentary showcases the variety of ways in which drug abuse has impacted both individuals and communities, as well as how people in recovery work to give back to their communities throughout their healing journey. Art, sports, community service and legal action are all portrayed as avenues through which victims of drug abuse work to create a better future for themselves and their communities.

After the screening, attendees were given a brief but comprehensive training on the use of Narcan.

After the event, Jean-Guillame discussed the most important thing she thinks students should know regarding SHaW's Substance Use Prevention Initiatives.

"One of my biggest things is just letting students know that this is a resource that we have available for them for free," she said, stressing the wide variety of locations in which Narcan and other related resources are accessible for students. Students can find naloxone "through student health and wellness... they can access [it] in our vending machines for free, or they can stop by our office or the pharmacies."

SHaW plans on hosting events like these in the future, and naloxone training is a regular program featured in the department. For any students looking to learn more about substance use, looking for resources for themselves or a loved one or just looking to learn skills that could potentially save lives, the Substance Use Prevention Program has ample resources to meet your needs.

CLIPART COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

UConn Woodsmen host first annual Jack and Jill home meet



UConn Woodsmen at their first Jack and Jill home meet. The meet was hosted at UConn on Feb. 28. PHOTO COURTESY OF CHASE HAITSCH/UGONN WOODSMEN

by Sarah Cartagena
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Last weekend on Feb. 28, the University of Connecticut Woodsmen sharpened their tools, fired up their chainsaws and put on ear protection gear to compete against other schools at their annual home meet. Located at the Ratcliffe Hicks Arena, the Jack and Jill competition meet began at 8 a.m. and ended around 4 p.m.

The UConn Woodsmen are a team of students who participate in traditional lumberjack sports, incorporating logging techniques into timed events for competition against schools across the Northeast.

Schools like the University of Vermont, Colby College, Paul Smith, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and more competed against UConn during this home meet.

The full list of events included axe throw, disk stack, bowsaw, single buck, underhand chop, crosscut, log roll, standing block chop and pulp toss. Wooden carved mini axes and tiles laid across a table, serving as trophies for future champions of the meet.

One of the many events of the meet, the disk stack, took place outside of the Ratcliffe Hicks Arena. During this event, the Woodsmen are tasked with barring chainsaws and cutting through a tower of wood.

The goal is to precisely cut across the tower without dropping a single disk, all while being timed. Despite being such an intricate task, the Woodsmen sliced through the wood with precision and swiftness.

Spectators and Woodsmen alumni cheered for the Huskies, but there were also students who had never witnessed timber sports in action among the audience. Second-semester student Alana Coutts recounted her experience watching the event.

"I really liked how many different events they have," Coutts said. "There is something for everyone to enjoy. It's a very interesting and new experience."

Many volunteers from various organizations here

at UConn lent a hand to the Woodsmen to ensure safety throughout the arena. Most of the events involve sawing away at wood, leading to an incredible pool of sawdust appearing on the ground. Volunteers like sixth-semester student Taylor Orlosky helped sweep it up.

"Volunteering at the Woodsmen meet this past weekend really opened my eyes to a whole new level of talent that we have here at UConn," Orlosky recalled. "The dedication and skills these teams had was so impressive and it was extremely entertaining to watch."

Paul Smith College took the axe-engraved prize of over-

all best, while UConn placed high and won second place in the crosscut and standing block chop events. The day proved to be a success, and now the Woodsmen will prepare to compete at the Colby College Mud Meet on April 12.

Students who are interested in learning and participating in lumber sports through the UConn Woodsmen team are encouraged to join, no matter what level or skillset they hold. Practice is held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Ratcliffe Hicks Arena. For more information, visit their website, join UCONNCONTACT or follow them on Instagram, @uconn_woodsmen.

CLIPART COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

Roundtable: The YouTube celebrity interview of our dreams



Harry Styles on Brittany Broski's "The Royal Court." Styles' new album released today. PHOTO COURTESY OF @BRITTANY_BROSKI ON INSTAGRAM

Between "Last Meals," "Chicken Shop Date," "Hot Ones" and "Royal Court," the internet has seen a surprising rise in celebrity interview content in the last few years. The only catch? It's on YouTube. Most of the current interview shows out there focus on celebrities both great and small, so it begs the question: what show would you go on? For this roundtable, writers of the Life section have gathered to share which interview show they would most prefer to guest star on.

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

YouTube celebrity interview shows are some of my favorite videos to watch with friends, and quite frankly, some of my favorite videos in general. Viewers are able to

get an inside look of their favorite celebrities' lives in a casual, more entertaining way than the standard "Entertainment Tonight" interview.

"Chicken Shop Date" is definitely my favorite celebrity interview show, though. Amelia Dimoldenberg, the show's host, is one of the most likeable internet personalities I have ever watched. Her dry humor reminds me of both comedian Rebel Wilson and fellow YouTuber Emma Chamberlain. She is incredibly funny without putting in too much effort and is able to get conversation flowing with celebrities naturally.

My favorite episode of "Chicken Shop Date" would have to be the Billie Eilish episode from 2024. Eilish and Dimoldenberg interacted awkwardly but comedically, almost like they were on a

real date. Dimoldenberg's bashfulness was something that I don't know any other host could have successfully recreated — whether authentic or not (then again, it was Billie Eilish).

Speaking of Eilish, her friend Quenlin Blackwell's YouTube series, "Feeding Starving Celebrities," is my honorable runner-up. She is also incredibly hilarious in a more obvious way, and my favorite episodes are the Gabbriette and Charli XCX features.

Elijah Polance, he/him/they/them, Staff Writer, elijah.polance@uconn.edu

Of all the YouTube interview shows out there, the only one I enjoy and see myself fitting in on is Amelia Dimoldenberg's "Chicken Shop Date." Unlike the shows that center on more continuous conversation or focused gimmicks, a lot of the humor in "Chicken Shop Date" comes from its editing. The awkward cuts to workers making chicken and other random B-roll as the conversation switches from one micro-segment to another never gets old, and I'd love to experience a full interview as a guest to see how it differs from the final episode.

The only caveat is that I am a vegetarian and wouldn't really want a vegetarian alternative that tastes the same. But I'm sure Dimoldenberg and the producers

could work something out.

Sarah Barker, she/her/hers, Campus Correspondent, sarah.barker@uconn.edu

It's a toss-up for me between "Royal Court" and "Last Meals," but if I had to pick one, I think I'd have to go with "Royal Court" (unfortunately, I think I'd send myself into a spiral trying to pick my last meal).

I've been a fan of Brittany Broski for years, and I think I'd be able to match her energy and humor perfectly. It might not be the best interview, as we'll be laughing the entire time, but I think it'd make for fantastic content. I'd also take it very seriously, dressing in full medieval costume and attempting an awful accent because hey, when in Rome.

What I love about her show is that she's such a great interviewer; you can tell her guests feel comfortable in her presence and are able to open up and have a little fun with it. I'm also pining hard for one of the cups she gives to each of her guests as a parting gift.

Jack Zussman, he/him/his, Contributor, hgq24003@uconn.edu

I love this question so much — without a doubt it would be "Last Meals" for me. I'm a huge foodie who loves talking about favorite restaurants, best meals, memorable dining experiences and pretty much any-

thing that's food-related. The concept of "Last Meals" is especially interesting to me; as the name says, the show talks about what the last meal you would have before you die.

Though a morbid concept, the show's host Josh Scherer does an amazing job bringing positivity and introspection to the show. I would love to talk to him about important existential questions like what's the meaning of life and where to get the best burritos. I know that both of our personalities would blend perfectly: two extroverted foodaholics who grew up in California? We're basically brothers.

I would be remiss to not mention how phenomenal it would be to eat all my favorite foods in one sitting, so here's my order: Houston's famous spinach artichoke dip, Connie's Seafood garlic shrimp, my mom's matzo ball soup, the Crispy Ding's chicken sandwich from Hillstone, Osteria, delle Tre Panche spicy rigatoni, In-N-Out double cheeseburger with grilled onions and a root beer float on the side, Paquito Mas chicken burrito with an ice-cold bottled Coke, Pinkberry, California rolls from Gelson's supermarket, Apple Pan steakburger and Grill on the Alley mac and cheese. For dessert, it would be Mastro's butter cake, a Levain double chocolate chip cookie and my grandma's chocolate cake with a glass of almond milk.

College of Engineering holds 12th annual poster competition

by **Ayyan Tamjeed**

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Here at the University of Connecticut, the College of Engineering's annual poster competition displayed over 100 posters on the wide array of research engineering graduate students have been working on. With projects ranging from electronic noses to logic gates operated via sound, there was something for everyone.

Hosted in the Student Union Ballroom on March 4, students from a range of disciplines had five minutes to present their findings to a group of judges, with three minutes to present their research and two minutes to answer any pressing questions.

Aida Ghiaei, graduate outreach manager for the College of Engineering, said the idea behind the competition is based on the Three Minute Thesis competition held at research institutions around the world.

"They should be able to explain it as [if you're] sitting at... dinner and telling your aunt what you are doing in three minutes," Ghiaei said.

One of the graduate students presenting was Khoa Nguyen, from the School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Manufacturing Engineering (SoMAM). Nguyen's research used metamaterials to create transistors that can operate via sound. Metamaterials are engineered materials whose properties come from the design of its internal structure, rather than the chemical composition of its base substances. Since silicon transistors

only work in special environments, Nguyen tried to see if he could use metamaterials to create transistors that worked outside of these environments. He used them to create "building blocks" that he arranged into four sets, while using a magnet to control the direction the open face of these blocks face. These magnets are controlled by a sound at a set frequency.

Based on how the magnets are arranged — either connecting two sets vertically or horizontally — Nguyen is able to create logic gates whose signal — either zero or one — depends on the direction of these blocks.

Andrew Shortridge, a graduate student in the materials science department, focused his research on a laser — the strongest laser in New England, according to Shortridge — to detect the structural effects of high pressure and temperatures on materials computational framework to model the results. He described the pockmarks on the steel square he held in his hand as "laser shocks" from the experiment. Shortridge said he confirmed that their results also "lined up with existing literature," implying that their results are valid with other experiments of the same nature.

With a poster titled "One vector to rule them all," computer science PhD candidate Kaiyang Li explained how linear algebra can reduce the number of parameters a large language model (LLM) uses from over 7 billion to under a million. Parameters are the settings that control and optimize an LLM's output and behavior, according to IBM.

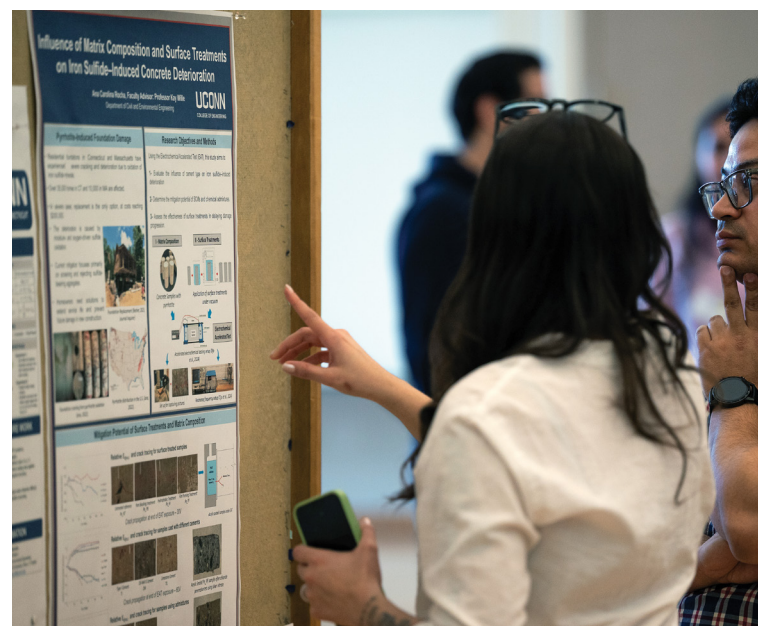
By using Uni-LoRA (Low-Rank Adaptation), a method to fine-tune the number of parameters an LLM uses, you can flatten one vector into a matrix and, by transforming it using a projection matrix, you can improve the parameter efficiency, according to Li. Even with fewer parameters, the Uni-LoRA model achieved similar performance to larger LLM at a reduced computational cost. You can find the source code for this framework online.

Delowar Hossain is another researcher whose project uses an artificial intelligence model, this time to train an electronic nose to detect chemical scents. Packed with over 70 sensors that measure electrical resistance, Hossain provided the nose training data to let it formulate its own idea of over a dozen chemical scents, including chloroform, hexane and pentanol.

The nose was able to use spider graphs to predict each scent and had 95-100% accuracy in predicting the correct scent, albeit in dry air. Hossain hopes to improve the electronic nose's ability to detect scents in the presence of moisture.

After an hour of perusing posters, all the judges left to deliberate on the first round of winners across each department.

The department winners were Atta Seck and Cao Sang Truong for biomedical engineering, Maryam Mohebi for chemical and biomolecular engineering, Adanna Akoma for materials science and engineering, Ana Carolina Vieira Rocha and Dahye Kim for the civil engineering program in the School of Civil and



Students and judges participate in the 12th annual poster competition at the Student Union Ballroom on March 4, 2026. The competition was restricted to UConn College of Engineering master's and PhD students.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NORA MARIANO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Environmental Engineering, Samuel Rothfarb for the environmental engineering program in the same school, Giovanni Romano for the School of Computing, Blake Gaines for electrical and computer engineering and Melanie Keogh for SoMAM.

Ayah Abdallah and Mohebi took home the People Choice awards, which people voted on by scanning the QR codes next to their favorite poster. Each of the winners listed above won \$50 in prize money.

After a second round of deliberation among the judges, the top three winners of the competition were announced: Rothfarb, Akoma and Carolina Vieira Rocha took home \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 respectively.

Ghiaei says the aim of these poster competitions is to "expose the research we are doing to [the] industry, hopefully they [students] can make

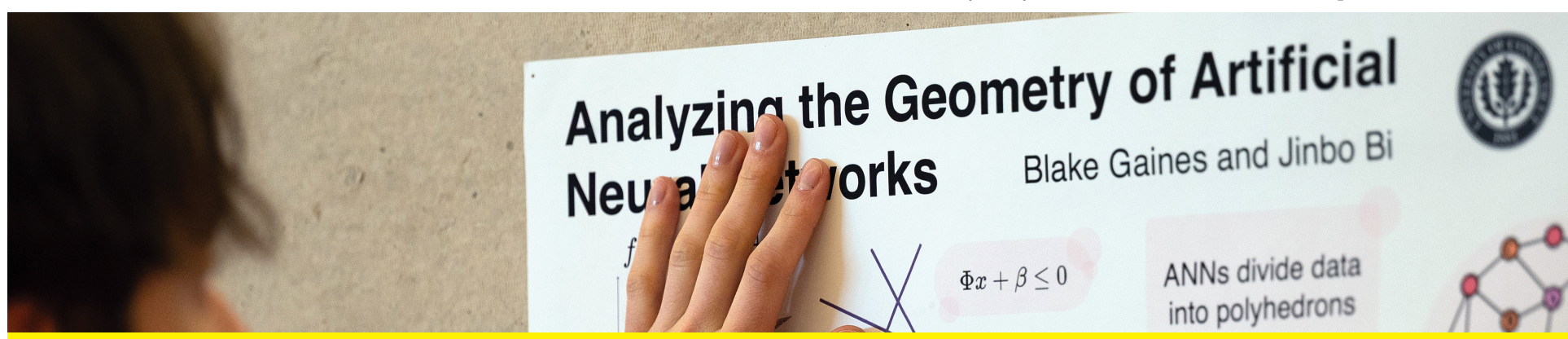
connections ... [it] also levels up the visibility of College of Engineering research."

Her favorite part about these events is seeing "the energy that the students bring in and the excitement, the nervousness and happiness," Ghiaei said she also appreciates the improvement she has seen from some graduate students who return year after year.

"The students, some of them, come year after year and I see how they improve, I think that's really fun to watch," Ghiaei said.

When asked about what makes a good poster presentation, Ghiaei said the students need to show enthusiasm, be aware of the language they use and be open to any questions.

"Research is about the questions...The excitement that the person shows and the less jargon they use and [how] they really grab your attention is important," Ghiaei said.



Daily

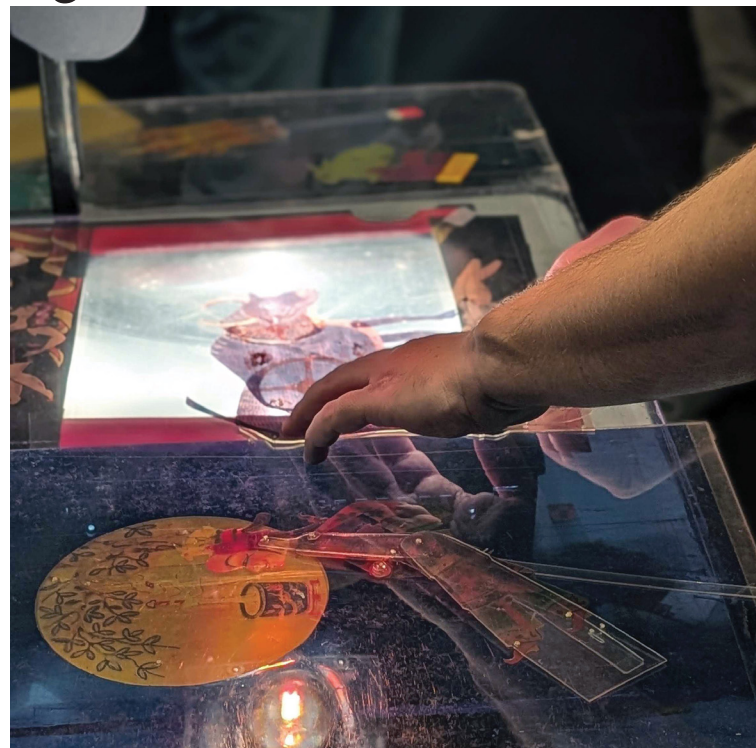
Life

Tiger Tales: Shadow puppetry's ferocious fairytale

CLIPART COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS



Harrison Greene puppeteering at Friday's show. Chinese Theatre Works, based in New York, performs classical Chinese theatre arts and western fusion shows. PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR



Acetate puppets used during the performance. "Tiger Tales," by Chinese Theatre Works, blends western influence and traditional Chinese puppetry. PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

by Christina Roby

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Chinese Theatre Works (CTW) performed their shadow puppetry piece "Tiger Tales" on Saturday, Feb. 28 at the Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry (BIMP) in Storrs, Conn.

The hour-long performance focused on a grandmother rabbit spirit who tells her granddaughter about her days as the Tiger's prime minister.

CTW often performs traditional fairy tales, but "Tiger Tales" is an original work written by Stephen Kaplin and Kuang-Yu Fong, initially performed in 2002. Despite its modern initiation and Western influence, "Tiger Tales" draws on China's 2,000-year-old history of shadow puppetry, including references to the Jade Rabbit in the moon and animal spirits.

"In China, we believe that animals can turn into humans," Fong said. "How will I know whether a person is a real person or an animal spirit? Go to Chinatown and see — if someone has an animal on their head, that's a spirit.

Now you know the secret!"

The first story was based on the Chinese saying, "伴君如伴虎" or "Working for the emperor is as dangerous as working for a tiger." In it, the tiger, the king of the jungle, looks for a prime minister to "do all the work and get none of the credit!" as Fong put.

The second story was based on the Chinese saying, "鸠占鹊巢," or as Fong translated, "The mean big bird took over the small bird's nest." In it, the unwelcome tiger appears in the newly-crowned Prime Minister Rabbit's kitchen, to her peril. The audience participated by "crying" along with various animals that came to confront the tiger in the rabbit's kitchen. The audience played along, chanting, "The tiger's in my kitchen and he won't get out!"

Chinese Theatre Works, founded by Kaplin and Fong in 2001, brings traditional Chinese performing arts to a modern stage, showcasing opera, shadow theatre, puppetry, dance and music. Kaplin studied puppetry at UConn under Dr. Frank Ballard, the founder of the University of Connecticut

Puppet Arts Program. Fong majored in Chinese Opera at the Chinese Culture University in Taiwan and taught there before gaining a master's in educational theater at New York University.

Performing with them was UConn alum Harrison Greene, a member of CTW with credits on Comedy Central, International Puppet Fringe NYC and more. The trio's connection to the art form and to UConn's campus made their performance even more meaningful.

After the show, Kaplin talked about the history of the shadow puppets from the show.

"All the shadow puppets you see here were based after our collection of traditional Chinese puppets, made out of donkey leather," Kaplin said.

The puppets were brought to U.S. in the 1920s by Pauline Benton, an American puppeteer and scholar renowned for her work in Chinese shadow puppet theatre, Kaplin said.

"She passed away, and in her collection she had thousands of these leather puppets," Kaplin said. "They were all packed away,

stuffed into a hot garage in southern California for decades, until someone found it and gave it to our friend in NYC, Jo Humphrey."

Jo Humphrey, the founder of The Gold Mountain Institute for Traditional Shadow Theater, spent years restoring hundreds of the puppets from the Benton collection. Upon her retirement, CTW received the restored puppets.

"We took them apart, put them on a Xerox machine and created these acetate, transparent puppets," Kaplin said. Acetate puppets are less fragile, and more effective with the overhead projector.

The audience was filled with people of all ages. Children sat in the front, while students and community members filled the back chairs.

Helen Clark, a community member, attended the show.

"My dad used to work with Frank Ballard," Clark said. "I was born during a Frank Ballard show that my father worked on: UConn's production of Pippin, 1983. I grew up going to the puppet shows at UConn, I got my acting degree at UConn. Most of my best friends were

in the puppetry program at UConn. Big love for the art and big love for BIMP!"

When asked about the challenges of the show, Kaplin said, "One of the challenges about doing stuff on the overhead projector is that everything is transparent. You have to give puppets space, light space, so you can see the figure. It's kind of a design challenge in a way."

The transparent puppets can easily overlay one another and create unintended shadows and effects, according to Greene. This restriction requires the puppeteers to be especially careful in how they maneuver the puppets.

"Because of the translucent nature of the puppet, there's no hiding from mistakes," Greene said.

Other challenges in performing include the lightness of the acetate puppets — as the puppets move, their movable limbs can get stuck — and the difficulty in seeing the puppets.

"When you perform in a dark place, if you don't know where your puppet is, forget about it!" Fong said.

Birdbrained Science: Blue, green or aquamarine?



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

by Gabrielle Wincherhern

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In Mandarin, there's a particular character: 青 ("qing"). The word generally is translated to blue or green. It's not as commonly used nowadays, as there are also separate words for blue and green, but I always think about it whenever people can't agree on if something is blue or green. I bring this up because it reminds me of a bird that we're going to discuss today.

Odds are good that you've seen a blue jay. And if you've been to southern Texas, you might have even spotted a green jay before. (If you're not familiar, look up a green jay; I promise whatever you're picturing is not the same as the real thing.) But how about a jay that's both?

In 2023, such a bird was spotted in the wild for the first time in San Antonio, Texas. The hybrid had blue feathers and a back and tail pattern like a blue jay, but its head was more similar to a green

jay's. However, this bird also had a blue upper chin and throat, which aren't features found in either parent species.

A few months later, this same individual was seen following a blue jay flock. The bird seemed to be calling back and forth with the flock, though it also produced a few green jay calls. Shortly afterwards, the hybrid was captured by researchers, who banded the bird and took a blood sample. They also examined the bird and learned that it was a male over a year old. By analyzing DNA from the blood sample, they determined that the hybrid had a green jay mother and a blue jay father. The hybrid was released and wasn't seen again until the summer of 2025.

I'm a believer in the inherent value of existence, and I think that applies to this hybrid. It is noteworthy that this bird exists at all, especially since we've never seen this particular combination in the wild before. (There is another blue x green jay hybrid on record, but this one was produced in

captivity in 1965.) But there are deeper reasons for the novelty of the hybrid as well.

Bird hybrids are not uncommon, but most vertebrate hybrids have parents from closely related species. Blue and green jays do not fall into this category; they are only distantly related, as the last time they shared an ancestor was about 7.5 million years ago. Additionally — and perhaps, most importantly — blue and green jays historically have been isolated from each other, meaning they were living in different areas that didn't share much overlap.

However, this is changing. Using data from eBird — a citizen science database that collects information on bird sightings — researchers found that the number of reported interactions between the two species has risen since 2000. Researchers also used climate data to build models showing each species' current and future ranges (the area where a species is found), and where the two species might overlap.

The ranges of both green

and blue jays have grown in recent years. In the United States, green jays have historically only been found in southern Texas. However, in the last 20 years, green jays have also been moving northward into central Texas. Based on the models, green jay range expansion seems to be linked to warmer temperatures and less snow, which are results of global warming.

Blue jays have also expanded their range over the last few decades, moving into south and west Texas. Unlike green jays, it's not clear if climate change helped blue jays increase their range. What's more certain is that blue jays seem to increase their range in the wake of human settlement. In other words, as humans move into more and more areas, blue jays follow.

Though green and blue jay range expansions may not have been caused by the exact same reasons, anthropogenic (human) activity influenced both expansions, even if indirectly, since the current era of global warming is largely

caused by human activity. This means that the green x blue jay hybrid is not only the result of two distantly-related species, but it is also the result of an anthropogenically-driven no-analog (unprecedented) species interaction.

Human activity isn't only affecting the ranges of blue and green jays. These two species most likely aren't the only no-analog interactions that we'll be seeing. This hybrid probably also won't be the last new one we see. As the climate warms, more species will continue moving into entirely new areas and more species will come into contact with other species they have never interacted with before. These new encounters might give us insight as to how climate change and other anthropogenic causes are changing the systems of the natural world.

Today's content was based on "An Intergeneric Hybrid Between Historically Isolated Temperate and Tropical Jays Following Recent Range Expansion," a 2025 paper by Brian R. Stokes and Timothy H. Keitt.



Opinion

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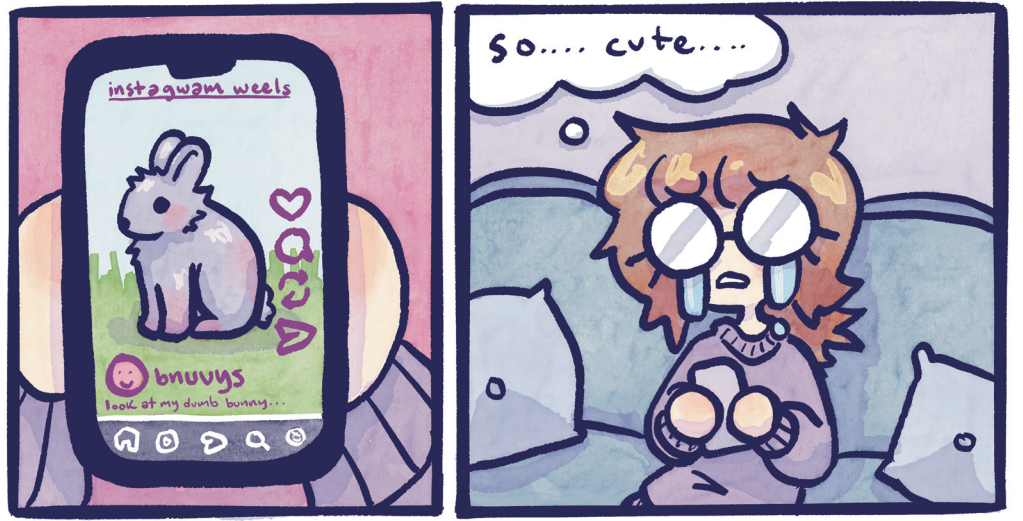
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COMIC BY COLBI LORANGER, ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

No more imperialist wars on Iran



Some holding pictures of the late Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, mourners reach out to coffins during a funeral for people killed during the ongoing U.S.-Israeli military campaign in Isfahan, Iran, Thursday, March 5, 2026. AP PHOTO BY PAYMAN SHAHSANAEI

by **Tomas Hinckley**
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On Saturday, Feb. 28, attacks from the United States and Israeli military killed Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. In response, Iranian forces have begun sustained strikes against U.S. military sites across the region. After months of escalating tensions since the last bout of strikes in June 2025, it is clear now that the region is hurtling toward all-out war.

On the domestic side, the American public is left with an open question in response to this deeply unpopular violence. It is easy to focus on the fact that this action was unauthorized by Congress, or that this aggression is being pushed forward recklessly by the incompetent, erratic leadership of President Donald Trump. However, these narratives about "how it is being handled" fundamentally obscure the true nature of this war and, as a result, confuse any potential response to it. The only way to a unified, broad-based opposition to this war is to be clear about what it really is: an effort by the U.S. to punish one of the only countries against its imperial-

ist agenda in the Middle East.

To prove this redefinition requires going back into Iranian history, which, frankly, is a largely unknown subject to most Americans. Far too often, public perceptions of the nation rely on a caricature presented by Western governments and press. What is depicted is a backwards, evil theocracy oppressing a population that is crying out for freedom that can only be provided by U.S. action. It's just as The Washington Post published in a recent op-ed by Iranian monarchist leader Reza Pahlavi: "For years, my compatriots have called on the free world to stand with them. Now President Trump has answered their call. The Iranian people know they are not alone." This so-called answer came in the form of unprovoked missile strikes that killed 150 schoolgirls in one day, but that is beside the point. What must be understood about these Western narratives is their reticence to mention how their own actions fueled the Iranian government they now so loathe.

The truth starts in 1951, with the election of Premier Dr. Mohammad Mossadegh. Iran was coming out of a dark, difficult time characterized by repeated periodic

takeovers from various world powers stretching back to the late 1800s. Additionally, there were repeated efforts over many decades to impose constitutional restrictions on the monarchy, which seemed to be making progress after the end of WWII. Mossadegh was a popular leader who represented the feeling of the time, as his policy focused on the development of state independence through "social security, land reform, higher taxes and — most significantly — the nationalization of the Iranian oil industry."

However, this oil nationalization policy put him at odds with American and British interests, whose companies enjoyed the free, easy access to Iranian oil supplies. So, in 1953 the CIA and MI6 orchestrated a violent coup to overthrow Mossadegh. In fact, declassified files from the time show the CIA proudly declaring it was "an American project from beginning to end."

The leader they put in place was the Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi (father to the above cited Reza Pahlavi). He was, in short, one of the most brutal dictators the world has ever seen. In 1974, Amnesty International would report that "no country in the world has a worse record in human

rights than Iran." Largely, this is due to the creation of SAVAK, Pahlavi's secret police force, which implemented widespread tactics of deep surveillance and torture among everyday Iranians. They kidnapped and executed civilians off the street for crimes of which they had no proof nor needed any trial. It was pure, violent suppression of dissent. The group was also funded almost entirely by the U.S. government, with the CIA personally "[training] virtually all of the first generation of SAVAK personnel," according to the Hampton Institute. Economically, the dictatorship was just as bad: by 1963, "some 85% of the of wealth that remained in the country went to a small elite."

The people knew where the problem lay all along. It was clear that the incredible repression they faced really derived from foreign powers. Ideological differences were put aside, and extremely broad sects of society came together to reject Pahlavi and overthrow the government in 1979. Ultimately, the movement was anti-imperialist at heart and was directly caused by the sheer, unadulterated brutality of Western intervention in the years after Mossadegh.

To this day, the Iranian state has upheld this anti-imperialist position. Their present opposition to the West, through interference in the genocide of Palestinians and their support for Venezuelan independence, directly follows from the original exigence for their revolution. The current escalation of violence against them is to make these global power plays easier for the U.S.-led coalition. The coinciding of attacks on Venezuela, Iran, Cuba and Palestine is no mistake, but rather different parts of one grand strategy to erase any

group that does not align with America.

Now, all of this is not necessarily to show support for the current Iranian government. Although the 1979 revolution was united by anti-imperialism, it was entirely co-opted by right-wing reactionary forces. These fundamentalist groups took power in the end, shifting the revolution from strict anti-interventionism to a harshly conservative position. However, it is necessary to see that this was not just a chance occurrence, but rather an unfortunately prevalent process for countries overthrowing colonial chains. Violent repression causes anger, and such widespread anger is a breeding ground for reactionary leadership to take charge. Additionally, colonial interference deliberately erases positive social structures and relations in places like Iran, leaving the people without the necessary groundwork to create progressive governments.

This is all to say that despite any objections Americans have to the Iranian government, there is no room for criticism when the root cause is still the American government. The Iranian people have a right to resist and fight for a more just society, but this will not be won for them by international actors. Trump's government is not acting in their best interests by attempting to bring back the repressive Shah, and the public cannot be duped into supporting it by misunderstanding that point. Since the 1950s, U.S. interference in Iran has been undeniably imperialist and exploitative in nature, and this continuing process must be firmly opposed. Anything other than condemnation of foreign involvement from those within the imperial core will only be used to manufacture consent for the further destruction of the Iranian people. We must not be co-opted.



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Opinion

Photo of the Day |



UConn students and horses on Horsebarn Hill in Storrs, Conn. on March 4, 2026. Horsebarn Hill is where UConn's livestock are kept. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Unite the Emerald Isle: THE CASE FOR IRISH SOLIDARITY

by **Ayden Mirabella**
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Antrim, Armagh, Derry, Down, Fermanagh and Tyrone. Those six counties are all that stand between Ireland and unity. The call for a fully united Ireland has been heard throughout the ages. From the early life of the Republic of Ireland all the way to the present day, the Irish have called for the British Crown to end the occupation of the Emerald Isle. Now the time has come for that decrepit monarchy to end their claim over Irish lands. From Cork to Derry, Dublin to Belfast, let the Union Jack fall away and give light to the flag of the Republic of Ireland.

With the trend of European countries apologizing to African, Asian and American countries for their history of colonization, the British should follow suit. Their first priority should be ending the divide of Ireland. The island should not be brushed under the rug in the history of colonization. Ireland has faced many hardships brought about by the British crown. It is important that we don't forget that the British have a long history of anti-Irish sentiment. The British looked down upon Ireland for many reasons. The U.K. has changed the island forever. The 1697 Banishment Act highlights this change. The act attempted to force all bishops, priests and other Catholic orders to leave Ireland by May 1, 1697. This act, along with other laws introduced around the same time, became known as The Penal Laws. These laws targeted Catholic Irish. They were barred from voting and holding office.

They were not allowed to teach in schools or enter professions like law. Even though many of these laws were repealed in the 1800s, the seeds of resentment had been planted.

In 1922, the Republic of Ireland was founded; since then, the republic has dealt with a divided country. Through the years, violence has erupted across the northern-occupied counties. This violence has included British forces shooting and killing protesters, as well as Irish radicals planting car bombs in the North. These events became known widely as The Troubles.

Beginning in the 1960s and lasting until 1998, this period saw the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) clash with British Forces and Unionist paramilitary groups. Many innocent people were needlessly killed. If the Brits had left the island in the 1920s, then the violence that gripped the nation for so long would have never occurred. The main reason for much of the violence was the unjust treatment of Catholics in the six counties of the North. If the British left, then the Troubles could have been avoided because the nation would have been united under one banner.

Now, there is a growing sentiment to unite Ireland. Even though the majority of Irish in the North still do not approve, a poll from The Irish Times shows that from 2022-2024 the amount of people who would vote yes for unification has grown from 27% to 34%. Even though this is a positive sign, it is worth mentioning that you can clearly see the religious divide in voters. In 2024 Catholic

northerners were at 63% for yes, while their Protestant counterparts were at 7%. A united Ireland would look much different. Even if the majority of the Irish in the North were to vote yes, there would still be a large minority who would be against it. So, a fully united Ireland would have to ease the fears and concerns of those who would vote no. Even then the British might still have sway with those who dissent from a unification vote.

This brings up a huge issue that has been present since the reign of King Henry VIII. England is majority Protestant, while Ireland is majority Catholic. This is a problem because Irish Catholics have a long history of going against the Crown of England and the crown has a long history of subjugating Catholics. The Crown has used this to play up the fears of Protestants in the North to reject unity with Ireland. The U.K. knew that if the northern counties, which are majority Protestant, believed that the majority Catholic Ireland would subjugate them, then they would be more hostile to the idea of a united Ireland.

However, this does not change the argument that Ireland should be unified. The Irish of the North must realize that keeping in line with the crown and king of a dying empire is a losing battle. It is time to strip off the Ulster Banner and embrace the Tricolour of Ireland. May this long-overdue goal of reuniting Ireland bring many Irish who were impacted by this British occupation closer to true representation. May this dark chapter for Ireland no longer cast a shadow across the Emerald Isle.

A young boy lays flowers at the site in central Belfast, Oct. 24, 1993, where an Irish Republican Army bomb exploded in a crowded shop. The bomb killed at least nine people and injured over 50. AP PHOTO



A local boy leans in a block up window near Irish Republican Army graffiti in Londonderry, Northern Ireland in March 1972. AP PHOTO



Comic



COMIC BY ALEXA PAPPAS, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Irish children play around heaps of ruins burnt out cars and trucks, now serving the purpose of barricades in the Bogside area of Londonderry, Northern Ireland in April 1972. AP PHOTO

Ava's Angle: The spring status of the New York Mets

by **Ava Inesta**

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Spring has finally sprung as Major League Baseball is back in action. MLB teams started reporting to their camps in Florida and Arizona on Feb. 10 and games kicked off on Feb. 20.

As for the New York Mets, baseball activities are back in full swing in Port St. Lucie, Fla. Some of the same star-studded faces — like shortstop Francisco Lindor and outfielder Juan Soto — return to the field in orange and blue, in addition to many new faces. However, the Mets did not have the postseason that fans were expecting. After almost replacing the entire coaching staff around manager Carlos Mendoza, the franchise's four longest-tenured players and fan favorites Pete Alonso, Edwin Díaz, Brandon Nimmo and Jeff McNeil were on other teams as soon as Christmas time — Alonso and Díaz through unexpected free agent signings, Nimmo and McNeil through trade exchanges.

Through all these unprecedented changes, the Mets did not seem to be making the moves that they desperately needed after an underwhelming 2025 season, where the team missed the playoffs. The starting rotation — the main cause for the 2025 team's agonizing collapse — remained significantly unaddressed by the front office. Some players were added through the Nimmo and McNeil trades, but far from enough of what the Mets needed to be a contender again.

Then, came a week of action from the Mets that fans have been waiting to pull the roster back together after two months of excruciating team news. The Mets landed the top remaining hitter in free agency, Bo Bi-

chette, who signed the day after outfielder Kyle Tucker opted for the Los Angeles Dodgers over Steve Cohen's four-year, \$220 million offer in New York. Four days later, the Mets acquired center fielder Luis Robert Jr. from the Chicago White Sox. A day after that, the Mets made another trade to acquire All-Star right-hander Freddy Peralta and relief pitcher Tobias Myers from the Milwaukee Brewers. The same day, veteran-right handed reliever Luis García agreed to a one-year deal with New York.

Before this clustered week, the Mets had only signed veteran infielder Jorge Polanco, relievers Luke Weaver and Devin Williams. Following that transactional blitz, the Mets were suddenly back on the radar and a rush of hope hit the fanbase. The Mets reported to Port St. Lucie with some new faces but the same championship aspirations as before.

"We went into this offseason understanding there was going to be change," Mets General Manager David Stearns said to ESPN. "In my opinion, there needed to be change. We didn't know exactly what change that was going to be: what deals were going to emerge that made sense for us, what the market was going to be on certain players. But we knew we needed to get better defensively. We knew we needed to add to our starting pitching. We wanted to get a little more versatile positionally without position player grouping. And so, those led us down a variety of paths."

Trading Nimmo was not on the Mets bingo card and was a shock to the fanbase. He is the organization's longest-tenured player, picked in the first round of the 2011 draft and Nimmo still had five years remaining on his contract with a no-trade clause. When the Texas Rang-

ers reached out in November and offered Marcus Semien in a one-for-one veteran swap for Nimmo, Stearns decided it was the right move. Semien is four years older than Nimmo at 35, but his contract is three years shorter, which gives the Mets more flexibility in the long-term. He's also a two-time Gold Glove winner (2021, 2025), so the move could be viewed as the Mets' effort to grow stronger defensively.

Aside from the team's new additions and prospect trades, the Mets farm system is still ranked fifth in the league by ESPN's Kiley McDaniel. New York has several rookies, headlined by right-hander Nolan McLean and outfielder Carson Benge, who are expected to contribute numbers in 2026.

Of course, the Mets still have Lindor and Soto as the pillars of their roster. However, there are some uncertainties. Lindor

underwent surgery on his left hamate bone on Feb. 11. The shortstop's time-of-return is expected at around six weeks, putting him right against the Opening Day date. Lindor has not been on the injured list since 2021 and the team has reported that they are optimistic he will be ready for March 26. However, the procedure has the risk to sap a hitter's full power for months after recovery so the Mets will watch Lindor carefully.

As for Soto, he will make the change from right field to left field following the offseason moves, which is a position he has played extensively but is still a transition nonetheless. After having one of the worst defensive outfielders' numbers across the league last season, Soto looks to up his game defensively which will altogether make him a stronger anchor to the Mets.

"I feel like this team is better than last year," said Lindor after the team reported to camp last month.

Overall, for a spring update, New York's 40-man roster includes 13 players who were not with the team when they completed a full collapse from the best record in the majors in mid-June to missing the playoffs in October. Spring training allows time for the Mets to cement and build the next foundation for the organization, developing chemistry and creating the team camaraderie that will hopefully take a team like the Mets all the way to the end of October, for the ultimate goal of winning the World Series.

"This is different, obviously, with a lot of new faces from the players' side and from the coaches' side," described Mendoza. "It's going to be a priority of ours, building relationships, earning trust."



Luke Weaver throwing a pitch during a game with Team Nicaragua. The Mets won 6-3 on March 3, 2026. PHOTO COURTESY OF @METS ON INSTAGRAM

THE BIG APPLE: KNICKS DROP HEARTBREAKER TO DEFENDING CHAMPS

by **James Badeau**

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This past week, the New York Knicks went 3-1, with notable wins over Milwaukee, a big victory in Toronto, an impressive home dominance against San Antonio and a disappointing loss to the defending champion Oklahoma City.

The major talking point of Wednesday's loss was the officiating. The Thunder were getting away with fouling New York; meanwhile, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander was launching himself into Knicks' defenders and getting the call. As a fan, it is safe to say that watching Gilgeous-Alexander's style of play is an eyesore. The 27-year-old is second in the league in free throws attempted per game with 9.2. Foul-baiting at 6-foot-6 is unethical, in many people's eyes (Before anyone gets on Jalen Brunson for doing the same, Brunson is outside of the top 30 in free throws attempted per game.).

Late in the first quarter, the reigning MVP had two fouls and couldn't risk picking up his third. However, he went barreling into Brunson, who had his feet set, to pick up his third foul. No whistle was blown, nothing. Everyone in Madison Square Garden knew it was a charge except for the officiating crew. Knicks' head coach Mike Brown was irate, the most upset he's been all season and rightfully so. Brown voiced his opinion on SGA.

"He does a great job of convincing the referees better than anybody in the league that he's getting hit," Brown said, acknowledging the craft involved, even if not everyone agrees.

Fast forward to the final minutes of the game, OG Anunoby knocked over Kenrich



OG Anunoby going for a basket. Anunoby plays for the New York Knicks. PHOTO BYCOURTESY OF @NYKNICKS ON INSTAGRAM

Williams on a similar play, yet that was called a charge. Anunoby initially scored on the play, but it was called back.

These calls cost the Knicks the game, as they ended up losing by three points.

The discussions around

Thunder and Gilgeous-Alexander fouls have persisted throughout the season. For instance, Minnesota Tim-

berwolves' head coach Chris Finch was ejected early in a game against Oklahoma City following a non-call on a play he strongly disagreed with. He voiced his frustration with officials and was later fined \$35,000. Some argue the Thunder are simply using the rules to their advantage, while others question the fairness of the calls.

Aside from the officiating, the Knicks easily could have won this game; Brunson was not his normal self, scoring just 16 points on 5-18 shooting. Mitchell Robinson was out due to the game being a back-to-back, and New York could not make key free throws, shooting 16-22.

Yes, this loss was frustrating, but there are a lot of positives we can take from the game. Taking the defending champions to the final possession of the game means they can compete with the best.

Next week sees the Big East Tournament hosted at Madison Square Garden, which means the Knicks will head out west to face the Nuggets, Lakers, Clippers, Jazz and wrap up the road trip in Indiana.

It's been a tough stretch of games as of late, but facing tough teams late in the season can shape up the Knicks for the playoffs. It'll be interesting to see Robinson's matchup against Nikola Jokic, as in the last matchup, Robinson scored 10 points on a perfect 5-5 shooting. The Joker will be out for revenge after having a game to forget, shooting 1-13 from downtown back on Feb. 4.

We are just about a month out of the playoffs, and the Knicks need to start clicking. With Celtics forward Jayson Tatum set to return Friday night, the Eastern Conference has just become far more competitive.

Sports

Photo of the Day | Have a nice weekend



The UConn Huskies in Madison Square Garden in NYC against the St. John's Red Storm on March 1. The Huskies won with a final score of 85-49. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

SAM'S SECTION: UCONN'S WINNINGEST MANAGER IS BUILDING MORE THAN JUST A RESUMÉ



UConn men's basketball head coach Dan Hurley against Butler at PeoplesBank Arena on Dec. 16 in Hartford, Conn. The Huskies won with a final score of 79-60. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Sam Calhoun

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After every UConn win, CBS Sports reporter Jon Rothstein tweets out: "Dan Hurley. The Carpenter."

He helped rebuild the program back into a powerhouse, headlined by back-to-back national championships.

Matt Harris has been a part of the program since the 2022-2023 season and had a memorable Senior Day as he became the winningest student manager in program history.

However, he is not your typical student manager. Many go on to become graduate assistants and later pursue their own coaching careers. For Harris, he looks to pursue a career building something else: bridges.

"It's crazy telling it to people in general," Harris said in an interview conducted over the phone Thursday morning. "Most people, when they suspect a student manager, they think 'Oh, it's probably sports management [or] probably a business major of some sort. And then they hear engineering, and they're like, 'What? Are you sure you didn't make a couple of wrong turns back that way?'"

Harris never played organized basketball. A big reason he went for this job as a student manager was because of his father.

"My love for basketball comes from my father, who actually worked for the New Jersey/Brooklyn Nets [for] my entire life," Harris, a Staten Island, N.Y. native, said. "Him and I would always bond, like it would always be on TV, and I would always bond over just the game or just talk about players because it was his life. He made it my life, and I appreciate him for doing that."

He got introduced to the role

because the son of one of his dad's colleagues worked as a manager from 2008 to 2012.

"He told me about just the experiences that came from it, and he said that it's just a really unique and interesting experience to be a part of, especially if you love basketball," he said.

Harris was sold on the spot and interviewed to be a student manager when he first set foot on campus in 2022.

"He was a little quiet, but he was definitely motivated to do well — you could tell that [about him] right away," said Chris Mastrangelo, who had spent the past seven years with the program before becoming the director of basketball operations at Saint Peter's this season. "When he interviewed, we kind of knew that he would be a good fit for the role...He did a really good job just putting his head down and gaining [the team's] trust and responsibility over the years."

Harris was hired and, despite the job becoming a "safe haven" for him, he had a new challenge: balancing a life as a student manager and as a civil engineering major.

"Over time, you start to understand what you need to balance, like what things you need to do, what sacrifices you need to make," Harris said. "It's a lot of give-and-take. That's what I realized over my four years ... Sometimes there's some weeks where it's like 'I have too much work. I got to focus on that,' because that's a priority. And then there's other weeks where it's more [of a] lighter load. It's all about healthy balance. Honestly, looking back at it over four years, I myself am impressed how I somehow managed to do it and not lose my mind."

The balance helped him grow from the person he was as a freshman to the person he is now, having a few months left

before graduating in May. He also learned that while Hurley may seem like an intimidating coach to work for, there are no hard feelings at all.

"Working for Coach Hurley, it is honestly a treat," Harris said. "Just to be there and learn every single day, there's always something new to learn from him every single day. It's a treat for me, especially, and I'm honored to be a part of it."

When the Huskies' plane to Phoenix for the 2024 Final Four was severely delayed, Harris volunteered in every way he could.

"We needed somebody to drive to the airport early and help tag bags for before we leave for the Final Four, because you have the band and cheer team, all these athletic administrators, the team, people's families, and Matt volunteered to do it," Tyler Ruff, the head manager for the Huskies, said in a phone call Tuesday night.

Ruff explained that even after the flight got delayed, Harris kept volunteering to go back and forth from Storrs to the airport.

"He wanted to do whatever he could to just help us operate the best of [our] ability," Ruff said, calling him a "true professional." All these student manager experiences have helped Harris land a job. Not in sports, but in civil engineering. He told me after the phone call that he will be working for Hardesty & Hanner (H&H) as an Assistant Team Leader in New York City.

"[The] life skills I learned from my time [with UConn men's basketball] definitely helped me in my interview," Harris said in a text after the call Thursday morning.

Student managers are the unsung heroes not only in college basketball but across all sports. Some of them have become incredibly successful. Mark Daigneault was a student manager from 2003 to 2007 and worked his way up to be an NBA champion head coach with the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Hurley knows just how important their contributions are to his program.

"These kids are great kids," he said after Senior Day. "They're a huge part of the team culture and the fabric of the whole group. They do all this behind the scenes -- hustle for us, rebound at midnight or 6 a.m. for these guys. Just seeing those guys leave your program, it's emotional."

The journey for Harris as a student manager is not over just yet. UConn will conclude the regular season with a road trip to Marquette on Saturday, with a chance to have at least a share of the Big East regular season title on the line.

Softball: UConn begins Big East play against St. John's after non-conference struggles

by Matt Dimech

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UConn softball will begin its 2026 Big East regular season schedule the same way it ended 2025: with a weekend series against the St. John's Red Storm.

The Huskies (4-15) and the Red Storm (14-5) were tied in the conference standings leading up to the weekend. The final three-game slate of Big East play would determine the regular season champions.

UConn took game one 3-0, before dropping the next two games of the series to the Johnnies. St. John's was crowned as the conference regular season champions and earned the No. 1 seed in the Big East Softball Championship. The Huskies went on to win the tournament championship, after the Red Storm were upset in the first two games of the event by Creighton and Providence.

The programs will meet again nearly 10 months later, with far different implications surrounding the contest.

UConn starts conference play looking to course correct after an abysmal performance during its non-conference schedule. The Huskies have struggled to generate offense through their first 19 games. The team has an overall batting average of .258 while being outscored 84-57.

The slow start comes after the program lost several key players from last year's

squad. Grace Jenkins batted .424 last season while belting 21 home runs last season. She departed for Arizona in the offseason. Hope Jenkins, Grace's sister and the team's ace pitcher, transferred to Ole Miss over the summer.

The Huskies also lost their leadoff batter Lexi Hastings, who graduated at the end of last season. She was batting .361 and was one of the team's best defenders. UConn has felt the weight of their absence in the early portion of this season.

Kaitlyn Breslin has stepped into a larger offensive role for the Huskies this season. She has homered four times and batted in 14 runs through 19 games. Savannah Ring has also been reliable for UConn. She is batting .345 with a .413 on base percentage.

While UConn tries to find its footing, St. John's has found its stride entering the weekend. The Red Storm boasts the best overall record in the Big East with one of the most consistent offenses, batting .304.

Jess Bianco has been at the forefront of the team's offense. She has already tallied 30 hits while batting .435. She is also a threat on the basepaths, swiping eight bags so far this season. Natasha Limbani is the Red Storm's muscle; she has hit three home runs coming into the weekend.

The start of conference play offers the Huskies a clean slate. UConn finished 18-6 in league play last season.

The first pitch is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Friday.



UConn softball goes up against Boston College. This was their first exhibition game of October. PHOTO BY MORGAN BLANCHARD, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WOMENS LACROSSE: HUSKIES GEAR UP TO TAKE ON UMASS

by **Elliot Koplas**
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UConn will travel north this weekend to take on the Minutemen in their one meeting of the season.

To kick off their 2026 campaign, the Huskies are 2-3 this so far and are coming off a big overtime win against UAlbany, where they won 12-11.

The Huskies were led by current goal leader Megan O'Brien, as she netted four goals past the Great Danes. She has accumulated 11 goals so far this season tying Hadley Bethke for the Huskies as they lead the way in scoring.

Connecticut is hoping to continue that momentum as they take on UMass on Saturday.

The Huskies won the last matchup between these two foes last spring 19-16. The Huskies hosted this game but have not done well against the Minutemen on the road in past years. In the last six matchups, the Huskies are 1-5 on the road and are hoping to turn the tables this weekend.

UMass is currently on a three-game winning streak with a 4-1 record this season. They are undefeated at home with the Huskies hoping to spoil their perfect home record.

UMass is led by redshirt senior Cassidy Morris who has netted 17 goals this season. She also finds herself atop the assist leaders with nine, tied with Ava Connaughton.

The Minutemen have scored 73 goals this season, while only giving up 43. The Huskies on the other hand scored 49 while letting in 58. Their high shots

against puts them at a slight disadvantage with more shots taken on junior goalkeeper Sofia Oximana than they want.

UMass also adds to this pressure, putting up 170 shots so far this season while allowing 116. The Huskies will need to defend well and transition even better to stay in the game with the

Minutemen's high scoring offense.

Despite UConn allowing more goals this season, they share the ball well, having more assists than teams they play making for a better assist to goal ratio. Additionally, the Huskies have a shooting percentage of .395, putting a higher percentage of

shots in the net when on target than the opponents they have faced so far this season.

Turning the page into March, the Huskies are hoping to start the month off strong and continue their success. In their five games so far, four have been decided by four goals or less, showing they can stay with

their opponents.

UMass will hope to continue their success at home against the Huskies as the rival school's meetup early in the season.

The game will be played in Amherst, Mass. with a draw time of 3 p.m.

Husky fans can stream the match on ESPN+.



The UConn women's lacrosse team battles Stony Brook University on Feb. 24, 2026 at the Mark R. Shenkman Training Center. The Huskies lost 16-5. PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

BASEBALL: HOOK C GEARS UP FOR WEEKEND SERIES AGAINST OLD DOMINION

by **Nicole Caruso**
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After a dominant win against University of New Haven Chargers, the UConn baseball team is set to travel to Norfolk, Va. to face off against Old Dominion University in a three-game series this weekend.

The last time the Huskies (5-7) and the Monarchs (7-4) played each other was back in 2002. Nearly 24 years ago, the Huskies took home a 13-5 win and will look to dominate again this weekend.

Connecticut had a standout performance against New Haven on Wednesday, securing a 13-5 win at home. They ended the night as a team with a combined 12 hits, four doubles, three triples and two home runs.

Second baseman Evan Menzel contributed to the score, hitting for cycle, beating a record previously set by Brian Esposito for the program in 1999.

UConn's pitchers contributed significantly to the team's win with right-handed pitcher Tristan Aasland closing out the game with five strikeouts and two walks. Aasland gave up just four hits across his five innings of work.

The Huskies will need to keep an eye on senior infielder Zach Leite who leads Old Dominion in RBIs (24) and currently has a .421 batting average. Tyler Zedalis is another heavy hitter for the Monarchs who averages multiple RBIs per game.

UConn can expect Old Dominion's right-handed pitcher Darin Kuskie in the rotation for the weekend series. J.J. Gatti will also be pitching for his squad and has had success early in the season with a low ERA.

Old Dominion is entering the series with a win coming off a two-game losing streak. The Monarchs had a comeback victory against Virginia Commonwealth University, scoring three runs in the top of the

ninth.

Left-handed pitcher Bailey Matela secured the win for his team, pitching two perfect innings and striking out six hitters in the final innings. Freshman right-handed pitcher Ben Tanton also delivered two shutout innings helping the bullpen out for the win.

The Huskies will need to rely on their strong hitters, like Mad-

dix Dalena, who showcased his skills on full display in UConn's series against Arizona. UConn is currently without outfielder Tyler Minick who is out indefinitely with an injury according to uconnhuskies.com

Catcher Gabriel Tirado helped UConn score later in the game against New Haven, hitting a sacrifice fly that allowed Dalena to score. Hitter Cam

Righi had himself a standout game, earning his first career double and contributing two of UConn's five runs during the eighth inning.

Pitcher Cayden Suchy is a potential starter for UConn on Friday, coming off a career-high 12 strikeouts in UConn's game against UNC Wilmington. UConn will need to rely on their heavy hitters and strong bull-

pen to limit Dominion's scoring chances, as they are a team that has had success at the plate.

The three-game series between the two begins on Friday with a first pitch scheduled for 3 p.m. The teams will return to the field on Saturday at 2 p.m. and close out the series on Sunday at noon. Huskies can tune in and watch the games on UConn+.



UConn men's baseball team takes on New Haven at Elliot Ballpark on Wednesday, March 3. UConn wins 9-4. PHOTO BY PARKER MEYERS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Sports

MENS BASKETBALL: NO.4 UCONN VISITS MARQUETTE WITH BIG EAST REGULAR SEASON TITLE IN SIGHT

by Sam Calhoun

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The magic number is one. One win and the No. 4 UConn men's basketball team (27-3, 17-2 Big East) will win its 12th Big East regular-season title.

Standing in the way is a struggling Marquette team (11-19, 6-13 Big East), in danger of its first 20-loss season since the 1963-1964 season.

The Golden Eagles are coming off their second consecutive road win, routing Providence in a stunner on Wednesday night. Adrien Stevens and Nigel James Jr. combined for 41 of Marquette's 78 points in the win, including a 21-point effort from Stevens on 5-of-8 shooting from deep.

"We know that we're going to get their best shot," Alex Karaban said after practice Thursday. "What they did [on Wednesday] was impressive — to go into Providence and win by 20."

Because of the All-Big East-level play of James, a candidate for Big East Freshman of the Year, the Golden Eagles went from being a near-lock for last-place in the conference to a chance to finish as high as seventh. Marquette was ranked as low as 124th on KenPom on

Jan. 27 before an 86-62 win over Creighton. Now, they are inside the top 100.

"They're going to be a scary team for people in New York [next week] because they're just so much better than they were when we saw them the first time," Dan Hurley said.

Over the last five games, the Golden Eagles have the third-highest net rating in the conference and have been the best fast-break and interior team over that stretch. James, the reigning Big East Freshman of the Week, is critical to the team's success, averaging 21.8 points in the last five games. He has become one of the elite scorers in the conference and will be a contender for Big East Player of the Year next season, if he stays. James is tied for the highest usage percentage in the league with Providence's Jason Edwards at 29.5%.

"[He's] obviously an explosive player," Hurley said. "[He'll] steal your ball on defense, just constantly attacking on offense." He said that Marquette head coach Shaka Smart "is really invested in a lot of these young players."

UConn will already know what seed it will be in next week's Big East Tournament when the team takes the floor on Saturday afternoon. St.

John's visits Seton Hall on Friday night. With a win, the Red Storm would win a share of the regular season title and clinch the No. 1 seed in the Big East Tournament. With a loss, the Huskies are Big East regular-season champions and clinch the No. 1 seed. A win at Marquette has no impact on the seeding after the Golden Eagles beat Providence, and Creighton won at Butler, giving the Red Storm the tiebreaker.

The Huskies, coming off an emotional Senior Day win over Seton Hall, will look to spoil Marquette's Senior Day. The Golden Eagles will honor Ben Gold (8.2 ppg), Jonah Lucas, Casey O'Malley and Chase Ross (14.2 ppg), the latter of whom leads the league in steals per game (2.3). With the Huskies' turnover issues, Marquette's success in stealing the ball is something to keep an eye on.

When asked about the turnover issues versus Marquette's turnover-forcing defense, Hurley buried his face in his hands for about 15 seconds.

"A lot of the turnovers that we've made were not forced by great defense," Hurley emphasized. "Championship teams don't do that. In the end, if we don't end up with any championships and any run in March, it's gonna be because we turn

the ball over.

"This staff is doing everything we can to not turn the ball over, because literally, if we rebound the ball and we don't turn the ball over, we've got a chance to win a lot of games here. We just do those things: rebound the ball, guard and not turn the ball over, we've got a very high ceiling."

Karaban, recently inducted into the Huskies of Honor, made the Big East Weekly Honor Roll after one of his best games — 23 points, three rebounds, two assists, two blocks and two steals, capping a stellar four-year career at Harry A. Gampel Pavilion, and now ends with a 90.9% winning percentage at home. In Hartford, Conn., he added 14 points, five rebounds and two assists in a blowout over St. John's. It will be the two-time NCAA champion's last regular-season game in his decorated career.

"I try not to think like [every game is a last]," Karaban said. "It's also the last game we have to try to win a [Big East] regular season championship. So that's kind of the main thing in our mind right now, is really just controlling our destiny, doing everything in our power to win that regular season championship."

Tarris Reed Jr., also named to

the conference's weekly honor roll, will play his final regular-season college game. He averaged a double-double last week and enjoyed his best three-game stretch since beating Villanova. Against St. John's, he outperformed Zuby Ejiofor with 20 points, 11 boards, six blocks, three assists, and two steals. He is peaking as the NCAA Tournament bracket is revealed in nine days.

In the last meeting between the two programs, Solo Ball led the way with 17 points and eight rebounds in a 73-57 win over the Golden Eagles in the team's first game of 2026. The Huskies led the all-time series, 14-6.

"You've just gotta go in with the same approach, just go in and win," Ball said. "I think I need to just make sure I'm always in the flow of the game."

Hurley did not give a status on Jaylin Stewart's availability for the game.

"I guess we'll just see where it goes with J-Stew, who's probably the only one who's got any medical going on," Hurley said. "We'll see where that [goes] the next two days."

Connecticut's regular-season finale against Marquette is set for a 12:30 p.m. tip-off on Saturday from the Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, Wis. It will be televised on FOX.



UConn men's basketball plays Creighton University at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn. on Feb 18, 2026. The crowd hyped up the team throughout the entire game. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS