

Iranian Students Speak Out: International Protests and the Death of the Supreme Leader



Protestors in L.A. speaking about Iran. The U.S. and Israel are in an engagement with Iran currently. PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNA HEQIMI, CONTRIBUTOR

by Anna Heqimi

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From a nationwide uprising to the death of the supreme leader, Iranian students at the University of Connecticut are vocalizing their experiences and their reactions toward the war in Iran.

Sadaf Zarei is one of those students. Zarei, a sixth-semester economics and mathematics major, is the president of the Persian Students Association and a UConn Undergraduate Student Government Multicultural and Diversity senate candidate.

Zarei helped organize a vigil honoring and remembrance for those massacred by regime officials on Feb. 16. During her speech, she became emotional as she recounted seeing protestors with bullet-pierced chests and their noses blown off on social media.

Faculty, Iranian students and members of UConn Hillel, as well as College Democrats and College Republicans, all came together in reflection and solidarity.

Zarei was also one of the roughly 350,000 people who gathered in Los Angeles on Feb. 14 during the “Global Day of Action” to protest the current Iranian regime. Los Angeles, Munich and Toronto were designated as the main gathering points. Reza Pahlavi, the nation’s exiled crown prince, urged the Iranian diaspora to stand in solidarity with those inside the country. Zarei said she attended in response to that call.

“It’s up to us to be a continuation of the voice of our people inside Iran whose bravery was met with utmost brutality and violence,” she said.

Zarei described the regime’s violence as “gut-wrenching.”

“Even hospitals are not safe for protesters,” she said, saying how Iranian security officials raid medical facilities, detain demonstrators and, in some cases, shoot the wounded. She pointed to images from a Kahrizak morgue of bodies still attached to hospital equipment, with bullet wounds to the head.

Zarei recounted her middle and high school years in Iran, where every day she and other students were forced to chant “Death to Israel” and “Death

to America.” Zarei said even though they were forced, many, including herself, refused to participate in the chants.

She added that on the ground of mosque entrances and university campuses, there are the Israel and United States flags placed to encourage people to step on them. Zarei said many intentionally walked around the flags, underscoring civilian disagreement with Iran’s ruling elite.

During the uprising that began on Dec. 28, 2025, protestors constantly cried “Death to the dictator!” “Death to the Islamic Republic!” “Javid Shah (Long Live the Shah)” and “This is the final battle, Pahlavi will return.”

Zarei described the mass demonstrations against the regime as “a dignified movement for life and for the restoration of Iran’s national sovereignty after 47 years of Islamic subjugation.”

On Feb. 28, Iran Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed in an Israeli airstrike during an Israeli-U.S. joint operation. Zarei was one of the many people celebrating his death.

“I feel immense happiness, deep gratitude and a great deal of optimism. Iranians need to get to a free and fair ballot box, and his long-awaited death feels like a step in that direction,” she said. “And as uncertain as the future is, one thing is certain: no one is shedding a single tear for that monster.”

Even as she rejoices, she said her friends from the U.S. have conflicting feelings surrounding Khamenei’s death.

“I want them to understand that the ramifications of a free Iran would extend far beyond Trump’s presidency,” she said. “Ultimately, having an ally rather than an adversary in Iran would benefit Americans of every political stripe for years to come, and the people of Iran have proven themselves ready to venture on this friendship.”

Maryam Ahmadi is a Ph.D. student studying materials science and engineering. As her family and friends remain in Iran, she checks Instagram and X each day to receive updates.

“I see a new name, a new story, it’s devastating,” Ahmadi said as she learns about individual protestors killed.

She explained that she follows

X because many of the posts contain firsthand testimonies and videos recorded directly by people from the streets in Iran, offering real-time documentation.

Ahmadi said that even the bloodiest massacre of unarmed civilians in this uprising has failed to extinguish the Iranian people’s determination to reclaim their country.

“What was meant to terrify us has intensified collective anger and strengthened a shared sense of national purpose,” she said.

She talked about an example in which the 40-day memorial gatherings — which take place 40 days after someone has died, and are culturally significant moments in Iranian tradition — became renewed points of mobilization. People gathered to honor the lives of those killed by the regime, clapping and celebrating them as a “national hero,” and chanting against the governing body and in support for Pahlavi.

Shortly before the death of the supreme leader, protests resurfaced at major Iranian universities. Chants directly targeted Khamenei and the Revolutionary Guards. There were expressions of support for a national alternative, symbolized by the Lion and Sun flag and Pahlavi.

Ahmadi said the demonstrations signified that the Iranian people want to return to a “golden era,” prior to the 1979 Islamic Republic and reject the ideology of the revolution.

During the Feb. 14 demonstrations, she drove to Toronto, Canada, as Pahlavi called for people in the diaspora to stand in solidarity with civilians in Iran, while asking the international communities to take proper actions.

“I have to be the voice for the people in Iran who were brutally silenced. I have to fight for peace, for freedom and for democracy,” she said.

In Munich alone, reports state that around 250,000 people participated in the multinational demonstrations. Reports also state that over 350,000 people participated in Toronto.

Following the death of the supreme leader, Ahmadi felt a flood of happiness.

“I felt relief that a symbol of a decades-long authoritarian rule is gone. I thought about all those who sacrificed so much,”

she said. “Iranians abroad have expressed gratitude toward the United States and Israel for actions that they believe will weaken this regime that has oppressed its own people for so long.”

During demonstrations in cities including New York, London, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C. and Boston, people chanted slogans such as “Make Iran Great Again” and thanked the United States and Israel.

Iranians expressed their deep gratitude toward President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for killing Khamenei.

In multiple cities in Iran, videos circulated showing people dancing, honking car horns and cheering.

“We still ask Israel and the U.S. to continue operations aimed at dismantling the regime’s power structures so that eventually Iranians can once again take to the streets openly, without fear to reclaim their country. We will never forget this help. God bless America, God bless Israel and God bless Iran,” Ahmadi said.

Eli — who wishes to not disclose her last name to protect her family in Iran — is a Ph.D. student and came to the U.S. in 2022.

Eli said that when the internet shutdown occurred from the uprising, people were angry, yet hopeful of a regime change.

Pahlavi called citizens to protest the current regime on Jan. 8 and Jan. 9 in support for a political transition in Iranian leadership.

When protestor execution began, Eli feared for her family back home.

“I remember every moment we were looking at our phones, and we were expecting the U.S. or other leaders of the world to do something,” she said. “I would wake up in the middle of the night to check my phone to see if I had any messages from my family.”

She said after a few days, she contacted family back home through landlines, unable to connect through WhatsApp or FaceTime. Fearing the Islamic Republic and the possibility of her phone calls being recorded, she and her family were unable to speak clearly regarding the situation in Iran.

“When the numbers came

out, and the pictures of all the body bags and the people looking for their loved ones amongst those body bags, that was the depth of depression that we felt. It’s concrete proof of what this regime is capable of,” she said.

Eli said Pahlavi gives people hope.

“He’s been trying to make Iran great again. He’s always been advocating for a secular democratic government,” Eli said.

Eli said that there are representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran who speak at the United Nations. Her call to action is “to not legitimize the Islamic Republic as the rightful regime ruling the nation. We don’t want any negotiations with this regime.”

Elika is also a Ph.D. student from Iran. She wished to not disclose her last name to protect her family back home from Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps retaliation.

Elika said what is most important to her right now is “to be the voice of my people in Iran and to raise awareness of what is happening.” She aims to inform the international community that a growing segment of the Iranian population is advocating for a transition to a new governing body, fighting for Pahlavi to be the nation’s new leader.

She expressed frustration over the number of those killed from the regime, saying it is highly underreported. As of Jan. 27, it is stated that more than 30,000 have been killed, yet she believes that number is much higher. She was one of a handful of those in attendance during a vigil held on the UConn Student Union Lawn on Feb. 16 honoring and remembering demonstrators killed from regime officials.

“The vigil was to first honor the brave people of Iran who sacrificed their life for freedom after 40 days the massacres were conducted by the IRGC,” she said, adding that the vigil also served to spread the message to international communities that the Iranian people are united in their efforts to accept Pahlavi as their leader of an established secular democratic nation.

“The Islamic Republic is the enemy of the Iranian people and the Middle East due to the terrorism and genocide committed,” Elika said.

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News

DOZENS OF DEMONSTRATORS GATHER OUTSIDE NEW HAVEN CITY IN PROTEST AGAINST THE WAR WITH IRAN



People protesting a U.S.-Iran war in New Haven, Conn. The United States recently engaged with Iran, even though the government denies that we are officially at war. PHOTOS COURTESY OF @SCENESBYVIVA ON INSTAGRAM

by **Alyssa Torres**
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Demonstrators and community leaders surrounded New Haven City Hall on March 1, chanting and waving signs in opposition to the current U.S. military airstrikes and conflict in Iran.

Different chants were shouted from the steps of City Hall as speakers addressed the crowds through microphones.

“Raise your voice, take a stand, no more war on Iran!” they said.

Drivers passing downtown New Haven occasionally honked in support as demonstrators waved their signs and fists in a call to end the conflict.

Following months of preparation and military threats, President Donald Trump authorized “Operation Epic Fury” on Feb. 28. Community organizers were able to mobilize outside the city hall within a day to protest the war in Iran.

The White House framed the operation as a defensive measure in a public statement addressing the American people. Trump said the strikes were to counter threats emerging from Iran.

“Our objective is to defend the American people by eliminating imminent threats of the Iranian regime,” said Trump during his statement to the American people.

Many attendees came not only to oppose the escalation of the military conflict, but also to express concern surrounding the effects of war. Speakers mentioned a recent American airstrike that had hit a girls’ school, killing over 100. Participants advocated against the impacts of American imperialism.

Organizers framed the protest as part of a larger movement in organizing citizens of the United States. Speakers from several activist groups addressed the crowd, including members from the Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL), the Democratic

Socialists of America and the ANSWER Coalition.

Andrew Rice, a Democratic congressional candidate for Connecticut’s 3rd District who is challenging State Rep. Rosa DeLauro, said the U.S.’s extensive spending on foreign conflicts reduces resources and funding for domestic programs such as free healthcare and public education.

Rice said every dollar that is spent overseas takes away resources and impacts communities all across the country, while the benefits from the conflict only reach powerful interests.

“Our objective is to defend the American people by eliminating imminent threats of the Iranian regime,” said Trump during his statement to the American people.

Norm Clement, a community leader who has been associated with the PSL in New Haven for 18 years, called for organization and the unification of the American people. He also argued against Trump’s justification for the airstrikes.

“I don’t know about you, but I didn’t wake up feeling like Iran was going to attack me,” said Clement. “Who is benefiting? It’s not benefiting me and my neighbors and my community.”

Phill Campbell of Artist Against Apartheid and the PSL urged audiences to remain committed to their interest beyond just the demonstration.

“Commit to building that art of struggle, commit to expanding that creative process of liberation, commit to continuing that beautiful piece of art called freedom,” Campbell said.

As the demonstration continued into late afternoon, demonstrators gathered around the city hall listening to speakers within the communities. Organizers encouraged attendees to stay engaged in conversations about U.S. foreign policy and to continue participating in community efforts beyond just this single protest.

HUSKYTHON BREAKS RECORD, RAISES OVER \$2.2 MILLION

by **Sara Bedigian**
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The University of Connecticut held their 27th annual HuskyTHON dance marathon on Saturday, March 7, raising a record-breaking \$2,223,439.67 for the patients and families at Connecticut Children’s.

HuskyTHON is a yearlong student-led fundraising effort that ends with an 18-hour dance marathon from 6 a.m. to midnight. This year, the marathon was held at the UConn Volleyball Center on the Storrs campus.

In addition to breaking fundraising efforts, HuskyTHON surpassed its record of participants with over 4,800, nearly one hundred more than last year, according to Paige O’Keeffe, vice president of communications for HuskyTHON 2026. This makes it the highest number of participants for a Children’s Miracle Dance Marathon in the U.S. this year.

“The amount of work that we put in is a lot, but it always is worth it when we get to those moments and see the reactions from our participants and how much fun they’re having,” O’Keeffe said.

O’Keeffe is one of 32 students on the management team who work closely to organize fundraising and lead the event.

Participants create teams with their student organizations to fundraise and spend the marathon with a Connecticut Children’s patient. This year, 27 patients, ranging in age from five to 16, attended with their families and shared their stories.

Jordyn Ty was eight years old when she attended her first HuskyTHON as a Connecticut Children’s patient in 2020. Now, six years later, she started a JonaTHON at her high school. JonaTHON, a part of HuskyTHON that works with K-12 schools across the state to plan, implement and fundraise at their schools, raised a total of \$38,286.42 this year.

“This is what makes me want to be a student at UConn,” Jor-

dyn said. “They raise so much money and it’s for such a good cause, so I just want to come back every year.”

Jordyn was six days old when she had her surgery at Connecticut Children’s. Bethany Ty, Jordyn’s mom, said she remembers it like it was yesterday.

“It’s amazing getting up on stage, looking out into the crowd, and seeing how many people are here and why they are here, and knowing that, in some small part, it’s not directly for Jordyn, but it’s for kids like Jordyn,” Bethany said. “It reminds me of how far we’ve come and how far all these other kids will have the opportunity to come because of what’s going on right now.”

Students can participate through a variety of levels, whether it be a dancer representative, captain, morale leader, rising leader, dancer or volunteer, which all have unique responsibilities and fundraising minimums.

Maria Ditota, a sixth-semester actuarial science major, is on the morale team which works before the day to learn the morale dance, a 10-minute choreographed dance that the management team leads each hour on stage.

Ditota said HuskyTHON is one of the best things she has chosen to be apart of. She said next year she wants to get “headbanded,” which means raising \$2,600.

“My favorite part is seeing the family’s reactions to their child having just a great day,” Ditota said. “I think that’s the best thing to see. They get to see their kid like be the star for the day.”

All students have different reasons for participating in HuskyTHON. For some, their reason is personal experience. JP Capodanno, an eighth-semester actuarial science and finance major, said his sister spent a lot of her childhood in the hospital, which is why he chose to get involved.

“I knew coming to UConn that it was an organization that I wanted to get involved in [in]

order to continue to support those who are going through similar difficult times,” Capodanno, who has been doing HuskyTHON since his freshman year, said.

Capodanno has been on the morale team for three years and has been headbanded the past two.

“Everyone at UConn has very different backgrounds, but we’re all gathered together here to combat the similar cause and childhood illness, to be able to create a better world where kids don’t have to suffer,” Capodanno said.

Edie Carson, a sixth-semester digital media and design major, said she hit her minimum of \$250 as a dancer. This year was her second year doing HuskyTHON.

“It is just such a heartwarming experience, and you’re surrounded by the most positive people that make the 18 hours go by so quickly,” Carson said.

Sunrise Yoga and Zumba kept participants moving in the morning, and a performance by Tweed Sugar kept everyone dancing in the evening. Student acapella and dance organizations performed in UConn’s Got Talent, a yearly segment of the night where participants watch and the children give them scores, similar to the national TV show America’s Got Talent.

Around 11 p.m., everyone prepared for the Circle of Hope, where participants stand in a large circle and cut off their hospital bands, symbolizing the difference they made just before the big reveal of how much money was raised.

“The Circle of Hope is just so special because everyone in the room joins hands together,” O’Keeffe said. “You truly see that we all come together and we all sort of create this together, so it’s a really special moment for all of us.”

Over the past 27 years, HuskyTHON has raised more than \$17 million for Connecticut Children’s, the only health system in Connecticut that is 100% dedicated to kids.



UConn’s 2026 Huskython event, raising over \$2 million. The event is held yearly for childhood cancer research. PHOTO COURTESY OF HUSKYTHON

The Daily Campus

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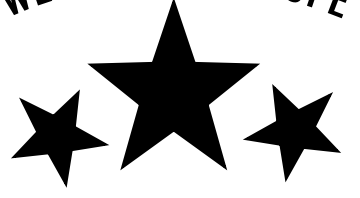
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Games

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



by Maleena Muzio

Mar. 8 to Mar. 14

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

Honesty will serve you well in situations this week that may have been put on the backburner. Be true to yourself and the answers you have been looking for will come into view. First, you may have to meditate and take a step back from the situation before decisions can be made, though.

Aries

March 21 - April 19

Get a jump start on your projects and relieve all of your stress.

Taurus

April 20 - May 20

Take that leap of faith and trust your decision-making process.

Gemini

May 21 - June 20

You're in luck — money or rewards may come your way if you commit to your plans.

Cancer

June 21 - July 22

Do some soul searching and treat yourself to some hard-earned self-care.

Leo

July 23 - Aug. 22

Your desires and manifestations are coming to you. Keep making those vision boards and writing down your goals!

Virgo

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

A new friendship or relationship will blossom — be prepared for strengthened connections.

Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 23

Leave self-doubt behind. Your comeback season has arrived.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 21

Get the clarity you need before you proceed with projects or decisions.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Show up for the people you care about most — you won't regret it.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Positive shifts in energy are near. Ditch those bad old habits and remove yourself from negative scenarios.

Aquarius

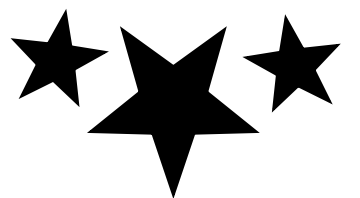
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Be your true, honest self. The right people will stay by your side.

Pisces

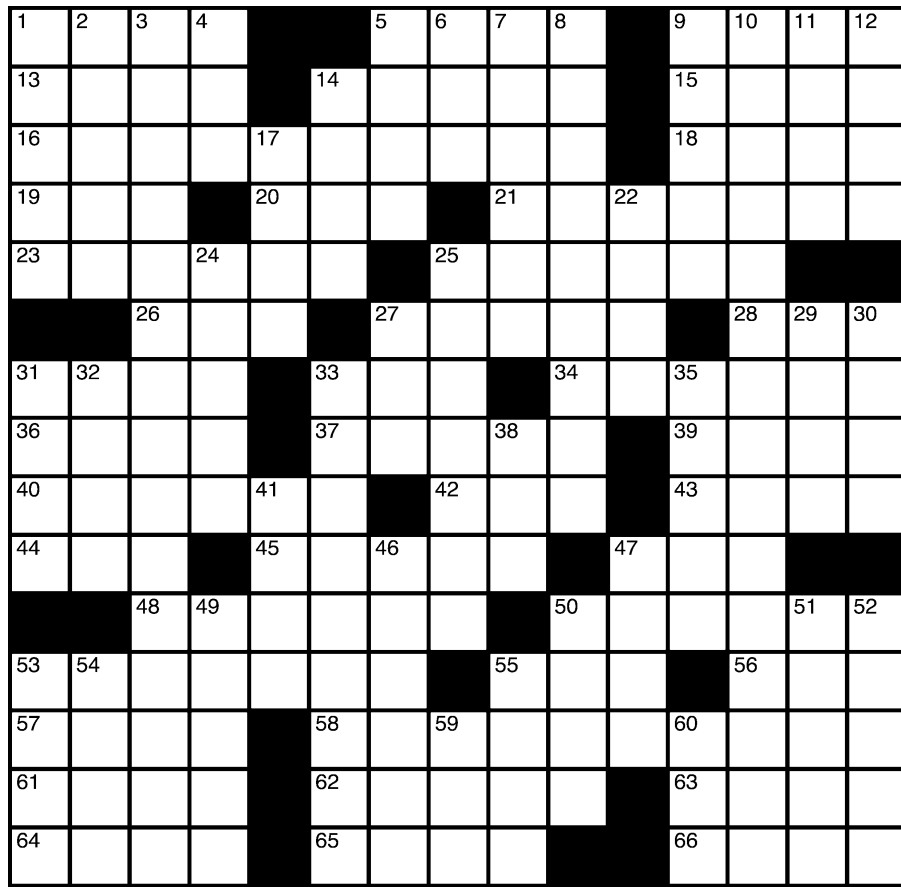
Feb. 19 - March 20

Creativity and important approvals are approaching.



THE DAILY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Treaty between nations
 - 5 Diamond corner
 - 9 Highest point
 - 13 Aroma
 - 14 Soak in the tub
 - 15 Guacamole scoop
 - 16 Last stretch before graduation
 - 18 Increase in altitude
 - 19 North Pole helper
 - 20 ___ Angeles Sparks
 - 21 "Stop talking!"
 - 23 Playground board with two seats
 - 25 "Relax, soldier"
 - 26 Beam of light
 - 27 Make into law
 - 28 U.S. ID issuer
 - 31 Broken mirror, to some
 - 33 Get hitched
 - 34 White-barked trees
 - 36 Go on a tirade
 - 37 Red Monopoly piece
 - 39 Palm with berries
 - 40 Noisy summer insect
 - 42 Meat in a croque monsieur
 - 43 California wine valley
 - 44 Pint night purchase
 - 45 Respected villager
 - 47 Zilch
 - 48 "Door's open"
 - 50 Prepare to skate, or what can be found in 3-, 8-, 10-, and 33-Down?
 - 53 Bold alternative?
 - 55 Fragrant evergreen
 - 56 Org. whose seal depicts an eagle atop a key
 - 57 "You got a deal!"
 - 58 Fruity fall beverage
 - 61 "Riverdale" actress Reinhart
 - 62 Strung along
 - 63 Title for New Zealand golfer Lydia Ko
 - 64 "If all ___ fails ..."
 - 65 Defect
 - 66 Unrefined minerals

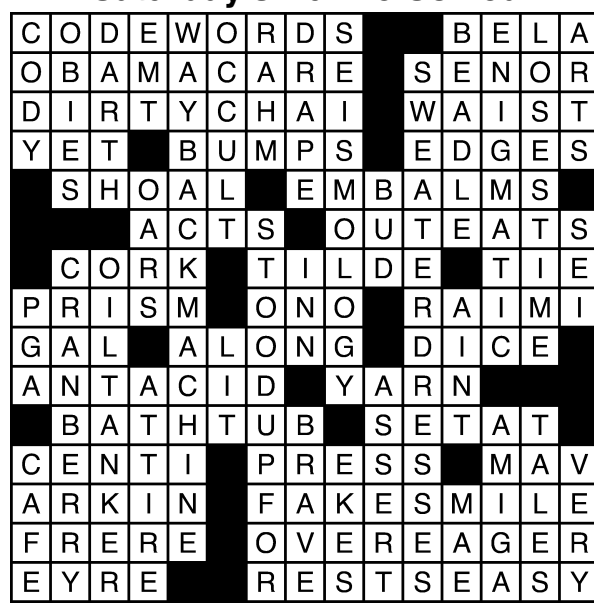


By Zhouqin Burnikel

3/9/26

- DOWN**
- 1 Prepares for a photograph
 - 2 One-named "Hello" singer
 - 3 Business meetings over the phone
 - 4 The first "T" of TNT
 - 5 Howls at the moon
 - 6 Enjoyed some tteokbokki, say
 - 7 Peak in the Cascade Range
 - 8 Stillness before a storm
 - 9 Units of land area
 - 10 Zodiac cycle in which the Rabbit follows the Tiger
 - 11 Catchall category: Abbr.
 - 12 Heaviest fencing sword
 - 14 Body part that can be furrowed
 - 17 CeraVe rival
 - 22 Muscles near delts
 - 24 North Pole VIP
 - 25 "What happened next?"
 - 27 Fair-hiring initials
 - 29 "Just like that" sound
 - 30 Iran's continent

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

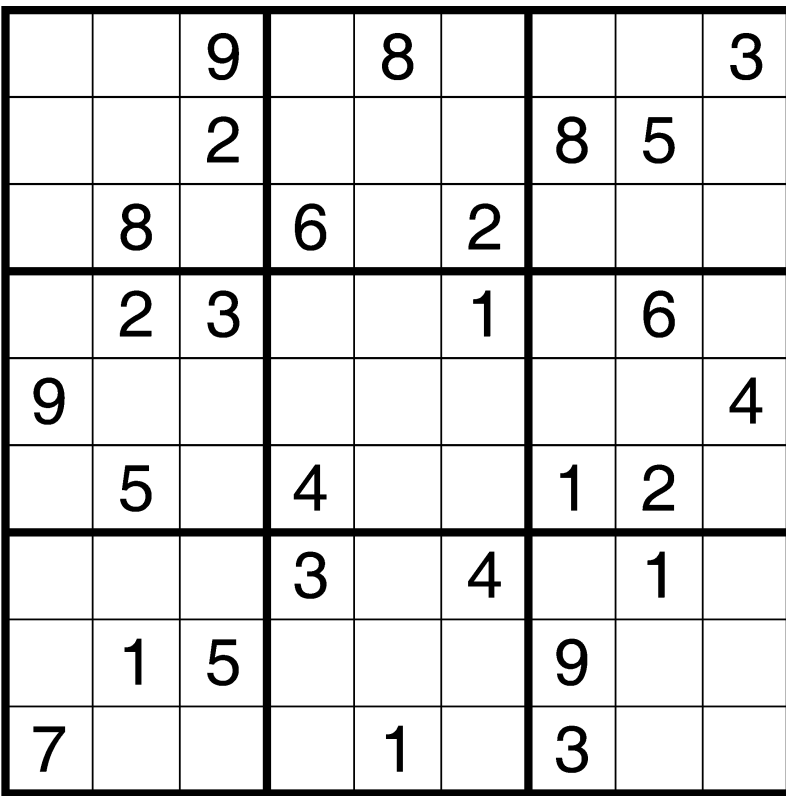


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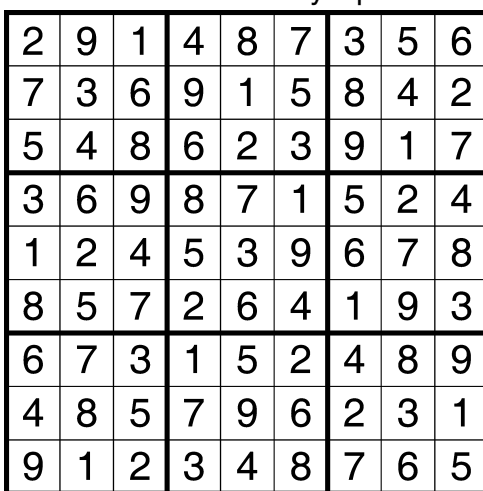
- 31 Dolphin with eye patches
- 32 Postal delivery
- 33 Baby humpback
- 35 Become frantic
- 38 Serving of corn
- 41 "The Substance" Oscar nominee Moore
- 46 Quash, as a rumor
- 47 DEA agent
- 49 Song from a bygone era
- 50 Property claim
- 51 "I'm at your service"
- 52 Trims (down)
- 53 Part of an archipelago
- 54 Work hard
- 55 ___ state: focused mindset
- 59 Kissing on the kiss cam, say
- 60 Swear words?

Level **1** 2 3 4



Solution to Saturday's puzzle

3/9/26



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

& SUDOKU

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Celtic All-Stars host lively cultural concert

by Jaylyn Davis
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A thrilling and fervent concert was put on by the Celtic All-Stars at the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Connecticut on Friday, March 6.

The concert showcased Celtic culture, featuring artists from all over the world, including Scotland, Ireland and Canada. Natalie MacArthur and Donnell Leahy, Canadian musicians who have been married since 2000, performed. Two of their children, Mary Frances Leahy and Michael Leahy, performed at the concert as well.

Other notable artists featured in the concert were Karen Matheson from Scotland, Enda Scahill from Ireland, Ross Ainslie from Scotland and Elmer Ferrer from Cuba.

Joshua Gallant, an eighth-semester student majoring in computer science, said the concert was the very first Celtic concert that he had attended.

"I've never seen a show like this," Gallant said. "It was interesting to see it for the first time, and the tap dancing was impressive."

Over two dozen Celtic tunes were played at the concert. Some were performed in solos, duets or trios.

Others were collaborations between all the artists. An array of instruments were used by the artists. MacArthur and Donnell Leahy played the violin, Matheson was on vocals, Ainslie played the pipes, Mary Frances Leahy, played the piano, Michael Leahy, played the guitar with Elmer and Scahill played the banjo.

The first song of the concert began with a slow tempo consisting of guitar and piano solos, which composed unique melodies that made the tone mysterious. About twenty seconds in, whistles

produced flute-like sounds that took the mysteriousness of the song to a higher level. Eventually, vocals were added, shifting the mood of the song to enchanting. In the middle of the song, the tempo accelerated, becoming groovy. The song's immense vigor attracted the audience, which clapped along as the spirit filled the auditorium with enthusiasm.

At the conclusion of the first tune, the musicians immediately jumped into the next, which sounded similar to the end of its predecessor. Swift tempos and energy remained prevalent throughout the song, which was per-

formed by everyone on stage, featuring tap dancing from two of the musicians. Each dancer was flawless and full of spry.

Most of the songs performed were nearly identical to the second tune. They all featured every musician, and they consisted of rapid tempos and bold melodies that produced fierce energy that kept the audience riveted.

While most of the songs were vigorous, there were a few notable tunes that were distinct from the others. The third piece fell under this distinction, which was a lovely mother-daughter duet between MacArthur and Leahy. The song was emotional yet uplifting. The heart-tugging emotions of the song were composed by Leahy's elegant piano harmonies, which blended gracefully with MacArthur's stunning violin melodies.

Another notable song that was performed later was just as riveting as the others. However, the tune was unique in the way that it alternated between solos, duets and a full collaboration between all artists on the stage. The song featured a special guest named Maria, a seven-year-old girl who performed an astonishing tap dance solo at the end of the song.

The third distinct song was

the 17th, which was about the demise of industry. The performance featured a piano solo along with violin and vocals. The piano solo was remarkably beautiful, with notes that created an emotional atmosphere. The violin and vocal solos were exceptionally beautiful as well. They added to the sad yet astounding mood of the song, enhancing the beauty of it.

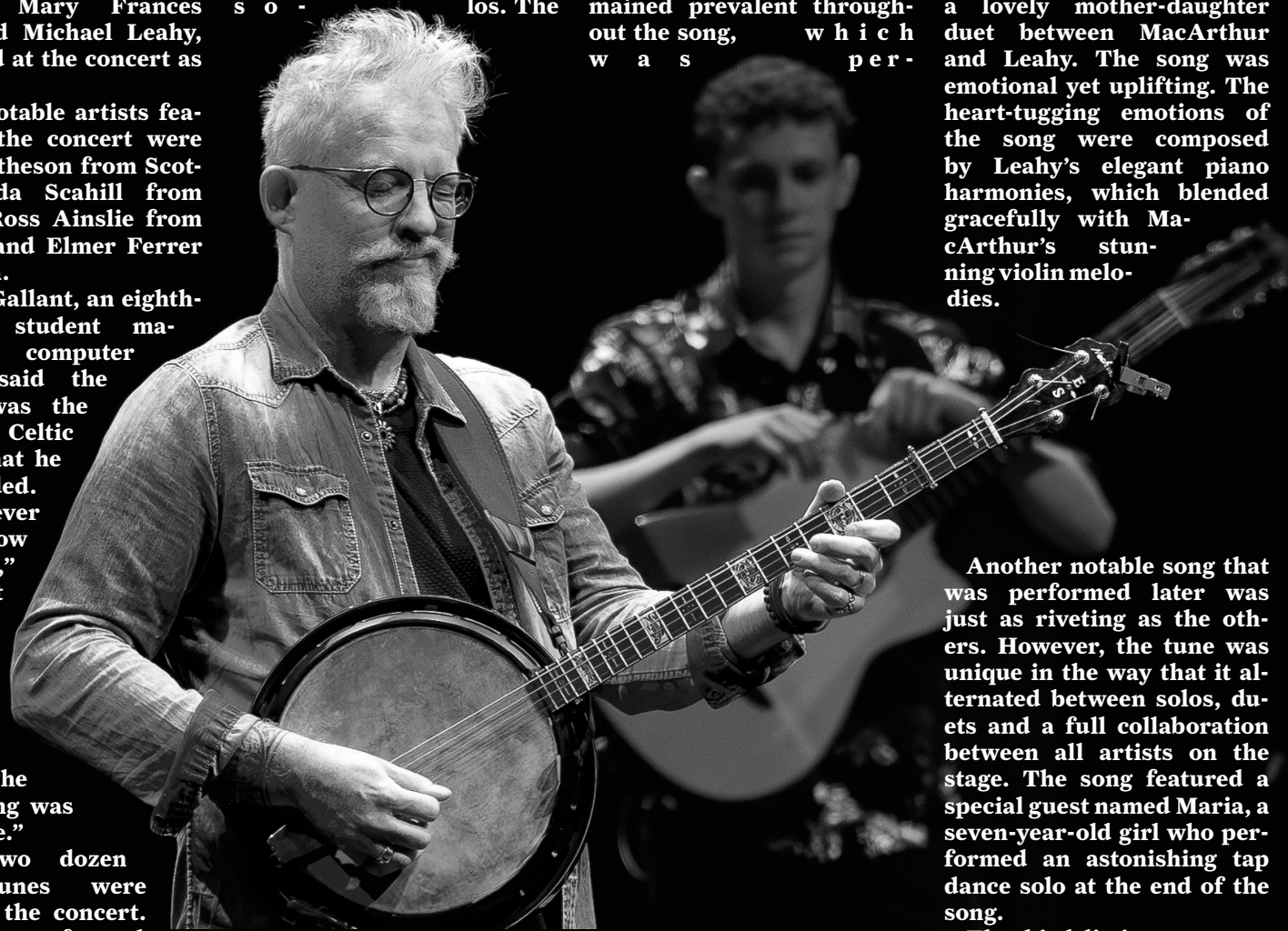
The last tune that was notably distinct was the final song of the concert. In the song, all the artists on stage crafted a hopeful, uplifting atmosphere that symbolized their futures. As the song was performed, a few dancers, including Maria, tapped along. Audience members clapped and sang along with the tap dancers and musicians.

The concert was an exceptional jewel. Not only was it very lively and animated, but it was an amazing way to bring Celtic culture to the United States. At the end of the concert, MacArthur expressed her joy at being part of the Celtic All-Stars and making the concert remarkable for the audience.

"It's so awesome being a part of something that transcends language and everything," MacArthur said. "We're so happy to be joining this sort of thing. I always say, 'I get paid to travel, and I play for free.'"

Effie Petropoulos, a master's student in communications, said the concert was an enjoyable experience.

"It was very fun," Petropoulos said. "I was really impressed by the performances. I didn't really know what to expect, but it was really good."



Musicians perform a showcase of Celtic music and dance at the Jorgenson Center for the Performing Arts on March 6, 2026. The tour group consisted of artists from Ireland, Scotland, Canada and Cuba.

PHOTOGRAPH BY NORA MARIOANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

SUBOG holds first album listening event for new Harry Styles album

by Thaddeus Sawyer
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Harries unite! Harry Styles released his new album "Kiss All The Time. Disco, Occasionally" on Friday, March 6 and the University of Connecticut's Student Union Board of Governors (SUBOG) was prepared with their first ever album listening party.

Held in the Student Union ballroom in collaboration with the UConn Harries Club, students in attendance were presented with almost three hours of Harry Styles-related games, drinks, prizes and other activities.

"One of the ideas that the concert board had this year was to put on some sort of album release event, just to still stay in the concert aspect but expand more on it," SUBOG Concert Committee Member and UConn Harries President Angie Gomes said. "So, with Harry Styles' album just like being really new and releasing today, it was like the perfect opportunity to do just that."

Amongst the circular tables fittingly covered in disco ball tablecloths were coloring pages featuring the former One Direction member and bracelet making kits, along with piles of stickers featuring phrases from his music.

"Bracelet making is such a big thing, especially with-

in the pop culture realm, since Taylor Swift and her friendship bracelets," Concert Committee Vice Chair and Harries Vice President Angelica Whitney said. "So that's kind of come over to Harry Styles and his fandom."

In the back of the room, a long table featured an assortment of prizes and treats. A Shirley Temple station, an allusion to Styles' song "Cherry" was accompanied by a pile of disco ball key chains.

The left side of the table also featured three vinyl records: "Harry Styles," "Fine Line" and "Harry's House." The vinyl and tote bags could be won by participating in Harry Styles trivia, which was displayed by a projector in the middle of the room. Gomes said that they had also preordered the new album as a prize.

Gomes also mentioned the heart-frame glasses on the tables as a big part of Harry Styles concert culture.

"Definitely looking at what other events have done has definitely helped," Whitney said. "A lot of record stores will do listening parties and listening events. Also looking at just other SUBOG events, maybe they've had things like bracelet making and coloring. Kind of combining those into something that Harry fans specifically would like. So, we're definitely looking at our target

audience of the Harries here at UConn and seeing what they'd be interested in."

The vinyl and tote bags

could be won by participating in trivia, which were displayed by a projector in the middle of the room.

"[We're] getting more ways for them to leave with something besides just a great experience," Whitney said.



Harry Styles' newest album cover art. Styles has now released four studios album total.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SPOTIFY



This Week in History: A FROZEN CITY

by Isabella Kulawik | ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR | SHE/HER/HERS | imk24001@uconn.edu



Student walking to class on a snowy Storrs campus. UConn has been hit with more snow days this year than in the last two combined.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

This past winter, Connecticut received significant snowfall this past winter, with some areas getting up to around 60 inches throughout the season, according to CT Insider. During the blizzards this year, as I sat inside my warm apartment with a cup of hot chocolate, I couldn't help but think of some of the other winter storms that have occurred over the years. One of which was so devastating that it revolutionized New York City's transportation system: the Great Blizzard of '88.

On March 10, 1888, the weather was a balmy 55 degrees. However, on March 11, cold arctic air combined with warm Gulf air from the south to create a severe storm that would shut down most of the Northeast. Telegram lines and telephone poles fell with the hurricane-force winds, preventing communication, and large drifts reached the

second and third floors of some buildings. At the time, the city didn't have adequate infrastructure to handle this kind of storm, but many still left their homes for work that day.

As thousands boarded trains for their commutes, they were unable to go very far because the railways were frozen or blocked by snow. As a result, it's estimated that 15,000 people were stranded in the storm. Of the 1,100 workers expected at the New

York Stock Exchange, only 30 made it, according to the article "Great Blizzard of 1888" by Lisa Wroble. Those who walked to work didn't fare much better, with people collapsing in the snow drifts and freezing to death.

Those who were stranded often migrated to hotels to wait out the storm, with Connecticut's own Mark Twain making an extended stay in New York after visiting. P.T. Barnum was similarly stuck and even put on a show for

those taking refuge in Madison Square Garden.

The storm lasted for three days, with the city shutting down as 58 inches of snow accumulated. The East River, which separates Manhattan and Queens, froze over in a rare event, as the flowing water often prevents it from doing so. This caused some to attempt to walk over the icy bridge, but they found themselves trapped when the tide changed and the ice broke.

By March 15, the city was

able to return to its normal activities, with the aptly named "White Hurricane" coming to a close. It's estimated that over 400 people died during the storm, and in the coming days after the storm, the search for survivors persisted. Despite the damage the blizzard caused, the event led city officials to realize that keeping transportation and communication wires above ground was a problem, prompting the creation of the subway system.



COMIC BY COSETTE ELLIS,
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Life

Harry Styles' 'Kiss All The Time Disco, Occasionally' is growing on me

by Sarah Barker
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After four years and many HS4 at midnight rumors, Harry Styles is back with "Kiss All the Time. Disco, Occasionally," or "KATTD0."

On my first listen, I had no idea where the album was going, and when I finished, my first thought was that it was just okay, because it has such a different sound.

On these 12 new tracks, Styles is experimenting with a new sound, leaning into a synth-pop, funky and club-esque style. But the more I listen, the more it grows on me, and it's still at its core very him. I don't know what he's saying entirely, but I'm still having a great

time. Some of the funniest responses to the album online are people questioning where the disco is, and I have to laugh because I didn't realize people were expecting the second coming of ABBA.

The first track and first single, "Aperture," wasn't what many fans were anticipating going into a new project by Styles because of how different the production is, but it sets the tone for the rest of the album. It's an all-around good time, and even though there are probably better choices on the album for lead singles, "Aperture" really encapsulates the theme of the album itself.

"American

Girls" is suspected to be the next single, and after the surprise music video drop on release day, that's looking to be true. It's not as intense with its production, which allows Styles' vocals to really come through. The song itself is about that loneliness you feel when all your friends are in happy relationships, and you want to be okay with being single, but there's a yearning to find that someone special.

"Ready, Steady, Go!" is criminally short but such a good time. It is about the unpredictable rush of starting a relationship, and the production mirrors that. The verses are calm with a lovely bass in the background; the chorus then slows down and gets stripped back, and the outro intensifies and speeds up, repeating "ready, steady, go." The song isn't a lyrical masterpiece, but replicating the different emotions of a relationship that's moving quickly is a feat in itself.

"Are You Listening Yet?" is a song centered on self-reflection, with Styles posing the title question to address aspects of himself he might otherwise avoid. The instrumental layers create tension that mirrors the struggle between awareness and taking action, reinforcing the introspective theme while maintaining a lively feel.

"Taste Back" was a stand-out for me on my first listen, and it stayed as a favorite from the project. It's another relatable song about the complex feeling of having someone come back into your life and trying to figure out if you want to lean into the nostalgia of it all or leave them in the past. It's not as intense production-wise, which

I think helps set the mood for the song. I love the repetition of the lyrics "Did you get your taste back? / Or do you just need a little love?"

"The Waiting Game" stans, please come to the front because I'm here to give the song its flowers. I love this song so much, it's easily in my top three. The production is reminiscent of "Sunflower Vol. 6" off "Fine Line" and it's more easygoing than some of the other songs on the album. It's about a person who doesn't want to take responsibility in their relationships and how "playing the waiting game" and waiting for things to change while not doing anything won't result in things actually getting better.

Now, when we all saw the track list for "KATTD0," track seven intrigued everyone, as it's called "Season 2 Weight Loss." Fans could only imagine what the song would be about, and surprisingly, it's about fame and being in the public eye, which Styles is no stranger to. It's a very raw song, reflecting on being a figure that so many people love, and how to continue to live up to their expectations. The production also feels almost overwhelming; I think to make the listener feel the anxiety Styles does.

"Coming Up Roses" is the only song on the album that Styles wrote solo, and it's a true testament to his writing ability. The song is gorgeous as he steps away from the synth and incorporates an orchestra instead. It's about trying to fix a relationship while you're

also understanding your own wants and worries. Someone needs to call the producers of "Bridgerton" or Shonda Rhimes immediately because I have a song for them.

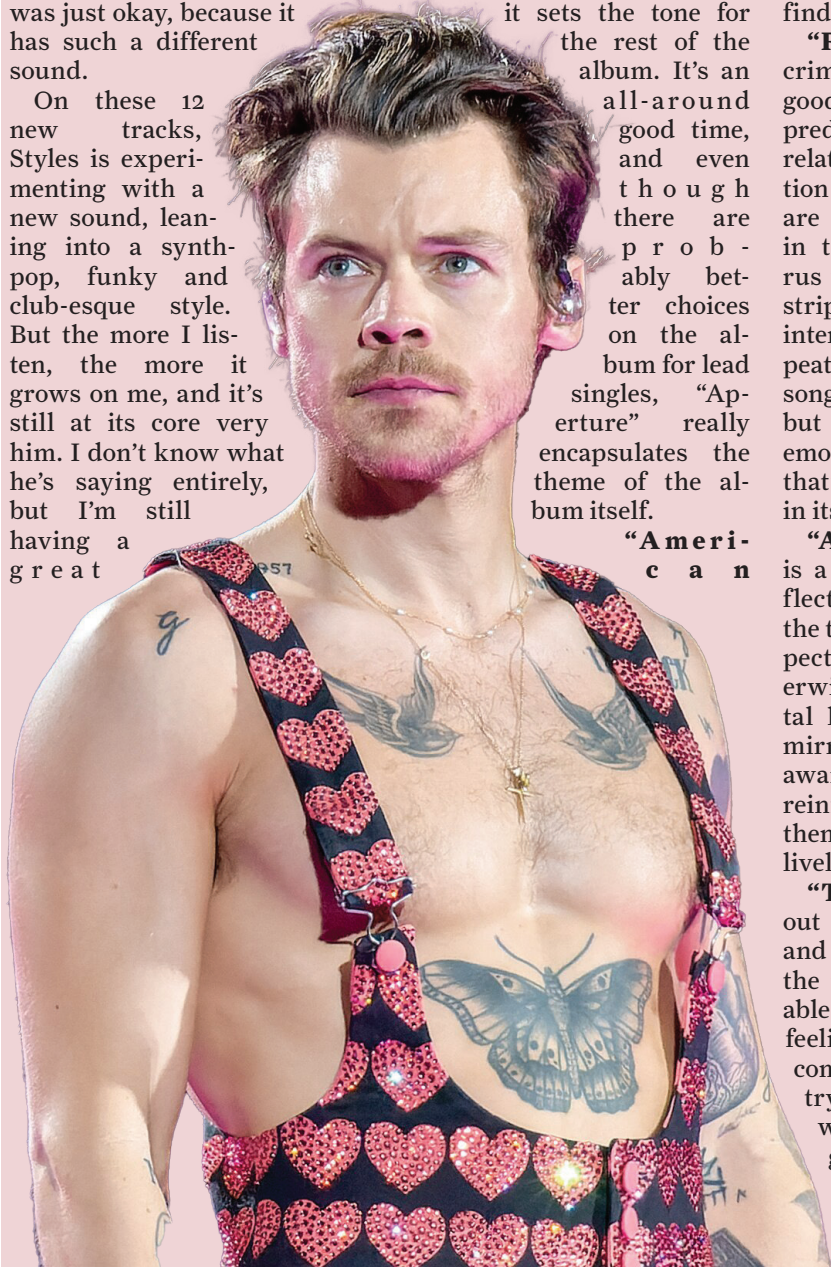
"Pop" is the cool older sister of "Cinema" from "Harry's House." It's another fun one that's simply talking about being excited to be with someone.

"Dance No More" and "Paint By Numbers" are definitely my least favorites from the album. I'll be honest, I don't entirely understand what "Dance No More" is about. All I know is that he's yelling at me to respect my mother and that DJs don't dance anymore. "Paint By Numbers" sounds like an early 2000s song, and it's just not my style.

"Carla's Song" is the perfect closing track to the album and it's great. It's a celebration of the beauty of life and a reminder that the whole is out there for us. It was inspiring for Styles because it reinforced his love for being an artist and making music that touches so many people. The production makes it feel very cinematic, and it'd be perfect to lay over the end of a coming-of-age movie.

"Kiss All The Time. Disco, Occasionally" isn't going to be for everyone, but I really love it. It's such a fun project full of absolute bangers and a lot of reflection and growth from Styles. As the temperatures rise and I'm finally able to roll the windows down, the album will be going triple platinum in my car.

RATING: 4/5



Indie artists unite on charity album 'HELP (2)'

by Elijah Polance
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After 17 years of musical absence, War Child came through with "HELP (2)," a charity album equally as ambitious as their first, on Friday, March 6.

Dozens of collaborators across a predominately indie spectrum come together amongst 23 tracks, produced by James Ford and recorded at London's Abbey Road Studios. Original songs and a handful of covers make up the track list, and according to the War Child website, all the album's proceeds go towards War Child U.K.

War Child, an international non-profit organization that supports children impacted by armed conflict, assembled an arsenal of musicians in 1995 for the charity album "Help." Featuring stars like Paul McCartney, Oasis and Radiohead, the project raised money for War Child and was followed by four more charity record installments by 2009.

Arctic Monkeys, one of the biggest names on the project, start the project with the aptly-titled "Opening Night." Released as the album's lead single, the indie rock introduction sports warm harmonies that only get more layered as it progresses, preparing listeners for the spectacle that is to come. While relatively catchy, its presentation gets eclipsed by the following "Flags," a rhythmically rich collaboration between Blur frontman Damon Albarn, Fontaines D.C. frontman Grian Chatten and

poet Kae Tempest, along with a dazzling children's choir.

U.K. art rock band Black Country, New Road presents a narrative of a troubled Hollywood actor on "Strangers," with vocals shared between female band members Georgia Ellery, May Kershaw and Tyler Hyde. The band jumps between lush rock sections and calmer folk segments driven by incessant mandolin and banjo in a satisfying manner consistent with their recent output.

The band The Last Dinner Party works with a similar whimsy on the subsequent "Let's Do It Again!" which details a relationship that keeps ending and beginning again. Frontwoman Abigail Morris' powerhouse vocals steal the show, and the track's orchestral finale is one of the most dramatic on the entire album.

American indie band Big Thief adds to the fun with "Relive, Redie," an acoustic arrangement with haunting lyrics and an uncanny spaciness that recalls the work on their most recent album, "Double Infinity."

Cameron Winter, frontman of Geese and renowned solo artist, contributed his first release of solo studio material since December 2024 with "Warning." Winter ditches his signatory piano, instead opting for pulsating, building strings to accompany his wailing spoken word musings. As the track builds, backing recordings of his own voice drag behind the main delivery, urgency expanding in an anxiety-inducing manner to make for one of Winter's most con-

fusing and beautifully overwhelming compositions yet.

While the lyrical content varies wildly across the album, some artists take more direct commentary on children experiencing conflict or political agitation in general. The back-to-back pairing of Young Fathers' hip-hop tinged "Don't Fight the Young" and Pulp's art rock jam "Begging for Change" is the most focused moment of discontent, something that would be nice to see more of within the project.

There's no shortage of enjoyable covers found on the album as well. Beth Gibbons, lead vocalist for the U.K. band Portishead, channels the comforting atmosphere of the Velvet Underground and Nico's "Sunday Morning" with a minimalist folk approach. Echoing steel guitars drift below the acoustic guitar centerpiece, evoking a consoling dreamy feel.

Depeche Mode transforms "Universal Soldier," originally a calm folk song by Buffy Sainte-Marie, into an electronically dominant powerhouse, while beabadoobee offers her take on Elliott Smith's classic "Say Yes," an intimate encounter where her tender vocals capture the original in all its melancholy.

Irish post-punk act Fontaines D.C. strays from their typical abrasiveness to cover the late Sinéad O'Connor's "Black Boys on Mopeds," beginning the song in acoustic fashion and piling on a light mellotron haze and cinematic strings to round out the performance.

Olivia Rodrigo makes a

surprising appearance to close the record with a cover of The Magnetic Fields' biggest hit, "The Book of Love." Rodrigo maintains the acoustic feel of the original, letting her expressive vocals make this version feel her own. With the soothing sound and beautiful lyrics about love, there couldn't be a better way to conclude the album.

The sheer array of artists

and abundance of quality on "HELP (2)" is staggering, and even more impressive is the cohesion between it all. The sequencing presents thematically and sonically similar tracks alongside each other, but not in a way that feels like reductive grouping. "HELP (2)" is an impressive accomplishment, one that will be hard to surpass if War Child ever tries to release a third installment.

RATING: 3.75/5



The album logo for 'Help(2)' a charity compilation album created by the organisation War Child. It was made to raise funds for work involving helping children through wars across the globe.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SPOTIFY



Opinion

The Daily Campus

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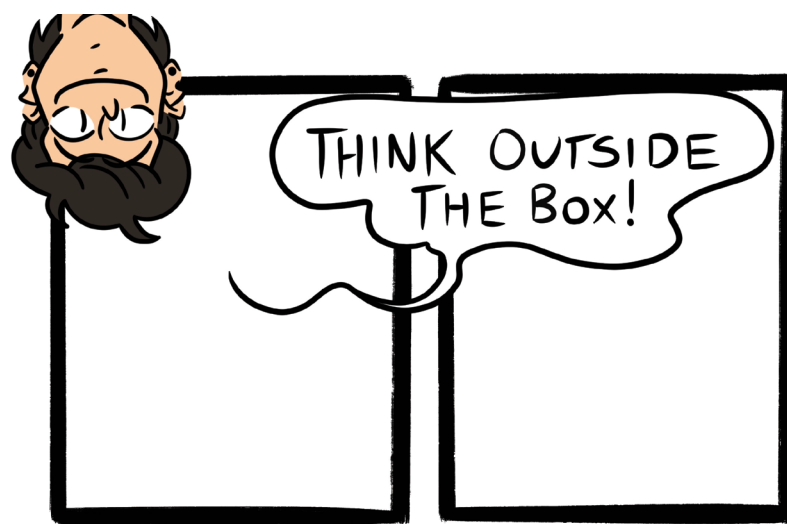
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COMIC BY CONNOR SZREJNA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

6/26

I wear my cross every day

by Alex Trigo
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I catch myself touching the cross around my neck all the time.

It's not intentional, and usually I don't even realize I'm doing it until my fingers find the small metal pendant resting against my chest, tracing its edges, or twirling the leather collar. It's a gift from my father, which he received from his own. I remember being surprised he would gift such a thing to me. A firm agnostic, my father was raised by two traditional Puerto Rican Roman Catholics, and upon my upbringing, I received a similar push into the church.

I was baptized at only a few months old, following tradition. Catechism every Sunday, years of lessons before I was allowed to take my First Communion. Eventually pondering a confirmation name, like I was stepping into a version of myself that belonged permanently to the faith.

But belief, at least for me, never truly clicked.

Even as a kid, I was the kind of person who liked knowing how things worked. I loved science classes, documentaries and having the world make a little more sense than it did the day before. When religion was preached to me, I tried to approach it the same way: asking questions, looking for explanations, trying to understand the logic behind it.

But consistently, the answers I got were different from the ones I had grown used to. Instead of evidence, there was faith. Believe that it is true, as that's the least you can do to appreciate the miracle of humanness that God has bestowed upon you.

I continued to ask questions, about miracles, about why some prayers were answered and others weren't, about how God could be everywhere at once but also watching closely enough to care whether I missed mass. I just wanted explanations.

For a while, this led to extreme anxiety.

If belief was supposed to come naturally, what did it mean that it didn't for me? I remember sitting in church and watching everyone bow their heads in prayer, wondering if something was wrong with me for not understanding. Was I doing it wrong? The language around me never felt neutral. Doubt became distance, and distance from God meant sin.

Now, as I've grown older

and life has caught up to me, I can't help but find myself reaching for the idea of faith once more. Not in a religious way, per se, but the element of tradition and culture that I once was surrounded by.

Doctrine is made of absolutes. It asks you to accept truths handed down from somewhere higher than yourself. Culture, however, is a collective. It's music and language and morality that's been passed down for generations. It's saying *bendición* to my grandparents when answering their phone calls, and knowing the stories of the Bible by heart. It's the small cross resting on my chest.

When I think about the faith my grandparents carry, it isn't the doctrine that sticks out to me right away. It's the way it shapes their everyday lives. Rosary recitations during car rides, hanging insignias in their home. The way my grandmother's voice softens when she speaks about trusting in God, with a steady kind of reassurance that things will somehow be okay.

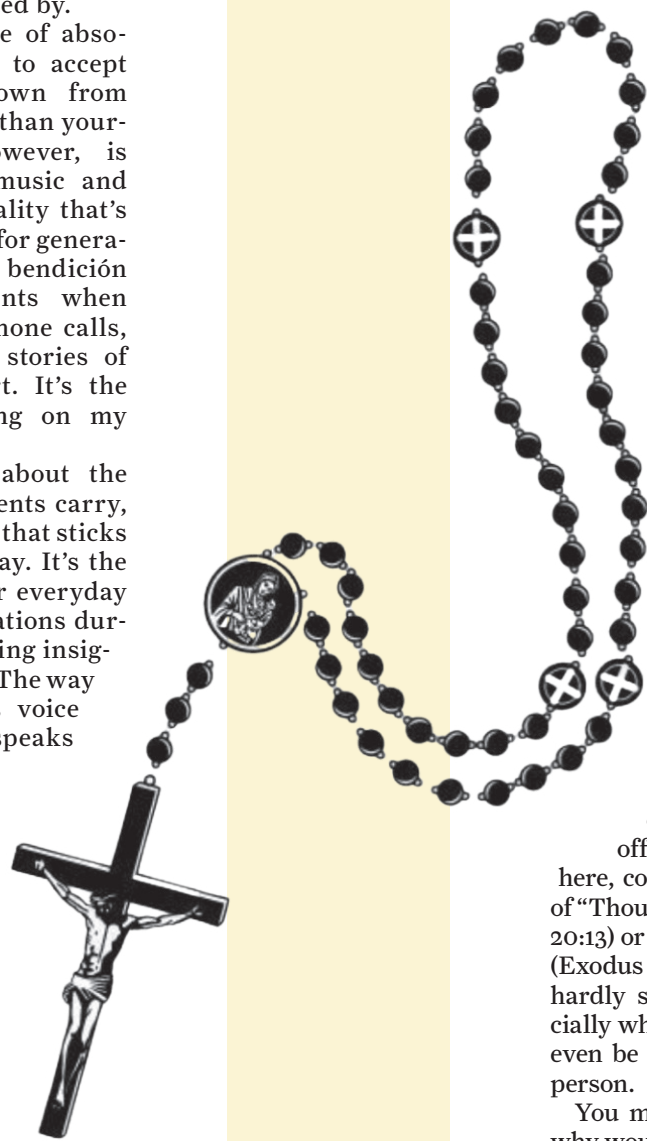
I admire the fact they have found comfort in life as a part of something larger and more meaningful. I can't say I share their belief in that way, and I still find myself returning to the same questions that unsettled me as a child. But I can recognize the comfort that faith gives them, and I often find myself longing for that same sense of steadiness.

I can still hum the music played during mass from memory, and the stories of saints and miracles have shaped my moral framework. Spiritually, I might not live inside doctrine, but I can find the remnants of it in the way I care for others.

Maybe that's why I still wear the cross.

Not a declaration of belief, but as a connection to the world I was raised in. To my father, who once owned it himself, and to the grandparents who tried their hardest to make sure I was raised in the church. To a culture that shaped me before I had the language to question it.

And sometimes, without thinking, my fingers still reach for it. And in that small, absent gesture, I feel something close to what faith might be.



Lead Us Not into Manipulation, and Deliver Us From Evil

by Marc DeBrito
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Growing up in the Catholic Church, one of the first lessons I learned was The 10 Commandments, which were touted as some of the greatest of God's laws handed down to Moses directly. However, one always stuck out to me as particularly frustrating. It was also the one I most often broke. That is the third commandment: "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain."

As a child I was told that it meant not to swear using God's name. No "Jesus Christ!" no "Oh my God!" no "Good heavens!" All of these were strictly off limits. But let's be real here, compared to the severity of "Thou shalt not kill," (Exodus 20:13) or "Thou shalt not covet," (Exodus 20:15) a little swearing hardly seems to matter. Especially when these curses cannot even be made towards another person.

You may be asking yourself, why would God — if you believe in such things — or the writers of the Bible include taking the Lord's name in vain as one of the cardinal sins? Well, this is because there are far more important aspects to that commandment than cursing.

If we look back through the historical practice of Christianity, as well as other portions of the Bible, we can discern three other aspects of taking the Lord's name in vain: making false oaths or promises in God's name, recitation and use of God's name without having faith and using the name of God to justify an action against the character of God.

Let's break these down. First, false oaths. When a preacher claims that for a certain amount of "donations," they will use the power of God to cure a terminal illness or turn someone straight, that is a false oath. These people have no power to create miracles. They merely use the name of God to trick people. Second, recitation without faith. When a politician is making a speech at a rally, or a preacher is standing on the pulpit, and interspersed within every sentence are praises of God, they are using the Lord's name in vain.

They do not give God reverence in that moment, if ever. They simply use the word of God to get their believers to follow their cause. This leads into the final aspect, using God's name to act against the Lord's will. When an anti-abortion politician says in accordance with God, he will enact legislation to police women's bodily autonomy, or when a multimillionaire person asks for money from the less fortunate to further the Lord's work, they are acting against God and therefore violating the commandment.

So, if these other parts of taking God's name in vain are so important, then why were we never taught them? The reason is simple. Those who are in power do not find these aspects advantageous to teach. For one, it is much easier to enforce rules rather than a moral code. If you hear someone swear, you know they broke a rule. If someone is using worship of God as a tool rather than as a genuine expression of faith, that is much harder to determine. Additionally, it creates an easy ingroup and outgroup that a leader can capitalize on.

A leader who wants control over their followers must make their flock of sheep docile. If the people are searching for hypocrisy, empty words and false oaths from the lips of a preacher or politician, it threatens their power. It promotes critical thinking and skepticism, which is something they cannot allow. If they did, it would be much easier for Christians to find the wolves in sheep's clothing among them.

Why is my church — which is supposed to stay out of politics — funneling money into political campaigns? Why is my pastor endorsing a candidate for office and saying that candidate is ordained by God to win? Why is my government claiming to be a Christian government, while at the same time stoking hatred of immigrants, who Christ says should be treated as a neighbor?

The third commandment is merely one example of how religion, particularly Christianity, in this country is less worshipped but rather utilized for selfish and worldly purposes. From tithing to touching kids, the word of Christ has been perverted. What mattered far more to Christ than any rule on cursing, eating meat on Fridays or wearing two types of cloth was a moral code of love. In Peter 3:8, Jesus proclaims, "...all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble." When that message is not only shared by Christian leaders but put into practice, worship will not be hollow but hallowed instead.

GRAPHIC CREATED BY VECTORPORTAL.COM

Opinion

Photo of the Day |



The Celtic All-Stars play at the Jorgenson Center for the Performing Arts on March 6, 2026. The show featured Celtic dance, bagpipes and improvised music. PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

How to Spot a Neo-McCarthyist

by Sam Garifalos
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While it is well known that the history of U.S. politics is fraught with anti-communist, anti-socialist and anti-leftist sentiment, something that often goes overlooked is the prevalence that these ideas still hold today. Though the modern political climate is far from that of the mid-20th century, when even accusations of communist sympathies could result in persecution and imprisonment, the underlying narratives and rhetorical themes that helped drive this hostility are still alive and well today. This can be seen not only through the more obvious aspects — such as modern media’s blanket condemnations of socialism and the attacks faced by prominent socialist figures like Zohran Mamdani — but also in the more subtle use of demonizing rhetoric against progressive and leftist movements through “anti-wokeism.”

In order to better understand this modern sentiment, it’s helpful to briefly explore the history of anti-socialist movements in the U.S. The most prominent period of anti-socialist hysteria took place during the Second Red Scare in the 1950s-1960s. During this period, prominent political figures like J. Edgar Hoover and Joseph McCarthy led a wave of fear around leftist movements. This practice, which came to be known as McCarthyism, relied on a combination of conspiracy theories and generalizations surrounding leftist beliefs and organizations to drive hostility. These conspiracy theories would usually center around left-leaning institutions or marginalized groups like queer people, immigrant communities and racial minorities being involved in a leftist plot to subvert American society. This hysteria culminated in the creation of the House Un-American Activities Commission to seek out and per-

secuted anyone accused of being part of these baseless conspiracies. Eventually, as society grew less paranoid and Cold War tensions passed their absolute peak, public sentiment turned against McCarthyism and the era of political persecution came to an end for the most part.

This brings us to the modern iteration of McCarthyism, Neo-McCarthyism. While the central themes of scapegoating and conspiracy theories remain prevalent, there have certainly been changes over the years. Although echoes of the more blunt and direct accusatory rhetoric of the 1950s remain, Neo-McCarthyism has largely moved on to more subtle and discrete methods of demonizing leftist movements. In place of the adamant and direct accusations of subversive behavior against certain groups, the modern practice instead tends to lump all targeted groups, beliefs and movements under a nebulous umbrella term like “wokeism.” This not only serves the purpose of granting plausible deniability against accusations of prejudice, but it also allows narratives to be tailored to any target audience by simply allowing them to make their own interpretation of what entities are included within that umbrella. If the goal is to drive anti-leftist hostility in a religious community, these umbrella terms could be interpreted to include exclusively members of another religion. If the target audience are citizens of border states or people in fields vulnerable to displacement to immigrant labor, the scapegoat could be immigrants.

This strategy even works to reach groups that would have previously seemed immune to reactionary rhetoric. Though terms like “woke” are generally ineffective in swaying liberal audiences, other narratives and blanket accusations have been used to great effect against progressive elements of the American left both by con-

servatives and moderate liberals. In these cases, the strategy remains the same, but the perspective shifts. Instead of associating progressive ideas and figures with traditional scapegoats like minorities or other feared groups, Neo-McCarthyist rhetoric attempts to tie them to conservatism. This can be seen in the attacks made against progressive politicians like Bernie Sanders by moderate liberals. Because of their broad appeal and tendency not to engage in distracting identity politics, they were branded MAGA sympathizers and accused of being conservatives in disguise. This occurs even beyond accusations and harmful labels against individuals as well. Notably, former Vice President Kamala Harris called President Donald Trump a “communist dictator,” despite his actions and ideology in no way resembling communism or any adjacent ideology.

This is all part of an effort — conscious or unconscious — to harm leftist movements in the U.S. and across the world, and to prevent the global political landscape from moving beyond the current elite-serving status quo. There is much room for nuance and discussion around communism, socialism and many other leftist political ideologies, and this article is not intended to serve as an endorsement of any specific one. There are valid criticisms to be made towards past socialist projects, many of which subjected their citizens to extreme suffering, but the current state of discourse surrounding these ideologies serves no purpose in reaching a well-considered and balanced perspective. I encourage everyone not to simply pick a belief and engage in whatever disingenuous rhetoric required to defend it, but to look beyond the dishonest and deceptive narratives that surround leftist movements and draw your own conclusions on how to build the best future for everyone.

X-Men:

APOCALYPSE MIGHT BE AS BAD AS PEOPLE CLAIM



A scene from ‘X-Men Apocalypse,’ one of the films in Fox’s X-Men franchise. These films were not as well received as Marvel films at the time. PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

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“X-Men: Apocalypse” has overall not been well-received since it came out in 2016. Sometimes great films aren’t appreciated because of the timing of their release; for “Apocalypse” this would include that it came after two of the best X-Men movies, “X-Men: Days of Future Past” and “X-Men: First Class,” making it seem terrible by comparison. That is not to make the claim that “Apocalypse” should be considered great. There are a few important moments and fun scenes in it — such as the Quicksilver-centered scene — but overall, it’s lacking in the core that made the prior X-Men films so great.

For one, it felt as though “Apocalypse” was trying to undo a lot of the romantic tension between Charles and Erik that existed in both “First Class” and “Days of Future Past” by bringing Moira back into the focus and really trying (and failing) to over-emphasize Charles’s crush on her. They also introduced and (spoiler alert, but I mean, it’s been 10 years; get on it) killed off Erik’s wife and daughter, adding more easy trauma to pull from to give him a reason to turn a little evil briefly, only for him to be convinced otherwise by a gay montage of him and Charles. That scene is another fun one from the film, and worth watching the movie just to see. However, it seemed to have been negated by the rest of the romantic stuff they threw in to try to convince us (unsuccessfully) that Erik and Charles are not in love. The Charles and Moira dynamic was very reminiscent of Steve and Peggy when it’s established over multiple films that his “friendship” (eyebrow raise) with Bucky is the most important relationship in his life.

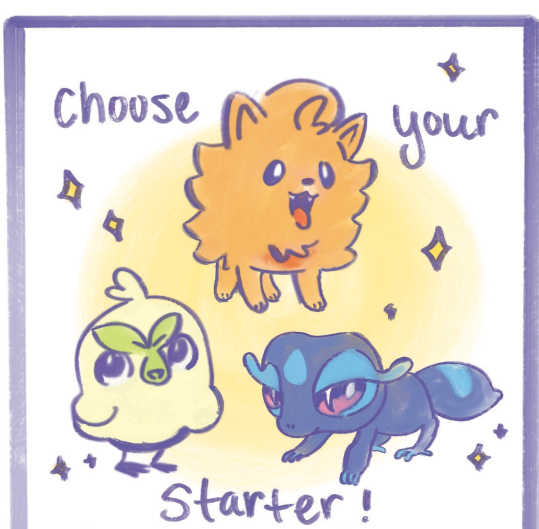
The film also introduced a young Kurt Wagner, which added some light fun scenes between him and

his peers. Along with that we get to see yet another example of Scott Summers having a terrible time, just like almost every other X-Men film. His backstory was worthwhile and fun to see, so overall I liked this movie for its inclusion of some character history and just getting to see more of student life at the X-Mansion.

Apocalypse as a villain, however, was lackluster. His powers were not clearly established, essentially allowing him to do whatever he needs to in the moment, with some limits arbitrarily assigned at random. His motives were also relatively simple, with him being in pursuit of the classic goal of being more powerful and essentially controlling the planet. Apocalypse is ultimately just some guy with no ties or connections to any of the characters we care about. By contrast, in “First Class,” Shaw’s history with Erik allows for interesting nuance in their dynamic. Similarly, in “Days of Future Past” Trask’s motives are prejudice-based, which adds personal layers to the fight, making it important for exploring the characters and their dynamics as well as the issues that are core to the X-Men. These issues are largely absent from “Apocalypse,” making the stakes feel lower. Despite the conflict being a potentially world-ending event, we don’t have as much of the character-based drama that can be applied to our world, making it feel less grounded and interesting.

Overall, the film has some interesting scenes and is overall entertaining. However, it is not comparable in its importance and writing to prior X-Men films, which focused heavily on real world issues, characters and their dynamics. The established dynamics were not developed much further, particularly with Charles and Erik. Characters that were “reintroduced” in their younger versions were a mixed bag, with some being well-doned and others not so much. As a result, “X-Men: Apocalypse” might just be as bad as people claim.

Comic



COMIC BY ALEXA PAPPAS, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

FRANCHISE TAG SEASON: THE NEXT NFL PLAYERS THAT MIGHT BE TAGGED

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A franchise tag is a specific contract in the NFL that allows a team to keep a pending free agent for another season. They can do this by offering a one-year deal at the average price of the league's top salary in that position.

So far this season there have been only three players to be franchise tagged by their team: Kyle Pitts, Breece Hall and George Pickens.

Pitts is a tight end for the Atlanta Falcons who received a tag that is worth about \$16.5 million for the upcoming season. Pitts was one of the Falcons' most talented offensive weapons on the receiving core, and they did not want him to enter free agency. They used the tag on him in hopes of working into a possible long-term contract. He is one of the most dynamic tight ends in the league, making him a key player that Atlanta does not want to lose.

The Jets tagged their running back Breece Hall as the centerpiece and explosive weapon to their offense. He can contribute as both a runner and pass catcher, making his versatility a top weapon for their offense. The Jets are hoping to add more offensive weapons to their roster this offseason with the draft and look for a more successful season in 2026.

The final player that was tagged this offseason was CeeDee Lamb of the Dallas Cowboys. Lamb has been the Cowboys' top receiving option for many seasons now with some of the best numbers in the league. His strong chemistry with quarterback Dak Prescott also adds to his success, making the Cowboys jump on the opportunity to keep him around.

Additionally, Daniel Jones was placed on a transition tag. This is similar to a franchise tag but allows other teams to still make offers for the player. If the original team cannot match the offer, then the player leaves.

However, if they do match it, then they stay and continue playing for their team that season.

These tags in the offseason are important in the NFL as they directly impact the teams' star players, their rosters and the whole free-agency market. When stars are suddenly held to stay for their team, other teams lose the ability to jump on them and add another star to their roster. This can cause all sorts of drama as most players want consistency and contracts that will last them years. These franchise tags only last for a season, which can cause uncertainty for the player and team.

Uncertainty between a player and their team is the last thing you want in the NFL. If a player

is nervous the franchise does not want them, it affects their performance and effort to play. They might skip practice or play poorly in order to leave the team and seek success someplace else.

The franchise tag tells a player two things. Either the team wants to look for a long-term deal, or they are unsure if they can commit to that player but still need their talent. It is a skeptical deal that can have many effects on teams and players' relationships.

This move is big for teams as a franchise tag also affects their salary. The tag is based off the top five salaries at that position in the league which could put a dent in certain franchises. If a team's salary is already tough

on the season, then keeping a player for a high price could hurt the team more than it would help them.

These decisions come down to the general managers and front office who always have their work cut out for them in the offseason.

Some players such as Trey Hendrickson and Travis Etienne were potential candidates to be tagged this season. Both had solid years, however Hendrickson was coming off an injury that shortened his season. Additionally, his tag would have cost the Bengals over \$24 million.

Etienne was not tagged mostly due to the financial burden. Tagging running backs can be heavy invest-

ments compared to other positions. These expensive contracts can hurt a franchise's salary, especially one trying to sign new players and make a deeper run into the playoffs this upcoming season.

The franchise tag has many uses and impacts when it comes to the market and strategy of the NFL. Learning which players are valuable to certain teams helps others plan accordingly. The franchise tag is not always about keeping the best players but also managing the salary cap and organizing success for the future.

For a league that is designed around strategy and star power, the franchise tag is another piece to the puzzle and game behind the NFL.



Trey Hendrickson, defensive end for the Cincinnati Bengals. Hendrickson was initially signed to the Saints straight out of college. PHOTO COURTESY OF @TREY_HENDRICKSON91 ON INSTAGRAM

WOMENS LACROSSE: OBRIEN BLASTS UCONN AHEAD IN VICTORY OVER UMASS

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Megan O'Brien has done it again.

For the second straight game, the sophomore found the back of the net four times to power the UConn women's lacrosse team (3-3) over the University of Massachusetts (4-2) in a four-score win, 12-8.

The win brought their record back to .500 for the first time in almost a month.

Now at 15 goals on the season, O'Brien's first goal of the contest officially put her over her scoring total from a season ago just six games in. It was O'Brien who opened the scoring, receiving a pass from Ava Plata on the crease and dumping it in for the score.

O'Brien's best goal of the day came at the start of the second quarter, putting Minutewomen defender Marisa Gatz through the spin cycle to work her way inside and score her second of the day. All four of O'Brien's goals came from close range on the crease.

That second goal extended O'Brien's six-game multi-point streak to six to open the season.

Preseason All-Big East team member Rayea Davis posted her second-straight multi-goal performance as well. Davis' running goal from dead on in the third quarter gave the Huskies a two-goal lead which prevented the Minutewomen from tying it up from that point on.

Plata and McKenna Merkel each also posted two-goal performances as well. Plata's four-point performance marked the second straight multi-point performance for her, while Merkel's pair of scores were the first two of her collegiate career.

Others to score for the Hus-

kies included Karsyn Burnash and Abby Beran.

The final tally of the game with just 25 seconds left on the clock, Beran carried all the way from midfield and scored on an empty net with goalie Bayley Duffy out playing defense for her first goal of the season.

On defense, Beran maintained her reputation as one of the best defenders in the Big East. The reigning Big East Defensive Player of the Year and 2026 preseason award winner contributed five ground ball wins and forced five UMass turnovers.

The Minutewomen struggled on both sides of the ball. Duffy stopped just 36.8% of shots faced, a season low. The offense scored a season-low eight goals, coupled with a season-low 24 shots and 15 on goal. It was the first time this season that UMass has taken less than 30 shots and placed less than 20 on net.

Dylan Lyons was the standout performer for the Minutewomen, scoring two goals in the first half and adding a pair of assists.

Other scorers for the Minutewomen included Norah Prizzi, Bridget Valentine, Cassidy Morris, Lil Hancock, Ava Connaughton and Katie Peterson.

Next up, the Huskies will look to claim a winning record for the first time this season as they head down the road to take on Yale University on Saturday, March 14. Game time at Reese Stadium in New Haven, Conn. is scheduled for 3:30 p.m.



UConn women's lacrosse faces UAlbany on March 1 at Morrone Stadium in Storrs, Conn. The Huskies fought hard until the last minute to secure the win. PHOTO BY MADISON HENDRICKS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sports

Photo of the Day |



The UConn Huskies play against Creighton at Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, CT. The Huskies dominated the game, winning 100-51. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

MEN'S HOCKEY: UCONN FALLS TO PROVIDENCE IN FINAL REGULAR SEASON GAME

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The UConn men's hockey team's Hockey: UConn falls to Providence in final regular season game

The UConn men's hockey team (18-11-5, 12-9-3) closed out their regular season with a 3-1 loss against the Providence Friars (23-9-2, 18-5-1) on Saturday night.

Senior forward Ryan Tattle scored UConn's lone goal as the team failed to get offensive scoring chances throughout the game.

To begin the first, Connecticut attacked early, putting pressure on the Friars defense, but Providence quickly countered with offensive attacks. Freshman Carlin Dezainde earned himself a slashing penalty midway through the first, giving Providence their first power-play opportunity of the game.

UConn's defense held strong on the penalty kill but a loose puck found forward Aleksii Kiv-

ioja near the net. Kivioja was able to get past UConn goaltender Tyler Muszelik to give Providence a 1-0 lead.

Entering the second trailing by a goal, Connecticut looked to get on the scoreboard fast. The Huskies got their first man advantage when Jonathan Fauchon earned himself a tripping penalty. Tattle generated a strong scoring attempt but failed to get the puck past Providence goaltender Jack Parsons.

Throughout the season, UConn

has struggled to finish scoring opportunities despite their many shots on goal. During the game, they recorded 38 shots on goal, their highest single-game total since the team had 42 on Jan. 3 against Long Island University.

Providence's offense spent significant time in UConn's zone but Viking Gustafsson Nyberg prevented the Friars from scoring. Despite strong efforts on both sides, it was a scoreless second period.

Providence extended their lead less than two minutes into the period. After Gustafsson Nyberg was unable to control the puck, sophomore Logan Sawyer gained possession. Sawyer scored on a breakaway giving Providence a 2-1 lead.

Connecticut continued to spend time in Providence's zone and despite their many shooting attempts, they failed to get past Parsons.

In the final minutes of the third, UConn pulled Muszelik

for an extra skater on the ice, but Providence capitalized on the empty net and Graham Gamache solidified the win with a goal in the final seconds.

Despite the loss, Muszelik was strong in net, making 27 saves across the game. He made several key saves throughout the game.

During the Hockey East Quarterfinals, UConn will need to capitalize on scoring chances and focus on getting more puck possession to increase these chances. Connecticut's defense will also need to eliminate their opponents' time in their zone and ensure that they clear the puck during power plays.

UConn fans will have one more chance to see the Huskies play at home this season. The team recently announced that they will host a Hockey East Quarterfinal game on Saturday at Toscano Family Ice Forum. Their opponent is yet to be accounted but the start time for the game is set for 1 p.m. If fans are unable to make it in person, they can watch online on UConn+.



UConn men's hockey team playing against the University of New Hampshire. The Huskies dominated the game, winning with a final score of 4-1. PHOTO BY PARKER MEYERS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WOMEN'S HOCKEY: TIA CHAN CEMENTS LEGACY IN HOCKEY EAST CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

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It was business as usual for Tia Chan.

Through her pregame footwork drills, taking her spot in the middle of the defense and in the 24 regulation-time saves she secured, the goalkeeper remained as stoic as ever.

Chan brought her play to a new level in overtime. In the final game of her career on her home ice at the Toscano Family Ice Forum, the graduate student stopped 33 straight Northeastern shots over 35-plus minutes in double overtime.

Chan outlasted the entirety of Northeastern's scoring attack for almost 100 minutes before fellow captain Kyla Josifovic put the game on ice, scoring the game winning goal over three hours after the contest began to win the Hockey East Championship for No. 6 UConn (27-8-2, 17-6-1) for the second time in three years, 2-1 over No. 5 Northeastern (28-8-1, 21-2-1).

"Before we scored, there was a TV time out," UConn head coach Chris MacKenzie said after the game. "I basically told the team, 'I don't think our goalie is going to let us lose. I don't think she's going to let us lose, so somebody needs to make a play."

Get this thing done and we'll go from there."

Indeed, Chan didn't let them lose and made save after save in overtime on her way to being named the Most Valuable Player of the Hockey East Tournament. The Ontario native finished her historic performance with a career-high 57 saves.

"You gotta stop it," Chan said following the game. "Championship game, you gotta put it all on the line. So it doesn't matter. Two on [none], five-on-five in the zone; it doesn't matter."

You just have to stop the puck. That was my mindset."

Chan did in fact have multiple breakaway stops in overtime, including stopping Hockey East Player of the Year Stryker Zablocki in her tracks with 17:22 to go in the second overtime period. With Zablocki fast approaching and making her move towards the net with just feet separating herself and Chan, Chan stuffed the forward before killing another shot seconds later by Northeastern leading scorer Lily Shannon from inside following the ensuing draw.

"[Chan] came up big, and, like I said, being a former goalie, it was a fun goalie battle to watch," said Northeastern head coach Dave Flint, who played goalie at North Adams State College for four seasons.

Northeastern goalie Lisa

Jönsson, who also posted a career-high in saves with 54, gave an arguably equally impressive performance. The two goalies combined for 111 saves over a combined 190 minutes and 14 seconds.

With two goalies playing at the top of their games, Jönsson blinked first.

After rejecting forward Claire Murdoch from dead on, Jönsson allowed a ricochet to slide in the direction of Josifovic. Josifovic sent one flying from the right pipe faster than Jönsson could turn her body. Slipping it inches away from Jönsson's skate, Josifovic cleared the UConn bench with her sudden death game-winning goal with 4:37 to go in the second overtime period.

"Honestly, it's kind of a blur," Josifovic said about the game-winning score. "I don't even remember it happening."

All I did was open my eyes and people are just like, on me celebrating. It was kind of really special."

After scoring the first post-season goal of her career in the quarterfinals against Maine, the senior also netted one in the semifinals against Holy Cross to score in all three Hockey East Tournament games for the Huskies.

The Huskies, who snapped a 0-7 run against Northeastern that began following their last

win in the 2024 conference title game, scored both the first and last goal of the game.

Just over three minutes into the second period, Sadie Hotles sent UConn fans' arms rocketing to the sky, filling the stands with spinning white rally towels as she snuck it in through a scrum in front of the net after being denied multiple times by Jönsson. Christina Walker and Livvy Dewar worked the puck down the left side through traffic, channeling it towards the middle to give Hotles the opportunity to score.

Despite the early deficit and having to play on the road as a one seed, the regular-season conference champion Northeastern Huskies did not go down without a fight.

In a scrappy game where the two teams combined for 16 minutes in the penalty box, Northeastern's only goal came on a power play with 12:57 to go in the second.

Junior defender Rylie Jones took a crossing pass from Zablocki and drove a slapshot from between the face-off circles. The puck snuck under the glove of UConn captain Emma Eryou and past Chan for the game-tying score.

That was it for Northeastern, as that tie would hold for over an hour of game time before Josifovic's game-winner.

UConn's main defensive pairing of Eryou and Meghane Duchesne-Chalifoux were a big reason for that stalemate. The defense as a whole posted a season-high 39 blocks, with the former contributing 10 and the latter adding eight.

As UConn lined up to receive the Bertagna Trophy, it was only fitting that MacKenzie was joined by captains and top contributors Chan, Josifovic and Eryou.

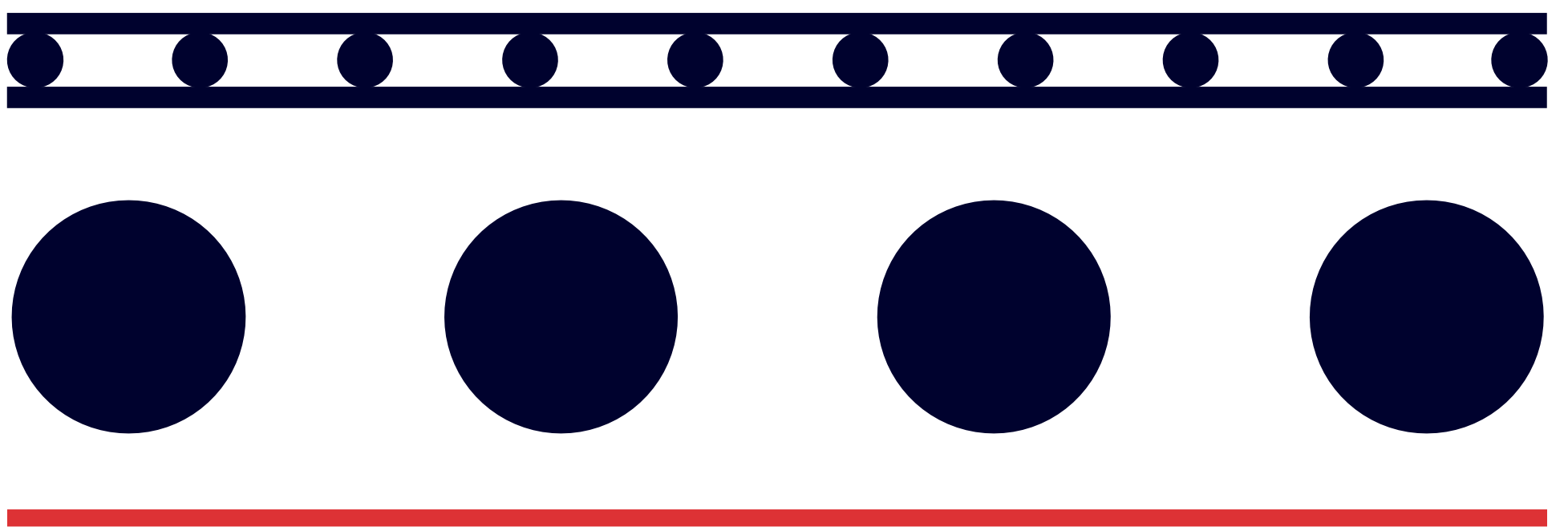
In addition to Chan's MVP award, Murdoch, Josifovic and Julia Stephen were named to the All-Tournament team for UConn. Jules Constantinople and Morgan Jackson received the honor for Northeastern.

After claiming an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament with the win, the Huskies will head to University Park, Pa. on Thursday, March 12 to take on No. 9 Princeton (23-10) in the Penn State Regional for a chance to play in the Frozen Four. Puck drop is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Pegula Ice Arena.

Though Chan's time at Toscano has now come to a close, what will remain is the memories of the student section holding up posters forming a brick wall after a big save and the chants of "Tia" echoing off the walls of the forum that encapsulate the legendary mark she left on the building with a historic night and career.



UConn women's hockey team goes up against the Holy Cross Crusaders in the Hockey East semi-finals. The game occurred at the Toscano Ice Forum on Tuesday, March 3, 2026. PHOTO BY MORGAN BLANCHARD, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS.





Sports

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: NO. 1 UCONN SLAMS CREIGHTON, ADVANCES TO BIG EAST CHAMPIONSHIP

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Uncasville, Conn. – Some may know her as KK Arnold, but some may also know her as the masked menace.

On Sunday afternoon, as the top-ranked UConn women's basketball program defeated Creighton, 100-51, in the semifinals of the Big East tournament, Arnold and sophomore Sarah Strong were catalysts for their squads on both sides of the ball.

Throughout her junior year campaign, Arnold has made it her goal to sharpen her skills as a leader and defender, eventually earning Big East All-Defensive Team honors just this past week.

Against the Bluejays, Arnold propelled her squad to their sixth consecutive Big East Tournament Championship. The guard finished the afternoon with 18 points, four assists and a rebound, shooting 8-9 from the field and 2-3 from three.

With this stat line, Arnold recorded a new season-high in points, which she previously set with 13 against Villanova on Jan. 15.

"We all had that confidence in her before, but to see her on the floor, being that floor general, leading us, taking shots, whether it's a three, a pull up, see how she uses the rim, getting in the paint, making space for everyone," Azzi Fudd said to the media postgame when asked about Arnold. "You feel that presence, offensively and defensively."

Strong dominated in every



The UConn Huskies play against Creighton at Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Conn. The Huskies dominated the game, winning 100-51. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

aspect of the box score for her squad, drawing up 23 points, seven rebounds, six steals, and four blocks in 25 minutes of work.

Head coach Geno Auriemma described Strong's basketball IQ to the media as a "rare combination."

"I think she has a really good idea of where the ball is going, and she has tremendous confidence in herself, and it's not something that anyone's taught her how to do all this stuff, you know [...] she's just really, really smart, really intuitive."

Right off the bat, the Huskies proved why they were the jug-

ernaut of the Big East for the 2025-26 season.

With their persistent full-court pressure, the Huskies racked up four steals within the first five minutes of the game, put 29 points up on the board in the first frame alone, shooting 80% from beyond the arc.

At the end of the first frame, the Huskies made 12 out of 19 field goals, which was more than the Bluejays even attempted in the first quarter, with 10.

While Creighton started to work their way up to the Huskies to cut their deficit, including freshman Ava Zediker 2-3 from the field, the Huskies still

maintained a comfortable lead of 57-22.

"The way the game started, the defensive pressure that KK [Arnold] was able to put on Ava [Zediker] their point guard, I thought was really a big part of why we had all such quick start defensively and everyone else just kind of, you know, filled in, and we did a phenomenal job of taking all of their best actions that they want to use away from them." Auriemma said in his opening statement.

In the second half, the bench was integral for the Huskies to maintain their lead. Redshirt sophomore Jana El Alfy was a

force at the boards for the Huskies, grabbing seven rebounds, five of them on the defensive end.

Sophomores Allie Ziebell and Kayleigh Heckel were also assertive for their squad off the bench in the second half. Heckel's ball movement was imperative to solidify her program's win, dishing out seven assists.

"I'm not of the opinion that we're better, we're different, you know," Auriemma said to the media when asked how he feels this year's roster's dominance compares to last year with Paige Bueckers. "We play a different style of play that we played last year, the results seem to be kind of sort of the same as they were last year, just a different way of going about it."

Connecticut will now shift their focus the Big East Championship where they will take on the No. 2 seeded Villanova Wildcats.

The last time these two foes faced one another was on Feb. 18, where the Huskies defeated the Wildcats 83-69. Despite Connecticut's eventual 14-point win, things were down to the wire in the beginning of the game with the Wildcats having the lead at the half.

On Villanova's squad, the Huskies will need to look out for sophomore guard Jasmine Bascoe, who led the league with points per game with 18.7 points per game and led the Big East in assists with 146.

Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m. Husky fans can tune in to the game on NBC Sports Network or through streaming on Peacock.

MEN'S BASKETBALL: NO. 4 UCONN UPSET BY MARQUETTE, DROPS BIG EAST REGULAR SEASON CHAMPIONSHIP SHARE

by Matt Dimech
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The final chapter of No. 4 UConn's regular season did not read how Huskies' fans had hoped, when the team fell 68-62 to Marquette on Saturday afternoon.

The Huskies (27-4, 17-3) squandered a chance to share its 12th Big East regular season title with St. John's, which secured its stake with a win over Seton Hall on Friday. The loss also snapped the Huskies' six-game winning streak over the Golden Eagles (12-19, 7-13).

Silas Demary Jr. nearly pulled UConn back from the 12-point second-half deficit. The junior guard scored 17 points while dishing out eight assists, which helped spark the Huskies' late push down the stretch.

Demary drove to the lane in the final seconds of the game with a chance to tie it, but the attempt fell off the side of the rim with the rebound being recovered by Marquette. UConn head coach Dan Hurley thought that there should have been a foul called on the play.

The enraged two-time national champion head coach got in the face of one of the referees, causing him to be ejected from the game with less than a second to go. The Big East could not confirm that there was physical contact made, according to an official release from the conference.

"We hold our coaches to high standards of sportsmanlike conduct during game competition, and inappropriate interactions with our officials will not be tolerated," Big East Commissioner Val Ackerman wrote.

Hurley was fined \$25,000 with no suspension.

UConn's offense never found its rhythm. The Huskies posted their worst perimeter shooting performance of the season. They shot 3-for-24 from three-

point range, both their lowest number of threes made, and efficiency in a game all year.

Braylon Mullins struggled from deep, finishing 1-for-10 from beyond the arc. He did not make his first until there were five minutes left to play in the game. Alex Karaban played all 40 minutes yet was held without a single field goal.

UConn shot 39% from the field in the first half but still maintained a two-point lead go-

ing into the break. The Golden Eagles' offense was red hot, shooting nearly 55% from the floor.

The Huskies led 45-41 with 15:03 left in the second half after a basket from Eric Reibe. This was followed by a seven-minute-and-50-second field goal drought for UConn. Marquette was able to pull off a 14-4 run during that stretch to take control of the game.

Nigel James Jr. orchestrated

the Golden Eagles offense. He led all scorers with 19 points and assisted on seven Marquette baskets. Chase Ross, Royce Parhm and Adrien Stevens all knocked down multiple three-pointers.

Despite the loss, UConn dominated the paint.

The Huskies outscored Marquette in the paint 34-26 and had a +15 advantage on the glass. Saturday was the first time this season that UConn was defeated when outrebounding its opponent.

Tarris Reed Jr. was at the forefront of the interior performance. 16 points and 10 rebounds marked Reed's third straight double-double, and ninth of the season. He shot 5-for-5 from the free throw line, which was just his second time this season doing so on that many attempts.

UConn shot 17-for-18 from the stripe. It was by far the Huskies' best free throw performance of the season. Their next best? 85% against New Haven on Nov. 3, the team's season opener.

The Big East Tournament will tip off on Wednesday with the conclusion of the regular season. The Huskies finished No. 2 in the tournament seeding, which earned them a first-round bye. UConn may get a chance at revenge against Marquette in New York City, as they will play the winner of Xavier and the Golden Eagles in the quarterfinals on Thursday.

The game is scheduled for 7 p.m. and will be available on FS1.



UConn men's basketball celebrates their seniors in Storrs, Conn. on Feb. 28, 2026. The Huskies defeated the Pirates as they played their last game in Gampel of the 2025-2026 season. PHOTOS BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS.